

GEORGIA ABRAMS
Illinois State Archaeological Survey
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EDUCATION

2017 BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ANTHROPOLOGY

Pacific Lutheran University | Tacoma, Washington

Senior Capstone: *Mitochondrial DNA, Gender, and Identity in the Ancestral Lineage of Bronze Age Britain*

2014 ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE

Highland Community College | Wamego, Kansas

2013 ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

Highland Community College | Wamego, Kansas

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2023 COLLECTIONS SPECIALIST

Illinois State Archaeological Survey | PRI, UIUC | Champaign, Illinois

- Stabilize and manage University-held legacy collections, including artifacts from early Cahokia excavations
- Research context of potential funerary or sacred objects and facilitate collections reviews by Tribal representatives in repatriation efforts
- Work to preserve artifacts and their data to improve accessibility for ethical collections-based research
- Manage digital collections data in a FileMaker relational database
- Coordinate cataloging, rehousing, and database updates to align with NAGPRA and professional standards
- Develop and implement disaster preparedness and response plans for cultural collections
- Conduct risk assessments and facilitate training for collections staff
- Collaborate with cross-functional teams to integrate cultural heritage and collections management into institutional emergency protocols
- Develop workflows and documentation standards for collection management and accessibility
- Supervise and mentor student hourlies
- Assist with public engagement initiatives

2022 **CURATION ASSISTANT**

Illinois State Archaeological Survey | PRI, UIUC | Champaign, Illinois

- Investigated and documented funerary objects within IDOT-held collections
- Assisted with and supervised student hourlylies during large-scale collections assessment (~20,000 boxes) across 4 ISAS facilities
- Assisted with the transfer of assessed collections into a new repository
- Collaborated with senior staff to fulfill internal and external research requests and artifact loans
- Co-authored Standard Operating Procedures, including research request and return, collections transfers, and funerary context research

2021 **FIELD TECHNICIAN**

Illinois State Archaeological Survey | PRI, UIUC | Champaign, Illinois

- Conducted multiple Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Phase I surveys, including shovel testing, deep augering, and artifact screening
- Processed recovered materials: washing, identifying, recording, and labeling artifacts
- Produced field and sketch maps in ArcGIS Pro; georeferenced historic maps to evaluate potential for historic sites
- Drafted Archaeological Short Survey Reports (ASSRs)

2016 **SPECIAL PROJECT ASSISTANT**

Metro Parks Tacoma | Tacoma, Washington

- Conducted visitor satisfaction surveys across ~20 urban parks, analyzing and presenting data to the Board of Directors
- Assisted in budget oversight of a multi-million-dollar system, including spend-plan management and ad hoc financial analysis
- Managed supply chain operations, including inventories and reorders of uniforms and field supplies

2015 **FIELD TECHNICIAN**

Mount Rainier National Park | Department of the Interior | Ashford, Washington

- Conducted cultural resource management (CRM) survey prior to utility line replacement, including constant volume samples (CVS) and test unit excavations along a ~15,000 corridor through campgrounds
- Identified, documented, and recovered artifacts
- Kept detailed field notes, stratigraphic sketches, and pace maps
- Collaborated with USGS laboratory to confirm tephra samples and applied tephrochronology to establish relative chronologies for cultural material
- Interpreted project methods and findings for park visitors, linking archaeological research to public understanding of cultural landscapes

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

2025 **HERITAGE EMERGENCY and RESPONSE TRAINING for NATIVE COMMUNITIES (HEART)**

Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative | Washington, D.C.

- Gained advanced training in assessing and managing risks to cultural heritage in emergencies
- Learned frameworks for developing and implementing effective emergency response plans
- Applied preventative strategies for disaster risk reduction and response capacity-building
- Practiced coordination of cultural heritage protection actions during crises
- Strengthened skills in collaborative communication with tribal partners impacted by emergencies

2021 **PHASE II EXCAVATION TRAINING**

Noble-Wieting Site | Illinois State Archaeological Survey | Heyworth, Illinois

- Conducted controlled feature excavations and recovery of Mississippian artifacts
- Documented and sketched complex stratigraphic profiles
- Applied advanced excavation and recording methods in a professional research context

2016 **ROCHE HARBOR HOMESTEAD ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL**

Burke Museum | University of Washington | Seattle, Washington

- Performed shovel probes, pedestrian surveys, and excavation at a historic site
- Demonstrated test unit opening methods to students in a training environment
- Collected and prepared historic artifacts for museum cataloging and curation
- Researched site history through county and genealogical records to contextualize findings

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Conference Papers

2026 *Why Collections Emergencies Are Everyone's Problem.* Prairie Research Institute Lightning Symposium. Champaign, Illinois.

2024 *Moving a Monster: Continuing to Preserve Cultural History in Perpetuity.* **Georgia Abrams** and Hannah Rucinski. Paper presented at the 89th Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting. New Orleans, Louisiana.

2024 *The Ethics and Outcomes of Using Archaeological Collections for Education.* Tamira Brennan, Maria Teresa Palomares, **Georgia Abrams**, and Hannah Rucinski. Paper presented at the 89th Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting. New Orleans, Louisiana.

