

THE INA QUARTERLY

BRINGING HISTORY TO LIGHT THROUGH THE SCIENCE OF SHIPWRECKS

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF **GEORGE F. BASS**

1932-2021



SPRING/SUMMER 2021
VOLUME 48 NO. 1/2

FOUNDERS

George F. Bass, Ph.D. †
John Baird †
Michael Katzev †
Jack W. Kelley †

OFFICERS/ADMINISTRATION

President*
Deborah N. Carlson, Ph.D.
Vice President
Cemal M. Pulak, Ph.D.
Vice President*
Kevin J. Crisman, Ph.D.
Financial Manager
Cindy Montgomery
Diving Safety Officer
John Littlefield, Ph.D.

BODRUM RESEARCH CENTER

Director
Tüba Ekmeççi, M.A.
Financial Manager
Özlem Doğan

DIRECTORS

Oğuz Aydemir
M. Katherine Banks, Ph.D.
Edward O. Boshell, Jr.
John Cassils, M.D.
Lucy Darden †
John De Lapa
Chairman*
Carl Douglas
Danielle J. Feeney *
James A. Goold
Secretary &
General Counsel *
Jeff Hakko
Pamela Matthews, Ph.D.
Sheila Matthews, M.A.
Dana F. McGinnis
Krešimir Penavić
Lynn Baird Shaw
Charlie Steinmetz
Jason Sturgis
Vice Chairman*
Robert L. Walker, Ph.D.
Past Chairman*
Casidy Ward
Roger A. Williamson, M.D.*
Robyn Woodward, Ph.D.
Treasurer *
Sally M. Yamini
Kenan Yılmaz

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Raynette Boshell
John Broadwater, Ph.D.
Allan Campbell, M.D.
William C. Culp, M.D.
Joshua Daniel, M.A.
Grace Darden
Nicholas Griffis
Faith Hentschel, Ph.D.
Susan Katzev
James Kjørlien
Virginia Klein
Keith Langworthy
Alex G. Nason
Terry A. Ray
Judy Sturgis
Betsey Boshell Todd
Ken Trethewey, Ph.D.
Garry A. Weber

BODRUM RESEARCH CENTER STAFF

Bilge Güneşdoğdu Akman
Mustafa Babacık
Esra Altınanıt Kirik, M.A.
Mehmet Çiftlikli
Zafer Gül
Seçil Kayacık
Gülser Kazancıoğlu
Şükran Köroğlu, M.A.
Orkan Köyağasıoğlu, M.A.
Adem Şirin
Nevin Tekel
Aysel Tok
Ömer Tok
Edith Trnka
Süleyman Türel
Güneş Yaşar
Meftun Yürek

**FACULTY, NAUTICAL
ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM AT
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

Deborah N. Carlson, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Sara W. and
George O. Yamini Professor of
Nautical Archaeology
Filipe Vieira de Castro, Ph.D.
Professor, Frederick R. Mayer
Professor of Nautical Archaeology II
Kevin J. Crisman, Ph.D.
Professor, Nautical Archaeology
Faculty Fellow
Christopher M. Dostal, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, INA Faculty Fellow

Carolyn Kennedy, Ph.D.
Instructional Assistant Professor

Cemal M. Pulak, Ph.D.
Professor, Frederick R. Mayer
Professor of Nautical Archaeology I

Shelley Wachsmann, Ph.D.
Professor, Meadows Professor
of Biblical Archaeology

**EMERITUS FACULTY, NAUTICAL
ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM AT
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

George F. Bass, Ph.D. †
Fred van Doorninck, Jr., Ph.D.
Donny L. Hamilton, Ph.D.
C. Wayne Smith, Ph.D.
J. Richard Steffy †

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE FELLOWS**

Marian M. Cook Fellows
Catherine Brooks &
Stephen DeCasien
Mr. & Mrs. Ray H. Siegfried II Fellow
Traci Andrews & Rebecca Bowles

AFFILIATED SCHOLARS

Kroum Batchvarov, Ph.D.
University of Connecticut
Giulia Boetto, Ph.D.
Centre Camille Jullian
John Broadwater, Ph.D.
Sprintsail Enterprises
Lilia Campana, Ph.D.
Texas A&M University
Arthur Cohn, J.D.
Lake Champlain Maritime Museum
Ben Ford, Ph.D.
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Jeremy Green, M.A.
Western Australia Maritime Museum
Elizabeth S. Greene, Ph.D.
Brock University
Jerome Hall, Ph.D.
University of San Diego
Faith Hentschel, Ph.D. †
Central Connecticut State University
Nicole Hirschfeld, Ph.D.
Trinity University
Frederick Hocker, Ph.D.
Vasa Museum
Mark Lawall, Ph.D.
University of Manitoba
Joseph Lehner, Ph.D.
University of Sydney

Justin Leidwanger, Ph.D.
Stanford University

John McManamon, Ph.D.
Loyola University

Harun Özdaş, Ph.D.
Dokuz Eylül Üniversitesi

Irena Radić Rossi, Ph.D.
University of Zadar

Warren Riess, Ph.D.
University of Maine

David Stewart, Ph.D.
East Carolina University

Kristine Trego, Ph.D.
Bucknell University

Peter van Alfen, Ph.D.
American Numismatic Society

Wendy van Duivenvoorde, Ph.D.
Flinders University

Gordon P. Watts, Jr., Ph.D.
Tidewater Atlantic Research

RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

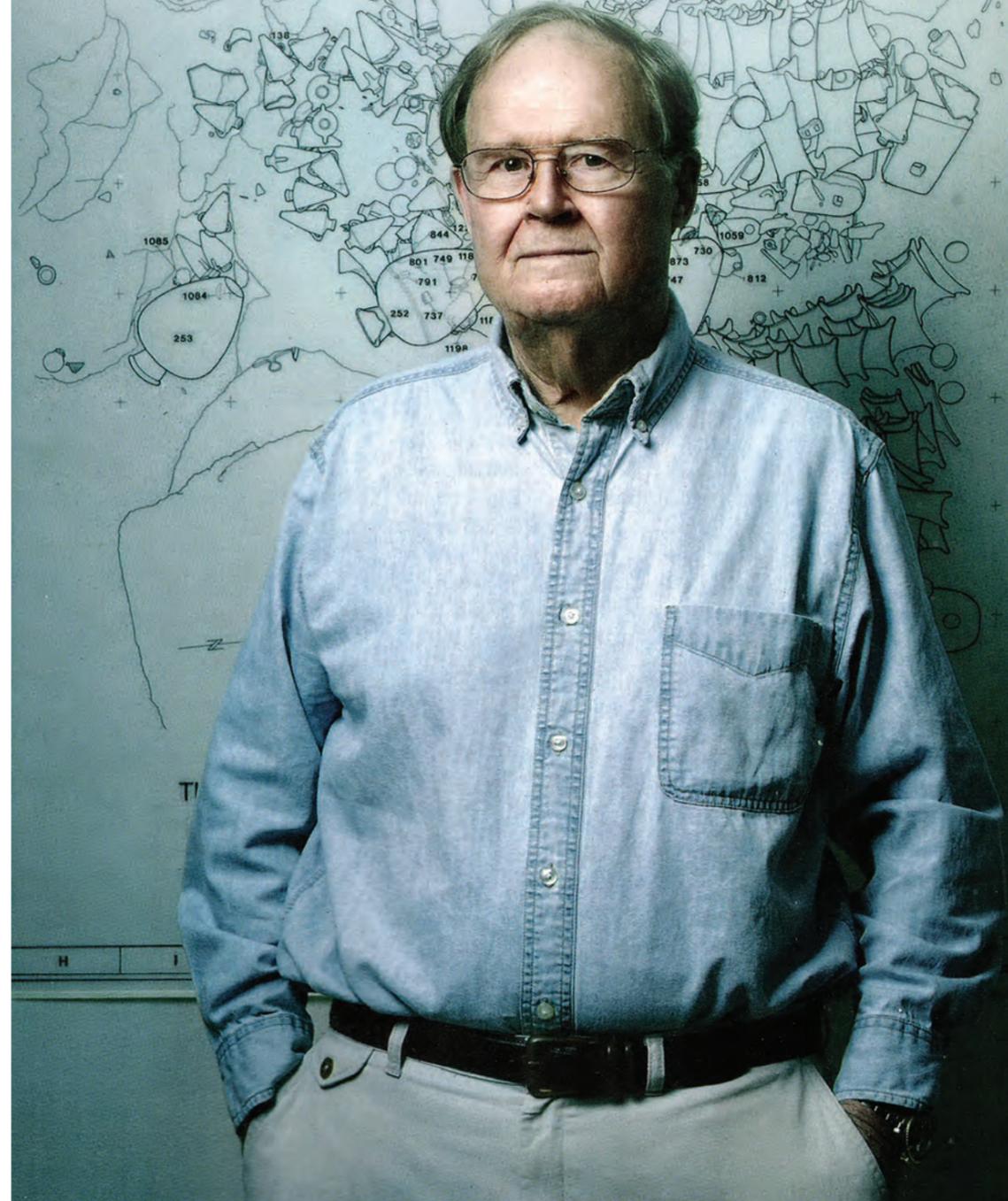
J. Barto Arnold, M.A.
Piotr Bojakowski, Ph.D.
Laurel Breece, Ph. D.
Massimo Capulli, D.Prof.
Chris Cartellone, Ph.D.
José Luis Casabán, Ph.D.
Alexis Catsambis, Ph.D.
Katie Custer Bojakowski, Ph.D.
Matthew Harpster, Ph.D.
Rebecca Ingram, Ph.D.
Michael Jones, Ph.D.
Roberto Junco, M.A.
Jun Kimura, Ph.D.
Margaret Leshikar-Denton, Ph.D.
Berta Lledó, Ph.D. †
Colin Martin, Ph.D.
Alba Mazza, Ph.D.
Veronica Morriss, M.A.
Robert Neyland, Ph.D.
Ralph K. Pedersen, Ph.D.
J. B. Pelletier, M.A.
Robin C. M. Piercy
John Pollack, M.Sc.
Mark Polzer, M.A.
Kimberly Rash Kenyon, M.A.
Donald Rosencrantz
Jeff Royal, Ph.D.
David Ruff, Ph.D.
Miguel San Claudio, M.A.
Randall Sasaki, M.A.
George Schwarz, Ph.D.
Cheryl Ward, Ph.D.

* Executive Committee | ♦ Non-voting Board | † Deceased

THE LIFE OF INA FOUNDER GEORGE F. BASS

We Remember the Father of Underwater Archaeology

PHOTOS: THIS PHOTO: (C) RANDAL FORD; COVER PHOTO: (C) COURTNEY PLATT



1950s

Page 04

1960s

Page 08

1970s

Page 14

1980s

Page 22

Bodrum,
Turkey

Page 28

1990s

Page 32

2000s

Page 36

2010s

Page 40

INA
Teams

Page 44

1950s

George Fletcher Bass was born in Columbia, South Carolina, on 9 December 1932. Bass studied English literature at the University of Exeter and earned a Master's degree in Near Eastern archaeology from Johns Hopkins University in 1955. As a student at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens from 1955–1957, he helped excavate the House of the Tiles at Lerna (Greece) under the direction of Jack Caskey, and worked at Gordion (Turkey) with Rodney Young. Bass served his country as a U.S. Army first lieutenant in South Korea from 1957 to 1959. In 1959, Bass was a graduate student studying classical archaeology at the University of Pennsylvania when his advisor Rodney Young urged him to partner with photojournalist Peter Throckmorton and explore a Late Bronze Age shipwreck at Cape Gelidonya (Turkey). After completing only six weeks of a ten-week diving course at the local YMCA, and having never dived in open water, newlyweds George and Ann Bass headed to Cape Gelidonya.



PHOTOS: THIS PAGE: (C) PENN MUSEUM GORDION ARCHIVE, IMAGE R-342/2 (GO-5352); OPPOSITE PAGE: AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES AT ATHENS, ARCHIVES

On behalf of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA), I am writing to express my deepest condolences to the INA community on the loss of George Bass. He was a student at the American School from 1955-1957 and represented the Institute of Nautical Archaeology and Texas A&M University on the Managing Committee of the School. George built the modern field of maritime archaeology on the belief that if he could teach great archaeologists to be good divers, they could change our understanding of world history.

INA projects now span the globe. George and his friends devised ways to record archaeological research underwater to mimic the accuracy of land excavations. Indeed, their methods of recording sometimes even exceed the quality of contemporary work on land. George deeply admired the American School, its structure, and its scholars. He never let anyone forget he was trained by Caskey and Young in the dirt archaeology of the Aegean Bronze Age. He often quoted Rodney Young: "Just write 'The End' one day and put down your pen" lest the goal of the perfect site report prevent the completion of any report. George was justifiably proud of his record of publication, but he was happy to admit that he learned from later criticism and correction. Just as Young pushed George to direct a new kind of archaeological project while still a graduate student, so too George never failed to give graduate students positions of responsibility setting them up as future leaders.

George helped define an entire field of archaeology, but he also helped to populate that field with kindred spirits: scholars devoted to protecting cultural heritage, to engaging with the general public, and to fostering collegial friendship.

