

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES FOR UNDERGRADUATES (REU) at Colby College

Explore the Church Forests of Amhara, Ethiopia ♦ Summer 2017

Preserved for centuries by church leaders and communities as religious sanctuaries, church forests are, in many parts of Ethiopia, the only natural forests left.



♦ Debresena Mariam Church (Background). Photographs by student Jacob Wall.

Apply online at www.colby.edu/reu-in-ethiopia

IN SUMMER 2017, the REU Site at Colby College in Waterville, Maine will offer eight undergraduate students the chance to conduct path-breaking interdisciplinary research on the ecological, economic and cultural roles of church forests in Amhara, Ethiopia.

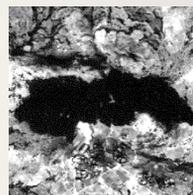
During the 8-week program (June 12-August 9), students will train at Colby College in social survey and ecological methods, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and written and oral communication. They will then collect and analyse original data working with [REU mentors](#) Dr. Travis Reynolds and Dr. Denise Bruesewitz of Colby College, Dr. Margaret Lowman of the California Academy of Sciences, and Dr. Alemayehu Wassie of Debre Tabor University.

The National Science Foundation will provide each student researcher with a stipend of \$4,000, as well as all housing costs and round-trip travel expenses, including a workshop at the California Academy of Sciences.

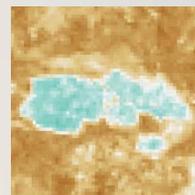
To apply, visit our website at www.colby.edu/reu-in-ethiopia and complete the online application form. Completed applications including 2 letters of recommendation are due by February 15th, 2017.

Our REU Site program integrates social, ecological and geospatial methods allowing students to conduct independent research in the areas of:

- Interviews/surveys exploring church forest values and forest threats
- GIS analyses of forest extent and species composition over time
- Ecological surveys of church forest pollinators and insect biodiversity
- Estimation of church forest impacts on water flows and water quality
- Studies of grazers' impacts on forest regeneration
- Analyses of ecological and policy opportunities for church forest regrowth and expansion



1964 Spy plane image



1994 Landsat data



2014 Satellite image

Applications open December 1st, 2016
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The REU Site Program is supported by the National Science Foundation