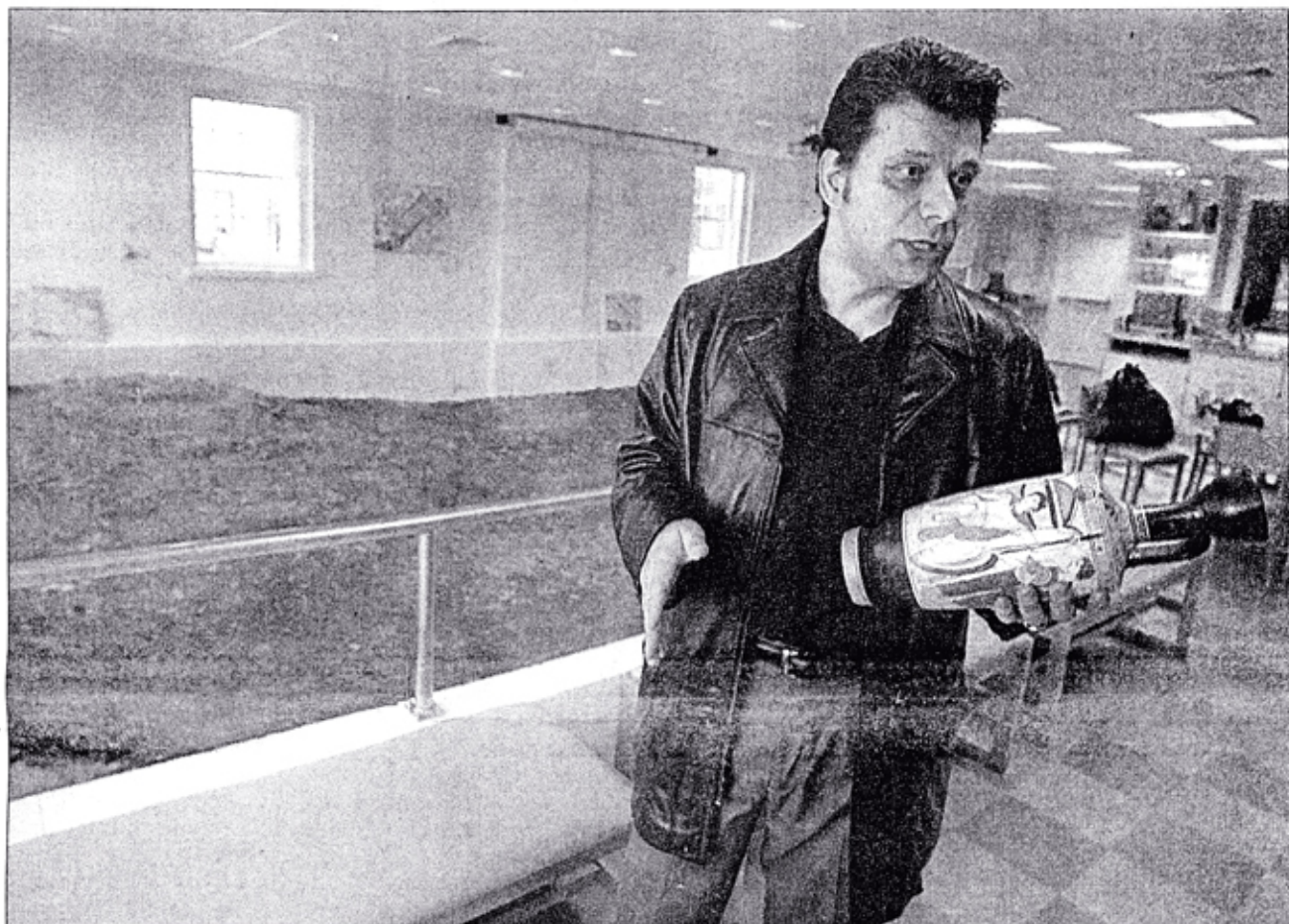


# BIG ON GREECE



Michael Bupp/The Sentinel

Dickinson College archaeology professor Christofilis Maggidis holds a replica of a Greek artifact like those he'll bring to the Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts today for the launch celebration of the IMAX film "Greece: Secrets of the Past."

## New IMAX film debuts today

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An IMAX film that opens today at Whitaker Center in Harrisburg will introduce viewers to ancient Greek civilization and archaeology, says a Dickinson College professor who has excavated in Greece and viewed the movie in a private screening.

