

ANCIENT WORLD MAPPING CENTER

(www.unc.edu/awmc)

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To claim that this has been just another busy and productive year for the Center would be understatement. Not only has the year seen the completion of several major projects and the production of an unprecedented number of maps, but it has also brought much improved organization of the Center's extensive resources (both digital and print), the purchase of urgently needed new computer equipment and software, and the establishment of more standardized procedures which serve to streamline the mapmaking process. In addition, the Center was featured on the front page of UNC's website for a week in the fall. The seven *Wall Maps for the Ancient World* – co-authored by Richard Talbert, Elizabeth Robinson, and Ross Twele, and described in last year's report – were published by Routledge both in print and online. The favorable reception that these seven have received reinforces the Center's intention to produce further such large maps, and indeed work advances on one of Asia Minor. More generally, praise for maps that the Center has produced for publications of all kinds often appears in the director's mailbox as these continue to attract attention from scholar and enthusiast alike.

Center staff stayed extraordinarily busy. A final and uniquely challenging digital component of Talbert's study *Rome's World: The Peutinger Map Reconsidered* (Cambridge U.P.) was at last satisfactorily completed by the creativity and skill of a new graduate research assistant at the Center, Ryan Horne. Original maps were made for books on, for example, Demosthenes, policing in the Roman empire, and the fall of the Roman empire. Larger projects included three maps for Richard LaFleur's new edition of *Wheelock's Latin* (HarperCollins), the preeminent introductory Latin text in North America; eleven maps for Mary Boatwright's *Peoples of the Roman World* (Cambridge UP); and fifteen maps for Brian Campbell's *Rivers and the Power of Ancient Rome* (UNC Press). The Center also produced bases for Philip Kenrick's archaeological guide to Cyrenaica. A number of truly major projects begun this year are ongoing. They include the production of twenty or more maps for Wiley-Blackwell's *Encyclopedia of Ancient History*; over forty maps and highly demanding city-plans for the second edition of *The Romans From Village to Empire* (Oxford UP) co-authored by Mary Boatwright, Daniel Gargola, Noel Lenski, and Richard Talbert; and four color maps for the *Encyclopedic Dictionary of the Syriac Heritage* edited by Lucas Van Rompay.

To commit to such a taxing production schedule has only been made possible by the dedication and skill of talented staff, who grew in numbers this year. Undergraduates Ray Belanger and Ashley Lee performed outstandingly, not least in assisting to develop digital GIS resources. Steve Burges returned for a second year and pioneered the production of city-plans of Rome and Constantinople complete with shaded relief. Graduate student Ross Twele also returned to participate in the mapmaking for the Syriac Dictionary. Angela Blackburn, serving as a volunteer, compiled essential preparatory lists of placenames for large maps of Asia Minor and the Iberian peninsula. Will Harris, an undergraduate history major whose sister had previously worked at the Center, completed coastline and river-course edits for digital base maps. Last but far from least, Ryan Horne was instrumental in the development of a GIS database which will be used for mapmaking from now onwards. He has also been turning his

attention to an online mapping initiative which will see the replacement of the Center's currently available free online maps with new interactive mapping materials that individuals will be able to manipulate and adapt for their own specific purposes. The upcoming second phase of this initiative will allow users to search a massive database, as well as to add their own data sets to a series of map bases.

At the 2011 joint annual meeting of the American Philological Association and the Archaeological Institute of America Turner and Talbert met with Tom Elliott, principal investigator for the [Pleiades project](#) and director for digital programs at New York University's Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, to discuss the continuing relationship between the Center and Pleiades; a special concern was the technological requirements needed for future collaboration, including the use of Pleiades data in the interactive mapping initiative under development by Ryan Horne. At UNC Turner has taken a leadership role as program coordinator for [HGIS Carolina](#), a campus-wide working group for all with an interest in the study of Historical Geographic Information Science.

Turner continues as Acting Director through summer 2011, when he will take up an appointment as tenure-track Assistant Professor of the Ancient Mediterranean World at Portland State University, Oregon. The contribution that he has made to the Center during the past two years is quite exceptional, and he will be sorely missed. Incoming Acting Director for 2011-2012 will be Dr. Jeffrey Becker, who first occupied the position in 2005-2006. Most recently he has been visiting assistant professor of classical archaeology at Brown University, and he continues to direct a major excavation at Gabii, Italy.

Brian Turner, Richard Talbert