

CHELSEA BRENNAN

MUSEUM PREPARATOR &
MASTERS STUDENT

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📍 Lawrence, KS

EDUCATION

August 2025 - Present

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

- Master of Museum Studies (Pending 2027)
 - Concentration in Conservation and Collections Management

2020 - 2023

COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY

- Bachelor of History and Anthropology
 - Concentrations in Historical and Biological Archaeology
 - Cum Laude

2022

JAMESTOWN REDISCOVERY

- Archaeology Field School

SKILLS

- Knowledge of Archaeological/Historical Preservation Techniques
- Extensive Knowledge in 18th-20th Century History
- Data Collection and Analysis
- Public Speaking
- Organization
- Critical Thinking
- Proficiency with Various Softwares (Google Suite, MS Office, GIS, PastPerfect, CatalogIt)

WORK EXPERIENCE

■ **February 2026 - Present**

Vaile Mansion - DeWitt Museum

Collections Manager

- Currently creating a publicly accessible cataloging system for the entirety of the collection
- Doing general repair and conservation on various items throughout the museum
- Establishing all necessary policies and documentation for the museum, such as a collections policy, deed of gift forms, accession/deaccession policies, and research guidelines

■ **September 2025 - Present**

KU Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Institute

Department of Vertebrate Paleontology Intern

- Aids the Collections Manager in object rehousing and recataloging
- Participates in preparation and preservation of small vertebrates within the collection
- Assists department staff in tours and special events

■ **August 2025 - Present**

KU Dole Institute of Politics

Graduate Archives Assistant

- Aids in the processing, accessioning, transcribing, and general care of Senate collection archival materials
- Assists visiting researchers in accessing and proper handling of archival papers and objects
- Aids in the education of visiting classes and groups on the lives of Senators Bob and Elizabeth Dole
- Aids in the setup, take down, and production of special events hosted within the Dole Institute for students, veterans, and the general community

■ **September 2021 - August 2025**

Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Historic Brickyard Interpreter (May 2023 - November 2023 and April 2025 - August 2025)

- Created and wood fired over 10,000 bricks across 3 historic restoration projects in accordance to 18th-century brick making practices
- Provided educational opportunities and interpretation of the historic brick making process to guests

Archaeological Conservation Laboratory Intern (September 2021 - February 2024)

- Assisted in artifact preservation and protection through chemical cleaning, dry brush cleaning, and air abrasion
- Conserved artifacts of various materials, such as metal, glass, ceramics, and bone

■ **February 2024 - August 2025**

US Ghost Adventures

Haunted Tour Guide

- Provide an engaging and interactive tour experience utilizing historical evidence, local stories, and multiple locations
- Maintain a safe and fun environment for up to 50 visitors at a time

■ **May 2024 - March 2025**

Virginia Living Museum

Lead Mastodon Preparator (May 2024 - March 2025)

- Reconstructed and repaired ~16,000 year old partial Mastodon skeleton using acetone-based adhesives and epoxies
- Managed and trained research fellows and volunteers in preparation techniques
- Lead public education involving conservation techniques and paleontological facts during preparatory work

Part-Time Exhibits Coordinator (October 2024 - March 2025)

- Worked amongst a team to design and construct multiple small exhibits, such as a recycling education station and an early learners sensory garden
- Assisted in the installation and deconstruction of three seasonal exhibits
- Assisted in general exhibit maintenance

■ **February 2024 - May 2024**

James River Institute for Archaeology

Archaeological Field Technician

- Showcased proficiency in numerous archaeological techniques, including trowel cleaning, artifact removal, stratigraphy recognition, ground penetrating radar, and feature mapping
- Worked cooperatively amongst a team of various Senior Archaeologists, Archaeological Field Technicians, and Field Supervisors

■ **September 2022 - December 2022**

Smithsonian's National Zoo

Reptile Center Intern

- Worked alongside zookeepers to master safe reptile handling techniques
- Aided in habitat cleaning, reptile feedings, and overall reptile wellness and care
- Properly handled a reptile while also presenting guests with reptile knowledge and conducting Q&A sessions