

NOTE: THIS PROGRAM IS NOT CURRENTLY BEING OFFERED

San Martino Archaeological Field School Torano di Borgorose, Italy



The San Martino Archaeological Field School is a summer program designed to teach students about archaeological field and laboratory methods and the archaeology of ancient Italy. The course is taught on site in central Italy, and participants learn through first-hand experience excavating at the San Martino site as well as through lab work, lectures, readings, and guided museum and archaeological site visits. Participants live in the small town of Torano di Borgorose, where they have the opportunity to learn about life in modern as well as ancient Italy.

Participants receive course credit from the [Department of Religion and Classics](#), which sponsors the field school, in collaboration with the Soprintendenza Archeologia, Belle Arti e Paesaggio per le province di Frosinone, Latina e Rieti and the town of Borgorose, Italy. The field school course credit can also be counted toward the major in [Archaeology, Technology, and Historical Structures](#). Enrollment in the field school is not restricted to University of Rochester students, and applications from prospective participants at other universities are welcome.

The San Martino Site

The San Martino site features evidence of use by humans from the prehistoric period up to the present day, with archaeological remains from virtually every time period in between. Recent finds indicate that part of the site was occupied as early as the Copper Age. In the Iron Age, the area was home to the ancient tribe known as the Aequiculi. Prior to excavation



at the site, it was thought that an imposing polygonal wall at the site might have been part of a religious sanctuary of the Aequiculi, but this hypothesis is currently unverified. In the late fourth century BC, the Romans conquered the area and sometime in the following centuries a Roman-style villa was built at the San Martino site. The villa was the principal structure there throughout the Roman period and into late antiquity. Subsequently, a Christian church was erected, perhaps as early as the paleochristian period.

The site is dominated today by the medieval church of San Martino, a typical twelfth- or thirteenth-century AD Abruzzese church, with some later additions, that was perhaps built onto a pre-existing paleochristian structure. Notices in historical documents indicate that in the Middle Ages there were also a monastery and later a hospital connected with the church of San Martino. Archaeological evidence of use of the site in the Middle Ages and after includes burials and a large cistern. The church building suffered damage in the powerful earthquake that struck the region in 1915, and the church then fell into disuse. Recent work to restore San Martino to a functioning



church has also led to the current program of archaeological excavations.



In 2019, we will return for our eleventh summer of excavation at the site. The first two seasons of archaeological work were carried out at the site in the summers of 2007 and 2008. In these campaigns, the pre-Roman and Roman remains were first identified, and the basic chronology of the site was established. In the years 2009-2017, work was carried out principally in the area of the Roman villa, where

medieval and late antique strata were removed. The remains uncovered seem to pertain to the working part of the villa, with, in particular, a large ceramic jar set in the ground, part of a tank lined with hydraulic mortar, and signs of the storage and preparation of food. Removal of soil around one of the walls revealed possible evidence of an earthquake and/or landslide at the site, probably in late antiquity. Whatever the cause, it is clear from our work that the site suffered a violent destruction in the late antique period. Also discovered in the area of the Roman villa was a large retaining wall that was likely built in conjunction with the creation of the terrace on which the villa was constructed.

Work in 2009, 2010 and 2017 also included excavations in the area of the pre-Roman remains and geophysical testing with a magnetometer in order to determine places of interest for future excavations in this same area. The excavations confirmed the existence of intact Copper-Age levels that seem to pertain to a settlement. Current work at the site is focused particularly on understanding the nature and extent of this settlement.



The site stands to offer important data about: (1) settlement characteristics in the Copper Age, as no other habitation site from this period has been found in the vicinity; (2) the dating, use and significance of polygonal masonry terracing, a type of ancient architectural feature widely present in central Italy, but rarely studied on the basis of excavation data; (3) the nature of the production and trade of pottery in the area in the late antique period; and (4) the dating of ancient earthquakes and other environmental events in the region.

