

ZACHARY PALMER

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Education

Ferris State University

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, Minor in Health, Illness, and Society

May 2012

Big Rapids, MI, US

- GPA: 3.54
- Cum Laude
- Dean's List (4 semesters)
- Dean's Scholarship Recipient (4 years)
- Academic Competitive Scholarship Recipient (2 years)

Professional Experience

Demographics Researcher

Oak Ridge National Laboratory

May 2012 to Current

Oak Ridge, TN

Population Density Tables Project

- Researched global demographics and land-use data in relation to population density on both macro and micro scales.
- Analyzed living habits, population movement, and cultural customs to form a more accurate understanding of where people are throughout the day.
- Mined a variety of data sources including zoning records, independent housing research, census data, academic articles, and others materials to supplement the research.
- Processed the data using GIS software (ArcMap) to represent data in a comprehensible format.
- Developed an application to analyze bulk data in a more efficient manner.

Settlement Mapping Project

- Identified small settlements and individual dwellings via satellite imagery.
- Digitized villages as polygons to detail the outer limits of said settlements in order to compare with computer generated shapefiles.
- Maintained geodatabases for records and future iterations of the process.

Research Assistant

Ferris State Social Sciences Department

January to March 2012

Big Rapids, MI

Undergraduate Research Experience

- Analyzed, coded, and organized data from student surveys to provide data for a social experiment performed at the university.
- Explored the effects of physical and mental stress on the caretakers of the elderly and aimed to address the gaps in services afforded to them.

Undergraduate Academic Experience

- Analyzed urban planning in Chicago through field interviews and connected the layout and zoning of the city to the current social issues experienced in various neighborhoods.
- Performed field research at the local elementary school to analyze children's eating habits and find potential problem areas that could lead to childhood obesity.
- Used an intensive literature review to research how culture, religion, and gender structures combined in Africa and Asia to cause the significant women's issue of genital mutilation.
- Performed an in-depth study of African prehistory, including potential cultural precursors to modern behaviors.
- Researched and wrote my senior capstone project on how GIS systems, such as ArcMap, can be used to predict and respond to natural disasters in Michigan.

Skills and Software

- ARC Map
- ARC Editor
- ARC Catalog
- Microsoft Office
- Microsoft Windows
- Informal Interviews
- Formal Group Interviews
- Participant Observation
- Survey Coding
- Survey Analysis
- Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS)

Journey Experience

- Trekked solo through Morocco and Europe in 2013 learning about local customs and cultures to locations including: Madrid, Spain; Gibraltar; Fez, Morocco; Paris, France; Edinburgh, Scotland; and London, England.
- Developed critical thinking and decision-making skills while in a foreign land
- Explored cities and less populated regions.
- Expanded my international network of contacts for future exploration.

Accomplishments

- Presented new software at the annual American Association of Geographers conference in **2013**
- Aided in the development of a data-mining tool which allowed for quicker analysis of bulk information **2013**
- Extensively planned and executed a month-long journey through Africa and Europe alone **2013**
- President, of the Sociology and Anthropology Student Organization for Ferris State University in **2012**
- Sociology Student of the Year **2012**

Community Service

Healthy Eating Activity Night

April 2011

Worked with other students to put on an activity night for elementary school students and their families in order to provide them with information regarding healthy eating and potential avenues to make it easier.

Lunch Buddy Program

January to April 2011

Mentored a child at the local elementary school and encouraged good eating behaviors over lunch.

Lunch for the Homeless

December 2010

Crafted sack lunches with other members of my church group before heading to inner-city Detroit to hand them out to homeless individuals while getting a chance to speak to them and learn more about their lives.

Casas por Cristo

April 2010

Traveled to Juarez, Mexico with my campus church group in order to build houses for the underprivileged.