Reconstructing the Past, Building for the Future
Join Ancient Egypt Research Associates in an adventure of discovery
Dear Friends of AERA,

I have had the great privilege of working in Egypt doing archaeology in the shadow of the Giza Pyramids since 1977. Thanks to many supporters over the years, and Egypt’s Supreme Council of Antiquities, I have had the opportunity to lead a superb team of archaeologists, incorporated as Ancient Egypt Research Associates, in exploring the city where the pyramid builders lived. A main goal of AERA has been to shed light on one of the great research issues of archaeology: the origin of one of the world’s oldest nation states. How did complex state society emerge from simpler societies starting 5,000 years ago, leading to one of the most profound developments in human history and ultimately paving the way for states and empires?

We believe that the settlements of the people who built the pyramids provide important answers. In organizing and marshaling people and resources for the monumental task of building the three pyramids of Giza, Egyptians developed a complex, bureaucratic society, one of the original states that emerged independently in only five places in the world. By exploring the city that served as a base for pyramid building, we are shedding light on the dawn of civilization, while also unveiling the elementary structures of everyday life in Egypt’s Pyramid Age.

Since we began exploring the pyramid city at Giza, young archaeologists from the Supreme Council of Antiquities have worked with us side by side. At their urging, in 2005 we began offering formal training in the techniques of modern scientific archaeology through the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) field school program generously funded by USAID grants with a cost share from AERA. The success of the AERA-ARCE field schools can be seen in the work of our graduates throughout Egypt and in the growing number of Egyptians on our staff, and former students now teaching in the field schools.

For years generous donors have funded our ambitious field projects, recently our new AERA-Egypt Center in Giza, and our Boston office operations, from publications to website and archives.

Now, while Egypt goes through major political transformation, we especially want to keep the momentum of our work moving forward. And we need your help to do this. AERA is a unique archeological mission. While reconstructing the past, we also establish relations throughout contemporary Egypt at a grassroots level to help build a future for Egyptian archaeology.

This catalog showcases opportunities to support our work. Please join us in an adventure of discovery, uncovering the real mystery of the pyramids.

Dr. Mark Lehner
President
Giza

For over 25 years, AERA has been excavating, recording, and analyzing the remains left behind by the builders of the three Giza pyramids and their descendants. Carefully peeling away the layers of the settlements that supported the pyramid builders, retrieving and cataloging artifacts, and meticulously mapping the walls and hearths, AERA has been creating the most comprehensive picture of life in Pyramid Age Egypt.

Giza, Memphis, and Luxor

Since 2005 we have trained inspectors in the Supreme Council of Antiquities in modern, scientific archaeological methods through our field school program. We have run Salvage archaeology in Luxor and a beginners field school at the site of ancient Memphis, ancient Egypt’s respective southern and northern capitals. At Giza, we have offered Beginners, Advanced, and Analysis and Publication Field Schools.
AERA excavates three settlement sites at Giza, all dating 4,500 years (c. 2500 BC) ago to the 4th Dynasty when the Egyptians built some of their largest pyramids at Giza.

Since 1988 we have been exploring the Lost City of the Pyramids (at the site locally known as Heit el-Ghurab, Arabic for “Wall of the Crow”). Located about 435 yards south of the Sphinx at the edge of the Giza Plateau, this was the “company town” for pyramid construction. During our 1999–2002 Millennium Project, AERA cleared an area equal to seven football fields of sandy overburden down to the tops of ancient walls, revealing 5 acres of buildings, streets, and artifacts from the Pyramid Age. This broad exposure makes the Lost City site a unique laboratory for exploring the society of the people who built the pyramids.

Since 2005, we have been exploring the broader urban context in which the Lost City operated. The nearby Khentkawes Town, the settlement at the base of the monument dedicated to the 4th Dynasty Queen Khentkawes, housed priests who maintained her cult. Expanding upon the 1930s work of archaeologist Selim Hassan, AERA’s excavators have gained new insight into how this early, centrally-planned community developed. We discovered a lower approach of ramps, stairs, and corridors leading from a deep basin, possibly a harbor, to the upper town, in addition to an administrative center with silo storage on the east side of this new basin.

