

## ANNUAL REPORT: GREECE-METHONE 2015 FIELD SCHOOL

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*Field School Director Brady Kiesling with students in Trenches 1, 2, and 5*

The 2015 season of fieldwork at Methone, Pieria (Greece) focused on the excavation of six trenches, processing of finds (pottery, tile, small finds, soil samples, animal and human bone), and was accompanied by continued geophysical exploration of the ancient shoreline. At the end of the six-week season, prehistoric (Bronze Age) graves cut in bedrock were reached in two adjacent trenches at the south end of the excavation area, while at the north end, levels of the Early Iron Age (1000-700 BCE) were discovered overlying bedrock. In particular, two seasons of excavation have revealed a local Early Iron Age settlement characterized by handmade pottery, storage jars, and postholes for structures of perishable materials, below an Archaic (700-500 BC) phase marked by the foundation of a southern Greek (Eretrian) colony. During the Archaic and succeeding Classical (500-350 BCE) phases, the area was largely covered with workshops, both roofed and open-air facilities, including kilns and smelting hearths. A large pit filled with debris after the destruction of the city by Philip II of Macedon in 354 BCE is still under excavation, and has yielded rich materials from the domestic quarters of Archaic and Classical Methone.

Students were involved in all phases of this fieldwork, either through direct participation in excavation and processing of finds, occasional assistance of the geophysical team, or Powerpoint presentations on geomorphology (some results of the 2014 season) and geophysics. In addition, one day was dedicated to surface survey techniques and the collection and identification of surface materials. Team members held short orientation sessions about soil flotation, sorting of heavy residue, sorting of animal bone, conservation procedures and results, and the special treatment and extraction of burials in the field. Field trips introduced students to the museums and monuments of Thessaloniki, Vergina, Pella, Dion, Platamona and Pydna.

A general report on the results of the 2015 season will be submitted to the Greek Ministry of Culture and the American School of Classical Studies in October, and at a public presentation at

the Archaeological institute of America in January 2016. A preliminary report will be submitted to the journal *Hesperia* after the conclusion of the third field season in Summer 2016.