

Blaine Burgess

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Education

University of Missouri, Columbia, MO

August 2020; M.A. in Anthropology (in progress)

Related Coursework in Anthropology: Archaeological Method and Theory; North American Archaeology

Beloit College, Beloit, WI

May 2020; B.A. in Anthropology & Geology

Cumulative GPA: 3.7; Anthropology GPA: 4.0

Related Coursework in Anthropology: Archaeology and Prehistory; The Human Animal; Society and Culture; Archaeology of North America; Archaeological Lab Techniques; Research Design in Anthropology; Stuff: Approaches to Material Culture

Related Coursework in Geology: Chemistry; Earth: Exploring a Dynamic Planet; Sedimentology; Mineralogy; Evolution of the Earth; Field Excursion; Interdisciplinary Applications of GIS

Honors and Awards

2019-2020 *Mouat-Whiteford Research Grant, Beloit College;* \$610 awarded for travel to the Missouri University Research Reactor (MURR), Columbia, MO.

2019-2020 *Mortar Board National Honor Society, Beloit College Chapter;* induction based on distinguished ability and achievement in scholarship, leadership, and service

2016-2020 *Marjorie Brown Leff Music Scholarship, Beloit College;* \$5,000 awarded based on potential to contribute to the music department

2016-2020 *Presidential Scholarship*, Beloit College; \$20,000 per year awarded for exceptional academic achievement and potential for continued success as a scholar and contributor to campus life

2016 *Lockwood Anthropology Scholarship for Field Studies*, Beloit College; \$20,000 per year awarded for exceptional academic achievement and potential for continued success as a scholar and contributor to campus life

Teaching Experience

2019 Teaching Assistant – Archaeology: Lessons from the Past (ANTH 110)

- Committed at least 4 hours each week to hosting tutor hours
- Collaborated on course structure and grading with professor

2017 Teaching Assistant – Earth: Exploring a Dynamic Planet (GEOL 100)

- Cultivated a proactive learning environment
- Motivated 1/3 of students to continue geological studies

Posters & Presentations

2019 “Sourcing Mesoamerican Obsidian with pXRF to Examine Social Technologies” (B. Burgess). Poster Presented at Beloit College Anthropology Department for Quantitative Analyses in Archaeology (ANTH 240).

2018 “The Golden Eagle Site (Illinois): An Attribute Analysis of Lithics” (B. Burgess and D. Mineart). Poster presented at the Midwest Archaeological Conference, Notre Dame, October 4-6.

2017 “Neolithic Orkney: The Stone Masters of the Orkney Archipelago” (B. Burgess). Paper presented at the 16th Annual Beloit College International Symposium, November 15th. Sponsor: Dr. Shannon M. Fie.

Research Experience

- 2020 “Obsidian Technologies at the La Magdalena Archaeological Site in the Eastern Bajío of Guanajuato, Mexico.” Thesis research in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, Beloit College.
- Geochemically sourced 443 obsidian archaeological objects to identify procurement strategies and extent of interaction for a small ceremonial site at the crossroads of major trade networks between the Basin of Mexico and western Mexico
- 2020 “The Provenance of Obsidian from the La Magdalena Archaeological Site in Guanajuato, Mexico.” Thesis research in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in Geology, Beloit College.
- Analyzed 443 obsidian archaeological objects and compared results with source contexts and geologic histories as a means to describe the links between archaeological chemical data and geologic processes
- 2019 “Mesoamerican Obsidian as Social Technology” Research conducted as part of Stuff: Approaches to Material Culture (ANTH 310), Beloit College
- Analyzed 40 obsidian objects from the Logan Museum of Anthropology collections using x-ray fluorescence to determine possible links between technologies and raw material source
- 2019 “Predictive Modeling to Assess Early Archaic Projectile Point Distribution in the Lower Illinois River Valley (LIV).” Research conducted for Geographic Information Systems (ENVS 258), Beloit College
- Utilized a distribution map of LIV projectile points by K. Luchterhand (1970) to develop a predictive model of hunter-gatherer groups in the LIV based on proximity to water, proximity to other projectiles points, elevation, and slope
- 2018 “The Orkney Islands and Tourism: Perspectives of Rural Communities near the Ness of Brodgar.” Research proposal developed for Research Design (ANTH 201), Beloit College
- Developed an ethnographic research proposal to identify risks and potential solutions to combat damage to island archaeology due to tourism

