**Initial Project Title:** Women in Roman Cyrenaica: Female Images from Cyrene held at the British Museum

**Working Dissertation Title:** The Re-Contextualization of Female Commemoration in the Civic and Religious Spaces of Crete and Cyrenaica

**Brief Report:**

From July 29 through August 12, 2018, the funding from the Society for Libyan Studies provided for my transportation to and from London and for my stay in the city while I performed research at the British Museum. My time there was spent examining female statues both in the storage rooms and on display in the galleries. My initial proposal for the project was designed so that I could photograph and study the female statues, sculpted portrait heads, and busts held in the museum and use my assessments of these sculptures to form the basis of a spatial and temporal analysis of the material within the context of Cyrene. Based on my examination of the statues from the Hellenistic and Roman periods, my project has progressed towards case studies centered around specific spaces within Cyrene and Cyrenaica more broadly. Furthermore, it has expanded to form a comparison with examples from the major cities on Crete. The material from these regions presents an opportunity to see what can be learned by treating these commemorative monuments as part of assemblages related to actual spaces and not just as individual objects. In this way, we can better understand one monument by placing it in the context of the other commemorative practices of the community or region.

My dissertation, in progress, examines the commemorative monuments by and for women from the Hellenistic and Roman periods in Cyrenaica and Crete. The material studied at the British Museum from Cyrene represents a significant portion of this material, and is particularly important because it represents the largest corpus of sculpture from Libya with which I have now had direct access. Preliminary analysis from this subset of my data has greatly assisted in the progression of my first case study: female commemoration within the sanctuary of Apollo at Cyrene.

Since the beginning of autumn 2018, I have been a Student Associate Member at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens in order to utilize their libraries and the library of the British School located next door as I continue my dissertation research involving this topic. I will begin presenting the preliminary results of my research on the sanctuary of Apollo on March 15th in Athens as part of the ASCSA Tea Talk Series. Additionally, based on my research funded by this grant, I applied and was accepted to give a talk in April at the annual meeting of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South (CAMWS; https://camws.org/). This association hosts the largest conference in the United States and Canada intended for graduate students who wish to present on topics related to antiquity in the Mediterranean. As a result of these talks, I hope to gain feedback on my research and further advice on my methodological approaches. I plan to propose a talk on my next case study (the female statues and epigraphy from Cyrene’s agora) for the 2020 annual meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA; https://www.archaeological.org/) in addition to other possible venues.

Based on the feedback received during these presentations and the continued work on my dissertation, I plan to submit for first consideration an article based on the research undertaken through this grant to the society within the 24 month limit. The progress I have made on my research thus far would not have been possible without the aid of the Society for Libyan Studies.