

Curriculum Vitae

Erin Marie Benson, PhD, RPA

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Education

- 2020 PhD in Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL
(Dissertation Title: Community as Assemblage in the Late Cahokian Hinterlands)
- 2017 MA in Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL
(Thesis Title: Moorehead Phase Foodways: Stable Isotope Analysis at Three
Mississippian Sites in the American Bottom)
- 2009 BA in Anthropology and Women's and Gender Studies, Case Western Reserve
University, Cleveland, OH

Professional Appointments

2025-Present Coordinator, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, American Bottom Field Station,
University Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Duties: Supervise and conduct all levels of archaeological projects in compliance with relevant Federal and State laws; serve as PI on contracts including managing contract funding and production of contract deliverables; function as lead archaeologist for all major field and analytical undertakings; supervise and manage staff including performance management, fostering career development, and hiring and training; coordinate field investigations with landowners, agencies, and other stakeholders; compile, edit, and author technical and large-scale research reports; perform quality assurance/quality control on projects and reports; assist the Collaborative Research Liaison with communications and programming involving Tribal Partners and other descendant communities; serve on ISAS committees and contribute service to professional organizations

2024-2025 Associate Research Scientist, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, American Bottom Field Station, University Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Duties: Supervise and conduct all levels of archaeological projects in compliance with relevant Federal and State laws; lead and supervise field and research teams; ensure archaeological work is completed to the highest standard; compile, edit, and author technical and large-scale research reports; perform and supervise analysis of archaeological materials; manage recruitment, career development mentoring, and training of project staff; conduct research; assist the Collaborative Research Liaison with communications and programming involving Tribal Partners and other descendant communities; serve as PI/co-PI on contracts including managing contract funding and production of contract deliverables; review and revise program standards and methodologies; serve on ISAS committees and contribute service to professional organizations

2020-2024 Senior Research Archaeologist, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, American Bottom Field Station, University Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Duties: Supervise and conduct all levels of archaeological projects in compliance with relevant Federal and State laws; lead and supervise field and research teams;

ensure archaeological work is completed to the highest standard; compile, edit, and author technical and large-scale research reports; perform and supervise analysis of archaeological materials; manage recruitment, career development mentoring, and training of project staff; conduct research; assist with communications and programming involving Tribal Partners

2018-2024 Cartographer (consultant), O'Fallon, Illinois

Duties: Use ArcGIS to create maps for archaeological compliance and research reports

2013-2015, 2017-2020 Archaeological Assistant, Illinois State Archaeological Survey,

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Duties: Perform Phase I archaeological surveys; assist in digital data management; conduct research for and write large-scale archaeological reports; prepare and present research at professional conferences; perform historic map and document research for past excavations; use ArcGIS to digitize and synthesize spatial data; assist with inventory of potentially-NAGPRA-eligible Affiliated Funerary Objects

2015-2018 Research Assistant, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Duties: Train and supervise students in archaeological analysis methods; conduct ceramic and lithic analyses, especially ceramic vessel analysis; transcribe anthropological interviews; perform tasks related to volume publication

2015-2016 Field Archaeologist, Lowland Cultural Resources, LLC, Toledo, Ohio

Duties: Conduct Phase I archaeological survey

2012-2013 Research Assistant, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Duties: Ceramic and lithic artifact and feature analysis; report writing and figure production

2011-2012 Assistant Research Archaeologist, East St. Louis Mound Center (11S706), Mississippi River Bridge Project, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Duties: Supervise excavations at a large Mississippian center; lead crews ranging from 5 to 30 people; train new staff; ensure fieldwork and paperwork were being completed to the highest standards; perform field tasks such as photography, scribing and defining features, and providing soil descriptions; excavate features; prepare and present research at professional conferences

2010-2011 Senior Crew Chief, East St. Louis Mound Center (11S706), Mississippi River Bridge Project, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Duties: Supervise excavations at a large Mississippian center; lead crews ranging from 5 to 30 people; ensure fieldwork and paperwork were being completed to the highest standards; perform field tasks such as photography, scribing and defining

features, and providing soil descriptions; excavate features; prepare and present research at professional conferences

2010 Crew Chief, East St. Louis Mound Center (11S706), Mississippi River Bridge Project, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Duties: Excavate features at a large Mississippian center; wash, label, and sort artifacts; perform field tasks such as photography, scribing and defining features, and providing soil descriptions

