The Center for Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies (CAMNES) coordinates and supervises the Archaeology and Classical Studies Department of the Italian International Institute Lorenzo de’ Medici (LdM). CAMNES and LdM are creating a new approach for education and scientific research in the field of the ancient cultures of the Mediterranean and Near East.

CAMNES explores the etymological and cultural meaning of archaeology. This is the study of arkaíos "ancient" and arké "beginning" of civilizations: their roots, their correlations and their heritage. These paramount elements generated the cultural aspects of our modern civilizations.

The main objective of this collaboration is to create an educational and research environment where students and scholars discover and learn about the ancient past. Through a strong network of institutions and universities in the Mediterranean and Near Eastern regions, CAMNES promotes an archaeological research program that includes courses, events, seminars, conferences, exhibitions, publications, and actively involves students, researchers, professionals and the broad public. Most importantly, CAMNES and LdM take part in a variety of excavation projects in different countries. CAMNES is proud to combine technical and theoretical expertise with an informed approach to the "clash" between modern Western and Eastern cultures.

Excavation and learning experiences are accomplished through an innovative and dynamic itinerant approach. The students experience the environment of world renowned cities of Italy: Florence, Rome and Tuscania. Furthermore, they have the opportunity to be involved in a variety of digs including Italy (Etruscan, Roman and prehistoric cultures), Jordan (Petra and Shawbak) and in upcoming projects in Turkey (preclassical civilizations) and Armenia (Late Bronze-Iron Age cultures).
The Philosophy and Our Mission

For more than a century, archaeology has had a strong division between scholars from both the Mediterranean area and the Ancient Near East. In recent years, the development of research techniques and analytical models of archaeological evidence have identified similar historical paths in both areas of the ancient world. Therefore, a new concept of archaeology of the Mediterranean and the Near East has created a collaboration between these two diverse cultures.

A broader geographical and intercultural perspective now gives the possibility to reconstruct social and ideological dynamics and distinguish between elements produced by local civilizations and influenced by other cultures. This archaeological approach concerning the "East and West" issue is essential to unite different cultures that share similar roots and descended from one another.

CAMNES aims to achieve an international project of scientific distinction. This includes overcoming traditional geographic boundaries by creating a network of public and private institutions and universities involved in education and scientific research both in Italy and in the Mediterranean and Middle Eastern regions.

The Center for Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies also works towards public archaeology. This is an approach inspired by the Anglo-Saxon school focused on the communication and the enhancement of the archaeological heritage.

In accordance to this, CAMNES is developing new study programs and a School of Archaeological Heritage Management with international partners from public and private institutions in the UK, Czech Republic, Turkey and Italy. This is a key feature for developing new archaeological projects that will involve and benefit the public. Also this will provide interest from governments in this area and will successfully build investments for our archaeological and cultural patrimony.
Archaeology Field School at Tuscania (Italy, 4 Weeks)

The archaeological area of Tuscania is composed of necropolises distributed around the modern town, which is believed to be an ancient settlement. LdM started to investigate two newly discovered "cities of the dead", Pian delle Ruscire and Podere Pratino in 2005, with the recent support of CAMNES. Both necropolises are from the 3rd-2nd century BC and have ipogeum tombs. In these underground environments, Etruscans buried their dead and deposited their belongings when celebrating funerary rituals. Many tombs had been violated over the years; however several have been left intact revealing an incredible number of ancient artifacts. One tomb held 47 graves with a total of 450 objects that LdM students and CAMNES are currently restoring in the 'Archaeology Workshop' course in Florence.

CAMNES and LdM practice a new approach in studying and understanding ancient cultures by offering archaeological field schools in Italy and within the Mediterranean and Near Eastern areas. Participants in the field schools gain knowledge through a unique experience.

Under the guidance of professional archaeologists, students learn modern research methodologies and techniques through lectures, on-site digging and data recording.

Through lessons and site/museum visits, students learn the cultural aspects (archaeology, art, history, religion, etc.) of the ancient societies. They also discover how these civilizations produced the architecture and thousand year old artifacts that are unearthed during the students’ excavation process.

Meeting with local students and visiting different places of historic and cultural relevance, students are exposed to the contemporary cultural trends and become familiar with the lifestyle aspects of the host country.

