Digging through Time: Archaeology Field School Students Looking for Historical Clues

Despite what the Indiana Jones movies have been leading us to believe for more than 40 years, real archaeology can be far from glorious. Usually, it requires dealing with hot weather, ticks, mosquitoes, poison ivy, and hard work digging holes in the hope of finding things as small as a penny.

But archaeologists lean into the hardships and love the work anyway. They get excited about sifting through time to find pieces of history, saying it shouldn’t be easy to earn those secrets. And when they put together all those artifacts with history, they can make a story come alive.

They also know how to have fun, as shown by a group of nine students working at a field school led by Purdue University Fort Wayne anthropology professors and spouses Jamie Cochran-Smith and Andrew Smith. It’s the second year in a row they’ve directed the six-week course, this time at a site across the Ron Venderly Family Bridge on campus and at the Trine State Recreation Area in Fremont.
Ripples

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