EDITORIAL
Johannes Müller, Speaker of the Graduate School
Please think of a broad smile on my face while I write these lines. In late May, we received the terrific news that our proposal for the collaborative research centre (SFB) 1266 “Scales of Transformation : Human-Environmental Interaction in Prehistoric and Archaic Societies” has been granted at least four years of funding by the German Research Foundation, 12 million Euros in total in this first phase. This means that many exciting projects in Kiel and Schleswig can be carried out and many, especially young, researchers are going to find new career opportunities. I want to say thank you to all colleagues who were involved in writing the successful proposal or otherwise helped to make it such a big success.

However, after the proposal is before the proposal, as I may say in alteration of a winged word from football. Many of the researchers involved in the Graduate School together with new partners from Kiel and Schleswig have started to prepare a proposal for a Cluster of Excellence in the frame of the next round of the Excellence Initiative. The successful CRC proposal is an important milestone for this new project, just like the GSHDL and the JMA.

Two “save the date” notes: The GS exhibition at the State Horticultural Show in Eutin will be displayed from July 12–20. Furthermore, the date of our next biannual international open workshop has been fixed: I look forward to seeing you here in Kiel from March 20–24, 2017. A call for papers is coming soon.

What should not go short in these busy times is research itself. Spring saw GS members (including myself) on field trips from Nabyszyce to Nagaland. In April, post-doc Vesa Arponen held a symposium “Human Being, Society, Culture: Critical Multidisciplinary Reflections on Essences and Research Paradigms” at the Graduate School and in February, PhD students Daniel Kossack and Stefan Magnussen organized a workshop “Castles as a European Phenomenon”. Last but not least, several doctoral students handed in their theses during the last months.

Best wishes, happily!

BURIAL SETTLEMENT PUZZLE

Southern Greater Poland’s landscape is rich in Bronze Age grave mounds. A team from the universities in Kiel and Poznari, led by Dr Jutta Kneisel and Dr Mateusz Jaeger, has been investigating the mounds throughout the past seven years. However, corresponding settlement finds are rare so far. Field survey and geomagnetic prospection indi-
cated Nabyszyce as the most promising place. Thus, a test section of 2.5x10m was opened in early April this year. The results are promising: Traces of a small ditch, more than 150 prehistoric sherds and a miniature vessel were recovered. Regarding the large number of postholes, it is likely that excavating a larger area would lead to information about the settlement structure.

INSIGHTS INTO MEGA-SITES

A new book has recently been published about Trypillia mega-sites, a rare phenomenon in European prehistory. For several years, a research team from Kiel University has been investigating these Neolithic sites, benefitting from advances in archaeological methodology. Some of these sites once included several thousand houses and even more inhabitants, covering an area comparable to 200 football fields. The new volume, titled “Trypillia Mega-Sites and European Prehistory 4100–3400 BCE”, contains contributions of several GS members (J. Müller, W. Kirleis, R. Hofmann, M. Dal Corso, S. Dreibrod, R. Ohirau) and GS partners from Eastern Europe, Germany and the UK. Müller, J./ Rassmann, K./ Videiko, M. (Eds.): Trypillia Mega-Sites and European Prehistory 4100–3400 BCE. Themes in Contemporary Archaeology, Vol. 2 (Routledge 2016).

INDIAN MEGALITH TRADITIONS

Megaliths are not an exclusively European phenomenon. What is more, they still currently play an important role in some societies. After their research trip to the Indonesian island of Sumba last year (see GS newsletter 3/2015), a team around Maria Wunderlich has undertaken another journey to a remote part of the world to investigate the local customs and traditions focusing on megaliths. From mid-February to mid-March they visited different villages in the Northeastern Indian state of Nagaland.

“The cooperation with the University of Nagaland’s department for History and Archaeology was very helpful”, Maria Wunderlich sums up. “Our partners Tiatoshi Jamir and Ditamülu Vasa supported us in many ways, for example, in setting up contacts with the local population.”

Most of the megaliths in the mountainous region of Southern Nagaland are monoliths located near the paths which descend from the villages to the lower-lying fields. Although the people do not erect new ones any longer, the big stone monuments partly still play a vital role as sites of remembrance in the collective memory. “We gained insight into the numerous ritual rules and taboos once connected to the erection of megaliths. The vital role that festivities played also became clear”, re-

Measuring the small ditch at Nabyszyce. Photo: UFG

Many megaliths in Nagaland remain important memorial sites for the local communities. Photo: Jagiolla/ UFG
ports Wunderlich, who is going to incorporate the newly gained knowledge into her dissertation. Although the meaning of the megaliths in Nagaland generally declined throughout the last decades, many are still kept free from surrounding vegetation, serving as memorial places for their builders or for entire families.

**GSHDL ALUMNI (XII): MARTA DAL CORSO**

Many PhD students of the Graduate School have been awarded their doctorates by now and successfully fill positions in diverse academic fields. We keep in touch with them and trace their next steps after they leave the Graduate School with a fresh PhD in their hands. Where have they gone after their PhDs, and what are they doing there?

