

# Robert N. Spengler III, PhD

www.robertnspengler.com

Laboratories Director  
Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History  
Kahlaische Str. 10, 07745 Jena, Germany

## CURRENT RESEARCH FOCUS

My research feeds into a broad understanding of human/environmental interactions and links between the intensification of agriculture and the emergence of complex social systems. Additionally, I am investigating the role of gene flow through seed dispersal as a driving force in plant domestication; specifically, how the extinction of the Pleistocene megafauna impacted seed dispersal in crop and weed progenitors. I have directed paleoethnobotanical studies on projects spanning the Holocene across Asia, from Mongolia in the northeast to Turkmenistan in the southwest, as well as East Asia, Europe, and North America.

## CURRENT STATUS

Paleoethnobotany Laboratories Director - Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History



Primary Investigator on the European Research Council funded project FEDD (Fruits of Eurasia: Domestication and Dispersal)

MAPSS

Co-PI on the Arcadia Fund Project: Mongolian Archaeological Project: Surveying the Steppe (MAPSS)

## RESEARCH POSITIONS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Laboratory Director of the Paleoethnobotany Laboratories at the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History (Max-Planck-Institut für Menschheitsgeschichte)	2016 – Present
Visiting Research Scholar, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University	2016 – 2017
Adjunct Instructor, Campaign Management, School of Professional Studies, New York University	2017 – 2017
Volkswagen and Mellon Foundations Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities at Universities and Research Institutes in Germany, at the German Institute of Archaeology, Eurasian Branch	2014 – 2016
Affiliated Researcher with Free University Berlin, in the Paleontology Department, Geosciences Division	2014 – 2015
Faculty Assistant, Department of Anthropology, Washington University in St. Louis	2014 – 2014
Research Associate in Anthropological Archaeology, Department of Anthropology, Washington University in St. Louis	2013 – 2017

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### PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

Doctoral degree in anthropology defended	2013
Washington University in St. Louis – terminal Ph.D. program in anthropology	2008 – 2013
Washington University in St. Louis – M.A. in anthropology; graduate studies in anthropology and biology	2006 – 2008
Middlebury College in Vermont – accelerated Russian language program	2008
University at Buffalo; S.U.N.Y. at Buffalo, New York – anthropology major with an archaeology focus, minors in art and history, concentration in Classics; B.A. in anthropology	2002 – 2006
Canisius College in Buffalo, New York – philosophy and human cognition	2001

### PUBLICATIONS

#### BOOKS

##### Spengler, Robert N., III

(In prep) *Domestication: Nature's greatest success. A reevaluation of plant domestication studies from the perspective of evolutionary theory.* Over 2/3 drafted.

##### Spengler, Robert N., III

(In prep) *The Rise of Inner Asia.* Currently under negotiation for publication with the University of Cambridge Press: Cambridge.

##### Spengler, Robert N., III

2019 *Fruit of the Sands: Silk Road origins of the food we eat.* University of California Press: Berkeley.

Note: There is currently an audiobook edition of *Fruit of the Sands* and a Chinese edition is forthcoming.

#### EDITED VOLUMES

##### Spengler, Robert N., III, Mayke Wagner, and Pavel Tarasov (eds.)

2016 *Introduction and Intensification of Agriculture in Central Eurasia and Adjacent Regions.* Special Edition volume of *The Holocene*. October 2016, issue – 26.

##### Frachetti, Michael D. and Robert N. Spengler III (eds.)

2015 *Mobility and Ancient Society in Asia and the Americas: Proceedings of the Second International Conference on "Great Migrations"*, Springer Publishing: New York.

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### PUBLICATIONS (Continued)

#### ARTICLES

- Spengler, Robert N., III**, Patrick Roberts, Nicole Boivin, Michael Petraglia  
(In prep) Bearing Fruit: Miocene apes and apple evolution. *Evolutionary Anthropology*.
- Spengler, Robert N. III**, William Taylor, Alicia Ventresca Miller, Nicole Boivin  
(In prep) Did the ancient Eurasian Nomads Exist. *Scientific Reports*.
- Tang, Li, **Robert N. Spengler III**, Nicole Boivin, Lu Hongliang  
(In review) The Origin of a Barley-dominant Cultivation System in Tibet: 30000 BP Archaeobotanical evidence from Bangga. *Journal of Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences*.
- Zhou, Xinying; Zhu, Lin; **Spengler, Robert N. III**; Zhao, Keliang; Liu, Junchi; Xu, Xing; Bao, Yige; Dodson, John ; Xu, Hai; Li, Xiaoqiang  
(In press) Water Management and Wheat Yields in Ancient China: Carbon isotope discrimination of archaeological wheat grains. *The Holocene*.
- Spengler, Robert N., III**, Li Tang, Ayushi Nayak, Nicole Boivin, and Luca Maria Olivieri  
(In press) The Southern Central Asian Mountains as an Ancient Agricultural Mixing Zone: New archaeobotanical date from Barikot in the Swat Valley of Pakistan. *Vegetation History and Archaeobotany*.
- Shen, Hui, Xiaoqiang Li, **Robert N. Spengler III**, Xinying Zhou, and Keliang Zhao  
(In press) Forest cover and composition on the Loess Plateau during the Middle to Late Holocene: Integrating wood charcoal analyses. *The Holocene*. Online First.
- Spengler, Robert N. III**, William Taylor, Alicia Ventresca Miller, Bryan Miller, Shevan Wilkin, Ashleigh Haruda, Tekla Schmause, Patrick Roberts, Nicole Boivin  
(In press) An Imagined Past? Nomadic Narratives in Central Asian Archeology. *Current Anthropology*.
- Mueller, Natalie G. **Robert N Spengler III**, Ashley Glenn, and Kunsang Lama  
2020 Bison, anthropogenic fire, and the origins of agriculture in eastern North America. *The Anthropocene Review*. Online First.
- Stark, Sören, Fiona J. Kidd, Jamal K. Mirzaakhmedov, Shujing Wang, Robert N. Spengler III, Siroj J. Mirzaakhmedov, Zachary Silvia, Silvia Pozzi, Husniddin Rakhmonov, Megan Sligar, and Munira Sultanova  
2020 The Uzbek-American Expedition in Bukhara. Preliminary Report on the Third Season (2017). *Iran*. Online First.
- Yang, Q., X. Zhou, **R. N. Spengler III**, K. Zhao, J. Liu, Y. Bao, P. W. Jia, and X. Li  
2020 Prehistoric agriculture and social structure in the southwestern Tarim Basin: Multiproxy analyses at Wupaer. *Scientific Reports*. 10(1):14235-14246.

