

Erin C. Blankenship-Sefczek, Ph.D.

Creighton University, Omaha, NE
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EDUCATION:

- Ph.D. 2019 Anthropology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
Dissertation: Assessing the effects of dental developmental stress and the shift to agriculture on tooth crown size, cusp spacing, and accessory cusp expression in modern humans through the Patterning Cascade Model of morphogenesis.
Advisor: Debbie Guatelli-Steinberg
- M.A. 2011 Anthropology, San Diego State University, San Diego, California
Thesis: Status and the 'Lower' Class: A Bio-cultural Examination of the Non-elite Classic Maya Suburb-Community of Guerra, Buenavista del Cayo, in the Western Belize Valley
Advisor: Arion T. Mayes
- B.A. 2009 Anthropology, with honors, San Diego State University, San Diego, California

RESEARCH AREAS:

Skeletal biology (disease, physiological and occupational stress, developmental stress, senescence, trauma)
Impact of dietary intake on skeletal and dental health (stable isotopes)
Influence of physiological stress on embryonic dental development
Evolution of dental characteristics and geomorphometrics
3D modeling of dental and skeletal tissue thickness
Biological affinity using dental traits in forensic application (ancestry)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

- 2021 – Present **Resident Assistant Processor (joint appointment)**
Department of Cultural and Social Studies
Department of Exercise Science and Pre-Health Professionals
Creighton University, Omaha, NE
Classes: Human Physiology (EXS 112), Introduction to Anthropology: Cultural Determinants of Health (ANT 113), From the Grave: Fundamentals of Forensic Anthropology (ANT 225), Biological Anthropology (ANT 302), Death Investigation: Forensic Methods (ANT 325), Forensic Anthropology Field School (ANT 350), Disease and Suffering in the Past and Present (ANT 422), Senior Capstone (ANT 499), Directed Independent Study/Research (ANT 495/496)
- 2020 – 2021 **Adjunct Assistant Professor (joint appointment)**
Department of Cultural and Social Studies

Department of Exercise Science and Pre-Health Professionals
Creighton University, Omaha, NE
Classes: Human Physiology (EXS 112), Introduction to Anthropology:
Cultural Determinants of Health (ANT 113), From the Grave:
Fundamentals of Forensic Anthropology (ANT 225), Forensic
Anthropology Field School (ANT 350), Senior Capstone (ANT 499),
Directed Independent Study (ANT 495)

2019 – 2020

Adjunct Professor

Department of Cultural and Social Studies
Creighton University, Omaha, NE
Classes: Healthcare, Society, and Culture (ANT 418), Special Topics
Seminar: Forensic Anthropology (ANT 400)

2019 – 2020

Adjunct Professor

Department of Sociology and Anthropology
University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE
Classes: Introduction to Anthropology (ANTH 1050), Introduction to
Biological Anthropology (ANTH 3910, online)

2018, 2019

Adjunct Professor

Department of Anthropology
University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH
Classes: Our Inner Ape (ANTH 1040, online)

2013 – 2017

Graduate Teaching Associate

Department of Anthropology
The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
Classes: Introduction to Biological Anthropology with lab (ANTH 2200,
in person and online), World Prehistory: An Anthropological Perspective
(ANTH 2201), Introduction to Archaeology (ANTH 2201: reformatted
course, online), Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (ANTH 2202)

2011 – 2012

Adjunct Professor

Department of Social and Behavioral Science, Anthropology Program
San Diego City College, San Diego, CA
Classes: Introduction to Physical Anthropology (ANTH 102), Laboratory
in Physical Anthropology (ANTH 104)

2009 – 2011

Instructional Student Assistant and Graduate Assistant

Department of Anthropology
San Diego State University, San Diego, CA
Classes: Intro. to Biological Anthropology (ANTH 101), Roots of
Civilization (ANTH 349), Modern Forensic Anthropology (ANTH 360),
Principles of Biological Anthropology (ANTH 301), Methods in Forensic
Anthropology (ANTH 507)

STUDENT MENTORSHIP AND RESEARCH:

- 2021-2022 Directed Independent Study
Aiden Herrera – Contextualizing ancient Maya middle status individuals within a complex social and biological system
- 2020-2022 Directed Independent Study
Marie Day – Relationship between dental modification and dental pathology in high status individuals from Buenavista del Cayo, Belize
- Summer 2021 CURAS SURF Grant (funded)
- 2020-2021 Directed Independent Study
Grace Bryant – Skeletal pathology and health profiles of ancient Maya individuals from Las Ruinas, Belize
- 2020 (Fall) Directed Independent Study
Madison Peters – Buenavista del Cayo data consolidation
Gina Serratore – Guerra archaeological field notes consolidation, Buenavista del Cayo skeletal identification and inventory

