Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project Annual Report, 2010-11

Michael S. Nassaney

Western Michigan University, michael.nassaney@wmich.edu

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This lead cloth seal, recovered from the 2011 excavations at Fort St. Joseph, was used by taxing authorities to keep track of cloth in 18th century France. The inscription reads: “Bureau Foraine de Lille.” A similar seal has been found at a French domestic site in the Illinois Country. Seal drawn by Cathrine Davis. Courtesy of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project.
Introduction

The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project (hereafter the “project”) enjoyed another successful year conducting fieldwork, analysis, publication, public education, and outreach as we gain a better understanding of the fur trade and colonialism in southwest Michigan and engage the community in the process. Members of the project team continue to work with students, faculty, volunteers, and other stakeholders in our efforts to recover the history and culture of Fort St. Joseph in Niles, MI. This past year (September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2011) witnessed the expansion of many proven aspects of the project, along with the addition of new activities to promote the project and involve increasing numbers of people. Here are some of the year’s highlights.

• The project was the winner of the prestigious Archaeological Institute of America’s first Education Outreach Contest
• A new blog was initiated to keep our followers abreast of findings and activities associated with the project (http://fortstjosepharchaeology.blogspot.com/)
• The third annual summer lecture series was devoted to the theme of the open house which focused on “The Archaeology and History of the Fur Trade”
• A grant of $10,175 was received from the Michigan Humanities Council to support our annual open house
• Students and staff were recruited from distant states, including Maryland, Massachusetts, and Missouri, testifying to the national visibility of the project
• Mayor McCauslin, Provost Greene, and Dean Enyedi visited the site during our annual media day
• The first Volunteer of the Year for service to the project was recognized.
• Summer camps were overenrolled with 35 students, teachers, and life-long learners participating over three weeks.
• The second annual issue of the Fort St. Joseph Post newsletter was distributed.
• We were awarded a grant for $9,605 from Digital Antiquity to upload, store, and make accessible digital documents associated with Fort St. Joseph
• We identified another stone fireplace in our excavation, representing a new structure
• The open house again attracted nearly two thousand visitors, bringing the total number to over ten thousand since the event began in 2006.

The project would not be possible without the support of the partners, sponsors, and donors who contribute time and resources to further project goals. Particularly noteworthy are the efforts of Western Michigan University (WMU) faculty, administrators, staff, and students; the City of Niles; the Fort St. Joseph Museum; the members of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Advisory Committee (FSJAAC), which is responsible for recommending and promoting the course of action for site development; and countless other supporters who assist us in realizing our mission.

This report summarizes the activities of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project, a partnership between Western Michigan University and the City of Niles and one of the oldest and most visible public archaeology programs in the Midwest. (See Appendix A for a list of our sponsors and supporters and Appendix B for a summary of project outcomes.)
Recent Activities and Personnel

The 2011 field season continued a long-standing tradition of excavation and interpretation of one of the most important eighteenth-century French trading posts in the western Great Lakes—Fort St. Joseph. In conjunction with Western Michigan University’s 36th annual archaeological field school, over 60 students and summer campers expanded previous excavations to recover artifacts and evidence of features to shed new light on the history and culture of the eighteenth-century fur trade participants on the frontier of New France. Members of the field school included 14 undergraduate students and 3 graduate students enrolled for academic credit, 35 campers, and 6 staff members under the direction of Dr. Michael Nassaney, Principal Investigator. Five staff members were in paid positions, whereas one was an unpaid intern. The 2011 staff included: Erica D’Elia, teaching assistant; Zach Rodriquez, field assistant; Alyssa Klubeck, laboratory coordinator and house manager; Kelley Walter, public outreach coordinator; Tim Bober, public education coordinator; and Devora Gleiber, intern.

