The Franklin Birthday Celebration grant that I received enabled me to continue my work at the ancient Phrygian capital of Gordion in central Turkey under the guidance of Dr. C. Brian Rose this summer. The attention of my fieldwork at Gordion during the 2016 season focused on the impending rescue excavation of the Beyceğiz Tumulus, a nearby monumental burial mound probably constructed during the 8th c. B.C. My work is intended to supplement the upcoming work and provide excavators with an overview of the previous investigations of the tumulus, including the search for the tomb chamber. The tomb will be excavated during the summer of 2017 under the auspices of the Ankara Archaeology Museum working in tandem with the Gordion Archaeology Project, and the excavation director has assured me that my research will form part of the final publication of the tomb.

As a result of this initiative, my research became more tightly focused on the Beyceğiz Tumulus. Rather than examining Phrygian roads writ large as originally intended, I have instead compiled all the relevant information regarding earlier work at Beyceğiz, mostly unpublished, documenting descriptively who has done what around the tumulus over the years. To this I have added the details of my own work, namely the establishment of a primary control network that will be used in the excavation of the tumulus to monitor and record the daily fieldwork. Using aerial photography from a drone (purchased with a grant from the Penn Digital Humanities Forum), I also investigated a possible cluster of buildings near the tumulus which are discussed in a 1962 article about the ancient roads of Anatolia. I documented the current state of a Roman road which passes by the tumulus, presumably along the same route as its Phrygian predecessor.

In addition to writing a history of research at Beyceğiz, I worked as the surveyor for the site, recording features and elevations in the trenches with a total station as well as assisting the architectural conservation team with monitoring a damaged Iron Age Citadel Gate. This work also included the digital mapping of the site using ArcGIS, documenting the current excavations as well as assisting researchers in preparing maps of previous excavations for publication.
I was also extremely fortunate to have spent a large amount of time in the trenches learning the techniques and skills of excavation. The training I received this summer has exponentially increased my knowledge and capabilities in the field of archaeology.

Overall, this summer was incredibly rewarding as I had the opportunity to conduct my own research into an area of increasing relevance and significance and also immerse myself in the many different facets of archaeology and learn from leading professionals in this discipline.