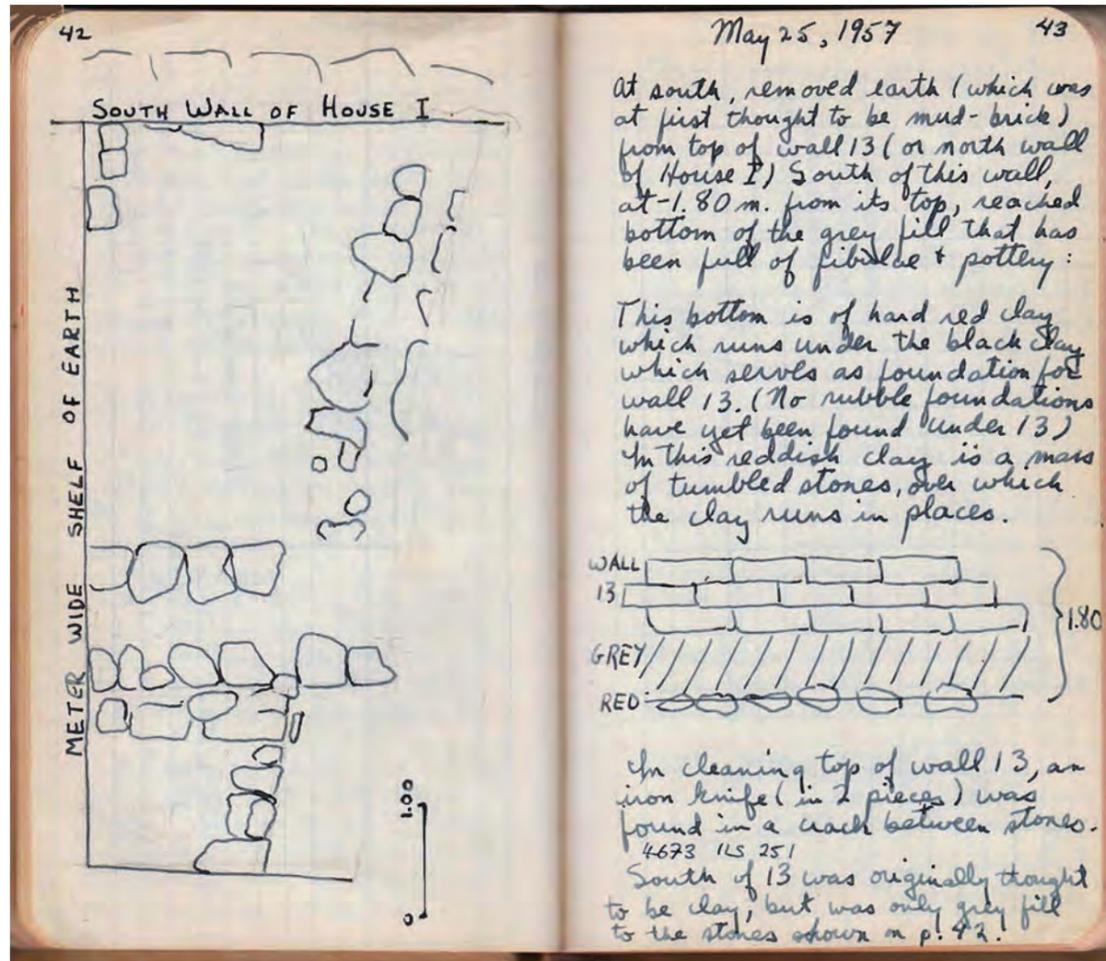
MARK LAWALL, PH.D.

INA Affiliated Scholar, Professor, University of Manitoba, Managing Committee Chair, American School of Classical Studies at Athens

This page: George at Lerna, 1956.

Opposite page: George and local Turkish workers examine a pithos at Gordion, May 1957.





42
 SOUTH WALL OF HOUSE I
 METER WIDE SHELF OF EARTH
 1.00
 0

May 25, 1957 43

At south, removed earth (which was at first thought to be mud-brick) from top of wall 13 (or north wall of House I) South of this wall, at -1.80 m. from its top, reached bottom of the grey fill that has been full of fibulae & pottery:

This bottom is of hard red clay which runs under the black clay which serves as foundation for wall 13. (No rubble foundations have yet been found under 13) In this reddish clay is a mass of tumbled stones, over which the clay runs in places.

WALL 13 } 1.80
 GREY
 RED

In cleaning top of wall 13, an iron knife (in 2 pieces) was found in a crack between stones.
 4673 ILS 251
 South of 13 was originally thought to be clay, but was only grey fill to the stones shown on p. 42.



I had received a letter from George just a few days ago — therefore, the news of his death came as a true shock. George and I were students together for two academic years at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, Greece; then we were colleagues in archaeology, he at U. Penn. and I at Bryn Mawr College. Through the years our paths crossed many times, and our last encounters were in Philadelphia at meetings of the American Philosophical Society, as members. He was a highly decorated life member of

the Archaeological Institute of America, a marvelous lecturer, an enthusiast, a pioneer in nautical archaeology which he founded as a truly rigorous discipline. He will be sorely missed.

BRUNILDE SISMONDO RIDGWAY, PH.D.
 Professor Emerita, Bryn Mawr College

This page, from top to bottom: George's diary from Gordion, Penn Museum Gordion Archive: NB-67 (1957); George at Acrocorinth, 1955. Opposite page: George sorting sherds in a WWII gun emplacement at Lerna.

“Dear Folks, The other night, after sorting sherds in the gun-pit until quite late, I found myself completely alone on the site and the sun was far past setting. I knew that I was already late for dinner and I hadn't even washed and changed my clothes yet, but I deliberately stayed on and in the almost black darkness, I walked slowly through the site, and walked down to my special house, with the great storage jars, six feet deep, looming beside me in the darkness. And then, for the first and only time, I had the feeling that this was a house, and people had lived here, and that 4000 years ago some illiterate person came in here with a torch to dip some oil out of the jars. And it was actually just as real as memory.”

George Bass Letter to his parents, from Lerna, 3 July 1956



PHOTOS: THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE PAGE: AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES AT ATHENS, ARCHIVES, GEORGE F. BASS PAPERS

1960s

In 1960, George Bass was a newlywed and graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania when he joined Peter Throckmorton to investigate the Late Bronze Age shipwreck at Cape Gelidonya, Turkey. Their small team demonstrated that, by applying many of the same principles and methodologies used on land, diving archaeologists could achieve the same standards of accuracy as terrestrial archaeologists. Between 1961 and 1964, Bass and his colleagues excavated to completion a seventh-century Byzantine ship at Yassiada, Turkey; several Yassiada team members provide their reflections below. Upon receiving his doctorate in 1964, Bass joined the classical archaeology faculty at Penn and was promoted to associate professor in 1968. The 1960s were a foundational time for nautical archaeology, largely because diving archaeologists spearheaded major innovations in underwater excavation and the publication of the first scientific reports.



PHOTOS: THIS PAGE (C) INA PHOTO BY PETER THROCKMORTON; OPPOSITE PAGE: COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA MUSEUM

When Peter Throckmorton first marched into Rodney Young's office to tell him about the wreck at Cape Gelidonya, Young's response was to summon George Bass, then a graduate student, and tell him: "Learn how to dive!" Young's statement resonates with me because he had the same ecumenical attitude when I proposed measuring tree-rings at Gordion.

George never looked back. When he excavated the 7th-century Byzantine ship at Yassiada, he farmed out the topics to several of us, so that a seminar term-paper I wrote on the fishing weights became a chapter in the book. This procedure was the opposite of Jack Caskey's, another mentor, whom George brought to Penn and who advised us "Never publish anything before you are 40. You won't know enough." George's other students form a Who's Who of Nautical Archaeology, and they all got the same GFB head start.

One piece of advice George gave us in his seminars (and I had six of them) was to write our term papers as if they were for final publication. I used that advice over 30 years for all my graduate students at Cornell. The first paper I wrote for George was on the small sites of the Anatolian Neolithic (now it takes six books to sum them up). He gave me an A, but his one negative comment was that I had referred to Machteld Mellink as "Miss Mellink." He thought I should have omitted the "Miss." Every time I read a German text which refers to her as "Miß Mellink," I chuckle.

In 1972 George and Ann took a deep breath, and he resigned his Associate Professorship at Penn and moved to Cyprus to be a lot closer to the action. The trouble was that the action (Turkish / Greek fighting) was not quite what he had expected. They lost almost everything, including Ann's piano. For a while the future looked grim, but then along came

This page: George poses for a publicity photo at UPenn. **Opposite page:** George preparing to dive at Cape Gelidonya.





van Doornincks with Michael in tow on a Sunday afternoon in winter, he showed his passion for classical archaeology when he unpacked from the trunk of his car three volumes of Stuart and Revett's "Antiquities of Athens" just purchased in New York. Two weekends later, he proposed and I accepted.

Michael and I went on to adventures of our own, excavating the Hellenistic Kyrenia Ship off Cyprus' north coast. In this way, through your example, generations of students learned the patience, skills, and passion to carry underwater archaeology around the globe. You enriched the hearts of all who knew you and I shall always be grateful for that life-changing privilege.

SUSAN WOMER KATZEV, M.A

Kyrenia Shipwreck Excavation (1968-1969)
INA Associate Director (2002 – present)

Our friendship began with a casual meeting at the bar of the hotel hosting the annual meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America in Hartford, Connecticut in 1961. I had heard George present the results of his triumphal excavation at Cape Gelidonya, Turkey, and I was inspired to join his team for the next season. As a result, I ended up participating in a number of seasons in the 1960s and went to Cyprus with the Katzevs after that. That began a mostly long-distance friendship that endured until his death.

Our friendship had bonded during the years on Yassiada and, although I had disappointed him by not joining his newly founded INA and we were separated by great distance, we never lost touch nor did our friendship diminish. We shared the memories of the formative decade of underwater archaeology as it evolved on Yassiada along with the close bonds we formed with a number of those who worked

This page: George, Susan Womer, and Michael Katzev with the telephone booth dome.
Opposite page: George and Ann at Cape Gelidonya.

Texas A&M University, which offered to adopt the Basses to add a classy cachet to the A&M underwater research program. Younger members of INA may think it was always this way: a secure home in College Station, a splendid research facility in Bodrum, scholarships, endowed chairs, *Virazon I* and *II*, the submersible *Carolyn*, but it wasn't. It was decades of hard work, the support of a whole army (or rather navy) of the Faithful, led by the determination of George F. Bass.

PETER IAN KUNIHOLM, PH.D.

Founder, Aegean Dendrochronology Project
Professor Emeritus, Cornell University

I am wondering where I'd be right now if you, George, had not taken a knee-socked college sophomore to be the artist during your first season at Yassiada in

1961. We were all living in Bodrum town because the locals said Yassiada Island was overrun with rats. I remember the long dining table down the center of the entrance hall of our rental house. One night there was a noise that woke you and Ann and myself. When the light came on in the hall we saw a large spider walking up the wall. How could a spider make so much noise?

That summer led to others working as the excavation artist and later living on the island in tents. Then came winters working as your "gal Friday" in the basement office at the University Museum and eating lunch with such giants as Rodney Young, George Dales, Roger Edwards, and others. And then into my life came one of your student excavators, Michael Katzev. During a visit from the

with us during that decade. Many of that formative generation are no longer with us, but those who collaborated with him and studied under him remain his enduring legacy. The publications George produced, his vision in creating the field of underwater archaeology in the United States will continue as an expansion of his pioneering efforts. I was privileged to have played a small part during those formative years and to have called George my dear friend and colleague.

DAVID I. OWEN, PH.D.

Professor Emeritus, Cornell University

In the spring of 1964, when he was teaching at the University of Pennsylvania, George Bass received a

typewritten letter from an electrician in the tiny town of Denver, about 60 miles west of Philadelphia. The electrician said he built ship models in his basement at night, and he had read George's article in *National Geographic* on the Yassiada shipwreck. He proposed building a model of the ship and suggested they meet to discuss it. George, inexplicably, agreed.

At the time, George had only conducted two underwater digs, and he hadn't given much thought to models of those ships. After all, neither had yielded much wood. This electrician, though, seemed to think he could take a few hull fragments from the Yassiada wreck and use them to extrapolate an accurate model.

A few weeks later, the electrician showed

up in George's office with a four-foot model of an Egyptian ship that had taken him 12 years to build as he painstakingly attempted to recreate the original construction process in miniature (it's now on display at INA headquarters).

Why, I asked George years later, did he agree to the meeting? The man, after all, was no scholar. He didn't even have a bachelor's degree.

"I didn't know anything about Egyptian models or ships at that time," George told me. "I was just starting out in this, too." The modeler, of course, was my father, Dick Steffy, and George not only invited him to build a model of the Yassiada wreck, but put him in touch with Fred van Doorninck, and a pioneering trio was born. (The

"We had not come to dive for sport or for treasure. Our aim was to proceed underwater just as archeologists work on land: To dig down layer by layer, carefully recording the position of each object in the cabin or hull before moving it or raising it to the surface."

Underwater Archeology: Key to History's Warehouse, *National Geographic* (1963)



PHOTOS: THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE PAGE: (C) INA



arms. I didn't know exactly what was happening in that room, but the energy that emanated from it was palpable.

When the university balked at hiring my father because of his lack of degrees, George stood firm. If A&M wouldn't hire him, then INA would go somewhere else. A&M, of course, relented.

The gratitude that my father, indeed, my whole family, felt for that support, as well as all the other opportunities that George created for us, are beyond measure. I think about my unborn grandchild (due in November!), my children and their spouses, my wife, all their accomplishments as well as my own. None of it would have happened without George Bass agreeing to meet with an unknown ship modeler.

Others can expound on George's legacy

you have the audacity and tenacity to do such a thing, you are drawn to others who are willing to take the leap with you.

George once told me that my dad's decision to quit the electrical business and reconstruct ships full time inspired him to leave Penn and form INA. But the inspiration was circular. Without George's inspiration, my father would never have made his move in the first place. That's what happens when dreamers collide. Their dreams feed on each other. But unlike so many dreamers, George Bass knew how to make the dream reality. He didn't just dream the dream, he lived it. And in doing so, helped countless others realize their own.

LOREN STEFFY

*Author of *The Man Who Thought Like a Ship**

"But why study the history of ships at all? Are waterlogged wooden hulls, usually fragmentary, worth the time, effort and money we devote to them? How do they compare to Greek temples, Roman amphitheatres, medieval castles and Mayan pyramids? To answer this, try to imagine the course of human history without ships."

Civilization Under the Sea (1989)

Yassiada model took years to complete, but it's now on display in Bodrum.)

George and my father shared a love of ideas, and they weren't afraid to think big. Their friendship and professional collaboration spanned 43 years, until my father's death in 2007. When George created INA, he was embarrassed to offer my dad a job because the pay was miniscule, and the benefits nonexistent. My dad took it anyway. By then, he knew George's drive would lead to bigger things.

A few years later, the Bases found themselves in tiny Denver, too, and George and my father hunched over our dining room table, the room thick with cigarette smoke and stale but ever-present coffee as they hammered out plans to bring INA to Texas A&M. George was animated when he got excited. His voice would rise, he'd talk faster, he'd wave his

in nautical archaeology far better than I, but George opened worlds for me and my family that were unimaginable to us just a few years before he, Ann, Gordon, and Alan arrived at our house for the first time in about 1969. That meeting not only cemented George's working relationship with my father, but also drew our families together. Gordon and Alan became my lifelong friends. Ann, in a testament to her patience, spent three years when I was in middle school teaching me to play the piano.

