

## **Sarah Johnson**

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### **Interests**

Paleoanthropology | forensic anthropology | locomotor biomechanics | evolution of human hand morphology | Cave exploration | MIA/POW recovery and repatriation

### **Education**

<b>Ph.D., Biological Anthropology</b> University of Wisconsin-Madison Advisor: Dr. John Hawks	<b>Expected 2026</b>
<b>MA in Biological Anthropology</b> University of Wisconsin Madison	<b>2021-2023</b>
<b>BS in Forensic Science</b> Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO	<b>2017-2021</b>
<b>BA in Anthropology</b> Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO	<b>2017-2021</b>

### **Positions Held**

<b>Teaching Assistant- University of Wisconsin Madison</b> Madison, WI <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Instructed Introduction to Biological Anthropology Lab (8 semesters)</li></ul>	<b>2021-present</b>
<b>Internship- St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department Crime Laboratory</b> St. Louis, MO <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Drug chemistry, fingerprint, biological screening, and DNA lab experience</li></ul>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Archive specialist</b> Madison, WI <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Created comprehensive catalogs for all skeletal artifact at the UW Madison School of Medicine</li></ul>	<b>2021</b>

### **Honors & Awards**

University of Wisconsin-Madison Graduate Service Award	<b>May 2025</b>
University of Wisconsin-Madison Student Research Grants Competition	<b>May 2025</b>
AABA poster presentation session	<b>April 2023</b>
Guest Panelist at Project Recover screening of To What Remains	<b>2021</b>
Enhanced Merit and Deans Scholarships, Saint Louis University	<b>2017-2021</b>

## Fieldwork

### Project Recover

2018 - present

2018 Mission: Babeldaob, Republic of Palau

- Conducted jungle-based reconnaissance surveys
- Analyzed 1946 Japanese court transcripts and hand-drawn maps to coordinate search areas
- Interviewed Palauan elders to identify potential search areas

2024 Mission: Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia

- Investigation and excavation of a field site identified as the location of a possible burial of an American aviator from WWII based on oral histories obtained from a local Chuukese family

### The National Geographic Society Rising Star Project

2022 - present

PI's: Dr. Keneiloe Molopyane, Dr. Lee Berger

2022 field season: Johannesburg, South Africa

- Excavated in Gladysvale Cave and assisted in brecciated fossil identification
- Excavated within the Dragon's Back chamber in the Rising Star cave system as part of a 4-member team

2023 field season: Johannesburg, South Africa

- Continued excavation within the Dragon's back chamber in the Rising Star cave system
- Completed research on South African hominin fossils at the University of Witwatersrand

2025 field season: Johannesburg, South Africa

- Participated in surface excavation of Gladysvale Cave and Malapa Hominin Site
- Assisted with the reconstruction of Australopithecus Sediba individual MH1
- Conducted extensive subterranean survey and documentation of fossils and cultural evidence within the Rising Star Cave system

## Skills & Certifications

- PADI Scuba Certification
  - Advanced Open Water, Mine Diver Specialty, Enriched Air Diver
- Rock Climbing Certification
  - Top rope, Belay, Single Rope Technique
- Caving / Spelunking
- Biomechanical design and analysis
- EXScan Pro Software modeling, Shining3D scanning, MeshLab, Meshmixer
- 3-Dimensional Geometric Morphometrics
- R studio (programming language)
- Site mapping, survey documentation, and technical writing

## Publications

Johnson SN, Hawks JD. Variation in the flexor sheath ridge morphology of primates. 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Association of Biological Anthropologists; 2023 March

24; Reno, NV, United States. Available from:  
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ajpa.24731> DOI: 10.1002/ajpa.24731

Johnson, Sarah. "*Homo Neanderthalensis*: A Reflection of Us." *World History: Ancient and Medieval Eras*, ABC-CLIO, 2023, [ancienthistory2.abc-clio.com/Search/Display/2337836](https://www.ancienthistory2.abc-clio.com/Search/Display/2337836). Accessed 21 July 2023.

Tara, C. J., Marchi D., Walker, C., Vereecke, E., Churchill, S. E., Congdon, K. A., DeSilva, J. M., Zipfel, B., Hawks, J., Jan, S. V. S., Sholukha, V., Krainz, H., Noble, E. R., Johnson, S. J., Harcourt-Smith, W. E. H., Berger, L. R., & Throckmorton, Z. (submitted). Long limbs and small joints: The intriguing lower limb morphology of *Homo naledi*. [Manuscript submitted for publication].

## Service

**UW Madison Science Expeditions Outreach Event** **2024**  
Coordinated and ran and interactive Exploration Station for a UW-Madison outreach event partnered with the J.F Crow Institute for the Study of Evolution

**UW-Madison Darwin Day Event** **2024**  
Coordinated and ran an interactive outreach station at the UW-Madison Darwin Day event to teach children about hominin evolution.

**Biological Anthropology Graduate Student Representative** **2021-2023**  
University of Wisconsin- Madison

**Speaker at Hamilton middle school** **2021**  
Participated in outreach focused on educating students on evolution and archaeology

**Project Recover Outreach Event Coordinator** **2021**  
Organized and advertised an outreach event at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to promote the Project Recover's documentary "To What Remains"

**Anthropology Club, Secretary** **2020-2021**  
Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Mo

**Lambda Alpha** **2020**  
National Collegiate Honor Society for Anthropology