2009-2010 Crew Member, East St. Louis Mound Center (11S706), Mississippi River Bridge Project, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Duties: Excavate features at a large Mississippian center; wash, label, and sort artifacts

Teaching Appointments

2018 Instructor, World Archaeology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2017 Instructor and Site Director, Field School in Midwestern Archaeology (11S2086), Belleville, Illinois. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2013-2019 Teaching Assistant, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Anthropology in a Changing World (online course), Biology of Human Behavior (online course), Historical Archaeology of the Americas, Introduction to Anthropology, Introduction to Archaeology (received Instructor Ranked as Excellent designation)

Peer-Reviewed Publications

2025 Kessler, Nicholas V., **Erin M. Benson**, Timothy R. Pauketat, Jason D. Kirk, Matthew D. Therrell. Age and Origin of a Cahokian Wooden Monument at the Mitchell Site, Illinois, USA. *PLOS One* 20(10):e0333783. doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0333783

2023 Pauketat, Timothy R., Susan M. Alt, Alleen M. Betzenhauser, Jeffery D. Kruchten, **Erin M. Benson**, Cahokia as Urban Anomaly. *Journal of Urban Archaeology* 7:253-274. doi.org/10.1484/J.JUA.5.133458

2016 Lucero, Lisa J. Jessica Harrison, Jean Larmon, Zach Nissen, and **Erin Benson**, Prolonged Droughts, Short-Term Responses and Diaspora: The Power of Water and Pilgrimage at the Sacred Cenotes of Cara Blanca, Belize, *WIRES Water* 4. doi:10.1002/wat2.1148.

Edited Volumes

In production (ed) *The Archaeology of Cahokia's Farmlands, Volume I: The Sauget Industrial Park's Fingers South Site*. Manuscript on File, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

In prep (ed) *The Archaeology of Cahokia's Farmlands, Volume II: The Sauget Industrial Park Sites*. Manuscript on File, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

- 2026 *Mounds North of Cahokia: Sixty Years of Archaeology at the Mitchell Site*. Edited by **Erin M. Benson**. Research Report No. 55, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Chapters

- In production The Sauget Industrial Park. In *The Archaeology of Cahokia's Farmlands, Volume I: The Sauget Industrial Park's Fingers South Site*, edited by Erin M. Benson. Manuscript on File, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- In production Methods. In *The Archaeology of Cahokia's Farmlands, Volume I: The Sauget Industrial Park's Fingers South Site*, edited by Erin M. Benson. Manuscript on File, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- In production Ceramics. In *The Archaeology of Cahokia's Farmlands, Volume I: The Sauget Industrial Park's Fingers South Site*, edited by Erin M. Benson. Manuscript on File, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- In production Cultural Patterns and Conclusions. In *The Archaeology of Cahokia's Farmlands, Volume I: The Sauget Industrial Park's Fingers South Site*, edited by Erin M. Benson. Manuscript on File, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- In production Introduction. In *The Archaeology of Cahokia's Farmlands, Volume II: The Sauget Industrial Park Sites*, edited by Erin M. Benson. Manuscript on File, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- In production Features. In *The Archaeology of Cahokia's Farmlands, Volume II: The Sauget Industrial Park Sites*, edited by Erin M. Benson. Manuscript on File, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- In production Ceramics. In *The Archaeology of Cahokia's Farmlands, Volume II: The Sauget Industrial Park Sites*, edited by Erin M. Benson. Manuscript on File, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- In production The Sauget Industrial Park Landscape. In *The Archaeology of Cahokia's Farmlands, Volume II: The Sauget Industrial Park Sites*, edited by Erin M. Benson. Manuscript on File, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- 2026 Introduction. In *Mounds North of Cahokia: Sixty Years of Archaeology at the Mitchell Site*, edited by Erin M. Benson, Research Report No. 55, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- 2026 Mound Excavations. In *Mounds North of Cahokia: Sixty Years of Archaeology at the Mitchell Site*, edited by Erin M. Benson, Research Report No. 55, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

- 2026 Ceramics. In *Mounds North of Cahokia: Sixty Years of Archaeology at the Mitchell Site*, edited by Erin M. Benson, Research Report No. 55, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- 2026 Reimagining Mitchell. (**Erin M. Benson** and B. Jacob Skousen) In *Mounds North of Cahokia: Sixty Years of Archaeology at the Mitchell Site*, edited by Erin M. Benson, Research Report No. 55, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Other Publications and Book Reviews