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### PUBLICATIONS (Continued)

#### ARTICLES

- Wilkin, Shevan, Alicia Ventresca Miller, Bryan K. Miller, **Robert N. Spengler III**, William T. Taylor, Ricardo Fernandes, Richard Hagan, Madeline Bleasdale, Jana Zech, S. Ulziibayar, Erdene Myagmar, Nicole Boivin, and Patrick Roberts  
2020 Economic Diversification Supported the Growth of Mongolia's Nomadic Empires. *Scientific Reports*. 10:3916.
- Zhou, Xinying, Jianjun Yu, Hui Shen, Keliang Zhao, Ge Junyi, Yige Bao, Junchi Liu, Qingjiang Yang, **Robert N. Spengler III**, Xiaoqiang Li  
2020 Redating the Trans-Eurasian Crop Exchange: 5200-year-old cereal grains from the eastern Altai Mountains. *Nature Plants*. 6:78-87.
- Spengler, Robert N., III**  
2020 Anthropogenic Seed Dispersal: Rethinking the origins of plant domestication. *Trends in Plant Science*. 25(4): 340-348.
- Ventresca Miller, Alicia R., **Robert N. Spengler III**, Ashleigh Haruda, Bryan Miller, Shevan Wilkin, Sarah Robinson, Patrick Roberts, and Nicole Boivin  
2020 Ecosystem Engineering Among Ancient Pastoralists in Northern Central Asia. *Frontiers in Earth Science*. 8:168.
- Taylor, William, Julia Clark, Jamsramjav Bayarsaikhan, Tumuurbaatar Turshinjargal, Jessica Thompson Jobe, William Fitzhugh, Richard Kortum, **Robert N. Spengler III**, Svetlana Shnaider, Frederik Seersholm, Isaac Hart, Nicolas Case, Shevan Wilkin, Jessica Hendy, Ulrike Thuering, Bryan Miller, Alicia Ventresca Miller, Andrea Picia, Nils Vanwezer, Franziska Irmer, Samantha Brown, Aida Abdykanova, Daniel Shultz, Victoria Pham, Michael Bunee, Katerina Douka, Emily Jones, and Nicole Boivin  
2020 Early Pastoral Economies and Herding Transitions in Eastern Eurasia. *Scientific Reports*. 10:1001.
- Stephens, L., D. Fuller, N. Boivin, T. Rick, N. Gauthier, A. Kay, B. Marwick, C. Geralda, R. N. Spengler, et al.  
2019 Archaeological assessment reveals Earth's early transformation through land use. *Science*. 365(6456): 897-902.
- Taylor, William T., Svetlana Shnaider, **Robert N. Spengler III**, Ludovic Orlando, Aida Aboykanova, Andrei Krivoshapkin  
2019 Investigating Ancient Animal Economies and Exchange in Kyrgyzstan's Alay Valley. *Antiquity*. 93(367) e2.
- Spengler, Robert N., III**  
2019 Origins of the Apple: The Role of Megafaunal Mutualism in the Domestication of *Malus* and Rosaceous Trees. *Frontiers in Plant Science*. 10(617):1-18.
- Spengler, Robert N., III** and Natalie Mueller  
2019 Grazing Animals Drove Domestication of Grain Crops. *Nature Plants*. 5: 656–662.

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### PUBLICATIONS (Continued)

#### ARTICLES

Ren, Meng, Zi-Hua Tang, Xin-Hua Wu, **Robert N. Spengler III**, Hong-En Jiang, Yi-Min Yang, and Nicole Boivin  
2019 Mortuary Cannabis Burning in the Pamirs During the First Millennium BC. *Science Advances*. 5(6): eaaw1391.

**Spengler, Robert N., III**  
2019 Dung Burning in the Archaeobotanical Record of West Asia: Where are we now? Special Edition Volume of *Vegetation History and Archaeobotany*. 28:215-227.

**Spengler, Robert N., III**, Farhod Maksudov, Elissa Bullion, Ann Merkle, Taylor Hermes, and Michael Frachetti  
2018 Arboreal crops on the medieval Silk Road: Archaeobotanical studies at Tashbulak. *PLOS ONE*. 13(8): e0201409.

Christian Leipe, Stefanie Müller, Konrad Hille, Hirofumi Kato, Franziska Kobe, Mareike Schmidt, Konrad Seyffert, **Robert N. Spengler III**, Mayke Wagner, Andrzej W. Weber, and Pavel E. Tarasov  
2018 Vegetation change and human impacts on Rebun Island (Northwest Pacific) over the last 6000 years. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 193: 129-144.

Doumani Dupuy, Paula, **Robert N. Spengler III**, and Michael Frachetti  
2018 Eurasian Textiles: Case studies in exchange during the incipient and later Silk Road periods. *Quaternary International*. 468 (Part B): 228-239.

**Spengler, Robert N., III**, Ilaria de Nigris, Barbara Cerasetti, and Lynne M. Rouse  
2018 The Breadth of Dietary Economy in the Central Asian Bronze Age: A case study from Adjı Kui in the Murghab Region of Turkmenistan. *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports*. 22: 372-381.

**Spengler, Robert N., III**, Naomi F. Miller, Reinder Neef, Perry A. Tortellotte, and Claudia Chang  
2017 Linking agriculture and exchange to social developments of the Central Asian Iron Age. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*. 48: 295-308.

Leipe, Christian, Elena A. Sergusheva, Stefanie Müller, **Robert N. Spengler III**, Tomasz Goslar, Hirofumi Kato, Mayke Wagner, Andrzej W. Weber, and Pavel E. Tarasov  
2017 Barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) in the Okhotsk culture (5th-10th century AD) of northern Japan and the role of cultivated plants in hunter-gatherer economies. *PLOS ONE*. 12(3): e0174397.

