A Community of Care: Patterns of pathology and trauma with a focus on the Bioarchaeology of Care at Carrier Mills, IL (10,000 – 1000 BP).

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Disease and disability are universal human experiences which come to be endowed with cultural meaning. Bioarchaeology has only recently begun to engage with the social and economic implications of illness, impairment, disability and healthcare in the past. In this dissertation, I will analyze the health status, morbidity load, and possibility of healthcare in a Middle Archaic (8000 – 5000 BP) and Early Woodland (3000 – 2500 BP) hunter-gatherer population from Southern Illinois using two theoretical frameworks: The World Health Organization’s Global Burden of Disease and the Bioarchaeology of Care. The Global Burden of Disease uses multiple factors and trade-offs in community adaptation at local and regional scales presenting a means for explaining the demographic and social consequences of poor health in the past. The Bioarchaeology of Care theoretical framework provides a four-step methodology for analyzing the broader implications of health-related care in the past using human skeletal remains. Using these frameworks, I will explore the consequences of disease and disability and how these consequences were dealt with in a prehistoric community.

Date: Thursday, May 2nd
Time: 3:00 – 4:30 pm
Location: Anthropology Conference Room, WRI B114