- 2022 Benson, Erin M. Dating the Late Mississippian Occupation at the Rhea Site, St. Clair County, Illinois. *Illinois Antiquity* 57(2): 4-6.
- 2018 Benson, Erin M. (book review) Investigating the Ordinary: Everyday Matters in Southeast Archaeology, edited by Sarah E. Price and Philip J. Carr, *Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology*, <http://midwestarchaeology.org/mcja/book-reviews>.
- 2017 Benson, Erin M. In the Shadow of Yalbac: Hinterland Settlement between Yalbac and the Cara Blanca Pools. *Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology* 14: 97-109.
- 2013 Benson, Erin M. and Joseph M. Galloy, Ceramic Owl Effigies from Ancient East St. Louis, *Illinois Antiquity* 48(3): 10-13.

Technical Reports

- 2025 Author of 7 Archaeological Survey Short Reports
- 2024 Author of 10 Archaeological Survey Short Reports
- 2023 Author of 5 Archaeological Survey Short Reports
- 2022 Author of 4 Archaeological Survey Short Reports
- 2017 (ed) *Results of the 2016 Valley of Peace Archaeology Project: Cara Blanca Pool 1 Excavations and Yalbac Salvage Archaeology Program*, edited by Lisa J. Lucero, Jean T. Larmon, and **Erin M. Benson**. Report submitted to the Institute of Archaeology, National Institute of Culture and History, Belize.
- 2017 Results of the 2016 Valley of Peach Archaeology Project Salvage Excavations. In *Results of the 2016 Valley of Peace Archaeology Project: Cara Blanca Pool 1 Excavations and Yalbac Salvage Archaeology Program*, edited by L. J. Lucero, J. T. Larmon, and E. M. Benson, pp 43-72. Report submitted to the Institute of Archaeology, National Institute of Culture and History, Belize.
- 2015 Settlement in the Spanish Lookout Corporation (SPLC) Fields of Yalbac. In *Results of the 2014 Valley of Peach Archaeology Project: Underwater and Surface Explorations at Cara Blanca*, edited by Lisa J. Lucero. pp. 130-145, Report submitted to the Institute of Archaeology, National Institute of Culture and History, Belize.
- 2014 Archaeological Investigations at Site 11S742 (Tucker Drive Site) for the IL Route 157/I-64 Park and Ride Facility. *Archaeological Testing Short Report #449*, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, on file with ISAS.
- 2014 Archaeological Investigations at Site 11MS1330 (Schoolhouse Branch Site). *Archaeological Testing Short Report #457*, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, on file with ISAS.

Media

- 2024 ISAS supports Arthur Johnson Foundation's mission of 'hope, vision, and positive direction [Blog post]. <https://blogs.illinois.edu/view/7923/94084031>
- 2016 **Benson, Erin** and Jean Larmon, Salvaging the Past in an Ancient Maya Settlement [Blog post]. <https://news.illinois.edu/blog/view/6367/368535>.
- 2016 Larmon, Jean and **Erin Benson**, Drought and Pilgrimage at the Cara Blanca Pools, Belize [Blog post]. <https://news.illinois.edu/blog/view/6367/372910>.
- 2011 Illinois Archaeology in the Field and in the Lab [Film]. Illinois Archaeological Survey. <https://ilarchsurv.org/film>.

Professional Presentations*Organized Panels and Symposia*

- 2024 From Borrows to Bridges and Households to Highways: Highlights from Recent Projects at the American Bottom Field Station. Poster Session organized with Alleen Betzenhauser for the 67th Annual Midwestern Archaeological Conference, October 16-19. Milwaukee, WI.
- 2024 Collaborative Research Speaker Series. Organized with Dr. Elizabeth Watts Malouchos, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Spring 2024
- 2023 Third Annual Intersections of Indigenous Knowledge and Archaeology Lecture Series. Organized with Dr. Elizabeth Watts Malouchos, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Spring 2023
- 2022 Second Annual Intersections of Indigenous Knowledge and Archaeology Lecture Series. Organized with Dr. Elizabeth Watts Malouchos, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Spring 2022.
- 2021 First Annual Intersections of Indigenous Knowledge and Archaeology Lecture Series. Organized with Dr. Elizabeth Watts Malouchos, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Spring 2021.
- 2018 Graduate Research Symposium. Symposium organized for the Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, March 31, Urbana, IL.
- 2014 Back to the Future: The Convergence of Remembering, Practicing, and Preparing. Session organized with Joel Lennen for the 7th Annual Theoretical Archaeology Group Conference, May 23-25, Urbana, IL.

