

The Caere Project and The Archaeological Excavation at Urbs Salvia-Villa Magna
Summer 2018

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Thanks to the Jane C. Waldbaum Archaeological Field School Scholarship, I was able to participate in my first excavations this past summer. The funds from the scholarship enabled me to travel to Italy, where I participated in the Caere Project to the north of Rome. The project was focused on the center of the Etruscan city of Caisra, dubbed Caere by the Romans. While the necropolis adjoining Caere has yielded a number of noteworthy Etruscan artifacts, such as the “Sarcophagus of the Spouses,” the city itself is relatively unexplored.

Because my undergraduate degree is in a more generalized liberal arts program, I was unversed in the specifics of archeological theory and practice. Under the supervision of Dr. Fabio Colivicchi of Queens University and his team, I learned about archeological stratigraphy, record-keeping, and how to conduct oneself on a dig site. Within a few days I felt confident in my ability to use a trowel and pickaxe. The conservation team showed me how to wash and identify pottery from across the Mediterranean.

I was thrilled to help uncover a number of Etruscan wells, millennia-old retaining walls from the ancient city, and an underground religious complex that marked the Etruscan City’s full integration into Roman political life in 273 BC. Caere



The End of the Drainage Tunnel

was a hub in the Etruscans' vast trading network, and yielded a great number of pottery fragments from Greece, Africa, and elsewhere. I grew especially partial to Bucchero, the Etruscans' locally-produced ware that imitated metallic vessels. Personal highlights from the Caere Project include finding artifacts in an ancient drainage tunnel cut 60 feet into the bedrock, uncovering the decorated floor of the underground religious complex, and using a 3D imaging camera to map the underground complex with Dr. Tracy Thorpe.



After completing my month-long tenure in Lazio, I headed north to Le Marche to participate in the University of Macerata's archaeological excavation at Urbs Salvia-Villa Magna for two weeks. There I furthered my archeological experience working alongside Italian Graduate Students and an assortment of European volunteers to uncover a Roman villa.

I am so grateful that the Waldbaum Scholarship enabled me to have my first archeological experience at a wonderful site like Caere. My future work in ancient history

shall be aided immensely by my experience in the field. Immersing myself in the archeological process helped me to better understand the data I use as a burgeoning historian. I hope to further integrate the two disciplines in my future endeavors.



Floor of the Religious Complex



3D imaging with Dr. Tracy Thorpe



Pottery from Caere



An Etruscan Tomb —Vicinity of Caere