



University of Cyprus  
Archaeological Research Unit



Nautical  
Archaeology  
Society



M.A.RE Lab  
Maritime Archaeological Research Laboratory



# Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool 2017



MARELab, University of Cyprus  
& Nautical Archaeology Society

Supported by the Honor Frost Foundation

## Final Report

January 2018

## Introduction

In 2012 the Honor Frost Foundation provided a grant to the Nautical Archaeology Society (NAS) to help establish a formal partnership between the NAS and the University of Cyprus Maritime Archaeological Research Laboratory (MARELab). Following productive meetings held in September 2013 the two organisations agreed to work together under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that now guides all future collaborative projects by the partners.

The core aims of the agreed MoU were to develop exchanges and co-operation in teaching and research in furtherance of the advancement and dissemination of information in underwater archaeology; and to co-operate to promote, facilitate and implement co-operation in the following programmes and activities.

In 2013 the NAS and the MARELab agreed to the development of collaborative international educational fieldschools in underwater archaeology aimed at students of archaeology at the University of Cyprus, the wider community on Cyprus as well as international participants including students from the Eastern Mediterranean region. The partners also agreed to the establishment, delivery and support for the NAS Training Programme on Cyprus, embedded in the MARELab as a mechanism to learn underwater archaeology fieldwork skills; to identify opportunities for co-operation in joint research and development in the discipline of underwater archaeology; and finally for the promotion of the MARELab as an Eastern Mediterranean regional training centre of excellence in underwater archaeology.

It is the belief of the partners that the activities of the Eastern Mediterranean regional training centre will build strong collaborative relationships between all parties and across geographical boundaries.

The principle aims of the underwater archaeology fieldschools are: a) to develop the underwater archaeological skills of students of archaeology at the University of Cyprus, the wider community on Cyprus, students of archaeology from the Eastern Mediterranean region as well as other international participants; b) to foster and build collaborative relationships between all participants attending fieldschools; and c) to encourage inclusion of professional divers on Cyprus to work together with archaeologists and share their knowledge and skills.

## Background: The 2015 fieldschool

The first Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool was held in 2015 and was organised and taught by staff from both the University of Cyprus Maritime Archaeological Research Laboratory (MARELab) and the Nautical Archaeology Society, UK (NAS). The fieldschool took place in August 2015 and was attended by twelve participants from Cyprus, Egypt, Romania, UK, USA and France.

The fieldschool was held on a possible ancient anchorage site on the Xylophagou coast in Larnaca Bay. Participants were able to contribute to genuine research on this interesting site, which is being studied by the University of Cyprus and members of the NAS. The fieldschool was taught in English by NAS and University of Cyprus staff and underwater surveying, photography, illustration, using *Site Recorder* survey software and presentation skills. The fieldschool included excursions to Thalassa museum in Ayia Napa and evening talks. NAS certifications were awarded to all the participants.

Thanks to funding from the Honor Frost Foundation [www.honorfrostfoundation.org](http://www.honorfrostfoundation.org), students of underwater archaeology from Cyprus and Egypt were awarded scholarships to support their attendance. All other students were awarded scholarships to support their SCUBA diving equipment hire.

### **Background: The 2016 fieldschool**

The second Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool held in 2016 was again organised and taught by staff from both the University of Cyprus Maritime Archaeological Research Laboratory (MARELab) and the Nautical Archaeology Society, UK (NAS). The fieldschool took place from the Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2016 until the Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2016 and was attended by twelve participants from Cyprus, Greece, Finland, UK, USA and Canada.

The fieldschool was held on a Mazotos shipwreck site, off Cape Kiti, Cyprus. Participants were able to contribute to genuine research on this fabulous wreck site, which is being studied by the University of Cyprus Maritime Archaeological Research Laboratory (MARELab). The fieldschool was taught in English by NAS and University of Cyprus staff and included topics of underwater excavation, photogrammetry, artefact photography, artefact illustration, 3D modeling. NAS certifications were awarded to all the participants.

Thanks to funding from the Honor Frost Foundation [www.honorfrostfoundation.org](http://www.honorfrostfoundation.org), participants from Cyprus were awarded scholarships to support their attendance.

### **Fieldschool Staff Team 2017**

The Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool 2016 was organised and taught by staff from the University of Cyprus Maritime Archaeological Research Laboratory (MARE Lab) and the Nautical Archaeology Society, UK (NAS).

**Dr Stella Demesticha**, Archaeological Research Director - University of Cyprus Maritime Archaeological Research Laboratory (MARE Lab).

Stella Demesticha completed her undergraduate studies in Archaeology in 1992, at the National University of Athens, Greece, (Department of History and Archaeology, Faculty of Philosophy,) and she continued at the Department of History and Archaeology of the University of Cyprus, where she got her PhD in Archaeology, in 2002. She worked for 7 years (2000- 2006) at the Piraeus Bank Group Cultural Foundation, in Athens, Greece (as head of the Museums Department and in 2006, as vice director of the Foundation). In 2006 she taught Maritime Archaeology at the University of Peloponnese, Greece, and since 2007 she lectures at the University of Cyprus.



She specializes in maritime archaeology, with a special interest in shipwrecks, amphorae, ancient seaborne trade routes and economy in the Eastern Mediterranean. Over the past 20 years, she has participated in many land and underwater archaeological projects in Greece and Cyprus. In 2011 she created the MARELab at the Archaeological Research Unit of the University of Cyprus. She currently directs three ongoing underwater field projects (the Mazotos and the Nissia Shipwreck Projects and the Xylophagou Anchorage Project) and coordinates all MARELab research programmes. She teaches both under- and post graduate courses, coordinates a Master's Programme (Field Archaeology on Land and Under the Sea) and supervises PhD students.

#### **Mark Beattie-Edwards**, Fieldschool Director – Nautical Archaeology Society

Mark started working for the NAS in 2001 as the Training Officer, Project Officer, Project Manager, Programme Director and since March 2016 he has been the NAS Chief Executive Officer. Mark is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the NAS office in Portsmouth, UK including overall supervision of all training and project opportunities.

Mark studied Archaeology at Southampton University between 1993 and 1996 and returned to Southampton in 1999-2000 to undertake the MA in Maritime Archaeology (awarded with Distinction). Mark has worked in the Guernsey, Sweden, the Caribbean and throughout the UK. His current projects include work on three of the UK's protected wrecks - the Holland No.5 submarine (lost 1912), the Norman's Bay Wreck (lost c.1690) and the London (lost 1665). He has also published on a collection of vessels in Forton Lake in Gosport (UK) and most recently has begun working on a Roman amphorae site in the waters off Guernsey.



**Peta Knott, Fieldschool Coordinator / Education Officer – Nautical Archaeology Society**



Peta started working for the NAS in 2017 from Wessex Archaeology in the UK where she was working as a Project Officer in the Coastal & Marine Department. Before this she has worked in a number of positions in Australia, including as the Maritime Heritage Coordinator for Tasmania, Australia. Here she was responsible for working with 37 mostly volunteer-run, maritime heritage organisations to research and promote the maritime heritage of the state. She brings a wealth of experience in archaeological outreach and education with her. She completed her Masters of Maritime Archaeology at Flinders University in 2006 with Distinction. Her dissertation was on *“How are shipwrecks represented in Australian museums? The investigation of museum workers, exhibitions and visitors”*.

