

Sara L. Pfannkuche Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION:

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, WI.

Doctor of Philosophy, Department of Anthropology

Graduate Certificate: Museum Studies.

Dissertation Topic: Using Landscape Archaeology to Identify Potential Settlement Patterns During
Climate Change: a view from the Peconic River during the Hypsithermal

Dissertation Focus: Landscape Archaeology, Midwest/Great Lakes Late Archaic, Lithics.

Graduated: December 21, 2025.

University of Illinois at Chicago, IL.

Master of Arts, Department of Anthropology. Graduated: December 1999. Doctoral candidate,
Department of Anthropology, ABD. Attended 2000-2008.

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.

Bachelor of Arts, International Relations, James Madison College. Graduated: May 1993.

Additional major: Anthropology, College of Social Science.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL & CURATION EXPERIENCE:

Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Prairie Research Institute UIUC

Senior Scientific Specialist -Archaeology Collections. April 2022 – currently employed.

Facilitate requests for physical collections by overseeing movement of artifacts for loans/transfers.

Rehabilitate legacy collections held at ISAS to bring them up to current standards.

Lead IDOT donation intake process.

Maintain accuracy of curation databases (FileMaker) and curation records.

Supervises junior staff and students.

Facilitate outreach program for East Central Illinois Archaeological Society to process IDOT

Donations- Belle Street Privy from Alton, Illinois.

Served on various hiring committees including Chair.

Midwest Heritage Resource Consultants, LLC.

Partner and Project Manager. November 2017 – present.

Consulting services or custom workshops on all aspects of curation, collections management
planning, interpretation, and design for natural and cultural heritage organizations.

CRM consulting work on Phase I & II archaeological projects. Services include field work,
providing background, mound investigating, monitoring, and report writing.

Sample of Completed Projects:

Pleasant Prairie Historical Society, Exhibit Design: Stories of Life on "the Prairie", 2020

American Terra Cotta Museum, Exhibit: From Common Clay to Architecture and Art, 2018

Midway Village and Museum, Interpretive Plan: Industrial Gallery, 2019

Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit, Exhibit Design: Changing Prehistoric Lithic
Technology (includes 50 custom mounts for projectile points)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL & CURATION EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED):

Logan Museum of Anthropology, Beloit College, Wisconsin.

Visiting Curator of Archaeology, January 2020 - December 2020, January 2013 - August 2013, 2006 - 2010.

Identify, sort, and analyze archaeological collections.

Reconcile administrative records so they were intellectually accessible for researchers/students.

Place archaeological collections into the museum's collection database.

Process unprovenanced artifacts to create a teaching collection for the Anthropology

Department, including identifying artifacts and researching prior donation records and accession files.

Inventory and write assemblage descriptions on sites to facilitate re-housing of the museum archaeological collections, funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities grant.

Assist in ceramic analysis of 13Ln518 under the direction of Dr. William Green including creating data sheets and comparative data tables and photographing the collection.

Supervise students working at the museum.

Midway Village and Museum, Rockford, Illinois.

Docent and Living History Interpreter, August 2013 – Dec 2016.

Presenter at Topsy History: Brewing 1800s to Today, May 2016 and October 2017.

Led tours for children and adults in period dress at a historic museum with a Victorian Village.

Led living history activities and created new ones.

Midwest Archaeological Research Services, Inc., Marengo, Illinois.

Independent Curator, April 2014-March 2015.

Sub-contracted to curate archaeological collections and archives for McHenry County Conservation District.

Curate associated paperwork to allow intellectual accessibility of archaeological collections.

Oversaw volunteers processing recently donated archaeological collections.

Create archaeological site and survey databases for Closed Properties (not open to the public) owned by McHenry County Conservation District.

Rock County Historical Society, Janesville, Wisconsin.

Independent Contractor, January 2014 - August 2014.

Project Manager, Tallman's Technology Tour for the Lincoln-Tallman House.

Researched and wrote 1st person house tour for Tallman Technology.

Researched, wrote text, identified graphics, and built exhibit for Tallman Technology.

Facilitated training of museum docents for conducting 1st person tours.

Laurent House, Rockford, Illinois

Curation Committee Member, September 2013 - June 2014.

Create inventory and collections management plan.

Catalog artifacts, archives, and library using PastPerfect.

Make conservation recommendations.

Develop policy and procedures for interpretation of the Laurent House Museum.

Interpreter for house tours.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL & CURATION EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED):

Midwest Archaeological Research Services, Inc., Marengo, Illinois.

