

CAARI

November 2008

2008 was year of change for Cyprus and CAARI as we exchanged our Cyprus Pounds for Euros in January and elected a new President in February. CAARI has undergone a staff change of its own. At the end of October, our librarian, Mrs. Diana Constantanides, retired from 17 years of active service at CAARI. Diana first started at CAARI in 1991 in the library on a Getty grant which enabled us to greatly expand our collection. After serving as Program coordinator, Diana became the librarian in 1999. She made a great contribution to CAARI through her high level of professionalism and her strong support of the researchers and students. Our new librarian is Evi Karyda. Ms. Karyda has a BA in History and Archaeology from the University of Cyprus with an MA in Greek and Roman Archaeology from the University of Newcastle on Tyne. She has training and experience as a nautical archaeologist and her expertise will help the CAARI library expand its holdings in this increasingly important research area in Cypriot archaeology.

During this period the functioning of CAARI as the only foreign school of its kind in Cyprus was maintained through improvements to the library's collections and a busy program of academic activities. I am happy to inform the ASOR family that the American Ambassador to Cyprus has appointed me to the Fulbright Commission in Nicosia. This will increase CAARI's visibility in the scholarly community here.

Our Fulbright scholar for 2008, Dr. Justine Andrews was in residence from January until July. Dr. Andrews teaches at the University of New Mexico and is researching gothic architecture in Nicosia and Famagusta. She spoke at CAARI in May on the topic: "Nicosia and Famagusta: memory, desire and identity in fourteenth century ecclesiastical architecture". Mr. Benjamin Costello, a PhD Candidate at SUNY Buffalo was the 2007/2008 Student Fulbright Fellow at CAARI. He arrived in mid-September and has stayed at CAARI and in Episkopi during his fellowship tenure. He is working on publishing the ASOR-affiliated, University of Arizona excavations of David Soren at Kourion (1984-1987). I am of course very interested in this project since I was Dr. Soren's Field Director for 2 seasons on the Kourion acropolis. On April 2 Mr. Costello spoke at CAARI on "Shaking Kourion: New Insights into the Earthquake House." This was a very well attended lecture that sparked a lively time of discussion over drinks and snacks in the rotunda.

In February the superb program of Director's exchanges continued when Dr. Gerry Scott from ARCE in Cairo came to CAARI and I went to Cairo. This program is funded thanks to the personal generosity of P.E. MacAllister, ASOR's Chairman of the Board. This has been an extremely successful program of exchanges between the Directors of the ASOR schools and directors of other eastern Mediterranean American research institutes. In Nicosia, Dr Scott spoke on "Preparing for the Future: the American Research Center in Egypt's Conservation Efforts". When in Cairo at the end of February, I spoke on "Archaeology on Cyprus in 2007". I stayed at ARCE visited the sites of Alexandria and Sakkara during my visit.

We celebrated our 30th anniversary in grand fashion during the first week of June with a gala dinner in our honor hosted by the Cyprus American Business Association.

Corporate sponsors included Piraeus Bank, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Esso, NCR and the Shacolas Group. We also held a dinner at CAARI for our local friends and supporters and concluded the festivities with a bilingual field trip to the medieval chapel of Pyrga (led by our Fulbright scholar Dr Andrews) and the archaeological site of Athienou where Dr Michael Toumazou, a CAARI Trustee, gave us a thorough tour of his site. The day was capped with a wonderful lunch given to the tour members by the town of Athienou.

The 26th annual CAARI archaeological workshop also held in June and co-sponsored by the Cyprus Department of Antiquities, had 21 presentations covering the usual wide range of Cypriot archaeology. I was particularly pleased to have 8 presentations from the Department of Antiquities and the Archaeological Research Unit of the University of Cyprus, showing the strength of the CAARI partnerships with these institutions.

The library and hostel witnessed heavy activity over the last year, with more than 300 individual students and researchers using the facilities. Research was spread across the entire spectrum of Cypriote studies, from the early Neolithic to the present day. The library added numerous resources, particularly in the fields of Byzantine and Medieval Studies. Groups visiting CAARI for lectures and tours included university students and private tour groups. The Director spoke at the University of Cyprus and to numerous local civic organizations on a variety of topics

Our expansion plans have moved forward this year with the approval of our library expansion plans by the municipality of Nicosia. We now await the final approval of the detailed construction plans and the release of our building permit. The recent increase in the strength of the dollar will help off set the increase in projected costs due to inflation in the local economy.

Think about including Cyprus in your tour planning. CAARI has assisted many student groups who have come to the island on study tours in recent years. This year, the Director escorted students from Macalester College and Denver Seminary on tours of the island.

CAARI has an updated internet presence with our newly designed website up and running. Contributions may now be made on line. Look us over at www.caari.org.

Thomas W. Davis
Director