Peta is responsible for the organisation, administration and delivery of the NAS Training Programme around the world, to promote nautical archaeology to the general public and beyond. Working to open the world of maritime archaeology to all, including through the use of social media – you can often find Peta posting on social media on behalf of the NAS.

**Andonis Neophytou, Photographer and Instructor - University of Cyprus Maritime Archaeological Research Laboratory (MARELab)**

Andonis is a MARELab associate, as head of the documentation team. He is currently undertaking his master’s degree in Field Archaeology. He has participated in underwater excavation projects (Mazotos and Nissia shipwrecks), surveys (at Paphos and at Xylophagou) and other maritime related projects like *KAPABOI: The Ship Graffiti on the Medieval Monuments of Cyprus: Mapping, Documentation and Digitisation*.

Andonis is a Computer Scientist with specialization in Software Engineering and Database Design. He has been a research affiliate with the Computer Science Department of the University of Cyprus and has taught computer science courses at Cyprus College/European University in Nicosia. He is an Instructor Trainer in First Aid (EFRIT-634176) and a diving Master Instructor (MI-634176).



**Christos Patsalides**, Chief Diver and Safety Officer - University of Cyprus, Maritime Archaeological Research Laboratory (MARELab)

Christos is a MARELab associate as the chief diver of the lab's underwater projects: since 2008, at the Mazotos Shipwreck project and in 2014 at the Green Bay Shipwreck Project.

Christos has been professionally involved in the diving business in Cyprus since 1999. He is now a SSI Instructor trainer for Technical diving up to Hypoxic Trimix 100m level; Ocean reef full face mask Instructor; Suex Scooters Instructor, DAN Instructor for all levels; PSAI rebreather diver; CMAS Advanced Scientific diver; CMAS Advance Marine Biology diver; CMAS Advance Oceanology diver .



**Irene Katsouri**, **Fieldschool Assistant**, Research Assistant at the Maritime Archaeological Research Laboratory, University of Cyprus

Irene holds a Bachelor's degree in Illustration from the University in Brighton and a Master's degree in Interactive Multimedia from the Cyprus University of Technology. Her interest in digital applications for archaeology and cultural heritage, served as the motivation for developing an immersive 3D visualization application, as part of her Master Thesis. Irene has participated in the underwater excavation projects (Nissia, 2014 and Mazotos, 2015) assisting in the digital documentation and re-construction of the 3D site models of the sites. She is currently working as a Research Assistant at the MARELab under the supervision of Dr Stella Demesticha.

**Anna Demetriou**, **Fieldschool Assistant**, PhD Candidate, University of Cyprus



Anna Demetriou completed her undergraduate studies in archaeology in 2006 at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece (Department of History and Archaeology, Faculty of Philosophy). She continued her studies at the University College London (2007) where she acquired a Master's degree on Management of Archaeological Sites. Between 2008–2012 she worked at the Thetis Foundation for the Protection of Underwater Cultural as Executive Director. During the academic year 2013-2014 she worked as a Research Assistant at the Maritime Research Laboratory (MARELab) of the University of Cyprus. Since 2009 she has participated in several field projects in Cyprus

(Mazotos shipwreck project, Nissia shipwreck Project, and Xylophagou Anchorage Project).

She is currently working on her PhD at the University of Cyprus, focusing on ancient shipwreck sites in Cyprus. Her study investigates the practical and the theoretical issues related to the research, management, interpretation, and presentation of ancient shipwreck sites. The aim is to illustrate how archaeologists and the public view and engage today with ancient shipwreck sites as archaeological source material. In this light, her research seeks to propose a re-negotiated axis of interpretation and public presentation of ancient shipwreck sites.

**George Hadjittofis (Yiorkos)**, Fieldschool Assistant, Maritime Archaeological Research Laboratory, University of Cyprus.

George (Yiorkos) has been a member of MARE Lab since 2010 and is an active participant in the “Mazotos” Shipwreck excavation, the “Nissia” Shipwreck and other underwater projects. He is a NAS-Part 1 holder, supported by a grant from the Honor Frost Foundation.

Yiorkos has an HND in Electrical Engineering and is working as a Telecommunications Technician at CY.T.A. (Cyprus Telecommunications Authority). As part of a welfare program at work, he was instrumental in forming a Scuba Divers Club in 2008, which now has 100 members. He is the president of the club for the last 3 years. Yiorkos is passionate about diving and underwater filming for almost 25 years now, both as a recreational and technical diver. He is an Instructor of 3 Diving Organizations and also an Instructor of first aid (primary-secondary care, AED and Oxygen Provider).

## Fieldschool Participants

The twelve participants who took part in the 2017 fieldschool were :

1. Christiana Christodoulou - Cypriot national
2. Judith Gatt - Maltese national, studying in Cyprus
3. Giogos Philipou - Cypriot national
4. Lina Bitsakaki - Greek national, studying in Cyprus
5. Lefki Papakosta - Cypriot national
6. Yiota Nicolaou - Cypriot national
7. Connor Thompson-Webb - British national
8. Michael Lewis - Canadian national
9. Abigail Darville - Bahamian national
10. Benjamin Locke - British national
11. German Zubeldia Perez - Spanish national
12. Magdalena Ausiayevich - Romanian national, studying in Cyprus



Images: The Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool 2017 team



## Fieldschool Programme

The fieldschool took place from the Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2017 until the Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2017. Participants were able to arrive from the Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July and departed by the Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

The Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool 2017 was held on the Nissia Wreck in 28m of water. Please see <https://www.ucy.ac.cy/marelab/en/research/nissia-shipwreck>

This is a wreck dated to the Ottoman period. It lies at a depth of around 28 metres, on a flat sandy sea bottom and has been known to the diving community since the late 1980's. As a result it has been heavily looted and when the MARELab team arrived at the site, in 2014, only wooden fragments of the ship structure and three cannons were visible. However, with the support of HFF, MARELab conducted a short, preliminary field season in September 2014, with very good results: the team assessed better the site, public awareness was raised, students were trained and an in situ preservation programme was initiated.

This report on the delivery of the 2017 fieldschool will not deal with the research findings.

Participants were able to contribute to research on the site, which is conducted by the University of Cyprus. The fieldschool was taught in English by NAS and University of Cyprus staff and included underwater surveying, excavation, photography, illustration and post-fieldwork analysis and archiving. Students also participated in office tasks and briefings that took place after dinner and were also expected to offer their help in more activities or be involved in practical issues, if need be.

The Nissia shipwreck site was appropriate for the 2017 Field School in Underwater Archaeology, for several reasons: (i) it is well preserved but not too deep, (ii) it is a real excavation project, not only a site for training, (iii) the sediment above the hull is only 15cm thick, so in two weeks' time it is possible to progress significantly, and (iv) the parallel programmes of public awareness and *in-situ* preservation will provide the trainees with more insights into the world of underwater archaeology.

The minimum diving qualification: PADI Advanced Openwater and "Enriched Air Diver" (or equivalent) with a minimum of 25 dives.

