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AIA Jane C. Waldbaum Archaeological Field School Scholarship 2012
Field School Report

In the summer of 2012 the generous funding provided by the Jane C. Waldbaum Archaeological Field School Scholarship allowed me to participate in the second session of Columbia University's Advanced Program of Ancient History and Art, a program centered around stratigraphic excavations at the Villa San Marco in ancient Stabiae. The program consisted of four weeks of excavation at the villa, field trips to other archaeological sites in the Vesuvian area, and seminars on all manner of subjects concerning archaeology, art history, and ancient history. Our team was composed of graduate and advanced undergraduate students from Columbia as well as students from the Freie Universität of Berlin and the Università degli Studi del Molise. On site I was trained to take measurements, to draw plans, to use properly trowels, axes, and shovels, to handle finds, and to interpret the relationships between various stratigraphical units by my trench leader, Emily Cook, a Phd. student in Ancient Art History and Archaeology at Columbia and a 2011 winner of the Jane C. Waldbaum Archaeological Field School Scholarship. The trenches developed phenomenally well and the season's results will be published in the *Fasti Online* soon.

Every weekday work began with an early breakfast at our home the Vesuvian Institute and a short van ride to the site. After a morning of digging we would break for a short picnic lunch in the villa's beautiful peristyle before returning to work excavating or washing and drawing pottery. The work on site typically finished between 5pm and 6pm and we would return to the Institute for seminars, trench meetings, and dinner. The evening seminars covered topics such as the pottery of Roman and pre-Roman Campania, the use of precision equipment like the theodolite, floatation processing of soils, the drawing of the Harris matrix, and the history of excavations in Campania. After the evening's meetings, classes, showers, and dinner, the remainder of the night was usually spent socializing with the teams of other projects housed at the Institute and getting to know our Italian and German colleagues better.

Almost as valuable as the practical experience excavating were the weekend fieldtrips to other sites around Campania. I had previously visited many of them but never with the perspective provided by experience excavating and the expert guidance of professional historians, art historians, and archaeologists. We made two trips to Pompeii, one to examine private spaces another public, one each to Herculaneum, the neighboring villa Arianna, and the villa Oplontis. The careful examinations of the paintings, building techniques, and the urban or rural contexts of these sites were valuable aids to understanding the sometimes-puzzling nature of our own site.

As an aspiring ancient historian working with archaeological evidence in context was invaluable for my understanding of how to interpret these sources and also inspired in me a love for fieldwork that I hope to nurture for many seasons to come. My sincerest thanks goes to the Jane C. Waldbaum Scholarship Fund and I hope to work alongside other Jane C. Waldbaum scholarship recipients on archaeological sites in the future.