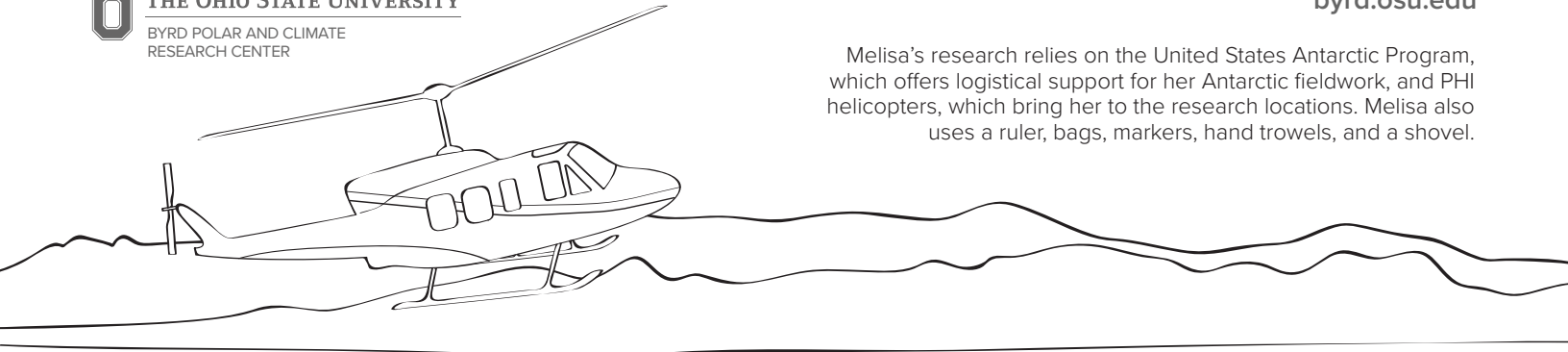


Melisa's research relies on the United States Antarctic Program, which offers logistical support for her Antarctic fieldwork, and PHI helicopters, which bring her to the research locations. Melisa also uses a ruler, bags, markers, hand trowels, and a shovel.



Melisa looks at soils from exposed mountains along the Shackleton Glacier and works with biologists to understand how ecosystems responded to the advance and retreat of glaciers 20,000 years ago.

Shackleton Glacier research helps us understand how ecosystems structure and function in harsh environments.



There are not many people of color in the geosciences, and there are even fewer in polar research. It is Melisa's priority to make the polar science community a welcoming place for future minority scientists. For Melisa, being a scientist means maintaining a curiosity about the world around her while also having fun.

Melisa Diaz

Melisa is a Latinx Ph.D. student and a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow at The Ohio State University. Native to Massachusetts, Melisa is a cat fanatic and avid juggler. She once juggled rock hammers on the Shackleton Glacier! Melisa's research focuses on the soil geochemistry of ice-free areas in the Shackleton Glacier region of Antarctica.