## Fieldschool Formal Taught Elements

Based on the experience of running the 2015 and 2016 fieldschools and due to weather conditions in Cyprus the formal taught elements of the fieldschool were scheduled to take place on non-diving days and in the late afternoons. Most mornings were spent out on the wreck. Participants were given days off diving to off-gas and were able to either spend the day on the boat or back in the conservation facility or in the office.

The taught elements consisted of lectures and practical sessions on a variety of different topics. These included:

Lecture: The Nissia Shipwreck

Practical: Archaeological Photography

Lecture: Underwater Excavation: basic methodologies and tools

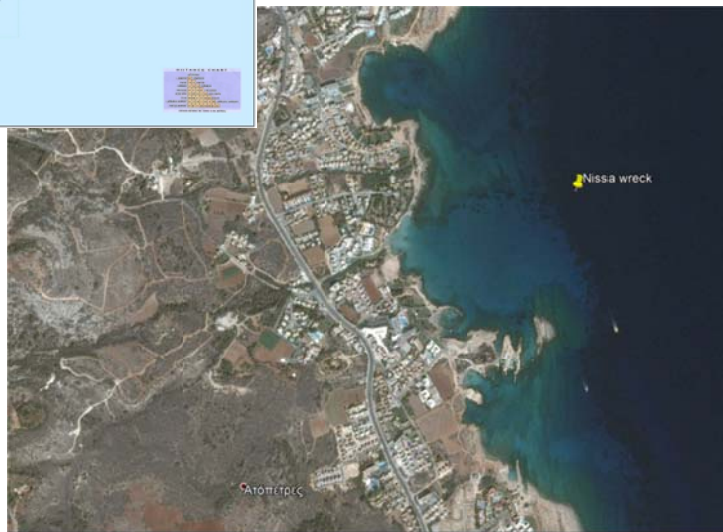
Lecture: Photogrammetry

Lecture: Conservation of Waterlogged Artefacts

Practical: 3D Recording using Site Recorder

### Location and Subsistence

The took place in the eastern part of the island – Ammohostos or Famagusta Bay.



The fieldschool participants stayed in four shared houses in the Artisan Resort in Protaras. Breakfast was provided by the fieldschool. There was no formal break for lunch; sandwiches were prepared on board, by the team together with a snack or fruit. Dinner was provided at a local tavern in Paralimni, which prepared meals for the team from a fixed 7-day menu. Alcohol was strictly prohibited during the fieldschool and project.



## Photography

Photography during the fieldschool was "restrictive". No underwater images of the site should be made public. In principle all images belong (were copyrighted) to the project. All images were turned in to the project office for downloading and recording daily.

Recreational photographs of the site were definitely restricted, i.e. all photos taken during each dive were downloaded on the project's computer and deleted from the sim card. Participants were informed that if they wanted to keep a couple of nice diving shots this would be possible, but only after the archaeological director had given permission.

## Timetable

Date	Daytime Activity	Afternoon Activity	Evening Activity
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> July		18.00 - Welcome meeting at accommodation in Protaras	Welcome Dinner
Sunday 9th July	Fieldschool day 1 – check out dive on site	Classes: Archaeology of Cyprus, Photography, Excavation, Understanding wooden boats	
Monday 10th July	Fieldschool day 2 – Excavation / Survey / Photography	Class: Basic Archaeological Drawing Post processing days work	Post processing days work / Team briefings
Tuesday 11th July	Fieldschool day 3 – Excavation / Survey / Photography	Post processing days work	Post processing days work / Team briefings
Wednesday 12th July	Fieldschool day 4 – Excavation / Survey / Photography	Post processing days work	Post processing days work / Team briefings
Thursday 13th July	Fieldschool day 5 – Excavation / Survey / Photography	Post processing days work	Post processing days work / Team briefings
Friday 14th July	Fieldschool day 6 – Excavation / Survey / Photography	Post processing days work	Post processing days work / Team briefings

Saturday 15th July	Fieldschool day 7 - DECO BREAK no diving – Classes: Photogrammetry, Dealing with finds, Conservation		
Sunday 16th July	Fieldschool day 8 – Excavation / Survey / Photography	Post processing days work	Post processing days work / Team briefings
Monday 17th July	Fieldschool day 9 – Excavation / Survey / Photography	Post processing days work	Post processing days work / Team briefings & Presentation preparation
Tuesday 18th July	Fieldschool day 10 – Excavation / Survey / Photography	Post processing days work	Post processing days work / Team briefings & Presentation preparation
Wednesday 19th July	Fieldschool day 11 – Excavation / Survey / Photography	Post processing days work	Post processing days work / Team briefings & Presentation preparation
Thursday 20th July	Fieldschool day 12 – Excavation / Survey / Photography	Post processing days work	Post processing days work / Team briefings & Presentation preparation
Friday 21st July	Fieldschool day 13– Excavation / Survey / Photography	Post processing days work	Post processing days work / Team briefings & Presentation preparation
Saturday 22nd July	Fieldschool day 14 - No diving / Presentation preparation	Fieldschool Presentations	Final dinner
Sunday 23rd July	Fieldschool participants depart / travel home		



