

# **CIAMS Awards Program**

## **Graduate Student Travel and Research**

### **2018 Annual Report**

In 2018, the CIAMS Awards Committee made 21 awards to graduate students in support of their training and research. Several of the projects funded by these awards are ongoing, and others have been completed and are already contributing to publications or theses. This year's report celebrates the accomplishments of our students, demonstrate the kinds of experiences and research CIAMS supports, and illustrates the value of the CIAMS awards to graduate research and education.

Congratulations to the 2018 CIAMS awards recipients for their contributions to the production of archaeological knowledge, and for their continuing success!

## **Amy Cromartie**

*Hirsch Travel Grant: Project ARAGATS, Armenia*

*CIAMS Research Grant: Equipment for Archaeobotanical Field Analysis*



With the help of the Hirsch Travel Grant I was able to travel to Armenia to conduct archaeobotanical analysis of previous excavated materials for my dissertation project. During the 2018 field season of Project ArAGATS I conducted analysis on sediment retrieved from Bronze Age archaeological site of Aparani Berd. I excavated this multi-period site during the previous 2017 season and systematic sampled the archaeological context through a measured grid sampling program for botanical remains. Features found include an Early Bronze Age I (Kura-Araxes) hearth and a Late Bronze Age pit with a complete vessel. During the summer of 2018, I undertook floatation, sieving by size, and initial identification of the carbonized remains from these samples. Initial analysis indicates a richness of seeds and charcoal including cereals, wild taxa, and wood charcoal from tree species such as oak. This work contributes to my dissertation research which investigates how humans have modified their agriculture strategies in the face of changes in their plant landscape. My research also examines how climate and anthropogenic change impact the surrounding landscape and the social implications of this change. Utilizing the data analyzed from this season, I hope to bring a better understanding of the interactions between humans and their environment throughout time in this mountainous region. In addition, I will combine these datasets with data obtained from pollen analysis on lake sediment cores also retrieved from the same study area. The location of Aparani Berd further south and in a different micro-climate biome than previous project ArAGATS excavations will hopefully provide valuable insight into how these natural and agricultural resources were managed under different environmental conditions. I am currently working on the next phase of this research at Institut des Sciences de l'Evolution de Montpellier where I am a visiting scholar. Here I will continue to analyze both the micro- and macro- plant remains retrieved from these sites. The analysis I undertook with the help of the Hirsch Travel Grant is a step towards completion of my dissertation project and is crucial to the success of my project.



In addition to the Hirsch Travel Grant, I also received a CIAMS research grant that allowed me to purchase equipment that was crucial to my 2018 field analysis. This included purchasing geological sieves for sorting archaeobotanical remains by size after floatation and a stereo microscope to perform initial sorting and identification. Over the course of this season, I was able to complete floatation and sorting of both the heavy and light fraction with the help of these materials. In addition, the stereo microscope allowed me to make initial identification of the carbonized macro-remains. I will continue to utilize this microscope away from the field for my dissertation project. In the coming years, this piece of equipment will be crucial in helping me identify the species of my macro- and charcoal remains. Initial results have revealed a diverse amount of wild seed taxa in combination with cereal grains. In addition to my own research, I also utilized these scientific tools during the ArAGATS' Foundation summer camp for girls. During the camp, I showed the girls from the villages of Aparan and Gegharot how to conduct floatation and utilize the microscope for scientific experimentation. This hands-on workshop allowed the girls to explore their surrounding world through the lens of the microscope and gave them a glimpse into the scientific processes of archaeology.

## **Annapaola Passerini**

*Hirsch Travel Grant:* KAMBE, Cyprus and Project ARAGATS, Armenia

The 2018 Hirsch Scholarship supported my archaeological fieldwork in Cyprus and Armenia under the auspices of the KAMBE project and Project ArAGATS, respectively. Whereas participation in the KAMBE project strengthened my methodological skills, my time with Project ArAGATS directly contributed to laying the foundations of my doctoral research, which focuses on the chronology of the Kura-Araxes horizon in the South Caucasus.

