Albanian Center for Marine Research
2012 Underwater Field School

Saranda, Albania
July 1-22, 2012

Transylvania University and the Albanian Center for Marine Research
in partnership with RPM Nautical Foundation, the Albanian Institute for Archaeology,
Tirana University, and East Carolina University.
INTRODUCTION

Transylvania University and the Albanian Center for Marine Research are offering a field school in underwater archaeology and coastal ecology for the 2012 field season of the Albanian Coastal Survey. Since 2007, the survey has discovered numerous sites ranging from the 5th century BC through World War II. Students will gain hands on experience participating in the ongoing underwater research while learning theory and methods in classroom sessions taught by experts in the field from institutions including East Carolina University, Tirana University, Albanian Institute of Archaeology, and RPM Nautical Foundation. Day trips and daily dives will expose students to a variety of site types found underwater, as well as the best practices for conducting question based research, survey, documentation, and site development over the three week field school. The field school also acts as a capacity building project for long-term professional development of maritime archaeology and coastal ecology in Albania, but also for university students from around the Balkan region.

The field school balances mornings of learning practical methods in the field with afternoon lectures by experts in a small and relaxed class environment. The course is designed to expose students to interdisciplinary research on a number of different site types as well as teach analytical methods, conservation, and sustainable site development. Specialists from seven universities will discuss their areas of expertise, while also overseeing the coastal survey and Phase II of a 4th century AD merchant vessel. Practical experience will include archaeology methods, as well as boat handling, operating compressors, equipment care, and other skills necessary for working on marine projects. Students will be exposed to small boat operations and how large research vessels operate, such as a tour of the vessel Hercules and its high tech equipment like multibeam and ROV. The 2012 field school aspires to provide students with a well-rounded and interdisciplinary introduction to the wide range of ideas and technology that they will be expected to be knowledgeable about upon becoming professionals in the field.
REQUIREMENTS AND COST

This course is designed to teach and develop underwater research skills for university students. Therefore, the following requirements must be met before the commencement of the field school:

- Undergraduate or graduate student status in good standing at a university
- AAUS Scientific Diver (A two week certification course is offered separately before the field school, requiring at least an Open Water or equivalent certification before arrival) with a nitrox certification
- Adhere to the Society for American Archaeology’s (SAA) Principles of Archaeological Ethics
- Travel insurance and DAN diving insurance

To apply, please send a cover page explaining your qualifications as a candidate and a current CV that includes relevant coursework and previous experience to info@albaniamarinecenter.org. Applications will be accepted until 12pm GMT on March 15, 2012. Preference will be given to graduate students, Balkan students, and students that are experienced divers. Interviews may be conducted via telephone or Skype following application submission. Students may be asked to provide contact information for two references and evidence of good standing at the university. Students will be notified by May 1, 2012, if they are accepted. Students from the Balkan region are encouraged to apply.

The field school fees are $2000. Tuition is paid to Transylvania University (Kentucky) and students receive 4 credit hours transferrable to most universities. It is up to the applicant to check with their university to ensure the credits will transfer. Tuition fees are $800 and is payable to the university. A course fee of $1200 covering shared accommodation, food, and operating expenses is paid to the Center. These fees do not cover travel to and from Albania, insurance, or the optional AAUS scientific diving course.


COURSE

The field school runs for three weeks with one day off after every seventh workday. The sixth day will be a day trip to provide further experience and context for the coursework. The field school will be taught in English, though individuals with English as a second language are encouraged to apply.

Students will be taught safety protocols and expected to strictly follow all measures. Divers may abstain from any dive without reprimand and given a “dry” task with no detriment to their course grade. Students will be expect to update dive records and a field notebook with observations daily.

Students will learn numerous practical field methods. Basic survey and recording methods include baseline offset, trilateration, and various forms of digitally and hand mapping. Artifact recording will include identification, photography, drawing, use of scales and labels, and digital modeling. Several survey methods will be introduced, including scuba survey, circle searches, sonar, multibeam, and Remote Operated Vehicles (ROVs). Students will gain hands on experience conducting surveys and Phase II testing, while also learning about advanced analysis methods, including petrology and testing for ancient DNA.

Coursework will introduce students to maritime archaeological theory and ethics as well as the importance of a research design, presenting findings and publishing results. Classes will discuss issues with logistics and administration, as well as conservation, preservation, site monitoring, capacity building, and long-term development. Lectures by specialists will include maritime material culture from the Greek and Roman Adriatic, ancient Mediterranean ship construction, maritime history of Albania, biology of site formation, and site development.

