Archaeological Field Work Abroad: Sicily
Summer 2021
Field School Description

- This course that is a 5-week field school at the Greco-Roman site of Gangivecchio in Sicily. The site is centered on a 14th century Benedictine Abbey, now the home of the Tornabene family.

- While in Italy, students will learn the most up-to-date Sicilian methods of excavation while earning 3 semester hours of resident credit, mediated through Drs. Glenn Storey and Christie Vogler. Students will dig in Particella 19 in order to expose structural elements of the known Roman villa in that field.

- On the weekends, students will also have the opportunity to visit ancient sites and modern towns throughout the island.
FIRST STOP:
Cathedral of Monreale
Overlooking Palermo
Arrival at Gangi, nearest town
Destination at arrow
Memoria e Tradizioni
Festival in Gangi
2017
Abbazia Santa Maria di Gangivecchio
Abbey Entrance with Hapsburg Double-Eagle, Commemorating Visit of King Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor, King of Spain, 1536

Natural springs discharging out of the mountain
Our Host:
Baronessa Giovanna Tornabene (right) with her mother
James Beard Cookbook Award Winners
The Things You’ll Learn:

- During past field seasons at Gangivecchio, students have taken part in many different aspects of excavation and artifact processing, such as:
  - Ground-penetrating Radar
  - Excavation and Screening
  - Documentation
  - Cleaning Artifacts
  - Human and Faunal Osteological Analysis
  - Pottery Analysis
Just to name a few...
Particella 19, as of August 2019
Total Station for Elevations
The Things You’ll Find:
Sherds! Sherds! Sherds!
Bone Spatula

Arab-period ceramics

Gaming Piece
Gold Coin of Byzantine Emperor Leo III (717-749 AD)
Investigating Gender at Gangievecchio

- Two main themes from the recovered artifacts of Particella 19:
  - “Feminine” practices
  - Fertility and Medicine
- Domestic
  - Game pieces, loom weights, needles, ceramics
- Feminine
  - Representations of female fertility
  - Cosmetic applicators, bone hair pins, glass vessels
- Medical Practice Relating to Childbirth
  - In 2017 we excavated three different bronze medical tools and discovered a rare childbirth scene on a ceramic lamp
Food and Shelter

- Students are housed a short walk away from the excavation site of Particella 19.
- Students will share rooms in the albergo, each with its own bathroom.
- There is a common room where students can read, play games, watch movies, and just hang out in their off time. (Wifi is available in the albergo, if spotty.)
- Meals are served downstairs in the dining area. Breakfast is self-serve, but lunch and dinner are full course meals.
  - Giovanna Tornabene and many Italian restaurants are capable of handling diet restrictions (vegetarian, gluten/wheat allergy, kosher, etc.), just let us know beforehand.
- On weekends during our excursions to other parts of Sicily, you will sometimes need to pay for your own meal. There is also the option of doing some simple grocery shopping in Gangi (great opportunity to buy snacks).
- There are no laundry facilities, so you must hand wash your clothes. We can set up a clothesline for drying. We recommend purchasing a Scrubba so as not to clog your sink.
Roman Toga Night, 2012
The Places You’ll Go:

- On the weekends, we will have day excursions to different sites around Sicily. Traditionally we have visited the following places:
  - Gangi (Town Festival)
  - Agrigento (Valley of the Temples)
  - Himera and Cefalu
  - Morgantina and Piazza Armerina

- Other places we have visited include:
  - Palermo
  - Syracuse
  - Sperlinga
  - Nicosia
  - Petralia Soprana
  - Polizzi Generosa
Morgantina with Mt. Aetna
Cathedral of Ortigia, Syracuse
Built into Temple of of Athena
Hit the Beach at Cefalù, 2012
Closing the Excavation, 2019
The Things You’ll Do:

explore, learn, make memories, and most importantly...Have fun!