In 2011 the NYU team celebrated 50 years of research and excavation at Aphrodisias. It remains however a young project, with much still to do. The 2011 season saw strong progress in conservation and research and excellent results in excavation—including iconic finds of sculpture, coins, and high-quality artefacts.

**EXCAVATION**

Intensive digging continued on the great north-south street – the Fifth Avenue of Aphrodisias. Five new trenches revealed much about late-antique and post-antique life, from the Roman period to the Ottoman period (Fig. 1). The paved street was found to be 7 m wide between its flanking colonnades, and excavation of the east colonnade by Rachel Wood brought three remarkable bronze doorknobs, found near its checkered tile floor (Fig. 2).

Another trench, excavated by Adam Rizzo, revealed a large and important hoard of 338 coins from the period of Justinian to Heraclius, contained in a textile bag, hidden by a local businessman in the early 7th century AD (Fig. 3). A trench excavated further south, near the Propylon of the Sebasteion, supervised by Lily Stoner, uncovered the production shop of a small Ottoman wine or fermented grape-juice (*pekmez*) business (Fig. 4). Here, beneath the Ottoman workshop, close to Roman street level, a large marble statue of a local notable...
of the early imperial period was discovered (Fig. 5). It had been re-used in late antiquity with a new portrait head (alas, still missing) set into its freshly-cut neck socket.

Excavation in the northern residential part of town, supervised by Kenan Eren, clarified aspects of the street grid and its intersections. And further digging in the centre of town, supervised by Kirsten Lee, revealed the precise connection between the Hadrianic Baths and the North Agora – through three monumental doorways, approached from the Agora by three sets of marble stairs (Fig. 6).

An unlooked-for bonus in this North Agora trench was the unearthing of a high-quality late antique portrait head, with a thick curly Constantinopolitan hairstyle of the 6th century AD (Fig. 7). On top, the balding subject was represented with a comb-forward, while the nose was lovingly repaired at some point to keep this powerful portrait in service.

RESEARCH
Field research on the Civil Basilica was brought to a strong conclusion by Phil Stinson, whose monograph on the building is in advanced preparation. Detailed new maps were made of the city’s marble quarries by Ben Russell (Fig. 8) for a project designed to study the output of the quarries in relation to marble use in the city. A preliminary investigation of the water features of the unique, 165-m-long pool in the South Agora was carried out by Andrew Wilson, with very promising results. And study of the great Achilles and Penthesilea statue group by Katherine Welch and Maryl Gensheimer was completed for publication.

CHALLENGE GRANTS WILL DOUBLE YOUR DONATION!
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 Sebasteanion 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

Fig. 5: Himation statue, from street excavation, with Lily Stoner.

Fig. 6: Trench between North Agora and Hadrianic Baths.

Fig. 7: Late Roman portrait head, from North Agora trench.

Fig. 8: Map of main city quarries.
HADRIANIC BATHS
The large and imposing Hadrianic Bath complex saw continued intense activity on several fronts. The walls and superb cut-marble floors of Room 6 were conserved to a high specification by Kent Severson and Trevor Proudfoot (Fig. 9).

The drawing of the Roman phases by Arzu Öztürk focused on the great colonnaded forecourt, now cleared of its fallen blocks. And the detailed study and documentation of the late antique repair and remodeling of the Baths was pursued by Allyson McDavid, who is writing her dissertation on this building.

ANASTYLOSIS
With generous support from the J.M. Kaplan Foundation and the Geyre Vakfı, anastylosis focused on the Sebasteion and the Theater. In the Sebasteion, work focused on preparation of the third storey of the South Building to receive its last reliefs, and at the Propylon of the complex, the site was prepared and several columns and bases were identified and re-erected (Fig. 12).

In the Theater, earlier restoration work on the Doric logeion, or stage front, was failing, and this year, the northern half of the logeion colonnade was dismantled and repaired, and set up again with its pieces precisely in their correct positions (Fig. 13).

MUSEUM
New displays of striking sculptures were prepared in the Aphrodisias Museum – for example, the late antique rounded pediment of Aphrodite on her sea-shell (Fig. 10). And five major reliefs from the Sebasteion, held back for the anastylosis, were installed in the Sevgi Gönül Hall of the museum (Fig. 11).
SEMINARS
Educating the next generation of archaeologists, conservators, and architects is an essential part of the project. Weekly seminars bring the whole team together for a presentation and discussion of some major aspects of the season’s work, led by one of the senior experts (Fig. 14). Quarries, water management, building conservation, sarcophagi, and anastylosis were some of the topics in 2011. The graduate education project at the site is generously supported by the Leon Levy Foundation.

STAFF
Our hard-working team of students and senior staff is shown here at the west end of the South Agora, in front of the Hadrianic Baths (Fig. 15). 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.

The project is made possible by the generosity of our supporters, and it is a pleasure to acknowledge the extraordinary commitment of the Friends of Aphrodisias and of our many donors who have contributed so generously to the project over the past year. They are crucial to the success of our work at Aphrodisias.

Fig. 14: Seminar: Gerhard Paul explains anastylosis in Theater.

Fig. 15: Team of 2011 in front of Hadrianic Baths.