The first stage of my travel took place in Cyprus, where I participated in excavations at the site of Maroni Vournes under the supervision of Sturt Manning (Cornell University). At Maroni I had the opportunity to refine my excavation skills on masonry structures as well as receive training in remote-sensing survey techniques including magnetometry and ground-penetrating radar (GPR). In addition, I was able to assist Dr. Manning in the extraction of dendrochronological cores from historical buildings. This not only substantiates the theoretical knowledge that I acquired within the course 'Archaeological Dendrochronology', but also introduced me to the intricacies of sampling strategies aimed at solving archaeological questions based on chronological data, which constitute a crucial premise to my doctoral research.



The second stage of my travel took place in Armenia, where I participated in excavations at the site of Gegharot, which has been the object of long-term investigations by Project ArAGATS co-directed by Adam Smith and Lori Khatchadourian (Cornell University), and Ruben Badalyan (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the Republic of Armenia). Over twenty years of excavations, Gegharot has yielded remarkable evidence of an Early Bronze Age Kura-Araxes village, including well-stratified domestic contexts and stone architecture, burials, and ritual spaces. Within the goals of the 2018 season, this summer I supervised excavations in two operations, which were placed in order to capture extensive longitudinal anomalies identified by magnetic and GPR surveys. Both trenches yielded evidence of stone walls that were probably part of a larger fortification/terracing system identified at Gegharot, thus highlighting the specificity of settlement strategies within the Kura-Araxes culture in this region. Furthermore, my time in Armenia allowed me to work side-by-side with local archaeologists and benefit from their expertise in Kura-Araxes assemblages via fruitful discussions. This complemented my former experience working with different Kura-Araxes assemblages from Georgia and helped shape a first set of research questions related to my dissertation. Finally, I initiated successful conversations with regard to the availability of radiocarbon samples from Gegharot as well as from other Kura-Araxes sites and got a first sense of the available data to inform my plans for data collection in summer 2019.

## **Cristina Juarez**

*Hirsch Travel Grant: Proyecto Jatanca-Huaca Colorada, Peru*



I used the Hirsch Travel Grant to pay for my travel expenses to Peru for the 2018 *Proyecto Jatanca-Huaca Colorada*, an ongoing archaeological excavation of the urban complex of Cañoncillo in the Jequetepeque Valley of Northern Peru. My goals for this project were to gain fieldwork experience (as this was the first field project I have participated in), build professional relationships in my region of study, gain knowledge about the material culture of a civilization (the Moche) in my region of study, and gain further experience from a professional operating and analyzing data collected from a pXRF device. I found that during this wonderful experience in Peru, I accomplished all of my stated goals and learned even more. My proficiency in Spanish, at which I consider myself proficient, has vastly improved, and I became knowledgeable and proficient in a variety of different lab techniques. The lab technique with which I became the most familiar was ceramic identification and analysis, which is incredibly pertinent to both my thesis and my career goals as an archaeologist. I gained valuable experience and insight from my colleagues at University of Toronto, and created a lasting professional and personal bond with many of them. Finally, though I currently am conducting research on the polychrome ceramic tradition of a Southern Coastal Peruvian culture (Nasca), I found it enlightening and fascinating to look at the connections, influences, and contrasting elements of the ceramic tradition of a Northern Coastal culture and it has peaked my interest in exploring other coastal civilizations' visual cultures.

## **Danielle Vander Horst**

*Hirsch Travel Grant: MA research*

Over the course of the Summer, I conducted a research trip to multiple museums in England, at which I studied each museum's collection of Romano-British face pots. The goals of this study were to collect data on the face pots – such as height, width, volume capacity, etc. – that would either support or refute my claims about the pots' functional capabilities as everyday use vessels. The Romano-British face pots are a somewhat understudied category of Roman pottery, only having been the subject of one monographic study, and a handful of shorter journal publications (all mostly by the same author – Gillian Braithwaite). Therefore, it was imperative that I personally studied and handled the pots, as the data I collected, and observations I made about the pots' qualities and functional characteristics had not previously been recorded. By conducting this research trip, I hoped to draw more conclusive statements on whether or not the Romano-British face pots were practically functional in myriad contexts, or more suited to specialized tasks and uses.



