

# 2025 Shirlee Meyers/ G. Ernest Wright Fieldwork Scholarships

## DONOR IMPACT REPORT



asor

# 2025 Donor Impact Summary

**\$8,000**

awarded for  
fieldwork  
scholarships  
in 2025

**4** Scholarships  
Awarded

## Recipients:

Atakan Atabas  
Zoe Bernier  
Emma Lewis  
Leah Neiman

## Colleges and Universities:

University of Central Florida  
Wilfried Laurier  
University of Louisville  
Brown University

## Excavation/Fieldwork Sites:

Kerkenes Project, Turkey  
Khirbat al-Mukhayyat, Jordan  
Syedra Antik Kenti, Turkey  
Rural Landscapes of Imperial  
Iron Age Mesopotamia,  
Kurdistan Region of Iraq



Atabas - Looking out over the foggy plain from the field.



# Atakan Atabas

University of Central Florida  
Kerkenes Project, Turkey



Photo of Atakan Atabas Conducting an electrical resistivity survey on a foggy, cold day in the field.

In the summer of 2025, I joined the Kerkenes Project in Yozgat, central Anatolia. For many international scholars, fieldwork in Turkey means collecting evidence, expanding networks, publishing papers, and advancing knowledge of the ancient world. For me, however, it is also deeply personal. Fieldwork is a return home: talking with workers from the village, walking the landscapes of my childhood, breathing the scent of native flowers, and tasting familiar foods that I ate growing up.



Looking for points for preparing survey grids.



Atakan Atabas gives a talk about Kerkenes to a group of cyclists who visited the site during the Sorgun Bicycle Festival.



Workers gather to chat and share food and snacks.

# Zoe Bernier

Wilfried Laurier

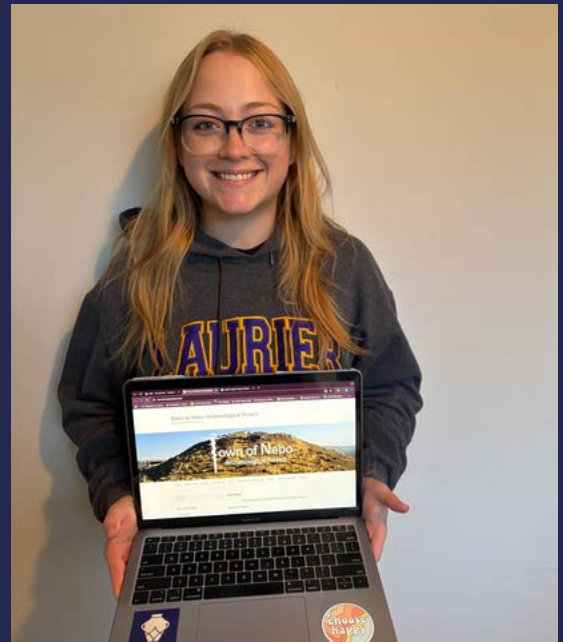
Khirbat al-Mukhayyat, Jordan



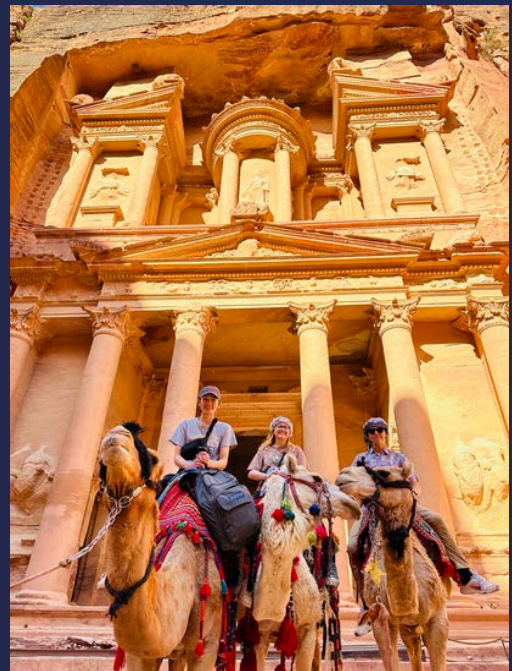
**Zoe in a small corner of her square that was sectioned off by stone walls believed to be a part of Iron Age fortification walls.**

**I received my field school credit after six weeks of working at Khirbat al-Mukhayyat, Jordan.**

**This fall, Dr. Foran has allowed me to work on the project website to include information from previous seasons. The opportunities given to me by my directors and ASOR have been so exciting, and I am forever grateful to have been selected to participate in them! I would like to give a special thank you to my donors as well as they have given me the opportunity to work on research for the Khirbat al-Mukhayyat Archaeological Project.**



