

2023 Eric and Carol Meyers Fellowships

DONOR IMPACT REPORT



2023 Donor Impact Summary

\$10,000

awarded for
fellowships in
2023

5

Fellowships
Awarded

Recipients:

- Veronica Morriss
- Nathaniel Durant
- Sophie Vo
- Isabelle Sauve
- Nikolaus Cox

Excavation/Fieldwork Sites:

- Caesarea Maritima (Israel)
- Birsama (Israel)
- Qach Rresh (Iraqi Kurdistan)
- Kalavassos-Ayios Dhimitrios (Cyprus)
- Hijaz Railway (Jordan)





VERONICA MORRISS

University of Chicago
Excavation Site: Caesarea
Maritima, Israel



First Day of Digging

“As part of the Caesarea Coastal Archaeology Project, our team has been exploring several regions of the ancient city, with a primary focus on those that might have Islamic-era remains. My work has been focused on the area south of the Roman theater, just outside of the park. We chose this area (Area FZ) to get a stratigraphic record of the southernmost end of the city near the Byzantine wall. We were also hoping to find traces of the Byzantine-Islamic fortress that was identified during the mid-20th century Italian excavation in the defunct theater.”

“In addition to searching for evidence of an under-represented portion of Israel’s history, our project is focused on training the next generation of archaeologists. Students had a chance to practice careful excavation methods in the field, tagging and recording artifacts, making section drawings, creating 3D models using photogrammetry, and conducting off-shore underwater surveys—which for many of the students was the highlight of the season. Considering it was hot and humid, it was a luxury to be digging a stone’s throw from the Mediterranean!

It was a great season, and we look forward to returning with our team next year to further explore Caesarea’s lost history.”



Six-Sided Gaming Die Found on Site

NATHANIEL DURANT

University of Notre Dame

Excavation Site: Birsama, Israel



Dr. Nathaniel Durant is a Landscape Archaeologist who specializes in late Roman frontiers, the Roman army, and the placement of frontier fortifications. He currently teaches at Husson University and Maine Maritime Academy in Downeast Maine.



“As the edges of the wall were traced over the following few days, more objects came out that enhanced our understanding of the material culture of the region, including a number of bronze coins, a smattering of fine glass shards from a beautiful vessel, and more beautifully slipped fine ware. However, far more intriguing to me was the wall itself as gradually, the lines of the individual mudbricks became more clear and the life of the last century of the fort came into focus.”

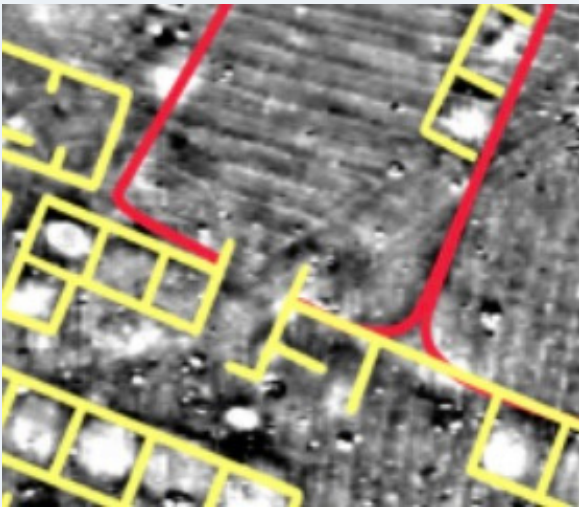
“Even in four weeks, this site offered an amazing look at how the function of archaeological sites can change over time as priorities and personnel shift and I enjoyed my time so much along this Roman frontier that I plan on returning to Birsama and expanding my focus on the Roman borderlands to include Palestina Prima.”

SOPHIE VO

**Excavation Site: Qach Rresh,
Iraqi Kurdistan**



Example of the magnetometry survey setup, with transect ropes set up every two meters for machine readings spaced every 50cm.



The magnetometry results from the southern part of Qach Rresh. Architectural features are marked in yellow. Potential animal pens are marked in red.

Sophie Vo recently graduated Emory University in May 2023 with a BS in Biology and a BA in Ancient Mediterranean Studies.

