

**Faculty Member Contact Information**

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|---------------------|------------------|
| <b>Name</b>         | Susan Kooiman    |
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| <b>Department</b>   | Anthropology     |

**1 Funded, 1 Unfunded URCA Assistant**

|  |                                                                                             |                                                                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | This position is <b>ONLY</b> open to students who have declared a major in this discipline. | <b>M</b>                                                                              |
|  | This project deals with social justice issues.                                              |    |
|  | This project deals with sustainability (green) issues.                                      |    |
|  | This project deals with human health and wellness issues.                                   |  |
|  | This project deals with community outreach.                                                 |  |
|  | This mentor's project is interdisciplinary in nature.                                       | <b>I</b>                                                                              |

**Are you willing to work with students from outside of your discipline? If yes, which other disciplines?**

Yes

**How many hours per week will your student(s) be required to work in this position?**  
(Minimum is 6 hours per week; typical is 9)

8

**Will it be possible for your student(s) to earn course credit?**

No

**Location of research/creative activities:**

**Brief description of the nature of the research/creative activity?**

The selected applicant will be part of two projects. The first is an ongoing archaeological investigation of the Gehring site, which is located on the SIUE campus. This is a multi-component Indigenous site that was occupied between 2000 to 800 years ago. It is the site of our SIUE field school, and goals are to better understand local Middle Woodland lifeways and the lives of Mississippians living on the Cahokia periphery. The artifacts collected and during the Summer 2024 excavation season require analysis and curation. Furthermore, the comparative collection of local examples of archaeological materials, along with other artifacts and casts, is housed in the Anthropology Lab. This collection is vital to the analysis of the Gehring artifact assemblage and requires proper cataloging and organization to properly fulfill its function of informing interpretations of Gehring site materials.

The second investigates the Ancient Environment and Indigenous Foodways in the Northern Great Lakes of North America. This project includes understanding past environments and how they shaped and were shaped by Indigenous occupants during the last 2000 years. The project includes a variety of research endeavors, including excavation of interior sites, lake sediment coring, which provides information about paleoenvironment and ancient agricultural practices, and stable isotope analysis of food residues from cooking experiments, which will aid in interpretations of analysis of ancient food residues in the future.

**Brief description of student responsibilities?**

Duties include artifact analysis and curation; artifact analysis, inventorying and cataloging; data collection and organization (using Excel and other programs); assisting with writing and compilation of archaeological report and/or article for publication.

**URCA Assistant positions are designed to provide students with *research or creative activities* experience. As such, there should be measurable, appropriate outcome goals. What exactly should your student(s) have learned by the end of this experience?**

**Yes**

### **Requirements of Students**

**If the position(s) require students to be available at certain times each week (as opposed to them being able to set their own hours) please indicate all required days and times:**

**Applicants must be highly organized, should have a good understanding of archaeology and have good writing and communication skills; they should have some understanding of Excel, and they should be detail-oriented. Applicants should also be enthusiastic a**

**If the location of the research/creative activities involves off campus work, must students provide their own transportation?**

Not off-campus

**Must students have taken any prerequisite classes? Please list classes and preferred grades:**

No required prerequisite courses, but students with coursework in archaeology will be given priority.

**Other requirements or notes to applicants:**