Curator, October 2012 – September 2013.

Organize and curate 30+ year old archaeological survey collection for permanent storage at Illinois State Museum and McHenry County Conservation District.

Analysis of archaeological material, removing non-cultural material, curating associated paperwork.

Create archaeological site and survey databases for Open Property owned by McHenry County Conservation District and collected documentation.

Crate archaeological summaries including annotated bibliography for McHenry County Conservation District properties that had been subjected to archaeological investigations.

Midwest Archaeological Research Services, Inc., Marengo, Illinois.

Project Supervisor, 2012-2015 and 1994 – 2010.

Responsible for carrying Phase I survey projects and Phase II prehistoric and historic excavation to completion including proposal preparation, field supervision, laboratory direction, artifact analyses, archival/background research, state site and survey form completion, generation of report illustrations, authorship of reports, and project billing.

Archival research included: federal (population and agriculture) and state census; probate, marriage, death, and birth records; land sales records and plats; local county histories.

Communicated with clients and state officials. Created project budgets.

The Anthropology Museum (now Pick Museum of Anthropology), Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois.

Interim Curator, July – September 2012.

Interim Director, November 2010 – June 2012.

Move Coordinator, September - November 2010.

Open new museum gallery, establish exhibit schedule, plan events, and oversee daily operations.

Responsible for collections while moving museum's material out of permanent storage and into temporary storage and then back to permanent storage.

Inventory the approximately 13,000 objects in the museum's collection.

Validate, update, and enter records in the museum's PastPerfect database.

Re-house artifacts to increase preventive care of artifacts and increase accessibility.

Receive and process new collections donated to the museum.

Identify North American artifacts within the collection that fall under NAGPRA compliance.

Curate exhibits based on the museum's collections and process in-coming traveling exhibits. Participate in the development of new storage facilities for the museum at Cole Hall.

Provide access to the museum's artifacts to faculty and students.

Conduct tours of the museum facilities to NIU faculty, students, and community groups.

Logan Museum of Anthropology, Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin.

Project Supervisor of Beloit Archaeological Survey, 2004 to 2005.

Project sponsored by Historic Preservation Fund Subgrant (Certified Local Government).

Duties: Field checked and surveyed archaeological sites found within the city of Beloit and located new archaeological sites on public and private properties.

Conducted outreach programs so volunteers knew how to conduct archaeological surveys and to raise public awareness of archaeological resources within the city.

Analyzed all artifacts recovered during field excavations.

Prepared a technical report and information guide on the results of the project.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL & CURATION EXPERIENCE (COMPLETED):

3D/Environmental, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Field Director and Co-Author, 1995 to 1996.

Phase II investigations into National Register of Historic Places Susan Furnace (38Ck67), a late 18th/early 19th century blast furnace in Gaffney, South Carolina.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Institute for Field Research, US-IL: Champaign Curation

Co-Instructor: Summer 2024.

Conducted two weeks of archaeological excavations on the campus of University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana at an experimental archaeological site followed by four weeks of curation on BBB Motor/11MS595.

Department of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Instructor, Spring 2019.

Class: ANT 721 Administration and Organization of Museums

University of Wisconsin- Waukesha, Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Instructional Academic Staff, Department of Anthropology & Sociology, Fall 2016 – Fall 2018.

Class: ANT 100 General Anthropology

ANT 104 Cultural Anthropology

ANT 150 Food, Identity, and Culture

ANT/REL 343 Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft

University of Wisconsin- Rock County, Janesville, Wisconsin.

Instructional Academic Staff, Department of Anthropology & Sociology, Spring 2017 – Spring 2018.

Class: ANT 100 General Anthropology

ANT 104 Cultural Anthropology

ANT 150 Food, Identity, and Culture

The Anthropology Museum, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois.

Instructor, Museum Studies (Spring 2012).

Class: ANTH 462 Collection Management/ANTH 562 Museum Methods.

Department of Anthropology, Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin.

Visiting Instructor of Anthropology (Fall 2008).

Class: ANTH 110 Archaeology and Prehistory.

ANTH 210 Technique and Theory in Archaeology.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Box-Making Workshop, November 8, 2025, organizer.

Provided to ISAS curation members at IDOT Repository, Urbana, Illinois.

Presented by Nicolette Meister, Director and NAGPRA Coordinator of the Logan Museum of Anthropology at Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin.

When Water Emergencies Strike Your Collection: Response Training and Workshop, April 2014.

Museum of Osteopathic Medicine and Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Kirksville, Missouri.

