**PROJECT TITLE: Ethnographic Field work in Isla Mujeres**

Is this request for (please select one): Field school

Please explain the anthropological significance of your research project/internship/field school:

The anthropological significance for attending my field school would be to adequately gain additional hands-on qualitative research experience, in a cross-cultural setting with good guidance and mentoring. In addition to specific knowledge of another culture, I hope to learn more about which are the proper tools/methods to use for a given project, in order to compose ethnography.

<personal information removed>

WILL YOU BE WORKING WITH HUMAN SUBJECTS? \_\_\_\_Yes \_√\_No

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I have reviewed the “student contract” information on the Dept website

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I plan to seek IRB approval

\_\_√\_\_\_ I do not plan to seek IRB approval (please explain):
I do not plan to seek IRB approval, because I am not conducting research; I am participating in a field school.

ANTICIPATED DISSEMINATION PLAN: My anticipated dissemination plan would be inspiring other students in my major to pursue an interest in ethnographic field work and apply for the Bigel grant. I would also like to demonstrate how possible it is to partake in cross cultural analysis and research experiences they may not have thought they could pursue.

**Isla Mujeres Field School**

Isla Mujeres, an Ethnographic Field School located in Mexico where Mayan temples are preserved, focuses on the experience of fieldwork knowledge in relation to the student. I am interested in this field school because they offer an individualized program that focuses on ethnographic research; with the help of the mentor I will be able to gain a hands-on experience. The school also focuses on environmental issues, which are one of my greatest interests. As a popular Caribbean town, its economy mainly relies on tourism of all forms thus allowing eco-tourism, sustainable tourism, local economies and environmental protections to be studied. The program offers both a three week and six week program where students gain full understanding of the various techniques of conducting successful research. I will be choosing the three week program because this program fits my budget best. I will be paired with a mentor who will train me on qualitative and quantitative research techniques. I plan to use this as an opportunity to gain a comprehensive understanding of how to conduct ethnographic methods such as creating surveys and efficiently studying contemporary people and their behavior. Despite my knowledge on ethnographic research from previous courses, this program will teach me hands-on how to interact with individuals in different ways. The program promises that upon completion of the course I will have learned the basics of writing a research proposal, how to conduct independent research and how to properly utilize writing styles that are expected of a research paper. The budget of the program totals to about $5,000 including the cost of tuition $2,875, flight $600, miscellaneous $1,000 and food $500. Thus, I am requesting the full amount for the Bigel Award ($2,500).

As an anthropology major with a minor in business, I would like to use this opportunity as a platform for my future career. After I graduate I plan on looking for a job in the marketing sector. I hope to combine marketing with my interest in cultural studies to better understand consumer behavior. Learning how to conduct formal ethnographic research will validate my expertise as a cultural anthropologist. This will prepare me for my future field of study where conducting surveys, interviews, participant observation and analyzing data are daily tasks in the work place. The Isla Mujeres field work school will not only adequately prepare me for my future career but it will expose me to different cultural environments allowing me to capture a new perspective. My expertise in a culturally diverse area will increase my knowledge and hopefully make me a better candidate for my future job position. As a native Spanish speaker with Dominican heritage, conducting research in another part of Latin America will also broaden my expertise in Latin cultures. Not only will I understand Dominican culture but the experience and daily interactions with local people in Isla Mujeres will allow me to grasp onto different elements of Latin America.

If given the opportunity to participate in the Isla Mujeres field school, my goal is to obtain the unique techniques of conducting independent ethnographic research. I will keep a journal of anthropological insights in hopes of sharing this upon my return with other students and inspiring them to believe that they too can avail themselves of cross cultural and research experiences that they may have not thought possible.