RESEARCH PROJECTS:

- 2021 – Present Skeletal morphology and geomorphometrics of lemur hindlimbs.
- In conjunction with the Conservation Genetics Department of Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium
- 2021 Reliability of using dental traits for forensic ancestry estimation in Omaha communities experiencing developmental physiological stress
- 2013 – Present Bio-cultural lifeways of Classic Maya populations from the Western Belize Valley (published and in preparation).
- In conjunction with the Omaha Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim and San Diego State University's Maya Archaeology Lab
- 2018 – Present MicroCT imaging of upper and lower molars (Dissertation). The Center for Electron Microscopy and Analysis, The Ohio State University.
- 2017 – Present Changes to dental morphology when developmental stress has occurred (Dissertation). The Ohio State University, Ohio History Connection, and Cincinnati Museum Center.
- 2016 Tooth size, cusp spacing, trait expression, and nutritional stress in modern humans (Dissertation). The Ohio State University, and Hampshire College.
- 2011 – 2013 Las Ruinas, Cahal Pech, and Buenavista del Cayo Skeletal Analysis, (published and in preparation). San Diego State University.

- 2011 – 2012 Dental Anthropology of the Paa-Ko Collection (published and in preparation). San Diego Museum of Man.
- 2011 – 2012 3D Cranial Imaging (unpublished). San Diego Museum of Man.
- 2010 – 2011 Status and the ‘Lower’ Class: A Bio-cultural Examination of the Non-elite Classic Maya Suburb-Community of Guerra, Buenavista del Cayo, in the Western Belize Valley (Thesis). Montezuma Publishing, San Diego State University.
- 2008 Comparative Dental Pathology of Males and Females from the Boring Skeletons. San Diego Museum of Man.
- 2008 Comparative morphology of *Hylobates*. San Diego State University.
- 2008 Siamang Locomotion. San Diego State University and San Diego Zoo.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES:

- 2020 – Present Director, Biological Anthropology Laboratory, Department of Cultural and Social Studies, Creighton University, Omaha, NE
- 2011 – Present Lead Project Bioarchaeologist, Curator of Skeletal Collections for the *San Diego State University-National Science Foundation Upper Belize Valley Mopan-Macal Triangle Archaeological Project*
- 2018 Graduate Teaching Fellow, Department of Anthropology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- 2017 – 2018 Graduate Consultant, University Center for the Advancement of Teaching (UCAT), The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- 2014 – 2018 Facilitator, University Center for the Advancement of Teaching (UCAT) Orientation for Teaching and Learning, Ohio State University, Columbus OH
- 2013 Technical Adviser and Interviewee of Maya Bioarchaeology for the Night Fire Films documentary, “*The Royal Cup*,” directed and produced by David Lebrun and Rosie Guthrie (“*Breaking the Maya Code*” and “*Cracking the Maya Code*”). Film released on *Nova* in 2013.
- 2012 – 2013 Program Experience Teacher/Floor Faculty, Columbus’ Center of Science and Industry (COSI), Columbus, OH
- 2010 – 2012 Researcher (Paa-ko and Boring skeletal collections), San Diego Museum of Man

- 2009 – 2010 Office Assistant, Department of Anthropology, San Diego State University
- 2007 – 2008 Lab Assistant, Collections Management, San Diego State University

PUBLICATIONS:

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- In preparation **Blankenship-Sefczek, Erin C**, John P. Hunter, Mark Hubbe, Alan Goodman, and Debbie Guatelli-Steinberg. “Nutrition stress, tooth crown size and dental characteristics in a population sample from Tezonteopan, Mexico”
- In preparation **Blankenship-Sefczek, Erin C**, Trish Mitchell, Shannon Black, and Timothy M. Sefczek, Jennifer Taschek and Joe W. Ball. “High, low, and everything between: investigating differential life histories of Classic Maya from Buenavista del Cayo and Cahal Pech, Belize”
- 2019 **Blankenship-Sefczek, Erin C**, Joseph W. Ball, and Jennifer Taschek. “First steps-Dentition, kinship, social group, and stats in the Upper Belize River Valley: Small sample insights into Classic Maya social organization in Central Western Belize” *Ancient Mesoamerica*, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0956536119000129>
- 2019 **Blankenship-Sefczek, Erin C**. “Expressions of two near absent dental traits, lingual cuspule and paraconid, on one Archaic period modern human from the Ohio Valley” *Dental Anthropology Journal* 32(1): 3-7
- 2013 **Blankenship-Sefczek, Erin C**. “Maxillary lateral incisor variation and rare trait expression: A case study from Pre-historic Paa-ko, New Mexico” *Dental Anthropology Journal* 26:15-18