“Upon arriving at Qach Rresh, I would help Glynnis, the project registrar, set up the Emlid R2 GPS system and lay lines for magnetometry. Magnetometry is an archaeological survey method that measures the Earth’s geomagnetic field at the nanotesla (nT) level with two sensors spaced 1 meter apart. Archaeology does not solely involve digging and excavating on site. We would excavate in the mornings and perform data analysis, ceramic cataloging, and zooarchaeological analysis in the afternoons.

As my first excavation, I gained valuable archaeology and professional experience both in and out of the field. I was also afforded the opportunity to explore my research interests and make lifelong friends on the project. I am extremely grateful to have met everyone in Kurdistan and I can’t wait to return next season! “



A celebratory photo of the team on the last day of the season.



**Watch
Sophie ID
mudbrick!**

ISABELLE SAUVE

University of Pennsylvania

Excavation Site: Kalavassos-Ayios
Dhimitrios, Cyprus

Isabelle Sauvé is a graduate of the M.A. Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology program from the University of British Columbia, Canada. Her research focuses on architectural analysis and gender theory in the European and Mediterranean Bronze Age. Isabelle has previously excavated at Horvat Midras in Israel, making this her second archaeological excavation during her graduate studies. She hopes to get her PhD and continue conducting excavations of Bronze Age built environments.



“Overall, this was an unforgettable experience where I got to learn new skills in the field, make meaningful connections, and see new things. I am grateful to Dr. Kevin Fisher and Sheri Pak for organizing this trip and to Dr. Eric and Dr. Carol Meyers for their generous scholarship. Without all your support, my participation in this project would not have been possible!”



Artifacts from the field: A juglet and a wall bracket.



A view of the Neolithic site of Tenta from our dig site.

“Kalavassos-Ayios Dhimitrios is one of the two main sites that are part of the Kalavassos and Maroni Built Environment Project (KAMBE). This project is an interdisciplinary investigation of the relationships between urban landscapes, social interaction, and social change on Cyprus during the Late Bronze Age. As a collaboration between the University of British Columbia, Cornell University, the University of Chicago, and the University of Southampton, I had the opportunity to meet a number of scholars and students from these different institutions and make meaning connections.”

Nikolaus Cox

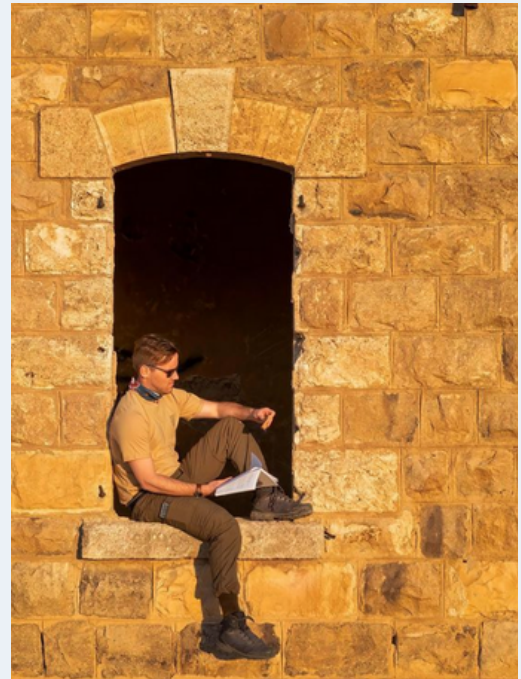
Excavation Site: Hijaz Railway, Jordan

Nikolaus is a New Zealand-German archaeologist, artist, and author; an MPhil in Archaeology (University of Cambridge); and a PhD candidate in Islamic Archaeology (University of Bonn). His publications range from articles on Second World War conflict archaeology to science fiction novellas.



“It was thrilling to find this verse in Ottoman calligraphic text emblazoned on an iron segment of the Hijaz Railway. Though the iron came from France, England, and the United States, the construction of the railway was an Ottoman initiative, and it was made specifically to ferry pilgrims from Damascus to the Holy Cities of Medina and Mecca.”

“Due to the spiritual, Islamic nature of the line, there are elements to it which are unique among railways: this Ottoman calligraphy is one such example. It extols the virtues of Sultan Abdülhamid II, praising his beneficence, and reminds all that the railway is not only for pilgrims, but a testament to the Sultan’s power. Ironically, this same Sultan was deposed within months of the railway being opened.”



