Kirsten Lopez

Gilman Scholar



Major: Anthropology

Year: Senior

IE3 Internship Program:

Gozo, Malta Heritage Malta

Term Abroad: Fall 2011

Experiential Project:

"An Archaeological Recovery From Behind The Curtain: the inventory of re-found human remains in Gozo, Malta"

In the fall of 2011, I undertook an opportunity to experience museum collections and curation in Gozo, Malta. While I had experience working with collections here on campus, the ability to learn cross-cultural differences in storage, display, and perceptions of the past couldn't be passed up.

Malta has a long history of human occupation, about 7,000 years of agricultural settlement. Between 5,000BC and 2,500BC the famous megalithic Temples of Malta were constructed. This Temple Builder culture was very unique in the Mediterranean, and very little is known about them. The remains found lost in storage for thirty years may help further research about these people during the height of the Temple

Period. Through my project of documenting the contents of these two boxes, I learned about the research regarding the Temple Builders and differing attitudes toward human remains and modern cultural identity in Gozo.