By the end of my trip, I had collected the data that I set out to gather, and was able to draw some promising, preliminary conclusions about the face pots. The vast majority of the pots would have been cumbersome vessels for everyday storage or consumption tasks, as the handles (placement, size, and number) and faces force the user to engage with the pots in a very specific manner. What's more, the pots are not at all uniform in shape or size, with height ratio discrepancies between pots being as dramatic as 1:5. This suggests that the pots were custom ordered/made for the

consumer (a claim supported by Braithwaite 1984; 2007), and, therefore, cannot be relegated to any one categorization when describing their use or function. Although this statement may not sound definitively conclusive, it actually helps to support the idea that in Britain, the face pots were diversified by civilian populations in use and function, contrary to the face pots' continental counterparts produced in the Rhineland region of northern Germany (these being used almost exclusively for funerary purposes by the Roman military).

This trip allowed me to make excellent connections with curatorial staffs in the various museums I visited, and also with Professor Martin Millett of Cambridge University, a Romano-British specialist. Professor Millett's insights on the face pots and my findings will surely prove to be extremely beneficial to my thesis.

## **Elizabeth Bews**

*Hirsch Travel Grant*: MA research on EU cultural heritage, Belgium, Germany, and Bulgaria

In June 2018, I attended the first European Cultural Heritage Summit as a public attendee to assess the degree to which the goals of the European Charter of Culture were being met, and observe how EU heritage practitioners are currently negotiating the challenges of “unity in diversity.” The summit was held from 18-24 June 2018 in Berlin, Germany and included various events led by policy makers, academics, and heritage professionals centering on the summit’s title “Sharing Heritage, Sharing Values.” Panels were meant to foster discussion about the current state of cultural heritage in Europe as well as to inspire the adoption and implementation of the new European Agenda for Cultural Heritage, framed as a lasting legacy of the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH).



Following my experiences at the Berlin summit, I traveled to Brussels in order to conduct three days of interviews with EU officials in Brussels. These interviews focused on understanding how the European Union envisions the relationship between cultural diversity and common Europeaness. Among other subjects, I asked several officials in the Directorate-General for Education and Culture about their priorities for cultural heritage in Europe, as compared to what was outlined at the Berlin summit. Finally, I traveled to Bulgaria for a two-week trip, during which I interviewed nine Bulgarian archaeologists from various institutions, including the National Archaeological Institute with Museum and Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (NAIM-BAS), professors from New Bulgarian University, graduate students, and freelance archaeologists. The archaeologists’ specializations ran the gamut, from prehistory to the medieval period and their experience with EU-funded projects was equally varied. I questioned interviewees about their perceptions of EU funding opportunities in Bulgaria as well as national funding schemes available.

After conducting my research it became clear that the way that heritage management is conceived and executed in Bulgaria is vastly different from the vision that the EU has for cultural

heritage management within the Union. This perhaps best demonstrates the issue at the heart of EU-Bulgarian relations: the disconnect between EU priorities and Bulgarian practice.

## **Gabrielle Borenstein**

*Hirsch Travel Grant: Project ARAGATS, Armenia*

The 2018 Hirsch Fellowship funded my travel to Armenia this summer to continue my dissertation excavations under the auspices of Project ArAGATS. This summer of excavation marked my third and final season of dissertation fieldwork. In 2016, I began excavations on the western slope at the Bronze Age site of Gegharot. This pilot season suggested that occupation at the site was not limited to the citadel where previous investigations revealed an impressive sequence of Early Bronze Age (EBA) and Late Bronze Age (LBA) occupations. In contrast to the citadel, however, the EBA architecture unearthed on the western slope was not associated with domestic activities. Our findings on the slope suggest that this area was a site of burial and socio-religious activities. The rooms were noticeably larger; they offered large gathering spaces and seem to be associated with mortuary activities and feasting practices. My 2017 and 2018 seasons, accordingly, were aimed at exploring the nature of this section of the site in an effort to cultivate a more holistic understanding of specifically Early Bronze Age life. These two seasons allowed me to ground-truth a number of anomaly zones discovered through recent ground-penetrating radar and magnetometry survey.