Patricia L. Miller, Bronyn Eves, and Captain James Snyder, instructors.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (COMPLETED):

Archives 101: Processing Archival Collections, October 2013

7th Annual Local History and Historic Preservation Conference, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin.
Richard L. Pifer, instructor.

Exhibits 101, March 2012.

Association of Midwest Museums and National Association for Museum Exhibition, Chicago History Museum, Chicago, Illinois.
Tamara Biggs and Beverly Serrell, instructors.

Preparing for the Unexpected: Disaster Planning for Cultural Collections, May 2011.

Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois. Nick Artim and Julie Page, instructors.

Introduction to PastPerfect 4.0, May 2011. Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin.

Craig Hadley, instructor.

Low-Fired Ceramics Mending Workshop, March 2011. Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, Indianapolis, Indiana. Gaby Kienitz and Michele Greenan, instructors.

Basics of Digitizing Museum Collections, July 2010.

The Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, Midway Village Museum, Rockford, Illinois.
Josh Hickman, instructor.

Monitoring Environmental Conditions for Anthropological Collections Workshop, April 2010.

Logan Museum of Anthropology, Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin.
Neil Cockerline, instructor.

Proficio Rediscovery Training, September 2009.

Beloit College Library & Media Service, Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin. Sarah Meadus, instructor.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS OR PRESENTATIONS:

Pfannkuche, Sara L., Michael Smith, and Hannah Rucinski

2025 How Old, Broken Dishes Can Advance Research and Create Citizen Scientists.

Paper Presentation for the 90th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, April 2025.

Denver, Colorado.

Pfannkuche, Sara L.

2024 Why Can't They Just Get Along? Making Adjacent State's Site Files Play Nice Together.

Paper Presentation for the Symposium Rochelle Lurie...Need We Say More? A Celebration of Her Influence, organized by Sara Pfannkuche, at the 67th Annual Midwest Archaeological Conference, October 2024.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Pfannkuche, Sara L. and George Vassilatos

2024 Curating Donations: Ethical Curation of Pesky Collections.

Paper Presentation for the 89th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, April 2024.

New Orleans, Louisiana.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS OR PRESENTATIONS (CONTINUED):

Pfannkuche, Sara L.

2024 Held in Trust: Donated Artifact Collections at ISAS.

Five-minute presentation during Prairie Research Institute's Lightning Symposium, January 2024. Champaign, Illinois.

Pfannkuche, Sara L.

2022 Frank Osborn and the Illinois Site Files: the Forgotten Contributions of an Early Artifact Collector.

Paper Presentation for the Symposium All Who Wonder Are Not Lost: the Bob Jeske Festschrift at the 65th Annual Midwest Archaeological Conference, October 2022.

La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Pfannkuche, Sara L., Tamira Brennan, and Michael Farkas

2022 The New ISAS Curation Database: its development, beta testing, and how it will help Illinois archaeology.

Paper presentation at the 66th Meeting of the Illinois Archaeological Survey, September 2022. Springfield, Illinois.

Pfannkuche, Sara L.

2019 Same Artifacts Same Conclusions? Using legacy collections to better understand settlement patterns in the Upper Midwest.

Paper presentation at the Midwest Archaeological Conference Annual Meeting, October 2019.

2018 We have those too?! An introduction to identifying and protecting heritage resources. Keynote Address at Illinois Association of Conservation Areas 2018 Conference.

Starved Rock State Park, Illinois.

2017 The Archives: A Good Place for Finding Documentation of Native American Mounds.

Paper presentation at the Midwest Archaeological Conference Annual Meeting, October 2017. Indianapolis, Indiana.

2015 *Accessioning and Preservation Techniques for Small Museums.*

Workshop presented for the McHenry County Historical Society, Union, Illinois, June 24, 2015.

2014 *Digging Without Dirt: Teaching Archaeology to Young Audience (Hands-on)*, presented with Dan Bartlett.

Workshop presented for the National Association for Interpretation (Area 5) Annual Meeting, Rockford, Illinois, April 6, 2014

2013 Conserving an Archaeological Collection for Land Management: Curating 40 years of Archaeology at McHenry County Conservation District.

Paper presentation at that Natural Areas Conference, October 2013. Chicago, Illinois.

Paper presentation at the Midwest Archaeological Conference Annual Meeting, October 2013, Columbus, Ohio.