Conference Papers

- 2026 Collaborative Archaeology and Community History in Brooklyn, Illinois. Paper presented at the 59th Annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, January 7-10. Detroit, MI. First author with Alleen Betzenhauser, Roberta Rogers, Michael E. Smith, Elizabeth Watts Malouchos, and Miranda Yancey.
- 2025 From Tragedy to Triumph of the Commoners. Paper presented at the 90th Annual Society for American Archaeology Conference, April 23-27. Denver, CO. Co-author with Alleen Betzenhauser.
- 2024 Envisioning Collaborative Archaeology at the Illinois State Archaeological Survey. Paper presented at the 68th Annual Illinois Archaeological Survey Meeting, September 21. Champaign, IL. Co-author with Elizabeth Watts Malouchos, Alleen Betzenhauser, and Jacob Skousen.

- 2023 The Archaeology of Cahokia's Farmlands: The Sauget Industrial Park Sites. Paper presented at the 79th Annual Southeastern Archaeological Conference, October 25-28. Chattanooga, TN.
- 2023 Orr-Herl: Living Large on the Lower Ohio. Paper presented at the 79th Annual Southeastern Archaeological Conference, October 25-28. Chattanooga, TN. Co-author with Steve Boles, Bob McCullough, Tamira Brennan, and Jacob Skousen.
- 2023 Recent Excavations for the Dupo Interchange Project: 5,000 Years of Occupation in the Southern American Bottom. Paper presented at the 67th Annual Illinois Archaeological Survey Meeting, September 23, Carbondale, IL. Primary author with M. Brent Lansdell and Caitlin G. Rankin.
- 2022 The Late Mississippian Occupation at the Stemler Site (11S1754), St. Clair County, Illinois. Paper presented at the 65th Annual Midwestern Archaeological Conference, October 13-15, La Crosse, WI. Primary author with Victoria G. Rothe
- 2022 Orr Herl: Sitting on Top of the Underworld. Paper presented at the 66th Annual Illinois Archaeological Survey Meeting, September 10, Springfield, IL. Co-author with Steve Boles, Bob McCullough, Tamira Brennan, and Benjamin Skousen.
- 2022 Community and Feasting at the Fingers South Site. Paper presented at the 66th Annual Illinois Archaeological Survey Meeting, September 10, Springfield, IL. Second author with Elizabeth Watts Malouchos and Steven R. Kuehn.
- 2022 Remaking Mississippian: A View of the Moorehead Phase Community-Making from Cahokia's Peripheries. Paper presented at the 87th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, March 30-April 3, Chicago, IL. Primary author with Elizabeth Watts Malouchos.
- 2021 Moorehead Phase Community at the Fingers South Site. Paper presented at the 64th Annual Midwestern Archaeological Conference, October 7-9, East Lansing, MI. Primary author with Elizabeth Watts Malouchos
- 2019 The Emergence of Meaning through Place at Two Late Cahokian Sites. Paper presented at the 63rd Annual Midwestern Archaeological Conference, October 10-13, Mankato, MN.
- 2018 The 2018 Field Season at Fandel Mounds: A Lohmann Horizon Cahokian Outpost near Peoria, IL. Paper presented at the Mississippian Conference, July 28, Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, Collinsville, IL. Co-author with Duane Esarey, Greg Wilson, and Dana Bardolph
- 2018 Building a Future through the Past: Archaeology at the Orpheum. Paper presented at the Society for Anthropology in Community Colleges Great Lakes Regional Conference, March 30-31, Champaign, IL.
- 2017 Composing the Late Cahokian Countryside: Excavations at the Rhea Site (11S2086), St. Clair County, Illinois. Paper presented at the 61st Annual Midwestern Archaeological Conference, October 19-21, Indianapolis, IN.
- 2016 In the Shadow of Yalbac: Results of the 2016 Salvage Excavations of Yalbac's Hinterland Settlements. Paper presented at the 14th Belize Archaeology and Anthropology Symposium, June 27-July 1, San Ignacio, Cayo District, Belize.
- 2014 Back to the Future: Embracing New Understandings of Alternative Temporalities. Paper presented at the 7th Annual Theoretical Archaeology Group Conference, May 23-25, Urbana, IL.

