

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.



Students working with the pottery from Balu'a

Some staff and volunteers “Zoomed” in to provide their perspective for the students. Having project members around for two weeks helped create more of a “dig” atmosphere and give the students a sense of what archaeological collaboration achieves!

Lecturers included Kent Bramlett and Monique Roddy introducing the Balu'a Regional Archaeological Project; Sarah Richardson on geospatial data collection and analysis, with emphasis on her surveys of looting at Balu'a; Ian Jones on metallurgy and its development in

Jordan; Friedbert Ninow on Iron Age fortified sites in Moab; Douglas Clark on cultural heritage preservation from his work with MRAMP in Madaba, Jordan; Geoff Hedges-Knyrim on archaeobotany; Stephanie Selover on weapons and warfare; Monique Roddy on household archaeology; Jaime Bennett on weaving and the loom weights from Balu'a; and Betty Adams on residue analysis results at Balu'a.

The students completed their summer intensive experience by researching and presenting on Iron Age sites for the Iron Age Jordan seminar using the extensive collection of books in the CNEA library. This library has been enriched over the last few years by donations from the private libraries of Lawrence Geraty, Thomas Levy, Norma Kershaw, Peggy Duly, Brian Byrd, and William Broughton. Volunteers at the CNEA, including past BRAPites Carolyn Waldron and Shaun Eccles, were busy processing some of these books as they enjoyed listening in on the lectures. We especially appreciated the support of Kaitlyn Satelmayer, the administrative assistant at the CNEA and a masters student in archaeology doing her research on household religion at Balu'a.



Kent Bramlett and Ian Jones discussing Iron Age sites



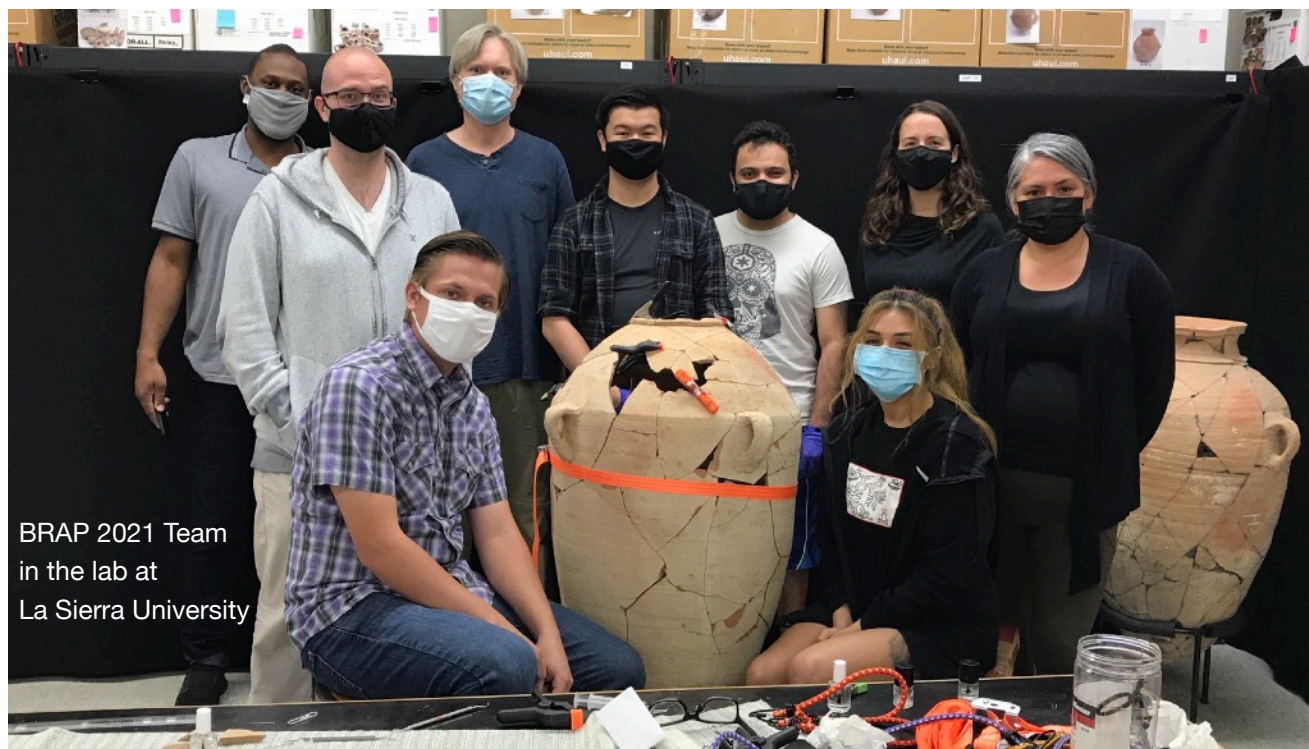
Ian Jones working on Islamic pottery from Balu'a; Carolyn Waldron processing books donated to the CNEA



Jaime Bennett working on loom weights from Balu'a; Betty Adams researching for her PhD thesis



Kent Bramlett lecturing in the seminar space at the CNEA; donut break!