Why did George answer my father's letter back in 1964? George told me he didn't know. My father was simply the first modeler to contact him. But I think there was more to it. George was building something. He was doing what had never been done. He was creating a field of study and an academic discipline. When

We in nautical archaeology are so lucky to have had George Bass. He went to Cape Gelidonya in 1960 not because of an interest in seafaring but because of an interest in international trade in the eastern Mediterranean during the Late Bronze Age. He began a four season-long excavation of a 7th-century Byzantine shipwreck at Yassiada the following year not because of an interest in Byzantine seafaring but because he had almost failed to produce an accurate plan of the Cape Gelidonya site, decided he must develop an accurate and practical method of mapping deep wrecks, and thought the compact pile of amphoras on the 7th-century wreck ideal for this purpose. In

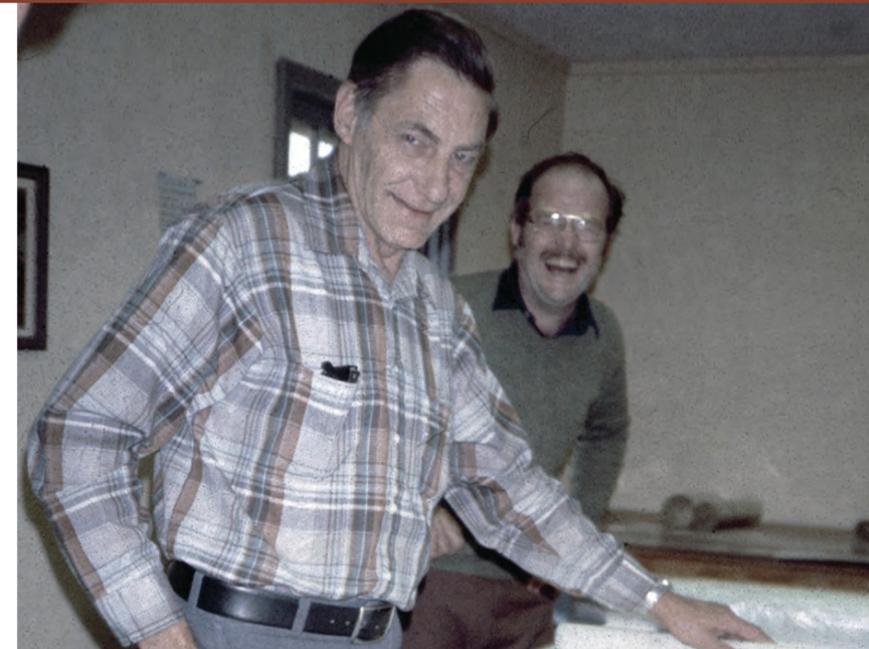
This page: George at Yassiada. Opposite page, top to bottom: George and Dick Steffy; George at Cape Gelidonya.

1967 and 1969, he excavated the neighboring Late Roman shipwreck in order to test a system of stereo-mapping from a submersible. At the end of the 1969 season, George declared that he had accomplished his goal and would probably return to the much simpler life of a land archaeologist.

In the meantime, George had earned his Ph.D. degree, published a final report on the Cape Gelidonya excavation, became a faculty member of the Classical and Pre-Classical Archaeology Program at the University of Pennsylvania, had among his students quite a number who were to go on to become great scholars, and began to publish articles marked by a high level of persuasive and literate scholarship. It was widely assumed that he would someday succeed the great Rodney S. Young as head of the Program, and I distinctly remember talk that he would eventually become Director of the University Museum. Yet, in 1973, he left his meteoric career at Penn, founded INA, and led family and some close colleagues off on some kind of communal existence in Cyprus and Turkey excavating shipwrecks. I personally think that perhaps the wonderful things that close colleagues had uncovered at Kyrenia and Porticello pushed him over the edge.

George would now face many challenges, but without doubt the greatest of these was the fact that many archaeologists and historians in those days thought that shipwreck archaeology was not to be taken seriously. George helped change this in a masterful way and so became known as the father of nautical archaeology. But there was a down side. More and more, he had to turn over the demands of scholarship to close colleagues and gifted students. Having to leave the life of a scholar was a real disappointment for him. I know this because he recently told me so. But he set for us all the highest standards of scholarship and devotion to our profession. He will remain our fearless leader.

FRED VAN DOORNINCK, JR., PH.D.
Professor Emeritus, Texas A&M University



PHOTOS: THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE PAGE: (C) INA

In 1972, George Bass and a handful of close friends founded the American Institute of Nautical Archaeology (AINA). In 1973, Bass resigned from a tenured faculty position at the University of Pennsylvania, packed up the family, and headed to Cyprus. But the Cypriot coup of 1974 forced the Basses to return to the U.S. and in 1976, AINA found an academic home at Texas A&M University. As a direct result of the INA-Texas A&M affiliation, the Nautical Archaeology Program (NAP) was established as the first academic program in the U.S. to offer graduate courses in the archaeology of ships and history of seafaring. Before the end of the decade, INA archaeologists had surveyed deep water wrecks in Lipari (Italy) and directed excavations in the York River (Virginia) and at Şeytan Deresi and Serçe Limanı (Turkey). In 1979, the AINA name was shortened to the Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA) to more accurately reflect the international nature of the institute's staff, board, and projects. In the same year, Bass was presented with the National Geographic Society's LaGorce Gold Medal.



PHOTOS: THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE PAGE: © INA



"Before there were farmers or shepherds, there were seafarers. Before people could make pottery or work metals, before they even lived in houses, they could cross expanses of open water...there can be no meaningful study of the past, therefore, without some knowledge of the history of the watercraft that helped shape our globe as we know it."

Beneath the Seven Seas (2005)

In 1975, while a graduate student of mechanical engineering at Bosphorus University (formerly Robert College) in Istanbul, I chanced upon a short note on a bulletin board posted by Tufan Turanlı, a fellow student. The poster mentioned wanting summer volunteers for an underwater excavation in Turkey to be directed by Professor George F. Bass! I reread the poster several times to fully grasp its content. Because of my passion for archaeology, I had read about George and his fantastic underwater archaeology projects in *National Geographic* magazine

This page: George examines a pithos at Şeytan Deresi. **Opposite page:** George showcases the new AINA logo in Lipari.

and his books. Without hesitation, I volunteered for the entire summer. After a brief interview with Donald Frey (INA President, 1982-1988), who at the time taught physics at Bosphorus University, I was accepted as an engineer to operate, maintain, and repair diving compressors and other equipment during the excavation. Even so, this provided a unique opportunity for me to meet George Bass in person and to work and learn from him the art of shipwreck excavation!

Tufan and I, along with several other students, spent the entire summer in Bodrum preparing for fieldwork while waiting for the excavation permit to be issued by the authorities in Ankara. I had

assumed I would meet George in Bodrum but learned later that he would arrive only after the excavation permit arrived. In Bodrum, I imagined that I would be working in a Jacques Cousteau-style research center replete with state-of-the-art diving equipment, and perhaps even a large research vessel with a helicopter pad. Instead, Don Frey directed me to a dilapidated barn-like shed with a broken door and pointed to the pile of rusted machinery and diving equipment heaped in a corner, instructing me to whip them into shape for our upcoming excavation! The machinery looked like second-hand items salvaged from a junk yard, and most of the air tanks and double-hose regulators were outdated models from



"If only one ship had sunk in the Mediterranean each year since the earliest known voyages, there would be 10,000 wrecks to explore. But more than one ship has sunk each year. Many more. In single years hundreds of ships have gone down. Fishing boats, ferries, warships, merchantmen, pleasure boats - they must dot the world's seabeds by the hundreds of thousands, or even millions."

Proposal for the Foundation of an American Institute of Nautical Archaeology (1972)

the early 1960s! Together with the other students, I dived into the pile in earnest and began testing the refurbished equipment in the waterfront by the medieval Crusader castle that housed the Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archaeology.

Our excavation permit was finally issued in September, and we eagerly awaited George's arrival, whom, by that time, we had aggrandized to a mythical diver and underwater explorer. We all knew what he looked like from the lavish color photographs in *National Geographic*, but we had to resort to imagining his

demeanor. Certainly, he would be authoritative, perhaps even a bit stern at times, serious and with a commanding, thunderous voice. When George finally arrived, we were greeted by a jovial, down-to-earth, and most friendly person.

After completing our preparations, we headed off to the Gulf of Keramos to a place known as Şeytan Deresi (Devil's Creek) to excavate a Middle or Late Bronze Age shipwreck George had located during a survey in 1973. We pitched our two-person tents that we lived in for the next six weeks. There were no devils at Devil's Creek, but the place was infested

with swarming yellow jackets and most of us were stung at least once. Each morning after breakfast, George held a briefing before we rowed out to our wooden diving barge.

Just a week into the excavation, noticing my great interest in our work, George asked if I had ever considered studying archaeology. I said I had but decided to follow my father's profession. Afterwards, he asked point blank if I would study archaeology under him. I was astonished

This page: George and Ann at Şeytan Deresi.

to receive such a kind and generous offer from this great underwater archaeologist. After receiving my graduate degree two years later and having served a mandatory 18-month stint with the Turkish Navy, I found myself in College Station in August of 1980 ready to start a new field under the greatest of nautical archaeologists!

The fall of 1975 was the beginning of my life-long friendship with George, who became my teacher, mentor, and colleague. Working with George, I learned that a research-based scientific shipwreck excavation was not about fancy and expensive equipment, but rather in the approach to fully understanding and systematically answering all the questions associated with the site. I shall forever be grateful to you, George, for your sage advice in helping me safely navigate through stormy seas, and for always being there to direct me to safe shores when the sailing got rough.

CEMAL PULAK, PH.D.
NAP Graduate (M.A., 1987; Ph.D., 1996),
INA Vice President (1994 – present)
Professor, Texas A&M University

It is a difficult task to convey the enormous influence that George had on the lives of many, many people. His keen intellect and perseverance have produced an unprecedented trove of research in his field. For me, it was his *National Geographic* articles that captured my attention and fostered initial enthusiasm for the field. This interest has carried through to this day.

I was at The Submarine Base in Connecticut in 1974 when my Commanding Officer mentioned a letter he had received from a George Bass seeking a physician to join the excavation at Yassiada, Turkey. After approval from the U.S. Navy, I contacted him at their residence on Cyprus where he, Ann, and their two young sons lived at that time.

When I met George in Bodrum, the excavation permit was not yet in hand. I drove with him to Ankara and observed

the deft manner in which he interacted with government officials, thus obtaining the permit. The drive up and back initiated a friendship, an experience many have had. I discussed with him air saturation diving, living in habitats on deeper excursions that we had been conducting in the Navy. I described that this research had the potential to increase the efficiency of underwater archeology. It won't surprise anyone that he had considered this approach. It seemed to me as an outside observer that there wasn't much that escaped his attention if it had the potential to improve techniques related to underwater archaeology.

In 2001, two colleagues at the University of Iowa (one he knew from the College of Law and one from Anthropology) and I invited George to campus for five days to serve as the Ida Beam Lecturer, a prestigious award. He gave many scholarly presentations to students and to the public. He had a marked ability to engage the audience. His enthusiasm was infectious. When he was in Iowa City, he researched a family member who formerly taught at the University and included some of this material in a family history of great depth and breadth. He was an expert scavenger of information and always remained engaged in world affairs and many scholarly disciplines.

For me personally, as I know is true for many across the country - and the world - the fondest times I associate with INA were the visits to Ann and George in College Station. Ann warmly welcomed me. Her background in music and her wide-ranging interests made for good conversation with the two of them. I will miss that and the times George and I retreated to their guest room to listen to an opera from his large collection he thought I would enjoy. INA has lost a towering figure.

ROGER WILLIAMSON, M.D.
INA Associate Director (2007 – 2012)
INA Director (2012 – present)

Many people have already composed eloquent eulogies to George Bass. Instead of restating his many accomplishments, I want to describe my half-century relationship with George as just one example of how he established the field of underwater archaeology while launching many people on successful careers. Simply put, had it not been for George it is unlikely that I would have become an underwater archaeologist.

I first met George in 1972 at Fort Fisher, North Carolina, where he gave the keynote address at a maritime heritage conference organized by our small avocational archaeology group. At that time, having no formal archaeological education, I was excited to have the opportunity to seek advice from the Father of Underwater Archaeology. George was very gracious and generous with his time, offering advice and encouragement. That weekend I took George on his first stateside dive, to the murky site of the Civil War blockade runner, *Ella*. He told us afterwards that he'd gained a new appreciation for the difficulties of "blackwater archaeology."

George had recently resigned from the University of Pennsylvania to create the American Institute of Nautical Archaeology (AINA). We briefly discussed his plans and dreams for the new Institute. When he left, I thought it unlikely that I'd see him again soon, but the following summer George invited me to serve as sonar operator on AINA's first expedition: a survey of the southern Turkish coast. That extremely successful survey changed my life and cemented my desire to become a maritime archaeologist. George explained the importance of adhering to strict rules of ethics, professionalism, and publication. I began taking night classes and George continued to encourage and guide me.

In early 1976, George accepted Virginia's invitation for AINA to conduct its first field school on a British shipwreck in the York River that I had helped to locate. George invited me to participate in

PHOTOS: OPPOSITE PAGE: (C) INA



"The farmer digs into the ground for a different reason than a miner, and a classical archaeologist digs for different purposes than does an anthropologist. All have valid goals. One should not condemn the farmer because he is not trying to explain human behavior and cultural change."

A Plea for Historical Particularism in Nautical Archaeology (1983)

that 1976 field school. He also helped Virginia prepare a grant application for a second site survey in 1978 for which I became the field director. That one-year grant began my decade-long direction of research in the York River that culminated in the complete excavation of the British transport *Betsy* from within a steel cofferdam, an enhancement of George's prototype from the first field school. Through George's continued support, Texas A&M conducted a second York River field school in 1980, resulting in the positive identification of another site as

HMS *Charon*, the largest warship in the British fleet. Several Nautical Archaeology Program graduates also served on the Yorktown staff.

As George continued to mentor me, we developed a close friendship. I spent many pleasant hours with George and his wife, Ann, and every trip to INA headquarters was an inspiration. On any given visit, I was likely to encounter archaeologists working in remote sites around the world, and to see both old traditions and new technologies being applied to analyses of material culture and hull reconstruction.

George's vision had become a reality.

I miss George terribly, but my memories will always keep him alive for me as will my continuing association with the "INA family" that he created.

JOHN BROADWATER, PH.D.
INA Affiliated Scholar
INA Associate Director (2020 – present)

George Bass was a brilliant communicator. He once said that when he writes, he puts everything else aside, and sits down with a blank sheet to compose. He was an intuitive master of words. He bridged the

river of knowledge by simplifying complex content and using compelling language and photographs. George engaged drama and felicity, capturing interest, respect, and imagination from his audiences. He shared generously with those who appreciated his ability, purpose, and style; he was forthright with everyone in his editorial observations, criticism, and guidance. The discipline of Nautical Archaeology is fortunate that George Bass pioneered the way, for here he directed his vision, talents, wisdom, and words, and in so doing, launched the scholarship, imaginations, and careers of generations of aspiring minds around the world.

I am indebted to George for inspiring and teaching me. I feel like a family member of INA, having participated in Old and New World projects (Cayman, Jamaica, Spain, Yucatan, Mexico, Turkey, USA), and having been an INA Research Associate since 1990.

