






Faculty Member Contact Information

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Contact Info	
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Department	Anthropology

1 Funded, 1 Unfunded URCA Assistant

X	This position is ONLY open to students who have declared a major in this discipline.	M
	This project deals with social justice issues.	
X	This project deals with sustainability (green) issues.	
	This project deals with human health and wellness issues.	
	This project deals with community outreach.	
	This mentor's project is interdisciplinary in nature.	

Are you willing to work with students from outside of your discipline? If yes, which other disciplines?

- No

How many hours per week will your student(s) be required to work in this position?

(Minimum is 6 hours per week; typical is 9)

- 9 hours

Will it be possible for your student(s) to earn course credit?

- Yes-- ANTH 487 or 489

Location of research/creative activities:

- Anthropology Lab, Peck 0403

Brief description of the nature of the research/creative activity?

Since 2009, archaeology field school excavations conducted by the Anthropology Department have taken place on the Gehring site, a prehistoric archaeological site on the SIUE campus. The excavations have recovered artifacts including lithic tools and ceramic sherds, and uncovered features such as houses and storage pits. These archaeological materials provide the data for both faculty and student research; moreover, it is the ethical responsibility of the excavation director and any agencies sponsoring the excavation (SIUE and the Anthropology Department) to see that all artifacts and features are properly identified, analyzed, published, and curated. It is estimated that for every month spent in the field, an archaeological excavation generates six months of laboratory analysis. Thus, the research spawned by the excavation extends well beyond the duration of the field school.

Brief description of student responsibilities?

Research assistants will identify artifacts under the tutelage of professional archaeologists. After their identifications have been confirmed, research assistants will create an artifact data base using Excel and will make summary tables of the data. Research assistants will photograph and/or draw diagnostic artifacts such as projectile points and rim sherds. Finally, they will prepare the artifacts for curation.

URCA Assistant positions are designed to provide students with *research or creative activities* experience. As such, there should be measurable, appropriate outcome goals. What exactly should your student(s) have learned by the end of this experience?

Research assistants will have learned basic methods of artifact identification, data entry, interpretation, and curation. Typically, students chosen for this position will have helped excavate the artifacts by participating in the field school, and ideally they will use the data they have generated as research assistants as the basis for their senior projects. That is, research assistants will have learned archaeology by doing it, from excavation in the field, to identification and analysis in the lab, to the final product: a written archaeological report. Through this invaluable experience, students become archaeologists. The measurable goal ideally will be their senior projects, which will be completed in the spring semester. Note that senior projects will of course also include library research which the students will complete in their “free” time. Our students have had great success in winning professional paper competitions with their senior projects, and in having their papers published in archaeological journals. If URCA assistants do not choose to do senior projects based on their research, the measurable outcome is simply the number of artifacts identified, and the acquired laboratory skills which make the student more employable.

Requirements of Students

If the position(s) require students to be available at certain times each week (as opposed to them being able to set their own hours) please indicate all required days and times:

- Weekdays, 9-5

If the location of the research/creative activities involves off campus work, must students provide their own transportation?

- N/A

Must students have taken any prerequisite classes? Please list classes and preferred grades:

- It is not required but preferable that students will have taken ANTH 475 (Archaeology Field School), ANTH 432 (Illinois Prehistory), and/or ANTH 325 (Archaeological Method and Theory).

Other requirements or notes to applicants:

- N/A