

L' Aquila Quake: Greek Student Found Dead

Despite the rescuers' efforts to discover more survivors under the rubble in leveled city of l'Aquila Greek University student Vassilis Koufolias was found dead under the rubble of his house near the municipal park. The government and the political parties expressed their condolences.

As per information, the student's parents and sister identified their son in the city's morgue, after being discovered dead. They travelled to Italy and watched the rescue teams that were trying to locate their son, while his sister escaped death with minor injuries.

Deputy Foreign Minister T. Kassimis told NET 105.8 that the Foreign Ministry is stepping up its

efforts to transfer the body of the student to Greece the soonest possible, while the Greek Embassy is at the side of the parents of the student.

At the same time, Aegean and Olympic Airlines aircrafts and ferryboats were used to carry the 160 Greek students back to Athens, under the coordination of the Greek Embassy in Rome.

Mr Kassimis welcomed the students at the airport.

The students, who are from the province, spent the night at hotels nearby the airport and travelled to their hometowns in the morning by plane.

Five of the Greek students, who were injured from the quake, have already been hospitalized out

of l'Aquila. Their condition is not serious and they will return back to Greece when the doctors give the green light. The Government and Parties Send their Condolences

Government spokesman Evangelos Antonaros conveyed Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis and the government's condolences to Vassilis Koufolias' family, adding that the Foreign Ministry and other state authorities have been supporting the students and their families from the first moment.

KKE (Communist Party of Greece) expressed its grief over the victims of the devastating quake in Italy and its condolences to the parents of the lost student.

school holidays program



Ancient Greek Myths

The Greek Festival of Sydney in association with the University of Sydney invite you

to join us in the Nicholson Museum to discover the gods, goddesses and heroes of Mount Olympus.

Activities include dressing up, worksheets, creative arts and story-telling.

The Nicholson Museum houses Australia's oldest and largest archaeological collection, including the largest public display of ancient Greek antiquities in the country. Suitable for ages 5-12.

Date Tues 14 April – Fri 17 April & Mon 20 April – Fri 24 April

Time 2pm - 3pm each day of the week

Venue Nicholson Museum, In the Quadrangle of the University of Sydney

Cost \$5 per child, Parents Free - Bookings are essential as places are limited

Contact 02 9351 2812 Language English

EYE ON ARCHAEOLOGY & ECOLOGY

Ancient Pella Workshop

A recently excavated ceramics workshop has yielded a plethora of information concerning economic activities in Hellenistic-era Pella, one of the most significant sites in the ancient kingdom of Macedonia, according to announcements made by archaeologists in Thessaloniki, on Monday (March 30).



A plumbing system used to clean the potter's clay is among the most notable findings, while a furnace and storage areas were also uncovered. Movable artefacts include pottery casts, vessels, fragments of statuettes, silver and bronze coins.

The progress of excavations in the Macedonia – Thrace region, northern Greece, is at the centre of the 22nd Scientific Meeting on the Archaeological Work, organised by the Ministries of Culture, and of Macedonia – Thrace, and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, was held on April 2-4, 2009, in Thessaloniki.

Poliochni: Prehistoric Urbanism

Poliochni is the most important archaeological site on the island Lemnos in the northeast Aegean Sea. Several cities were built one on top of the other, and as a result, Poliochni is basically the cluster of seven successive layers of these cities dating back to the Final Neolithic period, (4 millennia before Christ and a millennium before Troy).



What is impressive about Poliochni is the fact that it boasted a "Vouleuterion," a forum of discussion for the residents and a precursor of today's institution of Parliament.

Experts at the Italian Archaeological School in Athens - which has taken up excavations in Poliochni since the '30s- consider the "Vouleuterion" to be a testimony to the oldest democracy in Europe. It appears that the rapid growth of the city had turned it into a real urban centre. In its booming years, the city flourished in maritime trade, agriculture, fisheries, textiles and even small

stone tools and weapons' manufacture.

Poliochni continued to thrive even through the early Bronze period and survived until the 2nd millennium BC, when it was abandoned due to a devastating earthquake.

Excavations at the archaeological site of Archontikon at Giannitsa, a city in the region of Macedonia reveal traces of life – houses, vessels and clay ovens - during the prehistoric years, almost 4,000 years ago. The findings bear evidence of the prehistory of Macedonia - including activities such as agriculture, fishing and hunting - revealed by excavations carried out in recent years by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.



The prehistoric settlement of Archontikon was undoubtedly the most important in the region of Pella. During the Hellenistic and Roman periods, the site was under the control of Pella - capital of the Macedonian kingdom and later, a Roman colony.

ECOLOGY

Mainland Greece and the thousands of offshore islands of the Aegean are an ideal place to study how evolution shapes isolated animal populations. Millions of years ago, when sea levels were lower than they are today, the islands of the Aegean were part of the mainland, and the entire region shared a similar variety of lizard predators. Today, those predators include mammals such as foxes and jackals, as well as vipers and birds such as hawks, falcons, crows and ravens.



Johannes Foufopoulos (Photo), an assistant professor at School of Natural Resources and Environment of the

University of Michigan (see picture), has worked on the evolutionary research, using some 15 lizard species for his study on lizards in Greece and the Aegean islands.

Money trail

What can the ancient Greeks teach us about money and the environment? Apparently quite a bit.

At the 2009 annual meeting of the "Classical Association" held this past weekend at the University of Glasgow, professor Richard Seaford (University of Exeter) delivered the Presidential Address with a talk titled, "The Ancient Greeks and Global Warming."

Excerpts from the Guardian:

Anxiety about money's destructive power pervades Greek thought, he argued. In Greek tragedy, he said, which developed as a genre simultaneously with the rise of money, the main characters are almost always wealthy, kingly figures notable for their sense of isolation from others. "At the heart of ancient tragedy lies individual isolation. The individual is alienated from his kin and the gods by violence and conflict. It is not a coincidence - this is what money does to you."

The Greeks were acutely aware of the importance of limits, said Seaford, and alive to the "maniacal passion for money". "You can't reintroduce the Greek culture of limits, but it does go some way to illuminating our own world."

and this on environmental sustainability:

On the ancient Greeks and global warming, Seaford pointed to the myth of Erysichthon, who cut down a grove of trees sacred to the goddess Demeter in order to build himself a banqueting hall. She punished him with insatiability. For us, argued Seaford, this myth about transforming nature into product, a process that results in insatiability and self-destruction, exemplifies "how ill-equipped we are to deal with global warming because of our culture of the unlimited".