Pfannkuche, Sara L and William Green

2009 The Robinson and Squirrel Dam Sites: What Didn't Make It Into Robert Salzer's Dissertation.

Paper presentation at the Midwest Archaeological Conference Annual Meeting, October 2009. Iowa City, Iowa.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS OR PRESENTATIONS (COMPLETED):

Pfannkuche, Sara L, Nicolette Meister and William Green

2009 Strategies for Curating Neglected Collections: Case Studies from the Logan Museum of Anthropology.

Paper presentation at the Midwest Archaeological Conference Annual Meeting, October 2009. Iowa City, Iowa.

Meister, Nicolette, and Sara L. Pfannkuche

2009 Northern Lakes Project Collections: Ensuring Intellectual and Physical Accessibility.

Paper presentation at the Midwest Archaeological Conference Annual Meeting, October 2009. Iowa City, Iowa.

Pfannkuche, Sara L.

2008 Living on the border: Late mid-Holocene Settlement Patterns in Southwestern Wisconsin and North-Central Illinois.

Paper presentation at the Society of American Archaeology Annual Meeting, March 2008. Vancouver, B.C., Canada.

Pfannkuche, Sara L. and Rochelle Lurie

2004 Identifying and Managing Archaeological Resources at Natural Land Institute's Nygren Wetland Preserve.

Paper presentation at the Natural Areas Association Conference, October 2004. Chicago, Illinois.

Pfannkuche, Sara L. and Steven L. Forman

2001 Archaeological Evidence on the Potential Response of Paleosocieties to Megadroughts on the Great Plains, USA Between AD 500 and 1600: Evaluating Culture-Climate Connections.

Paper presentation at the Society of American Archaeology, Annual Meeting. March 2002. Denver, Colorado.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

Pfannkuche, Sara L.

2025 The Archaeology of an Experiment. *Illinois Antiquity*, 60(3), p. 5-7.

2023 Indigenous Illinois: Ancient Stone Tools Join the CCHM Collection. Telling Our Story Blog Post for Champaign County History Museum, May 24, 2023.

<https://www.champaigncountyhistory.org/single-post/indigenous-illinois-ancient-stone-tools-join-the-cchm-collection>.

Pfannkuche, Sara L., and Daniel Bartlett

2020 Travelling Through Time: the Powers-Walker Archaeological Timeline of McHenry County. *Illinois Antiquity*, 55(1), p. 3-5.

Pfannkuche, Sara L. and Leo Pucklis

2007 Collections Rehousing Project. *The Wisconsin Archeologist*, 88(2): 144-145.

Lurie, Rochelle, Sara L. Pfannkuche, and M. Catherine Bird

2006 *The Archaeology of McHenry County*. McHenry County Conservation District.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (CONCLUDED):

Pfannkuche, Sara L.

2004 Summary of the 1937 Beloit College/University of Chicago excavation of a Mound From the Shirland Mound Group (11Wo250) in Winnebago County, Illinois. *Illinois Antiquity*, 36(4): 3-5.

Pfannkuche, Sara L. and Aaron J. Naumann

2001 Using Outreach to Increase Archaeological Awareness: An Experimental Field Trip. *Illinois Antiquity*, Vol. 36, No. 4: pages 3-5.

EXHIBITS CURATED:

At Home in the Kettle Moraine, Friends of Lapham Peak Unit/Hauman Nature Center, Kettle Moraine State Forest, Delafield, Wisconsin.

Exhibit using the Ernest Timm collection to discuss what the Kettle Moraine area looked like in the past and who were the indigenous people who lived there.

Designer, Builder, and Installer. Long-term exhibit that opened September 2025.

Native Americans Stone Tool Technology: Evidence from the Armstrong Collection, Kettle Moraine State Forest Southern Unit Headquarters, Eagle, Wisconsin.

Exhibit using the Armstrong stone tool collection to identify the technology used by indigenous people of the past for hunting as well as other activities and how that technology changed over time.

Designer, Builder, and Installer. Long-term exhibit that opened February 2022.

American Terra Cotta: From Common Clay to Architecture and Art, American Terra Cotta Museum, Crystal Lake, Illinois.

The opening exhibit for TC Industries corporate museum focusing on the creation of architectural terra cotta pieces from 1880 to 1935.

Project Manager, Designer, Builder, and Installer. Long-term exhibit that opened August 2018.

Latin America: Here, There, and Everywhere, Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Examines the diverse places, people and ideas of Latin America and how they transformed the world. Co-Curator and Co-Designer (Class Project). May 2016 – 2018.

ARCHAEOLOGY IS...., Burpee Museum of Natural History, Rockford, Illinois.