- 2014 Absorbed Residue Analysis on Two Late Mississippian Sites in the American Bottom. Paper presented at the 3rd Science and Archaeology Symposium, February 21, Urbana, IL.
- 2013 The 'Reality' of Other-Than-Human Persons in Place Making and Community. Paper presented at the 6th Annual Theoretical Archaeology Group Conference, May 9-11, Chicago, IL. Primary author with Amanda J. Butler
- 2012 Terminal Beginnings at the East St. Louis Mound Complex. Paper presented at the 69th Annual Southeastern Archaeological Conference, November 7-11, Baton Rouge, LA. Primary author with Alleen Betzenhauser
- 2011 Owl Medicine: Three Ceramic Owl Effigies from the East St. Louis Mound Center. Paper presented at the 57th Annual Midwestern Archaeological Conference, October 13-15, La Crosse, WI. Primary author with Joseph Galloy
- 2010 Feature 181: A Burnt Stirling Phase Structure at East St. Louis. Paper presented at the 56th Annual Midwestern Archaeological Conference, October 21-24, Bloomington, IN, at the 68th Annual Southeastern Archaeological Conference, October 28-30, Lexington, KY, and at the 54th Illinois Archaeological Survey Annual Meeting, October 8-9, Normal, IL. Co-author with Steve Boles

Poster Presentations

- 2024 Recent Investigations at Mississippian Sites in Southern Illinois. Poster presented at the 67th Annual Midwestern Archaeological Conference, October 16-19. Milwaukee, WI. Primary author with Victoria Rothe.
- 2024 Welcome to the American Bottom Field Station! Poster presented at the 67th Annual Midwestern Archaeological Conference, October 16-19. Milwaukee, WI. Co-author with Alleen Betzenhauser.
- 2018 Composing the Late Cahokian Countryside: A View from the Rhea Site, St. Clair County, Illinois. Poster presented at the 83rd Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, April 11-15, Washington, DC.
- 2014 Absorbed Residue Analysis on Ceramics from Three Moorehead Phase Sites in the American Bottom. Poster presented at the 58th Annual Midwestern Archaeological Conference, October 2-4, Champaign, IL.
- 2014 Archaeological Site Significance for Management: Not as Simple as You Would Think. Poster presented at the Prairie Research Institute Lightning Symposium, March 20, Champaign, IL. Primary author with Michael Farkas and Duane Esarey

Invited Lectures

- 2026 Collaborative Archaeology and Community History in Brooklyn, Illinois, Cahokia Winter Lecture Series, Collinsville, Illinois
- 2026 Archaeology and Conservation in Southern Illinois, presented for the Piasa Palisades Chapter of the Sierra Club, Alton, Illinois
- 2025 Site Preservation and Stewardship, presented for the Monroe County Historical Society, Waterloo, Illinois
- 2024 CRM from Start to Finish, presented to ANTH 300: Contemporary Archaeology, Minnesota State University-Moorhead
- 2023 CRM in Illinois, presented to ANTH 300: Contemporary Archaeology, Minnesota State University-Moorhead

- 2023 Careers in Anthropology Panel, presented to ANTH 492: Seminar in Anthropology, Minnesota State University-Moorhead
- 2022 Cahokia, presented to ANTH 253: Introduction to Archaeology, American University, Washington D.C.
- 2021 Ask an Expert: CRM, presented to ANTH 210: Exploring Archaeology, Northern Illinois University, Dekalb, Illinois
- 2021 Cahokia, presented to ANTH 240: Introduction to Archaeology, Montgomery College, Maryland
- 2019 Composing the Late Mississippian Countryside, Mound City Archaeological Society Lecture Series, St. Louis, Missouri
- 2019 Composing the Late Mississippian Countryside: Community and Household Identity during Cahokia's Decline, East Central Illinois Archaeological Society Lecture Series, Urbana, Illinois
- 2018 Cahokia, presented to ANTH 101: Introduction to Anthropology, Urbana, Illinois
- 2018 Peopling the Americas, presented to ANTH 105: World Archaeology, Urbana, Illinois
- 2017 Composing the Late Cahokian Countryside: Preliminary Results from 2017 Excavations at the Rhea Site, Illinois State Archaeological Survey Brown Bag Speaker Series, Champaign, Illinois
- 2017 Climate Change and Cahokia, presented to ANTH 278: Climate Change and Civilization, Urbana, Illinois
- 2015 Ethics in Archaeology, presented to ANTH 220: Introduction to Archaeology, Urbana, Illinois