**Spengler, Robert N., III**, Pavel Tarasov, and Mayke Wagner  
2016 The Origins and Spread of Agriculture in Central Asia and Adjacent Regions: An Introduction. *The Holocene*. 26: 1523-1526.

**Spengler, Robert N., III**, Natalia Ryabogina, Pavel Tarasov, and Mayke Wagner  
2016 The Spread of Agriculture into Northern Asia. *The Holocene*. 26: 1527-1540.

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### PUBLICATIONS (Continued)

#### ARTICLES

- Miller, Naomi F., **Spengler, Robert N., III**, and Michael Frachetti  
2016 Millet Cultivation across Eurasia: Origins, Spread, and the Influence of Seasonal Climate. *The Holocene*. 26: 1566-1575.
- Spengler, Robert N., III**  
2015 Agriculture in the Central Asian Bronze Age. *Journal of World Prehistory*. 28(3): 215–253.
- Doumani, P. N., M. D. Frachetti, R. Beardmore, T. Schmaus, **R. N. Spengler**, and A. N. Mar'yashev  
2015 Bronze Age Mountain Agriculture, Funerary Ritual, and Mobile Pastoralism at Tasbas, Southeastern Kazakhstan. *Archaeological Research in Asia*. 1-2: 17–32.
- d'Alpoim Guedes, Jade, Lu Hongliang, Li Yongxian, Wu Xiaohong, **Robert N. Spengler III**, and Mark S. Aldenderfer  
2014 Moving Agriculture onto the Tibetan Plateau: The Archaeobotanical Evidence. *Journal of Archaeological and Anthropological Science*. 6: 255–269.
- Spengler, R. N.**, M. D. Frachetti, P. N. Doumani, L. M. Rouse, B. Cerasetti, E. Bullion, and A. N. Mar'yashev  
2014 Early agriculture and crop transmission among Bronze Age mobile pastoralists of Central Eurasia. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*. 281: 20133382.
- Spengler, Robert N., III**, Paula Doumani, and Michael Frachetti  
2014 Agriculture in the Piedmont of Eastern Central Asia: The Late Bronze Age at Tasbas, Kazakhstan. *Quaternary International*. 348: 147–157.
- Spengler, Robert N., III**  
2014 Niche Dwelling vs. Niche Construction: Landscape Modification in the Bronze and Iron Ages of Central Asia. *Human Ecology*. 42(6): 813–821.
- Langlie, BrieAnna S., Natalie G. Mueller, **Robert N. Spengler**, and Gayle J. Fritz  
2014 Agricultural Origins from the Ground Up: Archaeological Perspectives on Plant Domestication. *American Journal of Botany*. 101(10): 1601–1617.
- Spengler, Robert N., III**, Claudia Chang, and Perry A. Tourtellotte  
2013 Agricultural Production in the Central Asian mountains: Tuzusai, Kazakhstan (410-150 BC). *Journal of Field Archaeology*. 38(1): 68–85.
- Spengler, Robert N., III**, Michael D. Frachetti, and Gayle J. Fritz  
2013 Ecotopes and Herd Foraging Practices in the Bronze and Iron Age, Steppe and Mountain Ecotone of Central Asia. *Journal of Ethnobiology*. 33(1): 125–147.

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### PUBLICATIONS (Continued)

#### ARTICLES

**Spengler, Robert N., III**, and George Willcox

2013 Archaeobotanical Results from Sarazm, Tajikistan, an Early Bronze Age Village on the Edge: Agriculture and Exchange. *Journal of Environmental Archaeology*. 10(3): 211–221.

**Spengler, Robert N., III**

2013 *Botanical Resource Use in the Bronze and Iron Age of the Central Eurasian Mountain/Steppe Interface: Decision Making in Multi-resource Pastoral Economies*, Ph.D. Dissertation for the Anthropology Department at Washington University in St. Louis.

Frachetti, Michael D., **Robert N. Spengler**, Gayle J. Fritz, and Alexei N. Mar'yashev

2010 Earliest Direct Evidence for Broomcorn Millet and Wheat in the Central Eurasian Steppe Region. *Antiquity* 84: 993–1010.

**Spengler, Robert N.**

2008 *Archaeobotanical Analysis of the Begash Site: Plants as a Component of Mobile Pastoralism*. St. Louis: Unpublished Master's Thesis, Available in the Anthropology Department at Washington University.

#### BOOK CHAPTERS

**Spengler, Robert N., III**

2019 Fruits on the Ancient Silk Road. In Susan Whitfield and Fleur Jones (eds.) *The Silk Road*. Thames & Hudson: London.

Cerasetti, Barbara, Lynne M. Rouse, Roberto Arciero, Luca Forni, Elise Luneau, and **Robert N. Spengler III**

2019 Interactions between sedentary and mobile peoples in the Bronze Age of southern Central Asia: Excavations at Togolok 1 in the Murghab region. *Proceeding of the Eurasian Archaeology Conference of the German Archaeological Institute*. German Archaeological Institute: Berlin, Germany.

Cerasetti, Barbara, Roberto Arciero, Marialetizia Carra, Antonio Curci, Jacopo De Grossi Mazzorin, Luca Forni, Elise Luneau, Lynne M. Rouse, and **Robert N. Spengler III**

2019 Bronze and Iron Age urbanization in Turkmenistan: Preliminary results from the excavation of Togolok 1 on the Murghab alluvial fan. In: Christoph Baumer and Mirko Novak (Eds.) *Urban Cultures of Central Asia from the Bronze Age to the Karakhanids: Learnings and conclusions from new archaeological investigations and discoveries*. Proceedings of the First International Congress on Central Asian Archaeology held at the University of Bern, 4-6 February 2016. pp. 63-72 Harressowitz Verdog: Bern, Switzerland.

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### PUBLICATIONS (Continued)

#### BOOK CHAPTERS

**Spengler, Robert N., III**

2018 Paleoethnobotany. In *SAS Encyclopedia of Archaeological Sciences*. Gill Campbell and Sandra L. López Varela (eds.), Wiley and Blackwell: New York.