One sunny, breezy day in 1977, George arrived at the Texas Historical Commission in Austin, where we first met. He smiled and spoke graciously until whisked inside for a meeting with the State Marine Archaeologist. As a young archaeologist and new scuba diver, freshly returned from my first summer field project off South Padre Island, I was fascinated to learn of his pioneering practice of archaeology beneath the sea and to discover that he was teaching right here in Texas – having founded a new Master's degree program in Nautical Archaeology at Texas A&M University.

George said yes when I asked to commute weekly to study with Richard Steffy in the methods of shipwrights and the building of watercraft. At the time, I was studying for an M.A. in Latin American Studies at the University of Texas, with a thesis on Mexica-Aztec watercraft. Years later I was over the moon when George invited me to write the

This page: George suited up for a dive at Serge Limani. **Opposite page:** John Broadwater, George, and Frank Bailey at Fort Fisher, NC.



PHOTOS: THIS PAGE: JOHN SLOOP; OPPOSITE PAGE: JONATHAN BLAIR



“I know that Shakespeare used only a quill pen, but just think what he could have done if he'd had a PC!”

Publishing. *Getting It Done* (2006)

first chapter on the earliest watercraft, for *Ships and Shipwrecks of the Americas* (1988). I stepped up to the challenge and delighted in conversations during editorial reviews in his living room. Ever since, we exchanged Christmas greetings and occasional notes.

In 1988, I entered the Ph.D. Program at Texas A&M, and George chaired my dissertation committee on Cayman's 1794 *Wreck of the Ten Sail*, in cooperation with Kevin Crisman. He included my chapter on the disaster in *Beneath the Seven Seas* (2005) and in 2019 wrote a review for my new book on the subject. I thanked him for his life-long mentorship and friendship; he replied with congratulations and wrote, “I asked you to write for two of my books because I knew you would contribute something good. I'm quite proud of what you've done following

your studies in the Texas A&M Nautical Program. You've never disappointed me.” These kind and sincere words mean a great deal to me and touch my heart. George, thank you – you blazed the trail for us – you leave an enduring legacy for the world!

PEGGY LESHIKAR-DENTON, PH.D.
NAP Graduate (Ph.D., 1993)
INA Research Associate
Director, Cayman Islands National Museum

During five decades of working in underwater archaeology, I collaborated with numerous individuals who impacted my career. None more so than George Bass. In May 1962, a *National Geographic* magazine appeared in my high school library. Authored by Peter Throckmorton, it documented investigation of the “Oldest Known Shipwreck” and its

Bronze Age cargo carried before sinking off Cape Gelidonya, Turkey. For the first time in my lackluster public education, an imagination fueled by Jules Verne and Mike Nelson seemed to coalesce into an exciting real life. Whoever archaeologist George F. Bass was, his exploration of that shipwreck off the Turkish coast hit home. My revelation smoldered for years while I followed George Bass' Mediterranean investigations.

History classes emerged as the most interesting, palatable, and relevant path through college. I tried, unsuccessfully, to discover an academic doorway to the nascent underwater archaeology field. There were none, and the relevance of

This page: George at Yassiada.
Opposite page: George at Şeytan Deresi.

“underwater archaeology” was debated by historians and archaeologists.

In 1972, during his visit to North Carolina to dive on the blockade runner *Ella*, I met George. After suffering a myriad of questions about my career path, he suggested a backdoor entrance to the field through the Florida Division of Archives History. Thanks to George, my underwater experience with Carl Clausen in Florida's prehistoric and shipwreck archaeology paved the way for a position as North Carolina's first “underwater archaeologist.”

During my tenure, George and Dick Steffy visited North Carolina to consider locating the recently formed American Institute of Nautical Archaeology (AINA) at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. Despite our excitement, George subsequently confirmed that Texas A&M University made him an

offer too good to ignore. Years later, I joined an INA expedition to Jamaica. While exploring the Spanish shipwrecks on Pedro Bank and off Port Royal, I pondered resigning my State position. The opportunity to set up East Carolina University's Maritime History and Underwater Archaeology program with Professor Bill Still was well in the works. After consulting with George, I resigned and took the ECU position. One recommendation George made that I disregarded was the most important. He suggested setting up a non-profit before joining the university so independent research could be carried out. It became clear what sound counsel George offered. I later followed his sage advice and established the Institute for International Maritime Research.

IIMR provided the means to work with INA in the Dominican Republic,

Jamaica, Mexico, and Panama. When Max Guerout requested INA assistance to investigate the Confederate commerce raider *CSS Alabama* sunk off Cherbourg (France), George recommended an alliance with Bill Still and me, resulting in 18 seasons investigating the wreck site. Concurrently, I was involved in shipwreck research in Bermuda. In 2014, the National Museum of Bermuda published a book on the island's maritime history and underwater archaeology combining those topics with early treasure hunting. After sharing *Shipwrecked* with George, I received the most complimentary letter of my career from the person I respected most: *George F. Bass*. A mentor, colleague, and very dear friend; George will remain with me forever.

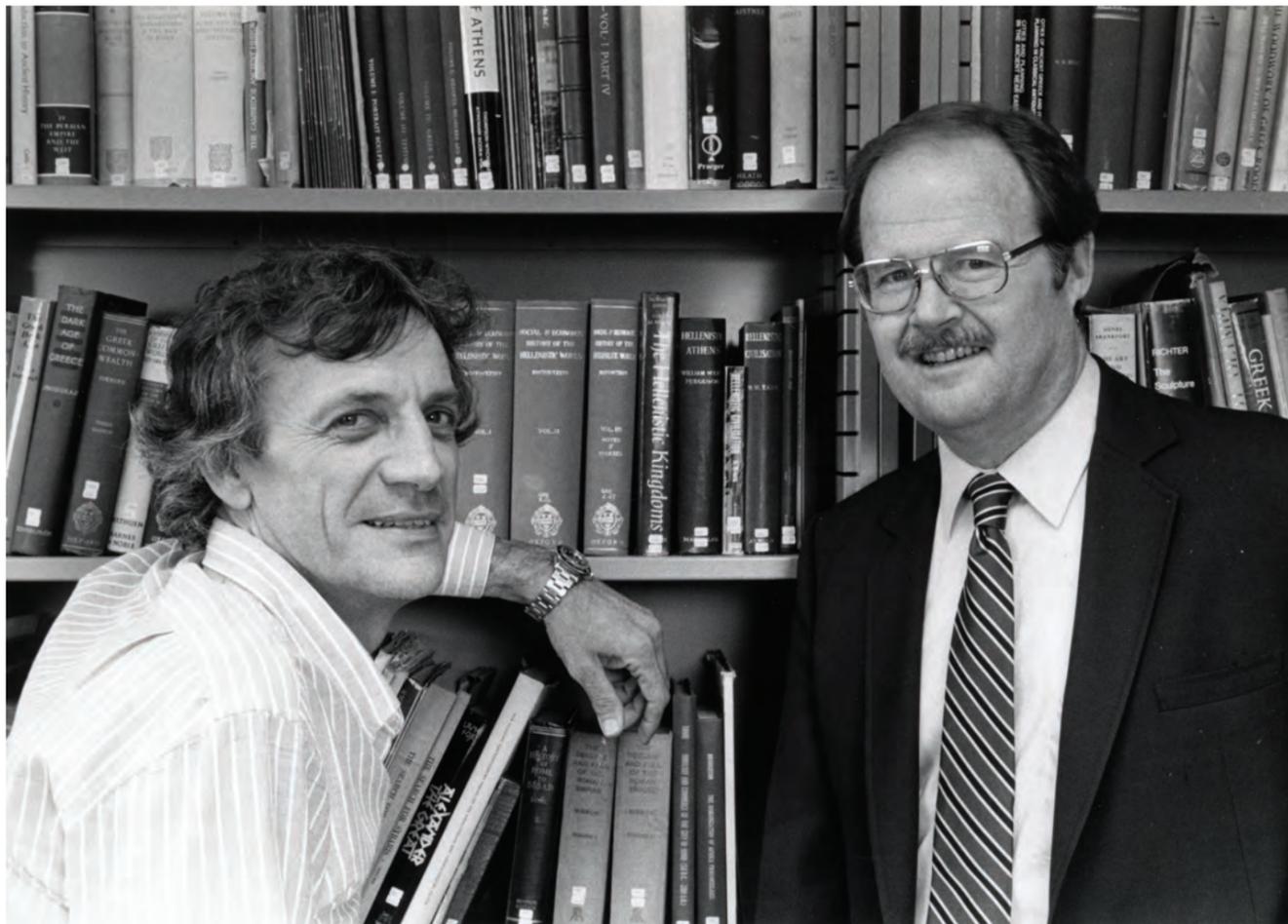
GORDON P. WATTS, JR., PH.D.
INA Affiliated Scholar
Tidewater Atlantic Research



PHOTOS: THIS PAGE (C) INA PHOTO BY CYNTHIA J. EISEMAN; OPPOSITE PAGE: (C) INA

1980s

The 1980s brought INA's excavation (1984-1994) of the extraordinary Late Bronze Age shipwreck at Uluburun, Turkey. The Uluburun wreck (ca. 1320 B.C.) provided proof that the complete and scientific excavation of a single shipwreck could define or redefine what is known about a given period of history. For Bass personally, the Uluburun shipwreck proved the thesis that he had laid out 30 years earlier regarding the central role of Syro-Canaanite merchants in Bronze Age trade. Excitement generated by the Uluburun shipwreck helped Bass secure private donations that were matched by Texas A&M University to establish ten endowments supporting NAP faculty and graduate students. In 1986 Bass received the Archaeological Institute of America's Gold Medal for Distinguished Archaeological Achievement and the National Geographic Society's Centennial Award in 1988. That same year, Bass spearheaded the purchase in Bodrum (ancient Halicarnassus), Turkey of a four-acre hilltop which is now home to INA's Bodrum Research Center, a complex of offices, conservation laboratories, dormitory, and research library.



PHOTOS: THIS PAGE (C) INA; OPPOSITE PAGE: (C) INA PHOTO BY DON FREY

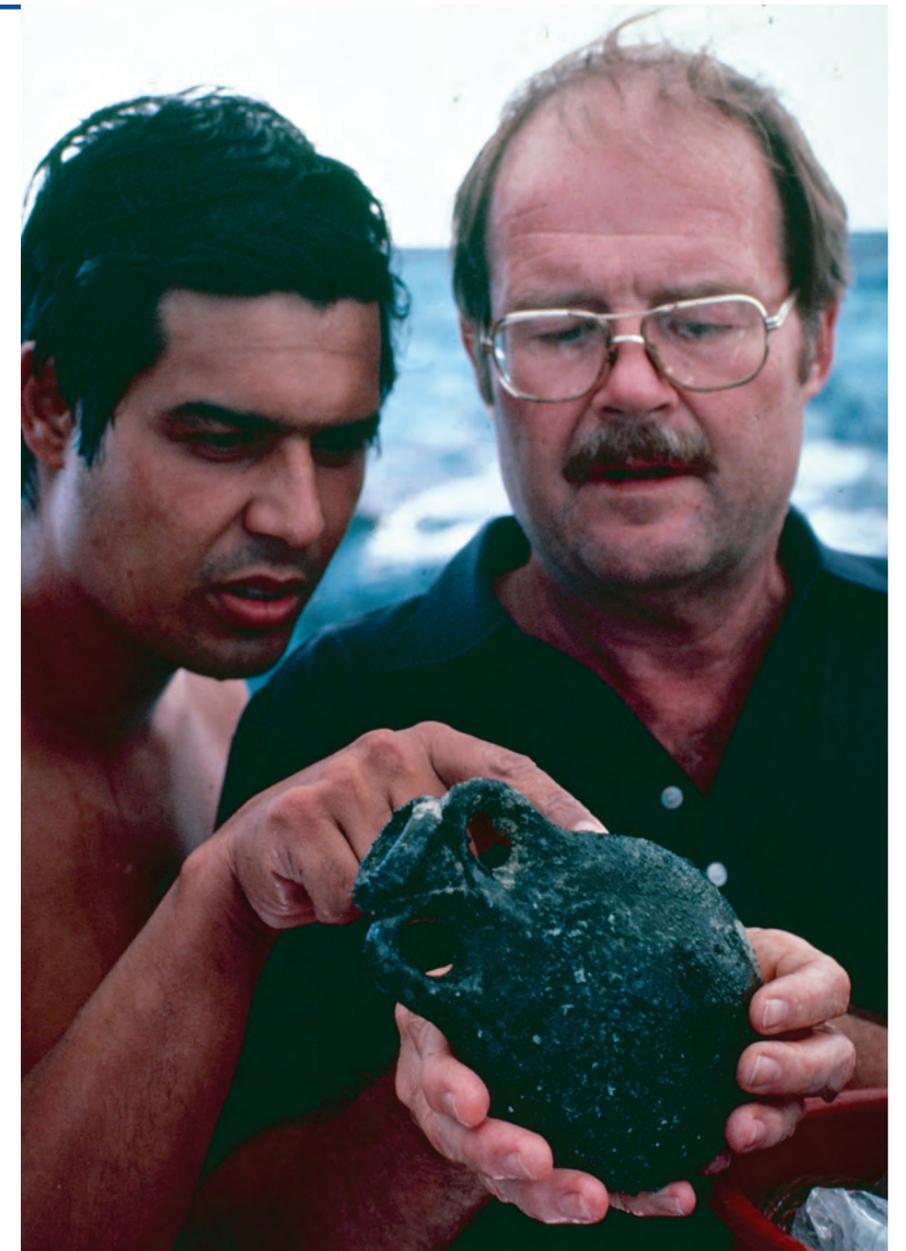
George was a force of nature. He certainly was a major influence on my life. I first heard of George in 1970, during my first year as an undergraduate in archaeology at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. One of my professors, knowing of my budding interest in underwater archaeology, brought to my attention George's ground-breaking 1967 final excavation report on the Cape Gelidonya shipwreck. This was a revelation to me. One could do good archaeology under water on a shipwreck? Who knew?

George had me at hello. He had created the discipline of nautical archaeology: the study of shipwrecks, their contents, and their contribution to human patrimony. It is impossible to conceive of history without watercraft and yet, to a large degree that was the situation before Cape Gelidonya. Prior to that watershed excavation, which marked the first time diving archaeologists worked on a shipwreck under water, any interest in them could be best defined as salvage or treasure hunting. The world owes a debt of gratitude to George for demonstrating the potential inherent in shipwrecks.

While it seems unimaginable today, George faced considerable headwinds during the early years...from other archaeologists. Some scorned George's efforts, describing him and his colleagues as "jock divers." George's view won out, of course: today watercraft are studied around the globe by nautical archaeologists.

One reason for this animosity was that George upended the prevalent theories of European maritime dominance in the eastern Mediterranean during the Late Bronze Age. In doing so, George based his conclusions on hard evidence from his careful study of the personal items found at Gelidonya and a reevaluation of numerous scenes of foreign tribute portrayed on wall paintings in the

This page: George and Cemal Pulak examine a pilgrim flask at Uluburun.
Opposite page: Don Frey and George.



tombs of nobles at Thebes in Egypt.

