

# BRAP BEAT



Balu'a  
Regional  
Archaeological  
Project

## BRAP 2024

By Monique Roddy



BRAP 2024 Team in the lab at La Sierra University

Welcome back to an abbreviated version of the *BRAP Beat*! This newsletter follows the excavations of the Balu'a Regional Archaeological Project (BRAP). This summer plans shifted and we found ourselves back in the lab at La Sierra University, at the Lawrence T. Geraty and Douglas R. Clark Center for Near Eastern Archaeology (CNEA), for a study season. Students took intensive courses from June 17-28 introducing them to archaeological fieldwork and processing archaeological materials for publication, as well as a seminar in Iron Age Jordan. Plans to return to the field are now for Summer 2025 for the fourth major season of excavation at Khirbat al-Balu'a.

Undergraduate and graduate students registered for the "fieldwork" course spent mornings in the lab working with excavated materials from Balu'a. This included artifacts from the 2022 season that needed further study before their return to Jordan. The largest project, however, was double checking pottery plates from the 2019 season with the sherds for discussion in an upcoming publication, and beginning the process of studying the 2022 pottery for publication. Students were 'hands on' as Friedbert, Kent, and Ian discussed the sherds and explained how ceramic wares and shapes undergird the archaeological dating system.

In addition to the students, staff members from the BRAP arrived to join momentum on their own research on Balu'a materials and to share their expertise in a series of lectures for the students.