**Spengler, Robert N., III**

2016 Archaeobotany (Qualitative Results Report) at Tashbulak. In Michael Frachetti and Farhad Maksudov (eds.) *Archaeological Research of the Qarakhanids (ARG) 2015 Excavation at the 11<sup>th</sup> c CE urban center 'Tashbulak'*. (pp. 93-104) Unpublished.

Frachetti, Michael D., and **Robert N. Spengler III** (eds.)

2015 Introduction. In *Mobility and Ancient Society in Asia and the Americas: Proceedings of the Second International Conference on "Great Migrations"*, Springer Publishing: New York.

**Spengler, Robert N., III**

2015 Central Asia, pre-Silk Road Agricultural Exchange. In Mary Beaudry and Karen Metheny (eds.), *The Archaeology of Food: An Encyclopedia*. Rowman and Littlefield: Lanham, Maryland.

d'Alpoim Guedes, Jade, and **Robert N. Spengler III**

2015 Sampling in Paleoethnobotany. In *Method and Theory in Paleoethnobotany*. University Press of Colorado: Denver, Colorado.

**Spengler, Robert N., III**

2014 Paleoethnobotanical Methods for the Study of Early Agriculture and Cuisine in the Prehistory of Central Asia. In *Experience of Turkmenistan in Research and Museumification of Archaeological Findings*. (pp. 326-328), Turkmenistan Ministry of Culture: Ashgabat.

**Spengler, Robert N., III**

2014 Introducing Archaeobotany to Central Asia. In *Dissertation Reviews; Asian Archaeology* <http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/6982>.

#### BOOK REVIEWS

**Spengler, Robert N., III**

2018 Claudia Chang. Rethinking prehistoric Central Asia: shepherds, farmers, and nomads. 2018. Abingdon & New York: Routledge; 978-1-138-73708-2 £105. *Antiquity*, 92(363), 827-828.

**Spengler, Robert N., III**

2015 A review of staple economies and social integration in northeast China: Regional organization in Zhangwu, Liaoning, China, by James Williams., In *Dissertation Reviews; Asian Archaeology*. <http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/11950>.



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### EDITORIAL ROLES

Peer-reviewer for approximately thirty (30) academic journals and granting agencies

Guest Editor for the journal *The Holocene*, to assist with the production of the special edition titled “Introduction and Intensification of Agriculture in Central Eurasia and Adjacent Regions” 2014 – 2016

Honorary Lectorate awarded through the German Archaeological Institute as a branch of the Bridging Eurasia book series, for the volume titled *Sogdian in China: An Archaeological and Art Historical Study of Tomb Finds and Historical Texts from the 3rd to the 10th Century AD* by Patrick Wertman 2014 – 2015

Co-editor of the collective volume titled *Mobility and Ancient Society in Asia and the Americas*, published by Springer 2013 – 2014

### GRANTS & RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT

Mongolian Archaeological Project: Surveying the Steppe (MAPSS) €2,200,000 2021 – 2026  
**Arcadia Fund**

Fruits of Eurasia: Domestication and Dispersal (FEDD) €1,495,000 2020 – 2025

**European Research Council** Starting Grant (851102)

Anthropocene River Project, studying prehistoric impacts of the Mississippi River in collaboration with Natalie Mueller €8,000 2018

Anthropocene River Project, studying prehistoric spread of maize in North America in collaboration with Natalie Mueller €4,000 2018

International Applications in the Archaeological Sciences, workshop funds for training scholars from the developing world €30,000 2018

International Applications in the Archaeological Sciences, workshop funds for training scholars from the developing world €20,000 2017

End of year excess funds for the purchase of a Keyence digital microscope at the Max Planck Institute €150,000 2017

Laboratory Startup Funds for the Paleoethnobotany Laboratory at the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History €50,000 2017

Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, Visiting Research Scholar, Writing Fellowship \$69,317 2016

Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, Visiting Research Scholar, Research Grant Funds \$5,000 2016

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### GRANTS & RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT (Continued)

Editorial Honorarium from the German Archaeological Institute	\$1,500	2015
<b>Wenner Gren Foundation</b> , workshop grant (Gr. CONF-673) to host “Introduction and Intensification of Agriculture in Eurasia”	\$20,000	2014
<b>Volkswagen and Mellon Foundations</b> , Workshopping grant for research in the humanities. Funded to host a conference in Berlin in unison with the DAI	€10,000	2014
<b>ICARES</b> , Iron production, urbanism, and environmental sustainability along the Medieval Silk Road: Ecological niche construction and ancient industrial development at the highland smelting center Tashbulak, Uzbekistan. P.I. Michael Frachetti	\$35,000	2014
<b>Volkswagen and Mellon Foundations</b> , Postdoctoral Fellow at the German Institute of Archaeology, Eurasian Branch; Volkswagen Postdoctoral Fellowships in the Humanities at Universities and Research Institutes in Germany	€50,000	2014
Editor Honorarium, for editorial work on the conference proceedings titled “Mobility and Ancient Society in Asia and the Americas”	\$4,000	2013 – 2014
Washington University in St. Louis Graduate Dissertation Writing Fellowship	\$15,000	2012 – 2013
Washington University in St. Louis Anthropology Department Summer Writing Funding	\$2,500	2011
Dissertation Research Improvement Funding	\$3,000	2011
<b>National Science Foundation</b> , Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant: Plant Use and Domestic Economy among Eurasian Mobile Pastoralists: Semirech'ye, Kazakhstan during the Bronze and Iron Age Interface	\$20,000	2010
Washington University in St. Louis Anthropology Department Dissertation Research Improvement Funding	\$1,333	2010
Washington University in St. Louis Anthropology Department Summer Research Grant	\$3,000	2008
Washington University in St. Louis Stipend/Graduate Fellowship (every semester)	\$15,000	2006 – 2012
S.U.N.Y., University at Buffalo, Research grant through the Advanced Honors Society	\$6,000	2005

