

Brandi N. McConahay

mcconabn@gmail.com | brandimcconahay.com

Education

University of Cambridge

Cambridge, United Kingdom- Class of 2018
Master of Philosophy in Archaeology

Miami University

Oxford, Ohio- Class of 2017 (Cumulative GPA: 3.61/4.0)
Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology (Major GPA: 3.8/4.0)
Bachelor of Arts in Interactive Media Studies (Major GPA: 3.73/4.0)
Minor in Archaeology (Minor GPA: 4.0/4.0) & Minor in French (Minor GPA: 3.60/4.0)

Research Interests

Mortuary archaeology; Early medieval period archaeology; Ethnogenesis and identity affirmation; Social Transformation; Cranial modification; Kinship; Isotopic analysis; Forensic and bioarchaeology; Archaeological pedagogy; 3D scanning and imaging; Augmented reality in archaeological sites and museum exhibitions; digital technologies

Honors and Awards

- 2017 Senior Service Leadership Award- Miami University
Student-Employee Service Leadership Award- Miami University
Best Visual Work in Anthropology for "Archaeological Pedagogy"- Miami University
Senior Award for Service to the Department of Anthropology- Miami University
Selected to present research to legislators on Capitol Hill through Miami University
Member of the Miami University Honors Program (2013-2017)
President's List
- 2016 Carl Jantzen Award: Best Paper in Cultural Anthropology for "The Power of Humor: Politics, Religion, and Charlie Hebdo"
Intern of the Week- Miami University Art Museum
Dean's List (2014-2016)
- 2015 Nominated to be an Altman Undergraduate Fellow by Dr. Neringa Klumbyte, Associate Professor at Miami University

Research

Exploring the uses and methods of 3D Archaeology (Spring 2017)

Senior Honors Thesis for the B.A. Anthropology. This research explored the methods and uses of 3D technology in modern archaeology. The project involved three main technologies: photogrammetry, virtual museum development using 3D representations of artifacts, and 3D imaging, scanning,

printing, and reconstruction. Independent research advisor: Dr. Jeb Card, Visiting Assistant Professor and Assistant Director for Special Projects at Miami University

Development of an Augmented Reality Archaeological Site Mobile App (Autumn 2016)

Senior Thesis for the B.A. in Interactive Media Studies. Explored how to connect the public to the past through the development of a program that utilizes augmented reality to allow users to interact with 3D artifacts where they were excavated at archaeological sites.

Developing a Pedagogy of Archaeological Material (Autumn 2016)

Explored educational design and techniques, and gained experience in designing learning activities. Created a card game with Dr. Jeb Card to teach archaeological research design to undergraduate students. Cards incorporate assets, findings, and events that happen in the field. Independent research advisor: Dr. Jeb Card, Visiting Assistant Professor and Assistant Director for Special Projects at Miami University

The Power of Humor: Politics, Religion, and Charlie Hebdo (Autumn 2015)

Conducted research on Charlie Hebdo, a controversial French magazine, to understand the extremes of French satire and their impacts of French society. Focused on political and religious depictions, and their significance within France and within Charlie Hebdo as a whole. Independent research advisor: Dr. Neringa Klumbyte, Associate Professor at Miami University

Field and Lab Experience

Archaeological Science Module- University of Cambridge (Autumn 2017-Spring 2018)

Engaged in lab work in the fields of geoarchaeology, zooarchaeology, isotopic and molecular analysis, and archaeobotany as part of the graduate Archaeological Science module through the University of Cambridge.

Hahn Site, Cincinnati, Ohio- Cincinnati Museum Center (Summer 2016)

Intern for the Cincinnati Museum Center's Hahn Site Field School, directed by Bob Genheimer, George Rieveschl Curator of Archaeology. Assisted in instructing community members in field excavation techniques at a late prehistoric Fort Ancient village site.

Archaeology Lab Assistant- Ohio History Connection (Summer 2016)

Identified and cataloged archaeological human osteological remains under the direction of Juli Six, Collections Assistant. Identified sex and approximate age of individuals. Gained exposure to the NAGPRA filing process.

Pigeon Creek Site Field School (Miami University), San Salvador, Bahamas (January 2016)

Student under the direction of Dr. Perry Gnivecki, Lecturer at Miami University. Learned field and lab analysis techniques while working on a late prehistoric Lucayan site.

Teaching Experience

Undergraduate Associate for Anthropology 212: Introduction to Archaeological Method and Theory, Miami University (Autumn 2016)

Assisted Dr. Jeb Card in lab sessions by answering questions, instructed students, and assisted with lab procedures. Created a research design lab exercise that was completed by students at the end of the semester that focused on guiding students through how to design a research plan when given limited information.

Presentations

McConahay, Brandi N.

2017a Augmented Archaeology. Presented on Capitol Hill and at the Ohio Statehouse.

2017b Developing an Online Pedagogy of Archaeological Material. Presented at the Miami University Undergraduate Research Forum

2017c 3D Archaeology. Presented at the Miami University Undergraduate Research Forum

2017d Public Archaeology: Anglo-Saxon Mortuary Archaeology. Presented at the Miami University Undergraduate Research Forum

2017e Augmented Archaeology. Presented at the Miami University Undergraduate Research Forum

2016a The Power of Humor: Politics, Religion, and Charlie Hebdo. Presented at the Miami University Undergraduate Research Forum

2016b Archaeology of the Hahn Site. Presented at the Ohio History Connection.

McConahay, Brandi N., Allyssa Johnston, and Alexandra Kuroff

2016 The Hahn Site Program. Presented at the Cincinnati Museum Center.

Leadership

President, Anthropology Club (2016-2017)

Planned events including a graduate school panel, archaeology day, career fair preparation day, guest speakers and faculty research presentations. Began an initiative to highlight club members' research and activities. Saw an increase in club membership and participation.

Related Experience

Volunteer with the University of Cambridge's Archaeology Day (October 2017)

Taught members of the public of all ages basic human osteological analysis techniques, and engaged children with archaeological science.

Web Collections Intern, Miami University Art Museum (August 2016-May 2017)

Created a website for a collection of archaeological Greek and Roman oil lamps and vessels; Created an Omeka site for a collection of Native American ceramics. Handled and researched objects.

Student Assistant, Miami University Department of Anthropology (January 2016- May 2017)

Maintained and updated the department website; Managed department social media; Fulfilled tasks as provided by department faculty.

Languages

French- Proficient. Brief experience in France, as well as communicating with Québec natives. Considerable reading, writing and translating ability.