In the 2018 season I began and concluded operation T44. T44 began as a 4 by 4 meter unit, which over the course of the five-week season grew to a 11-meter by 9-meter exposure (fig.1). In this operation we uncovered evidence for a large rectangular EBA room with evidence of subsequent LBA utilization. This room was characterized by a large terrace wall and the traces of two perpendicular walls. The construction of these walls is undeniably impressive, both with respect to scale and artisanship. As the corners, in particular, evince this room had a robust stone foundation. The joins are seamless

perpendicular angles. This structure is considerably larger than many – if not most – of our previously excavated rooms at Gegharot. The phasing and nature of occupation, here, remains somewhat elusive.

Given its scale it possibly served as some kind of place for communal gathering. The sheer volume of diagnostic Kura-Araxes pottery suggests that this construction dates to the EBA. The only in situ materials that we uncovered are undeniably LBA. The LBA materials, however, are contextually very isolated; they are present only in wash and near the walls in the impressive series of pit features. The absence of a cultural floor could indicate that this structure was built during the EBA and later repurposed during the LBA. While our understanding of how exactly the room within T44 might have been utilized remains quite limited given the disturbance caused by subsequent reuse, our findings from this season do paint a broader picture of variability in the types of architecture and activities on the slope. This is to say that with each season at Gegharot our understanding of settlement layout and organization continues to increase. Gradually we have a better picture of how the entire site was built and experienced – where daily life occurred and what this might have entailed. I look forward to building a more in depth understanding of this by engaging with the content and characteristics of the material culture from these excavations over the course of the next year in Armenia.

## **Kathleen Garland**

*Hirsch Travel Grant: KAMBE, Cyprus and Marzuolo, Italy*



With help from my Hirsch travel grant this summer I was able to conduct research in Cyprus and Italy. In Cyprus, alongside participating in excavations and geophysical survey undertaken by the Kalavassos and Maroni Built Environments project, I was also able to visit several archaeological sites around the island, and examine collections of Hellenistic and Roman ceramics. A highlight of the season was a trip to northwest Cyprus to core some *Pinus brutia* pines in the mountains. I then travelled to Cinigiano, Italy for my third season with the Marzuolo Archaeological Project. It was a season of incredible finds, the

most unexpected of which were a couple of fantastically preserved waterproofed pits, a meter wide and over a meter deep

## **Katie Guttman**

*Hirsch Travel Grant: MA Research in Michigan*



I have spent the past month as a Hirsch Grant recipient excavating and doing research at Mackinac State Historic Parks in Mackinaw City, Michigan. I excavated for 1 ½ weeks as a volunteer, which contributed to the future interpretation of Ft. Michilimackinac, an 18th century fur trade fort on which my thesis focuses. Once the field season ended at Colonial Michilimackinac, I began doing research in the library and archives at MSHP.

My research focused on going through original site reports and primary sources to obtain information that isn't available in the published reports. I have been using the original reports to associate artifacts with the cultural layers at Ft. Michilimackinac. The archival materials have been useful in creating activity differentiation lists, and finding primary documents regarding the foodways and cultural practices among different ethno-religious groups at Michilimackinac.

## **Kaja Tally-Schumacher**

*Hirsch Travel Grant: PhD research and House of Regina Carolina, Pompeii, Italy*

My doctoral research and archaeological work in Italy were both a huge success! I met with many landscape designers, gardeners, and plant cultivators in Lazio and Campania to discuss plant cultivation and care in small and large, and in public and private parks and gardens. I was also able to meet with

curators and directors, such as the director of the Ara Pacis Museum, Orietta Rossini, to discuss recent exhibitions and new scholarly work on slave, freed, and free agricultural labor. The excavation at the House of Regina Carolina in Pompeii resulted in unusual and exciting results. We opened a trench between two shrines, along a back wall, hoping to find traces of a 79 CE garden. We found a large and deep area of recent modern fill (primarily trash such as coffee cups, tuna cans, nylon string), likely deposited by custodians. The trash was buried directly over a second century BCE first phase Pompeian house. The discovery of this early phase is especially exciting as very little is known about our insula before 79 CE. In one of the corners of the trench we may have discovered a possible planting pit filled with lapilli, and broken ceramic planting pots were discovered in the fill



