

ALECZANDRIA “ALEC” QUINN

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EDUCATION

MA	The George Washington University Museum Studies/Exhibitions and Visitor Experience	May 2026
BS	Appalachian State University Geology with Concentration in Paleontology Graduated Magna Cum Laude	July 2024

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Museum & Collections:** Exhibition design and installation (2D/3D), collections management, art handling, technical report writing, cataloguing (SOVA, Mimsy XG), event planning.
- **Paleontology & Geology:** Fossil prep/jacketing, molding/casting, fossil collections rehousing, fossil/rock/mineral identification, paleontological surveying, site excavation, stratigraphic mapping, geologic/paleo data collection.
- **Creative & Digital:** Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, Canva, 3D printing and modeling, scientific drawing, science communication and writing, public speaking, website design, social media management.
- **Education & Visitor Experience:** Inquiry-based facilitation, informal education, visitor engagement, age-appropriate programming, hands-on activity development, audience interpretation, A/V equipment setup and troubleshooting.

WORK EXPERIENCE

<i>Smithsonian NMAH, Washington DC</i>	<i>June 2026 - Present</i>
<i>Facilitator</i>	

- Facilitated hands-on, inquiry-based activities to inspire visitor engagement with American history across age groups and learning styles.
- Ensured a positive visitor experience through conversation, experimentation, and age-appropriate engagement.
- Maintained materials, interactives, and equipment in collaboration with the Experience Development Team.
- Recommended improvements to activity materials and signage, and contributed ideas for new programming aligned with museum priorities.
- Prototyped new content, tested signage, and assessed the efficacy of learning experiences to improve visitor outcomes.

<i>Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC</i>	<i>April 2026 – June 2026</i>
<i>Visitor Service Representative</i>	

- Welcomed and oriented visitors, providing information on exhibitions, programs, safety protocols, and institutional policies to ensure an accessible and engaging experience.

- Monitored visitor flow, conducted gallery walk-throughs, and reported safety, accessibility, or maintenance concerns to appropriate staff.
- Supported tours, educational programs, volunteer guidance, and digital interactive upkeep to enhance the overall visitor experience.
- Completed SI Cares Ambassador Training to enhance visitor experience and institutional impact.

Smithsonian Museum of American History, Washington DC Sept 2025 – May 2026
Curatorial Exhibit Development Intern

- Gained hands-on experience across curatorial practice, from object research and collections management to conceptual exhibition development.
- Gained hands-on experience with object and exhibition interpretation
- Researched and drafted acquisition requests and object labels for current and upcoming exhibitions.
- Conducted historical and material cultural research to support exhibition narratives and curatorial interpretation.
- Researched underrepresented figures in American entertainment history, including S.H. Dudley and Bert Williams (Black Vaudeville performers), Jack Soo (Japanese American comedian), and Phyllis Diller (female comedian who challenged gender roles).
- Wrote web exhibits for Rodney Dangerfield, Moms Mabley, and Jim Henson and the Muppets object group.
- Wrote web exhibits descriptions and categories for the comedy collections.
- Collaborated with the supervisor to edit and enhance the visuals of the book *Funny Stuff: How Comedy Shaped American History*. The book is a collaboration with the National Comedy Center and the Smithsonian Institution.
- Catalogued collections using the SOVA Database System and Mimsy XG.

Smithsonian Museum of Natural History | Washington DC May 2025 – Sept 2025
Paleobiology Intern

- Preparator for the Sundance Fossil Insect Collection: trimming, traying, numbering, databasing, and photographing specimens.

Smithsonian Museum of Natural History | Washington DC Dec 2024 - Present
Fossils Lab Volunteer

- Fossil preparation and jacketing; scientific drawings using a pantograph.

Smithsonian Museum of Natural History | Washington DC Sept 2024 – May 2025
School Volunteer Assistant

- Facilitated inquiry-based learning for K-12 students, guiding them through hands-on activities in paleontology and geology, and adapting content for different age groups and learning styles.
- Handled collections and supported education programming.

ASU Museum/Outreach Intern | ASU, Boone, NC Jan 2023 – May 2024

- Designed and installed paleontology and paleoart exhibits.

- Organized outreach events (fossil fairs, festivals) in collaboration with Schiele Museum and Virginia Museum of Natural History.
- 3D printing, fossil molding/casting, and graphic design (Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop).

Paleo Research Undergrad Assistant

July 2023 – Aug 2023

- Collaborating on the accuracy of *Otodus megalodon* displays; created 3D model of an of tooth file of *O. megalodon*

PUBLICATIONS / ARTICLES

Smithsonian Voices

- Quinn, A. (2025, April 22). Meet the National Museum of Natural History Volunteer Preserving Prehistory One Microfossil at a Time.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Papers

- Factors that Contributed to the *Tyrannosaurus Rex* Arm Length.
- Analyzing Reconstructions of the Giant Fossil Shark *Otodus megalodon* and Proposing a New Process Behind “*megalodon*” Exhibit Development.
- How Can Natural History Museums Present Science Such as Evolution while Welcoming Visitors with Diverse Beliefs (Ethics paper, GWU).
- Exhibiting Nation (Exhibition Curatorial Research & Planning class, GWU).