Just south of the Khentkawes Town lie the ruins of the valley temple once connected by a causeway to the pyramid of the pharaoh Menkaure, the third—and last—pyramid at Giza. Over time privileged people filled the temple with houses and granaries creating a small settlement. Recently AERA teams reopened the front rooms in this temple to re-examine its history.
Support AERA Field Work

AERA’s work is shedding light on the early development of the Egyptian state and everyday life during the age of the Pyramid builders. Your contribution will help us mount next year’s expedition to Giza.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Room and board for an archaeologist for a month</td>
<td>$900</td>
<td>$180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round trip airfare for one archaeologist</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site guards for a month</td>
<td>$1,800</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth-moving equipment for a field season</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two months of excavation</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
</tr>
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</table>
In the AERA Giza Field Lab we take archaeology to the micro level. Our Lab research plays a critical role in reconstructing life at Giza during the Pyramid Age. Nestled among giant stone tombs in the shadow of the Great Pyramid, our Lab houses material culture that we meticulously recover during excavation (pottery, stone tools, animal bone, plant remains, plaster, clay sealings, human remains, etc.). With intense scrutiny, specialists tease out stories of everyday life of the pyramid builders.

Pottery offers clues to how people cooked, stored, transported, and served food. Plant and animal remains reflect the diet, the ways people prepared food, and how they distributed food according to social status. Stone tools document ancient crafts, such as woodworking, stone carving, and drilling. Bone points and spindle whorls evidence sewing and weaving. We gain insights into the ancient administration from the impressions of official seals on pieces of clay used to secure jars, documents, boxes, and doors.

The “arch sci program” also helps us understand the wider environment during the 4th Dynasty. By examining samples of ancient soil from in and around our sites, specialists provide insights into moisture levels, the nature of the landscape, and climate change, based on minute organisms and mineral constituents. AERAS ongoing work will contribute to broader discussions of climate change in Egypt and the world at large.
Contribute to Research in the Lab

You can help keep our scientists and specialists working in the Giza Field Lab by funding researchers, equipment, or study projects.

- Team of specialist workers to assist lab researchers: $1,500, Share: $300
- Transportation to and from Giza Field Lab for lab team: $3,500, Share: $350
- Toughbook laptop computer for use in the Giza Field Lab: $4,000, Share: $400
- Microscope for a lab researcher: $5,000, Share: $500
- Support for a lab researcher for two months: $10,000, Share: $1,000
- Ancient climate study program for one season: $17,000, Share: $1,700
No archaeological project is complete until its results are published. AERA disseminates its findings for the public and for fellow scholars through scholarly journals and books and through our own publication program.

Twice a year we send out our AERAGRAM newsletter with short articles on our research. In Giza Occasional Papers we present preliminary reports on our field seasons and archaeological science programs. Giza Reports provide comprehensive final reports on completed projects. The AERA Field Manual Series presents expanded versions of manuals we have developed for the AERA field schools. Starting soon, we will publish PhD dissertations that grow out of AERA work in our Giza Studies series.

The AERA publications office, following the tradition of academic and research institutions in our field, carries out all phases of the publication process in-house, except printing and binding.

Help us disseminate the results of our work by supporting our publication program.

- Print one issue of AERAGRAM: $1,500 Share: $300
- Update production software: $1,600 Share: $320
- New computer workstation: $2,700 Share: $540
- Print one volume of Giza Studies: $10,000 Share: $2,000
- Print one volume of Giza Occasional Papers: $15,000 Share: $3,000
- Print one volume of Giza Reports: $18,000 Share: $3,600
The AERA Field School aims to empower young Egyptian archaeologists in the study of their heritage. AERA partners with USAID-Egypt and ARCE (American Research Center in Egypt) to provide training in the skills young archaeologists need to excavate, record, and monitor sites and monuments throughout the country as inspectors with Egypt’s Supreme Council of Antiquities.

The inspectors, college graduates in Egyptology, learn the basic skills of scientific archaeology in the AERA Beginners Field School. In the Advanced Field School, they concentrate in a specialized area: advanced excavation, ceramics, survey, or osteoarchaeology (the study of human remains). The AERA Salvage Archaeology Field School teaches students how to carry out rescue archaeology at sites soon to be lost due to modern development or other forces—a situation they often face in their jobs—and how to save information about ancient sites and monuments.

In the AERA Analysis and Publication Field School, students learn the skills to carry out what their important final job as archaeologists: sharing their results through archaeological reports. They learn how to analyze their data, write a publishable article for a scholarly journal, and present their work at professional conferences.

Since our first field school in 2005, we have graduated 266 students, many of whom have taken two or more courses. Some graduates have gone on to become teachers themselves in our field school, reflecting the success of our program.

