

# Mt. Allison University Archaeological Field School at San Felice (Italy)

1 July - 28 July 2007



The Department of Classics at Mount Allison University offers a summer learning program for students in southern Italy. The 2007 Archaeological Field School at San Felice will allow students the opportunity to learn archaeological techniques through participation as part of a research team on a working excavation. Students will be immersed in modern Italian culture as they live in a small town which sees few tourists. They will also be able to explore some lesser known parts of this Mediterranean country where they will discover an area that saw flourishing centres of both ancient Greek and Roman civilizations.

Throughout the four week season students will work closely with professional archaeologists in the investigation of a Roman villa site.

The expectation for the 2007 field season is that the team will be excavating on the villa site, but it is possible that the permit necessary to allow excavation will not be granted; in that case the students will participate in field survey (collecting evidence from the surface that can help in the study of the villa site). The team will normally work Monday to Friday, 6:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., with additional work time scheduled for part of the afternoon on most days. Everyone is also expected to participate in domestic chores. Weekends will be free for day trips and overnight excursions to other parts of Italy.

## The Site of San Felice

Research completed in recent years in the area has identified an imperial estate lying on the Via Appia in Roman Apulia. Excavation on part of the estate has uncovered an industrial village in which the activity seems to span the period from the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD through to late antiquity. The villa was recognized during field survey on one of the slopes overlooking the estate and the current hypothesis is that it housed the overseer in charge of the imperial estate. The Mount Allison team has been excavating parts of the villa for two summers, uncovering a variety of rooms and corridors. We will continue to excavate this year in order to understand the villa and its role within the imperial estate.

Students will have the opportunity to assist in all aspects of the field work. In addition to excavation, collection, and recording of artefacts and features in the field, they will assist with the cleaning and processing of the finds.



The site of the San Felice villa (foreground) with the imperial estate of Vagnari in the Basentello river valley (centre).

## Accommodations and Climate

The team of four professional staff and ten students will be housed in a large apartment with dormitory style accommodations in the town of Gravina in Puglia, a town of 40,000 about 15 km. away from the site. This old town, set on the edge of a ravine, had a long connection to the Orsini family (family of Pope Benedict XIII in the 1700s). It has a good local museum, and the ravine contains some interesting caves.



Gravina di Puglia

The group will prepare its own breakfasts and lunches, and will have dinner in a local restaurant. Shops, bank machines, banks and a post office are within walking distance. Many towns and archaeological sites in southern Italy are easily accessible by train. In July the weather will be sunny and hot, and students will want to protect themselves against the sun and against mosquitoes.

## Costs and Application Procedure

The cost of \$1800 (Canadian) covers a student's room, board, program and equipment costs for the field school, and tuition for a three credit Classics course. Students who do not wish the credit may audit the course, but the same fee will apply. For non-Canadian students the cost will be \$2400 (including the 3 credit course) or \$2100 (to audit the course). In addition students are responsible for covering the costs of their own airfare to and from Italy, and for any travel they undertake in Italy. There are no prerequisites for the field school, and students from any discipline will be considered.



Recording the remains of the Roman villa (July 2005)

The initial application deadline will be 1 February 2007, with the intention of choosing the participants before the end of February. Students will be selected for the program on the basis of their application and, wherever possible, a personal interview. A deposit of \$500 (refundable if a student withdraws an application before 1 May) is required by 1 April 2007 to hold a place in the field school. The balance of the fee (and completion of registration for the course) will be due 1 June.

Performance in the field course will be graded on participation in the fieldwork, a daily journal, a brief paper on some aspect of the archaeological process or archaeology in Italy (completed upon return to Canada), and a short test (completed in Italy).

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