The first half of this year saw major developments at the Institute. Foremost among these was the retirement of the founding Director, Emeritus Professor Alexander Cambitoglou. As most of you well know, Alexander Cambitoglou was the moving force behind the conception and establishment of the Institute, though he would always emphasise the contributions made by others, primarily the late Professor John Atherton Young.

Alexander Cambitoglou arrived in Sydney in 1961 and in 1962 was appointed to the University Chair in Archaeology. In 1978 he became the first Arthur and Renée George Professor of Classical Archaeology. In addition to teaching undergraduate courses and supervising graduate students, he also initiated excavations at two important sites in Greece: Zagora on Andros, and Torone in the Chalkidike.

In his many years of teaching in Sydney and directing the excavations, he became acutely aware of the need to found a formal Australian presence in Greece that would allow self-standing
Australian field projects. Determination and hard work by Professor Cambitoglou and supporters of his vision saw the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens recognised by the Greek Ministry of Culture in 1980.

For his unflinching service to the Institute over so many decades, the Executive Board and the Council of the Institute in early 2016 decided to award Professor Cambitoglou the title of Emeritus Director.

A full article on Professor Cambitoglou’s retirement will appear in the next newsletter.

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The Appointment of the Acting Director

On Professor Cambitoglou’s retirement as Director of the Institute the Executive Board and Council approved the appointment of Dr Stavros Paspalas as the Acting Director until such time as a Director is nominated.

Dr Paspalas received his Bachelor and Masters degrees from the University of Sydney, and undertook his doctoral thesis at the University of Oxford. He has been a member of the excavation team at Torone, and is a co-director of the Zagora Archaeological Project and the Australian Paliochora Kythera Archaeological Survey.

He has published on a range of topics including ancient iconography, Greek and Lydian ceramic studies, Macedonian-Achaemenid interactions, as well as field reports. He was appointed Deputy Director of the Institute in 1996 and in 2013 Co-Director. In 2012 he received the honour of being admitted as a member to the Archaeological Society of Athens.

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Staff Changes at the Sydney Office

Two of the Institute’s staff members, known to many of you either personally or through the Institute’s various print and online publications, moved on in 2016: Dr Wayne Mullen and Ms Theodora Gianniotis.
Dr Mullen’s association with the Institute started in the mid-1990s. He contributed widely to its operations in a variety of roles, most recently as its Chief Operating Officer.

He played a leading role in seeing the Institute through a number of fundamental changes, including the move from our initial premises at Darlington to the offices at the Old Teachers College. He was a guiding force in the foundation of the Centre for Classical and Near Eastern Studies of Australia (CCANESA) in the Madsen Building at the University of Sydney where the Institute is currently housed. His fundraising and extensive promotion of the AAIA was of enormous importance to the Institute’s operations over the last 20 years. The Institute is indeed grateful for his many years of good service.

Theodora Gianniotis joined the Institute in 2012 as its Development Officer. Given the relatively brief period of time that Theodora was with us, her contribution has been simply phenomenal. She raised the Institute’s profile in numerous quarters and introduced individuals and groups who were otherwise unaware of our activities and contribution to Greek and ancient studies in Australia. Her innovative approaches resulted in a most effective out-reach programme.

The Institute wishes both Wayne and Theodora every future success. It also warmly welcomes Ana Becerra who has joined its staff as its Administration Officer in this transitional period.

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**The 2016 AAIA Visiting Professor**
In August and September Professor Katja Sporn will tour the country as the AAIA’s 2016 Visiting Professor.

Professor Sporn is a Professor of Classical Archaeology at the University of Munich and Director of the German Archaeological Institute at Athens.

She has published widely on a range of topics relating to the history and archaeology of the ancient Greek world, from Classical and Hellenistic Crete, Greek cultic practice to funerary sculpture. Professor Sporn has directed archaeological work at Kolonna, Aigina and Kalapodi, thought by many to be ancient Albai, in Phokis.

Professor Sporn will arrive in Australia soon after concluding her 2016 season at the sanctuary of Apollo at Kalapodi and she will lecture on a range of topics related to her recent findings.

**Sydney** - Monday 1 August, Wednesday 10 August  
**Armidale** - Thursday 11 August  
**Perth** - Monday 15 August  
**Adelaide** - Thursday 18 August, Friday 19 August  
**Hobart** - Monday 22 August  
**Canberra** - Thursday 25 August  
**Brisbane** - Thursday 1 September  
**Newcastle** - Monday 5 September  
**Melbourne** - Wednesday 7 September, Thursday 8 September

Further information on the AAIA Visiting Professorship can be found [here](#).