Background
Partnered with Dr. Jan French and her ANTH 211 Ethnographic Methods class (7 undergraduate students) in Fall 2011 to study use of library spaces. Findings would contribute to a 3 million dollar renovation planned for Summer 2012.

Methods
Each student chose a section of Boatwright Library to study. Methods included:
- Mapping & photographing
- Participant observation
- Interviews
- Focus groups

Results
Students each wrote research reports and presented their findings as a group to library staff and other stakeholders. Based on this information, the library’s Ethnographic Team identified the following needs:
- Mobile-device friendly spaces
- Clear separation between quiet and collaborative areas
- Tables and desks with room to “spread out”
- Numerous group study rooms
- Private/Semi-private areas
- Good lighting
- Atmosphere conducive to study (“scholarly” surroundings)

Findings
Working with faculty and students created new connections, brought added interest to the renovation project, and reinforced the importance of participatory design.

Conclusions
Ultimately, the study led to real-life improvements during summer 2012 renovations. Main ideas implemented were additional power outlets, clearly-defined and increased group and quiet areas, additional study rooms, and overall, a more inspiring learning environment.