Marta Dal Corso defended her PhD thesis “Environmental History and Development of the Human Landscape in a North-Eastern Italian Lowland during the Bronze Age: A Multidisciplinary Case Study” in June 2014. Then she successfully applied for a postdoctoral position in the working group of Wiebke Kirleis, professor for Environmental Archaeology at Kiel University. “Part of my post-doc research focuses on the Trypillia-Cucuteni Culture, which is under investigation by colleagues from the Institute of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Archaeology in Kiel”, explains Marta. “We want to understand plant use and vegetation history during the 5th and 4th millennia BC at the Trypillia site of Maganetske in Central Ukraine.” As the preservation conditions for pollen in dry environments are usually poor, Marta concentrates on phytolith analysis. These tiny silica remains from decayed plants can be found on grinding tools and food containers, thus allowing her to find out which cereals were processed in domestic structures of the Chalcolithic settlement. They can be found in soil as well, helping to trace the development of the local steppe environment.

Besides her work on Majdanetske, Marta is also involved in the archaeobotanical investigation of waste mounds from Bronze Age Northern Italy. “In cooperation with Italian researchers, the aim is to find out more about everyday activities and routine practices at a household level”, says Marta. Furthermore, she collaborates with Graduate School PhD student and micromorphologist Natália Égüez, studying phytoliths from coprolites. Other points on her agenda are the development of a phytolith reference collection and some teaching duties. “It is this multifaceted character I like so much about my job: fieldwork, lab experiments, publishing, teaching, and all this in a very open and supportive working group!” Looking back at her time at the Graduate School, Marta states: “It was great for me to be a PhD student in the GS, because by being an active member of a very lively scientific community I had the opportunity to develop my profile in research and to profit from a wide range of training, technical equipment and support.”

**STAFF & PERSONAL NEWS**

Doctoral student Milinda Hoo was an invited speaker at several scientific events in the Netherlands. On February 28 and 29, she participated in the TMA (Tijdschrift voor Mediterrane Archeologie) Symposium “Interconnectivity: People and Ideas” in Groningen with a talk titled “Lady Moon on the Oxus. Bactrianism, Hellenism, or otherwise? A globalization approach to a contested site in Central Asia”. On February 24, she gave the same talk at Utrecht University in the seminar “The Ancient World”. On February 25, Milinda was invited to lecture at Leiden University in the seminar “Ways of Doing Greek: Hellenism in the ancient Mediterranean and western Eurasia”. Here, her talk was titled “What is Greek in Central Eurasia?” Also as an invited speaker, Milinda took part in the “Hellenistic Central Asia Colloquium: Current Research, New Directions” in Reading (UK) from April 15–17 with the paper “Think global, act local? Cultural strategies in ancient Central Asia”.

Doctoral student Gianpiero di Maida presented his research to mostly Italian colleagues at the First Annual Meeting of Prehistory and Protohistory (Primo incontro annuale di Preistoria e Protostoria) organized by the Italian Institute for Prehistory and Protohistory (IIPP) in Genoa on February 4–5. Furthermore, Gianpiero participated in the seventh meeting of the Fachgruppe Archäologische Ausgrabung im Verband der Restauratoren: “Vom Drunter und Drüber – Techniken der Archäologischen Spurensicherung” at HTW Berlin from April 13–16. Here, he presented aspects of his research, specifically 3D methods, in a talk titled “3D-Dokumentation von spätglazialer Felskunst aus Sizilien: die Höhlen von Levanzo und Addaura”.

Doctoral student René Ohlrau presented aspects of his PhD project at the workshop “Societies of Cities, Societies of Tent. Architectonic Modes of the Collective Existence. Cross-cultural Studies”, held at Wuppertal University on February 26–27. His talk was titled “Trypillia Großsiiedlungen: Architektur und Gesellschaft im Wandel”.

Doctoral student Nicole Grunert attended the 10th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (ICAANE) in Vienna from April 25–29, presenting a poster titled “From House to Temple – Space Syntax Analysis on tripartite Houses”.

Doctoral student Jos Kleijne participated in the “Archéologie et戈belets” workshop in Arles and Montpellier from May 11–15. He presented a paper titled “To be or not to Beaker? Pottery, settlements, and changing traditions at the end of the Late Neolithic in Western and Central Europe”. The next meeting of this network of Bell Beaker specialists is set for May 2017 in Kiel and will be organized by Jos Kleijne.

**SELECTED EVENTS**

**COMPLETE CALENDAR: WWW.GSHDL.UNI-KIEL.DE/CALENDAR**

Venue for Biweekly Colloquia: Leibnizstraße 1, Room 204

**JUNE**

Thursday, June 23, 5:00 p.m. – **Exhibition opening:** Nahrung und Ernährung in der Urgeschichte – Museum für Archäologie und Ökologie Dithmarschen, Bahnhofstraße 29, Albersdorf

**JULY**

Monday, July 4, 4:15 p.m. – **Biweekly Colloquium – Ingrid Hehmeyer (Ryerson University):** History of Water Management in Jemen: Case Studies from Ancient to Premodern Times

Thursday, July 14, 2:15 p.m. – **Paleoecological Colloquium: Workshop with Malaysian guests** – “Coastal Landscapes of the West coast in Schleswig-Holstein”; “Coastal Landscapes of Malaysia”; “Report on archaeobotanical Research in central Sulawesi” – Leibnizstr. 3, Room 123

Monday, July 18, 4:15 p.m. – **Biweekly Colloquium – Jie Fei (Hamburg University):** Evolution of saline lakes in the Weihe River Basin (China) during the past 2000 years