

Director's Welcome

It is with enormous pleasure that I welcome *Chronika* to the Publications of the Institute for European and Mediterranean Archaeology. I am especially delighted since this publication was initiated, edited and produced by IEMA graduate students.

The truly interdisciplinary character of IEMA shines through the pages of *Chronika* with articles ranging from European Prehistory to the Roman Empire and the Middle Ages. We look forward to future dialogue and debate among students of European and Mediterranean Archaeology from the University at Buffalo and beyond.

Let me use this note to also briefly introduce the Institute for European and Mediterranean Archaeology (IEMA) at the University at Buffalo (UB): IEMA is a Signature Center of Excellence within the College of Arts and Sciences and was created in 2006 by an interdisciplinary faculty, drawn from departments of anthropology, classics and visual studies. It consists of ca. 60 UB faculty and graduate student members and ca. 100 affiliated members from the US and abroad and is housed in the departments of anthropology and classics in the Ellicott Complex at UB North Campus.

IEMA's mission is (1) to coordinate, facilitate, and promote the research and teaching activities of faculty and students at the University at Buffalo concerned with the archaeological investigation of the European and Mediterranean areas; (2) to promote the study and teaching of the archaeology of the Mediterranean and European areas in the Western New York/Southern Ontario region, North America, and beyond; (3) to establish and maintain the University at Buffalo as a leading national and international center for research and teaching in the archaeology of the European and Mediterranean areas; and (4) to educate the general public about the archaeology of Europe and the Mediterranean and the significance of the experiences and contributions of the peoples who have inhabited these areas in the past.

In the fall of 2010, IEMA launched its Distinguished Monographs Series with SUNY Press by publishing two monographs. Two more are under peer review for 2011 and we plan to publish two per year. We also have two book manuscripts forthcoming and four book proposals. Over the past four years, IEMA organized four postdoctoral conferences and 36 public lectures. The lecturers, who stemmed from Austria, Canada, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Russia Turkey, the UK and the Ukraine, represent both the wide interests of the IEMA faculty and graduate students and the international nature of the work. Since 2009, IEMA graduate students have organized regular hands-on IEMA workshops and Brown Bag Talks, which have proven an excellent source of academic inspiration. We have established international partnerships with the Universities of Cambridge/UK, Kiel/Germany, Sorbonne Paris/France and Catania/Italy and partnerships with universities in Canada and Europe are forthcoming. We have created a listserv for European Archaeology with ca. 150 scholars in Western New York, New York State and Southern Ontario.

Clearly it's an exciting and promising enterprise and I am thrilled to be part of it. I would like to express my deep gratitude to the College of Arts and Sciences, the departments of Anthropology, Classics and Visual Studies for their support and encouragement in putting IEMA together. My special thanks goes to the Associate Editors James Artz, Laura Harrison and Michael Rienti who edited this splendid first issue. Thanks too, go to *Chronika's* first authors and IEMA members. Your work will help to establish IEMA as the top institution in the United States for the study and research of European and Mediterranean Archaeology.

Peter F. Biehl
Director