In 2019, our team will be focused on uncovering and excavating more of the Copper-Age settlement. Although we may encounter further Roman and Medieval remains in connection with this work, we will not actively focus on these components of the site in 2019. Participants will nonetheless learn about the Roman and Medieval history and archaeology of San Martino, and this instruction will be supplemented with hands-on experience excavating at a nearby site with ancient Roman remains. For further details about the work planned for 2019, please contact Professor Colantoni directly.

Torano di Borgorose and the Cicolano

The archaeological team is hosted by the town of [Torano di Borgorose](#), where the San Martino church is located. Situated near the border between the Abruzzo and Lazio regions, Torano is a small town typical of the Cicolano, the scenic mountainous area that surrounds the town. The people of Torano have been very welcoming and supportive of the American project at San Martino, and in the past they have organized dinners for us and invited us to participate in local festivals.



Basic services are available in Torano, which has a cafe and several small shops where essential supplies can be purchased. A supermarket and other stores are a short drive from Torano, and there are several excellent yet inexpensive restaurants in the area that serve local specialties. Torano is near the A-24 super highway and thus connected by bus

service to Rome, which is about 60 miles away. Avezzano, on the main train line from Rome to Pescara, is less than 20 miles away. Also nearby is the ["Montagne della Duchessa" Nature Preserve](#).

A Typical Day

- 8:00 AM: Depart for the site
- 8:00 - 10:30 AM: Work at the site
- 10:30 - 10:45 AM: Snack break, fruit and cookies provided
- 10:45 AM - 12:30 PM: Work at the site
- 12:30 - 1:00 PM: Lunch break, picnic lunch provided
- 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM: Work at the site
- 3:00 PM: Close down work at the site, return to the dig house
- 3:30 - 5:30 PM: Lab work, class meeting, field trip or dig house cleaning duty (depending on the day)
- 5:30 - 7:30 PM: Free time
- 7:30 - 8:30 PM: Dinner
- 8:30 - 11:00 PM: Free time
- 11:00 PM - 7 AM: Quiet hours in the dig house

Accommodations and Meals

Participants live in hostel-style accommodations, with cots for three to six people in each room and shared bathrooms and showers. Single rooms are not available, and

participants should be prepared to live in shared space.

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are provided during the week and on some weekend days. Breakfast is self-service, with cereal, milk, fruit, cookies, coffee, and tea available. Lunch is taken picnic-style at the site. Dinner is either a hot meal prepared by a local cook for our group or a meal prepared in a local restaurant. Participants also have access to and are welcome to use the kitchen on their own.



Academic Program Highlights



The academic program includes:

- Two nights in Rome, with a guided walking tour of downtown Rome and visits to the [Museo Nazionale Etrusco di Villa Giulia](#) and the archaeological remains under the [Basilica of San Clemente](#)
- Fieldtrip to the archaeological site of Alba Fucens
- Fieldtrip to Sulmona, with visits to the [Sanctuary of Hercules Curinus](#) archaeological site and the Museo Civico di Sulmona
- Fieldtrip to Rieti, with a visit to the [Museo Civico di Rieti](#)
- Fieldtrip to archaeological sites in and around Avezzano
- Fieldtrips to less well-known (but very interesting) archaeological sites near Torano
- Instruction on site in archaeological field methods
- Instruction in archaeological laboratory work
- Class meetings and lectures about the archaeology of Italy and archaeological field methods



Instructors and Staff

- Project Director: [Elizabeth Colantoni](#), Associate Professor of Classics, University of Rochester
- Field Director: Gabriele Colantoni, Adjunct Assistant Professor in Classics, University of Rochester
- Assistant Field Director: [Jeffrey A. Stevens](#), Post-Doctoral Teaching Fellow in History, University of Missouri
- Laboratory Director: Maria Rosa Lucidi, Ph.D. Candidate in Etruscan Archaeology, "La Sapienza" Università di Roma
- Laboratory Supervisor: Silvia Greggi, external collaborator of the Soprintendenza Archeologia, Belle Arti e Paesaggio per le province di Frosinone, Latina e Rieti
- Director of Geophysical Research: [Cythnia Ebinger](#), Marshall-Heape Chair Professor, Tulane University



Program Costs and Scholarships

All participants must enroll in [CLA 299/REL 299/AH 206: Field Methods in Archaeology](#) for six credit hours.

