Conference Reflection

With funds from the SERVE grant, I was able to attend the annual meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists (AAPA) in Calgary, Canada, where I was able to present my own undergraduate research as well as attend lectures given by leading experts in the field. One of the most important aspects of any scientific career is the ability to effectively present and share data with the rest of the scientific community. It is through this exchange of ideas that meaningful progress is achieved. At the AAPA meeting, I was able to practice crucial communication skills in a rigorous, professional setting, and in doing so received helpful feedback, regarding both what I have done well and what I can improve in the future. In addition, I was able to meet and converse with various people whose research is of particular interest to me, which was exciting! In sum, attending the AAPA meeting was a valuable experience because it exposed me to new ideas and diverse perspectives, allowed me to meet influential researchers, and further informed my decision to pursue a career in scientific research in graduate school.