

BC students in Greece

Important evidence found during summer trip

By Jordon Morgan
Editor in Chief

New evidence citing proof of human occupation in Greece during the Late Bronze age was uncovered in the latest archaeological expedition conducted by Professors Robert Bauslaugh and Anne Chapin during the summer of 2017.

Along with Bauslaugh and Chapin, the trip also included former as well as current Brevard College students. Lizzy Williams, Casey Whitmire, Jerrett Stevenson, and Thomas Ruppel all contributed to aiding with the field work. Work which consisted of 7 am to 4 pm shifts every single day, with an hour break for lunch, for four to six weeks straight.

According to Professor Bauslaugh, the BC students who choose to go on the trip show “great dedication as the school can’t support them other than lodging,” adding that “they’re a great help as there’s so much evidence to sort through. Not all of it is going to be useful and they won’t be stored.” In addition, Bauslaugh says that so many extra hands helps everyone involved more quickly shuffle through all the findings to find what they can or should keep and what won’t.

Every summer since 2010, Bauslaugh and Chapin have taken a handful of Brevard College Students, both former and current, to the island of Crete located in Greece. Having previously spent time in areas like Sparta, Bauslaugh and Chapin are certainly no strangers to big scale projects in foreign countries.

Expeditions such as these require not only students and other volunteers to sift through the materials and evidence, but also cooperation between multiple universities to properly catalogue the plethora of said materials that one could find in a place like Greece. Professor Louise Hitchcock from the University of Melbourne in Australia along with Emilia Banou from the University of Peloponnese aided in the excavation.

Professor Bauslaugh explained that their primary aid in Greece itself came from the American School of Classical Studies in Athens.

Even getting the aid of these professors and organizations was no small task. “Lining up all the academic schedules of Australia, Greece, and Brevard is hard to manage,” Bauslaugh says. There is also the issue of getting the necessary permits to even begin the study in the first place. While they happen to be conducting this archaeological dig, an official from the government in Greece has to “act as partner and overseer” according to Bauslaugh.

Despite the difficulties, it was well worth the effort. Even though he couldn’t get into exact specifics of what was uncovered until the findings were confirmed and published in an academic publication, Bauslaugh was able to divulge a few details.

“We uncovered new evidence that was never found which confirmed the theory of human occupation in the late Bronze Age. There was a concentration of evidence of a settlement,” Bauslaugh says. He also explained that this evidence, which included things such as pottery and stone materials, all pointed to the possible existence of a palace in the center of it all.

This important find also serves another purpose, which is to legitimize further investigation into this subject. Professor Bauslaugh says that they will report their findings to Philadelphia in January of 2018 to the Archaeological Institute of America, after which he and Professor Chapin will return to Greece in June of 2018 as well so that they can work through all the material they found for further review and documentation.



Photo courtesy of Robert Bauslaugh

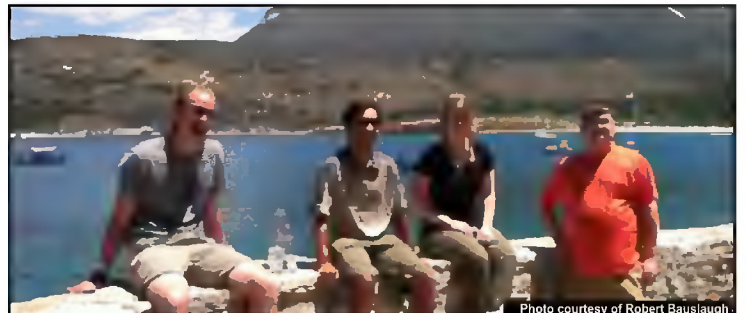


Photo courtesy of Robert Bauslaugh

Left: 1st day: Setting out the string lines marking the survey area boundary. Above: Day trip early on to Diros Cave in the Mani; BC students: Thomas Ruple, Casey Whitmire, Liz Hill; and Jarrett Stevenson. Right: Jim Reynolds (geologist) exploring a shallow cave in the survey area.



Photo courtesy of Robert Bauslaugh