

This summer I had the honor of digging in Petra, Jordan as a student in the 2016 Petra North Ridge Project's (PNRP) archaeological field school due to the generosity of the Archaeological Institute of America. I was very blessed to work with and learn from amazing team lead by Dr. Thomas Parker and Dr. Megan Perry. I participated in the third season of this projects dig. The PNRP's is the excavate domestic complexes and tombs located parallel to the Pool and Garden complex in order to shed light on the non-elite of Petra before and after Roman occupation. I was assigned to Area C Trench 3 (C.3), a domestic complex. Area C was first excavated in the 2014 PNRP season and in the 2016 season the goal was to uncover the remainder of trenches C.1, C.2, and C.3, as well as opening a new C.4. I was assigned to C.3, which by the end of the season was interpreted as a kitchen.

I stayed in the Bedouin village of Umm Sayhoun and our team was hosted by a prominent figure in the village, Deikh-ulllah. The experience and knowledge I gained within this intensive and short 40-day dig will be unforgettable. Every day we had to hike up the North Ridge, located north of the Petra Church, to get to site. After a day in the field, all the students would gather on the rooftop for pottery washing. Twice a week we had lectures and had to write weekly reports. Not only was I able to learn digging and articulating techniques but I also worked in the lab work which encompassed assisting the ceramicist, osteologist, and conservator. It was an absolute joy to come across sherds of African Red Slip, Parthian Green Glaze, Eastern Sigillata Nabataean Fineware, and Ailaware.

Even though we had 6 work days and our days begun at 5 in the morning and ended as late as 9 in the evening, I am glad that I was able to grasp a thorough understanding of excavating, whether in the field or in processing finds in the lab. Being a Pennsylvanian native, I was not prepared for the arid dusty climate of Petra but thanks to the morale and professionalism

of the staff I survived 40 days in the desert and loved it! The project was well organized and because many of the staff members were members of ACOR's board we received lectures from other project directors that were conducting excavations in Petra in the same dig season. Not only was this dig school beneficial to my future academic career but it also gave me a cultural and language immersion experience by living with my Bedouin host family. I could never have asked for a more perfect first dig and life changing experience, which I would have never been able to experience without the help of the Archaeological Institute of America's support through the Jane Waldbaum Archaeological Field School Scholarship.



Fig 1. First day of the dig! Here I am removing backfill from C1 that the 2014 PNRP staff.

(Left)



Fig 2. Here I am excavating a cooking vessel in an ash locus.

Fig 3. Me and my fellow trench-mate are huddling close together in order to cast a shadow on an artifact so that the area supervisor can take a higher quality image so that the sun's light does not distort the colors of the image. (right)



Fig 4. The Area C3 and C1 team and two Bedouin workers are cleaning up a locus to take photos. The constant dusting made me glad that I brought an abundant supply of face masks.

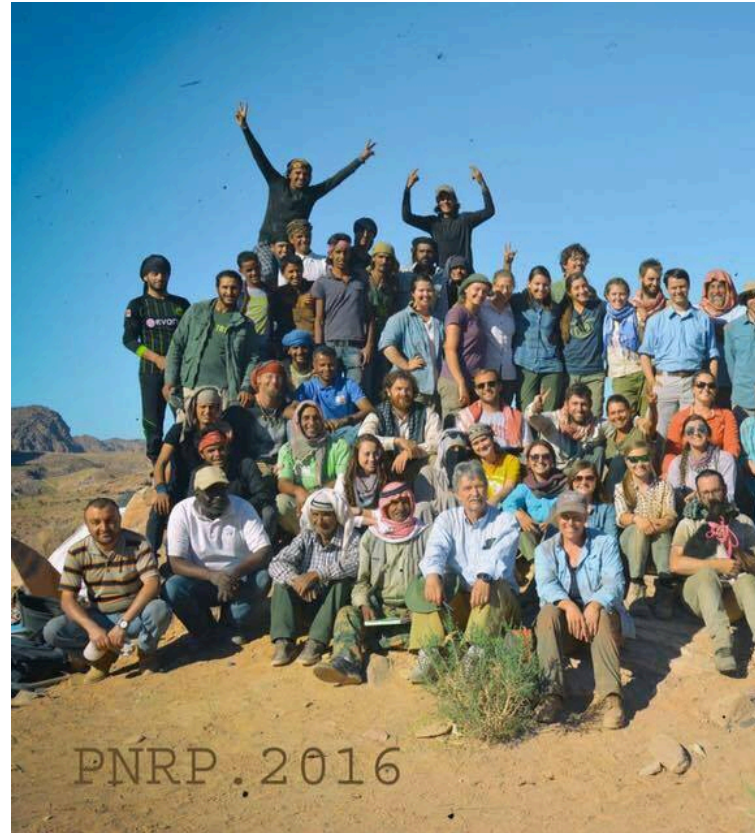


Fig 5. All the staff, students, and Bedouin workers gathered to take a photo on the last day of the dig.



Fig 6. Just a beautiful view I experienced everyday on my commute to the dig site.