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Jane C. Waldbaum Scholarship
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This summer, I attended the Belize Valley Archaeological Reconnaissance Project (BVAR). I used the funds from the Jane C. Waldbaum scholarship to cover airfare and offset the cost of attending the field school.

We stayed in San Ignacio, the capital of the Cayo District in Belize and were split between two sites: Cahal Pech and Baking Pot. I worked at Cahal Pech under the supervision of the project director, Doctor Jaime Awe, for the first week of the school. That week, I worked at Plaza D of Cahal Pech, excavating an elite residential structure from the Classic Period of the Maya. We worked excavating the architecture of the area and uncovered a throne-like bench with armrests which is rare at the site. Towards the end of the week, I found an intact plaster floor.



The following week, I was moved to Plaza H under the supervision of Dr. John Douglass. Plaza H was occupied during the Terminal Classic period. We were excavating a single platform which would have contained elite residential living space during this time. There would have been thatched huts on the platform. Most time was spent here following a wall of the platform and profiling the stratigraphy and architecture. It was determined that the walls that seemed separate, connected to form a single, long platform. Large deposits of chert and ceramics were also found suggesting site usage.



Participation in this field school has solidified my love of archaeology and confirmed that this is what I want to pursue in my life. I made lifelong friends and great connections with other people in my field.