BRAP 2021 Team
in the lab at
La Sierra University

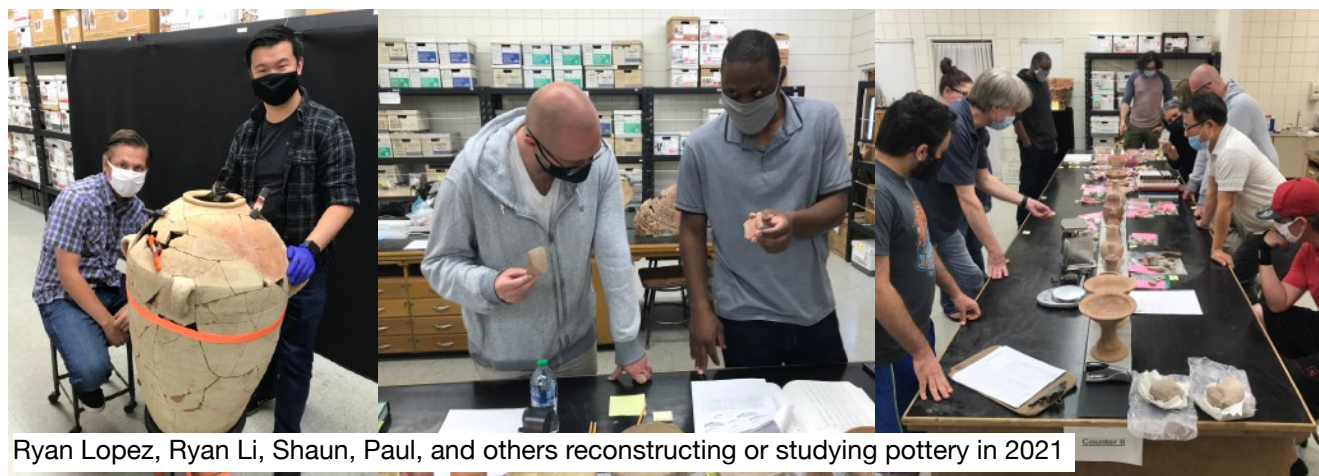
Remembering BRAP 2021

Monique Roddy

In Summer 2021 BRAP found ourselves similarly needing to flexibly change plans from field to lab. From June 16-29 students gathered at the CNEA at La Sierra University to complete projects that would help toward publication. We neglected to feature a *BRAP Beat* for 2021, so are including photos and a team list here for the record. Students successfully reconstructed a pithos (large storage jar) excavated in 2017 from the Iron IIB domestic structure known as “the House” and worked on pottery, artifacts, and samples. Then, as with this summer, they were registered for the “fieldwork” course and/or a seminar, that time on household archaeology. We were glad many of these same students were able to join us at Balu’a in 2022, and hope at least some of this summer’s crew will be able to join us next summer in 2025.



Joseph, Maggie, and Kacey reconstructing and scanning pottery in 2021



Ryan Lopez, Ryan Li, Shaun, Paul, and others reconstructing or studying pottery in 2021

The 2021 & 2024 BRAP Study Season Teams

The contributions of each member of the team are essential to a great season and to archaeological success. We want to take this opportunity to thank each participant.

Directors



Kent Bramlett



Monique Roddy

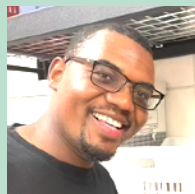


Friedbert Ninow

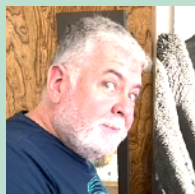
2024 Students



William Locke

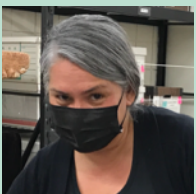


Zamani Moyo



Raul Zanatta

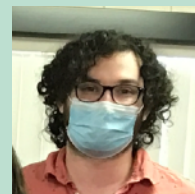
2021 Students



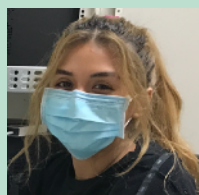
Maggie Apffel



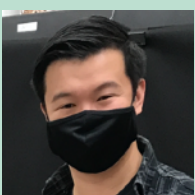
Shaun Eccles



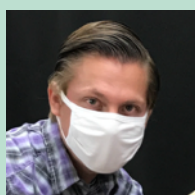
Sam Fisher



Kacey Garcia



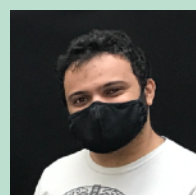
Ryan Li



Ryan Lopez



Paul Richards



Joseph Rutkin

BRAPites in Residence

With appreciation to BRAP staff and volunteers who joined the team virtually or in person for lectures and discussion:

Betty Adams

Ian Jones

Carolyn Waldron

Jaime Bennett

Susan Penacho

Douglas Clark

Sarah Richardson

Geoff Hedges-Knyrim

Stephanie Selover