A four-panel exhibit describing the field of archaeology and what an archaeologist does by describing basic concepts of archaeology such as material culture, survey, excavation, and analysis.

Project Manager and Designer. Long-term exhibit that began November 2016.

Tallman's Technologies, Lincoln-Tallman House, Rock County Historical Society, Janesville, Wisconsin. An interactive tour 1st person tour with associated exhibit describing the world of Victorian innovation, seen through the eyes of a prospective home buyer in 1872.

Project Manager and Designer. August 2014 – December 2016.

Rarely Seen Southeast Asia: Art, Artifact, Ephemera, The Anthropology Museum, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois.

Exhibition celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies that reflects the culture of indigenous peoples and various ethnic groups now under pressure from globalization.

Preparator. October 11th, 2012 - May 15th, 2013

EXHIBITS CURATED (CONCLUDED):

Water for... Life, The Anthropology Museum, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois. This exhibition looks at cultural ecology to demonstrate the wide cultural variability as groups use water for thirst, hunger, transport and ceremony.

Curator and Designer. August 2012 – December 2012.

COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

Council of Allied Societies (CoAS), official Task Force/Committee of the Society for American Archaeology- 2022 to present.

Interim CoAS Secretary- 2025 through present, becoming official Secretary April 2026.

CoAS Anti-Harassment Working Group Chair- 2022 to present.

Research Policy Committee of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate- 2024 to present.
Representing the Council of Academic Professionals.

Illinois Association for Advancement of Archaeology- 1997 to present.

Vice President- Spring 2020 to present.

Board Member – Fall 1997 to Spring 2000, Spring 2011 to Spring 2016, Spring 2019 to 2020

President – Spring 2016 to Spring 2018

Treasurer – Spring 2000 to Fall 2010.

Chairperson for the 33rd Annual Meeting- Crystal Lake and Rockford, Illinois, 2002.

Co-Chair for Stateline Archaeo-Fest 2007- Beloit, Wisconsin and South Beloit, Illinois, 2007.

Committee Assignments:

Nomination Committee, Chair- 2017 to 2023.

Logo Committee- 2025 to present

Wisconsin Archaeological Survey- 2005 to present.

President- Fall 2013 to Fall 2015.

Board Member- Fall 2011 to Fall 2013 & Fall 2020 to 2022.

Wisconsin Archaeological Society- 2004 to present.

Board Member- Fall 2007 to Spring 2017

Illinois Archaeological Survey- 2002 to present.

Feline Friends Chicago- 2019 to present.

Official Photographer- 2019 to 2022.

Social Media Curator- 2021 to present.

Three Rivers Archaeological Society- 2000 to 2018.

Chapter of Illinois Association for Advancement of Archaeology (2000) and Wisconsin Archaeological Society (2007).

President- 2002 to 2018.

Casual Curators Consortium- 2009 to 2015.

Co-facilitator: 2013 to 2015.

Sauk Trail, Chapter of Illinois Association for Advancement of Archaeology- 1997 to 2010.

President - Fall 1999 to Fall 2005.

Board Member – Fall 1998 to Fall 1999; Fall 2005 to Fall 2009.

AWARDS AND GRANTS:

2024 Staff Professional Development Fund recipient (\$500). Funding for travel to Midwest Archaeological Conference in Milwaukee during October 2024. Organized the invited symposium: Rochelle Lurie...Need We Say More? A Celebration of Her Influence.
Presented: Why Can't They Just Get Along? Making Adjacent States' Site Files Play Nice Together, for the symposium.

2016 Illinois Association for Advancement Archaeology Permanent Fund Grant recipient (\$400).
Project: Archaeological Time Line Update for the Powers-Walker House at Glacial Park, McHenry County Conservation District, Richmond, Illinois.

2015 "Service to the Organization."
Presented by the Illinois Association of Advancement of Archaeology. Moline, Illinois.

2008 "Professional Archaeology Service Award."
Presented by the Illinois Association of Advancement of Archaeology. Collinsville, Illinois.

CERTIFICATES:

First Aid Training- Certified November 11, 2025.
Class run by American Red Cross Training Services.

Mental Health First Aid Responder- Certified April 11, 2025
Class run by Mental Health First Aid, from National Council for Mental Wellbeing.

ADDITIONAL SKILLS:

Proficiency with hand and stationary power tools.
Proficiency in building conservation grade storage and display mounts.
Understand appropriate environmental conditions for object storage and display.
Ability to drive manual pallet jack.