- 2018 “Tuareg Textiles: The Impact of Islam on an Artistic Tradition.” Research proposal and pilot study for Archaeological Lab Techniques (ANTH 218), Beloit College
- Developed a research proposal to study changes in the decorative style of Tuareg textiles associated with the introduction of Islam
 - Conducted a pilot study of Tuareg textiles to assess the proposed methods
- 2018 “Cannibalism at Aztalan and Mancos Canyon: A Comparative Analysis.” Research paper for Archaeology of North America (ANTH 314), Beloit College
- Explored the history of cannibalism in North America within an anthropological framework
 - Compared various spatial and physical characteristics for two widely known archaeological sites, which have been famed examples for the debate on cannibalism in North America
- 2017 “Identification of a Rock from the Black Hills of South Dakota.” Research paper for Mineralogy (GEOL 200), Beloit College
- Utilized plane polarized light microscopy and scanning electron microscopy to determine the geologic history of a rock specimen
- 2017 “A Local War.” Research paper for Atlantic Bodies (HIST 150), Beloit College
- Conducted archival research on the influence of the Civil War on Beloit College
 - Found that the Civil War drastically influenced individuals of Beloit College; however, the post-war era was a golden age for academia, sports, and appreciation of history
- 2017 “Analysis and Classification of Volcaniclastic Facies at Convergent Plate Boundaries.” Research paper for Sedimentology (GEOL 230), Beloit College
- Analyzed pyroclastic, epiclastic, and autoclastic fragmentation in scientific literature to establish pros and cons of their applications within geologic discussions

Relevant Skills

Computer

- ChemDraw
- ArcMap/ArcCatalog
- Minitab
- SPSS Statistics
- TerraSurveyor

Field and Laboratory

- Magnetometry
- Rock and Mineral Identification
- Resistivity
- Excavation and Site Planning
- Neutron Activation Analysis
- Scanning Electron Microscopy
- Plane-Polarized Light Microscopy
- Portable X-ray Fluorescence
- Development/Maintenance of Data
- LA-ICP-MS

Relevant Experience

2020-present *Research Assistant*, University of Missouri Research Reactor, Columbia, MO

- Analyze obsidian, pottery, and other cultural/non-cultural samples
- Assist with other research duties proposed by research advisor
- Prepare artifacts for various analytical techniques

2019 *Educator*, Museum of the Grand Prairie, Champaign County Forest Preserve District, IL

- Inventoried multiple museum artifacts and educational materials
- Organized and prepared spaces for use by the general public
- Developed and taught an archaeology curriculum

2018 *Researcher*, National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates (NSF-REU), Center for American Archaeology, Kampsville, IL

- Analyzed 2000 lithic artifacts and compiled results a conference poster
- Sorted seeds and conducted basic paleobotanical analysis
- Analyzed 2000 lithic artifacts and compiled results on a conference poster
- Excavated Middle Woodland embankment earthwork
- Conducted a geophysical survey of Calhoun Co. Lock and Dam (1893-1938)

2017 *Student*, Ness of Brodgar Archaeological Field School, Scotland

- Conducted basic excavation, learned artifact identification and recording method, total station theodolite surveying, and geophysical surveying

Other Experience

2016-19 *Communications Intern*, Roy Chapman Andrews Society, Beloit, WI

- Sustained effective contact with members of the society and campus, and managed schedules for information distribution
- Promoted the society's goals and advertise special events to student, staff, faculty, and administration via verbal presentations, posters, flyers, and social media

2015-19 Official Scorer, Danville Dans Baseball Stadium; collegiate level summer league

- Collaborated with individuals on a daily basis to ensure concise game time scoring.
- Executed work assignments with efficiency and accuracy

2016-18 DEV Caller (Phonathon), Beloit College

- Fundraised using an approach to each caller based on relation to the college, age, major, extracurriculars, and employment status
- Handled sensitive information with care

References

Dr. Shannon Fie

Associate Professor of Anthropology, Department Co-Chair

700 College St, Beloit, WI 53511

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Dr. Bill Green

Emeritus Director of the Logan Museum of Anthropology

Former State Archaeologist of Iowa

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Mr. Thomas Holmes

Roy Chapman Andrews Society Board Member

3311 Prairie Ave. #49, Beloit, WI 53511

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Dr. Charles Lewis

Professor of English and Director of the Writing Program

635 College St, Beloit, WI 53511

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Dr. James Rougvie

Associate Professor of Geology

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