Relevant Training and Certifications

Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA)

Secretary of the Interior (SOI) Qualified Archaeologist

HR Series for Supervisors Certificate, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

OSHA Excavation and Trenching Competent Person

Excavation and Trenching Safety

Certification in Adult, Child, and Infant CPR and AED and in Standard First Aid

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Certificate in Graduate Teaching

Service

2026-2028 Secretary, Illinois Archaeological Survey

2026 Member, ISAS search committee to hire a head of Special Projects

2025-2026 Peer Reviewer, Southeastern Archaeology

2023-2026 Chair, Field School Certification Committee, Register of Professional Archaeologists

2024-2025 Chair, Field Manual Revisions Committee, Illinois State Archaeological Survey

2022-2025 Member, Board of Directors, Illinois Archaeological Survey

2022-2025 Chair, Jeanette E. Stephens Student Paper Award, Illinois Archaeological Survey

2021-2024 Member, Research and Curation Committee, Illinois State Archaeological Survey

2023 Member, Public Outreach Committee, Illinois State Archaeological Survey

2023 Member, ISAS search committee to hire Scientific Specialists

2022 Chair, ISAS search committees to hire Senior Scientific Specialists and Scientific Specialists

- 2021 Chair, ISAS search committee to hire a Historic Resource Analyst
 2021 Member, ISAS search committee to hire a Research Zooarchaeologist
 2019-2021 Member, Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council, Springfield, Illinois
 2015-2016 Treasurer, Archaeology Student Society, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
 2013-2015 Member of the Midwest Archaeological Conference Student Workshop Committee
- Workshops organized: “Getting a Job in the Field of Archaeology,” “Current Issues facing Midwestern Archaeological Students,” and “Proposing and Funding Archaeological Research and Fieldwork”
- 2013-2014 President, Archaeology Student Society, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Community Engagement, Outreach, and Collaboration

- 2026 Heritage Heroes after school program, Brooklyn School District, Brooklyn, IL.
 2025 Expert Advisor for numerous FIRST Lego League Robotics teams; gave presentations to additional groups.
 2025 Archaeological investigations and participation in community outreach events with the Historic Society of Brooklyn, Illinois. Site Director, Brooklyn, IL.
 2025 Organizer and participant in Scout Archaeology Merit Badge Event, Camp Vandeventer, Waterloo, IL.
 2025 Jackie-Joyner-Kersey Food, Agriculture, and Nutrition Innovation Center tour for high school students. Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, Collinsville, IL.
 2025 Artifact Roadshow Artifact ID day, Monroe County Historical Society, Waterloo, IL.
 2025 Artifact Washing Days for the Cahokia Archaeological Society, Collinsville, IL.
 2024 Mound Builders of the USA Tour, Far Horizons, Expert guide, Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, Collinsville, IL.
 2024 University of Illinois System State Leadership Tour, Expert guide, Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, Collinsville, IL.
 2024 Archaeological investigations and participation in community outreach events with the Historic Society of Brooklyn, Illinois. Site Director, Brooklyn, IL.
 2024 Jackie-Joyner-Kersey Food, Agriculture, and Nutrition Innovation Center tour for high school students. Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, Collinsville, IL.
 2024 Illinois State Archaeological Survey’s Collaborative Research Speaker Series, Co-organizer, Urbana, IL.
 2023 Cahokia Kid’s Day, Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, Co-host, Collinsville, IL.
 2023 Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma Tribal Historic Preservation Officer visit to the American Bottom, Co-host, Collinsville, IL.
 2023 Volunteer Field Assistant, University of Pennsylvania excavations at Hawkins Hollow (11MO855), Valmeyer, IL.
 2021-2023 Illinois State Archaeological Survey’s Intersections of Indigenous Knowledge and Archaeology Speaker Series, Co-organizer, Urbana, IL.
 2022 Mound Builders of the USA Tour, Far Horizons, Expert guide, Dupou, IL.
 2022 Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma visit to Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, Co-host, Collinsville, IL.
 2021 Mapping lesson and demonstration, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville Archaeological Field School, Edwardsville, IL.
 2021 Lummi Nation visit to Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, Co-host, Collinsville, IL.
 2019 First Friday, St. Louis Science Center, St. Louis, MO.