George came into my life again in 1984. For my Ph.D. I was determined to write a dissertation dealing with ships and seafaring in the eastern Mediterranean during biblical times. While my Chair was willing to entertain that topic, she conditioned it on my finding someone who could advise on the nautical aspects. This created a problem for me as there was no one then in Israel up to that role. I wrote to George: he agreed to serve as my

Co-Chair. He could have easily declined. But he didn't.

I intended to cover seafaring from earliest times to the end of the Iron Age in the dissertation. George (thankfully!) disabused me of that idea. "This is not your magnum opus," he said, "That can come later. Right now, just show us you can do research."

I shortened my dissertation to conclude at the end of the Bronze Age. I cannot count the times now that I have repeated



George's words of wisdom to my own graduate students.

In 1990 George called to tell me that he had secured an endowment from the Meadows Foundation, matched by Texas A&M University, for a *biblical nautical* archaeologist position for the Nautical Archaeology Program and suggested that I apply for it.

I did. It changed my life forever in ways great and small.

SHELLEY WACHSMANN, PH.D.
Chair, INA Archaeological Committee
Professor, Texas A&M University

I saw a *Time* article on George in 1984 and immediately plunged into the extraordinary world that he and his colleagues created. He helped me become a scholar, and I'm an instructor today only by his influence. He terrified me in class, but over the years of field and conference encounters I thankfully came to know him more as a person. In 2009, he graciously came to Ithaca for a prestigious lecture series. Lauren and I remember that week with George and Ann as one of the most convivial, rewarding moments of our careers. It was the honor of a lifetime to introduce him then to an appreciative crowd of students, faculty and residents who packed the auditorium night after night. They were hooked, just as I'd been decades earlier.

CHRIS MONROE, PH.D.
NAP Graduate (M.A., 1990)
Senior Lecturer, Cornell University

Inspiring, encouraging, and exacting... George Bass passionately shared his love for the archaeology of ships and seafaring with students, colleagues, and everyone he encountered, demanding the best scholarship and new answers to old questions. George always looked ahead to the next project, the next talk, and the next chance to sit and enjoy the best of company at table. He made

This page: Professor Bass at the Annex, 1983.

PHOTO: (C) INA PHOTO BY SHEILA MATTHEWS

things happen for archaeologists who wanted to work under water across the world, opening doors and offering encouragement and assistance of all kinds as the field grew. George relentlessly supported the expansion of scientifically based archaeology in the maritime environment, whether hundreds of feet deep in the Black Sea, construction of a conservation laboratory and training facility in Alexandria, or on the coast of the Red Sea in the projects most familiar to me.

Dedicated to sharing information and experience with host institutions, professionals and students on international projects, George always set an example of cooperation backed by

“I would hate to see wrecks excavated by those ignorant of the languages, histories, and cultures of the people who built and financed and sailed the ships.”

A Plea for Historical Particularism in Nautical Archaeology (1983)

his formidable scholarship and globally recognized achievements. His personal involvement at an early conference in Alexandria laid the groundwork for everything that followed in establishing an INA outpost there. The seeds planted by INA-supported work in Egypt contributed to a vibrant and growing body of work by Egyptian archaeologists in government service and university programs today.

Almost 40 years have passed since a new graduate student sitting in the nautical library in the old Annex at the former military base froze when Dr. Bass popped his head in the door, stopped short, wheeled around, and asked the administrator, "WHO is that?" I hadn't gone through the usual interview process for graduate students, which was personal and direct, and as many of us know, that first challenge inspired me to do better and keep a focus on asking questions with complicated answers that must--*must*--be published.

George's voice will still be a guide

and encouragement as my own writing and research towards publication continues...a great way to wipe out writer's block. From riding a camel with George at the pyramids to watching him crack up laughing with Robert Ballard aboard a research vessel in the Black Sea and having some of the heart-to-heart conversations for which he was famous, I learned constantly, tried to rise to challenges, and make the most of a chance to carry his vision forward, for which I am grateful. George Bass will be missed, but even more, he will be remembered by thousands of people he touched who want to bring his excitement and energy to their own work. We are lucky to have known

him, and I join the company to raise a glass in sincere respect as a tribute to an extraordinary human. Thank you, George.

CHERYL WARD, PH.D.
NAP Graduate (M.A., 1984; Ph.D., 1993)
INA Research Associate

For me, George and the Nautical Archaeology Program at Texas A&M that he created have always been the role model and paradigm of what a great scholar and a great graduate program should be. I really owe him my entire professional career, and whatever positive effect I've had on my own students is only a reflection and an echo of the positive effect he had on me, and on all the other student who came to study with him. George was an inspiration and a great mentor who became a friend, although I did not have the opportunity to see him and be in touch as often as I would have liked. I visited him and Ann at their home in College Station two years ago; it was great to reminisce and catch up. I was

looking forward to doing so again, the next time I traveled to Texas. I am really heartbroken to know I won't have that chance. I send my heartfelt condolences to Ann and the rest of George's family.

STEVE VINSON, PH.D.
NAP Graduate (M.A., 1987)
Professor, Indiana University

I met George in Fall 1987, in his office at the Annex where INA was headquartered. His face was splotchy and red, dotted with nickel-sized blisters from the topical cream his doctor applied to detect sun damage. Both the encounter and his appearance were intimidating. After all, this was George Bass, the legendary archaeologist whom my former

professor, Peter Throckmorton, praised endlessly. Peter encouraged me to study underwater archaeology and sent me to Texas with the mandate, "Tell George you want to join his excavation of the Bronze Age shipwreck." This I did, most enthusiastically. When I finished, George sat staring. Some of you know that stare, the one that simultaneously disarms and unnerves you. Then, after a long and discomforting silence, he leaned across his desk. "You know, Jerome, most first-year students wouldn't presume to ask me directly to join the team. They'd suggest it to Cemal or demonstrate through their coursework that they'd make a good team member."

Classes hadn't yet begun and already my career in underwater archaeology was over. Or so I thought.

But, of course, it wasn't. It was just beginning. "Hello, I'm George Bass. Welcome to the Program. Look around you. Chances are the person next to you won't be at graduation. The cream rises to the top. Any questions?" Mine wasn't the



only class to hear that short but assertive greeting, the one that inclined us to sit quietly in stunned silence, pondering whether this new undertaking was really worth it. However terse his salutation, it was the perfect introduction. Though wracked with momentary uncertainty, we had unknowingly glimpsed into how George thought and wrote. We would soon learn that is how he wanted us to think and write: precisely, factually, declaratively.

What glorious learning-filled years those were: “A word without the proper diacritical mark is simply misspelled,” he would instruct. And, more personally, “Jerome, surround yourself with people who know more about what you’re doing than you do,” and “If you’re not willing to do this with nothing more than a rowboat and a teaspoon, you’re not ready.”

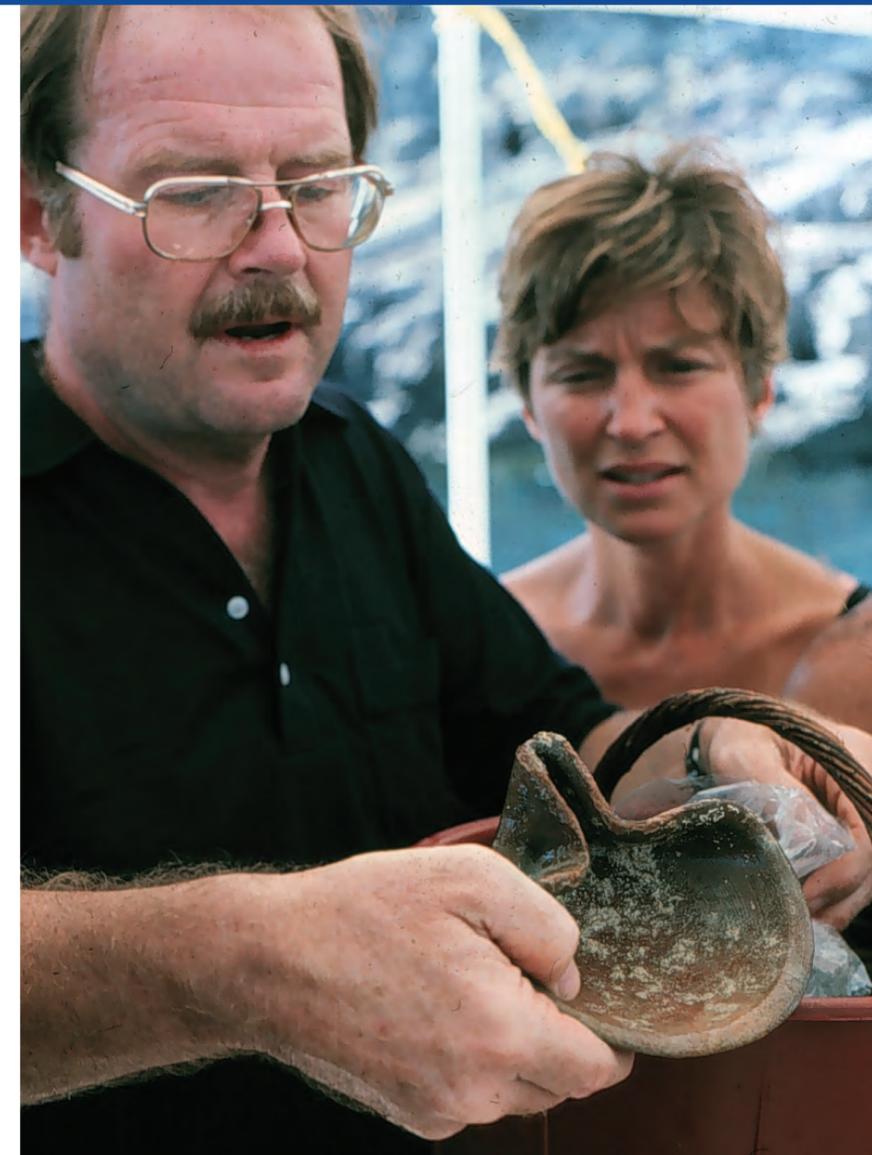
I have only fond memories of George. That isn’t to say we never disagreed. We did. Often. But he listened thoughtfully, reasoned carefully, and decided resolutely and always respectfully. Sometimes, INA Directors would ask what it was like to work with George and whether we got along. “Challenging and wonderful,” was my reply to the first question; and “Yes. Always,” to the second.

Alas, you deserve to know how the story of our initial meeting (and the awkward “stare”) ended. It went like this: “You know, Jerome, most first-year students wouldn’t presume to ask me directly... but you’ve shown initiative, and I like initiative. Let’s see how it works out.”

Farewell, my teacher and friend. Thank you. To live in the hearts and minds of those we leave behind is not to die. Görüşmek üzere, George Bey.

JEROME HALL, PH.D.
 NAP Graduate (Ph.D., 1996)
 INA President (2000-2002) and INA
 Affiliated Scholar, Associate Professor
 University of San Diego

This page: George and Faith Hentschel examining an oil lamp from the Uluburun wreck. **Opposite page:** George using an airlift at Uluburun.



I remember well his fondness for opera, as he would invite us over each month for Tosca, Otello, The Magic Flute, Carmen, all on the laser disk and sound system that only Cemal knew how to install. But the last aria has been sung, and the opera house is now dark and quiet. A most gracious host at home. A forbidding presence to those who were unprepared in his seminars, and even to those who were prepared. His was a rare combination of vision and relentless drive to succeed that only his passing could still.

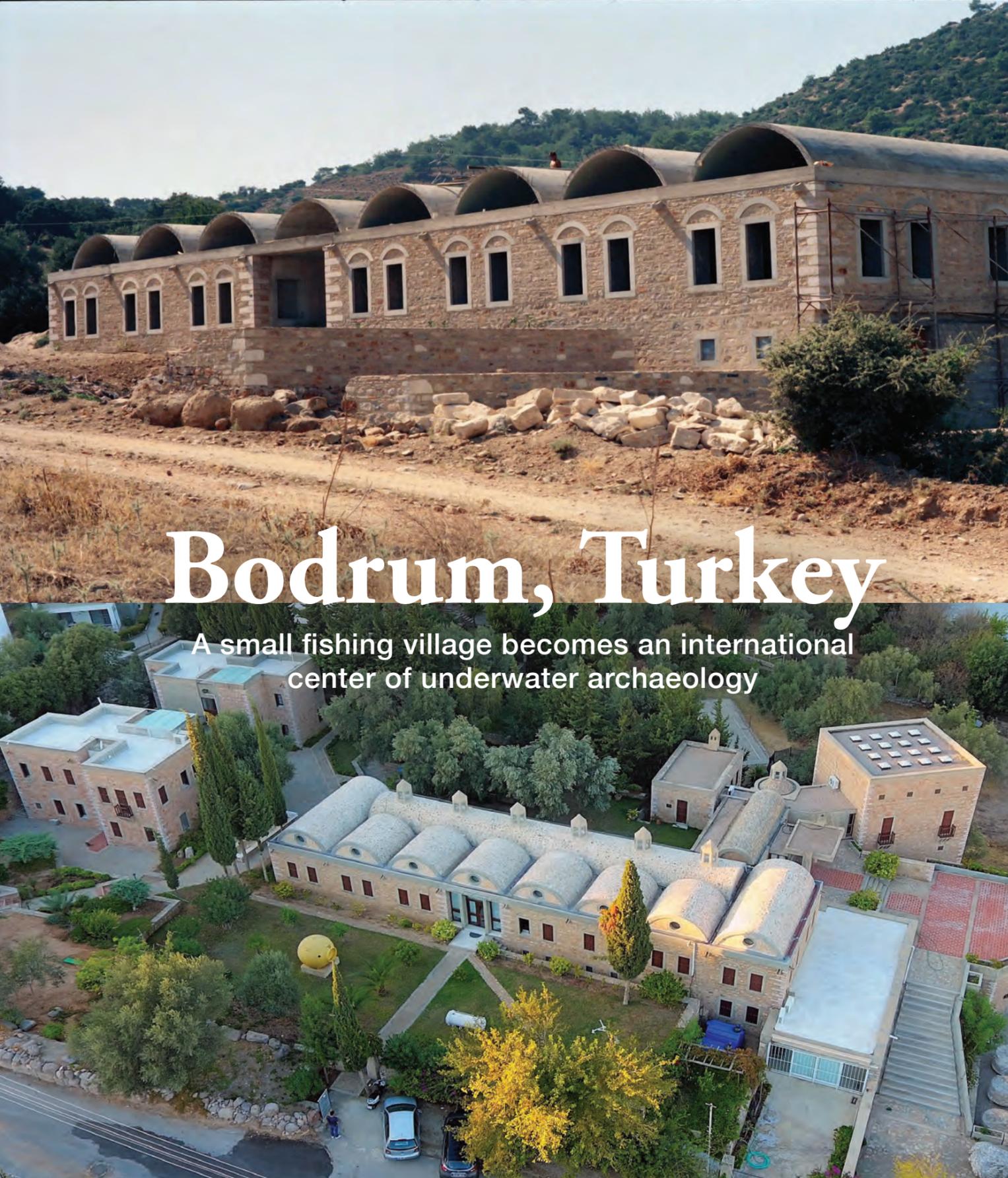
My memories are of him laughing as I teased Robin Piercy in the pilot house of the *Virazon* with jokes about how awful English cars were. And another morning at Uluburun where he took pains to warn us not to grow complacent when diving on such a beautiful day. He had seen such days turn dark before and did not want anything to happen to us. I am a better scholar and person for having known him.

