

Tara Wells
AIA Jane C. Waldbaum Scholarship Recipient Report
Summer 2018

This summer I was fortunate enough to participate in my first archaeological excavation, working as a volunteer with the American Excavations at Morgantina: Contrada Agnese Project. It is thanks to the generosity of the Archaeological Institute of America and their Jane C. Waldbaum Field School Scholarship that I could have this opportunity. I feel deeply honored to have received this award and I am extremely grateful for everything that it made possible for me.

In the most concrete sense, the funds from the Waldbaum Scholarship literally made it possible for me to afford the airfare and transportation costs of getting to and from Sicily. Beyond this though it brought me the chance to experience archaeology in a way that I never thought I would be able to. Working at Morgantina taught me more than I ever could have imagined, especially as a member of the various school teams I got to work with. I gained skills in the areas of ceramics, finds, environmental, geospatial, research, and database work. In addition to gaining the technical skills though I was able to actively participate in learning about and documenting the history of an archaeological site, which is among the most meaningful and worthwhile experiences I have ever personally had. I have gained such a deeper understanding of the importance of archaeological work and just how much it can reveal and teach us about our world and the people who came before us. This has further fueled my passion for archaeology and classical studies in general and I am confident that I will continue to use all that I have learned this summer in each of my future endeavors.

I am forever grateful to the amazing staff at AEM:CAP for granting me the opportunity to share in such an incredible experience. I am additionally grateful to Jane Waldbaum, the Archaeological Institute of America, and the Scholarship Committee that selected me to receive

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this honor, all of who are responsible for making this first archaeological experience possible for me.

Photos from an end-of-season Finds Team exhibit!