- 2019 STEAMPunk Kids Club, Orpheum Children's Science Museum, Champaign, Illinois
- 2018 Pygmalion Festival Tech Demo, Urbana, Illinois; Demonstrating the use of Augmented Reality in archaeology. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- 2018 Time Machine: American Indian Cultures, Spurlock Museum of World Cultures, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- 2017 Archaeology Day for the Girl Scouts of Central Illinois, Mahomet, IL.
- 2017 Organizer of the First Annual Archaeology Day at the Orpheum Children's Science Museum, Champaign, IL.
- 2016 Fundraised for, planned, and implemented an archaeology exhibit at the Orpheum Children's Science Museum, Champaign, IL.
- 2013-2015 Volunteer and organizer at Archaeology Day: History in Motion (2015), Engage the Senses (2014), IndiVisible (2013), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Grants, Awards, and Honors

Research and Travel

- 2025 African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, National Trust for Historic Preservation, \$50,000 *Preserving and Interpreting Historic Brooklyn-Programming and Interpretation* (**Erin Benson**, Elizabeth Watts Malouchos)
- 2025 Staff Professional Development Fund, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, \$500.00
- Not awarded Chancellors Call to Action Grant, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, \$75,000 *Founded in Freedom: Supporting Cultural Heritage and Education in Brooklyn, Illinois* (Alleen Betzenhauser, **Erin Benson**, Mike Smith, Roberta Rogers, Ronnie Steele, Sr., Joseph Galloy, Miranda Yancey, Elizabeth Watts-Malouchos, Sarah Baires)
- 2023 Office for the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Co-Sponsorship Award, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, \$1,000
- 2022 Academic Professional Development Fund, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, \$500.00
- 2022 Student Cultural Programming Fee, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, \$1,200
- 2021 Student Cultural Programming Fee, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, \$800
- 2019 Conference Travel Award, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, \$250.00
- 2018 Illinois Association for the Advancement of Archaeology Permanent Fund Grant, \$400
- 2018 Research Award, Lowlands Cultural Resources, LLC., \$350.00
- 2017 Summer Research Funding, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, \$400.00
- 2017 Mellon Travel Award, Garden and Landscape Studies, Dumbarton Oaks, \$500.00
- 2016 Conference Travel Award, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, \$250.00
- 2015 Summer Research Funding, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, \$500.00

- 2014 List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Results based on student ratings from Introduction to Archaeology
- 2013 The Forest N. Baker Award for American Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, \$1000.00

Contract Proposals

- 2025 Proposal for Phase I survey in Advance of Improvements to the Gustave Koerner House, Belleville, Illinois (accepted), \$1,346.00
- 2023 Proposal for archaeological testing for the Trolley Circle Multi-Family Residential Development (rejected), \$17,190.00
- 2022 Proposal for archaeological survey for the Trolley Circle Multi-Family Residential Development (accepted), \$6,051.00

Education

- 2020 Supplemental Summer Block Grant Fellowship, Graduate College, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, \$2222.00
- 2019-2020 Assistantship and Tuition Waiver, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign \$17,600
- 2018-2019 Assistantship and Tuition Waiver, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign \$34,600
- 2017-2018 Assistantship and Tuition Waiver, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign \$31,800
- 2016-2017 Assistantship and Tuition Waiver, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign \$31,800
- 2015-2016 Assistantship and Tuition Waiver, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign \$31,000
- 2014-2015 Assistantship and Tuition Waiver, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign \$30,800
- 2013-2014 Assistantship and Tuition Waiver, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign \$29,500
- 2012-2013 Assistantship and Tuition Waiver, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign \$28,000