BRENDAN MCDERMOTT, M.A.
 NAP Graduate (M.A., 1998)
 Thesis/Dissertation Coordinator,
 Boston University

PHOTOS: THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE PAGE: (C) INA PHOTOS BY DON FREY

Bodrum, Turkey

A small fishing village becomes an international center of underwater archaeology



PHOTOS: OPPOSITE PAGE: TOP PHOTO BY ROBIN PIERCY; BOTTOM PHOTO (C) MEHMET BEZDAN; THIS PAGE: (C) INA

BUILDING THE BRC

"Today, as you walk inland through the town of Bodrum, leaving the Castle behind, passing the waterfront restaurants, you go along a narrow road, up an embankment and cross a busy highway. On the other side you turn up another narrow road and a broad, modern, stone building appears. Through the glassed-in foyer you see a figure standing perfectly still in the suit of a deep-sea diver like something out of the movies. This building is the Bodrum Research Center of INA – the house that George built."

MARK LAWALL

Chair of Managing Committee, American School of Classical Studies at Athens

BUILDING THE MUSEUM

Many years have passed since July 1962, when you allowed me to join the Yassiada shipwreck excavation near Bodrum. Being with you as a young archaeology student at 22 taught me a lot. I remember well how you used to wake up at 6 am every morning and then wake us up by blowing through a pipe like a trumpet, smiling all the time. You meticulously prepared the daily dive plan and you never favored yourself in the scheduling. You used to say, "last diver, best diver" as an encouragement to the diver who came out of the water as the sun was setting.

You had hundreds or thousands of safe dives because you always followed the rules of diving. You were also friends with the fish who ate worms that came out of the sand during the excavation and swam with us as we approached the surface. Once when a new excavation team member didn't know the rules, he shot a grouper. You and he had an

unpleasant conversation about the fish and you told him, "scuba diving and shooting fish with a spear gun is like hunting lions in a zoo."

In decades of working together I've seen you yell in anger only once. It was when a sailor tried to kill a seal with his rifle. Although he tried to defend himself by saying, "The seal is tearing up our fishing nets and eating our fish," you saved a life and it made an impression on me. When I became Director of the Museum of Underwater Archaeology in the Bodrum Castle, I opened the castle gardens to birds and built nests for them. I turned the castle into a bird's paradise. You were the reason.

The world's largest underwater archaeology museum in Bodrum came into being because of you. I saw you one day when I was telling some guests about the jars in the amphora exhibit. We greeted each other and I introduced you to them as "the father of underwater archaeology." You said, "I'm its grandfather now." Everyone applauded.

In the foreword to my book

Underwater Archaeology in Turkey, published in 1975, I referred to you as "the one who raised me." Not only did you raise me, but you gave me joy. Knowing you and working with you have given me strength. Thanks to you, I succeeded.

DR. T. OĞUZ ALPÖZEN

Director (Retired), Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archaeology

THE BASS HOUSE

In 1990, George and Ann Bass built a house directly adjacent to INA's nascent Bodrum Research Center (BRC). As the architect of their Turkish home the Bases chose Ahmet "Şans" İğidirligil, who had been a student member of the Serçe Limanı Glass Wreck excavation (1977-1979). After Serçe Limanı, Şans earned a Ph.D. from Vienna Technical University and returned to his native Bodrum, where he is today a well-known, respected, and active architect, having designed and built numerous stone houses in Bodrum and neighboring Yalıkavak.



This page: George, and Oğuz Alpözen at the opening of the Uluburun exhibit. Opposite page: INA's Bodrum Research Center under construction (top) and today (bottom).



For 20 years, the house in Bodrum was a summer retreat for the Bass family, and an occasional winter hide-away for George while on sabbatical. After 2010, trips to Turkey became more difficult and the Bases spent less and less time in Bodrum. In 2013, the Bases decided to sell their home to INA, and the Bass House became a permanent and welcome addition to INA's BRC.

Today the Bass House serves as the primary residence of BRC Director Tuba Ekmekçi and her husband John Littlefield, INA's Diving Safety Officer. Tuba and John are attentive and appreciative caretakers, having added various trees and plants over the years and created a memorial garden for Joe, the Bases' family cat. In their words, "It has been a great honor to occupy the Bass House over the last few years, and a great convenience to live so close to the BRC."

My first meeting with George Bey was in 1988 in the Izmir Turkish-American Association building where he was giving a lecture. This was the beginning of my begging George Bey and Cemal Pulak to join the INA team. Throughout the entire lecture, I was practicing how to

greet him and how to convince him to take me to the Uluburun excavation. I don't even remember what was his lecture was about, as I was excited, nervous, and anxious. At the end of the lecture, as he was in the hall talking to people, I went to him with a good friend of mine who spoke English very well (in case I needed help due to my anxiety). George was nice and friendly, which made me feel incredibly comfortable about asking/begging him to join the Uluburun excavation. He told me, very politely, that

they were not accepting undergraduate students for the excavation. After my persistent badgering, however, I guess he didn't want to entirely reject me, so he gave me Cemal's information and told me to contact him as the excavation director. George asked some questions about who I was and what I was doing. He took the time to get to know a student who was very persistent (and probably annoying)! In that moment, I knew I had to work with him and his team, which today is the INA family for me. He opened a door for



me by not rejecting my first approach and trusted me enough to direct his dream center, the BRC, for the last 13 years. I will miss him greatly! Thank you very, very much, George Bey!

TÜBA EKMEKÇI LITTLEFIELD, M.A.
Director, Bodrum Research Center

GEORGE AND CLAUDE

For more than 20 years I have been part of INA and TINA (the Turkish Foundation for Underwater Archaeology) which actually was founded for complementing INA's activities in Turkey while also supporting underwater archaeological activities in general. Having spent many years in the industrial sector and allocating significant time and energy to philanthropy, underwater archaeology has become one of my major passions.

George Bass met Claude Duthuit when they were both in their late 20s back in 1960, diving in the Bosphorus, İstanbul. Both were more or less the same age and exhibited great admiration and respect to one other. George being the pioneering archaeologist who played a critical role in the creation and evolution of underwater archaeology and Claude having been chosen for the Legion of Honor, which was founded by Napoleon, to recognize his meritorious service. Claude's father (also a George) was an art historian and curator at the Louvre Museum.

I had great times with George and Claude at my home which was always a great privilege. When Claude ran into some problems in Turkey and was not permitted to participate in INA diving activities, I helped resolve the situation at the Ministry of Culture in my capacity as Honorary Adviser to the Ministry.

When I visited Claude in Paris, he welcomed us with the gift of a bottle of champagne and a copy of his (1969)

book *Turquie*, accompanied by a note *Hosgeldin* – 'Welcome' in Turkish. When we visited his home we were met with jokes, laughter, and anything but archaeology was the subject of discussion.

In 2010, TINA helped George and Claude return to Cape Gelidonya, 50 years after the original expedition. In his letter to me George wrote, "As part of the re-excavation at Cape Gelidonya last summer, it was lucky that Claude and I dived to the site again together after 50 years, for neither of us could do that now! Without the support of TINA, the re-

excavation would not have been possible."

George was the father of underwater archaeology and Claude was a loyal INA director and enthusiastic supporter; together they made a great team that helped bring INA to where it is now. I have always felt honored and privileged to know that, as a member of the INA family, I share a common cause with George and Claude, who will forever be deeply appreciated by all of us who comprise the Institute of Nautical Archaeology.

OĞUZ AYDEMİR
INA Director, Chairman of TINA



PHOTOS: THIS PAGE: (C) INA; OPPOSITE PAGE: COURTESY OF ATILGA CANGIR

This page: George and Claude Duthuit aboard *Virazon*. **Opposite page:** The Bass House in Bodrum, Turkey.

THE LIFE OF
INA FOUNDER
GEORGE F. BASS

1990s

During the 1990s, INA continued to grow and forge partnerships with organizations including the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. In Turkey, construction of INA's Bodrum Research Center (BRC) was finalized and the BRC was dedicated just as the Uluburun Late Bronze Age shipwreck excavation drew to a close. Following Uluburun, Bass continued to direct or co-direct INA shipwreck excavations in Turkey, including the Byzantine wreck at Bozburun (1995–1998) and the Classical Greek wreck at Tektaş Burnu (1999–2001). In each case he handed over the responsibilities of day-to-day decision making and publication to his former students. In Israel, an INA collaboration with Haifa University led to excavations in Tantura Lagoon (1994–1996) and in Egypt, INA archaeologists conducted shipwreck surveys in the Red Sea and the Mediterranean, leading ultimately to the establishment of a conservation laboratory in Alexandria. In 1999, Bass was presented with the J.C. Harrington Medal in Historical Archaeology, the most prestigious award granted by The Society for Historical Archaeology.



PHOTOS: THIS PAGE (C) INA; OPPOSITE PAGE: (C) COURTNEY PLATT

George was the reason I wanted to go into nautical archaeology. He taught me how to be a scholar and helped my career many times. He was always willing to write a letter of recommendation or put in a good word for me, and I wouldn't be in the field today without his encouragement and support.

He embodied the best of scholarship: endless curiosity, detail-oriented research, the tenacity to study a problem for as long as it took to find a solution, and the willingness to change his mind if a better interpretation arose. You have only to look at his former students to see how well he passed that idea along.

In the classroom, he could fill students with terror. He did not suffer fools well. I remember George staring bored at the classroom ceiling while some poor grad student droned on and on through a tedious presentation. He would let them go for a while, then cut in with an incisive question that usually left them ready to get on Highway 6 and head out of town, never to return.

He knew the right way to motivate students. One time I wore a "Beavis & Butthead" t-shirt to class. Afterwards he remarked casually to me, "You know, Mr. Stewart, when I was a graduate student we wore a suit and tie every day." I got the message, and while not affluent enough to afford suits, I didn't show up in that t-shirt again.

My fondest memory of George is a simple one of chatting with him while walking to his Classical Archaeology class. By the time I arrived in College Station, Bass was already a senior scholar, yet he would always ask me for my opinion in areas where I had read more recent scholarship than he had. That lesson had a profound impact on me, and I try to follow his example.

DAVID STEWART, PH.D.
NAP Graduate (M.A., 1997; Ph.D., 2004)
INA Affiliated Scholar
Associate Professor, East Carolina University

I have reels of memories of George from the classroom, opera nights, and



excavations. There is one, however, that keeps coming back to me. It was in Albania in August 1994 in a rundown hotel in Tirana. George, Claude Duthuit, fellow graduate student Elizabeth Greene, and I had been in Albania for a week to investigate the possibilities of a coastal survey. After a meal at the best Italian restaurant in Tirana, we four retired to George's room for a night cap and to recap the week before departing the next day. As we passed around a bottle of whisky, we talked excitedly of the future. But soon George and Claude were also talking of the past, of Turkey in the early 1960s and getting emotional as both were wont to do. As the night wore on,

they reviewed their history together, from Cape Gelidonya to Uluburun, all but forgetting Liz and I were there, the two of them caught up in their decades of shared experiences, the good, the bad, and the ugly. To be audience to that retelling of their friendship's ups and downs, to the expression of respect and adoration both clearly had for the other, and to hear how many times all their plans could so easily have gone off the rails, was a privileged

This page: George and Sheila Matthews review the Tektaş Burnu site plan while Tufan Turanlı and Berta Lledó observe.
Opposite page: George at the Bozburun Byzantine shipwreck excavation.



“I hope to inspire some of these students to begin the often dull but essential task of beginning major catalogues of materials, on which some may spend large parts of their lives, so that in future years archaeologists will be able to identify ceramic containers or cannons within a matter of days instead of years or never.”

A Plea for Historical Particularism in Nautical Archaeology (1983)

and astounding moment. I came away from that night admiring George even more than I had before, not just for his accomplishments, but having seen in the space of a couple of hours the full operatic range of his humanity. In the quarter century and many conversations with George since, that feeling stayed with me. George’s ability to be so open was a gift, one that made him not just an exceptional raconteur and entrepreneur, but also an exceptional human being.

PETER VAN ALFEN, PH.D.
NAP Graduate (M.A., 1995)
INA Affiliated Scholar
Chief Curator, American Numismatic Society

Like many of us, I owe the fact that I have enjoyed an involvement in nautical archaeology for most of my life primarily to George Bass. I was a graduate student at Princeton, working on a Ph.D. in Classics in the early ‘90s, and was in the habit of attending the guest lectures in Classics or Classical Archaeology that were a regular feature of life there. Professor Bass, as I thought of him then, long before he became George or George Bey to me, gave a presentation about the Uluburun shipwreck in one of the larger auditoriums, and I was mesmerized. I had only recently begun to participate

in archaeological excavations of land sites and to understand the value of the information available in the material record to complement the study of the ancient texts in gaining insight into the ancient world. Professor Bass showed me the additional value of shipwrecks, how they were individual time capsules, the ships and all of their associated artifacts

This page, from left: Deborah Carlson and George examine a marble eye at Tektaş Burnu; Bill Charlton, Claude Duthuit, and George at Uluburun. Opposite page, from left: George, TAMU President Ray Bowen, and Bob Walker at graduation; George with the Uluburun site plan.

having been created before the fixed point in time at which each ship sank. I was super excited about the huge academic value I could see in nautical archaeology, but also a little chagrined that I had chosen Classics for my Ph.D., and I felt that I was too far along that path not to finish it. So, after the lecture, thinking I had nothing to lose, I stood in the line of students and faculty wanting to meet Professor Bass and thank him for his presentation. And when it was my turn, I told him how interested I was in getting some formal training in what he had pioneered, and asked him if it might be possible for me to apply to the Nautical Archaeology Program after finishing my Classics Ph.D. He was completely gracious and encouraged me to apply. I felt immediately his sincerity; it was clear he wasn’t just humoring some overeager graduate student to get rid of me but was genuinely interested in what I had already done and what more I wanted to do academically. I resolved that night to apply, joined the NAP in 1997, and have been involved in nautical archaeology and INA ever since. Although I never chose to pursue an academic career, which I’m sure George with his exacting standards

would have preferred, it has been a great joy to participate in so many nautical archaeological projects over the years in parallel to my “day job,” and I owe that joy in large part to George Bey.

