



## ***Geography Summer Undergraduate Research Opportunity at the University of Miami\****

The University of Miami's Department of Geography and Regional Studies has developed a new program designed to attract underrepresented minorities to the field of geography as graduate students. The first season of the program will take place this coming summer 2009 on the University's beautiful Coral Gable campus. It is designed for any student who is interested in the possibility of pursuing a career in geography through future graduate studies. This is a highly competitive program designed mainly for members of such minority groups as African Americans, Hispanics, and American Indians. First preference for funding will be given to students who are pursuing an undergraduate major or minor in the field of geography, but it will also be open to outstanding students from other fields as well. To be eligible for this program a student should maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average for their undergraduate studies, submit a formal copy of their undergraduate transcripts, present at least two letters of recommendation from faculty members from their current university who have had them in at least one of their classes, have taken and passed (with a grade of B or higher) at least one course in statistics or quantitative methods, and they should be computer literate.

The program will involve working on research projects with one or two faculty (who will serve as their mentor) in UM's Department of Geography and Regional Studies over a 10-week period. It is also possible that students will work jointly with a professor in UM's Geography Department and a professor in another department participating in this program. The research experience will be tailored to the interests of the students and the faculty they are working with. Among the possible topics students can research this summer are West Indian immigration to the United States (involving conducting interviews with immigrants from the West Indies now living in the Miami Metropolitan Area), studying the emergence of world cities (with Miami serving as a laboratory), investigating the decline of rainforests in Indonesia, analyzing the changing land use patterns in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, and studying climatological patterns in Florida and in India. In addition to their research, students will participate in weekly seminars to prepare them for the next week's efforts and to hear guest speakers discuss such topics as applying for graduate schools, preparing for the GRE exam, and why it makes sense to invest time in a graduate education.

Students participating in this summer research experience will receive an allowance for living and travel expenses and a stipend of \$3,000. While in Coral Gables, they will live in the University of Miami's student dormitories. There is no tuition for this program because college credit will not be given. Students apply online for this program.

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