## **Laura Leddy**

*Hirsch Travel Grant: Project ARAGATS, Armenia*

With the assistance of Hirsch funding this summer, I participated in three field projects in three countries. I returned to the Athenian Agora with the Inhabiting Byzantine Athens (IATH) project led by Dr. Fotini Kondyli (University of Virginia), where I have been producing drawings of the Byzantine city centre with Dr. Kondyli through archival work since 2014. I then spent 3 weeks in Armenia at the site of Dashtadem (directed in the field by Dr. Astghik Babajanyan from the Armenian Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography). Dashtadem is located in the northwestern part of Armenia, and is fascinating due to the long durée of its occupation — the last inhabitant died in the early 2010s, and excavations began shortly after. The most visible feature of the site is an early medieval fortress, and a 19th century circuit wall. At Dashtadem I assisted with excavations, began learning how to identify and classify medieval Caucasian pottery, and collaborated in developing an enthusiastic (if chaotic) language of signing and pantomime with my digging colleagues from Dashtadem village so we could discuss our favourite Soviet films despite

having no spoken languages in common. On free Sundays, I visited the many archaeological and art historical museums in beautiful Yerevan.



After a short transit via Georgia, I then spent a month in western Azerbaijan with the Archaeological Exploration of Barda'a (AEB) project directed by Dr. Paul Wordsworth (Oxford) in association with the Nizami Ganjavi Programme for the Study of Languages and Cultures of Azerbaijan and the Caucasus. This project is investigating the early Islamic city of Barda'a and another Late Antique site just outside the modern town. The excavations within the town of Barda'a (in the shadow of an elaborately tiled 14th century tomb tower) are seeking to understand more about what the city looked like in its heyday in the medieval period. I was able to advance my skills as an excavator, and also to produce drawings of small finds. This was my first visit to and working experience in the Caucasus, and I am very thankful to CIAMS for the support to pursue these opportunities to travel, gain more experience, and meet new friends and colleagues in my field of study.