Published Abstracts

- 2022 **Blankenship-Sefczek, Erin C.**, Alan H. Goodman, Mark Hubbe, John P. Hunter and Debbie Guatelli-Steinberg. An accessory to developmental stress: the relationship between Linear Enamel Hypoplasia (LEH) and molar cusp expression
- 2022 Day, Marie and **Erin C. Blankenship-Sefczek**. The relationship between dental modification and pathologies in Classic Period Maya.
- 2020 **Blankenship-Sefczek, Erin C.**, John P. Hunter, Mark Hubbe, Robert Cook, and Debbie Guatelli-Steinberg. Dental reduction, physiological stress, and changing lifeways: Alterations to dental characteristics associated with the transition to agriculture in Prehistoric Ohio. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, Supplement 65, Podium presentation

- 2019 **Blankenship-Sefczek, Erin C.** Lingual cuspule and paraconid on an Archaic period individual from Ohio. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, Supplement 64, Poster presentation
- 2018 **Blankenship-Sefczek, Erin C**, Joseph W. Ball, and Jennifer Taschek. Dentition, kinship, and status in the Mopan-Macal Triangle: Small-sample insights into Classic Maya social organization in Central Western Belize. *Society for American Archaeology*, Invited podium presentation
- 2017 **Blankenship-Sefczek, Erin C**, Debbie Guatelli-Steinberg, Alan H. Goodman. Tooth Size, Cusp Expression, and Nutritional Stress. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* Supplement 62, Poster presentation
- 2015 **Blankenship-Sefczek, Erin C**, Trish Mitchell, Shannon R. Black, and Timothy M. Sefczek. Assessing Oral Health Differences in Socially Distinct Classic Period Maya Populations. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* Supplement 60, Poster presentation
- 2013 **Blankenship-Sefczek, Erin C.** Diet in the mountains: Using dental pathology to assess subsistence strategies in Paa-ko, New Mexico. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* Supplement 54, Poster presentation
- 2011 **Blankenship-Sefczek, Erin C.** Status and the “lower” class: Health, disease and biological affinity of the Late Classic Maya suburb community of Guerra, Buenavista del Cayo, in the Western Belize Valley. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* Supplement 52, Poster presentation

Archaeological Reports

- 2008 Fetal Skeleton-389, From the University of Oklahoma, Housed at San Diego State University, San Diego, CA

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS:

- 2021 College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Summer Undergraduate Research Scholarship, Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship, Department of Cultural and Social Studies, Creighton University, \$1000
Student researcher: Marie Day
- 2018 Larsen Award, Department of Anthropology, The Ohio State University, \$1000
- 2017 Alumni Grants for Graduate Research and Scholarship, The Ohio State University, \$5000

- 2017 Ray Travel Award, The Ohio State University, \$1000
- 2011 Norton Allen Scholarship, San Diego State University, \$750
- 2011 Travel Grant, Anthropology Graduate Student Association (AGSA), San Diego State University, \$200
- 2010 Al Sonek Memorial Scholarship, San Diego State University, \$500
- 2009 Travel Grant, Anthropology Graduate Student Association (AGSA), San Diego State University, \$100
- 2009 – 2011 California State University Grants, \$9,924 annually

HONORS AND AWARDS:

- 2017 Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award, The Ohio State University, \$300
- 2013 CG Turner--Cambridge University Press Dental Anthropology Award
For: "Diet in the mountains: Using dental pathology to assess subsistence strategies in Paa-ko, New Mexico."
-AAPA Annual Meeting, Knoxville, TN, Poster Presentation
- 2010 – 2011 Outstanding Graduate Student, Friends of Anthropology (FoA), San Diego State University, \$250
- 2008 Graduated with Distinction in the Major, Department of Anthropology, San Diego State University

CERTIFICATIONS:

- 2019 Completion of training to run AVIZO and MIPAR software platforms, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- 2018 Course Design Institute, Ohio State University, University Center for the Advancement of Teaching, Columbus, OH
- 2017 Certified to operate HeliScan Micro Computer Tomography Machine, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- 2011 Completion of training to operate NextEngine 3D Laser Scanner, San Diego Museum of Man, San Diego, CA
- 2010 Completion of training to operate a digitizer and FORDISC, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- 2020 Humanizing Online Teaching, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE
- 2020-2021 New Faculty Professional Development Orientation, Creighton University, Omaha, NE
- 2013 Graduate Student Teaching Orientation, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- 2011 Summer Workshop in Bioarchaeology, Musée Archéologique Saint-Laurent, Grenoble, France, associated with Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes
Directors: Dr. Estelle Herrscher, Prof. Olivier Dutour, Dr. Stephan Naji, and Dr. HDR H  l  ne Coqueugnoit.
- 2011 Belize Valley Archaeological Reconnaissance Project (BVAR) San Ignacio, Belize associated with Institute for Archaeology (NICH) Belize
Director: Dr. Jamie Awe
- 2009 Intern, San Diego's Institute for Conservation Research (formerly CRES), San Diego
- 2007-2008 Intern, Biological Anthropology Lab, San Diego Museum of Man, San Diego, CA
- 2007 Intern, Collections Management Archaeology Lab, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA

ACTIVITIES:***Invited Presentations and Research Symposiums***

- 2020 "Dental Anthropology and Nutrition"
Creighton University, Department of Cultural and Social Studies
- 2016 "Archaeology and the Maya"
Columbus' Center of Science and Industry, Synapse Program
- 2011 "A biocultural examination of the non-elite Maya of Guerra, Belize"
San Diego County Archaeological Society
- 2011 "Status and the "Lower" Class: Dental Pathology and Biological Affinity of the Non-elite Classic Period Maya in the Western Belize Valley."
Student Research Symposium, San Diego State University
- 2008 "The Role of Brachiation in the Evolution of Hominin Locomotion."
Student Research Symposium, San Diego State University

Service to Community

- 2019 Panel Participant: “Race are we so different”, Durham Museum, Omaha, NE
- 2018 Guest speaker, Forensic Anthropology and Bioarchaeology, 12th Grade Class at Columbus North International School, Columbus, OH
- 2015 Guest Speaker, Introduction to Anthropology and Archaeology, 3rd Grade Class at Imagine Columbus Primary Academy, Columbus, OH
- 2011 Docent, San Diego Museum of Man, *Modern Day Mummy* exhibit, San Diego, CA
- 2011 Guest Speaker, Introduction to Anthropology, High Tech Middle School, San Diego, CA

Service to Profession

- 2011 Manuscript reviewer, Cengage Learning

Service to University

- 2022 Judge, Global Health of the Midwest, Creighton University
- 2021—Present Faculty Moderator, Medical and Cultural Anthropology Association
- 2021 Judge, University Research Week, Creighton University
- 2020 – Present Mentor, Senior Honors Theses (Grace Bryant and Marie Day). Biological Anthropology Laboratory, Department of Cultural and Social Studies, Creighton University
- 2018 Judge, Undergraduate Research Symposium, The Ohio State University
- 2014 – 2017 Panel Participant: New Graduate Student Orientation, Department of Anthropology, The Ohio State University
- 2014 – 2017 Panel Participant: New Graduate Teaching Associate Orientation, Department of Anthropology, The Ohio State University
- 2015 – 2018 Graduate Teaching Mentor, Department of Anthropology, The Ohio State University
- 2015 – 2018 Graduate Mentor, Incoming Anthropology Graduate Students, Department of Anthropology, The Ohio State University
- 2013 – 2019 Graduate Mentor, Undergraduate Anthropology Mentorship program

- (UAMP), Department of Anthropology, The Ohio State University
- 2014 – 2015 Co-Coordinator, Undergraduate Anthropology Mentorship Program (UAMP), Department of Anthropology, The Ohio State University
- 2014 – 2105 Undergraduate Anthropology Association Representative, Department of Anthropology, The Ohio State University
- 2013 – 2019 Student Member, Graduate Students of Anthropology Association (GSAA), Department of Anthropology, The Ohio State University
- 2010 – 2011 Events Sub-Committee Member, Anthropology Graduate Student Association (AGSA), Department of Anthropology, San Diego State University
- 2009 – 2010 Vice President, Anthropology Graduate Student Association (AGSA) at San Diego State University
- Initiated a Travel Grant Program to fund student travel to conferences, started a Brown Bag Lecture Series
- 2007 – 2008 President, Association of Anthropology Students (AAS), Department of Anthropology, San Diego State University
- 2006 – 2011 Student Member, Primate Club, Department of Anthropology, San Diego State University

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIAITONS:

- 2018 – present Bioarchaeology Interest Group
- 2013 – present British Association of Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology
- 2013 – present Paleopathology Association
- 2013 – present Dental Anthropology Association
- 2012 – present Société Française de Bioarchéologie et Bioanthropologie
- 2009 – present American Association of Physical Anthropologists
- 2009 – present Society for American Archaeologists