Nikolaus in the field



**Follow along
on Youtube!**



**Follow
Nikolaus on
Instagram!**

2023 Wright-Meyers Fellowships

DONOR IMPACT REPORT



asor

2023 Donor Impact Summary

\$4,000

awarded for
fellowships in
2023

2

Fellowships
Awarded

Recipients:

- Sarah Richardson
- Emilie Nordhues

Excavation/Fieldwork Sites:

- Tell el-Hesi (Israel)
- Tel Dan (Israel)





SARAH RICHARDSON

Excavation Site: Tell el-Hesi, Israel

Sarah Richardson is in the final stages of her PhD at the University of Manitoba which focuses on Early Bronze Age III Households in Israel. She uses GIS to investigate the use of space within houses. Her current fieldwork includes projects in Israel, Jordan, and Kurdistan.

The Early Bronze Age site of Tell el-Hesi is located on the border of the Negev Highlands and the Shephelah, or hill country, about 30 minutes north from the modern city of Be'er Sheva. In the 1970s the excavators at the Tell and Early Bronze III city wall decided to do some test trenching in the lower city, however the locations of these test trenches are no longer visible on the surface.

Sarah at work: Throughout the season I would be found behind the total station recording coordinates of objects, architecture, and installations.

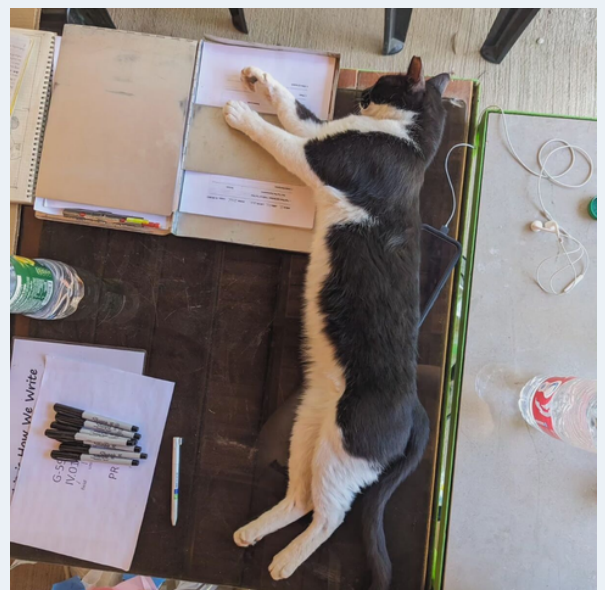
“I was fortunate enough to be the recipient of the Meyers-Wright Scholarship for fieldwork participation, allowing me to support the rest of the staff as well as the students in the field as their GIS specialist. As a GIS specialist for this project, I am in charge of mapping the of locations material culture (pottery scatters, samples, walls, floors) as well as any other mapping that was needed during and post season.”



Even though the majority of my work was collecting spatial data and photographing the squares there were occasions for me to get in the square and do some excavating!



**Follow along
on Facebook!**



During the afternoon data entry, pottery reading, and paperwork we often were kept company by our adopted kibbutz cat Peaches.

EMILIE NORDHUES

Excavation Site: Tel Dan, Israel



A picture of me from the 2022 excavation season, featuring some of the pits which we did not miss. Photo credit: Sarah Harrington.

“Sometimes, excavations will recover a large portion of a vessel; if it is broken when it is discovered (which is very often the case), you do not always know how much of it was preserved. Restoration, then, is a three-dimensional puzzle to fit together pieces that belong to the same vessel. Depending on how many pieces the item was in, this can also clarify the original shape of the object.”



Partway through the restoration of a cooking pot rim – one of the first steps was always to figure out which pieces connected to each other; the color of the rim is due to char from the use of the cooking pot



An example of other objects we looked at this summer – these are some of the grinding stone pieces from Tel Dan, which would have been used to grind grain



The same cooking pot, with restoration completed, representing all of the pieces which were found during excavation



**Thank you for your
continued support of
the next generation of
archaeologists!**



asor