Image: Daily briefing on the Queen Zenobia



Image: RIB ride to the Queen Zenobia



Image: Planning the dive, diving the plan



Image: Team briefing before first dive of the day



Image: Excavation using at airlift



Image: Using the airlift on the Nissia Wreck



Image: The *Queen Zenobia* Dive Platform



Image: Presentation on Underwater Excavation

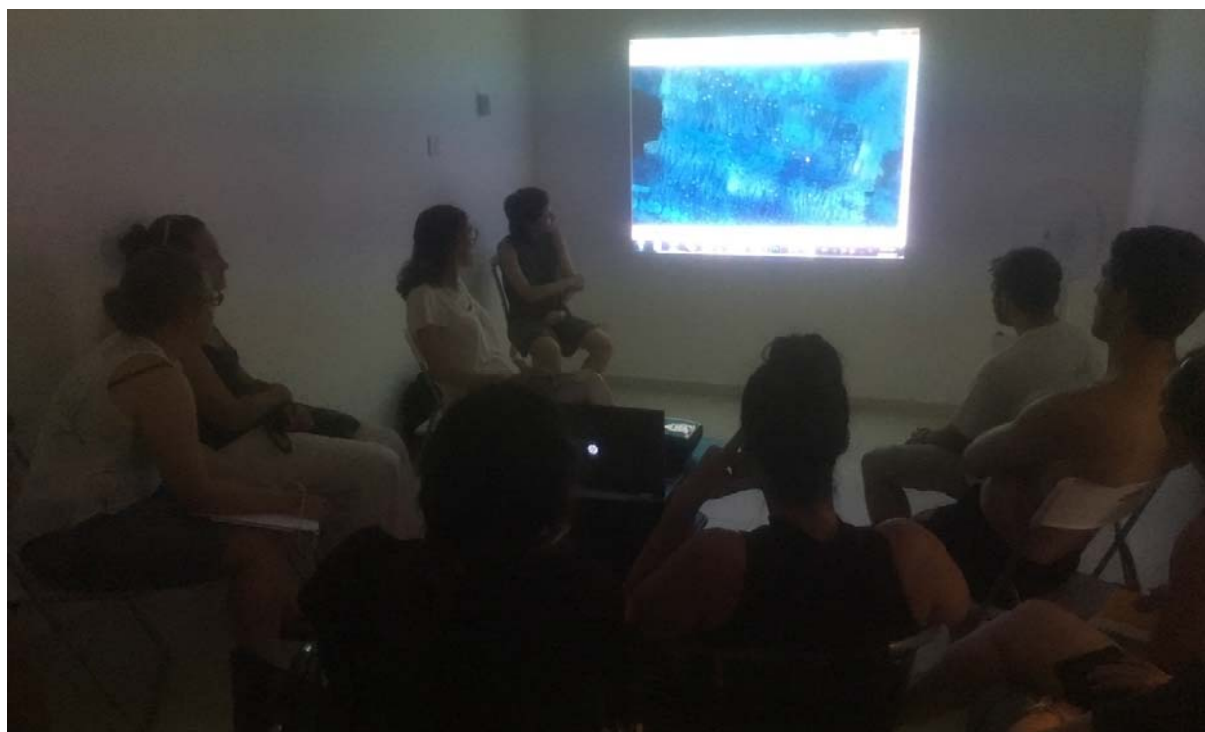


Image: Evening debrief sessions with Dr Demesticha





## Participant Presentations

From the very beginning of the fieldschool the participants were briefed that they would be expected to give a team presentation at the end of the two weeks. The two teams were provided with access to the archive of photographs and videos from the fieldschool that were stored on an external data drive that could be shared between them.



Image: Presentations from Trench B and Trench C teams as part of their final assessment



Image: Presentation from Trench C team

## Awards Ceremony

At the end of the fieldschool the participants were presented with their certificate of attendance as well as individual reports on their "Participation Report". The awards ceremony took place at the main fieldschool office overlooking the Mediterranean Sea

Subjects areas graded in the participation reports were their attitude to

1. Fieldwork
2. Post-Fieldwork
3. Educational Learning
4. Other (diving abilities, social skills, etc.)

The participation reports were drafted by the instructor team from the NAS and the MARE Lab and included positive advice for each participant for their future participation in underwater archaeology projects.



Image: Fieldschool participants receiving their certificates from Dr Stella Demesticha



Image: Fieldschool certificate

## Publicity and Dissemination

In preparation for the fieldschool the NAS created a webpage with information about the fieldschool [www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org/archcyprus17](http://www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org/archcyprus17) but this webpage was not used as a primary mechanism for dissemination and publicity about the fieldschool. This was achieved via an online Blog which was created and maintained by the fieldschool team. Each day a fieldschool participant was required (with the help of instructors or other participants) to write the blog. The blog was hosted on WordPress meaning that anyone would be able to find and read it <https://archcyprus17.wordpress.com>

Before the fieldschool had started the NAS posted three blogs to provide a background to the 2017 event.



Our Sponsors - <https://archcyprus17.wordpress.com/2017/06/01/first-blog-post/>

Meet the Team - <https://archcyprus17.wordpress.com/2017/06/01/blog-post-title/>

The 2017 Fieldschool - <https://archcyprus17.wordpress.com/2017/06/01/blog-post-title-2/>

The Adventure Begins - <https://archcyprus17.wordpress.com/2017/07/09/the-adventure-begins/>  
by Lina Bitsakaki

Mamma Mia - <https://archcyprus17.wordpress.com/2017/07/11/mamma-mia-how-can-i-resist-you/> by Judith Gatt

Another Day in Paradise - <https://archcyprus17.wordpress.com/2017/07/11/another-day-in-paradise/> by Giorgos Filippou

Fun like no other - <https://archcyprus17.wordpress.com/2017/07/12/fun-like-no-other/> by Abigail Darville

A Canadian prairie kid out of his natural element - <https://archcyprus17.wordpress.com/2017/07/13/a-canadian-prairie-kid-out-of-his-natural-element/> by Michael Lewis

Another Day of Diving - <https://archcyprus17.wordpress.com/2017/07/15/another-day-of-diving-just-another-day-at-the-office/> by Benjamin Locke

No rest for students - <https://archcyprus17.wordpress.com/2017/07/16/232/> by Lefki Papakosta

Diving and Archaeology - <https://archcyprus17.wordpress.com/2017/07/17/diving-and-archaeology-could-anything-be-better/> by German Zubeldia Perez

A Student Life Less Ordinary - <https://archcyprus17.wordpress.com/2017/07/18/a-student-life-less-ordinary/> by Connor Thompson-Webb

Dig, Dig and Dig - <https://archcyprus17.wordpress.com/2017/07/19/dig-dig-dig-and-afterwards-dig-more/> by Magdalena Ausiayevich

Thanks You for the Opportunity - <https://archcyprus17.wordpress.com/2017/07/21/thank-you-for-the-opportunity-and-experience/> by Yiota Nicolaou

Last Day of the Fieldschool - <https://archcyprus17.wordpress.com/2017/07/22/last-day-of-the-fieldschool/> by Christiana Christodoulou

The NAS managed to update social media feeds nearly every day of the fieldschool. The primary social media outlet was a Facebook page created to host text, images and videos on the fieldschool. This page can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/archcyprus/> To increase

the readership of posts to the Facebook page the NAS shared posts with its own followers and to other relevant pages.



Image above: The Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool Facebook page

As of 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the Facebook page had 1553 likes. Although the NAS did not create a specific Twitter profile for the fieldschool we did use the hashtag #ArchCyprus17 when posting online.



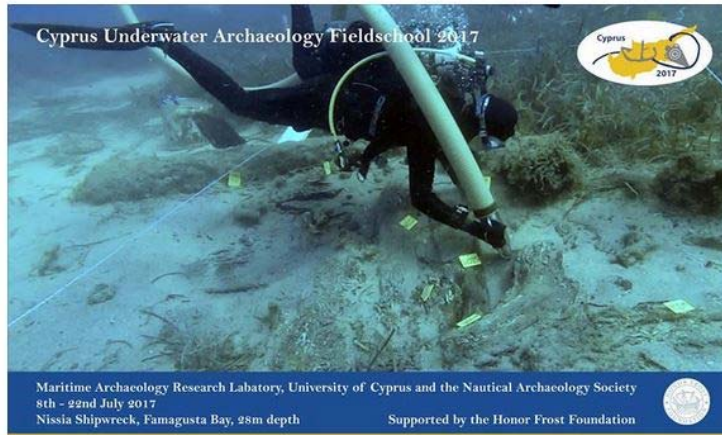


### Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool



Published by Mark Beattie-Edwards [?] · January 16 ·

Applications will soon open for the 2017 Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool, organised by the University of Cyprus MARE Lab and the NAS, with grant support from the Honor Frost Foundation



5782 people reached

Boost Post



### Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool



Published by Mark Beattie-Edwards [?] · June 1 ·

Getting excited - it is just over a month to go until the 2017 Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool, with participants from Cyprus, USA, Australia, Spain and the UK.



