

Join us on **Monday, October 17** at 12 in Tribble A301 for:

Ancient Graffiti in the 21st Century: New approaches to the study of ancient wall-inscriptions

A Presentation by Dr. Jacqueline DiBiasie-Sammons, Sewanee: The University of the South
Lunch will be provided to participants!



Professor DiBiasie-Sammons and members of the HGP team use Reflectance Transformation Imaging to capture graffiti on a column in Herculaneum

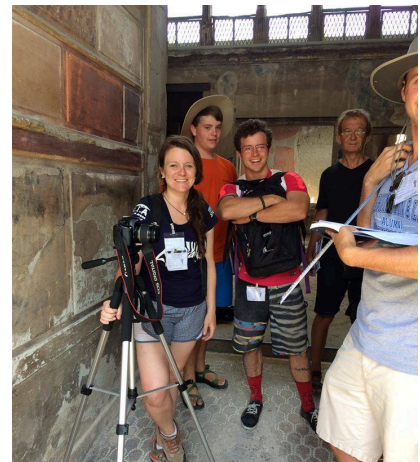
Pompeii and its neighbor Herculaneum are famous as the ill-fated cities destroyed by Mount Vesuvius in 79AD. This eruption, while disastrous for the inhabitants, has preserved the ancient graffiti that were scribbled on the walls. Graffiti were inscribed into the wall plaster in a variety of locations including public buildings, tombs, temples, and houses. These texts range from just a few letters to multiple lines of poetry and elaborate drawings.

Over 11,000 ancient graffiti have been recorded in Pompeii and Herculaneum and, as such, are an important archaeological material for understanding the daily life of typical Roman citizens as well as groups marginalized from the

literary record like women and slaves. Unfortunately, graffiti are disappearing from the walls of Pompeii and Herculaneum at an alarming rate. The Herculaneum Graffiti Project, for which Dr. DiBiasie-Sammons is the Field Director, seeks to document and digitize these inscriptions before they disappear.

Prof. DiBiasie-Sammons will give a short introduction to the history and importance of Pompeii and Herculaneum as well as the graffiti preserved in these two cities. She will explain the methods being used by the Herculaneum Graffiti Project to document these inscriptions including new technologies such as mobile tablets, computational photography, and photogrammetry. Finally, she will demonstrate the Ancient Graffiti Project Search Engine, a contextual search engine created for the study of these ancient inscriptions.

Following the talk, there will be an opportunity for questions. **Participants are encouraged to bring their computers and/or tablets.** If time permits, participants can experiment with the technology after the talk.



Professor DiBiasie and several HGP team members in the Samnite House in Herculaneum