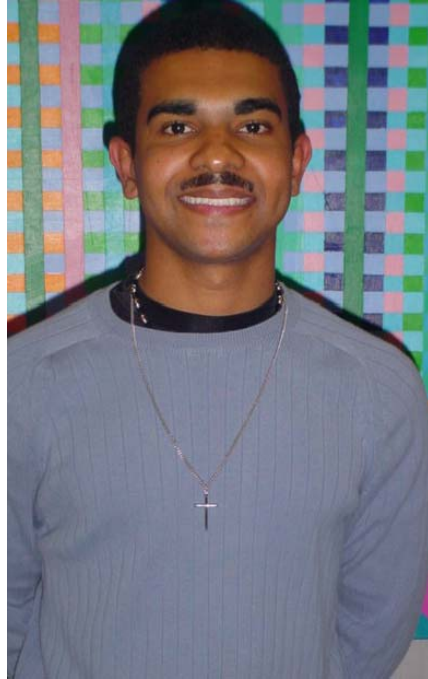


## CUR 2006 Student Research Experience



**Roy Marion DuBose III**

**Class:** Senior

**Age:** 22

**Major:** Theology & Biology

**Hometown:** New Orleans, LA

### **Program Information**

**Name:** Zeitah Excavations 2005

**Length of Program Participation:** 5 weeks: June to July 2005

**Location:** Israel

**Participating Students:** 15-20 (this was generally the smallest that they had) which he felt helped them focus more on their work and environment.

### **Center for Undergraduate Research: How did you find out about the program?**

**Roy DuBose:** From XU's Dr. Homan who has been the director of the program for the past few years.

### **CUR: Did the program pay for travel expenses, room and board, meals, etc.?**

Unfortunately no, however, I got funding from Xavier's Center for Undergraduate Research, the Center for Advancement and Teaching, and outside sources such as Franklin Avenue Baptist Church. As well, the MCNAIR office paid for my six hours of credit that transferred over here.

### **CUR: What type of research did you do in the program?**

**RD:** As far as research, I assisted my professor, Dr. Michael Homan, in researching beer and antiquity and its affects on people and uncovering more of a Late Bronze and Early Iron Age wall. The beer and antiquity research challenges if drinking is acceptable in religious terms. Our research was geared to seeing how people in the past fermented alcohol. We dug mostly around the early to late Bronze Age which was around the age of David and Solomon and the first thing I found was a piece of pottery.

**CUR: Did the program offer sufficient hands-on experience?**

**RD:** Yes! We got up at four in the morning and were on site digging from five to seven in the morning. Following that was breakfast and after we dug until eleven and then had a break. At noon, we came to our housing which was in a Jewish Community Center in Israel. We had lunch at a very nice place around three and then we would later clean all pottery we found.

**CUR: If any, what activities did you do outside of the program?**

**RD:** The program let us go swimming and go to restaurants or pubs. They also offered rare trips to view more of the city, such as seeing the Dead Sea.

**CUR: Did this program exceed your initial expectations?**

**RD:** Yes it actually did, especially the fact that our group was finding physical evidence of the things that happened in biblical times. I found pieces of evidence that physically said that King David lived during the time he claimed to be living. Best of all, I got a physical view of all that I heard and read in the bible while growing up.

**CUR: How has this program helped you in regards to your major or future goals?**

**RD:** First, this program has helped me realize that there's a difference between what has been traditionally set up by church and what is factual. In regards to my future goals, it has helped me tremendously because it increased my love for biblical studies since I saw what the field has to offer first hand.

**CUR: What was the most difficult aspect of your participation?**

**RD:** The most difficult part of the program was being dirty. You really can't be afraid of getting dirty, and you need to be open minded to everything especially the heat. The program involves a lot of physical work that may not be easy for some until they become adjusted.

**CUR: Name the best thing about your experience.**

**RD:** The best thing about the program was when one of the volunteers found a rock of limestone that was a Hebrew alphabet inscription. This was so important because there aren't many people who have found items so close inland to Israel that shows the progression of how Israel picked up the alphabet.

**CUR: Would you recommend this program to others? Why or why not?**

**RD:** I would recommend it to others on a personal level because it's something that is essential to all Christian and Jewish believers to understand what they've been studying. It's like you're getting closer to your faith and what you believe in; similar to the woman trying to "touch the hem of Jesus' skirt", it's a way of getting closer to Christ and God making you feel more restored. Academic wise, even if you're not in this specific major, one can shape it to their field and then it can help make you well rounded. Being overseas is also a great thing no matter what you do because you're able to step out of your comfort zones and strengthen yourself. . This is a truly great program for everyone, even if you're not that major, it would make your resume look appealing.

**CUR: How can others prepare for this program before applying?**

**RD:** The best thing to do is to read up on archaeology and to research sites and studies that have taken place in that area. One should also know the tactics of how archaeology works; he or she should have a general concept of physics, and read more on biblical studies of the areas of David and Solomon.

For More Information

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