

## **BSA REPORT**

The BSA Summer School continues to be a popular course for undergraduates wanting to learn more about the landscape and remains of Greece with the number of applicants increasing every year. In 2015, 27 students were chosen from 13 universities across the UK pursuing a range of degrees in Hellenic subjects. The three-week course began in Athens with lectures on Greek religion and sanctuaries, the types of sources employed in interpretations of the past, and archaeological science sessions in the Fitch Laboratory. This year's students sat an experimental archaeology class where they created and fired Neolithic pots. After site and museum tours in Athens and Attica, we boarded the bus for a nine-day journey around the Peloponnese performing Aristophanes in the theatre in Epidaurus, visiting the great Mycenaean palaces of Mycenae and Tiryns and the vast ongoing excavations of Hellenistic Messene, hiking the Lousios gorge to visit Gortys, discussing the principles of Byzantine art in Mystras, exploring the topography of Pylos and the Bay of Navarino by boat, and finishing at the Panhellenic Sanctuary at Olympia with a re-enactment of the Heraia and the Olympic games. The victors in the games were crown with olive wreaths.

The course was taught by Dr. Chryssanthi Papadopoulou (BSA), Dr. Estelle Strazdins (Oxford), and Dr. Jean-Sebastien Gros (BSA), with guest talks by Tasos Tanoulas (the restoration of the Propylaia), Vasso Manidaki (the restoration of the Parthenon), Robert Pitt (epigraphic museum), George Kavvadias (pottery gallery at the National Museum), Kostas Paschalides (prehistoric gallery at the National Museum), Nikolas Papademetriou (Cycladic Museum), and Konstantinos Papadopoulos (the restoration of the temple of Apollo Epikourios). The course manager, Nick Brown, looked after the health and well-being of the group, and taught in the Delphi and Olympia Museums.

Our students acquired experiential knowledge of the most important sites in central and southern mainland Greece, familiarised themselves with the BSA library, conversed with academics outside the university departmental setting, and exchanged ideas and teaching experiences with peers from numerous UK universities.

We are most grateful for the continuing support of several institutions and societies which provide much needed financial assistance to keep the course fees low as well as offering 16 bursaries to help those students who would otherwise not have been able to accept their places: The Craven Committee Oxford, The Classics Faculty at Cambridge, The Classical Association, The Gilbert Murray Trust, and The Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies. The generosity of the aforementioned institutions allowed us to award in 2015 the highest number of bursaries (16) in all the years of operation of the course.



Teaching in the gymnasium in Olympia



The open air water-power museum in Dimitsana



DSC00998: The visit in Apollo Epikourios' temple



Teaching in Messine