The archaeology field schools are a full immersion in a professional environment, including lessons inherent to the ancient cultures and delivering hands-on experience. The number of participants is limited, to ensure the high standard of these programs.
Archaeology Field School at Petra & Shawbak (Jordan, 4 Weeks)

The Medieval archaeology field School of Petra and Shawbak (Jordan, Ma’an) is a four-week intensive course in medieval Near Eastern Archaeology. Petra offers a unique occasion to explore the transition between Classical and Medieval world.

The program combines on-site lectures and fieldwork in Shawbak (the Crusader capital castle of Transjordan, once named Mont Real,) and in Petra (the Crusader castles of Al-Habis and Al-Wu’aira). The field school includes excavation, artifact analyses, stratigraphic building archaeology, landscape and architectural survey, restoration, tourist master planning and 2D/3D virtual modeling. The course is conducted by an expert team of English speaking archaeologists, restorers, architectural historians, territorial and static engineers, computer scientists and geologists. Lessons and activities include excavation methods, “light archaeology”, archaeological dataset management, and post-excision artifacts processing.

The program provides knowledge of archaeological techniques in the ongoing “light archaeology” research on Crusader-Ayyubid and Mamluk, two medieval settlements in southern Jordan. Students learn about the artifacts and architecture of the historic frontier between Mediterranean and Arabia. They also study settlement dynamics from the Middle Ages, such as Mediterranean exchanges of goods, ideas, and architectural models.

The field school includes weekly visits to the major archaeological sites and museums of the region and gives the possibility to interact with students from Jordan and Italy.

The field school is based mainly at the Shawbak site, located 25 kms north of Petra, in the fertile stripe between the rift valley of Wadi ‘Arabah and the eastern desert.

The Medieval Petra Project was created in 1986 by the University of Florence, in collaboration with the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the European Union. As of today, the Medieval Petra Project is the longest operated international archaeological mission in Petra and it plays a key role in the contemporary scientific re-interpretation of the Middle Ages in the Mediterranean area.

Further information may be found on the separate Archaeological Field School brochures.
Archaeology Conservation Field School at Castelluccio  
(Italy, 4 Weeks)

Lorenzo de’ Medici is offering a 4-week Archaeological Conservation Field School, in association with CAMNES the Municipality of Rignano sull’Arno and the University of Florence. The Program will focus on the restoration of the medieval site of ‘castellum de Rignano’ or ‘Castelluccio’, just north of Florence, near the village of Rignano Sull’Arno.

The archaeological project "Il Castelluccio di Rignano" is directed by Prof. Guido Vannini, Chair of Medieval Archaeology at the University of Florence, and is focused on gaining and understanding the historical events that led to success, abandonment or the complete transformation of these particular types of settlements.

Located in the hills of Valdarno, Castelluccio is one of the small fortified settlements that during the central Middle Ages (11-13 century AD) profoundly changed the appearance of the Italian countryside.

The site where the program will be held is a castle that was ruled by an ancient noble family of Florentine origin that controlled much of the surrounding territory dating from 1089. Castelluccio di Rignano represents a key-site for the archaeological survey that contributes to the reconstruction of the Florentine territory history.

Students will participate in a range of activities including but not limited to:
The preservation of static artifacts (masonry structures in situ) and mobile artifacts (ceramic objects from the excavation).
Introduction on how to draft a restoration card and report using graphics, photographic and written documentation.
Practicing conservation on masonry structures, through the removal of surface deposits and consolidation of the lapidous material/ mortar interstitial.
Practicing conservation on artifacts, through removal of surface deposits, bonding of artifact fragments and consolidation.

Further information may be found on the separate Archaeological Field School brochures.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Age of the Heroes: the Iliad, Odyssey, Aeneid and the Origins of Western Literature</td>
<td>Florence, Tuscania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient Rome</td>
<td>Florence, Rome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient Tuscany: The Etruscan Civilization</td>
<td>Florence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archaeology Field School: Tuscania (Italy) - 4 Weeks</td>
<td>Tuscania (July)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archaeological Conservation Field School: Castelluccio (Italy)</td>
<td>Tuscania (May/August)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archaeology Field School: Petra and Shawbak (Jordan) - 4 Weeks</td>
<td>Wadi Musa (June)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archaeology of Italy: From Constantine to Charlemagne</td>
<td>Rome, Tuscania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthropology of Religion: Death and Ritual in the Past</td>
<td>Florence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archaeology Workshop</td>
<td>Florence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art and Architecture of Ancient Rome</td>
<td>Rome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Dawn of Humankind: Archaeology and Evolution</td>
<td>Florence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egyptian Art and Archaeology</td>
<td>Florence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etruscan and Roman Civilizations</td>
<td>Tuscania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florentia: The Ancient Roots of Florence</td>
<td>Florence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek and Roman Mythology</td>
<td>Florence, Rome, Tuscania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greeks, Etruscans and Romans (Three Cities)</td>
<td>Tuscania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Archaeology</td>
<td>Florence, Rome, Tuscania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underground Rome: The Christian Catacombs</td>
<td>Rome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>War in the Greek and Roman Worlds</td>
<td>Florence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Further Details on CAMNES

