



Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

Report Title: A Summer in Ancient Greece **Name:** Jeremy Amar-Dolan
Other Team Members: Meg Cain
Program: New York City Program
Trip Dates: 11/30/-0001 - 11/30/-0001 **Location Visited:** Greece
Post Fellowship Reporting Template: PFR Template 01

Project Summary: We spent three weeks immersed in the ruins of ancient Greek culture, with particular attention to all aspects of Greek drama. We attended productions of ancient plays at the theaters where they were originally seen 2,500 years ago. We visited museums and important ancient sites throughout Greece (Epidaurus, Athens, Delphi, Dodoni, Mycenae, Knossos) to place our understanding in a larger context. We investigated the ways in which Greek literature is connected to the built environment, especially the architecture of the ancient theaters themselves. In particular, we were interested in understanding how the Greek preoccupation with order and chaos informed many aspect of their culture, from mathematics to tragedy. This duality is evident in the narrative of their plays, the structure of the theaters in contrast to the natural landscape in which they were set, and in the Greek innovations in architecture and geometry. Where other cultures emphasize the harmony between nature and civilization, the Greeks emphasized the duality of order and chaos, and this has remained with us, their cultural descendants.

Career Impact: * We created a personal connection to the content through creating visual aides and personal narratives.

* We reinvigorated the classroom experience without losing any of the required content.

* We integrated the field of math with English Language Arts in an authentic manner that strengthened both sides of the cross-curricular unit.

* We renewed our enthusiasm for the role of ancient Greece in our content areas.

Classroom/Community Impact:* The interdisciplinary unit will offer a fresh perspective on mathematics, social studies, and literature.

* The hands-on nature of the unit will encourage discovery.

* Visual aids we gathered will infuse our lessons with vivid illustrations of the topics being discussed.

* A new curriculum will be shared with colleagues at both schools.

* A culminating project will involve students, parents, faculty and administration in which students showcase their work and explain their process. The dual nature of this event (theatre and architecture) provides a chance for many different types of students to contribute and take pride in their work.

Open Response: * We are currently writing an interdisciplinary unit, "Order and Disorder in Ancient Greece," that will enable students to explore the ways in which ancient Greek mathematics (particularly its application to architecture) and drama emerged as central achievements of Greek civilization.

* We are sharing the travel project and unit with colleagues at our schools.

Quote: We traveled back in time 2,500 years and sat crowded amongst Athenians on stone benches at dusk to catch a sold-out performance.

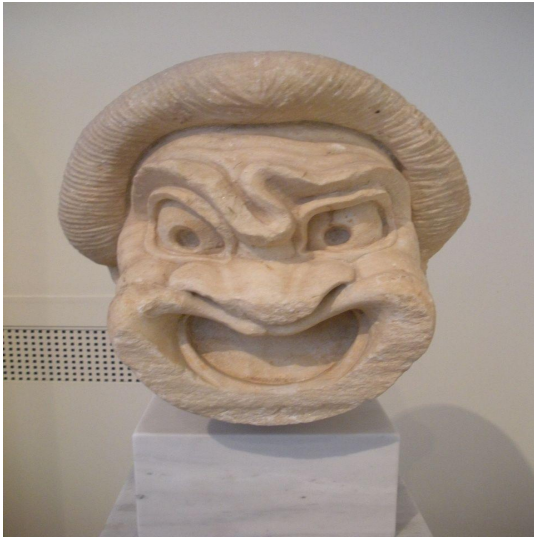
Photos:



The Ancient Theater at Epidaurus



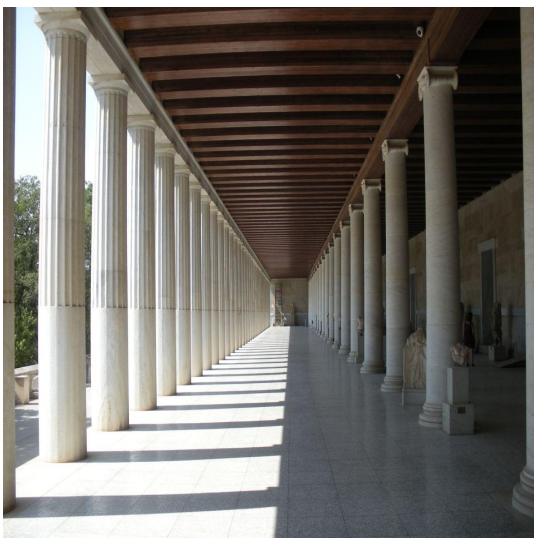
Meg on the Acropolis



Comic Mask from Acropolis Museum



At a Performance at the Odeon of Herod Atticus



Reconstructed Stoa



Measuring a Column Base in Delphi



At the Theater of Dodoni



In the Hills Above Delphi