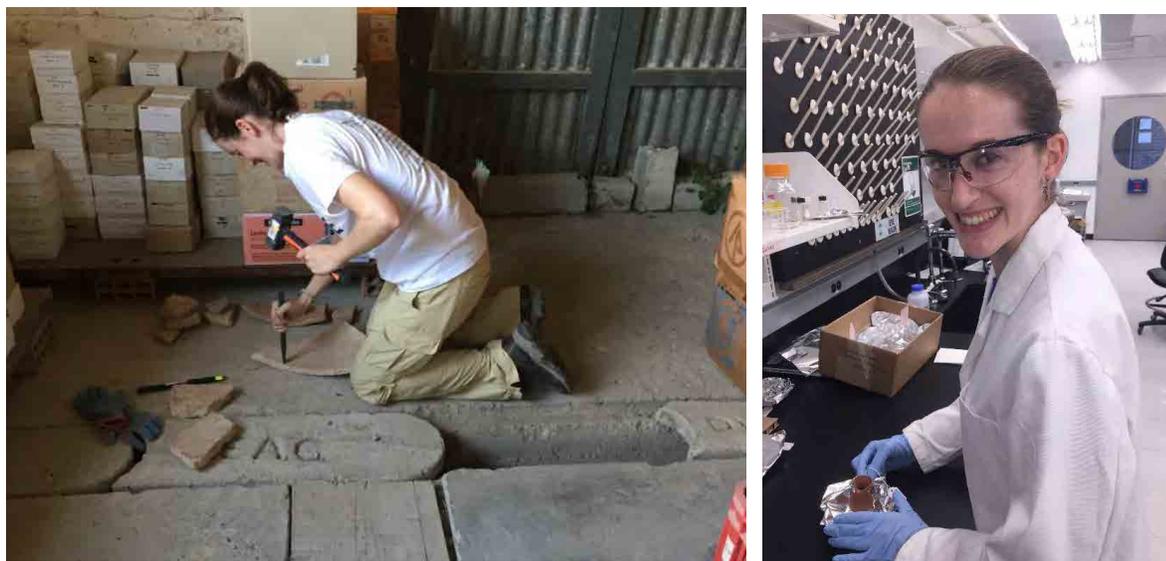
## **Rebecca Gerdes**

*Hirsch Travel Grant:* KAMBE, Cyprus

*CIAMS Research Grant:* Organic Residue Analysis

This summer I began an ongoing project towards my dissertation research doing chemical analysis of food residues in storage pottery and plaster floor samples from the Late Bronze Age sites of Kalavassos-Ayios Dhimitrios and Maroni-Vournes. The project is a collaboration with the Kalavassos and Maroni Built Environments (KAMBE) Project. My research focuses on investigating foodways and the ancient economy through the development of new, less hazardous and more efficient methods for chemical extraction and analysis of food residues from pottery and other inorganic materials, as well as the use of chemical purification methods for effective high-quality radiocarbon dating. Alongside an Einaudi International Travel Grant, the Hirsch Travel Grant allowed me to travel to Cyprus to collect more samples from the

Kalavassos-Ayios *Dhimitrios* excavations, and to network with directors of Classical, Hellenistic, and Roman-period excavations to discuss collaboration on residue analysis of pottery from their sites, towards a long-term view of food in the ancient Cypriot economy.



During July and August, and continuing into the 2018-2019 academic year, I have been working on organic residue analysis of Kalavassos-Ayios *Dhimitrios* storage jar sherds and plaster floor fragments from both Kalavassos-Ayios *Dhimitrios* and Maroni-Vournes. As part of the project, I initiated collaborations at Cornell with Joe M. Regenstein, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Food Science; the Schroeder Group in the Department of Chemistry, working at the Boyce-Thompson Institute; and the Tester Group in the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. The primary focus of work over the summer was logistical: establishing appropriate workspaces and equipment, and developing effective lab protocols. I have also been running an experiment with modern ‘reference’ ceramic jugs purchased in Cyprus and dosed with Cypriot olive oil to experiment with more efficient residue extraction and analysis procedures. The project will continue throughout the 2018-2019 academic year with further development of the extraction and analysis methods, and a focus on determining what products were being stored in the large-scale storage facilities at Kalavassos-Ayios *Dhimitrios* and Maroni-Vournes using organic residues.

## **Salpi Bocchieriya**

*Hirsch Travel Grant: Artashat, Armenia*

*CIAMS Research Grant: MA Research*

The CIAMS Research Grant and Hirsch Travel grant were both instrumental in furthering my M.A. thesis research. The Hirsch Travel Grant allowed me to travel to Armenia and to fund my presence on the project

through paying for flight, room, and food on the project. The Research Grant allowed me to access valuable texts by having them translated. While I was unable to conduct the mapping work I had initially proposed due to site destruction through agricultural activity, on site, I was able to gain valuable experience excavating at the site of Artashat.



I gained a familiarity with the landscape, the materials, the architecture, and methods of excavation at the site. This knowledge helped me to effectively reframe my project when it became necessary. I also had the opportunity to meet and work with numerous individuals who helped me explore and locate resources useful to my work. Through being in Armenia, I was able to locate an affordable translator who translated integral texts from the original Russian into English for me and I was able to use the library at the Institute for Archaeology and Ethnography NAS RA which has a vast array of unique resources I wouldn't have been able to access anywhere else. While I had to reframe my project during my time in Armenia, it was my time in the country that allowed me to learn the ways in which I would not be able to execute my initial proposal. Furthermore, I was able to gather resources and meet with a variety of scholars so that I could reframe my project and work towards completing it successfully.

