

Maia Lippay

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Education

MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

B.A Geology, Mathematics, 3.80 GPA

Relevant Coursework: Oceanography, Intro to Physical Geography, Topics in Astronomy: Ocean Worlds, General Chemistry, Historical Geology, Planetary Science, Calculus I, Calculus II, Linear Algebra, Society & Environment in Africa

South Hadley, MA

Jan 2025–May 2028

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, ST. EDMUND HALL

Visiting Student, Mathematics & Earth Sciences

Tutorials: Differential Equations, Multivariable Calculus, Statistics and Data Analysis, Planet Earth: Geosphere, Quantitative Paleontology, Stratigraphy and Environments

Oxford, United Kingdom

Oct 2026–Jun 2027

ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

High School Diploma, 3.65 GPA

Portland, OR

Sep 2020–June 2024

Societies: National Honor Society, International Thespian Society

Honors and Awards: Joe Weston Scholarship, Portland State University Young Historians Conference Third Honors, 11th/12th Grade First Honors, Social Science Excellence Award, Information Science Excellence Award, Bob and Sue Harold Endowed Scholarship

Research Experience

FIELD RESEARCHER

Yale University

Chadiza, Eastern Province, Zambia

Jun 2026 – Aug 2026

- Member of the inaugural ZAKALE field team under Dr. Jessica Thompson
- Sort and catalog fossil ostrich eggshell (OES) from archaeological deposits at Kalemba Rock Shelter
- Organize faunal remains to identify OES. Quantify data relative to Malawi sites, resulting in first systematic study of ancient biogeography of ostrich in Zambia
- Contribute to knowledge of MSA/LSA transition of human forager and mixed-farming lifeways, regional paleoenvironmental records, and cultural contexts

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Mount Holyoke College

South Hadley, MA

Dec 2025 – Present

- Research assistant in the Kanamaru Lab. Assist Dr. Kinuyo Kanamaru in paleoclimate research using dendrochronology, isotope chemistry, microscopy, and statistical analysis
- Analysis and sample preparation of arctic willow, cherry, and birch specimens
- Comparative dendrochronological/sediment sample coring

UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOW (REU)

University of New Hampshire

Durham, NH

June 2025 – Aug 2025

- Conducted independent research on the effect of proglacial lakes on watershed sedimentation rates in the Southern Alps of New Zealand using satellite data analysis, remote sensing techniques, *in situ* database comparisons, RStudio programming, and other data applications
- Mentored by Dr. Danielle Grogan through the Water Systems Analysis Group
- Presented research at culminating end-of-summer symposium

LABORATORY ASSISTANT

Amherst, MA

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Mar 2025 – May 2025

- Assisted Dr. Brian Yellen and Ph.D student Sintra Reves-Sohn on laboratory procedures in the Sediment/Coastal Dynamics Lab on the Sediment Dynamics for Coastal Systems project
- Prepared salt marsh sediment samples for isotopic analysis and recorded sample data
- Created sample data storage system
- Worked towards determining the origin of sediment deposits and their role in building salt marsh elevation, promoting coastal resilience, and supporting marsh ecosystems

Work/Volunteer Experience

YALE UNIVERSITY

Remote

Collections Archivist

Feb 2026 – Present

- Document, locate, and manage legacy collections of Malawian/Zambian materials, artifacts, and fossils
- Reconstruct a history of collections and repatriate to appropriate institutions and governmental bodies

TRACKERS EARTH

Portland, OR

Summer Camp Guide

Mar 2022 – Aug 2024

- Instructed children aged 5-13 on wilderness survival skills, ecology, and folk craft
- Developed daily/weekly curriculum, worked with and managed teams
- Supervised transport to/from camp location, pick-up/drop-off, and aftercare
- Skills taught included fire-making, archery, stealth, plant identification, camouflage, and knife-carving

Publications

Lippay, Maia. *"Marshlands and Monasteries: The Impact of Weapon Deposition on Medieval British Christianity."* (2024). DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.36785.90729

Presentations & Talks

GSA Connects 2025: *Proglacial Lake Effects On Downstream Sedimentation In New Zealand's Southern Alps*
— Oral Presentation

Skills & Research Interests

Technical: R/RStudio, Java, HTML, CSS, Shell Scripting (Unix/Linux), MATLAB, LaTeX

Creative: Writing, editing, drafting, interviewing, illustration, animation, violin/fiddle, competitive dance

Languages: English (fluent) Japanese (intermediate/proficient)

Laboratory: Sieving, microscopy, data entry/organization, isotope analysis prep, dissection, chemical synthesis

Research Interests: Paleoclimatology, paleoenvironmental reconstruction, paleoanthropology, landscape archaeology, isotopic analysis, sedimentology, oceanography, remote sensing, planetary geology, cryosphere

Professional Societies

- Geological Society of America
- American Institute of Professional Geologists