Evaluation:
Students will be evaluated based on participation (20%), a field practicum as a midterm (25%), a final exam (25%), and a presentation (30%).
Grading scale: A-100-90%, B- 89-80%, C- 79-70%, 69 and below results in failure
Primary Reading List:
Babits, Lawrence E. and Hans Van Tilburg
Dean, Martin et al.
Flemming, Nicholas
Green, Jeremy
Haldane, Douglas
Muckelroy, Keith
Robinson, Wendy
Royal, Jeff
Steffy, J. Richard
Ward, I.A.K., P. Larcombe and P. Veth
All texts will be available in the Center’s library.
STAFF

Ardiola Alikaj
*Conservator, Albanian Center for Marine Research*

Dr. Adrian Anastasi
*Professor, Albanian Institute of Archaeology*

Dr. Chris Begley
*Professor, Transylvania University*

Peter Campbell
*PhD Candidate, University of Southampton*

Dr. Neritan Ceka
*Professor, University of Tirana*

Dr. Jeff Royal
*Archaeological Director, RPM Nautical Foundation*

Derek Smith
*PhD Candidate, University of Washington*

Dr. David Stewart
*Professor, East Carolina University*

Auron Tare
*Executive Director, Albanian Center for Marine Research*

Mladen Zagarcanin
*Director, Montenegrin Maritime Archaeology Research Project and Museum of Bar*

Petra Zdravkovic
*PhD Candidate, University of Belgrade*
SCHEDULE
The schedule is subject to change due to weather days or scheduling conflicts.

Daily Schedule
Breakfast 7am
Field work: 8am-1pm
Lunch: 1pm-2pm
Course and Equipment: 2pm-6pm
Dinner: 8pm

Schedule of Events
*Arrive in Evening of July 1*
Day 1: Introduction to Underwater Research (*Instructors: Campbell and Smith*)
Day 2: Theory and Ethics, Creating a Research Design (*Begley*)
Day 3: Site Formation Processes and Coastal Ecology (*Smith*)
Day 4: Pottery Types of the Eastern Adriatic: Roman through Medieval (*Zagarcanin*)
Day 5: Material Culture of Maritime Illyria: Archaic through Hellenistic Periods (*Anastasi*)
Day 6: *Day Trip* Maritime Connections and Site Development (*Tare*)
  - Day trip to the ancient city of Butrint, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to learn about maritime trade and sea power as well as site development and museum studies.
Day 7: Day Off
Schedule Continued
Day 8: Underwater Survey Methods and Remote Sensing (Campbell)
Day 9: Harbors and Cities: Albanian History from a Maritime Perspective (Ceka)
Day 10: Material Culture of Maritime Illyria: Roman Period and Late Antiquity (Royal)
Day 11: Advanced Methods in Underwater Survey (Royal)
Day 12: Site Monitoring and Protection (Smith and Campbell)
Day 13: Day Trip Site Formation and Shipwrecks (Smith)
  - Trip to the WWII ship Probitas and the Ksamil wrecks to learn about site formation processes and wrecking events.
Day 14: Day Off

Day 15: Underwater Excavation Methods (Stewart)
Day 16: Ancient Mediterranean Ship Construction (Stewart)
Day 17: Conservation of Wet Finds (Zdravkovic)
Day 18: Lab Conservation and Long Term Storage (Zdravkovic and Campbell)
Day 19: Artifact Analysis: in situ and in the Lab (Alikaj)
Day 20: Day Trip Introduction to Site Types (Campbell)
  - Trip to the Blue Eye spring to discuss the various site types found in underwater research, including shipwrecks, harbors, and submerged cities in oceans, lakes, and rivers, as well as habitation and ritual use in flooded caverns and springs. Note: no diving by students in underwater caves.

Leave July 22. Please schedule your flight for at least 48 hours after the last dive, which will be completed by noon of Day 19, or you will not be allowed to dive that day.
CONTACT INFORMATION

Mail
c/o Hotel Butrinti
Rruga Butrinti, Suite 1
Saranda, Albania

Fax
(US) 248 564 5285

Email
info@albaniamarinecenter.org

Website
http://www.albmarinecenter.org/

FURTHER INFORMATION

Archaeology magazine article on the Albanian Coastal Survey:
http://www.archaeology.org/1103/features/adriatic_shipwrecks_albania.html

MAPO article (in Albanian) about Albanian coastal ecology by the Center’s staff:

MAPO article (in Albanian) about the Center’s discoveries in the Blue Eye spring:
http://www.albmarinecenter.org/pages/blueeye.pdf

Full list of recent popular publications:
http://www.albmarinecenter.org/pages/media.html

Photographs by Derek Smith