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### AWARDS & HONORS

Arcadia Fund Grant – MAPSS	2020
European Research Council Research Grant – FEDD	2020
Archaeology Magazine’s Top Ten Archaeological Discoveries of 2019	2019
Science News Favorite Science Books of 2019	2019
Gormand Award for Culinary Writing	2019
Lecture Honorarium for the Central Asian Archaeology Conference, German Archaeological Institute	2019
Lecture Honorarium for the Chinese Academy of Sciences lecture in Beijing, China	2018
Lecture Honorarium for the Friday Archaeology Lecture series in St. Louis	2015
Editorial Honorarium from the German Archaeological Institute	2015
Most downloaded dissertation of the year from Washington University	2014
Defended my dissertation with honors (equivalent to the highest honor rank in the European system)	2013
State Universities of New York Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence	2006
University at Buffalo Advanced Honors	2006
Graduated Summa Cum Laude	2006
Anthropology Honors	2006
University Dean’s List every semester of undergraduate program	2006
Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society	2006
Lambda Alpha National Anthropology Honor Society	2004
The National Scholars Honor Society	2004
Golden Key International Honor Society	2004
Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society	2003

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### FIELD EXPERIENCE

Remote Co-Director of the Bukhara citadel excavations, Archaeobotany portion, in collaboration with the Institute of Archaeology in Samarkand	2020
Director and Paleoethnobotanist of the Paykent archaeological project in Uzbekistan, as part of the Uzbek-Russia Expedition	2019
Director and Paleoethnobotanist of the Afrasiab archaeological project in Uzbekistan, excavations run through the Institute of Archaeology in Samarkand	2019
Paleoethnobotanist at the Tashbulak Medieval village site in Uzbekistan	2018
Paleoethnobotanist for a series of collaborative projects across Mongolia	2018
Paleoethnobotanist at the Bash Tapa Iron Age fortress and tell site near the Bukhara Oasis in Uzbekistan	2018
Paleoethnobotanist for the B6K Project in Swat Valley Pakistan	2017
Paleoethnobotanist at the Bash Tapa Iron Age fortress and tell site near the Bukhara Oasis in Uzbekistan	2017
Paleoethnobotanist for a series of collaborative projects across Mongolia	2017
Paleoethnobotanist at the Tashbulak Medieval village site in Uzbekistan	2017
Paleoethnobotanist at the Bash Tapa Iron Age fortress and tell site near the Bukhara Oasis in Uzbekistan	2016
Paleoethnobotanist for a series of collaborative projects across Mongolia	2016
Paleoethnobotanist at the Tashbulak Medieval village site in Uzbekistan	2016
Paleoethnobotanist for a series of collaborative projects across Mongolia	2015
Excavator and Paleoethnobotanist at the Tashbulak Medieval village site in Uzbekistan	2015
Excavator and Paleoethnobotanist at the Mayli Kotan site in Uzbekistan	2013
Excavator and Paleoethnobotanist at the Dali and Tasbas sites in Kazakhstan	2011
Paleoethnobotanist on Turkmenistan excavations, Ojakly site	2010
Excavator and Paleoethnobotanist at Tuzusai site in Kazakhstan	2010
Surface survey on the Chengdu Plains Archaeological Survey Project in Chengdu, China	2010
Surface survey on the Chengdu Plains Archaeological Survey Project in Chengdu, China	2009

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### FIELD EXPERIENCE (Continued)

Excavator and Paleoethnobotanist at Tuzusai site in Kazakhstan	2009
Excavator in Semerich'ye, Kazakhstan at Iron Age burial site	2008
Paleoethnobotanist and Surveyor in Semerich'ye, Kazakhstan	2007
Surveyor at Rochester Museum of History Cultural Resource Management	2006
Excavator and Palynologist at Thy, Denmark, part of an international cooperative research project on Viking/Medieval settlements; studying pollen cores at Viking sites in Northern Denmark	2005
Excavator in Western New York State, Late Woodland Site through the University at Buffalo Cultural Research Management Program	2005

### RESEARCH ACTIVITIES (Select Examples)

Paleontological and Pleistocene studies of human plant interactions across the mountains of Central Asia. Paleobotanical studies of a series of sites spanning Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan (collaboration with Svetlanna Schnieder, Novosibirsk Institute)	2018 – Present
The Anthropocene River Project – studying the impacts of megafaunal grazers (Bizon) on the progenitors of the North American lost crops (collaboration with Natalie Mueller, Cornell University)	2018 – Present
Archaeobotanical studies at the BK6 archaeological site in the Swat Valley of Northern Pakistan, excavations directed by Luca Oliviere, Bologna University	2017 – Present
Megafaunal extinctions and their impacts on the progenitors of our domesticated crops: did the loss of the world's giant mammals drive the domestication of plants	2017 – Present
Fruits of Eurasia: Domestication and Dispersal Project (FEDD) – studying the origins and spread of fruit and nut trees in Eurasia	2016 – Present
Paleoethnobotanical analysis for the Bash Tepa site in eastern Uzbekistan, directed by Sören Stark, in collaboration with international team of specialists	2016 – Present
Paleoethnobotanists on four separate projects in Mongolia, spanning the late Paleolithic through the Xiongnu period, directed by several different researchers	2016 – Present
Paleoethnobotanical analysis for the Tashbulak site, dating to the Medieval period of Uzbekistan, directed by Farhad and Frachetti, in collaboration with an international team of specialists	2015 – Present

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### RESEARCH ACTIVITIES (Select Examples, Continued)

