

PRESS RELEASE

**EXCAVATIONS AT KRETOU MAROTTOY-AIS YIORKIS
AND AKROTIRI-AETOKREMNAS, 2009**

The Department of Antiquities announces the completion of this year's excavation season by the University of Nevada, directed by Prof. Alan H. Simmons. This season, the project had four primary objectives, most of them directed at the mid-Cypro PPNB site of *Ais Yiorkis*, located near Paphos in the foothills of the Troodos. The first three goals were to complete tool coding from *Ais Yiorkis*, conduct limited ground penetrating radar studies at the site, and to conduct a survey of selected areas around *Ais Yiorkis*. The final objective was to excavate the limited deposits at the earliest site in Cyprus, *Akrotiri-Aetokremnos*, which Simmons excavated in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

All four objectives were successfully completed. All of the over 10,000 tools from *Ais Yiorkis* have been coded. Eight units, were surveyed covering approximately 100,000 square meters and locating 3 sites. Two of these are directly above *Ais Yiorkis* and from surface indications appear to be related in time to the Cypro-PPNB. The ground penetrating radar study examined a 10X12 meter area, and initial results suggest considerable sub-surface features. Finally, the last of the remaining portions of 4 1X1 meter units were removed recovering a very large amount of intact hippopotamus bone, as well as other (mainly bird) bone, shell, a few chipped stone artefacts, and a microlite pendant blank. The site has now been completely excavated, except for a few remaining pockets in the back of the shelter.