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What Drives Me?

What drives me is uncovering the untold stories of people, cultures, and events.

For as long as I can remember, I have struggled with finding the right words to express myself. I guess you could say I'm not a "natural storyteller." However, starting at a very young age, I learned to draw. I picked up on it quickly and found that it allows me to express what I'm thinking and feeling, and how I view the world around me. Later, in my high school art classes, I learned how to tell someone *else's* story through my artwork. Somehow this gave my knack for drawing a deeper sense of purpose.

That may be where it all started; my desire to give a voice to those that can't give a voice to themselves. Then, I discovered the field of forensic anthropology and was immediately drawn to it for similar reasons that drew me to art. Forensic anthropologists use the study of bones and other human remains to piece together evidence and observations that help us understand people and cultures - often those that have passed on.

The more I learn about this field, the more my interest has continued to grow. I have now applied to Anthropology programs at three universities with the goal of becoming a forensic anthropologist. My top college choice, Chico State, has professors that are among the most respected forensic scientists in the nation.

Through these studies, I hope to learn techniques to examine human remains to find out what a subject's life was like, and possibly how they died. From age, sex, and ethnicity to clues about their lifestyle, there is so much to discover! I will learn how to analyze bones and artifacts and uncover evidence that tells their story – a story that the world may not yet know.

I'm excited about the many opportunities that forensic anthropology has to offer. For example, it does not necessarily only apply to crime, it can apply to historical remains as well! A discovered body does not necessarily mean a murder took place; it could be someone who died many, many years ago from natural causes. These skeletons can also give us hints about the past and how humans used to live.

This is meaningful to me because ultimately, we all want to feel connected and like we have a way to give back to our world. By using my talents and interests to uncover these stories, I might be able to help a grieving family find closure on their loved one, a disaster-ravaged town to uncover and preserve their beloved, or a youth to better understand their native culture.

The saying, "a picture speaks a thousand words," also applies to bones! Without a single word being spoken, a story can be told. Understanding these stories is what drives me, and a Jiffy Lube scholarship could help put me in the driver's seat to pursue my education and bring these important stories to light.