



Interested in the archaeology of the ancient Mediterranean? Want to meet archaeologists who work in this region and connect with other students who share your interests?

Upcoming Events (Spring 2018):

**Wednesday, January 24th – Mediterranean Archaeology Club Meeting (Fieldwork Info Session)
12:00–1:00 in 501 Cathedral of Learning**

Join us for a lunchtime meeting of the Mediterranean Archaeology Club! We will have food, drinks, and an information session led by Prof. Tom Morton (History of Art and Architecture) and Prof. Ben Gordon (Religious Studies) on archaeological fieldwork opportunities in the Mediterranean. Hope to see you there!

February 22–24 – Bus Trip to Chicago

<http://www.artic.edu/> -- <https://www.fieldmuseum.org/> -- <https://oi.uchicago.edu/>

Join us on a weekend trip to Chicago to visit the Art Institute, Field Museum, and the Oriental Institute. In addition to the regular ancient collections on display, we will also have the opportunity to meet with curators and to visit a special exhibition at the Field Museum called “Ancient Mediterranean Cultures in Contact.” The bus will leave Pittsburgh from the Frick Fine Arts Building at 3:15 pm sharp on February 22nd. We will depart from the Chicago at 3:15 pm sharp on February 24th. The \$80 fee (covering hotel, transportation, and museum entrances) can be paid in cash or check (payable to the University of Pittsburgh) to Corrin Trombley, 104 Frick Fine Arts Building (open 8:30 am to 5 pm). The deadline to register is February 8th.

Thursday, February 22nd – “The Art of Language Invention”

Lecture by David Peterson

7:00 pm in the Pappert Lecture Hall in the Bayer School Building (Duquesne University)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_J._Peterson

David Peterson, a language creator who has worked on numerous television shows and movies including HBO’s *Game of Thrones*, the CW’s *The 100*, Netflix’s *Bright*, and Syfy’s *Defiance*, will discuss the art and craft of language creation, and the linguistic science behind it. David’s talk will include some of the strategies he’s used to create languages like Dothraki, High Valyrian, and Trigedasleng, as well as delve into the importance of understanding the history of language in order to emulate realistic linguistic evolution. A free reception will follow.

Friday, March 16th – “Rethinking ‘Greco-Egyptian Magical Gems’: Contact and User Choice”

Lecture by Dr. Caitlín Barrett (Cornell University)

5:30 pm in G13 Cathedral of Learning

<http://classics.cornell.edu/caitlín-eilís-barrett>

The Pittsburgh Society of the Archaeological Institute of America and the Department of Classics sponsor two lectures in Mediterranean archaeology per academic year that are free to the public. This semester’s lecturer is Caitlín Barrett, a specialist in Classical archaeology and Egyptology, as well as the archaeology of religion and ritual, and household archaeology.

Throughout the Roman Empire, many people used amulets inscribed with unusual-looking divine images, esoteric signs, and “names of power” or “*vores magicæ*.” Many such images and inscriptions also represent Roman adaptations of foreign (especially, though not exclusively, Egyptian) iconography and utterances. Scholars typically categorize such artifacts as “magical” and assume that they were used for personal ritual purposes. However, an analysis of “magical gems” from documented archaeological contexts suggests a relatively broad range of possible functions and values for such artifacts. “Magical gems” may not have constituted a clearly-bounded iconographic or epigraphic category in antiquity, but a functional category, constantly negotiated through practice and user choice.

Wednesday, April 11th – Lecture by Tom Hardwick (Houston Museum of Natural Science)

12:00 pm in 203 Frick Fine Arts Building

<http://www.hmns.org/exhibits/curators/tom-hardwick/>

Tom Hardwick is an Egyptologist and a specialist in Egyptian art, the history of collecting, and in the forgery of works of art. He is the Consulting Curator of the Hall of Ancient Egypt at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. He has worked as Keeper of Egyptology at Bolton Museum in the UK, as a researcher in the Wilbour Library of Egyptology in Brooklyn Museum, and as an Egyptologist in the Grand Egyptian Museum, Cairo, where he now lives.

Thursday, April 12th – “More than Just Mosaics: The Ancient Synagogue at Huqoq in Israel’s Galilee”

Lecture by Dr. Jodi Magness (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)

7:30 pm at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

<http://www.jodimagness.org>

Since 2011, Professor Jodi Magness has been directing excavations in the ancient village of Huqoq. The excavations have brought to light the remains of a monumental Late Roman synagogue building paved with stunning mosaics, including a variety of biblical scenes. In this lecture, Professor Magness describes these exciting finds, including the discoveries made in last summer’s season.

Interested? Want to know more? Contact Prof. Carrie Weaver clweaver@pitt.edu