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Archaeological Field Work - a Neolithic Village

By Larkin Kennedy

As a small school, Denison doesn't offer either a specific program in Archaeology, nor many opportunities to enjoin in archaeological research. In an attempt to both stay at Denison, and to pursue this field, therefore, I've tried to combine my interests by majoring in Biology and by picking up a second major in Classical Civilizations. Furthermore, this summer there is an opportunity my roommate Allison Cartmell and I wish to become involved in, as we have similar aspirations: to apply to graduate school. Her concentration is in Classical Archaeology, while I lean toward a more Physical Anthropology/Archaeology bent.

First, through the Classical Civilization course being offered this May in Italy (*Loca Antiqua 2003: Italia* taught by Dr. Jacobsen and Dr. Fronza), we would learn more about the cultural context of such historical and prehistorical finds as well as being able to see the full impact of these premodern cultures on today's world. We will visit both continuing and completed archaeological digs in Rome and the surrounding countryside, and through individual site-related projects, we will further be able to research the Archaeological methods involved in such projects as well as familiarize ourselves with the fieldwork we hope to do after this class is completed.

To collect preliminary data, we would turn to the Medias field project in Romania, which is jointly funded by the Brukenthal Museum of Sibiu in Romania and the Archaeological Techniques and Resource Center – ArchaeoTek in Canada. We would be excavating both a Neolithic village as well as a Roman provincial town, and there are weekend trips available with which the culture and other historical legacies of the region can be experienced.

Attached are four more detailed project explanations from the director. While in Romania, not only would we be able to participate in the discoveries made and understand the way knowledge of a society can be gleaned from such discoveries, but we would also be immersed in a different culture and language and as such would be able to experience first hand the difficulties and rewards of overseas work. Allison, with her more classically minded interests, would be concentrating on the work in the Roman town while I am more interested with the sites associated with early man and would focus on the Neolithic village. We would stay in regular contact with our research advisor, Dr. Jacobsen, at Denison by email and would be able to provide him not only with written responses to the project but also with pictures via a digital camera. Also, as we are planning on doing this preliminary field work together Allison and I would be able to interact with and complement each other's projects, providing feedback, help, and support to each other in both our working and living environments.

Once Allison and I come back to campus in early July, having finished our initial data collection, we will not only be left with the greater task of piecing together the excavation and experiences we accumulated there in light of our ongoing research here on campus, but also be able to present the initial portion of our project with the rest of the summer scholars. For the remaining two months of the summer, we would use the resources found at Denison to further our knowledge of both Archaeological methodology and the site we excavated as well as relate the experience to our wider goals. We hope by the end of the summer to be able to provide a not only this look into the actual details of Archaeological fieldwork, but also provide a full field

report. For this we would rely very heavily on the library's resources as well as faculty guidance, especially Dr. Jacobsen who will be helping to direct our study both before the excavation through the class in Italy as well as with his help after we return to campus. We would like to allow our disparate projects to evolve somewhat in the light of the library and faculty resources available to us, and through them the initial field project would be able to attain its full significance to our goals, and perhaps future careers as well.