Jessica McLawhorn

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# Education

**HS** Ayden Grifton High School May 2014

 Graduated with Honors

 Health Science Academy Ambassador

**BS** Western Carolina University, Forensic Anthropology May 2019

 Graduated Cum Laude

Cumulative GPA: 3.630

Minored in a Pre-approved program

# Honors and Awards

**Most Volunteer Hours For Ayden Grifton High School** 2011

Health Sciences Academy

**Most Volunteer Hours For Ayden Grifton High School** 2012

Health Sciences Academy

**Most Volunteer Hours For Ayden Grifton High School** 2013

Health Sciences Academy

**Most Volunteer Hours For Ayden Grifton High School** 2014

Health Sciences Academy

**Outstanding Senior Award** 2014

Health Sciences Academy

**Dean’s List S**pring 2016, Fall 2017 – Spring 2019

Western Carolina University

**Chancellor’s List** Spring 2016, Spring 2018 - Spring 2019

Western Carolina University

**Lambda Alpha National Anthropology Honor Society** 2018-Present

Western Carolina University

# Archaeological Fieldwork Experience

**ANTH 486: Field Recovery of Human Remains** Summer 2016

This class taught mapping, surveying, the search of remains, recovery of remains, excavation methods and tools, lab processing and cleaning, collecting data for the biological profile, and writing a formal case report.

# Research Experience

**The Effects of Soil pH on Skeletal Decomposition**

Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 2017

Taphonomy research project

* The research that I have conducted on the effects of soil and sand pH on skeletal decomposition has never been completed before.
* Researchers have taken soil and sand pH levels and used the soil chemistry for forensic analysis, but this was the first time that pH levels are the primary focus.
* This research was aimed to understand better the decomposition of bone in soil based on pH in a short period of time.

**Metal as a Ritual**

Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 2018

Ethnography research project

* My research ethnography was about metal music culture as a ritual.
* This was done both as an audio and photography documentary.
* Interviews and transcriptions were also completed.

**Cemetery Excavation Proposal**

Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 2018

Bioarchaeology research project

* Devised a strategy for the excavation of a chosen cemetery
* The cemetery I researched for the hypothetical excavation was the Hooper-Speedwell Cemetery.
* The reason for proposing this cemetery excavation was to give those in unmarked burials an identity.
* I discussed the skeletal research I would want to conduct following the hypothetical cemetery excavation.

**The Comparison of the Pubic Symphysis Age at Death Estimation Methods Using the Hartnett Method and the ADBOU Method**

Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 2019

Statistics within a forensic anthropology research project

* This research consists of a comparison of pubic symphysis age-at-death estimation methods using the Hartnett method and the ADBOU (Age Estimation Transition Analysis Software) method.
* The goal of this research was to collect statistical data on the two methods and to understand better how these two methods compare to determine which method makes for a more accurate age at death estimation for older populations, specifically within the John A. Williams Human Skeletal Collection which is curated at Western Carolina University.

# Publications

## Books

Zejdlik KJ, NV Passalacqua, JA Williams. The Forensic Osteology Research Station (FOREST) at Western Carolina University. In Press. In: Sorg MA (editor) Forensic Taphonomy.

*This is a book chapter for a book not yet published. I will update more as information is received.*

Description: I completed a research project in my taphonomy class on the effects of soil pH on skeletal decomposition. My professor, Dr. Nicholas V. Passalacqua, was impressed with my research, and within his chapter of the book, he will cite my research and thank me in the acknowledgments.

## Journal Publications

Coryann Collins, Cayley Johnson, Jessica McLawhorn, Nicholas V. Passalacqua,

Katie Zejdlik, Christine Bailey, and John A. Williams, “The John A. Williams Documented Human Skeletal Collection,” ABD Journal, 2019

# Presentations and Invited Lectures

**Poster Presentation**, “The John A. Williams Documented Human Skeletal Collection,” Research and Scholarship Celebration, 2019.

# Professional Training

**Cadaver Dog Workshop**,Assistant in the Field 2015 to 2017

Western Carolina University

Description: Helped with bone identification courses and helped set the scenes for the dogs and trainers. Initially volunteered and then as an employee.

**Archaeology Internship**,Lab Assistant Spring 2018

Western Carolina University

Description: Helped with cataloging artifacts, the repackaging and boxing of artifacts for the soon-to-be new renovated Archaeology Archive, accounted for the presence of artifact data and specimen data for each site, updated the accession records, separated artifacts based on class, context, and description, and created a digital database for the artifact catalogs for one large site.

**Western Carolina University**, Lab Assistant 2018 to 2019

Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Human Identification Laboratory

Three semesters

Description:

* Maceration for bones
* Cleaning bones
* Labeling bones
* Processing bones
* Skeleton Inventory
* Taking skeletal measurements
* Create a donor and pre-donor system
* File donor and pre-donor documents
* Photographing bones
* Defleshing human and non-human bones
* Body Transport
* Body placement in the FOREST
* Skeletal recovery
* Mapping and surveying
* Understanding of laboratory safety and SOP’s

# Extracurricular

**Forensic Anthropology Journal Club** 2017-2018

President, Western Carolina University

**Anthropology Journal Club** 2018-2019

President, Western Carolina University

# Community Service

**Vidant Medical Center** 2010-2013

Volunteer in Pathology, Greenville, NC

**The Community Table** 2014-2016

Volunteer server and cleaner, Sylva, NC

**Community Crossroads** 2010-Present

Volunteer server, Greenville, NC

**Catman2 Shelter** 2014

Volunteer, Cullowhee, NC

**Vacation Bible School** 2010-Present

Volunteer, Salem United Methodist Church, Simpson, NC

**Golden Living** 2013-2016

Volunteer, Greenville, NC

# Languages

**English**: Native Language

# Computer Skills

**Programming**: Donor and Pre-Donor Database: I created this database for Western Carolina University’s Human Identification Laboratory

**Applications**: Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft

PowerPoint, Microsoft Outlook

**Platforms**: Microsoft Windows