Emma Verstraete, PhD, RPA

Department of Biomedical Sciences

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**EDUCATION**

2016- 2022 PhD, Anthropology. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. (Archaeology track)

Dissertation Committee: Dr. Christopher Fennell (chair), Dr. Susan Frankenberg, Dr. Stan Ambrose, Dr. Kate Clancy

2016 B.A., Anthropology. Lindenwood University, St. Charles, Missouri

(Archaeology track). Minor in Psychology

**PUBLICATIONS**

Holland-Lulewicz, Jacob and **Emma L. Verstraete**

2023 From Cahokia to Capital: Historical Palimpsests and the Euro-American Afterlives of an Indigenous Place*. International Journal for Historical Archaeology*.

Verstraete, Emma

2022 “For Sale By All Druggists: Patent Medicine and National Market Access in Springfield, Illinois. *Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology.*

Verstraete, Emma

2022 Soothing the Self: Medicine Advertisement and the Cult of Domesticity in Nineteenth-Century Springfield, Illinois. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology*.

Verstraete, Emma.

2016 Little Flat Creek Valley: What Happens When Archaeology Contradicts Local Lore? *Missouri Archaeological Society Quarterly.* 32(2): 21–24.

Verstraete, Emma

In Press Certificate Required: Drugstores and the Regulation of “Female Drugs” in Illinois in the Late 19th Century. Special issue of *History of Pharmacy and Pharmaceuticals*.

Verstraete, Emma

Submitted Ancient Egyptian Curses and Bog Bodies: The Role of Pseudoarchaeology in Tumblr’s Subculture*,* invited article for journal issue on pseudoarchaeology.

Verstraete, Emma and Alexandra Zachwieja

Submitted Vernacular Infrastructure: a hidden cost in the economics of climate change and permafrost thaw in Alaska. *Ecology and Society.*

Verstraete, Emma, Natasha Adams, Alexandra Zachwieja

In Prep Using iPad 3D scanning for Outreach and Conservation of Coastal Archaeological sites in Western Alaska. *Journal of Coastal and Island Archaeology*.

**BOOK REVIEWS**

Verstraete, Emma

2022 Review of Barton, Christopher P., ed. Trowels in the Trenches: Archaeology as  
Social Activism. H-Environment, H-Net Reviews. January, 2022. <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=57130>

Verstraete, Emma

2021 Book Review: Challenging the Idea of Abundance. *Anthro Book Forum*. <https://anthrobookforum.americananthro.org/?book-review=challenging-the-idea-of-abundance>

**GRANTS, HONORS, AND AWARDS.**

2021 UIUC List of Teachers Ranked As Excellent. Fall 2021. Received for teaching sections of ANTH 220: Introduction to Archaeology.

2021 UIUC Graduate College Summer Block Grant Fellowship to support research to build a guide on syllabi decolonization. $1,500

2021 UIUC Department of Anthropology Summer Research Grant to support research at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois. $1,500

2021 Forest T Baker Award for American Archaeology. UIUC Department of Anthropology award for outstanding proposal. $1,000

2020 UIUC Anthropology Department nominee for the Graduate Student Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

2019 UIUC List Of Teachers Ranked As Excellent. Spring 2019. Received for teaching ANTH 374: Medical Anthropology.

2019 Dimitri Shimkin Award. Department of Anthropology award for Outstanding graduate student research paper. $1,000

2018 Department of Anthropology Summer Research Grant to support research on the genealogy of Portuguese immigrants in Springfield, Illinois. Research conducted at the Madeira Heritage Archive in Portugal. $1,080

2014-2015 Jesse Wrench Memorial Undergraduate Research Grant, Missouri Archaeological Society. $1,000

**ArchaeologY AND ARCHIVES RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

October 2022- Present Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Biomedical Sciences. University of Minnesota Medical School- Duluth. Research Grant: Defense Resiliency Platform Against Extreme Cold Weather. Employed multidisciplinary approaches to study past and present impacts of disease and climate change on communities in Alaska. Project components included archival research on past pandemics, satellite imagery analysis, and modeling the effects of ongoing climate change on community infrastructure with an emphasis on health using ArcGIS.

February 2022- Present Research Assistant for Dr. Elizabeth Comen for a popular science book on the history of women’s healthcare. Assisted in primary resource research and compiling first-hand accounts of 19th and 20th century doctors and their female patients.

