Summarize your internship by providing an overview of the organization/research project and a summary of your responsibilities, tasks, and/or projects.

For the summer of 2017, I worked as a research assistant for the Herculaneum Graffiti Project, an organization that seeks to archive and preserve ancient graffiti through an open online database. In my position, I worked collaboratively with Dr. Jacqueline DiBiasie who serves as the Field Director of the project in order to further the visual and bibliographic component of the project's central database. My work comprised of organizing photos taken on site and determining which should be uploaded online. Secondly, I curated a list of books and articles that mentioned specific entries on the database and included them in a bibliography so that all entries could be used as a research tool for further study.

During your internship, what did you accomplish or how did you make a difference? In what ways did you grow in your professional and technical skills?

By the end of my research assistantship, I had collected nearly 200 photos that were edited and made ready to add to the database. Additionally, I had included my bibliographic references into a separate database, Zotero, in order to be used alongside the project's database. I believe that both completed tasks will aid in further research into Herculaneum by providing accurate photographs of graffiti on site and clearly direct scholars to additional sources.
Describe a problem that you helped to solve at your internship. What skills or knowledge from your education at Sewanee helped you address the problem?
As the structure of my assistantship was clearly laid out from the start, I did not encounter any direct problems that would have jeopardized the project. Nevertheless, I do believe that a diligent work ethic derived from Sewanee rigor allowed for me to feasibly work independently when necessary and stay on task without persistent guidance.

In what way were your teamwork skills strengthened?
For the majority of my assistantship, I worked independently with the guidelines set by my professor. As such, a skill-set such as teamwork was not directly utilized, yet I believe that by regularly sending updates and scheduling Skype meetings with my professor, I was able to successfully work in a collaborative format in order to complete my work.

How did your internship affect your career plans?
Working with the Herculaneum Graffiti Project allowed for me to continue my work in Classical Archaeology which I began at Sewanee. I plan to continue my passion for antiquity with a graduate degree in Museum Studies following a degree in Anthropology from Sewanee.

In what ways did your internship cause you to encounter people of different backgrounds from your own? What steps did you take to communicate effectively with such persons? What did you learn from such persons' perspectives?
Working with others in this aspect was not a component of my assistantship due to its independent structure.

Words of thanks to your internship funding donors:
I would like to thank the individual(s) that funded my internship. Your contribution allowed for me to continue working within a discipline that I am deeply passionate about. My position gave me the skills necessary to work in an independent role for a larger organization. I believe that my work with this project will be both beneficial for the future research into the region, as well as future endeavors for myself.