



OMO VALLEY RESEARCH PROJECT

SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER



News from the Omo Valley Research Project

Greetings from the Omo Valley Research Project! We are thrilled to share several exciting updates. Read more to learn about our activities!

At OVRP we invest in helping talented students from the Omo Valley of Ethiopia succeed. Most of our 20 current scholarship students are from very rural, isolated communities and are often the first from their villages to graduate from high school, much less attend college.



OVRP Scholarship Students Aster and Tselot



Digital Skills Workshop

Not only do we want our students to successfully complete their university studies, we want them to be positioned for impactful employment after graduation.

In May, we organized a grant-funded two-day workshop at the South Omo Research Center in Jinka, Ethiopia, focused on providing training in digital skills many students struggle with, culminating in making a resume that was then shared for feedback. It also helped form a community among the participants so they can continue to support each other!

Student Feedback on Digital Skills Workshop

"I loved the opportunity to make new friendships that I will carry into the future." -Biri Sago

"The most valuable part was learning to use Google Documents. Not only can I easily share documents with others, but having my files stored in the cloud is immensely helpful." -Alano Losuru

"The practical skills I learned, especially how to use ChatGPT for editing and Google Docs for writing have boosted my confidence and competence." -Lotak Lobun Lott

OVRP SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER PAGE 2

Workshop Participants

Lesho Bordo, M.S. in Geology
Aster Kebede, B.A., Management
Amanuel Lasibuk, B.S., Pharmacy
Lotak Lobulott, B.A., Accounting
Mile Lokidap, B.A., Public Health
Alano Losuro, B.S., Medical Laboratory Technology
Hayto Muga, B.S., Veterinary Medicine
Tselot Ermias, B.A. Prep Program
Biri Sago, B.A., Finance and Accounting
Elisabeth Samuel, B.A., Marketing
Maya Shansho, B.S., Veterinary Medicine
Tsion Tadesse, B.S., Radiology
Lowos Tikapel, B.A., Finance and Accounting

Workshop Instructors

Dr. Eshetu Ewentu, Arba Minch University
Dr. Zachary Garfield, UM6P in Morocco
Dr. Luke Glowacki, Boston University
Dr. Soya Lasbuk (M.D.) Jimma University
Dr. Maud Mougnot, Boston University

**Hosted at the South Omo Research Center
with support of Arba Minch University**



**Students were eager to practice
public speaking!**



OVRP student Aster Kebede



Digital Skills Workshop Core Topics

Computing health: passwords, backups, updates, virus software, and encryption

Computing basics: memory, desktop/ hard drive, shortcut keys, hotkeys, File Storage: Folder-> Subfolders, naming conventions, cloud storage

Open Office and Google Suite

Google Documents: Creating documents, sharing, editing versus commenting, headers, table of contents, tagging people, formatting

Google Sheets: creating spreadsheets, tables, figure, basic functions (sum, product, mean)

Google Slides: creating slides and presentations

LLMs and ChatGPT: Demonstrating use cases-- information, translation, analysis, and editing

Practicum: Students used Google Documents and ChatGPT to generate a resume that they then shared with students and faculty who provided feedback. They also practiced public speaking, which was challenging and exciting as English is often their second or third language.

**We need your support! Please consider making a
tax-deductible donation today!**

<https://donorbox.org/support-omo-valley-research-project>

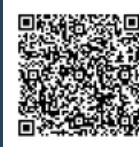


OVRP SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER PAGE 3

WORKSHOP PHOTOS



Pictures from top left to right: Dr. Soya Lasbuk (former OVRP student) addresses the class; Alano during his presentation; Hayto and OVRP Instructor Maud; Elisabeth addresses the class; Maya and Tsion; Group of students eating lunch; OVRP classroom with coffee ceremony being prepared in the background.





Until recently, the Omo Valley was considered one of the last frontiers in Africa. Now the area is rapidly being incorporated into market economies so it's crucial that the youth in this region have the education to help them succeed in the face of enormous changes. Many of our students are the first in their families, and sometimes their entire community, to have completed any formal schooling.

As an organization, we work to support talented youth who would otherwise not be able to continue their education due to lack of funds. We are volunteer run, and nearly every penny of your donation goes directly to supporting the students we sponsor. We currently provide scholarships for twenty students but there are many more students who would benefit from assistance. If you see value in what we are doing, then we ask you to do what you can to support our efforts. Even a small amount, such as \$10 or \$20 a month, would have an enormous impact.

Thank you for your support,

Luke Glowacki & Zachary Garfield
OVRP Co-Directors
ovrp@omovalleyresearchproject.org

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation today!
<https://donorbox.org/support-omo-valley-research-project>

Omo Valley Research Project
1500 Chestnut St. Suite 2 #1705
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Tax ID 85-1268450