The Logo
The CAMNES logo shows the evolution of the ancient symbol/letter "Aleph", that represents the common roots of the Mediterranean and Near Eastern worlds.

The origin of the aleph is the early pictograph version that symbolized a bull or an ox (top part of logo), in ancient Egypt. The Aleph then evolved in the Canaanite alphabet that was used in Phoenician and Old Hebrew (right part of logo). Presently, the letter “A” has remained the same as its last stage in ancient Greek, Roman, and Etruscan alphabets (bottom part of logo). The Aleph fully embodies our philosophy, as one of the bridging aspects of Western and Eastern cultures, belonging to Hebrew, Etruscan, Arabic, Greek, Latin, Aramaic, Canaanite, Phoenician and many other ancient and modern languages.

The Network
CAMNES and its scientific committee are connecting an international network of professionals and institutions to develop communication and synergy in joint archaeological projects.

Several countries, including Jordan, Turkey, Syria, Armenia, Italy, United Kingdom, and United States, are helping and actively participating in this growing vision of the ancient and contemporary Mediterranean and Near East.

Students, researchers and teachers gain access to international experiences, through the exchange of technical skills, scientific research and knowledge of ancient roots and opportunities for the future. The key for future development is the empowerment of people having access and understanding the past and its material culture. For this reason, CAMNES promotes public archaeology and archaeological management.

The Center for Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies is actively collaborating with the University of Florence, whose members are part of the CAMNES Scientific Committee.

Starting in 2010, CAMNES has been the official partner of the excavation project of the University of Florence at Ermi-Laonin Tou Porakou (Cyprus). In March 2012 CAMNES and the University of Florence organized the 16th SOMA (Symposium on Mediterranean Archaeology) in Florence with more than 350 participants. The proceedings have been published in 2013 with Archaeopress (Oxford). In February 2012, together with researchers from the University of Siena, CAMNES organized the 1st Roundtable on the Middle Paleolithic of Italy. In 2015 CAMNES will organize together with the Egyptian Museum and the University of Florence the 11th International Congress of Egyptologists.
The CAMNES Scientific Committee is formed by outstanding scholars and researchers who provide a comprehensive coverage of the various areas of interest of the Mediterranean and Near Eastern ancient past.

Prof. Giorgio Buccellati

Is Professor Emeritus of Ancient Near East and History of the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) at the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures and the Department of History (NELC). He is actually the director of the Urkesh-Tell Mozan Excavation Project in Syria. His current areas of research are connected to Archaeological field work in the Khabur region; Computer analysis of Mesopotamian materials; Linguistic analysis of Akkadian and Eblaite; Stratigraphic analysis; Environmental conditions of historical development. He is also Director of the Mesopotamian Lab at Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, and at the IIMAS and IIMAS-Italia. He has published innumerable articles and monographs inherent to Amorites of the Ur III Period, the Cities and Nations of Ancient Syria, Terqa Excavation Reports, Structural Grammar of Babylonian and Mozan Excavation Reports.

Prof. Giovannangelo Camporeale

Is Professor Emeritus of Etruscology and Italic Antiquities, University of Florence, and Chairman of the Istituto Nazionale di Studi Etruschi ed Italici. He is the author of several ground-breaking publications, including La tomba del Duce (Florence 1967), I commerci di Vetulonia in età orientalizzante (Florence 1969), La Collezione Alla Querce. Materiali archeologici orvietani (Florence 1970), Buccheri a cilindretto di fabbrica orvietana (Florence 1972), and La caccia in Etruria (Rome 1984). Over the last three decades, Professor Camporeale has directed excavations at Massa Marittima, an Etruscan mining settlement of the 7th-6th BC century in the heart of metalliferous hills, now coordinated and sponsored by CAMNES and LdM. The results of his campaigns have been published in scientific journals, conferences papers, and monographs: L'Etruria mineraria (Florence-Milan 1985), L'abitato etrusco dell'Accesa (Rome 1997), and Il parco archeologico dell'Accesa a Massa Marittima (Follonica 2000). His most recent books include Gli Etruschi. Storia e civiltà (Turin 2000/2004) and Gli Etruschi fuori d'Etruria (Verona 2001), which have been translated into German and English, respectively, the last as The Etruscans Outside Etruria (Los Angeles 2004). He is a member of various Italian and foreign academies, exhibition committees, and editorial boards.

