

I am very grateful for the Archaeological Institute of America's Waldbaum Scholarship. The funds provided me with the aid needed for my flight to and accommodations in Pompeii, Italy where I participated in the Pompeii I.14 Project. I was able to use the money awarded from the scholarship to purchase the necessary excavation supplies as well as day-to-day living expenses such as laundry and meals during the trip. Not only did this opportunity afford exciting international experience with a group of my peers but it provided me with invaluable experience and perspective in my academic field.

The 2022 field season of Tulane University's Pompeii I.14 Project sought to answer questions about Pompeii's early history and development through time as well as its economy, infrastructure, and relationship to areas outside of the city by excavating Property I.14.1/11-14. In the past, the property has been assumed to be a residential structure, but our efforts aspired to question this assumption with archeological evidence of it having a more commercial function. Our work focused on finding indications of interrelations between social classes in pre-eruption Pompeii as well as specifics of urban infrastructure. I worked in trench 3000 and our group was tasked with excavating the garden area of the property.

The excavation benefited me in multiple ways. There is no substitute for experience and actually living and working in such a historical place has enriched my classroom experience. What I read has new relevance thanks to my immersion in Italian culture and history and I have a hands-on understanding of the actual work of archeologists. The team excavation helped me realize not only the importance of coordinated efforts but also some of the complexities and difficult realities that attend such an undertaking. I met and learned from some brilliant people and gained experience that will undoubtedly serve me well in my future in Classics and beyond.



*Figure 1: The garden area before excavation*



*Figure 2: Further excavation provides insight into the drainage system of the garden*