

# 2025 Eric and Carol Meyers Fieldwork Scholarships

DONOR IMPACT REPORT



asor



# 2025 Donor Impact Summary

**\$12,000**

awarded for  
fieldwork  
scholarships  
in 2025

**6** Scholarships  
Awarded

## Recipients:

Kelsey Peterson  
Gabrielle Puckett  
Yishu Deng  
Joshua Feland  
Aayush Umesh  
Olivia Spink

## Colleges and Universities:

University of Toronto  
University of Tennessee  
University of Cambridge  
University of Alberta  
University of Georgia  
New York University

## Excavation/Fieldwork Sites:

Tell Tayinat, Turkey  
Makounta-Voules, Cyprus  
Kani Shaie, Iraqi Kurdistan  
Humayma, Jordan  
Tall Hisban, Jordan  
Tell Timai, Egypt





# Yishu Deng

University of Cambridge  
Kani Shaie, Iraqi Kurdistan



## How Archaeology Bridges the Past and Present

One particularly memorable discovery came from the potentially late Parthian to early Sassanian level in the Lower Town trench, where we uncovered five tanoors. What made this find even more meaningful was the connection to present-day practices. Local team members told me that they still have similar tanoors in their homes for baking bread. After my fervent request, Mr. Zana Abdulkareem Qader kindly took me to see one at our neighbor's house. It was strikingly similar to the ones we had excavated. This season has been invaluable, and I carry forward both knowledge and gratitude.



A remarkable object excavated this year was a complete iron hook found inside a tanoor (traditional clay oven), which further ignited my curiosity.



Overview of the Lower Town trench at Kani Shaie.



The tanoor section that showed exceptional stratigraphy. The stone supporting platform is in the back.



# Joshua Feland

University of Alberta  
Humayma, Jordan



The photogrammetry for the site was conducted primarily by the students using both a traditional DSLR camera and the student's own smartphones. Both pieces of capture technology produced excellent results considering this was the students first time using them in the field.

## Adventure in a Nabatean Town

In May 2025, I was presented with the opportunity to act as a supervisor & teach photogrammetry techniques on the University of Alberta's Humayma Field School 2025 project. This field school aimed to instill archaeological field technique and values in the next generation of archaeology students.

15 university students coming from Canada and the United States travelled to Jordan to conduct their first fieldwork in the middle east. The overall goal of the field school in its inaugural season was to establish the state of the structures on the site, create a detailed site map, pinpoint key areas for further excavation and conservation, and instruct the students in archaeological field techniques, including photogrammetry and 3D modelling.



Alongside my role on the project, my personal goal was to increase my skills in photogrammetry, begin to delve into the use of digital modelling technology, and work on my instructional skills.



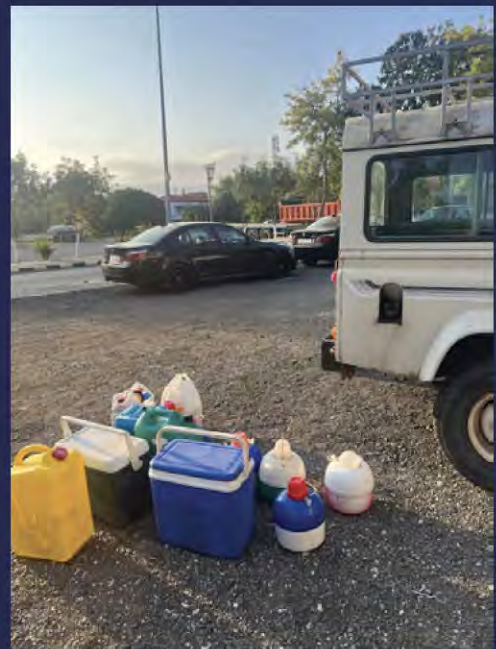
# Gabrielle Puckett

University of Tennessee  
Makounta-Voules, Cyprus



## Early Mornings, Endless Memories

Arriving at the site of Makounta-Voules we have the first hill climb of the day, a beautiful path (if I do say so myself). We spend the day digging and taking elevations, pictures when necessary, and reminding ourselves to trust our guts while we sift. After an hour or two of lab-work (I am working on a project to clean up our faunal remains from past seasons and remove their thick calcium accretions through various methods) we have some lovely free time which is always best spent at the beach. A view that I strongly believe can't be beat is the mediterranean sea after a long day of digging.



It's 4:00am in the sleepy town of Polis Chrysochous, Cyprus. The sun isn't up yet, but the alley cats are finding their morning snacks. I'm on breakfast duty, so in addition to the egg boiling and tomato cutting of the night before, it's my team's job to go fill the coolers and water jugs for the field day ahead. We pile Landy, the beloved but ancient Land Rover of one of our co-directors, with the equipment and food for the day.



Team photo-Throughout this project I have had so many experiences that I hope aren't limited to once in a lifetime.



# Aayush Umesh

University of Georgia  
Tall Hisban, Jordan



My time at Tall Hisban was nothing short of life-changing. Our objective this excavation season was to gain a better understanding of the dietary practices of the inhabitants of Tall Hisban by comparing data procured at the tell to data procured at a nearby wadi (valley) that had been historically used for agricultural purposes. Upon returning to the hotel each afternoon, the group would reconvene for pottery washing and counting after a nap. It was inspiring watching Prof. Walker identify the period or region of any given sherd in seconds! I am thrilled that I have found my path—Islamic archaeology—and have been given the opportunity to study with one of the world's leading Islamic archaeologists.