To date, AERA has run eleven field schools in ten years funded by ARCE with USAID and AEF grant funds, and an AERA cost share. We seek to sustain the field school program we have designed and implemented. By investing in Egypt’s young archaeologists we are helping to preserve the past for future generations.
Support Field School Students

By providing funds for supplies and equipment or by sponsoring a student for a field school session, you can help young Egyptian archaeologists learn modern, scientific archaeological methods and preserve their own heritage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student field kit</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room and board for an instructor for a session</td>
<td>$800</td>
<td>$160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer for Field School student’s use</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for a Field School student</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 week</td>
<td>$750</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 session</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee and tea for Field School team for one session</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buses to transport students to and from site</td>
<td>$6,800</td>
<td>$680</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By providing funds for supplies and equipment or by sponsoring a student for a field school session, you can help young Egyptian archaeologists learn modern, scientific archaeological methods and preserve their own heritage.
Since 2005 the AERA Geographical Information System (GIS) has played a critical role in our research. Our GIS stores and organizes a wide range of information, and helps AERA team members analyze huge datasets. Through GIS we maintain and constantly update master maps of the whole excavation site, and detailed plans of smaller, individual features tailored for analysis, presentations, or publications. Excavators enter their data directly into the system during each field season, allowing them to visualize their area while still working, helping them to solve problems as they arise and better understand relationships.

GIS goes far beyond a traditional two-dimensional map. Data on various artifact classes, such as pottery, animal bone, plant remains, and stone tools, are incorporated in the system allowing us to see the “layered” spatial distribution of these materials within each area and across the whole site—a valuable analytical tool. GIS can reveal patterns, such as high and low status diet reflected in animal bone, or highlight areas of brewing and baking shown by the distribution of different pottery types.

AERA GIS also goes beyond current excavations. Our specialists integrate information from past archaeological work on the Giza Plateau into the AERA GIS, from the early 20th century excavations, aerial photography, and older maps and photographs. Once in the GIS—within a uniform coordinate system across the Giza Plateau—they will generate new insights useful to all scholars working at Giza.
Keep the AERA GIS Growing

Help the AERA GIS team to continue integrating new data, software and equipment, or by supporting the GIS program for a season.

Annual license for ArcGIS software
$600 Share: $120

Computer for GIS Lab at Giza
$1,200 Share: $240

Room and board for a GIS specialist for one season
$3,700 Share: $370

The entire GIS program for one year
$20,000 Share: $4,000

The AERA GIS prepared the map of the Giza Plateau on the right and continually updates it with new survey data, as can be seen in the detail map of the Khentkawes Town above. New data collected by AERA is shown in yellow. The walls published in a 1943 map are shown in blue.
When we uncover an archaeological site, we remove much of its content. But we also want to preserve the original architecture and be sure that it will be available for future study.

We launched a conservation program in 2005 against forces destroying mudbrick walls of the Heit el-Ghurab site and Khentkawes Town: ground water, rain, wind, and people.

We preserve the architecture by burying it under a thick blanket of clean sand. In order for the building to be seen and studied in the future, we build a replica following the original as closely as possible. Using the same building techniques and materials, we replicate the exact dimensions of the original. Our mudbricks are made to match the size and composition of the original bricks. In trying to build as the ancient Egyptians did, we learn much about the challenges they faced, the choices they made, and their use of the built environment.

Our first reconstruction project, the modest Eastern Town House that we excavated in 2004, receives many visitors, school groups, tourists, and fellow archaeologists. In 2011, we conserved and built a replica of a Khentkawes Town house.

We hope to next build replicas of the long galleries that may have served as barracks, housing laborers at the Heit el-Ghurab site. We plan to test the hypothesis that the galleries were covered with barrel vaulted arches by building three galleries side by side to full height.
Support Conserving and Reconstructing the Past

Help us conserve the fragile archaeological remains of 4th Dynasty buildings and construct replicas for visitors to see and scholars to study.

- Round trip airfare for conservator, architect, or archaeologist: $900 Share: $180
- Wooden elements for one gallery (posts, beams, shelves): $1,600 Share: $400
- 162,100 mudbricks for a replica of one gallery: $5,500 Share: $1,100
- Food for construction team for a season: $5,900 Share: $1,180
- Labor to build one gallery: $60,000 Share: $6,000
We established the AERA-Egypt Mark Lehner Center in 2009 to foster the creation of a community of archaeologists living and working together at the foot of the pyramids at Giza. Even now, archaeologists and specialists from all over the world can be found writing in its library, working on its computers, or sitting in the gardens engaged in conversation. But, we are just getting started.

AERA purchased the early 20th century villa that houses the Center in February of 2009, with support from the Waitt Foundation, the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Foundation, the Norton Family Foundation, the Charles Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences, David H. Koch, the Urban Land Institute, and Marjorie Fisher. After refurbishing the existing property and building a much needed support structure for storage and laundry facilities, we continue to adapt this new space to our needs.

