Johnson Wins AIA Outstanding Public Service Award

Jessica Johnson, Head of Conservation at the Smithsonian’s Museum Conservation Institute and a conservator at the Penn Museum’s excavation at Gordion since 1989, was presented with the Archaeological Institute of America’s 2017 Outstanding Public Service Award for her extraordinary work in training conservators and protecting Iraq’s cultural heritage. This award was presented at the AIA annual meeting in January 2017 in Toronto. Johnson has led the Smithsonian’s work to support heritage recovery and conservation programs in Erbil, Iraq. She specializes in object conservation with expertise in archaeological field conservation.

Celebrating Immigrant Communities through Soccer

On November 14, 2016, the Penn Museum hosted a celebration of the Unity Cup, a special new initiative launched by Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney. The tournament is a city-wide soccer tournament composed mainly of diverse immigrant groups. The closing reception for the tournament, featured an exhibition of banners for the 32 countries represented in the Unity Cup. The event was co-sponsored by the City of Philadelphia Office of Immigrant Affairs, Goya, Creative Philadelphia, and the Global Philadelphia Association.
CURF Awards Prizes to Undergrad Fellows

The Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships (CURF) hosted a Research Symposium and Poster Session in early 2017. Three Penn Museum Fellows presented their research: Shiyun Hu (Kong-wang Mountain relief sculptures), Michael Freeman (a gem in the Museum collection), and Diane Panepresso (the Painted House at Gordion, Turkey). Distinguished Poster Awards for the Humanities went to Shiyun Hu and Michael Freeman.

Tokyo National Museum Staff Visits the Penn Museum

In February 2017, Katsuya Shirai (Chief Curator of Archaeology, Curatorial Research Department), Takuzo Onozuka (Assistant Curator, Asian Art, Curatorial Research Department), and Maho Suzuki (Associated Fellow, Registration Collections Management Division) of the Tokyo National Museum visited the Penn Museum and met with Williams Director Julian Siggers. Also present at the meeting were Steve Lang, Lyons Keeper of Collections, Museum Asian Section; and Dr. Yoko Nishimura, Lecturer in Archaeology, East Asia, and the Near East, Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Pennsylvania.

The Sunshade Chapel of Meritaten from the House-of-Waenre of Akhenaten

Josef Wegner
The quartzite architectural block E16230 has been on display in the Penn Museum for 115 years. E16230 is one of the few large architectural pieces in the world surviving from the much-debated reign of the “heretic” king Akhenaten and one of the most historically significant objects on display in the Egyptian galleries, yet it has never been analyzed or published. This volume provides for the first time a translation and discussion of the important texts on the object, along with analysis of the architectural evidence it provides.

Order online at www.pennpress.org or by phone 1-800-537-5487

European Archaeology as Anthropology

*Essays in Memory of Bernard Wailes*
Edited by Pam J. Crabtree and Peter Bogucki

Since the days of V. Gordon Childe, the study of the emergence of complex societies has been a central question in anthropological archaeology. The essays in this volume celebrate the legacy of Bernard Wailes by highlighting the contribution of the European archaeological record to our understanding of the emergence of social complexity. They provide case studies in how ancient Europe can inform anthropological archaeology. Not only do they illuminate key research topics, they also invite archaeologists working in other parts of the world to consider comparisons to ancient Europe as they construct models for cultural development for their regions.

2017 | 288 pages | 6 x 9 | 45 illus.
ISBN 978-1-934536-89-6 | Cloth | $55.00
Gift Commitments Usher in Building Transformation

The Penn Museum is pleased to announce and gratefully acknowledge recent gifts and grants to the renovation of the Coxe and Harrison Wings and its new signature galleries, including lead support from Overseers Peter Gould, Eric Schoenberg, and Charles K. Williams, II. A lead gift from the William B. Dietrich Foundation, a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and gifts from Gretchen and Jay Riley, Alice L. George, and in memory of Sally Dreyfus Kalish (CW60, athlete/scholar) advance development of the new Middle East Galleries. A gift in honor of Michel and Nelly Abemayor will support the development of the new Egyptian Galleries. Additional gifts from the estate of longtime friend and Overseer John R. Rockwell, Overseer Jill Topkis Weiss and Jeff Weiss, and the Stockman Family Foundation will support conservation of monumental artifacts from the Egyptian and Asian collections that will be showpieces in the new galleries. Williams Director Julian Siggers leads the entire Museum family in expressing thanks to these donors for their visionary early support of a project that will relaunch the Museum throughout and beyond Penn’s campus.

New Head Librarian Welcomed at Penn Museum

Dr. Deborah Brown Stewart was named Head Librarian in the Museum Library in December 2016. Dr. Stewart will oversee all aspects of the Library, the Brinton Collection, as well as collections development and liaison duties for anthropology and archaeology at Penn. Stewart received her M.A. and Ph.D. in Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology from Bryn Mawr College in 2009. Prior to coming to Penn, she worked for 13 years as the Librarian for Byzantine Studies at Dumbarton Oaks Research Library.
Dr. Jane Goodall Receives Award

Given to individuals who pioneer studies of and transform knowledge within fields related to human evolutionary studies, The Krogman Award was presented to Dr. Jane Goodall by Williams Director Julian Siggers on September 29, 2016. Dr. Goodall began her landmark study of chimpanzee behavior in July 1960 in what is now Tanzania. Her work at Gombe Stream would become the foundation of future primatological research and redefine the relationship between humans and animals. In 1977, Dr. Goodall established the Jane Goodall Institute and has become a global leader in the effort to protect chimpanzees and their habitats. To learn more about Dr. Goodall or the Jane Goodall Institute, please visit www.janegoodall.org.

New Arts Programming at the Penn Museum

Partnerships with performing artists and organizations have brought new public programming to the Museum. Through a collaboration with the American Composers Forum, the Museum hosted composers Lembit Beecher and Scott Ordway for a residency program. Beecher and Ordway each composed a piece inspired by objects from the Penn Museum collection and written specifically for the acoustic space of the Chinese Rotunda with its 90-foot dome. Other recent events in the galleries included performances by the Daedalus Quartet, Papaya Children’s Theater, Penn Flutes, as well as Native American and African American Hip Hop performances.

Julian Siggers Moderates Panel Discussion on Antiquities

On January 19, Williams Director Julian Siggers moderated a panel discussion focused on issues inspired by the new book Antiquities: What Everyone Needs to Know by art historian Maxwell Anderson, former Director of the Dallas Art Museum.

The discussion presented a wide-ranging look at past, current, and future threats to the world’s cultural heritage. Panelists include Dr. Brian Daniels, Director of Research and Programs at the Penn Cultural Heritage Center; Dr. Salam Al Kuntar, Research Fellow, Penn Museum and Co-Director, Tell Hamoukar Project, Syria; and Dr. Derek Gillman, Professor, Westphal College of Media Arts, Drexel University.

Miller Presented with the SAA’s Fryxell Award

Dr. Naomi F. Miller, Consulting Scholar in the Near East Section at the Museum, was presented with the Fryxell Award for Interdisciplinary Research at the annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Vancouver, British Columbia, in March 2017. The Fryxell Award is presented in recognition of interdisciplinary excellence by a scientist who need not be an archaeologist, but whose research has contributed significantly to American archaeology. This year, it was presented in the category of plant sciences. Miller was a Research Specialist in MASCA (Museum Applied Science Center for Archaeology) and the Near East Section.