# ANNUAL REPORT: THE PRAN'E SIDDI LANDSCAPE PROJECT 2016 FIELD SCHOOL

**Director(s):** Emily Holt, Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle (Paris, France)

Field school student Francesca Luria analyzes zooarchaeological remains

**GENERAL**

A five-week IFR Field School at Siddi, Sardinia (Italy), took place between July 10th and August 13th 2016. The field school focused on laboratory research and formed part of the third season of the Pran'e Siddi Landscape Project, which was established to investigate the changing relationships among social inequality, settlement patterns, and environmental change in the area around the modern town of Siddi, located in south-central Sardinia. The five IFR field school students who worked with the Pran'e Siddi Landscape Project were directed by Dr. Emily Holt (Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle (Paris, France)) with the assistance of Dr. Mauro Perra, director of the Museo Genna Maria (Villanovaforru, Sardinia). This season also saw the introduction of a new staff member to the project, ceramics expert Davide Schirru (Museo Multimediale del Regno di Arborea (Las Plassas, Sardinia)).

Our daily routine included lab work from 8am-5:30pm with an hour break for lunch. Twice a week students attended lectures from 6:30-7:30pm, and weekends included field trips and guest lectures such as:

· Visits to the archaeological sites of Nuraghe Santu Antine (Torralba), the famous well temple of Santa Cristina (Paulilatino), and the UNESCO World Heritage site Nuraghe Su Nuraxi (Barumini)

· Guided tours of ongoing excavations and conservation work at Su Forru 'e Sintzurreddus (Dr. Carlo Lugliè, Università di Cagliari), Bruncu 'e s'Omu (Dr. Riccardo Cicilloni, Università di Cagliari) and Nuraghe Genna Maria (Dr. Mauro Perra)
· A trip to the National Archaeological Museum in Cagliari
· Guest lectures on Food and Drink in the Nuragic Culture by Dr. Mauro Perra, the Nuragic Worked Bone Industry by Dr. Laura Manca (Università di Sassari), the Nuragic Ceramics of the Siddi Region (Davide Schirru), and Digital Humanities by Caitlin Diddams (PhD Student, University at Buffalo)

**LABORATORY SET-UP**

One of the most exciting parts of this season was inaugurating the new laboratory that has generously been provided for us by the Comune di Siddi. The lab includes both study and storage space, allowing us – for the first time – to keep our artifacts in the same place we study them. This will drastically reduce travel time and permitting issues in future seasons, leading to more productive workdays. The 2016 team inventoried and organized the entire lab, leaving us ready to hit the ground running next season.

**CERAMIC ANALYSIS**

This season's team made excellent progress on the analysis of ceramics from Progetto Pran'e Siddi (2009-2011; Perra and Holt, directors), closing in on the completion of the study. The Progetto Pran'e Siddi ceramics were excavated at the site of Nuraghe Sa Conca Sa Cresia, one of the Middle Bronze Age towers on the Siddi Plateau that is the focus of the Pran'e Siddi Landscape Project. Our research suggests that an early Nuragic elite began to develop at Sa Conca Sa Cresia during the Middle Bronze Age. The ceramics study seeks to identify the development of an elite identity relying on the refinement of pottery production over the course of the site's occupation. IFR students learned to recognize vessel types, measure rim diameters, assess characteristics of vessel fabrics, and document decoration. These multiple lines of evidence will be used to understand how the elites living at Sa Conca Sa Cresia used ceramics to express their power.

**ZOOARCHAEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS**

IFR students learned the basics of zooarchaeological analysis by studying the animal remains from Sa Conca Sa Cresia in comparison with the modern skeletal collections of the Museo Genna Maria. Students learned to identify animal bones to species and skeletal element, as well as to look for and document bone modifications such as cut and chop marks, burn marks, and carnivore and rodent gnawing. As with ceramics, animal husbandry and consumption patterns can be used to understand changes in social organization and elite identity. These animal remains will also provide important information for understanding the Nuragic environment.

**HEAVY FRACTION SORTING**

This season's team continued the process of sorting heavy fractions from Sa Conca Sa Cresia. They learned to identify and differentiate small fragments of obsidian, animal bone, terrestrial and marine shell, charcoal, and other artifactual and ecofactual remains. The students' work continued to improve our understanding of the Nuragic economy, as well as add to the

resources we have to study behaviors such as tool production, use, and maintenance.