Anthropology in Practice
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Career Commission Possibilities Blog Post

Enjoyable Field School but Not Sure What Is Next

Even at this point in my life, at 24 years old, I feel that I should have things figured out. Truth be told, I'm still unsure of what exactly I want to do with my life. I thought I knew once I got my first bachelor's degree in Forestry, and now graduating from my second bachelor's degree in Anthropology (Archaeology option), I thought I knew again. What I know for sure is that I've got two full degrees in the two passions I've had growing up, so I'll be leaving with a lot of knowledge, that's for sure. But to answer the question of where I'll be 5 years out, I can't give a confirmed answer because my life seems to change every other year.

Looking back at the experience I've had during my anthropology degree, for the most part, it's been a fairly positive experience. I will add that I'm not the biggest fan of the amount of reading and writing that I was required to undertake compared to my past forestry degree. That's probably just me because I am an extremely visual and hands-on learner. This component of learning is probably the biggest difference between forestry and anthropology. I'm sure things would be greatly different if Covid wasn't in the picture. The two classes that I thought provided the best overall experience to the archaeological field were Lithic Analysis and Zooarchaeology, two hands-on learning classes that were pushed to online learning. Not being able to nap my own lithic tools or examine faunal remains in person was a big letdown. Thery were among the main skills I wish I had to help prepare for my career.

One of the most amazing experiences of my life was in direct effect of being an anthropology major. It was the opportunity to spend 5.5 weeks in England for my field school. 10 days were spent quarantining and exploring the city of Manchester, with the remaining time spent

in the beautiful countryside of Herefordshire, England alongside the border of Wales. This was the best possible experience for me to gain the basic archaeological knowledge and skills to prepare for my career in archaeology. Conducted through Manchester University, this was the Dorstone 2021 international field school located within the gorgeous Golden Valley of Herefordshire, England. For a month out in the field, I was able to engage in the field excavation of the Neolithic tomb of Arthur's Stone, the monument that inspired C.S. Lewis' *Chronicles of Narnia* and holds the legend where King Arthur slayed the giant. The other two sites included a Roman foundation and the Medieval castle ruins of Snodhill.

I couldn't ask for a better experience. It offered me some really amazing international resources to use if I were to continue my schooling and attend an international graduate university program. Even my experience at Oregon State University has created many resources and personal connections to further my future opportunities. I've learned a lot of interesting facts over the last year that I would have never known if not for my studies. A lot of it being real world knowledge. It's hard to say where my future lies. One thing is for sure: I've got the knowledge and experience to take me anywhere I need to go.