Paleoethnobotanical analysis for the Adji Kui and Togolok Bronze Age settlement sites in Turkmenistan, directed by Barbara Cerasetti and her team from the University of Bologna, Italy	2013 – Present
Organized and hosted the International Training Course in Scientific Methods of Archaeology in Jena, Germany	2018
Organized and hosted an international conference on the archaeology of Central Asia in Jena, Germany, titled “Breadth of Dietary Economy in Central Asian Prehistory”	2017
Organized and hosted an international conference in Berlin German through the German Institute of Archaeology, titled, “Introduction and Intensification of Agriculture in Central Eurasia: The Exception to the Rule or the Exception the Proves the Rule?”	2014
Paleoethnobotanical analysis for Vasilkovka and Krasnyi-Yar, Northern Kazakhstan (3700 – 3100 B.C.), conducted by the Carnegie Museum of Natural History and the Presidential Cultural Center of Kazakhstan	2013
Project Paleoethnobotanist for a series of different excavation projects in Mongolia conducted during the summer of 2012, 2014, and 2015, variously directed by Julia Clark, Lisa Janz, and their colleagues	2012 – 2015
Project Paleoethnobotanist for the Tasbas site in Semirech’ye, Kazakhstan, principle investigator Paula Doumani	2011 – 2015
Part of a team conducting paleoethnobotanical analyses on material from three sites in Tibet, Changuogou, Kung Lung Silver Castle, and Din Dun. The project is in collaboration with Jade d’Alpoim Guedes, Lu Hongliang, Li Yongxian, Wu Xiaohong, and Mark S. Aldenderfer	2010 – 2013
Project Paleoethnobotanist for the site of Ojakly in the Kara Kum of Turkmenistan, principle investigators Lynne Rouse and Barbara Cerasetti. Excavations at Ojakly and subsequent analyses were funded by NSF Grant No. 1036942, Wenner-Gren Grant No. 8157, the George F. Dales Foundation, and the International Research & Exchanges Board IARO Grant program. As an extension of this project I am analyzing material from sites 1211 and 1219, excavated under the directorship of Maurizio Cattani	2010 – 2015

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### RESEARCH ACTIVITIES (Select Examples, Continued)

- Worked as the Project Paleoethnobotanist and excavator at the Tuzusai excavation in Kazakhstan. The excavation was conducted by the Kazakh-American Talgar Archaeological Project under the directorship of Claudia Chang. Archaeobotanical research was funded by NSF (2010-2011), Grant Number 1010678 “Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant: Plant Use and Domestic Economy Among Eurasian Mobile Pastoralists: Semirech’ye, Kazakhstan, during the Bronze and Iron Age Interface”, PI/Co-Pi: M. Frachetti and R.N. Spengler III 2009 – 2015
- Worked as part of the Dzhungar Mountains Archaeological Project during two field seasons. In the Semerich’ye region of southeastern Kazakhstan, I conducted macrobotanical studies using floatation, surface survey, and excavation. The project is directed by Michael Frachetti and is partially funded by NSF, Grant Number 0211431 “Dzhungar Mountains Archaeological Project”, principle investigator Michael D. Frachetti 2007 – 2015
- Studied classical and Medieval history in Rome, Italy and at the Vatican as part of an honors contract through the University at Buffalo. “Medieval Catholic Pilgrimages to Rome” a study of the early Christian practice of pilgrimages to Rome 2005
- Honors Thesis - a procedural thesis showing the validity and importance of the early acetolysis techniques in modern archeology. Conducted palynological analysis on two Danish archeological sites during the summer of 2005. The sites were being excavated under the funding of NSF, Grant Number SBR-0314407, “Decentralized Societies and the Development of Secondary States”, Principle Investigator Tina L. Thurston 2003 – 2006

### CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP ORGANIZATION

- “Food Sustainability in the Ancient World” workshop at the Max Planck Institute in Jena, Germany – Co-organizer 2019
- “International Applications in Archaeological Science” workshop at the Max Planck Institute in Jena, Germany – Organizer 2019
- “Breadth of Dietary Economy in Central Asian Prehistory” workshop at the Max Planck Institute in Jena, Germany – Co-organizer 2018
- “International Applications in Archaeological Science” workshop at the Max Planck Institute in Jena, Germany – Organizer 2018
- “Introduction and Intensification of Agriculture in Central Eurasia” workshop at the German Archaeological Institute, Berlin 2015

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### PRESENTATIONS

- Invited remote lecture through the Evolutionary Biology Department at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology. Anthropogenic Evolution Under Early Plant Cultivation 2020
- Invited lecture at Nara University, Japan, to explore the potential for biomolecular methods in millet detection on ancient ceramics. Ancient Crop Dispersals Through Central Asia 2020
- Talk at the “Beyond Walls Conference” on “The Diversity of Economic Plants in Ancient Central Asia” in Berlin, Germany 2019
- Talk at SAB in Jena, Germany, on the progress of research in the archaeobotany laboratories 2019
- Invited talk on Fruits of the Silk Road and discussions at the “Spread of Agriculture into Tibet and Neighboring Regions” conference at Northwest University in Xian, China 2019
- Invited talk on the “Evolution of Crops under Early Cultivation” as part of the Bison Seed Dispersal Project at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri 2019
- Invited talk at the Friday Archaeology Lecture series on “Revising our Approach to Plant Domestication Studies” at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri 2019
- Invited talk at the “Origins of Agriculture in Tibet” workshop at Northwestern University in Xian, China, on “The Spread of Agriculture Across the Inner Asian Mountains.” 2019
- Invited talk at the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University on the “Fruits of the Silk Road” 2019
- Co-organized the “Food Sustainability in the Ancient World” workshop at the Max Planck 2019 Institute in Jena, Germany – Co-organizer and presented and opening talk 2019
- Talk at the “Food Sustainability in the Ancient World” workshop on “The contentious links between agricultural intensification and Urbanization: The case study of the steppe empires” 2019
- Talk on the “Fruits of the Silk Road: The spread of Agriculture through Central Asia” in the Silk Road series at the Institute for Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology in Beijing, China 2019
- Keynote speech on the “Spread of Agriculture along the pre-Silk Road” in the SIDRR2019: Paleoenvironmental Change and Disaster along the Silk Roads at the Beijing International Convention Center in Beijing, China 2019



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### PRESENTATIONS (Continued)