## **Samantha Sanft**

*Hirsch Travel Grant: PhD Research in NY and PA*

*CIAMS Research Grant: Radiocarbon Dating of Haudenosaunee Material*

This summer, I conducted research for my dissertation project, "The Entanglement of Shell and Copper Objects: A Regional Perspective on Haudenosaunee Exchange in the Sixteenth Century Northeast". My project focuses on the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) homeland during the sixteenth century. I analyze the circulation of exotic marine shell and copper objects; both sets of materials move through multiple regimes of value and raise the possibility that more complicated vectors of acquisition, production, and consumption occurred than previously conceptualized. Research in the field of Haudenosaunee archaeology has suffered from a dearth of vital datasets. This project seeks to fill that void and utilize the resulting data to re-conceptualize the nature of this exchange. I draw on published literature and conduct new archeological analyses on assemblages of artifacts currently housed in museum collections.

I begin by examining the archaeologically known sixteenth century Haudenosaunee settlements and then conduct detailed comparative analyses on a select group of sites. Through the use of macroscopic analyses, digital radiograph imaging, x-ray fluorescence spectrometry, and digital mapping via ArcGIS software, I analyze artifact forms, manufacturing methods, sources of raw materials, and distributions of artifacts. Lastly, I establish a refined temporal understanding of the incorporation of these materials by employing radiometric dating and Bayesian chronological modeling via OxCal software. The results of this project expand scholarly knowledge on the sixteenth century Haudenosaunee homeland and entangled situations between indigenous and European groups as well as the value of exotic objects.



Over the course of the last few months, I travelled to the following research institutions: Rochester Museum and Science Center, New York State Museum (in Albany, NY), SUNY Oswego, Colgate University (in Hamilton, NY), University at Buffalo, and University of Pittsburgh. At each institution I catalogued the shell and metal artifacts recovered from the sites in my project, in addition to selecting the most suitable organic samples for AMS radiocarbon dating. Furthermore, I scanned every copper artifact in these assemblages, using Cornell's pXRF, in order to determine their elemental compositions. At some of the institutions, I also had digital radiograph images taken of the tubular shell beads, in order to determine bore morphology and manufacturing techniques. In addition to these material analyses, I also read through museum site files and museum publications in order to collect additional information about the sites in my study.

## **Tyler Wolford**

*Hirsch Travel Grant: Djanavara Hill, Bulgaria*

With the Hirsch 2018 Graduate Travel Grant, I travelled to Bulgaria to attend the excavation at Djanavara Hill. This Balkan Heritage Foundation field school is directed by Vassil Tenekedjiev and Prof. Alexander Minchev. Located in a suburb of Varna, Djanavara is a site dominated by an impressive late

antique church incorporating four towers, unusually thick walls and an underground crypt with a gold reliquary within a larger marble one. The last two seasons of the excavation, however, have focused on the structures west of the church itself. Under trench supervisor Alexander Manev, I excavated within the atrium of the church with the goal of determining its interior colonnade. While the discovery of a terracotta face was arguably the most exciting find, I was most intrigued by the sequence of the architecture of our atrium colonnade. At the foundation of a later wall, we found the original column base of the colonnade *in situ*. It was exciting to begin to work out how the colonnade must have looked when first built and when walled up later in various ways. This line of inquiry allowed me to approach the academic question that brought me to Djanavara in the first place: *the monastic question*. Djanavara is interpreted as a monastery, but conversations on site and during field school lectures reveal how tenuous this is – at the directors’ own admission. Should we expect late antique monasteries to have running water? So many *pithoi*? So many locked doors? Djanavara is a place where the question of monastic interpretation can be put to the test, not only on what can be called a monastery, but also on what precisely a monastery can be.



The Hirsch grant also allowed me to travel through Bulgaria. From the Rila Monastery south of Sofia to rock cut monasteries both of Ivanano near Ruse and Aladzha near Varna, these travels allowed me to explore other monastic sites in Bulgaria, albeit from a later period than Djanavara. It was not only monasteries that caught my attention in Bulgaria. The cities fortified in late antiquity, such as Sozopol, provided an interesting counter example to the smaller fortresses, built *ex nihilo* in late antiquity, visited as part of the field school, at Yaylata and Madara. Not only did this experience contribute to my understanding of both monasteries and fortresses, it was an important introduction to Bulgaria and its archaeological tradition.