

PARTNER UNIVERSITY FUND

« **North Aegean Architectural Networks:  
Thasos and Samothrace in the Formation of Hellenistic and Roman Design** »

A leading French American project in the field of archaeology and ancient architecture  
2016-2019

The goal of this project is to investigate the dynamic interactions between key ancient Greek sites in the northern Aegean—Thasos and Samothrace—whose innovative monumental marble monuments challenged the paradigms of conventional Greek architecture, thus forging new directions that shaped the Hellenistic built environment and laid the foundations for Roman architectural design. Connections between these sites—including fundamental principles of design, technological developments, and the deployment of materials (marble quarries of Thasos)—are strongly apparent; there are also differences that draw Samothrace into the Anatolian orbit and Thasos into the Macedonian.

For most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, French archaeologists have worked on Thasos and the Americans on Samothrace. In the proposed collaboration, we join our teams to investigate the architectural interaction between these centers and their regional neighbors.

Activities will include **three seasons of field research at Thasos and Samothrace**, with targeted site exploration in Macedonia and the Troad; graduate student colloquium exchanges between Emory and Bordeaux; video conferenced seminars joining Us and French students; and, a book-length, multiply authored publication of the joint research. A primary goal of the project will be to build student expertise in ancient architectural studies through fieldwork opportunities, collaborative research projects, and professional presentations leading to publication. By sharing field methods and research strategies, we aim to broaden our students' exposure to diverse and creative ways of approaching ancient architecture while building international collaborations that will shape the field in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**The program will build student experience in:**

- 1) assembling architectural evidence in the field, through survey, GIS mapping, observation, measurement, and descriptive analysis;
- 2) interpreting and using the evidence of technical features to aid in reconstruction and understand different workshops of masons;
- 3) observing and evaluating the stylistic language of ancient architecture; and
- 4) using the experience gained above to ask meaningful questions regarding architectural innovation, the dissemination and networking of ideas, and the dynamic interaction of historical circumstance and architectural development.

**Yearly program** : collaborative field study and student training (French and American students) : Three weeks each year.

**Additional student training** by means of bilingual video-conferenced seminars in Bordeaux and Emory : <http://architectureantique.u-bordeaux.fr>

**Expected results** : A jointly authored volume addressing the interaction of Thasos and Samothrace in the creation of Hellenistic architecture.

**Supervisors** : Jacques des Courtils (université Bordeaux Montaigne, Thasian architecture), Bonna Wescoat (Emory university, Samothrace excavation director).

**Members of the staff** : Laurence Cavalier (université Bordeaux Montaigne, architectural decoration, Roman architecture), William Aylward (University of Madison, technical devices in Greek and Roman architecture)

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