2023 *Moving a Monster: Continuing to Preserve Cultural History in Perpetuity.* **Georgia Abrams** and Hannah Rucinski. Paper presented at the 79th Annual Southeastern Archaeological Conference. Chattanooga, Tennessee.

2022 *Community Shaped by Diversity: A Comparative Ceramic Analysis from Recent Excavations at Noble-Wieting*. **Georgia Abrams**, Kjersti Emerson, Hannah Rucinski, and Benjamin Skousen. Paper presented at the 66th Annual Midwest Archaeological Conference. La Crosse, Wisconsin.

2021 *Variations within Sponemann II Phase Lithics: New Evidence from the Sponemann Site*. **Georgia Abrams** and Madeleine Evans. Paper presented at the 65th Annual Midwest Archaeological Conference. Lansing, Michigan.

2017 *Colonization and Collaboration: Archaeological Research at the Roche Harbor Homestead, San Juan Island*. Paper presented at the 70th Northwest Anthropological Conference. Spokane, Washington.

2016 *Dating with Difficulties: The Use of Tephrochronology at Mount Rainier National Park*. Paper presented at the 69th Northwest Anthropological Conference. Tacoma, Washington.

Invited Lectures

2025 East Central Illinois Archaeological Society. *Taking Care of Family Collections*. Eve Hargrave and **Georgia Abrams**. December 18, 2025.

2025 ANTH 157: The Archaeology of Illinois. *Curating Cahokia: The Legacy of Warren King Moorehead and the Curation Crisis*. October 24, 2025.

2025 City of Chicago's Office of Emergency Management and Communications 2025 Whole Community Training Summit. *Protecting the Past: Integrating Cultural Heritage into Emergency Preparedness*. **Georgia Abrams** and Seth Allgeier. October 22, 2025.

2024 Institute for Field Research's Curation Field School. *The Man, The Myth, The Legacy: W. K. Moorehead and "The Cahokia Problem."* July 9, 2024.

2023 East Central Illinois Archaeological Society. *The Archaeology of Mount Rainier National Park: Tephrochronology at the Ohanapecosh Campground*. February 16, 2023.

2016 Explorer's Club, Pacific Northwest Chapter. *The Use of Tephrochronology at Mount Rainier National Park*. October 29, 2016.

Poster Presentations

2024 *The Hoxie Farm Site*. Poster displayed at the 68th Illinois Archaeological Society Annual Meeting. Champaign, Illinois.

2023 *Public archaeology in the Mirror: An Updated Model at the Illinois State Archaeological Survey*. **Georgia Abrams** and Hannah Rucinski. Poster displayed at the PRI Lightning Symposium. Champaign, Illinois.

2022 *Public archaeology in the Mirror: An Updated Model at the Illinois State Archaeological Survey*. **Georgia Abrams** and Hannah Rucinski. Poster displayed at the 66th Illinois Archaeological Society Annual Meeting. Springfield, Illinois.

2022 *Public archaeology in the Mirror: An Updated Model at the Illinois State Archaeological Survey*. **Georgia Abrams** and Hannah Rucinski. Poster presented at the 87th Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting. Chicago, Illinois.

SERVICE

Active

2026 Training Coordinator, Emergency Management Planning Committee

2026 Illinois Alliance for Response (Foundation for Advancement in Conservation)

2025 National Heritage Responders (Foundation for Advancement in Conservation)

2024 Member, Emergency Management Planning Committee

2023 Member, Illinois Association for the Advancement of Archaeology: Outreach Committee

2023 Board Member, Illinois Association for Advancement of Archaeology

Former

2024 Member, PRI Education Working Group

2023 Chair, ISAS Outreach Committee

2016 Co-President, PLU Anthropology Club

2015 Activities Director, PLU Anthropology Club

OUTREACH

2023 Volunteer: ECIAS' "Explore Archaeology Day" at the Museum of the Grand Prairie

2023 Represented ISAS at PRI Trick or Treat event

2023 DREAM Academy activities at ISAS Repository

2023 Volunteer: IAAA table, Illinois State Fair

2023 Volunteer: ECIAS garage sale fundraiser preparations

RELEVANT COURSEWORK AND RESEARCH PROJECTS

2017 Capstone Seminar: Anthropological Methods

Designed a major anthropological project and developed a grant proposal in the Wenner-Gren format, including budget, methodologies, and literature review. Wrote *Mitochondrial DNA, Gender, and Identity in the Ancestral Lineage of Bronze Age Britain*.

2016 Anthropological Theory

Focused on the development of anthropological theory and its subsequent use in archaeology. Wrote a paper analyzing the theoretical framework of “*Cannibal Talk: The Man-Eating Myth and Human Sacrifice in the South Seas*” by Gananth Obeyesekere.

2016 Archaeology of Ancient Empires

Focused on the emergence and challenges of complex societies and human-environment interactions. Wrote *The Mortuary Landscape of Yamato Japan: Evolution of the Burial Mound*.

2016 Aztecs, Mayans, and their Predecessors

Focused on understanding the cultures of ancient Mesoamerica through archaeological research. Wrote *Understanding Death in Aztec Society*.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for American Archaeologists

Illinois Archaeological Survey

Illinois Association for Advancement of Archaeology

East Central Illinois Archaeological Society