"I think for the wider public it's very

attractive," says Christofilis Maggidis. "It's a documentary about a civilization that really set the standards" for Western thought.

Maggidis plans to bring between 10 and 15 replica vases covering 3,000 years of Greek history to show people who come to the movie's launch celebration this afternoon. He and four lab assistants will explain the periods of Greek civilization.

The Greek native studied for three

summers under Christos Doumas, the archaeologist featured in the film, starting when Maggidis was 17.

They excavated at Santorini island, where the filmed excavation takes place.

Some Dickinson students also went to Santorini during a field trip, Maggidis says. "It shows the very same places we walked."

• See Greece, A3

## Greece

• Continued from A1

The vases the public will see today are some of the approximately 200 exact replicas of vessels, jewelry and coins Dickinson College bought from Greek museums — the National Archaeological Museum in Athens, Mycenae Museum and the Acropolis Museum — to use as educational tools.

### Buried 'artifacts'

Manufacturers also save pieces that break during the firing process and send them to the college in Carlisle. Then Maggidis can bury them in an indoor lab called a simulated excavation field, where students dig up the pieces as part of their class.

But first, they use high-tech instruments to see the artifacts, so they "can judge exactly where (they) want to excavate," Maggidis says. "We're trying to survey whatever lies underneath the soil without excavating."

Then students record and photograph the excavation process.

When they start this semester's simulated excavation soon, they'll even videotape it and show it on the college TV channel. Maggidis hopes to eventually show portions of the excavation on local televi-

sion as well.

With a smile, Maggidis notes that his lab assistants are so interested in Greek culture they only listen to Greek music in the college's new archaeology lab — piped in by satellite.

"I have become American by education," he says. "They have become Greek by education."

The new lab, which was completed this winter behind the college's Denny Hall, will be dedicated April 28. The current lab in Denny Hall has a smaller excavation area, Maggidis says.

### Will travel to Greece

After Dickinson archaeology students complete the simulated experience, they travel to Greece to excavate the ancient citadel of Mycenae, which dates to 1200 B.C. The Mycenaean people preceded ancient Greek civilization.

Maggidis is assistant to the director of excavations at Mycenae, Spyros Iakovidis.

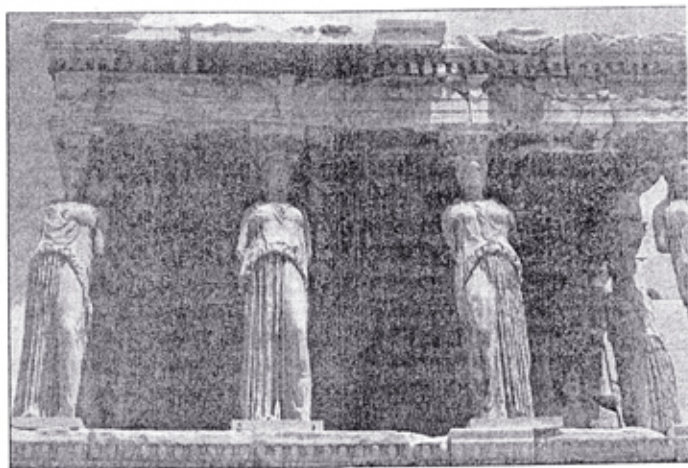
Dickinson's indoor simulated excavation lab prepares students well for the real thing, he says.

The archaeology major, which was formed in the fall of 2001, combines anthropology, art and art history, the classics and geology classes, Maggidis says. Although

young, the program is innovative and quickly shot to the top 10 undergraduate archaeological programs in the U.S., he says.

Now, with the new lab, "the sky's the limit," Maggidis says.

He notes most archaeology students complete their first excavation in their first year of graduate school, so Dickinson students have a leg up on the competition.



Courtesy of the Whitaker Center

"Greece: Secrets of the Past" takes IMAX viewers on a trip to an ancient civilization.

## About the movie...

"Greece: Secrets of the Past" takes audiences on a journey to ancient Greek islands and beneath the Aegean Sea. It explores how a volcanic eruption, one of the biggest explosions in Earth's history, formed the island of Santorini.

Computer graphic imaging shows the Parthenon and other

monuments in their original glory. Archaeologists unearth relic shards and try to piece together lost stories of democracy's ancient Western civilization's birthplace.

The movie will be shown until June. For more information, call 214-ARTS or visit the website: [www.whitakercenter.org](http://www.whitakercenter.org)

## Greek activities slated