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## Lambda Alpha Anthropology Honors Society (LAB): Bridging The Gap Between Coursework And Career

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# LAMBDA ALPHA ANTHROPOLOGY HONORS SOCIETY (LAB): BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN COURSEWORK AND CAREER



Adriana Stein, Stefanie Berganini

## INTRODUCTION

Many anthropology majors gain an academic familiarity with the subject through coursework, but lack an understanding of how to utilize their anthropological skills outside of academia in future careers. To remedy this issue, the Lambda Alpha Beta Honor Society (LAB), a student-led anthropology organization at Portland State University, provides opportunities for participation in events that get students involved with our local community, such as non-profit organizations and local cultural institutions. Some of these organizations include the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI), Clark Public Utilities, The Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge, Potluck in the Park, and Habitat for Humanity. As an unfunded student group, LAB provides opportunities for students at no cost that simultaneously boost their career while also giving back to the community. We also have spearheaded the first crowdsourcing fundraiser in the anthropology department in cooperation with the PSU Foundation to raise money to update our PSU anthropological research photography exhibit. Furthermore, we helped apply for funding to send PSU graduate students to present their research at the Society for Applied Anthropology Conference (SfAA) in Pittsburgh, PA. This conference provides a major networking opportunity for our students and assures our relationship within the applied anthropology subfield in general. Therefore, LAB provides an example of a student group that bridges the gap between studying anthropology in the classroom and practicing anthropology as a career.

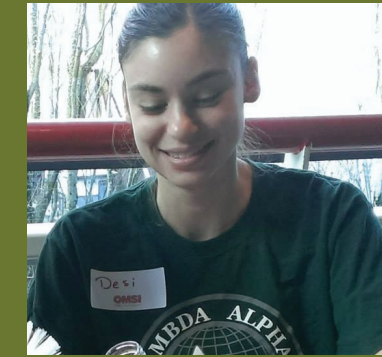
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## OREGON MUSEUM OF SCIENCE & INDUSTRY Science Activity Day: Fall 2014 & Winter 2015

PURPOSE OF EVENT: To promote childhood education and applied anthropology by manning demonstration booths with creative activities such as making a velociraptor claw, dye casting, fingerprinting, and fish printing.



Mark Poppert does a dye casting demonstration in order to explain the movement of color pigmentation, similar to how an ethnographer may study textiles.



Adriana Stein helps a child with making a velociraptor claw to show a simple demonstration of paleoanthropology.



Cassidy Abbott and Ben Gregory demonstrate fish printing to a group of children to examine different species of fish from our local watershed in order to understand their cultural and environmental context.



Desi Bolster and Jordan Thompson help a child with making a velociraptor claw. Making and excavating clay dinosaur claws helps kids explore basic archaeological concepts.

## CLARK PUBLIC UTILITIES Stream Team: Fall 2014 & Winter 2015

PURPOSE OF EVENT: To restore the Salmon Creek watershed with 40 other volunteers. We worked to understand and improve the relationship between this local community and their environment within the context of applied anthropology.



Cassidy Abbott uses a dipple bar to prepare a hold for a tree.



Adriana Stein pats down the dirt from a newly planted tree.



Ben Gregory makes impromptu repairs to one of the augers used to dig holes for saplings.



Kelsey Paden and Emma Pritchard work together to hold up an auger to make a hole for a tree.

## HANDS ON PORTLAND Potluck in the Park: Winter 2015

PURPOSE OF EVENT: To serve food to those in need in Portland, while getting a firsthand look at inequalities present in our community.



Potluck in the Park has provided a hot meal, rain or shine, to over 500 people each Sunday for over 20 years.



Volunteers wait to unload food from the supply truck.



Cassidy Abbott serves food at one of the meal stations.



LAB volunteers bagged pet food, wrapped silverware, sorted recyclables, and served food to the meal recipients.

## RIDGEFIELD WILDLIFE REFUGE Habitat Restoration Day: Winter 2015

PURPOSE OF EVENT: To provide vegetation for a newly introduced species of deer in an effort to improve the environment of Ridgefield, Washington with their natural habitat.



Jordan Thompson and Cassidy Abbott create an improved hole to plant a tree.



The volunteers gather together after planting about 500 trees.



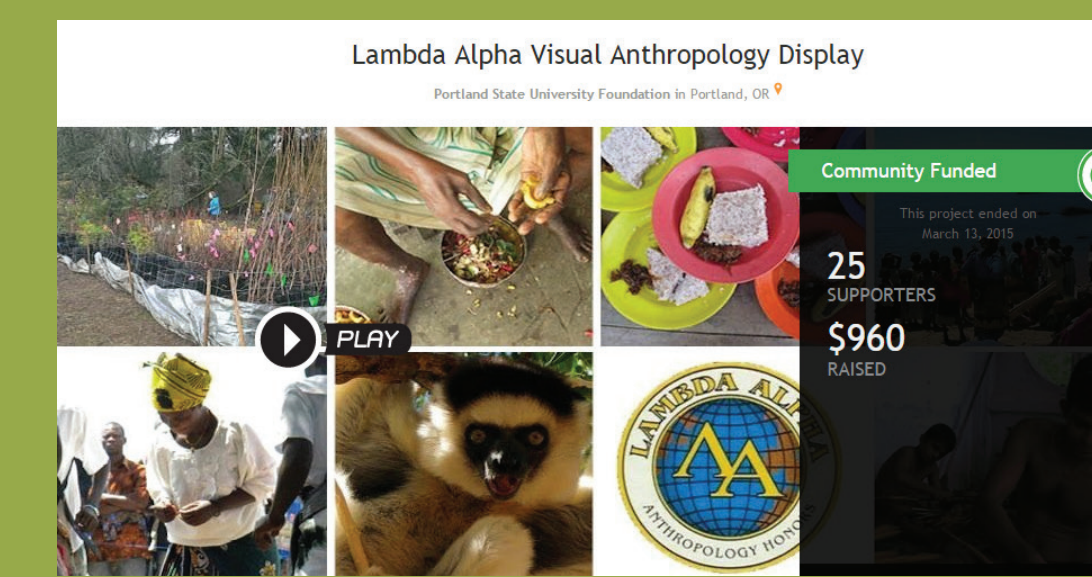
In an effort to also include the Native American community in the area, the Cathlapotle Plankhouse was created as a part of the Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge to host tribal gatherings.



Patrick Belin shows his handiwork as he finishes planting a tree.

## ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT Crowdfunding Campaign: Winter 2015

PURPOSE OF EVENT: To raise funds in order to showcase the Anthropology Department's research, and the activities of faculty, alumni, and students.



In order to explain our project, the LAB officers created an informational video and crowdfunding website that was launched with the help of the PSU Foundation.



"Tossing noodles together to celebrate Chinese New Year with family and friends in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia." Photo by Dr. Sharon Carstens.



"This photo was taken in a Sri Lankan auto mechanic shop. I met these guys when the van I was traveling in broke down along the route, necessitating some innovative repair." Photo by Dr. Michele Gamburd.



"Every full moon, the people of Sri Lanka gather to celebrate the completed cycle of the moon by dressing up in white clothing and wood carved masks." Photo by Mariya Savchenko.