7215 people reached

Boost Post

**Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool**  
Published by Peta Knott [?] · July 8 ·

And we're off! NAS CEO Mark Beattie-Edwards kicks off the 2017 Cyprus Maritime Archaeology Fieldschool with an introductory talk to the students.

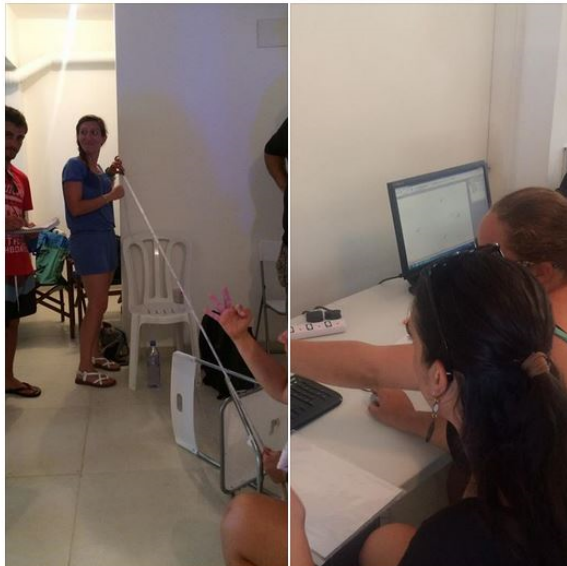


3050 people reached

Boost Post

**Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool** added 2 new photos.  
Published by Peta Knott [?] · July 15 ·

It's that time of the fieldschool when students learn the wonders of Site Recorder! Thanks 3H Consulting Ltd!



1862 people reached

Boost Post

**Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool**  
Published by Mark Beattie-Edwards [?] · July 9 ·

Every morning starts with a briefing from the Site Director Dr Stella Demesticha about planned tasks for the day on the Nissia Wreck #archcyprus17



2350 people reached

Boost Post

**Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool**  
Published by Peta Knott [?] · July 9 ·

Read all about our fieldschool students' first full day investigating the Nissia wreck as told by Lina Bitsakakil <https://archcyprus17.wordpress.com/.../.../the-adventure-begins/>



### The adventure begins!

Yesterday evening we welcomed all participants of the fieldschool that are going to be working at the Ottoman shipwreck in Nissia Paralimniou for the next two weeks. Participants from around the wo...

[ARCHCYPRUS17.WORDPRESS.COM](https://ARCHCYPRUS17.WORDPRESS.COM)

1969 people reached

Boost Post



Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool is with Lina Bitsakaki and 20 others.  
Published by Mark Beattie-Edwards [?] · July 21 · 🌐

As the 2017 Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool draws to a close we said goodbye to our wreck and to our home for the last two weeks. A huge thank you to all the fieldschool staff, participants, volunteer divers, helpers as well as the Captain and crew of the Queen Zenobia.... Just the last day student presentations to do tomorrow.....eek !!! - 1m scale and North arrow included naturally !!!



👤 5153 people reached

Boost Post

Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool is with Lina Bitsakaki and 10 others.  
Published by Mark Beattie-Edwards [?] · July 23 · 🌐

Here is to the Class of 2017 (minus Michael who unfortunately had to fly out before the presentations were made).....



👤 1295 people reached

Boost Post

Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool  
Published by Mark Beattie-Edwards [?] · July 23 · 🌐

Thanks to everyone that took part in the 2017 Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool, especially to the staff and team from the University of Cyprus M.A.RE Lab.



👤 1046 people reached

Boost Post

Images above: The fieldschool #archcyprus17 social media posts

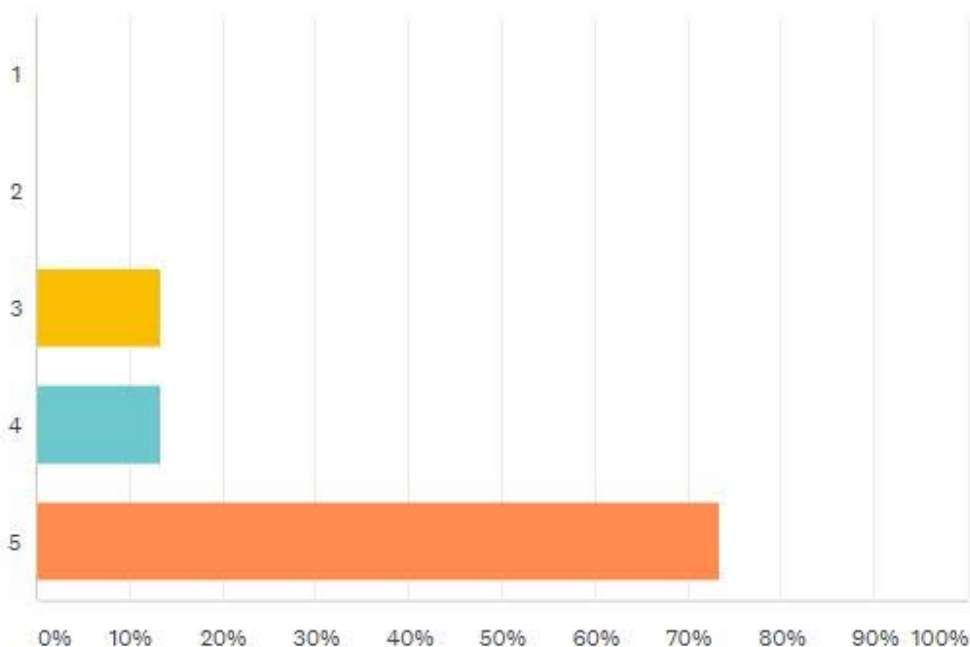
## Feedback

Following the fieldschool the participants were asked to complete a short questionnaire on SurveyMonkey ([www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com)) about their experience. The questions asked were:

- Q.1. How would you rate your fieldschool experience?
- Q.2. Did the fieldschool meet your expectations? If no please indicate why.
- Q.3. Please comment on the fieldschool timetable – for example was it too intense, too simple, too short?
- Q.4. What skill would you have wanted to spend more time perfecting?
- Q.5. Were you provided with adequate information in advance of the fieldschool?
- Q.6. How would you rate the fieldschool food?
- Q.7. How would you rate the fieldschool accommodation?
- Q.8. Please provide a quote regarding what you gained most from the fieldschool (max 100 words).

