People, Places, Projects

GEORGE BASS AWARDED LUCY WHARTON DREXEL MEDAL

On Friday, March 26, 2010, the Penn Museum was proud to present its 30th Lucy Wharton Drexel Medal for archaeological achievement to George Bass, Ph.D., in celebration of the 50th anniversary of underwater archaeology and its origins at the Penn Museum. While a graduate student in the University of Pennsylvania's Classical Archaeology program in 1959, Dr. Bass was invited by then-Penn Museum Director Froelich Rainey to excavate a Late Bronze Age shipwreck off the coast of Turkey. Dr. Bass agreed to learn to scuba dive for this project and thus began a new field of archaeology.

Dr. Bass received his Ph.D. from Penn in 1964 and held the positions of Assistant and Associate Professor in the Department of Archaeology and Curator in the Mediterranean Section of the Penn Museum from 1964 until 1973, when he left to found the American Institute of Nautical Archaeology (AINA), which became affiliated with Texas A&M University in 1975. He currently serves as a Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at Texas A&M University and was presented with the National Medal of Science by President George W. Bush in 2002.

The Lucy Wharton Drexel Medal was established by the Penn Museum in 1889 and is the highest honor that the Museum bestows upon a scholar for exceptional achievement in excavation or publication of archaeological work. Following the award ceremony, Dr. Bass delivered the annual Howard C. Petersen Lecture. The next day, Saturday, March 27, he participated in a scholarly symposium on issues of underwater cultural heritage sponsored by the Penn Cultural Heritage Center and the Penn Museum Mediterranean Section.

PENN MUSEUM HOSTS SOLDIERS FROM FORT DIX

On January 11, 2010, about 30 United States Army soldiers from Fort Dix, New Jersey—some who have already been on active duty in Iraq and/or Afghanistan—visited the Penn Museum for a special tour of *Iraq’s Ancient Past: Rediscovering Ur’s Royal Cemetery*. Penn Museum Deputy Director C. Brian Rose welcomed the soldiers and offered a short introduction to the exhibition. Katherine Blanchard,
Keeper of the Museum’s Near East Section, provided a tour to the soldiers. Dr. Rose, who is also President of the Archaeological Institute of America, had travelled to Fort Dix to speak to soldiers about cultural heritage issues and the looting of archaeological sites in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Penn Museum visit was a follow-up opportunity for the soldiers to see and learn more about the region’s rich history. They were deployed to Afghanistan shortly after this visit.

NEW OVERSEER JOINS THE PENN MUSEUM BOARD

Penn Museum is pleased to welcome Nanou Zayan (CW ’73, PAR ’08) to its Board of Overseers. Ms. Zayan and her family have resided in London since 1983. Her financial career began after her Penn graduation, when she joined the Chase Manhattan Bank in New York. With the onset of the global debt crisis, she moved into Emerging Markets trading at Liberty Capital Limited, a Chase affiliate. In 1990, when this firm was sold to EBT, a privately held group, Ms. Zayan relocated to Bermuda as President of EBT Securities, its Emerging Markets proprietary trading arm, before retiring from the group in 1993. In London, she became the director of Fortis Investment Advisors Ltd. More recently, she has been a partner (non-executive) of Collingham Capital Management, the corporate successor of Fortis Investment Advisors, founded by her husband, Mo Zayan.

Ms. Zayan is a member of the Penn UK Leadership Committee and the International Advisory Board of the Huntsman Program for International Studies and Business at Wharton. She served as Chair of the UK Secondary School Committee from 2006 to 2008. Outside Penn, Ms. Zayan served as Chair of the Collingham Gardens Committee from 2000 to 2006, and Vice Chair in charge of gardening from 2008. Ms. Zayan also serves on other community-based committees in the London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

G. ROGER EDWARDS (1914–2009)

Last fall a group of scholars, friends, and former students came together to celebrate the life and career of G. Roger Edwards, longtime curator in the Mediterranean Section and professor of classical archaeology. Edwards died on June 9, 2009, a few months shy of his 95th birthday. Colleagues recalled his herculean efforts in cataloging and overseeing the Mediterranean Section collections for more than thirty years. His work on Greek pottery of the Hellenistic period was also celebrated, and his former students remembered his encouragement and generosity. Associated with the Museum’s excavations at Gordion from their beginning in 1950, he was a critical member of the team both in the field and back in Philadelphia. Shy, with a distinctive and wry sense of humor, he was remembered with great affection.
GROUP VISITS PAINTED METAPHORS

On January 23, 2010, Elin Danien, curator of Painted Metaphors: Pottery and Politics of the Ancient Maya, led a tour of the exhibition for members of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church of Marydel, Maryland. Father Mike Roark, Pastor of the church, arranged the visit for his congregants to see the works of their Guatemalan ancestors. Painted Metaphors, which was on view at the Museum until the end of January, is now being prepared for the first of its national venues, the McClung Museum in Knoxville, Tennessee, where it will open on September 17. The exhibit is sponsored by Dow Chemical Company.

TEACHERS’ WORKSHOP AT THE PENN MUSEUM

On Saturday, January 30, 2010, ten area educators participated in a Teachers’ Workshop developed in conjunction with the Righteous Dopefiend and The Goodlands Project exhibitions. The Workshop, entitled “Teaching Empathy,” was intended to raise awareness for teachers to discuss sensitive social issues in the classroom. Katherine Primus, a loss and grieving consultant and Executive Director of the Christian Association at the University of Pennsylvania, began the Workshop with a presentation entitled “Teaching in Transitions: Understanding How Loss Impacts Your Students and Their Families.” Ms. Primus provided a framework for teachers to help students who are experiencing loss understand the grieving process. Teachers also met Angela Jubinville, Acting Director of Centro Nueva Creacion, who discussed her work with The Goodlands Project. The day concluded with Shelley Hedlund, Project Director of the Multicultural Youth eXchange (MYX). Ms. Hedlund led several interactive activities to increase empathy through art and critical listening skills.

MUSEUM AWARDED GRANT FROM THE WILLIAM PENN FOUNDATION

Penn Museum has received a grant of $243,415 from the William Penn Foundation to create a comprehensive new wayfinding and visitor services program in its historic building. Over a year-and-a-half long period, the Museum will work closely with the respected Philadelphia-based design firm Cloud Gehshan Associates to plan and install a fully redesigned system of signage and maps that will better engage, inform, and direct guests through its three floors of galleries and public spaces. The grant will also enable the Museum to make significant investments in the resources offered to visitors—including new and improved guest amenities and staff training—to create a more welcoming and engaging environment for all guests. This multi-faceted project is a major step for the Penn Museum to attract and engage a broader public audience and assert itself as one of the premier cultural attractions of the Greater Philadelphia Region. Penn Museum is grateful to the William Penn Foundation for its generous support.