Prof. Giovanni Alberto Cecconi

Is Associate Professor at the University of Florence in the Department of Antiquity Sciences where he teaches Ancient Roman History and Latin Epigraphy. He worked on imperial history and Late Antiquity, with particular emphasis on administrative history, religion, ideology and issues of power. He has published in Italian and other languages over fifty contributions including monographs, essays, articles, reviews and educational and informative articles. He has taught as Directeur d'Etudes at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Section V, Paris (2002). From 2005-2007, he served as secretary of the Consulting University of Greek and Roman historians.

Prof. Mario Liverani

Prof. Massimo Cultraro

Is Archaeologist and Senior Researcher at the National Research Council (CNR), Istituto per i Beni Archeologici e Monumentali, Catania (IBAM). Adjunct professor of Aegean Prehistory at the University of Palermo (Italy), he has been Visiting Professor at the Brown University, Rhode Island (USA) and is member of the Archaeological Institute of America and member of the Archaeological Society of Athens. His main research field is the archaeology of Minoan Crete, where he worked in Crete in the palatial sites at Hagia Triada and Festos; since 1992 he conducts research in the Bronze Age settlement at Poliochni, in the island of Lemnos (Greece). The main focus of his research is the Archaeology of Religion and Archaeology of Power in the Aegean Bronze Age, and in the last decade he has carried out research and field activity on the prehistory of Sicily (Italy). Since 2007, he has served as scientific director of the Iraq Virtual Museum, an international multimedia project promoted by the CNR and Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs (www.virtualmuseumiraq.cnr.it). His main activity as CNR’s research is in the field of multimedia communication systems of Cultural Heritage. His more than 80 scientific contributions include articles, essays, reviews and two monographs on the Bronze Age Greece, L’anello di Minosse. Archeologia della regalità nell’Egeo preistorico (Milan 2001), and I Micenei. I Greci prima di Omero (Rome, 2005). A book on Troy in the Bronze Age and a monograph on Rituals in Neolithic Greece both are in press.

Prof. Salima Ikram

Dr. Salima Ikram is Professor of Egyptology at the American University in Cairo, and has worked in Egypt since 1986. She has lived in Pakistan, the US, UK and Egypt. After double majoring in History as well as Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology at Bryn Mawr College (USA), she received her M. Phil. (in Museology and Egyptian Archaeology) and Ph.D. (in Egyptian archaeology) from Cambridge University. She has directed the Animal Mummy Project, co-directed the Predynastic Gallery project, and is Co-director of the North Kharga Oasis Survey. Dr. Ikram has worked on several excavations in Egypt as well as in the Sudan, Greece, and Turkey. Her research interests include death, daily life, archaeozoology, ethnoarchaeology, rock art, experimental archaeology, and the preservation and presentation of cultural heritage. She has lectured on these and other subjects all over the world. Dr. Ikram has written several books (for adults and children) and articles, with subject matters ranging from mummification to the eating habits of the ancient Egyptians. She has also appeared on television.

Prof. Nicola Laneri

Is currently research fellow at the Istituto Italiano per l’Africa e l’Oriente, Adjunct professor at the Università di Catania, and director of the Hirbimerdon Tepe Archaeological Project in southeastern Turkey. He graduated from the Istituto Universitario Orientale di Napoli, has been Research Fulbright Fellow at Columbia University, Visiting Lecturer at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, and Visiting Fellow at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. He has given lectures at numerous international conferences and published more than 50 articles, book chapters and reviews, and is author of the following books: I costumi funerari lungo la media valle dell’Eufrate durante il III millennio a.C. (Naples 2004), Biografia di un vaso: Tecniche di produzione del vasellame ceramico del Vicino Oriente antico tra il V e il II millennio a.C. (Paestum 2009), and the edited volume, Performing Death: The Social Analysis of Funerary Traditions in the Ancient Near East and Mediterranean (Chicago 2007).

