

# Time Sifters Presents

## Cornelia Futor Memorial Student Research Grant

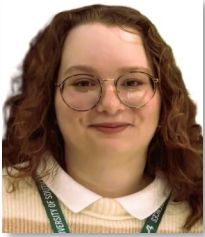


**The Cornelia Futor Memorial Student Grant** is made possible thanks to the support of CRM industry leader **Archaeological Consultants Inc, (ACI)**, as well as many individual donors. The grant of up to \$2000 is open to students currently enrolled at a Florida university or college who have begun their junior year of undergraduate studies at the time of application, MA students, and Ph.D. students who are pursuing a major in anthropology with a focus on archaeology.

The **2026 grant cycle** is specifically funding participation in field schools that include training in excavation techniques or targeted research in archives that may yield new information about the history of the European presence in Florida. This year they will go to **Layla Alvarado, USF**, who will be attending Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) CRM Professional Training Program at Old Cahawba Archaeological Park in Alabama, and **Luke Berna, UCF**, who will be attending University of North Florida's Archaeological Field School.

We continue to support the important work being done in the USF field schools in the Mediterranean; but this year we have had the opportunity to give both grants closer to home. We wish all the students the best luck for their summer projects and future studies.

## The 2026 Winners



**Layla Alvarado**  
*M.A. Student,  
University of South Florida*

I will be at the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) CRM Professional Training Program at Old Cahawba Archaeological Park

in Alabama, directed by William Henry. The program is RPA certified. We will be working with contexts from the Woodland to mid-20th century, but the main cultural and archaeological context of the excavation will focus on the mid-19th century. I will be attending from July 6th-July 31st, 2026.

A field school is incredibly important to my academic plans as I would like to pursue my Masters in Archaeology. I would like to advance the study of Florida archaeology as that is my field of interest specifically the study of prehistoric indigenous peoples of Florida. I have completed an undergraduate honors thesis on prehistoric indigenous foodways and would love to do a similar project in the future. A field school will give me the confidence and knowledge needed to conduct safe and proper fieldwork in academic and CRM settings. I hope to acquire shovel testing experience as that is an incredibly important skill to have in the field. The research being conducted at the field school will also be important as it will add to the historical record from the mid-19th century. This will make me a well-rounded archaeologist especially since Florida tends to have overlaps in context due to construction or looters.



**Luke Berna**  
*M.A. Student,  
University of Central Florida*

I will be attending the University of North Florida's Archaeological Field School. This field school is directed by Dr. Keith Ashley and sponsored by UNF. The projected site is in the stages of finalization and is an Indigenous site that will have a Late Archaic Orange component and a Late Woodland component. I have been accepted to UNF and await the enrollment period beginning on April 3rd. In addition to my academic work, I am a full-time UCF employee. The UNF Field School course will last six weeks in May-June, dates that allow me to take time off and concentrate on the experience and learning opportunities in the field.

The field school at UNF is vital to the progress of my educational development and professional career within CRM. Having received my bachelor's in history, I lack hands-on archaeological field experience that will benefit my professional development. Additionally, the UNF field school will inform my thesis topic, which will focus on human-ecosystem interactions and landscape modification in Atlantic coastal Florida during the Woodland and Mississippian periods. As part of the field school, my learning outcomes will provide me with the fundamental skills needed for a successful career within CRM after my graduation. Knowledge from excavation units, archaeological features and artifact identification is also pivotal to the fieldwork required for my thesis.