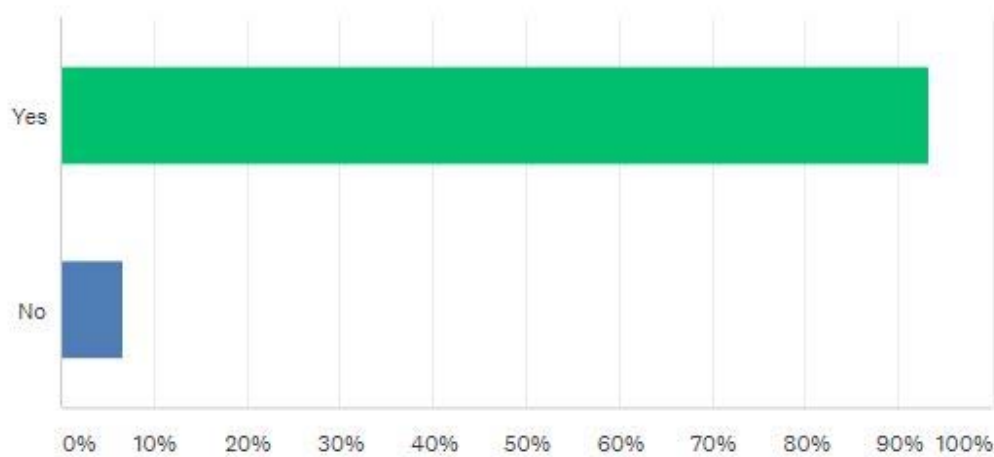
Please note that the analysis of the survey was corrupted by three of the students participating twice, meaning that a total of 15 responses, rather than 12 were received. As the responses are anonymous it is not possible to delete duplicate responses.

### Q. 1. How would you rate your fieldschool experience? 1 being poor, to 5 being excellent



13.33% rated as 3 out of 5, 13.33% rated as 4 out of 5 and 73.33% rated as 5 out of 5

**Q. 2. Did the fieldschool meet your expectations?**



In addition comments were received:

*It was a very rewarding and educational experience, I finally understood how underwater excavation works, and it made me (even) more excited about my future as a maritime archaeologist.*

*I was expecting to learn the procedures needed to run an underwater excavation from the beginning to the closing (even theoretically) out of this fieldschool. Instead we were the one to find out the methodology of the excavation at this wreck.*

*It went beyond my expectations, and although this has been my first experience, it was exactly as I imagined and more.*

*Having in mind the experience of the fieldschool in Xylophagou from 2015, my expectations this year were less high. Knowing that the classes will be rather basic, my most important expectation was that the fieldschool will provide enough dives for achieving the necessary skills required in underwater excavations. From this point of view with 2 dives a day over 2 weeks the fieldschool met fully my expectations.*

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**Q.3. Please comment on the fieldschool timetable - for example was it too intense, too simple, too short, etc?**

*Sometimes was a little intense in the first days*

*The timetable for the two weeks period fieldschool was balanced.*

*it was great*

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*very good experience*

*I feel that the timetable was well structured, and that we were given plenty of time to for any personal admin and other tasks.*

*It was very intense, but there would be no other way for all necessary and fieldschool related activities to be done, had we not worked so many hours a day.*

*To a certain degree the timetable is very intense. There were many points during the two weeks were I was sleep deprived. At the same time I appreciate that with so little a time period in which to carry out excavation and research (and with how expensive it is to carry out a project of this scale) we had to make the most of the time we had. I did not mind the early morning rises and the sometimes stressful work and long hours on the Queen Zenobia. What I found very grueling was the sheer amount of post excavation and recording work that had to be done immediately after at HQ. This was, for me, the least enjoyable aspect of the field school. I realise that the diving/digging will also be the most enjoyable aspects of excavation. While finds processing and photo tagging (while paramount and necessary) will seem tedious at times. The sheer amount of time it takes to do the latter baffled me. Most importantly everyone was getting far too little sleep in my opinion. I appreciate that since previous years, there were less classes, I think this was a good change, two weeks feels like too short a time period to fit in all that has to be done.*

*Too short*

*The fieldschool time table was just right*

*Too intense! In two weeks time to have done the excavation, the courses, the tasks and the post-fieldwork. staying up to 23.00 o clock or sometimes midnight to have everything done , which was not healthy for the diving schedule we were following.*

*The programme was very intensive but it was reasonable. Of course it would have been better to be 3 weeks as at the end of the 2nd week we got used to the routine and the different tasks.*

*I found that the timetable was perfect. It gave allowable time to relax, sleep, dive, work and learn. It was very well prepared and easy to adapt to.*

*As we've spent a lot of time with the post-processing work (most of the time until 10-11pm and sometimes even later), which left us with only 6 hours of sleep the timetable was too intense for a fieldschool.*

*First days was intense, after this period the program became more smooth*

*Our schedule was quite intense but that was a given since work after the actual excavation had to be done the same day, to avoid piling up recording of all finds at the end of the fieldschool. We spent a crazy amount of time tying and untying net bags to store the finds, as well as trying to find their collective nets in the big tanks. In my opinion, this was the only setback we had in this fieldschool, but*

*that's to be expected, given the large number of metal finds we raised every day, and the little amount of cups and containers we had to store them in.*

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**Q. 4. What skill would you have wanted to spend more time perfecting?**

*I would have liked to spend more time learning to use different computer programs and the photo cameras*

*To understand better the chance of the one to the next level of the trench.*

*Photogrammetry*

*More time excavating, however i understand this would require a longer field school.*

*Airlift practice, over and over again. Unfortunately, three weeks were not enough for all of us who were inexperienced divers and new to underwater excavation, to learn how to use the airlift better. Sure, some were naturals, me not included. Also, communicating with my diving buddies and fellow archaeologists more.*

*Underwater Photography*

*Excavating with the airlift*

*More time excavating using airlift*

*Maybe perfecting my skills underwater with the airlift and leaving the fieldschool with a 100% knowledge of how to proceed rather with some questions that were not answered.*

*Photographing, photogrammetry, GIS and airlift*

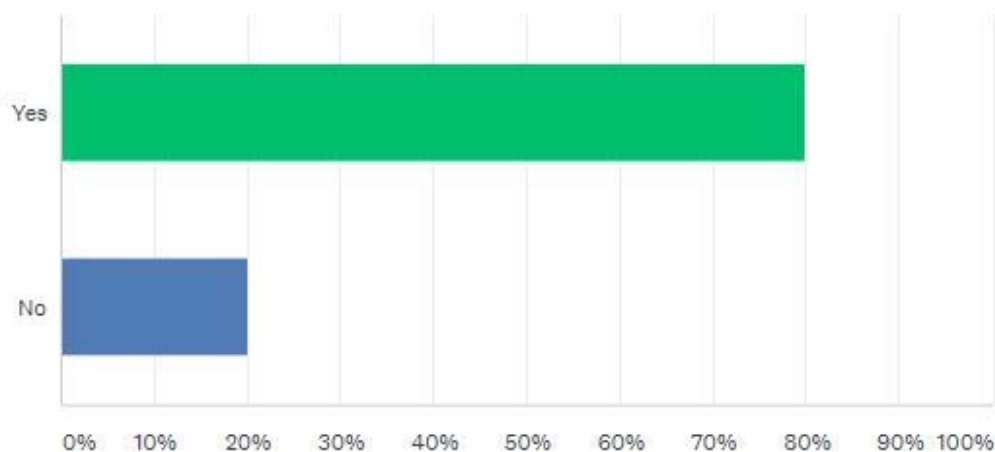
*Tagging and labeling*

*The theoretical part of the fieldschool consisted in very basic information (not justified as compared with the 2015 fieldschool this time the participants were all archaeologists). Discussions regarding the situation on site after fieldwork, which would have helped us understanding better underwater contexts missed almost completely.*