KEN TRETHERWEY, PH.D.
NAP Graduate Student (1997-2000)
INA Associate Director (2011 – present)

I will forever be grateful to George Bass for inviting me to participate in the excavations at Tektaş Burnu. The experience was, quite frankly, one of the best of my professional career: working in a spirit of camaraderie with INA legends, building camp, diving to the limits of my abilities, processing finds, and living on a Turkish coastal cliff with a front row seat where I could watch a master do his work and train the colleagues and students who would continue his legacy. Not everyone gets such a chance. I did. And I owe the experience to George. Thank you from the depths of my soul, George Bey. Rest in peace, my friend.

WILLIAM MURRAY, PH.D.
Professor, University of South Florida

I cannot count the ways in which George Bey changed my life. Our relationship

began in 1997 when I wrote a paper about the ancient Greek helmsman for his graduate seminar in Classical Seafaring. He liked the paper and invited me to assist him with the excavation of the Classical Greek shipwreck at Tektaş Burnu, Turkey. That excavation was the first of many opportunities that came my way because of his confidence in me, which sometimes exceeded my confidence in myself.

He taught me about scholarship, collegiality, philanthropy, motivation, and teamwork. Most of all George Bey believed that archaeology and research should be fun. He knew that people are capable of amazing accomplishments when they are passionate and he never missed an opportunity to nurture passion among his students, his supporters, his colleagues, and especially the schoolchildren who wrote to ask him about archaeology. I know I am not alone in saying this, but George Bey was like a father to me and I am deeply grateful to have earned his trust.

DEBORAH CARLSON, PH.D.
NAP Graduate Student (1996 – 1999)
INA President (2011 – present)
Associate Professor, Texas A&M University

PHOTOS: THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE PAGE: (C) INA



After two decades as a Distinguished Professor at Texas A&M University, George Bass retired from teaching in 2000. The following year, he was named a recipient of the National Medal of Science for lifetime achievement in scientific research, the highest award bestowed in the United States. It was at this time that the two-person submersible Carolyn and catamaran Millawanda joined the INA fleet in Turkey. Even in retirement, Bass directed INA excavations at Tektaş Burnu (1999-2001) and Pabuş Burnu (2002-2003), and led several shipwreck surveys using Carolyn. In 2003, Bass was invited to join NOAA's Ocean Exploration team on a dive to the Titanic to assess its condition. As a Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Bass maintained his connection to Nautical Archaeology Program students by continuing the tradition of hosting, with wife Ann, monthly opera nights in their home. Bass delivered hundreds of public lectures about the past, present, and future of nautical archaeology, and in 2010, because of the generous support of INA donors, the Archaeological Institute of America established the George F. Bass Lectureship.



PHOTOS: THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE PAGE: (C) INA PHOTOS BY DON FREY

He was truly a giant of the field! I am deeply saddened by his passing, of course, but do celebrate his legacy – the field of nautical archaeology and the Institute of Nautical Archaeology. I had the privilege to be in the last two classes he taught at Texas A&M University and to dive with him at Tektaş Burnu. I shall always treasure this and be grateful for the opportunities I had been given. My deepest condolences to Mrs. Bass! At the end of that spring semester of '99, at his house in Bodrum, Dr. Bass was returning papers and commenting on them. Finally, only my paper was left to be handed back. He smiled and said, "It is rare for me

to be taught something I did not know by a student." At this, my nose started pointing vertically to the sky until Dr. Bass continued with a twinkle in his eye, "I have, of course, heard of the Punic Wars. But thanks to Mr. Batchvarov, now I have also heard of the PANic Wars..." That particular, unknown to history war had been caused by 72 sleepless hours, AutoCorrect and Kroum in joint action. I am thankful that I knew him and had the opportunity to take classes and go in the field with Dr. Bass. May he rest in Peace!

KROUM BATCHVAROV, PH.D.
NAP Graduate (M.A., 2002; Ph.D., 2009)
INA Affiliated Scholar
Associate Professor, University of Connecticut

This page: George underwater in *Carolyn*.
Opposite page *Carolyn* being transported
aboard the catamaran *Millawanda*.

George's unparalleled accomplishments
and accolades in the field of Nautical

Archaeology are well known and publicized. What I'll remember most about George is that, despite his legendary status, he was never aloof or dismissive; he treated everyone with respect and was generous with his time and attention. He answered all the many inquiries he regularly received, most probably from strangers, taking the time to respond promptly, thoughtfully, and sincerely. When he engaged with you in person, he was always completely present to you and made you feel important to him. George respected his students and colleagues by demanding their best and pushing them to achieve it. George didn't tolerate pretentiousness, especially from his fellow academics. His genius was being able to express the results of his meticulous research and even the most complex of

issues in clear and simple terms, while never talking down to people, whether they be a public audience at one of his lectures or academic readers of his scholarship.

But I cannot think of George without immediately thinking of Ann. George was a force of nature, a giant in the field, but would have been but a shadow of himself if not for Ann, his amazing wife and life partner. Ann was with George from the very beginning—at Gelidonya—until the very end, supporting him, assisting in his work, advising him, mollifying him, raising their family... George was at his very best with Ann at his side.

Thank you, George, for all you did for me: for encouraging me to apply to the Nautical Archaeology Program and for opening so many doors; for inviting me to participate at Tektaş Burnu; for asking me to excavate the Pabuç Burnu shipwreck with you; for supporting my

work in Spain. But, most of all, thank you and Ann for being such wonderful friends to my family and me. Time spent with you both—chatting in your living room in College Station, enjoying one of the great performances at Opera Night, sharing a rakı atop *Virazon*, discussing plans at the Institute in Bodrum, relaxing in camp after a hard day's work—was always a delight. I will miss you dearly and remember you fondly always. Rest in peace.

Ann, my heartfelt condolences to you, Alan, and Gordon. Hopefully, this outpouring of memories and celebrations of George's life and the impact he had on so many will ease the pain of your loss in some small way.

MARK POLZER, M.A.
 NAP Graduate (M.A., 2009)
 INA Research Associate
 Research Associate, Flinders University



"For pioneering ocean technology and creating a new branch of scholarship, nautical archaeology, thereby providing new knowledge of the histories of economics, technology, and literacy."

President's National Medal of Science, Biological Science, 2001.

Presented by President George W. Bush, White House East Room Ceremony, 12 June 2002

George was a force of nature who moved all of us fortunate enough to remember him. Famed as the father of underwater archaeology, considered by many to be a discipline of technology, scuba diving and submarines, he was a humanist at heart who loved opera, poetry, pulp fiction, and the *New York Times* crossword. Driven to discover and to excavate the many shipwrecks that are now fundamental to the field and providing opportunities and inspiration to so many of us in the process, George used these sites to create powerful narratives of the people who sailed boats across the seas. His lecture about the Uluburun shipwreck famously began, "Long before there were farmers,

before there were shepherds on earth, there were sailors..."

These sailors live on in the exhibits of the Bodrum Museum, and his books, papers, and popular writing, revealing tales of those who traversed the seas. And they are ever-present in the many scholars like us who have been guided and taught by his sense of urgency, his advocacy for excavation and heritage protection as a path to knowledge, and his use of archaeology as a bridge to bring people together—students, scholars, donors, and the public—in a shared passion for exploration. From Yassiada and Pabuç Burnu, to Cyprus, Albania, Egypt, and Italy, we have traveled with George and in his wake.

Shelley's *Ode to the West Wind* evokes George's nature, his awakening of the ships with coral-cruled cargoes that glimmer beneath the sea, and his love for the wind that inspired his novel *Meltem*, a statement of his prowess as both archaeologist and storyteller:

Thou who didst waken from his summer dreams
 The blue Mediterranean, where he lay,
 Lull'd by the coil of his crystalline streams,

Beside a pumice isle in Baiae's bay,
 And saw in sleep old palaces and towers
 Quivering within the wave's intenser day,

All overgrown with azure moss and flowers
 So sweet, the sense faints picturing them!

As we bid farewell to George, we know that his spirit, with the consistency of the Etesian breezes and the ferocity of a winter storm, will continue to drive us on.

ELIZABETH GREENE, PH.D.
 NAP Graduate Student (1992 - 1995)
 INA Affiliated Scholar
 Associate Professor, Brock University

JUSTIN LEIDWANGER, PH.D.
 NAP Graduate (M.A., 2005)
 INA Affiliated Scholar
 Associate Professor, Stanford University

It is heartbreaking to learn of Dr. Bass' passing. I would like to extend my condolences to his wife Ann, his family, friends, and the professional community. He was larger than life and a force in our field that propelled everyone who worked with him to different heights. I remember how he used to say, "There is always a place at the top," and that vision, coupled with his knowledge of the field, persuasiveness, and sense of urgency seems to be what all Titans have in common.

It is amazing to read all the tributes and

This page: George at Tektaş Burnu. **Opposite page, from top to bottom:** George before diving to *Titanic* in 2003; George with President George W. Bush, who presented him with the National Medal of Science.

the stories of how he affected people's careers and lives over 60+ years. My experience is not much different. Dr. Bass was long retired when I studied in the Nautical Archaeology Program at Texas A&M University, but I was fortunate enough to dive with him at the Tektaş Burnu shipwreck excavation in 2001: he was my dive buddy for a few dives, and we excavated a grid together. It was my first experience in which I actually "excavated" under water (plenty of surveying before). He seemed so old back then (he was only 68), and he seems so young looking at photos from that season now.

As an emeritus, he also taught the class "Old World, New World and Real World" with Filipe Castro in 2004. He told us some of the unwritten narratives of the beginnings of nautical archaeology and its fortuitous beginnings (real world). I think

most of us were glued to his lectures in that class—I sure was.

Then, the opera nights that he and Ann organized on Fridays - how amazing to think that they instilled in generations of underwater archaeologists a love for opera and provided a very welcome cultural and social event in a college town like College Station.

Dr. Bass built an academic discipline and a vibrant community, which he continued to foster in retirement. It did not matter whether you were a professional or an aspiring student, he played a role in our experiences, and he was a great inspiration and mentor for so many of us. Me included. Rest in peace, Dr. Bass.

WENDY VAN DUIVENVOORDE, PH.D.
 NAP Graduate (Ph.D., 2009)
 INA Affiliated Scholar
 Associate Professor, Flinders University



PHOTOS: THIS PAGE: (C) COURTNEY PLATT; OPPOSITE PAGE: COURTESY OF THE WHITE HOUSE AND DAVID CONCANNON

2010s

2010 marked the 50th anniversary of the seminal Cape Gelidonya expedition that set in motion many of the events described on the preceding pages. Appropriately, a Return to Cape Gelidonya expedition took place that reunited key members of the original team including George and Ann Bass, Claude Duthuit, and Waldemar "Vlady" Illing. In the years that followed, mobility issues forced Bass to curtail his international travel, but he remained involved with INA and a regular attendee of INA's annual board meetings. It was not uncommon for colleagues in the Nautical Archaeology Program to help Bass celebrate his birthday each December. In 2011, Bass earned the AIA's Bandelier Award for Public Service to Archaeology, and in 2012 he was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 2018, Bass was named one of TIME Magazine's Great Scientists: The Geniuses and Visionaries Who Transformed Our World; this was the same year that INA established the George and Ann Bass Endowment for Nautical Archaeology Publications.



PHOTOS: THIS PAGE: SUSANNAH SNOWDEN; OPPOSITE PAGE: HARUN ÖZDAŞ



To me, first he was a Big Name. I was an undergraduate majoring in Bronze Age archaeology the year the Uluburun shipwreck was discovered. I learned that underwater archaeology was a thing, and that he was The Person. I went to College Station to study with The Name in hopes of getting to work on the wreck.

There I found him a Hard Master. He didn't suffer fools lightly. He put me in my place. But he permitted me to work on the wreck, and that was what mattered.

During those early Uluburun summers, he morphed into a Human Being, flawed like all of us. And yet he remained Big as I watched him will and work his dreams into realities, and I rode the exhilarating wake in which he swept so many of us.

Over time I came to embrace the hard lessons he had taught. The one about form being equally as important as substance, the vital need to communicate our work to a wide audience. The necessity of publication and how generosity in sharing material, even/especially with graduate students, furthers that end. I add

This page, from left: George celebrating his 86th birthday; The three original Cape Gelidonya divers reunite under water. **Opposite page:** Waldemar "Vlady" Illing, George, and Claude Duthuit at the 50th anniversary return to Cape Gelidonya.

Generous to my thinking of him.

In May 2010, I first realized the enormity of his accomplishment at The Beginning, half a century earlier. I sat with him in a small, motored boat, tossed by waves, scouting the cliffs of the cape that ended at Gelidonya, looking for a place to set up camp for the anniversary season of exploration. The cliffs were really very tall, I felt very small, and we found no welcoming cracks better than the sliver of his honeymoon beach. The audacity of the original undertaking struck me like a thunderbolt and George became a Giant.

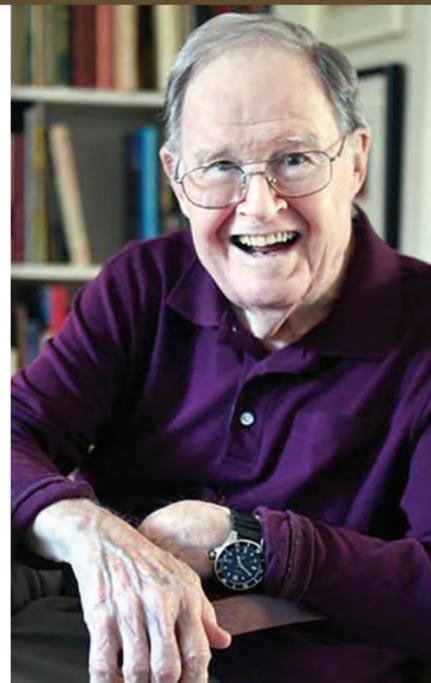
I can honestly say that he has remained a Giant in my eyes ever since. A gentler, kinder Giant as time went on, though never losing his keen intelligence and ability to put his finger directly on the essential question that needed to be asked.

It has been my great pleasure and privilege to have jumped into the orbit of the Big Name, to have learned from the Hard Master, to have worked with the Human Being, to be part of re-examining The Beginning, and to have been re-inspired and spent time in the company of the Giant. He changed my life, and still does.