Prof. Chiara Longo - Pecorella

Chiara Longo-Pecorella has been Associate Professor from 1970 to 2009 at the University of Florence, where she taught Greek History, Greek Antiquities and Greek Epigraphy. Her main research field is Greek Institutions (in particular ostracism) and Greek Law (Athenian and Spartan) in the archaic and classical periods. The results of her investigations have been published in monographs, essays and articles on Italia and international journals.
Prof. Stefania Mazzoni

Is Professor of Near Eastern Archaeology and Phoenician and Punic Archaeology at the University of Florence (Italy). She is Director of the Tell Afis joint project (Universities of Pisa, Bologna and Roma-La Sapienza), member of the Tell Mardikh/Ebla archaeological mission, and has been previously doing fieldwork at other Syrian sites (Tell Frey, Tell Tuqan). She is Director of the Cooperation Programme between the Universities of Damascus and Pisa, and has been organizing international conferences and courses. Her main research field is the archaeology of Syria during the Bronze and Iron Ages. She is the author of 110 scientific contributions, most relevant among which are the monograph: S.M. Cecchini, S. Mazzoni (Eds.), Tell Afis (Siria). Scavi sull'acropoli 1988-1992. The 1998-1992 Excavations on the Acropolis (Ricerche di Archeologia del Vicino Oriente 1), Pisa 1998, and a number of articles about the ceramic and glyptic production of Syro-Palestine in the third millennium BC.

Dr. Gaetano Palumbo

Is Program Director - North Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia - at the World Monuments Fund. He is member of UK/ICOMOS and Honorary Lecturer at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. His main qualifications are: Integrated management of archaeological sites and cultural resources, Documentation and conservation of archaeological and historic heritage, and Cultural Resources Management. He collaborated with the Getty Conservation Institute, Los Angeles, California, USA (1994-2000), the American Center of Oriental Research, Amman, Jordan (1990-1994) and the Soprintendenza Archeologica di Roma (1982-1984). He was Co-director of 3 major archaeological survey projects in Jordan (1987-2000) and coordinator of rescue excavations in Jordan (1990-1994). As consultant, coordinator and supervisor he was involved in several projects of conservation and management with the UNESCO, the University College London, the World Monuments Fund in Jordan (Peta), Morocco, Turkmenistan, Lebanon (Baalbek and Tyre), Iraq, Ethiopia, and Abu Dhabi. He presented more than 50 papers in conferences and symposia in Europe, Asia and Africa. He is the author of approximately 100 contributions in scientific journals and popular press printed in Europe, America, and the Near East, among which are the monographs: The Early Bronze Age IV in the Southern Levant. Settlement patterns, Economy, and Material Culture of a ‘Dark Age’. CMAO III, Roma: Università di Roma 1991, and Management Planning for Archaeological Sites (editor) Los Angeles: Getty 2002.

Prof. Annamaria Ronchitelli

Is Associate Professor of the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Natural Sciences at the University of Siena. She has been teaching for many years in the field of human paleontology and anthropology. She has participated in numerous conferences, national and international, working in some cases in their organization. Also, she has organized several museum exhibitions. She is the author of over eighty books and publications in national and international journals. She has participated at about a hundred excavations, since 1976, with directive responsibility, especially in southern Italy, on Middle and Upper Paleolithic sites. Some of them are known abroad (Grotta di Castelcivita, Grotta della Cala e Riparo del Molare – prov. di Salerno). She is currently head of research at Grotta Paglicci (Foggia), one of the most important paleolithic sites in the Mediterranean, on which is found the only known evidence of Palaeolithic parietal paintings in Italy.

Prof. Jason Alik Ur

Is Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Harvard University. Professor Ur conducts research in ancient settlement patterns, land use, nomadism, urban origins and landscape archaeology of the Near East using field surveys, excavation techniques, remote sensing technology and CORONA satellite photography. Professor Ur has conducted field work at Tell Brak, Hamoukar, the Tell Beydar region in Syria, as well as the Mughan Steppe in Iran and the Hribemerdon Tepe in Turkey. In addition, he has engaged in research exploring irrigation landscapes of the Assyrian Empire and ancient communication networks in northern Mesopotamia.
“Because man can not always create and produce, although this remains the most important thing for him, it gives him joy and satisfaction to seek what is lost, rebuild what is destroyed, order and revive missing things...
That is why all of us together have such great interest in the excavation of buried monuments of the past.”

J. W. Goethe, ‘Writings on the Arts’ (1816-1832)