The Aphrodisias 2010 field season was very rewarding with exciting new discoveries in the street excavation, a good start to our major conservation project in the Hadrianic Baths, and near completion of the anastylosis of the Sebasteion. All of this would not have been possible without our Friends and supporters, including the J.M. Kaplan Fund, the World Monuments Fund, and many others, who together played an integral role in our work to excavate, conserve, and research Aphrodisias and to mentor students.

EXCAVATION

The Street. Three large trenches were opened along the grand north-south avenue, which runs from the Tetrapylon to the Sebasteion (Fig. 1). We exposed the re-used columns of the late antique street colonnade, and excavated no less than four fully-preserved, high-quality marble pilaster capitals (Fig. 2). These were found where they had fallen from a richly decorated upper storey. Another trench exposed the street’s marble paving slabs, which are inscribed with an interesting variety of mason’s marks. Trench supervisors were Adam Rizzo and Rachel Wood.

Tetrastyle Court. A new trench investigated the connection of the North Agora and the Hadrianic Baths (Fig. 3). We found the original threshold block and four steps of a large doorway leading from the Tetrastyle Court of the Baths down into the Agora. This evidence confirmed our hypothesis that the Tetrastyle Court was a pre-existing structure built at the same time.
time as the North Agora in the first century AD and that it was subsequently annexed to the Bath complex in the fourth century AD. The trench was supervised by Kirsten Lee.

**Basilica.** The civil Basilica, which is being studied for publication by Philip Stinson, is the largest and grandest interior public space in the city. Three new trenches were opened here to address particular questions. One trench uncovered the complicated archaeology of the entrance in the long east side of the building; another exposed the original paving of the central nave (Fig. 4); and a third went down deep (3.50 m) and examined the building’s substantial foundations. Trench supervisors were Veruschka Aizaga-Thomason and Stephanie Caruso.

**SITE CONSERVATION**

With generous support from the J.M. Kaplan Fund and the World Monuments Fund® Robert W. Wilson Challenge to Conserve Our Heritage, site conservation was focused on the North Agora and the Hadrianic Baths.

**North Agora.** The part of the North Agora’s south colonnade, which has been standing since Antiquity, was repaired, consolidated, and cleaned; and a structurally unstable column was carefully reinforced (Fig. 5). Thomas Kaefer and Gerhard Paul supervised this project.

**Hadrianic Baths.** In the first full season of a planned six-year conservation and study project on the Baths, we focused on wall-capping, on consolidating the ancient tiling of the floors, and on new architectural documentation. The wall of massive limestone blocks between the monumental Rooms 6 and 7 was cleaned and half of the wall was capped using locally developed lime-mortar systems. In addition, the marble-tiled floors of Room 6 and 7 were stabilized by consolidating the mortar bed *in situ* or by lifting and re-bedding the tiles (Fig. 6). This work was supervised by Kent Severson and Trevor Proudfoot, with Kate Bertenshaw, Kristin Bradley, and Katie Ross.

Arzu Öztürk, with Kivanç Başak, Kenan Eren, and Osman Yılmaz inaugurated a new project to document the architecture of the Hadrianic Baths. Their work focused on creating a digital plan of the entire complex, as well as a detailed mapping of the

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Thanks to two generous challenge grants, your donation to preserve key monuments at Aphrodisias will go twice as far. The J.M. Kaplan Fund will match gifts to preserve the Hadrianic Baths complex and the Sebasteion anastylosis. The World Monuments Fund® Robert W. Wilson Challenge to Conserve Our Heritage will match non-U.S. contributions for the Baths project. Donate now at nyu.edu/giving/make, gift or by check to the address at the bottom of page 4.

For details, see [www.nyu.edu/gsas/dept/fineart/academics/aphrodisias/aphrodisias.htm](http://www.nyu.edu/gsas/dept/fineart/academics/aphrodisias/aphrodisias.htm)
great mass of blocks left in the forecourt by the excavators of 1904-5 (Fig. 7). They are drawing and numbering the blocks where they lie, before removing them from the baths both for study and to open up the grand forecourt space.

**DOCUMENTATION & PUBLICATION**

A new program of geophysical survey was begun by Stefan Giese and Christian Hübner, using Magnetometry and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR). Areas around the Museum and west of the Basilica were surveyed with the most striking results coming from the area south of the Theater. There, a detailed plan of a whole city block and a large town house emerged, indicating that this area is well suited for a future excavation project.

Architectural documentation concentrated on creating plans of the excavation trenches, as well as the Tetrastyle Court and the tiled Room 6 of the Hadrianic Baths and the late antique nymphaeum in front of the Agora Gate. These projects were supervised by Harry Mark, with assistance from Henry Bernberg, Corey Gray, and Allyson McDavid.

Publication work was pursued on the statues from the Bouleuterion (Christopher Hallett), late antique statues from the Tetrastoon (Julia Lenaghan), and the city walls (Peter de Staebler). Preparatory work for a project on a major statue group from the Hadrianic Baths depicting Achilles and the Amazon queen Penthesilea was conducted by Katherine Welch.

Students funded by the second year of a generous grant from the Leon Levy Foundation for graduate training in archaeology worked in the depots and in the museum, as well as in the field and in excavation (Fig. 8). In addition, the grant supported weekly seminars on such topics as epigraphy, sculpture, conservation, anastylosis, and historical archaeology as exemplified at Aphrodisias (Fig. 9).

**MUSEUM INSTALLATION**

Major pieces returned from the Izmir Archaeological Museum were mounted in the Aphrodisias Museum. Among them was a Severan bust set in a pediment and two colossal figured consoles from the Hadrianic Baths. The famous inscribed pillar of the late fourth century AD that lists members of the Jewish community at Aphrodisias was also set up in the Museum (Fig. 10). This work was supervised by Trevor Proudfoot.
SEBASTEION ANASTYLOSIS

The stone-for-stone reconstruction (anastylosis) of the east end of the Sebasteion reached the third and topmost storey of the building (Fig. 11). The project will be completed in 2011. The painstaking work continues to reveal much about ancient building practices and about the exact sequence of the reliefs. This project is generously funded by the Geyre Vakfi and was supervised by Thomas Kaefer and Gerhard Paul, with assistance from Aygün Kalınbayrak and Özgür Öztürk.

The major new study and documentation of the Sebasteion Propylon, the western gateway to the complex, was pursued by Felipe Rojas, with a view to possible anastylosis in the future. The J.M. Kaplan Fund is generously supporting this work.

STAFF

The majority of our dedicated team of 45 students and senior staff is shown here at the Tetrastyle Court of the Hadrianic Baths (Fig. 12). As always, we are grateful for the invaluable assistance of our skilled local work crews, the staff of the Aphrodisias Museum, and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in Turkey.

With deep gratitude we acknowledge the tremendous support of all the Friends of Aphrodisias and our many donors who have contributed so generously to the project over the past year. Their continuing support is critical to the success of our work.

Fig. 11:  Sebasteion anastylosis, at end of 2010 season

Fig. 12:  The 2010 excavation team at Tetrastyle Court

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