*Everything was balanced for the 2 weeks period*

*Controlling my buoyancy more to avoid unnecessary movement underwater, being quicker in terms of processing information coming from each find, handling the airlift better.*

**Q.5. Were you provided with adequate information in advance of the fieldschool?**



In addition comments were received:

*The correct dates of arrival and departure. This information should be available very early on to allow students to book flights and possibly save money*

*I would first like to have known from the archaeologists where to pay attention. What I have to see and note down during the dive and what I have to do to be prepared*

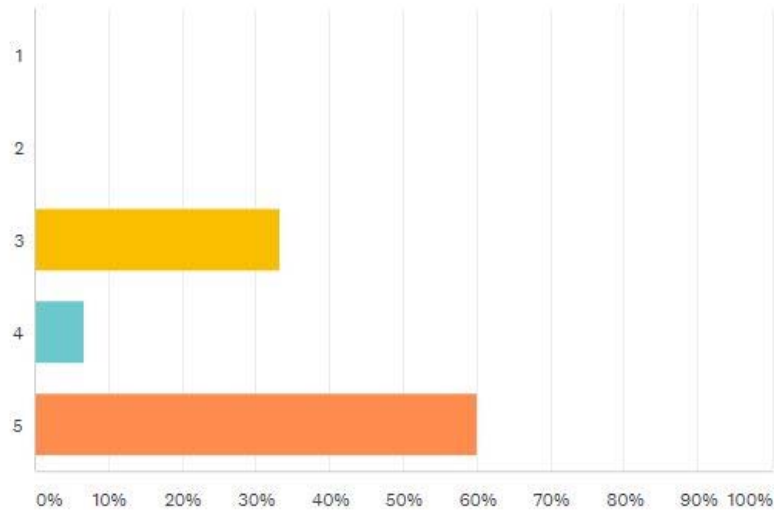
*Very well informed from advance.*

*As I found out only from the report sent to me after the fieldschool, being a participant for the second time in this fieldschool, it was expected more from me compared with other students. I was not informed either about this fact or what exactly these higher expectations are, either in advanced or during the fieldschool.*

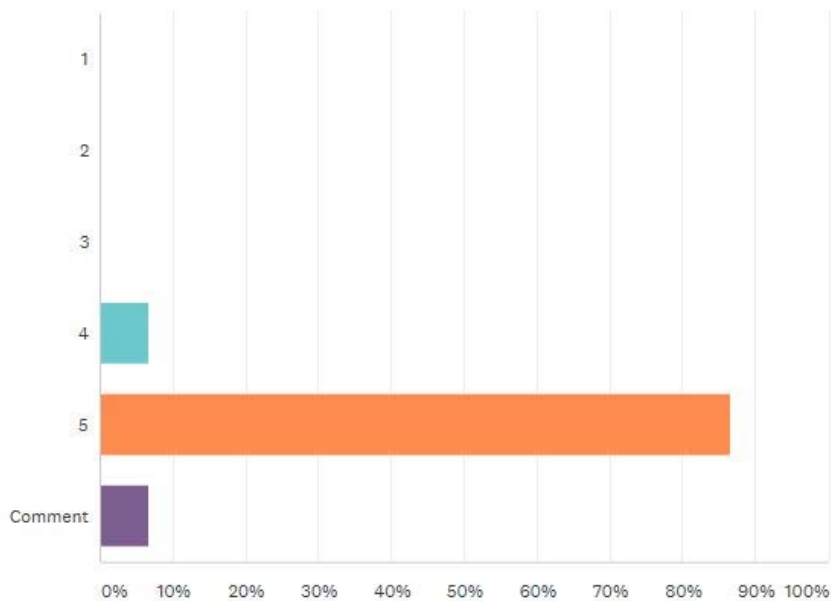
*We were provided with as much information as possible regarding the previous work that had been done on the shipwreck, about the shipwreck itself and the site formation, and about the type of work that was going to be conducted on it by us. Nothing more could have been said because we only knew very few things about the site.*

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**Q.6. How would you rate the fieldschool food? 1 being poor, to 5 being excellent**



**Q.7. How would you rate the fieldschool accommodation? 1 being poor, to 5 being excellent**



In addition comments were received:

*The accommodation was of a very high standard and seemed to match fairly reasonably against the cost to be on the field school. The only odd thing was that in some of the bedrooms there was an en suite shower, toilet and sink (normal so far), but there was no door in between the two adjoining areas. So unless you were planning on showering with clothes on or you were perfectly comfortable with your*

roommate (a person you have likely never met before) seeing you naked then you had to make sure they weren't in the bedroom at the same time as you.

**Q.8. Please provide a quote regarding what you gained most from the fieldschool (max 100 words).**

*What I liked the most was all the experience and knowledge acquired. Learn how an excavation works and be the students who did the whole process of an underwater excavation*

*Experience to excavate with the Airlift. To understand the construction form of a wooden hull.*

*It was great experience and of course with that fieldschool my buoyancy and my sense underwater improved*

*Firstly, I perfected my buoyancy in the water and secondly my observation underwater*

*The best thing i gained was the experience of underwater archaeology, this confirmed that i want to continue in this field.*

*I became a better diver, a better archaeologist, a more patient and understanding person, and I became even more respectful of our maritime heritage.*

*I know I have concentrated on the negatives here and my apologies if I come across as unfair. But overall this has been a good opportunity for a student to get a high quality experience in underwater archaeological fieldwork and the chance to work on a truly stunning and impressive shipwreck site. I really hope the Nissia Shipwreck is studied further, I appreciate that it comes from a more modern period, especially when it often seems the case that non-ancient/classical sites seem to be overlooked.*

*Excavating underwater is not an easy task, it needs skills, knowledge and strength and a good team. It takes archaeology to a new, demanding and simultaneously magical and exciting level.*

*I gained the knowledge and experience of what an underwater archaeology excavation really is.*

*the best communication of the organizers the most efficient the work of the fieldschoolers!!!*

*It was an extremely beautiful experience. I learned a lot but of course I found out that I have more and more to learn. I appreciated the fact that everyone was friendly and calm even though as an underwater excavation it is a difficult and filled with stressful situations. I met really nice people and even though it was trying I had great fun. Thanks a lot for the opportunity. Looking forward for the next fieldschool with NAS.*



*I definitely learnt a lot from being at this fieldschool, as it was the first experience that I've had in excavating and in introducing archaeology. Though I mostly gained in practical skills, as I've never had any before, such as tagging, sieving, labelling, airlifting, photography. All of my newfound skills were thanks to this fieldschool.*

*Basic experience in excavating underwater contexts, i.e. using the tools, understanding some of shipwreck stratigraphy and excavation methodology.*

*Correct way (order) of underwater excavation. Use of Airlift. Attention to small details that make the strict underwater time more efficient Well organized documentation before & after the dive*