After the Egyptian government officially registered AERA-Egypt as a foreign non-governmental organization (NGO) in April 2011, we began moving forward with a long-term plan to develop the Lehner Center campus. An original plan visualized by Jon Jerde and John Simones of the Jerde Partnership in 2009 preserves the existing historic villa at the center of the property, but this plan will also add a dormitory, a house for the director and senior staff, a new kitchen and dining hall, workrooms and lab space, and a lecture hall.

Even as we embark on this vision for the future, the Mark Lehner Center is already a recognized gathering point for international and Egyptian archaeologists. With your help, we hope to capitalize on this feeling of goodwill and create a true community of archaeologists in the shadow of the Giza Pyramids.
Support the AERA-Egypt Mark Lehner Center

Help the Center grow as a base for our community of scholars by supporting improvements to the infrastructure, library, and archives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New titles for the Library</th>
<th>$200</th>
<th>Share: $50</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New shelves for the Archives</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>Share: $400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dormitory building:</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single dorm room:</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture Hall</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
<td>Share: $6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New pedestrian entrance and wall</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Share: $2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Kitchen</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>Share: $150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Watercolor sketch of the first draft plan for the AERA-Egypt Mark Lehner Center, generously designed by the Jerde Partnership, an architecture and urban planning firm based in Los Angeles.
COMPUTER LAB
Managing and Sharing Our Data

Like most other aspects of modern life and science, archaeology has been transformed by technology. From satellite photography to global positioning systems and modern surveying equipment, today’s archaeologist deals with bits and bytes as much as with trowels and dirt.

In addition, AERA’s meticulous excavation method and intensive recovery of artifacts yields mountains of data that must be shared with an international team all over the world. It would be impossible to marshal this information and collaborate on publications without a reliable system of servers, database, and internet connections.

Until now, AERA has been able to piece together enough computers and networking equipment to serve the dozens of students, archaeologists, and researchers who work out of the Lehner Center on a regular basis. Our Director of Information Technology, Mohammed Said, has worked wonders! However, we need your help to jump to the next level. As our field schools grow and the nature of archaeological research becomes ever more driven by technology, the demands on our equipment and resources will become more and more challenging.

Not only do we desperately need modern workstations powerful enough to run current software, but we must update and secure our servers as well as upgrade the internet service in the Lehner Center.

Laptop computer for use in the field
$1,000  Share: $100

High performance router
$2,000  Share: $200

Maintenance of online Giza project database
$10,000 per year  Share: $2,000

14 new workstations for the Giza Computer Lab
$15,000  Share: $3,000

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Support the AERA Computer Lab

With your help, we can equip our team with the tools they need to make the discoveries of the future!
Ways to Give

Help Sustain the Momentum

AERA is a unique international archaeological mission. Through archaeology we build relations with Egypt from the ground up. The value we bring to world history through our increased understanding of one of the world’s first civilizations, and to Egyptian archaeology through our field school program, is only possible because of AERA’s effectiveness and flexibility as an organization, because of AERA’s home base in Egypt, and because of our core archaeological project at the Giza Pyramids—the wellspring of what we have become. AERA has grown into one of the largest missions working in Egypt today, and the preeminent training center for its archaeologists. Highly responsive to the needs and aspirations of young Egyptian archaeologists, AERA has become the center of an international community of students and scholars, taking on great responsibility for training, guidance, and direction at Egyptian sites from Luxor to Memphis. With this maturity and responsibility, so too grows the need for a predictable and sustainable base. Help the AERA team extend their planning into the future. Help us maintain the momentum. Only with your support can we ensure that AERA accomplishes a lasting legacy for future generations.

For more information contact our Boston office at 617-783-0737, or write to:
26 Lincoln Street, Suite 5, Boston, MA, 02135.

Make a Pledge
Make a multiyear pledge. Give your pledge over several years rather than in a lump sum. For many, this option allows them to help support AERA’s work at a comfortable pace.

Donor levels:
Leaders Circle: $100,000 and up
Khufu Society: $10,000 to $99,000
Khafre Society: $5,000 to $9,999
Menkaure Society: $1,000 to $4,999

Become a Member
Join our membership program for $55 per year ($30 for students and seniors). Become a supporting member for $250. Membership includes a subscription to our AERAGRAM newsletter published twice a year and our annual report.

By Check or Credit Card
Please use the enclosed envelope or give securely online at www.aeraweb.org/support.

Stock Transfer
Make a gift through an electronic transfer of stock and potentially save paying capital gains tax.

Annual Gift
Set up a recurring annual gift to help continue AERA’s mission.