The Ain Ghazal statues at the Jordan Museum



Me and some teammates in our square



The Madaba Map (the oldest surviving cartographic depiction of the Holy Land as a large floor mosaic on the floor of the St. George Greek Orthodox Church



# Olivia Spink

New York University  
Tell Timai, Egypt



I had the privilege and pleasure of attending the Tell Timai International Training Program this July in Egypt. While this was not a typical excavation season, the lectures, workshops, field trips, and training sessions working with Egyptian, American, British, and Australian colleagues was an unforgettable, unique, and informative experience.

One particularly fascinating find was the remains of a male human body inside a kiln. The team at Timai has agreed that the body was of a man who went into hiding in a kiln to escape the violence and was then killed while he was inside of the kiln.



After an early morning trip to see the Pyramids in Giza, we had the opportunity to visit the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) where we went on a guided tour of the Center and gained insight into their digital archival process. Following the visit, we attended a lecture on 19th century cultural heritage in Luxor by Sylvie Weens at the Netherlands-Flemish Institute in Cairo.



We were joined by ceramic specialist Dr. Amany Shabaan, who delivered several lectures on ceramics at Timai and also in general, everything from what to do when we find a sherd in the field through digital pottery drawing. These training sessions learning ceramic archaeological skills were my favorite workshops!

# Lifetime Donor Summary Impact



**\$77,000**

**awarded in  
scholarships for  
fieldwork**

**39** **students  
awarded  
scholarships**

Year	Recipient	Country	Project	Universities of Recipients
2016	Caitlin Clerkin	Israel	Excavations at Omrit	University of Michigan
2016	Andrea Creel	Israel	Jezreel Valley Regional Project (JVRP)	University of California, Berkeley
2017	Christopher Jones	Israel	Tell es-Safi/Gath Project	Columbia University
2017	Jordan Ryan	Israel	Excavation at Magdala	Wheaton College
2018	John Huggins	Israel	Huqoq Excavation Project	Austin College
2018	Evan McDuff	Israel	Tel Dor Excavation Project	Brandeis University
2019	Marcella Barbosa	Israel	The Tel Burna Excavation Project	Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
2019	Zachary Dunseth	Israel	Tel Arad	Tel Aviv University
2019	Madeline Okkonen	Israel	Tell es-Safi/Gath Project	Grand Valley State University
2019	Adam Schneider	Jordan	The Balu'a Regional Archaeological Program (BRAP)	University of Colorado
2021	Loren Clark	Israel	Paleoenvironmental investigations in the Kebara - Summer Stipend	University of California, San Diego
2021	Lilly Hickox	Jordan	Humayma - Summer Stipend	Queens University, Humaya
2021	Julian Hirsch	Jordan	Landscape of the Dead at Fifa - Summer Stipend	Trent University
2021	Sye Kidane	Ethiopia	Southern Red Seas History Project - Summer Stipend	Spellman College
2021	Onur Hasan Kirman	Turkey	Tell Judaiadah - Summer Stipend	Hatay Mustafa Kemal University



Year	Recipient	Country	Project	Universities of Recipients
2021	Kyla McCall	Egypt	Wadi el-Hudi Expedition - Summer Stipend	Fisk University
2022	Safia Boutaleb	Cyprus	Kissonerga-Skalia Excavation	University of British Columbia
2022	Jessica Eddington	Jordan	Ad-Deir Monument and Plateau Project	Brigham Young University
2022	Rose Gatlin	Cyprus	Vilga Archaeological Project	Reed College
2022	Zachary Griffith	Israel	Huqoq Excavation Project	Austin College
2022	Kyra Kaercher	Iraq	Rural Landscapes of Imperial Iron Age Mesopotamia	University of Cambridge
2022	Zeynep KUSDIL SAK	Turkey	Tayinat Archaeological Project	University of Toronto
2023	Nikolaus Cox	Jordan	Mudawwara Ottoman Fort	Rhenish Friedrich-Wilhelm University of Bonn
2023	Veronica Morriss	Israel	Caesarea Coastal Archaeological Project	University of Chicago
2023	Nathaniel Durant	Israel	Birsama Exploration Project	University of Buffalo
2023	Sophie Vo	Iraq	Rural Landscape of Imperial Iron Age Mesopotamia	Emory University
2023	Isabelle Sauv�	Cyprus	Kalavasos-Ayios Dhimitros - KAMBE Project	University of British Columbia
2024	Lucas Proctor	Iraq	Rural Landscape of Imperial Iron Age Mesopotamia	University of Connecticut
2024	Rubar Yavuz	Turkey	Tayinat Archaeological Project	Van Y�z�nc� Y�l University
2024	Madeline A. Conigliaro-Nguyen	Iraq	Girdi Matrab Archaeological Project	University of Chicago
2024	Tanner Frick	Croatia	Bra� Island Project	University of Colorado, Boulder
2024	Kiley Stoj	Turkey	�adırd�y�k Archaeological Project	University of South Carolina, Columbia
2024	Paris Cook	Cyprus	Vilga Archaeological Project	Metropolitan State University of Denver



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2025	Kelsey Peterson	Turkey	Tell Tayinat Archaeological Project	University of Toronto
2025	Gabrielle Puckett	Cyprus	Makounta-Voules Archaeological Project	University of Tennessee
2025	Yishu Deng	Iraqi Kurdistan	Kani Shaie Archaeological Project	University of Cambridge
2025	Joshua Feland	Jordan	Humayma Archaeological Project	University of Alberta
2025	Aayush Umesh	Jordan	Tall Hisban Archaeological Project	University of Georgia
2025	Oliva Spink	Egypt	Tell Timai Archaeological Project	New York University



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