- Lecture at the International Workgroup on Paleoethnobotany Meetings in Lecce, Italy, on the “Role of Seed Dispersal Shifts in Early Crop Domestication” 2019
- Talk at the Anthropocene River Midway Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri: “Ongoing Research into Ancient Anthropogenic Changes in the American Midwest” 2019
- Talk in the Frontiers of Plant Domestication Studies Session at the Society for American Archaeology Meetings in Albuquerque, New Mexico: “Shifting Seed-dispersal Mechanisms Under Early Plant Cultivation” 2019
- Talk at the International Application of Archaeological Science, “Archaeobotanical Methods and Applications” 2019
- Talk at the International Application of Archaeological Science, “Closing Remarks” 2019
- Talk at the Chinese visiting scholars symposium at the Max Planck Institute in Jena, Germany: “Apple Domestication and Dispersal: Megafaunal Drivers” 2018
- Talk at the “Millets of Ancient Eurasia” Symposium at the Max Planck Institute in Jena, Germany: “Millets were not the only crop grown in ancient Central Asia” 2018
- Talk at the European Association of Archaeologists, Barcelona, Spain, session: “Farming Under the Crescent Moon: Agriculture in the medieval Islamic world,” “Archaeobotanical Studies at the Tashbulak Archaeological Site during the Qarakhanid Period” 2018
- Talk at the European Association of Archaeologists, Barcelona, Spain, session: “Water Management in Ancient Central Asia” “Using Archaeobotanical Data to Discuss Irrigation Systems in Ancient Central Asia” 2018
- Talk at the Conference of the Society for East Asian Archaeology, Nanjing, China, “Archaeobotany of the Silk Road” 2018
- Discussant Talk at the Conference of the Society for East Asian Archaeology, Nanjing, China, “Stretching North East Asian Prehistory: Integrating Linguistics and Genetics with Archaeology” 2018
- Talk at the Comparative Pathways to Agriculture Symposium 2018; “Early Arboriculture in Eurasia” Sponsored by the ComPAG ERC project and the Domestication, Human Niche Construction and the Anthropocene Research Network of the UCL Institute of Archaeology. University College London. 2018
- Talk at the International Congress on Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (ICAANE), session: “Redefining Interaction and Mobility in Prehistoric southern Central Asian Archaeology,” “Archaeobotany of the Silk Road” 2018

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### PRESENTATIONS (Continued)

- Talk at the International Application of Archaeological Science, “Archaeobotanical Methods and Applications” 2018
- Talk at the International Application of Archaeological Science, “Closing Remarks” 2018
- Invited Lecture for The Oxford Centre for Asian Archaeology, Art & Culture School of Archaeology, University of Oxford, “Fruits of the Silk Road” 2018
- Invited Lecture for The Oxford Centre for Asian Archaeology, Art & Culture School of Archaeology, University of Oxford, “How Nomadic were the Eurasian Nomads?” 2018
- Invited Lecture for the Paleontology Department at Free University Berlin, “Ongoing Research and Laboratory Facilities at the Jena Max Planck Branch” 2017
- Talk at the Central Asia Workshop that I co-organized for the Max Planck Institute for the science of Human History, Jena, Germany "Breadth of Dietary Economy in Central Asian Prehistory" 2017
- Invited Lecture for the Graduate School "Human Development in Landscapes" and the CRC 1266 "Scales of transformation" Lecture Series at Kiel University, “Millet Dispersal” 2017
- Invited Lecture for the Friends of the Archaeological Institute of America, New York Branch, “Fruits of the Silk Road”, New York City 2017
- Invited lecture for the Critical Topics Lecture Series through the Global Issues program at the New York University of Professional Studies, “Fruits of the Silk Road”, New York City 2017
- Society for American Archaeology Meetings, *Chenopodium* Session, “*Chenopodium* Seeds in the Archaeobotanical Record of Inner Asia”, Vancouver, Canada 2017
- Society for American Archaeology Meetings, Fryxell Award Session Honoring Naomi Miller, “Revisiting the Topic of Dung Burning in the Archaeobotanical Record of Central Asia”, Vancouver, Canada 2017
- Invited lecture for the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, “Eurasian Agriculture Spread”, Jena, Germany 2017
- Invited lecture for The Archaeological Institute of America, Westchester Society, “Fruits of the Silk Road”, Westchester, New York 2017
- Invited lecture at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University, Lecture Series. “Fruits of the Silk Road: The spread of agriculture through Central Asia”, New York City 2016

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### PRESENTATIONS (Continued)

- Guest Lecture at New York University, invited by Sören Stark, “Looking Back to the Origins of the Silk Road” 2016
- Presented in the Friday Archaeology Lecture Series at Washington University. “Anthropogenic Landscapes of Prehistoric Central Eurasia: Archaeobotanical studies of agricultural niche construction” 2015
- Opening and closing talks at the international conference on the “Introduction and Intensification of Agriculture in Central Eurasia”, held at the German Archaeological Institute in Berlin, Germany 2015
- Presented at the Turkmenistan Ministry of Culture’s conference on “Paleoethnobotanical Methods for the Study of Early Agriculture and Cuisine in the Prehistory of Central Asia” in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, “Experience of Turkmenistan in Research and Museumification of Archaeological Findings” 2014
- Presented in the Geokolloquium Series in Earth Sciences at Free University, Berlin. “Spread of Agriculture into Central Eurasia and the Third Millennium B.C. Corridor of Exchange” 2014
- Presented at the Society for American Archaeology Meetings, Symposium: “Contrasting Patterns of Collecting, Treatment and Use of Stems and Fiber for Crafts in Hunter-Gatherer versus Horticultural and Agropastoral Groups”, Titled: Textiles as an Early Silk Road Commodity: Mobile Pastoralists in Central Asia” 2014
- Presented at the Society for American Archaeology Meetings, Symposium: “Ongoing research in Eurasian archaeology”, Titled: “Late Third Millennium B.C. Agriculture in the Foothills of Central Asia: A Mixing Zone for East and South Asian Crops” 2014
- Presented at the Economic Botany Meetings in Plymouth, England, Titled: “Late Third Millennium B.C. Agricultural Innovations in Central Asia” 2013
- Presented in the session “Food Globalization in Prehistory” at the International Work Group in Palaeoethnobotany Meetings, in Thessaloniki, Greece, Titled: “The Central Eurasian Corridor of Exchange and the Spread of Agriculture: Late Third and Second Millennia B.C.” 2013
- Presented at the Eurasian Archaeology Conference at Cornell, Titled: “The End or Beginning of Nomadism: The Spread of Agriculture and Community Diversification in the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages in Eastern Central Asia” 2012
- Presented at the Society for American Archaeology Meetings, Southwest Asian Session, Titled: “Ecotopes and Herd Foraging Practices in the Bronze and Iron Age, Steppe and Mountain Ecotone of Central Asia” 2012