NICOLLE HIRSCHFELD, PH.D.
NAP Graduate (M.A., 1990)
INA Affiliated Scholar
Professor, Trinity University

In 2010, Nicolle Hirschfeld and I were co-directing the Cape Gelidonya excavation project that was carried out as part of the "50th Anniversary of Underwater Archaeology in Turkey." This was a special project because three generations of archaeologists in this field were together with the first-generation founder of underwater archaeology, George. During this excavation there were many problems of both a bureaucratic and technical nature: the weather was disruptive, the current was extremely strong, and our excavation was interrupted constantly. The days were stressful, and our minds were preoccupied with all of the difficulties.

One evening after drinking two rakı, George told us the story about how he started the Cape Gelidonya Project. He told us how he came from to Turkey by ship, and how he stayed at a cheap hotel in Istanbul for one dollar. After several nerve-wracking days in Istanbul, they were finally able to get the excavation permit from Ankara. But the next morning there was a revolution in Turkey. This was in 1960. They were all ready to go, but suddenly there was a curfew. Despite this, they found a way to go to Gelidonya with all the equipment and start the excavation. The technical and risky part occurred when they got to the



“The dream of an institute of nautical archaeology has become a reality far beyond my wildest expectations.”

Beneath the Seven Seas (2005)

excavation site. They anchored on the wreck with a simple sponge boat, using it as a diving platform, and excavated the wreck using newly developed SCUBA.

During the conversation, I was very curious about the decompression table, and I asked George about the diving program. He explained that they were diving twice a day with three hours between dives; the bottom time was 30 minutes, and the decompression time was 5 minutes in the morning and 12 minutes in the afternoon. When we asked him why they were decompressing like that, he said nobody knew what they were doing, and we all laughed together. The best part about this story is that nobody got the bends, and the project was the first scientific shipwreck excavation.

After listening to all of this, I realized how small our current worries and stress really were. In 1960, despite all the difficulties, George overcame the

challenges with great determination. Coming to Istanbul by ship from a distance of 10,000 km, waiting for days in Istanbul for permission, and the unexpected negative effect of the revolution required great courage. If George Bass had not fought through all that happened at that time, Underwater Archaeology would not have begun in Turkey.

What George accomplished was a turning point in the world of science. He developed a love for this field in Turkey, he became a Turcophile, formed many close Turkish friendships, and established INA's research center in Bodrum. He has always defined INA as a family of underwater archaeology. Today, the vast majority of academics working in this field all over the world have been influenced or inspired by George. I myself was very lucky to have the opportunity to be a postdoctoral academic in Texas thanks to

a scholarship from him.

At Cape Gelidonya in 2010, George made his last SCUBA dive with Claude, Wlady, and me, and I had the pleasure of photographing this trio under water. All three were excited and posed for me, standing side by side behind the rock at 25 meters depth. I had the opportunity to immortalize that moment. Rest in peace, George, we will never forget you.

HARUN ÖZDAŞ, PH.D.
INA Affiliated Scholar
Associate Professor, Dokuz Eylül Üniversitesi

When I first found out I'd be coming to Texas A&M to study Nautical Archaeology, neither of my parents knew much about the field (admittedly, most people don't). My dad took it upon himself to learn more about this fascinating subject and went down to our basement to peruse the *National*

Geographic magazines my mom has been collecting since the '80s. By the time I moved to Texas, my dad had learned all about George Bass and his pioneering work and was really excited to find out that George was still living in town and regularly inviting us (the grad students) over for opera nights.

Two years later (2015), I was lucky enough to have my parents visit me in Vermont where I was helping coordinate and presenting at the INA annual board meeting. My parents were graciously invited to come aboard a boat tour with the INA group and as luck would have it, my dad managed to find himself sitting right next to George Bass. Though I suspect he may have been a little

starstruck, my dad, being the personable guy he is, very quickly had George (the expert storyteller) recounting his tales of adventure and underwater archaeology in the Mediterranean. Their conversation lasted nearly the entire boat ride.

Since I found out that George Bass passed away, I've been thinking of all of my fond memories of him, especially of his advice to "have a sense of urgency" which I've thought about often throughout my career and continue to use as a motivational tool. Despite my own many wonderful interactions with George, this boat ride on Lake Champlain where he and my dad sat down and chatted like old pals easily tops the list of my favorite memories of this great man.

CAROLYN KENNEDY, PH.D.
NAP Graduate (M.A., 2015; Ph.D., 2019)
Instructional Assistant Professor,
Texas A&M University

I met George in 2007. He invited all the new students to "Opera Night" at his home, as had happened for many years

prior and for several years after, where he and Ann graciously hosted a motley crew of students generally more interested in meeting and interacting with George than in opera, although many of us came to acquire the taste. George cultivated those relationships and through opera nights, we became friends. Three years, and many operas later, George invited me to be the DSO for the 50th Anniversary return trip to Cape Gelidonya, and even funded additional training for me. It was at Gelidonya in 2010 that George made his last dives, and although his diving at that time made me very nervous, at the same time I was very excited to have been a part of the project and his dives with two other original members of the 1960 Gelidonya team. Like many other people, he offered me experiences I may not have had otherwise, and I will always think of those nights on the sofa watching operas at the home of George and Ann every time I hear an aria or see an opera.

JOHN LITTLEFIELD, PH.D.
NAP Graduate (M.A., 2012; Ph.D., 2020)
INA Diving Safety Officer

PHOTOS: THIS PAGE: (C) INA AND DAVE MODERMAN; OPPOSITE PAGE: (C) INA



Great Scientists • Archaeology



George Bass
1932–
He opened up the oceans to the scrutiny of science

An archaeological expedition is complicated under the best of circumstances. Now try moving the whole operation underwater. Nearly three quarters of the earth's surface is covered with water, and human beings have sailed—and lost—ships along every latitude of the seas. But it wasn't until archaeologist George Bass came along that science developed the tools to explore the remains of that great lost fleet in a systematic way.

THE LIFE OF
INA FOUNDER
GEORGE F. BASS

The INA Team

INA began modestly. The first annual meeting of the Board of Directors, in 1973, was attended by John Baird, John Brown Cook, Nixon Griffis, Michael Katzev, and George and Ann Bass. Baird and Cook, together with Jack Kelley, made multi-year pledges to sustain the fledgling institute. In the decades that followed, Directors visited INA surveys and excavations and stayed closely attuned to the activities, initiatives, and needs of INA. In the 1990s, Bass and INA Vice President Don Frey organized a series of cruises along the Turkish coast that brought more new members to the INA family. Today, some of INA's more than three dozen Directors are second or even third generation! That is a tremendous legacy for an organization that is not even 50 years old. It is also a testament to the creative vision and inclusive philosophy of George Bass, who regarded his Texas A&M graduate students, his excavation team members, and the INA Board of Directors as part of the same large INA family.



PHOTOS: THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE PAGE: (C) INA

I first heard of Dr. Bass after visiting the Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archaeology. After reading his book, *Archaeology Beneath the Sea*, I learned of his many accomplishments. When I later met Dr. Bass and so many others that were written about in that book at an INA Board Meeting, I was impressed by how they were all such great friends after 30 plus years. On the way to the first Board Meeting as a Director, I greeted Dr. Bass in the stairwell. He turned and said to me abruptly, "When are you going to start calling me George?" So many of us are friends because of what George started. Let's honor George by keeping these friendships alive and continuing what he started: nautical archaeology.

JOHN DE LAPA
INA Director (1996 – present)
INA Chairman of the Board
(2011 – 2014, 2017 – present)

We first met George and Ann at a dinner meeting arranged by the Boeckmans, friends of George and early supporters of INA. The Boeckmans knew of our interest in scuba diving and then learned of our frequent trips to Central America for visits to Mayan sites and for archaeological support. "You must meet our friends the Basses!" And we did. And we became enthralled with the activities of INA. And George. And Don. And Cemal. And all the others. As Raynette summarizes the INA organization: "I never met a group of people so interesting, so intelligent, so dedicated, and so underpaid." Thank you, George and Ann! So many wonderful memories of shared excavations, shared pleasures, shared travels, shared meetings, and even shared problems. What a great legacy! May we all be privileged to continue our support and enjoy the combined effort.

NED (AND RAYNETTE) BOSHELL
INA Director (1993 – present)
INA Chairman of the Board (2000 – 2003)

My then-fiancée Dabney and I met then-junior faculty member George Bass at his office at the University of



Pennsylvania to apply for slots on a field project he was planning. Like so many others experienced with George, he became a part of our lives from that first meeting. George accepted us to the project right away (who knows why), then showed us Yassiada drawings on which he was working. Then, within minutes George was confiding in us about how he knew that he needed to stop smoking if he was going to keep diving, how frustrated he was at the lack of support by some of his colleagues at Penn, whether he should give up nautical archaeology and work on land in order to fit in better at Penn, whether he should seriously consider going to Cyprus or try to negotiate a position at another U.S. university, and so on. We were fascinated and awed by him then and ever since. The field project was on land, of all things, and a disaster worthy of an Agatha Christie novel, through no fault of George, which convinced him to stop smoking, leave Penn, stay with nautical archaeology, and go to Cyprus. I still can't really explain why he shared all this with us, but he did.

I took a detour and became a lawyer, while always remaining in touch with George as he worked through whether or not to create what became INA and go to College Station. Soon after INA was formed and I was licensed to practice law, INA and George were threatened with

a lawsuit by Caribbean treasure hunters whose plans to break up and sell an early Spanish shipwreck in the Turks and Caicos had been frustrated by a British government decision. We all know that George could be melodramatic at times – on that occasion, he asked if I would please defend him and INA in court.

Above all, he wanted me to know that, if we lost, he did not take care about money – he only wanted to protect Ann's piano and his library. Somehow both survived.

When we overlapped at Uluburun or at Bodrum, we always ended up talking long into the night. George had some magnetic force about him. Over the past 20 years or so, I cannot count how many times I have been to meetings or presentations in Mediterranean countries about something concerning archaeology, the sea, or shipwrecks, and when at the slightest mention of INA or George or anything close to either subject, people have proudly pulled out a scrapbook or photo album to show me that they had had some letter, postcard, or email from George, or had posed for a picture with him. The first couple of times, I was amused by this, but then I realized it was

This page: INA Excavation Directors Fred Hocker, Cemal Pulak, George, Michael Katzev, Cheryl Ward, and Robin Piercy, 1997.
Opposite page: The INA Board of Directors in Bermuda, November 2012.



“It is not good archaeology to work site after site without the commitment to continue the project for as long as it takes... No true archaeologist would undertake the excavation of a site without being willing to commit as many years to it as necessary, even if it were that person’s entire life.”

After the Diving is Over (1990)

a testament to how influential George was. We will miss him.

JIM GOOLD
INA General Counsel (1992 – present)
INA Chairman of the Board (2004 – 2005)

I have been honored to be an Associate Director with INA and George since the 1990s. It had been a wonderful adventure, with trips to Turkey and an opportunity to dive on the Uluburun wreck site. To be with George was always great fun and very enlightening. He was a great leader and true scholar. He and Ann made a wonderful team. We will greatly miss him and wish the best for INA in the future

ALLAN CAMPBELL, M.D.
Associate Director (1992 – present)

I first became aware of George Bass

while reading Peter Throckmorton’s book, *Shipwrecks and Archaeology*, in 1972. I really wanted to meet George. I had a modest interest in underwater archaeology, having lived in Lucrino on the bay of Pozzuoli in 1952 where I explored the Roman ruins of Baia using US Navy rebreathing gear. At the time I was 13 years old.

An acquaintance who knew George said meeting him was unlikely as he was leery of treasure hunters. Years later in the late 1980s I had an invitation from Don Frey, then in Bodrum, to visit. I did, and this was the beginning of a long and exciting relationship with INA. I experienced George’s wonderful traits as described by so many, including bringing a good friend to dinner in Bodrum with George and being bored to tears by their avid interest in

opera. I participated in a number of INA’s annual shipwreck surveys, one of which was the highlight of my diving career.

INA had chartered a Turkish boat with a captain and his wife. My son and I, together with Don Frey and then-Board member Marty Wilcox surveyed Yalıkavak Harbor searching for a reported shipwreck. Marty was an engineering genius and had cobbled together a side-scan sonar he built, with a GPS and an Apple computer, to provide real time bottom images with constant positioning. We in fact discovered a wonderful wreck and dived on it from *Virazon* late one afternoon. Seeing the wreck with an almost perfect mound of amphorae looming up on the bottom was a most thrilling experience. Returning to *Virazon*, Don Frey punctured my balloon with the

observation that the amphorae were “only 2nd century BC Rhodian types, and they had enough of those.”

Despite the fact that I was certainly not, nor going to become a nautical archaeologist (I did acquire a master’s degree in historical archaeology in part thanks to a letter of recommendation from George), George was always cordial. We had many conversations, wide ranging over the years. As with so many other people with whom he interacted, George imparted a rich and exciting dimension to my life, for which I shall be always grateful.

CHARLES CONSOLVO
Associate Director (1991 – 2008)

I first met George and Ann in 1967 in Bodrum, the first of four summers in Turkey that included Yassiada, Serçe Limanı, and even a complimentary dive at Uluburun! As a recent specialist in diving medicine at the University of

Pennsylvania, I was delighted to dive into an exciting adventure that would fast become the World of George, the new respected field of underwater archeology. George was unwavering in his determination that archeology underwater replicated the same high standards of land excavations. Little did I know that 1967 would be the beginning of many new friendships and a stunningly new field of scientific exploration.

This began many years of a close friendship with George, his family, and INA. From the beginning our relationship was family oriented including Ann and their boys. Thank you for your amazing contribution to human history and your treasured friendship. Our friendship was very special. He’s left a void. I look forward to keeping the relations strong with Ann, Gordon, and Alan for years to come.

JOHN CASSILS, M.D.
INA Director (2002 – present)

George was our founder and our inspiration, and he will be missed all over the nautical archaeological world. I first met him in 1989 at Uluburun and

since then have been a sincere admirer and friend, visiting him and Ann often in Bodrum. I will always remember him and miss him. I know that a great part of INA history is gone, but it will live on with the enthusiasm and care that all of us will continue to devote to it in the future.

DANIELLE FEENEY
INA Director (1993 – present)

As I sit in my library, George, you may no longer be here now but you are never far away. Your work, AINA’s and INA’s and the results of a lifetime of co-operative effort gaze down from the shelves around me. Hard won pieces of research and publication that give me the energy to continue moving forward, and I take great comfort and pleasure in the memories that they bring. They are the lasting results of over 50 years of our association on many projects, surveys and excavations which allowed us to live the dream and now lives on through INA and all the generations who have been inspired by its work.

ROBIN C. M. PIERCY
INA Archaeologist and Engineer (1975 – 2006)
Excavation Director, Mombasa, Kenya (1977-1980)



PHOTOS: THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE PAGE: (C) INA



INSTITUTE OF
NAUTICAL
ARCHAEOLOGY

