

## Priority #2: Field schools for undergraduates

Our undergraduates can take advantage of significant research opportunities in our summer field schools. Working at sites both in Minnesota and beyond, students experience what may be their first encounter with rigorous research as they excavate, record, analyze, and interpret archaeological materials.

The archaeological field schools also enable our bachelor's degree students to be immediately hireable within the cultural resources management sector, where positions might range from managing archaeological, architectural, and historical sites to public education to advocating for access to cultural resources.

Your gifts will provide **critical scholarships** to make the following types of experiences possible.

- Through a partnership with the Science Museum of Minnesota, students explore the only Native American Oneida culture in the St. Croix River Valley, helping to excavate an ancestral village dating back to 1300 AD.
- Students can explore prehistoric lifeways at the Bremer Site near Hastings, Minnesota, and help excavate the historic Sylvester Manor Educational Farm on Shelter Island, New York.
- Through our partnership with the National Museums of Kenya, students participate in a four-week paleoanthropology field school at the 18-million-year-old fossil sites on Rusinga Island, Kenya. Minnesota undergraduates have helped discover some of the most important fossil ape specimens ever unearthed in Kenya.



Each summer, students work with Ed Fleming, Curator of Archaeology at the Science Museum of Minnesota, to uncover past secrets of an ancestral Native American village dating back to 1300 AD. This site is special, he says, because it's the only Oneota village in the St. Croix River Valley.

Emily Weber, BA '17, said she loved taking part in the field work. "The entire experience was really amazing," she said, explaining that the hands-on aspect is something you can't get anywhere else. "One of the biggest takeaways for me was that anthropology is just as much about the little things as it is about the big things." Not every site is going to give you "big finds," but the little finds are just as important, she said.

SHATTERING EXPECTATIONS  
The Campaign for Liberal Arts

DEPARTMENT of ANTHROPOLOGY  
CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES



An anthropologist's mission is nothing less than to uncover the human story, in all its evolutionary, cultural, linguistic, and archaeological complexity.

As one of the oldest and most distinguished programs in the country, the University of Minnesota Department of Anthropology unravels the infinite threads of that story with rigorous research, focused curricula, and a profound commitment to hands-on experiences that provide students with real-world cultural exposure and research opportunities.

Your gifts to the Department of Anthropology campaign will help ensure that all our students have the kinds of enriching opportunities they need to thrive as students and to become leaders in the field.

## Priority #1: Fieldwork for graduate students

Our graduate program's preliminary dissertation summer field work enables students to investigate the relevance of their research questions, develop key contacts, and ensure access to significant sites prior to undertaking the expected year or more of long-term dissertation research. Students often use this preliminary work as the basis of their dissertation research grant proposals, as well as for their major research papers, which often result in their first publications.

Your gift for **research fellowships** will expand opportunities for graduate students, giving them time and resources to pioneer discoveries and produce new knowledge.

---

In recent years graduate students have conducted research in anthropology's subfields in sites around the globe. Cultural anthropology research projects have taken our students to:

- Singapore, to investigate the development of a "smart city" and gain insights into the role of new technologies in everyday life;
- Kenya and Tanzania, to explore Chinese development and business efforts as well as the Chinese immigrant population;
- Ecuador, to examine the intersections of transnational mining, international environmentalism, and indigenous beliefs about the "Earth Mother" (*Pachamama*);
- Northern India, to focus on the roots of violence in Kashmir and develop new insights for policy makers and non-governmental organizations.

Archeology students have pursued research projects in:

- Armenia, to study the behavior of Neanderthals and *Homo heidelbergensis* through the thousands of obsidian stone tools left behind;
- Polynesia, to examine the history of Polynesian conversion to Mormonism and immigration to Utah in the 19<sup>th</sup> century;
- France, to document the transition from modern humans to Neanderthals.

Biological anthropology students' research projects have taken them to:

- Rwanda, to exhume gorillas buried by Dian Fossey and study factors that impact ape lifespans;
- Kenya, to study the hunting strategies of early humans during arid Pleistocene intervals.

These programs have improved the quality of our students' Ph.D. dissertations, making them significantly more visible on the job market and more competitive for high profile research-grants from institutions such as the Fulbright Program, the Social Science Research Council, National Geographic Grants Program, the Leakey Foundation, and the National Science Foundation.

As these students develop new knowledge and insights about the history of the human experience and the complex diversity of contemporary cultural practices around the world, they inform our understanding of the past and enrich the foundation for cross-cultural communication and policy making.



For the past two summers, cultural anthropology graduate student Wei Ye has been immersing herself in Kenyan culture and exploring the presence of Chinese medicine. While it's common to compare Western medical practices to traditional Chinese medicine, there aren't many "non-biomedical" studies into how different medical systems work in other countries.

Ye's interest in medicine started early: her father is a biochemist, and many members of her family are pharmacists and doctors. Her interest in medical anthropology specifically came from her undergraduate research in Chinese medicine and her work in the social work department of a hospital in Shanghai. She also studied the Hmong population, who are a minority in China.

"Traditional medicine is not just something from the past," says Ye. "It's constantly evolving and changing."