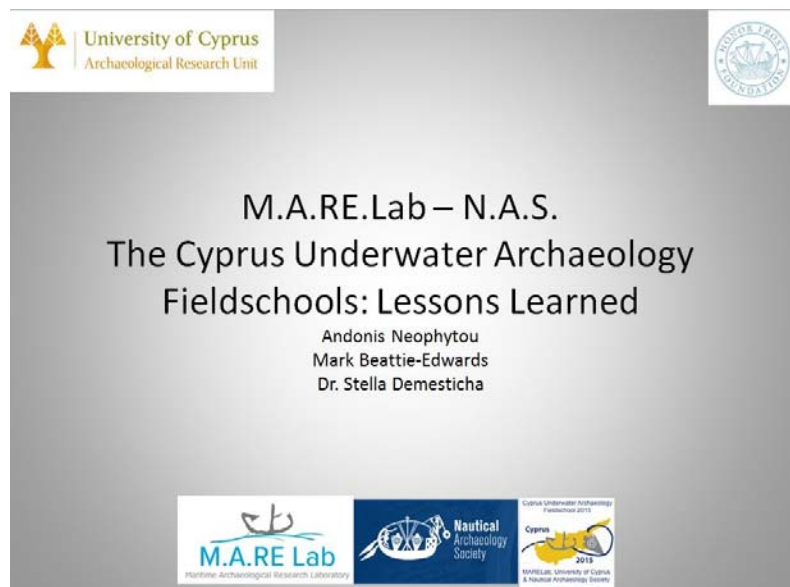
*I learnt a great deal about how to be patient and calm in my work, thorough in my research, and how to process information with detail so as to provide as clear image of the excavated site as possible, to the archaeologists that dived after me, every time. However shallow that may sound, I learnt that a site doesn't have to be full of pottery and cargo in general, in order to be considered rich and full of information. I learnt that team work is crucial in this type of projects, and that you should never forget to treat the site with respect.*

## **NAS Conference 2017**

In November 2017, Andonis Neophytou from the University of Cyprus MARELab was invited to present a paper on the Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschools

The cost of travel, accommodation and food for Andonis Neophytou was covered using the remaining grant for the delivery of the 2017 fieldschool.

Andonis' great presentation was a summary of not only the 2017 fieldschool but also the other fieldschools that have taken place in Cyprus as part of the "Training the Next Generation" project, grant supported by the HFF.



## Tutors Course

In October 2017 to coincide with the Honor Frost Foundation Conference in Nicosia, the NAS returned to Cyprus to hold an NAS tutors course.

The Tutors course was delivered as part of the Training the Next Generation Project, to help establish an NAS Training Centre in Cyprus. The course was taught by Peta Knott, the NAS Education Officer. In attendance were Andonis Neophytou, George Hadjitofis and Anna Demetriou from MARELab.

## Lessons Learnt

The delivery of the third Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool in 2017 was a learning experience for everyone; the participants, the instructors as well as the organizers as it was the first time that a fieldschool had been held on the Nissia shipwreck, and only the second time the NAS has run such an event on such a deep site. On the whole the organizers were pleased with the honest feedback received from the participants.

As part of the closing ceremony the organizers made comments about how they felt the fieldschool went and lessons that they and learnt. At the same time the participants were also given the opportunity to provide suggestions for future fieldschools.

It is certainly not easy to create an effective class on such a large, complex and relatively deep site, with so many different students and a team of instructors that were working together for the first time. Therefore, the feedback received is a great testament to the efforts of the organisers and everyone who assisted in the development and delivery of the fieldschool.

As with the 2015 and 2016 fieldschools, an interesting aspect of the 2017 fieldschool was its inter-cultural character. Apart from different nationalities, students also came from different cultures and with expectations of an academic fieldschool. This must always be taken into consideration since one of the project's objectives is to create a training programme for the Eastern Mediterranean region.

## Budget

The 2017 fieldschool and Nissia Shipwreck Project received a total of £41,422.20 in two grants from the Honor Frost Foundation, as well as an additional £16,007.80, which was an under-spend from the 2016 event (also supported by the Foundation). An additional £8,465.65 was raised by charging participation fees, meaning that a total of £65,895.65 was available to the NAS to organise and deliver the fieldschool. A detailed breakdown of income and expenditure has been provided to the HFF.

The University of Cyprus MARELab covered costs amounting to 4000.00 euros (exchange rate value of £3,545.00), and kept track of their own spending. A breakdown of their own budget spending has not been included in this report to the HFF.

#### Income:

HFF Grant 2017 - 1:	£18,086.00
HFF Grant 2017 - 2:	£23,336.20
HFF Grant 2016 underspend:	£16,007.80
Participant fees:	£8,465.65
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£65,895.65</b>

#### Expenditure:

The costs were divided into staffing (including organisation and delivery), travel (including travel to Cyprus and domestic travel on Cyprus and RIB fuel for transporting ship to shore), fieldschool equipment purchase and hire (on site and for the classroom), accommodation, food, and other ancillary costs (shipping, bank charges, consumables).

The costs of delivering the 2017 Cyprus fieldschool on the Nissia Shipwreck Project were:

NAS direct staff: £5,840.00
Contracting staff inc MARELab staff: £9,021.64
Travel including international and domestic: £4,209.75
Boat Charter: £23,356.38
Accommodation: £12,093.85
Subsistence: £3,653.75
Equipment purchases/hire: £1,642.23
Other ancillary costs: £2,860.95
<b>Total: £62,678.55</b>



### **Support in Kind:**

Much of the cost of the fieldschool was offset by in-kind support from staff from the University of Cyprus MARELab, volunteers acting as fieldschool assistants and from the donation of equipment including the RIB from the University of Cyprus for ship to shore transportation and a compressor for filling diving tanks.

### **Additional Expenditure:**

NAS Tutor's Course – October 2017: £1,371.80

NAS Conference Presentation by Andonis Neophytou – November 2017: £786.26

NAS Membership to 12 fieldschool participants: £360.00

**Total: £2,518.06**

### **Total Costs:**

Fieldschool: £62,678.55

Additional: £2,518.06

Bank charges and Fees: £566.62

**Grand Total: £65,763.23**

With costs incurred in 2017 of £65,763.23 has resulted in a surplus of £132.42. We wait to hear from Honor Frost Foundation regarding what to happen to this surplus.

### **Future Plans**

It is the wish of the fieldschool organisers, NAS and MARELab to host more underwater archaeology fieldschools in the future, supported by the Honor Frost Foundation. Discussions are taking place between the NAS and representatives of the University of Cyprus MARELab regarding how these schools may be undertaken in the future as well as about additional NAS training activities in Cyprus to both students of archaeology and to recreational divers.

## Acknowledgements

The Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool 2017 would not have been possible without the help of:

The Honor Frost Foundation

The University of Cyprus Maritime Archaeological Research Laboratory

The Nautical Archaeology Society

Cyprus University of Technology

Cyprus Department of Antiquities

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Mark Beattie-Edwards, Nautical Archaeology Society

Peta Knott, Nautical Archaeology Society

Andonis Neophytou, University of Cyprus Maritime Archaeological Research Laboratory

Christos Patsalides, University of Cyprus Maritime Archaeological Research Laboratory

Irene Katsouri, University of Cyprus Maritime Archaeological Research Laboratory

Anna Demetriou, University of Cyprus Maritime Archaeological Research Laboratory

George Hadjitofis, volunteer with MARELab

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Dr Eleni Loizidou, Cyprus Department of Antiquities

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