

Dr. Rolfe Mandel
Kansas Geological Survey
1930 Constant Ave.
Lawrence, KS 66047-3726

Daniel J. Fallu
Boston University
Department of Archaeology
675 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 347
Boston, MA 02215

Dear Dr. Mandel,

I am writing you in support of the nomination of Dr. Panagiotis Karkanas for the Rip Rapp Award of the Archaeological division of the Geological Society of America. As a student of Takis, I have had the privilege of learning from him since 2011, when we met at the Lower Town excavation of Mycenae. Since then, I have also had the pleasure of working with Takis both in the Wiener Laboratory in Athens and in the field at the several sites on which we collaborate. To my knowledge, Dr. Karkanas is the best candidate for this award, as demonstrated by his promotion of the field of geoarchaeology through his research and his work with scholars of prehistoric and classical archaeology alike.

While Dr. Karkanas's record of micromorphological research speaks for itself, I believe his strongest impact yet to be had is through his efforts to transform geoarchaeology in Greece from specialist analysis to a fundamental component of excavation. Takis's involvement at Mycenae, for example, resulted in the first integrated geoarchaeological analysis of the site, one of the longest-excavated in the region. In the same manner he has initiated integrated investigations at several key sites, including the Middle Bronze Age settlement of Mitrou, and the newly-discovered Mycenaean Palace at Aghios Vasileios near Sparta. At the Aghios Sotiras cemetery near Nemea, Takis's micromorphological analysis resulted in the first glimpse of Mycenaean tomb use and abandonment, answering questions that had been debated by culturally-informed scholars for over a century.

In his inaugural workshop as the Director of the Wiener Laboratory in October of 2014, Takis was able to bring a new awareness of earth sciences and site formation-processes to the Regular Members of the American School, a group of young scholars who form the main hiring pool for positions in Greek Archaeology in the United States and who would not otherwise be exposed to geoarchaeology. Takis has already demonstrated dedication to continuing this success, and will be hosting a week-long field school in archaeological sciences in collaboration with the Weizmann Institute this June. This new program, an unprecedented opportunity for Aegean archaeologists, is a direct result of Takis's established scholarly networks and his urging toward responsible scientific applications on large-scale excavations.

Dr. Karkanas has been instrumental to the incorporation of the sciences, particularly micromorphology, to Greek excavations, a trend that is only gaining steam. Under his direction, the newly restructured and renovated Wiener Laboratory will promote the application of much-needed geoarchaeological and scientific thought in a long-excavated region that has, until recently, been lacking such applications. I strongly support Dr. Karkanas's nomination, and am certain that he will continue in his mission to fully integrate micromorphology and geoarchaeology into the study of all periods of the human past.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Fallu', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Daniel Fallu
Chad DiGregorio Editorial Fellow, Journal of Field Archaeology
Boston University Department of Archaeology