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### PRESENTATIONS (Continued)

- Presented at Friday Archaeology Lecture Series at Washington University in St. Louis, Titled: "Central Eurasian Crop Corridor: Tracking the Path of Wandering Crops" 2012
- Presented at the Society for American Archaeology Meetings, Eurasian Steppe Archaeology Session, Titled: "Paleoethnobotanical Studies in Eastern Kazakhstan: The Bronze and Iron Age Interface" 2011
- Invited talk at Friday Archaeology Lecture Series at Washington University in St. Louis, Titled: "Mountain Pastoralism: Working Agriculture into the Diversity of Archaeological Central Eurasian Pastoral Economies" 2011
- Invited talk at Sichuan University in Chengdu, China, Titled: "Agriculture in Bronze and Iron Age Central Asia" 2010
- Invited talk at Buffalo State College, Titled: "Plants and Mobile Pastoralists: A Case Study from Kazakhstan, during the Bronze Age" 2010
- Invited talk at the International Ordos, Inner Mongolia Conference, Titled: "Plants in the Diet of Mobile Pastoralists: Begash, Kazakhstan, during the Bronze Age" 2010
- Presented at the Society for American Archaeology Meetings, Eurasian Session, Titled: "Plants in the Diet of Mobile Pastoralist: Semirech'ye, Kazakhstan during the Early Iron Age" 2010
- Presented at Friday Archaeology Lecture Series at Washington University in St. Louis, Titled: "Floating Some Models for the Role of Agriculture: Results from a Summer of Flotation in Kazakhstan" 2009
- Presented at Friday Archaeology Lecture Series at Washington University in St. Louis, Titled: "Some Food for Thought: Preliminary Results from Begash, Kazakhstan" 2008
- Presented completed research on palynological analysis of archaeological sites in western New York and northern Denmark at the University at Buffalo Celebration of Academic Excellence 2006
- Presented data from palynological analysis on archeological sites in western New York and northern Denmark at Annual Honors Research Forum 2005
- Presented data from a palynological analysis of archeological sites in western New York at the University at Buffalo Celebration of Academic Excellence 2004
- Presented a preliminary study of the acetolysis technique at the Annual Honors Research Forum 2004
- Biographical article of my research published in the fall issue of "UB Today" 2004

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### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

I have prepared and presented dozens of lectures on a wide range of topics over the past seven years. I have held teaching assistantship positions at Washington University in St. Louis, Free University, Berlin, and New York University. My experience includes running laboratory sessions, lecturing to undergraduates, leading seminars, advising graduate and undergraduate students in office hours, and directing methods courses in the field and in the laboratory. I have considerable experience teaching and three full courses prepared and ready to implement.

Organizer and moderator of the weekly Archaeobotany discussion group, Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History	2019
Faculty Instructor, Origins of Agriculture, Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History	2019
International Applications in the Archaeological Sciences, Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History	2019
International Applications in the Archaeological Sciences, Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History	2018
Faculty Instructor, Free University, Berlin, The Archaeology of Food in Asia: Archaeobotanical Approaches	2014
Faculty Instructor, Free University, Berlin, Ethnobotany and Paleoethnobotany: Methods and Theory	2014
Teaching Assistant, Washington University, Public Health Statistics	2014
Teaching Assistant, Washington University, Human Developmental Variation	2013
Teaching Assistant, Washington University, Brave New Crops	2012
Teaching Assistant, Washington University, Social Landscapes in Global View	2011
Teaching Assistant, Washington University, Brave New Crops	2010
Teaching Assistant, Washington University, Rich Nations and Poor Nations	2009
Teaching Assistant, Washington University, Anthropology and Public Health	2009
Teaching Assistant, Washington University, Plants and People: Ethnobotany and Paleoethnobotany	2008
Teaching Assistant, Washington University, Africa: Peoples and Cultures	2008
Teaching Assistant, Washington University, Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	2007
Teaching Assistant, Washington University, Introduction to Archaeology	2007

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### **GRADUATE SUPERVISION**

Li Tang – Graduate Supervisor	2018 – Present
Traci Billings – Graduate Supervisor	2018 – Present
Basire Mir Mahamad – Graduate Supervisor	2019 – Present
Barbara Zach – Graduate Supervisor	2019 – Present

### **COURSES**

Domestication: Nature’s Greatest Success

The Archaeology of Food

Ethnobotany and Paleoethnobotany: Methods and Theory

### **MEMBERSHIP IN SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES**

European Archaeological Association	2017 – Present
East Asian Archaeological, member	2017 – Present
Economic Botany, member	2014 – Present
Ethnobiology, member	2013 – Present
Society for American Archaeology, member	2010 – Present
International Workgroup of Paleoethnobotany, member	2010 – Present

### **ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICES**

Max Planck and Fredrich-Schiller University Collaborative School, Faculty	2018 – Present
International Applications in Archaeological Science, Committee Chair	2017 – Present
Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History Visiting Guests Organizational Committee Chair	2017 – Present
Microfossil Laboratory, Director/Supervisor	2017 – Present

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### **ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICES (Continued)**

Microscopy and Scanning Electron Microscope Facilities, Director	2017 – Present
Archaeobotanical/Macrobotanical Laboratory, Director	2016 – Present
Graduate Student Committee, Member	2010 – 2013

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Order of the Arrow	
Vigil Honor Member, and volunteer Adult Advisor	2005 – Present
Chapter Ceremonial Chairman	1999 – 2005
Lodge Ceremonial Chairman	1999 – 2004
Boy Scouts of America	
Eagle Scout, and volunteer Assistant Leader	2003 – 2009
Youth leadership roles	1996 – 2003
University at Buffalo Anthropology Club	2003 – 2004

### **GRADUATE ADVISORS**

Michael Frchetti	Washington University, St. Louis, MO
Gayle J. Fritz	Washington University, St. Louis, MO
Fiona B. Marshall	Washington University, St. Louis, MO
T. R. Kidder	Washington University, St. Louis, MO
Claudia Chang	Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, VA

### **SECONDARY LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY**

Russian	Moderate reading and speaking ability
French	Moderate reading ability