Selected Archaeological Fieldwork

Survey and Excavation

- 2020-present Direct and supervise Ph I, II, and III field projects in southern Illinois including survey, testing, data recovery, documentation, and GPS and Total Station mapping
- 2024 Site Director, Fox Hill (11MS21), Collinsville, IL
- 2024 Site Director, Gretas II (11MO902), Columbia, IL
- 2022 Site Director, Stemler (11S1754), Dupo, IL
- 2021 Site Supervisor, Mitchell (11MS30), Mitchell, IL
- 2020 Site Supervisor, various sites in the Dupo Project Area, Dupo, IL
- 2020 Field Assistant, Crable (11F249), Browning, IL
- 2018-19, 22 Field Assistant, Fandel (11WD4), Metamora, IL
- 2018 Assistant Supervisor, Santos (8MR03986), Ocala, FL
- 2017 Site Director, Rhea (11S2086), Belleville, IL

- 2016 Field Supervisor, Valley of Peace Archaeological Project, Cayo, Belize. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2015, 2017 Survey Director, various sites, Belleville, IL
- 2013, 2016 Assistant Supervisor, the Collins Complex (11V82, 11V15), Danville, IL
- 2013 Assistant Supervisor, Stephan-Steinkamp (12PO33), Posey County, IN
- 2012 Assistant Supervisor, Emerald Acropolis (11S1), Lebanon, IL
- 2011-2012 Senior Crew Chief, East St. Louis Precinct (11S706), East St. Louis, IL
- 2010-2011 Crew Chief, East St. Louis Precinct (11S706), East St. Louis, IL
- 2009-2010 Crew Member, East St. Louis Precinct (11S706), East St. Louis, IL

Geophysical Survey

- 2023 Survey Technician with Dr. Robert McCullough, Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site (11S34/11MS2), Collinsville, IL
- 2021, 2023 Survey Technician with Dr. Robert McCullough, Carson Mounds (22CO505), Clarksdale, MS
- 2022 Survey Technician with Dr. Robert McCullough, Mullins Creek Project Area, Centreville, IL
- 2021 Survey Technician with Dr. B. Jacob Skousen, Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site (11S34/11MS2), Collinsville, IL
- 2021 Survey Technician with Dr. Robert McCullough, Orr Herl (11HN1), Hardin County, IL
- 2017 Survey Technician with Dr. B. Jacob Skousen, Rhea site (11S2086), Belleville, IL
- 2014 Survey Technician with Dr. Susan Alt, Emerald Acropolis (11S1), Lebanon, IL

Selected Archaeological Analysis

- 2024-2025 Feature and Site Analysis, Fox Hill (11MS21)
- 2023-2024 Feature and Site Analysis, Stemler (11S1754)
- 2021-2022 Ceramic and Mound Analysis, conducted re-analysis of ceramic and mound data from the Mitchell site (11MS30)
- 2018-2020 Site Analysis, conducted analysis of ceramic, lithic, and feature data from TLW and Mississippian sites at Sauget Industrial Park (11S332, 11S333, 11S334, 11S459, 11S823, 11S944)
- 2017 Site Analysis, conducted analysis of ceramic and lithic artifacts and feature data (11MS1330, 11S571, 11S2086)
- 2015-2017 Ceramic and Lithic Analysis, conducted and supervised analysis of various Mississippian sites in the Richland Complex (11S1, 11S27, 11S204, 11S1131)
- 2013-2014 Stable Isotope Analysis, conducted stable isotope analysis of absorbed residues in ceramics from Mississippian sites (11MS1330, 11MS1291, 11S465)
- 2012-2013 Site Analysis, conducted analysis of Mississippian ceramic and lithic artifacts and feature data (11MS1330, 11S742)
- 2011 Ceramic Analysis, conducted preliminary sorting of ceramics by component for the Janey B. Goode site (11S1232)

Skills

Software: ArcGIS Desktop and Pro, Microsoft Office, Adobe Creative Suite, FileMaker

Equipment: Sokkia Total Stations, Trimble 3S Remote Total Station, Trimble Catalyst DA2, Topcon GR-5 High Accuracy GNSS, Sokkia and Spectra Precision Data Collectors, Trimble GPS, Bartington Grad 601-2 Dual Sensor Gradiometer, DJI Phantom 3 Professional Drone

Analyses: Advanced ceramic analysis, absorbed residues/stable isotope analysis, GIS/Spatial analysis

Language: Reading proficiency in Spanish

Professional Memberships

Midwest Archaeological Conference

Southeastern Archaeological Conference

Illinois Archaeological Survey