

Graduate Student Spotlight



Jonathan Thomas

PhD - Anthropology

BA, Anthropology and German Literature -
Johns Hopkins University
MA, Anthropology - The University of Iowa

**Winner of 3rd Place in the Social Sciences &
Education Division at the 2007 James F.
Jakobsen Graduate Conference**

Please describe your thesis project in a short sentence.

I am conducting a multivariate analysis on the Late Neolithic engraved slate plaques of southwestern Iberia in order to better understand social complexity and plaque production as a social practice.

How did you decide to go to graduate school?

Because I hope to one day teach and research at the college level, as well as pursue a professional career in archaeology.

What made you decide to go to graduate school at Iowa?

They made me an offer I couldn't refuse.

What are your long-term goals beyond your graduate degree?

I hope to one day teach and research at the college level, as well as pursue a professional career in archaeology.

How has being a graduate student at Iowa prepared you to achieve those goals?

Thus far? Yes.

Are there any particular challenges you've faced as a graduate student at Iowa?

Financially, graduate school can be very tough.

You are a winner of one of the top awards at the Jakobsen Conference in a previous year. What did you enjoy most about the Jakobsen Conference experience?

I enjoyed seeing all of the fascinating and promising projects individuals from other departments are working on here at the University of Iowa. We certainly are lucky to have such a diverse and talented pool of graduate students.

What are some of your interests outside of school?

Writing, and watching my 3 month old daughter progress through successive developmental stages.

Do you have a particular mentor who has played an important role in the development of your thesis or your career trajectory?

Dr. Katina Lillios of the University of Iowa and Dr. Grant McCall of Tulane University.

Please note any significant honors you've received .

2007 UISG Research Grant, 2007 UISG Travel Grant, 2007 GSS Travel Grant, 2007 Department of Anthropology Graduate Fellow Appointment, 2006 Archaeological Institute of America Dorot Graduate Student Award, 2006 Stanley Award for Graduate Student Research Abroad, 2006 UISG Research Grant, 2006 Department of Anthropology Graduate Fellow Appointment

Hometown: South Amana, Iowa

Advisor: Katrina Lillios