May 2020-January 2022 Research Assistant for Dr. Helaine Silverman’s Mythic Mississippi Project. Duties include writing research essays for website, creating lesson plans, designing virtual location tours (Story Maps), and directing the project’s social media outreach.

June 2019- May 2021 Research Assistant for VRchaeology virtual reality project.

January 2018- May 2018 Research Assistant for Dr. Jenny Davis’ NAGPRA Project. Primary research task was creating a database of over 700 documents pertaining to UIUC Department of Anthropology’s NAGPRA compliance.

August 2017- January 2020 Public Service Archaeology and Architecture Program. Artifact

processing and field technician.

September 2016- May 2017 UIUC Historical Archaeology Lab. Artifact processing.

September 2015-May 2016 Lindenwood University Sibley Trash Dump Excavation. Student Manager.

May 2015- May 2016 Knowledge Management and Archaeological Curation Intern, United States Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis, MO.

August 2014- May 2016 Archaeological Laboratory Technician, Lindenwood University Archaeological Research Program.

May 2015- August 2015 Missouri History Museum Archaeological Collections Intern.

August 2014- August 2015 Marbut Farmstead Excavation, funded by the Jesse Wrench Memorial Scholarship from the Missouri Archaeological Society

August 2014 Site Survey training with Missouri Archaeological Society, Arrow Rock State Historic Site.

June 2013 Site Survey training with Missouri Archaeological Society, Knob Noster State Park.

March 2013 Moore’s Mill Battlefield Survey Research Assistant, Missouri Civil War Heritage Foundation.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Instructor of Record**

Summer 2022 Instructor and Course Designer for ANTH 209: Food, Culture, and Society (online). Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Spring 2021 Instructor and Course Designer for ANTH 374: Anthropology of Science and Technology (online). Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Spring 2019 Instructor and Course Designer for ANTH 379: Medical Anthropology. Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

January 2019-August 2019 Instructor and course administrator for “The Shipwreck Cipher”, Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP). Online course for advanced students in grades 4-6. Delivered weekly lectures on history, anthropology, archaeology, and shipwrecks as it pertained to the research ‘investigation’ students undertook.

July 2018 Primary Instructor and Course Designer for “Historical Epidemiology: Pathogens, Plagues, and Patient Zero” for Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP) at Rice University.

June-July 2017 Primary Instructor and Course Designer for “Historical Epidemiology” for Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP) at Rice University. Created learning content and lesson plans at the introductory college level for 108 instructional class hours for gifted and talented teens. Also supervised a teaching assistant.

**Teaching Assistantships**

Spring 2022 ANTH 243: Forensic Science (online). Duties included assignment grading and acting as the primary point of contact for students via online portal.

Fall 2021 ANTH 220: Introduction to Archaeology. Duties included preparing content and teaching lab sections, grading, course website maintenance, and holding office hours.

Fall 2020 ANTH 220: Introduction to Archaeology (online). Duties included preparing content and teaching virtual lab sections, grading, course website maintenance, and holding office hours.

Spring 2020 ANTH 106: Historical Archaeology of the Americas. Duties included assignment grading and holding office hours.

Fall 2019 ANTH 399: Virtual Reality. Duties included guest lectures, leading lab, and assisting with VR component and lab design.

Fall 2017, Fall 2018 ANTH 180: The Archaeology of Death. Duties included exam administration, guest lecturing, course website management, and acting as the primary point of contact for students.

2016-2017 ANTH 103: Anthropology in a Changing World (online). Duties included assignment grading, exam administration, and acting as the primary point of contact for students via online portal.

**TEACHING Certifications**

Spring 2022 Certificate for Technology Enhanced Teaching, University of Illinois Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning.

Spring 2021 Graduate Teacher Certificate, University of Illinois Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning.

**Conference Presentations**

2023 *Employing archival data from the 1918 flu pandemic to evaluate potential hazard areas due to climate change in coastal Alaska.* Poster presented at the American Association for the History of Medicine Annual Meeting, May 12. Ann Arbor, Michigan

2023 *It's More Than Lincoln: interpretation challenges at multi-component urban archaeological sites*. Paper presented at the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology, January 10. Lisbon, Portugal.

2022 *“Since That Time We Haven’t Had a Cut-rate Drug Store in Town”: The Impact of Merchant Cooperation on the Consumer’s Freedom of Choice in Springfield, Illinois.* Paper to be presented at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology. Withdrawn due to COVID-19 concerns.

2021 *Investigating Choices: The Changing Medicinal Assemblage of the Carpenter Street Site in Springfield, Illinois.* Paper presented at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology, January 7. Virtual.

