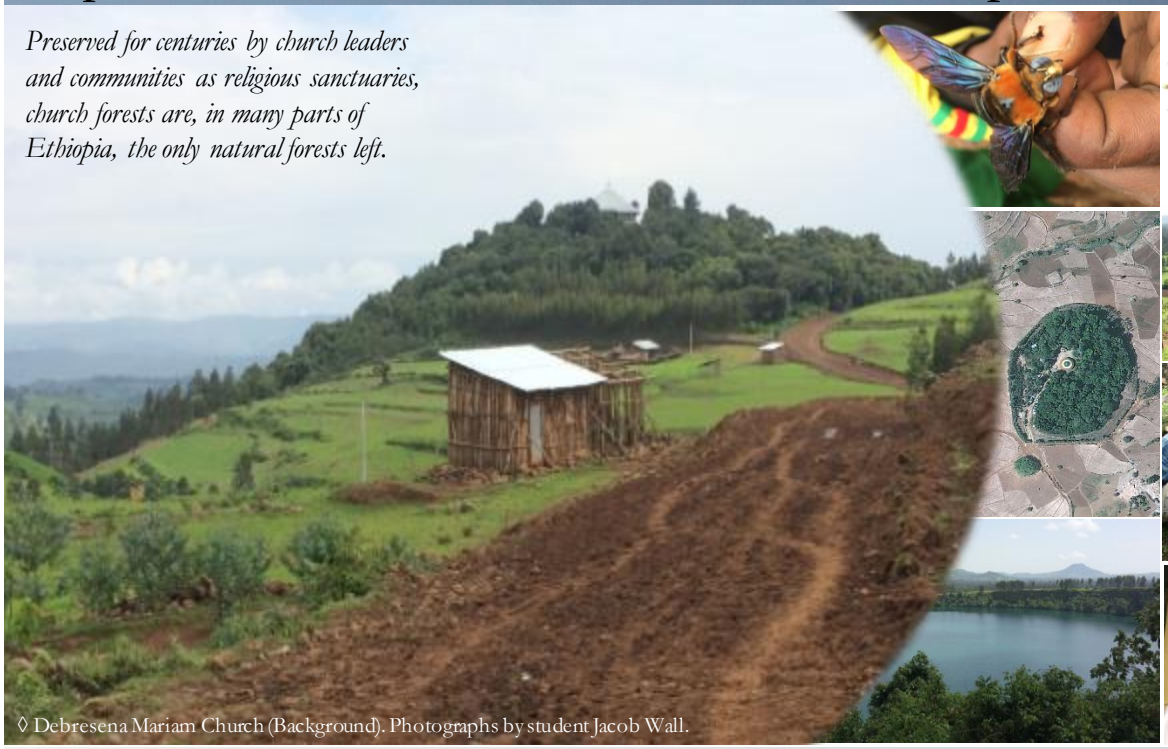
RESEARCH EXPERIENCES FOR UNDERGRADUATES (REU) in Ethiopia

Explore the Church Forests of Amhara, Ethiopia ♦ Summer 2016

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 2016, 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.

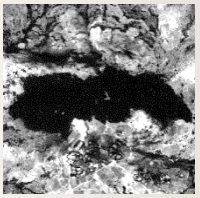
During the 8-week program (*approx.* July 6-August 24), students will train at Colby College in social survey and ecological methods, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and written and oral communication. They will then travel to, Ethiopia to conduct fieldwork with REU faculty mentors Dr. Travis Reynolds and Dr. Denise Bruesewitz of Colby College, Dr. Margaret "Canopy Meg" 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.

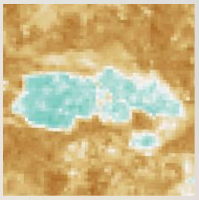
To apply, visit our website at **www.colby.edu/reu-in-ethiopia** and complete the online application form. Completed applications including 2 letters of recommendation are due by February 15th, 2016.

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
- Exclusion experiments studying grazers' impacts on forest regeneration
- Restoration experiments studying opportunities for church forest regrowth



1964 Spy plane image



1994 Landsat data

2014 Satellite image

Applications open December 1st, 2015
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The REU Site Program is supported by the National Science Foundation