Curatorial Projects

- Food Reveals the True American Identity — a five-stop visitor pathway through the National Museum of African American History and Culture, using foodways to examine African, African American, and immigrant contributions to American cuisine and identity. Developed for a graduate class taught by an NMAAHC Visitor and Guest Services Director (Museum Studies, GWU).
- Researched and wrote the interpretive text for each stop: African-origin plants in the Heritage Garden and the agricultural knowledge of enslaved people; the Creole and West African roots of red beans and rice in New Orleans (Cultural Expressions); Black stand-up comedy records as a vehicle for conversations about race; Sweet Home Cafe; and the Museum Store.
- Designed the accompanying visitor prompts, polls, and a dinner-party activity built on the museum’s Family Recipe Oral History Tool Kit; drew on Jessica B. Harris, *The Africa Cookbook: Tastes of a Continent*, for the Museum Store stop.

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

Southeastern Geological Society of America Conference (Asheville, NC, April 2024)

- “Analyzing Reconstructions of the Giant Fossil Shark *Otodus megalodon* and Proposing a New Process Behind “*megalodon*” Exhibit Development.”

Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Conference (Minneapolis, MN, October 2024)

- “Analyzing Reconstructions of the Giant Fossil Shark *Otodus megalodon* and Proposing a New Process Behind “*megalodon*” Exhibit Development.”

FIELD STUDY EXPERIENCE

- ***Triassic Summer Field Study***: prospecting in TX, NM, UT, CO; data collection and museum behind-the-scenes.
- ***Geology Field Study*** (NC/TN): geological mapping and data collection.
- ***Italy Field Camp***: six-week field mapping and collaboration with Italian students and faculty.

EXHIBITIONS

American Made, Corcoran School of the Arts & Design, George Washington University (2025–2026)

- Helped curate a year-long graduate exhibition using objects from the Corcoran School of the Arts & Design collection.
- Participated in all aspects of exhibition development, including exhibition design, curation, project management, interactive design, script writing, programming, interpretation, installation, and evaluation.
- As the United States commemorates its 250th anniversary, the exhibition critically examines how the nation is constructed and imagined.

Americas, George Washington University (2025)

- Worked with artist Wessam Al-Badry on an exhibition interrogating who constitutes as an American.
- The centerpiece, a U.S. flag constructed from long-sleeved shirts, t-shirts, and denim pants, drew on Emiliano Zapata's slogan, "The land belongs to those who work it."

History of Paleo Art, McKinney Teaching Museum, Appalachian State University (2023)

- Curated and designed an exhibit tracing how paleoart has evolved from the emergence of paleontology as a scientific discipline in the 19th century to today.
- Featured historical illustrations from the 19th and 20th centuries alongside original paleoart created with a fellow paleontology student.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Museum Registration Methods, 6th Edition (2025)
- Exhibition Install: 2D/3D Art Workshop (GWU, 2024)
- Exhibition Planning Project Management Workshop (GWU, 2024)
- Print Identification Workshop (GWU, 2024)
- New Media: Tech/AV/Sound Design Workshop (GWU, 2024)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- D.C. Science Writers Association (2025 – Present)
- Association of Materials and Methods in Paleontology (2025 – Present)
- AEG Foundation (2022 – Present)
- American Association for the Advancement of Science (2026- Present)
- Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (2022 – Present)
- Geological Society of America (2024 – Present)

CERTIFICATIONS, HONORS AND AWARDS

- SVP 2026 Calendar Cover Feature – (2026)
- University of the Arts Merit Scholarship (2024–25)
- Triassic Field Trip Scholarship (2022)
- ASU Academic Excellence Scholarship (2020–21)

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

Division I Collegiate Volleyball - Appalachian State University's Volleyball Team

LANGUAGES

English: Native Language

REFERENCES

Smithsonian	Professors
<i>Ryan Lintelman</i> Smithsonian Museum of American History Entertainment Collection Curator lintelmanr@si.edu (202) 633-3912	<i>Dr. Suse Anderson</i> George Washington University Corcoran School of the Arts and Design Museum Studies Program Head and Graduate Advisor suse@gwu.edu (202) 994-1700
<i>Michael Nathan</i> Smithsonian Office of Visitor Experience Visitor Experience Specialist NathanM@si.edu (205) 527-9519	<i>Dr. Andy Heckert</i> Appalachian State University Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences Professor: Vertebrate Paleontology, Dinosaurs, Litho/Biostratigraphy heckertab@appstate.edu (828) 262 -7609
<i>Dr. Conrad Labandeira</i> Smithsonian Museum of Natural History Department of Paleobiology Senior Scientist and Curator of Fossil Arthropods labandec@si.edu (202) 633-1336	<i>Dr. Steven J. Hageman</i> Appalachian State University Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences Professor: Invertebrate Paleontology, Paleoecology hagemansj@appstate.edu
<i>Dr. Briana Pobinar</i> Smithsonian Museum of Natural History Research Scientist and Museum Educator pobinarb@si.edu (202) 633-1985	<i>Dr. Jamie Levine</i> Appalachian State University Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences Professor: Structure, Tectonics, and Metamorphic Petrology levinejs@appstate.edu (828) 262-2166

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<i>Emma Saaty</i> Smithsonian Museum of Natural History Science Writer SaatyEMa@si.edu	<i>Marta Toran</i> Appalachian State University Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences Lecturer and Outreach Coordinator toranml@appstate.edu