2020 *Contextualizing Consumption: Examining the Benefits of Multi-Site Discussion at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site.* Poster presented at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology, January 11. Boston, MA.

2019 *Ancient Egyptian Curses and Bog Bodies: The Role of Pseudoarchaeology in Tumblr's Subculture.* Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology. April 12. Albuquerque, NM.

2019 *“Soothing the Self: Medicine Advertisement, Identity, and the Cult of Domesticity.* Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology. January 11, St. Charles, MO.

2018 *"For Sale By All Druggists": Healthcare and Consumption in Lincoln's Springfield.* Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Illinois Archaeological Society. September 15 , Champaign, IL.

2018 *"For Sale By All Druggists": A Historical and Archaeological Look at Healthcare and Consumerism in Lincoln's Springfield.* Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology. January 4, New Orleans, LA.

2017 *The Creation of an In-House, Interactive, Bottle Identification Guide for Students* Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology. Fort Worth, TX.

2016 *Looking Through the Glass: Identification and Analysis of Glass Bottles Recovered at Lindenwood University.* Paper presented at Annual Meeting of the Missouri Archaeological Society, April 2016, Springfield, MO.

2016 *Looking Through the Glass: Identification and Analysis of Glass Bottles Recovered at the Lindenwood University Campus Excavation.* Paper presented at the Lindenwood University Student Research Symposium and Exposition, April 2016, St. Charles, MO.

2016 *Looking Through the Glass: Identification and Analysis of Glass Bottles Recovered from a Campus Trash Dump.* Paper presented in the session titled: “Student, Orphans, and Criminals,” Annual Meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology, January 7, Washington, DC.

2015 *Little Flat Creek Valley: Navigating When Archeology Contradicts Local History.* Poster presented at the 2015 Missouri Archaeological Society Meeting. Lake of the Ozarks, MO.

2015 *Little Flat Creek Valley: When History and Archaeology Collide*. Paper presented at the 2015 Missouri Historical Society Spring Meeting. St. Louis, MO.

2015 *Daily Life in Little Flat Creek Valley*. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology. Seattle, WA.

2014 *Breaking Open the Black Box: The Evolution of Psychology and Archaeology in Regards to the Human Experience*. Paper presented in the session title “Non-empirical research”, 2014 Missouri Undergraduate Psychology Conference; St. Charles, MO.

2014 *Cultural Identity and Acculturation: An Anthropological Perspective on a Psychological Concept*. Paper presented at the 2014 Student Research Symposium at Lindenwood University, St. Charles, Missouri.

2014 *Cultural Identity and its Effects on First and Second-Generation College-Age Immigrants in the United States*. Paper presented at the 2014 Sibley Day School of Sciences Presentation at Lindenwood University. St. Charles, MO.

2013 *Differences on Delmar: Analyzing the Effect of Economic Inequality on Historical Building Preservation and Restoration*. Poster presented at the 2013 Lindenwood University Student Research Symposium. St. Charles, MO.

2013 *Differences on Delmar: Analyzing the Effect of Economic Inequality on Historical Building Preservation and Restoration*. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Economic Anthropology. St. Louis, MO.

**SERVICE**

Fall 2021-Summer 2022 Graduate mentor for the LEAD Scholars program produced by the UIUC Department of Anthropology Undergraduate Studies

August 2021 Invited guest blog post. “The Lincoln Family and Pennyroyal: Re-Evaluating Medicines in the Archive and Beyond”. *Points History*. https://pointshistory.com/2021/08/31/the-lincoln-family-and-pennyroyal/

August 2021 Co-author on “Building Inclusive Classrooms”, an internal guide for UIUC’s Anthropology Department. Contributed section on decolonizing anthropology syllabi and resources to use

August 2018- May 2022 Archaeology liaison for GASA

October 2018-May 2022 Graduate Anthropology Student Association (GASA), executive board member

August 2018- May 2022 President of the UIUC Archaeological Graduate Student Society

November 2016 Archaeology Day Coordinator, a UIUC public outreach event to promote participation in archaeology and anthropology classes.

May 2016- August 2016 Badge Instructor, Ozarks Trail Council, Boy Scouts of America. Taught students aged 11-18 a guided classroom and field curriculum on archaeology and its importance.

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Register of Professional Archaeologists, Member # 18024

Illinois State Archaeology Survey

American Institute for the History of Pharmacy

Society for Historical Archaeology