



The group hikes down from Loughcrew, a megalithic burial ground in County Meath.

DIGGING UP THE PAST:

The History and Archaeology of Medieval Ireland



Students and local guides visit a holy well in Kinsale.



Marisa Wieneke explores Bective Abbey in County Meath.

Castles and ancient cemeteries, folklore and friaries, abbeys and archaeology – all of these were part of a four-week adventure for 17 undergraduate students in Alison Beach’s May Session program, “The History and Archaeology of Medieval Ireland.”

The group, made up of students in programs as diverse as actuarial science, sports management, history and anthropology, got their hands dirty – literally – in the program that was based in County Meath, about 40 minutes northwest from Dublin. Partnering with the Irish Archaeology Field School, the students learned the basic skills of an archaeologist, including excavation and properly handling artifacts. *{continued on next page}*

For more on the students’ experience:
Podcast: go.osu.edu/itunesireland
Video: go.osu.edu/youtubeireland
Blog: go.osu.edu/wordpressireland



At the Waterford Medieval Museum in Wexford, a medieval manuscript catches the attention of (l-r) Alison Beach, associate professor; Danielle Demmerle and Marisa Wieneke.

“It was truly a hands-on archaeology program,” Beach said, “where students were able to actively participate in an excavation of the Blackfriary, a 13th-century Dominican monastery and cemetery. Ohio State is the biggest university participant in the dig, and this is the fourth year we’ve taken part in it.”

The group also investigated the folklore of Ireland — meeting local townspeople and recording their tales, an activity that resulted in a three-part podcast (podcast address?).

They had some lighter moments, too, said Beach, associate professor. “We visited a seaside town and a sheep farm, ate fish and chips, visited a castle and cooked together in the evenings in a communal kitchen.

“Sitting down together was an important part of the trip,” she added. “We couldn’t really access the internet, so we talked!”

She also taught them to knit. “My star knitter this year was a male, pre-med student,” she said. “He said it would be a life-saver for stress relief.” ●



History major Devon Reich learns archaeological skills.