**Zoe working on the website.**



**Miya Pletsas, Colin Yapp, and Zoe Bernier on camels in front of the Treasury in Petra - a photo uploaded to the website to show future students the opportunities available on the dig.**



# Leah Neiman

**Brown University**

**Rural Landscapes of Imperial Iron  
Age Mesopotamia, Kurdistan  
Region of Iraq**



**Sitting trench-side recording in my excavation notebook. Next to me is the daughter of one of our workers from Trpaspiyan, practicing her spelling.**

**As the trench supervisor, the first thing I do each morning is take stock of the current state of excavation and determine the goals for the day ahead. Archaeology is inherently collaborative, and these assessments must be made in discussion with the other team members in the trench.**

**Once we've agreed upon a plan, Laurel, Daniel, and Radiance begin digging while I take a seat at the side of the trench to start the day's entry in my excavation notebook.**

## A Day in the Life



**5:00am on site looking northeast from the western end of Operation E.**



**3:30pm: Working on reconstructing ceramic sherds with Kyra Kaercher.**



**RLIM 2025 Team photo. Photo credit: Petra Creamer.**

# Lifetime Donor Summary Impact



**\$52,000**

**awarded in  
scholarships for  
fieldwork**

**31** **students  
awarded  
scholarships**

Year	Recipient	Country	Project	Universities of Recipients
2013	Allison Ripley	Iraq	Rowanduz Archaeological Project	Boston University
2013	Marielle Velandier	Israel	Tel Kabri	George Washington University
2014	Joyce Fountain	Israel	Marj Rabba	University of Connecticut
2014	Chris McKinny	Israel	Tel Burna	Bar Ilan University
2014	Brian Porrett	Israel	Tell es-Safi/Gath	The College of Wooster
2015	Ryan Gardner-Cook	Israel	Jezreel	Stony Brook University
2015	Erin Hall	Israel	Tell es-Safi/Gath	Tel Aviv University
2015	Craig Harvey	Jordan	Ayn Gharandal Archaeological Project	University of Michigan
2015	Cat Quine	Israel	Tel Azekah	University of Oxford
2016	Josephine Verduci	Jordan	Tall 'Umayri	University of Melbourne
2016	Andrew Farinholt Ward	Turkey	Kinik Hoyuk	New York University
2017	Nicole Swartwood	Jordan	Ayn Gharandal Archaeological Project	Emory University
2017	Paula Waiman-Barak	Israel	Tel Mevorakh	University of Haifa
2018	Amanda Bauer	Israel	Tel Dan	University of Arizona
2018	Kaitlin Long-Wright	Israel	Horvat Midras	University of British Columbia
2019	Jonathan Gardner	Israel	Tell Shimron	Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

Year	Recipient	Country	Project	Universities of Recipients
2019	Melanie Godsey	Cyprus	Pylia-Koutsopetria Archaeological Project	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2021	Kacey Garcia	Jordan	Khirbat al-Balu'a	La Sierra University
2021	Christine Sylvester	Jordan	Khirbat al-Mukhayyat Archaeological Project	Wilfrid Laurier University
2022	Bruno Barros	Israel	Tel Azekah	Eotvos Lorad University
2022	Aurora Camano	Armenia	Vayots Dzor Fortress Landscapes Project	Simon Fraser University
2022	Krysten Cruz	Cyprus	Ayioi Omoloyites Bioarchaeological Project	Texas State University
2022	Anna Luurstma	Israel	A Multi-Survey Exploration of Residences near Tell el-Hesi, Israel	University of Michigan
2023	Emilie Nordhues	Israel	Tel Dan	University of California, Los Angeles
2023	Sarah Richardson	Israel	Tell el-Hesi	University of Manitoba
2024	Brady Hill	Kurdistan Region of Iraq	Kani Shaie Archaeological Project	Durham University
2024	Christos Theodorou	Cyprus	Kissonerga-Skalia Project	Hunter College
2025	Atakan Atabas	Turkey	Kerkenes Project	University of Central Florida
2025	Zoe Bernier	Jordan	Khirbat al-Mukhayyat Archaeological Project	Wilfrid Laurier University
2025	Emma Lewis	Turkey	Syedra Antik Kenti Project	University of Louisville
2025	Leah Neiman	Kurdistan Region of Iraq	Rural Landscapes of Imperial Iron Age Mesopotamia (RLIIM) Project	Brown University





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

