



Michael H. Lockman

*BA in Honors Anthropology and BS in Psychological Sciences from Purdue University (2015) and MA in Applied Anthropology from University of South Florida (pending)*

### What have you been doing since the publication of your article in JPUR, volume 5?

After graduating, I spent two years working in the private sector of cultural resource management as a field technician, traveling around the mid-south working on archaeological surveys and excavations contracted by federal and state government agencies pursuant to legal compliance. In 2017 I enrolled at the University of South Florida in Tampa to pursue a master's degree in applied anthropology and am currently writing my thesis. As of early 2019, I have also been working for the National Park Service as an archeological technician at the Southeast Archeological Center in Tallahassee, Florida.

### What are your career goals?

I hope to remain in the federal service in some cultural resource management capacity. Working for the National Park Service at the Southeast Archeological Center genuinely has been the highlight of my career thus far; it is an incredible honor to be able to work with some of the greatest professional archaeologists in the world toward unimpaired preservation of our nation's cultural resources.

### How did the research you did as an undergraduate at Purdue impact your current endeavors? What is the value of undergraduate research?

It taught me the many basic principles of research and that has served me well for the entirety of my graduate school career, and I believe it will continue to serve me well thereafter. Research is an art form. It is never too early or too late to begin, but during an undergraduate education is an excellent time to engage in this process that will continue to develop over a lifetime.



### How did the faculty mentor relationship impact you during your time at Purdue?

Dr. Michele Buzon was incredibly influential in inspiring me to think critically and creatively about the kinds of questions that can be answered through the archaeological record. She emphasized that the focus of anthropological archaeology always comes back to the *people* we are studying. This is something I still think about every day!

### How did the experience of publishing an article in JPUR benefit you? What advice would you give to other undergraduates at Purdue who are interested in contributing to the journal?

It was hugely beneficial in helping me to organize and articulate my thoughts on the subject matter. The feedback I've received has really helped in continuing to develop those ideas as well. I recommend that anyone and everyone who wants to contribute reads and thinks widely across disciplines. I feel that a multiplicity of perspectives is often key to generating creative questions and formulating thoughtful conclusions.

### What advice would you give to other undergraduates at Purdue who are interested in doing research?

The hardest part about undergraduate research is getting started. First and foremost, take every

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opportunity to turn any paper or assignment into the component of a broader research objective or a self-encapsulated research project. Outside of your coursework, there is such an incredible concentration of prolific minds at Purdue engaged in interesting research. The first step to getting involved is to ask how you can help with faculty members' ongoing projects. Express your interest, take an interest in the work, and be vocal about your own interesting ideas.

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Lockman, M. H. (2015). Ancient Mayan “deformity”: Cultural accommodation of congenital physical anomaly in Mesoamerican prehistory. *Journal of Purdue Undergraduate Research*, 5, 56–63.  
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