

Maxwell Lander, Summer 2018 Internship with the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History

This summer I got the amazing opportunity to intern at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in D.C. I worked under the guidance of Dr. Sabrina Sholts and Dr. Andrea Eller on a project called E.M.P.H.A.S.I.S. which stands for "Environmental Mismatches in Primates and Humans: Anthropogenic Settings and Impacts Survey." Working to collect data for the project, I spent most of my time surveying human skeletal remains, specifically skulls, from the wide array of collections the Smithsonian has in storage. The project gave me a valuable opportunity to get better acquainted with the anatomy and structure of the human skull, as well as with various forms of bone pathology. Due to the geographic range of the Museum's collection, I also got an amazing opportunity to see how the morphology of the skeleton changes with geographic area, which I found really interesting. All in all, I had an amazing time at the Smithsonian and am thankful to have gotten such great hands on experience with bones, data collection, and survey work in an Anthropological setting.