Cyclododecane, Carbon Dating and Other Conservation Curiosities…

Christie M. Pohl
MCI Kress Conservation Fellow
November 2006 - October 2007

This presentation is an overview of research and work completed during a one-year post-graduate fellowship in archaeological conservation, funded by the Kress Foundation. The primary focus is a material science research project investigating cyclododecane, a temporary fixative used in conservation, and its effect on the $^{14}$C dating of organic archaeological materials. The research also explores the presence of impurities in various cyclododecane batches using Raman spectroscopy, x-ray fluorescence and gas chromatography-mass spectrometry. Additional fellowship activities will also be discussed, including the continued excavation and study of a Mongolian burial assemblage and fieldwork involving Pre-Columbian gold working in Panama.