Program fee: **\$4785**. The program fees include tuition and all expenses (room, board, program-related transportation within Italy, museum admissions) for the duration of the program, with the **exception of textbooks, personal equipment (a trowel and steel-toed shoes) and some meals on weekends. Airfare to Italy is not included in the fee, and participants are expected to make their own travel arrangements to Italy.**



University of Rochester students are eligible for summer study abroad scholarships through the university's Center for Education Abroad and the Department of Religion and Classics. UR applicants will automatically be considered for these scholarships.

Applicants are also encouraged to apply for outside scholarships in support of participation in archaeological excavations or study abroad:

- [Classical Studies Society/Archaeological Institute of America Minority Scholarship in Classics and Classical Archaeology](#), deadline: 13 December 2018
- [Society for American Archaeology Historically Underrepresented Groups Scholarship](#), deadline: 31 January 2019
- [CAMWS Excavation/Field School Award](#), deadline: 15 February 2019
- [Eta Sigma Phi H.R. Butts Summer Scholarship for Fieldwork in Classical Archaeology](#), deadline: 15 February 2019
- [Etruscan Foundation Fieldwork Fellowship](#), deadline: 22 February 2019
- [Archaeological Institute of America Jane C. Waldbaum Field School Scholarship](#), deadline: 1 March 2019
- [Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship](#), deadline: 5 March 2019
- [Cohen Family American Archaeology Abroad Fellowship](#), deadline: check fellowship website.

Program Dates

The dates for the 2019 program are **1 July - 1 August 2019**. Participants are expected to arrive in Rome by the evening of 1 July, and they are expected to remain on the program until the morning of 1 August.

Application and Enrollment

There are no pre-requisites for participation in the program: no previous archaeological experience or knowledge of Italian is necessary. Prospective participants should note, however, that this is an intensive program that requires physical stamina, and participants must apply and be accepted to the program. Once accepted, all first-time participants must enroll in the Field Methods in Archaeology course for six credit hours.

All participants will need a valid passport for international travel. Information about obtaining a U.S. passport can be found on the [U.S. Department of State web page](#). U.S. passport holders do not need to apply for a special visa to participate in

this program. Other regulations may apply, however, to prospective participants who are not U.S. citizens.

Prospective participants should apply through the **online application system** [here](#). **All applicants will be contacted for an interview** after they have submitted the application form.

Application Deadline: 25 March 2019. Applications received before 1 March will be accepted on a rolling basis. In other words, **if you are interested in early admission to the program, please submit your application before 1 March 2019.** Applications **may be considered on a case-by-case basis after the 25 March deadline** if spaces are still available.

Further Information

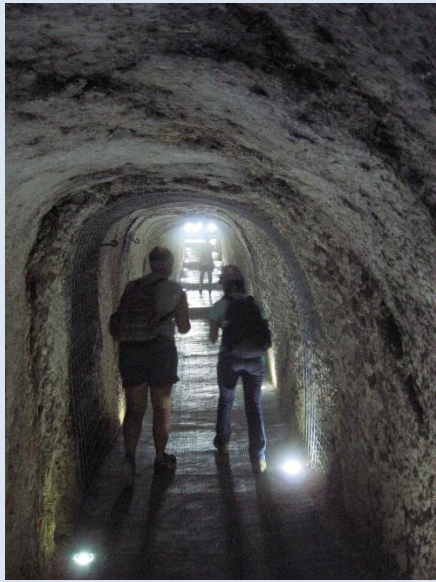
For further information about the San Martino Archaeological Field School program, please contact **Professor Elizabeth Colantoni** at elizabeth.colantoni@rochester.edu.

Image Gallery











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