Public outreach is an important component of the project and takes many forms. In addition to the annual open house that attracted nearly 2,000 visitors to the site, the project was represented at conferences, workshops, meetings, and other venues throughout the country. Team members delivered presentations at the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site (Vancouver, WA), Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology (Austin, TX), Midwest Historical Archaeology Conference (Heidelberg University, Tiffin, OH), Midwest Archaeological Conference (Bloomington, IN), the conference of the American Council for Québec Studies (Burlington, VT), the conference of the Center for French Colonial Studies (South Bend, IN/Niles, MI), and the conference of the Society for Ethnobiology (Columbus, OH), among other venues.

Field Investigations

Fieldwork was conducted from July 6 through August 16 under the auspices of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project. This marked the ninth season of investigations conducted at Fort St. Joseph since 1998. Excavations began at the Lynn site (20BE10) located on the terrace above the fort. A total of eight 1 x 1 m excavation units were placed to the west of the area we have been examining since 2006. As previously noted, this area of the terrace was plowed in the 19th century and exhibits a plow zone approximately 20 cm deep. The underlying subsoil is a yellow brown sandy loam. Artifacts were confined to mostly 19th and 20th century debris of limited cultural significance such as coal, clinker, modern glass, whiteware, nails, and miscellaneous rusted iron objects. Notable exceptions were the low density of chipping debris (chert flakes from tool production and maintenance), a core, fire-cracked rock, and two projectile points similar to specimens dating to the Middle Woodland period (ca. 2000-1500 years ago). Both points were recovered from the same excavation unit; one of the specimens appears to have been reworked into a scraper. Most of the flakes represent late stage reduction, as do several pressure flakes that were recovered through the introduction of 1/8” inch mesh screens. This indicates people were finishing and resharpening stone tools at this location. Although most of these materials are likely to be over 250 years old, they were recovered from the plow zone suggesting some degree of disturbance. None of the artifacts found this season at the site can be directly related to the fort’s occupation. Furthermore, no undisturbed features
such as the smudge pits found in previous fieldwork were identified during the 2011 field season. The absence of diagnostic 18th-century artifacts suggests a low intensity of site use in this area when Fort St. Joseph was occupied.

Fieldwork resumed at Fort St. Joseph on July 15 when we connected 3 electrical pumps (two on loan from DeWind Dewatering and one newly acquired through a generous donation) to our permanent well-point system. Seven 1 x 2 meter units were located, often in proximity to previously identified features. Some 30 individuals comprised the students, staff, and volunteers who worked at Fort St. Joseph this summer, in addition to 35 campers. Middle school and adult summer campers opened up four additional 1 x 1 meter units. The purpose of the fieldwork was to ascertain the extent and nature of architectural remains and other landscape modifications from the 18th century and to test previously unexamined areas of the site. Three new features were identified during the 2011 season including a fireplace (Feature 20) at the western edge of the site, which likely represents evidence for yet another domestic structure. It is aligned parallel to the river, as have been similar types of features exposed in past seasons. A new pit (Feature 22) was identified in an exploratory area to the east. Finally, a small concentration of low-fired earthenware similar to pottery produced by local Native American groups was found associated with ash and charcoal deposits in an undisturbed context beneath the plow zone (Feature 21). We also conducted further excavations to expose the northern edge of an iron cache (Feature 19) discovered in 2010. It yielded a complete axe. One of the most interesting finds of the season was a lead cloth seal with a *fleur-de-lis* symbol and the inscription “Bureau Foraine de Lille.” The bureau was an eighteenth-century taxing authority. The city of Lille, which is currently located in northeast France, was incorporated into France by Louis XIV in 1668 and served as a major center for both cloth production and trade, importing textiles from the surrounding region and nearby Flanders. Lille was especially noted for laces, linen, and cotton. Other excavation units yielded artifacts relating to subsistence, architecture, adornment, and religious activities that complement the previous collection and add to our understanding of cultural continuity and change on the colonial frontier.

**Public Education and Outreach**

Public education and outreach continues to be a significant aspect of the project. Nearly 100 members are now fort followers and received special benefits such as the second issue of our newsletter, the *Fort St. Joseph Post*. Distributed in both digital and print formats, the newsletter was edited by Ian Kerr who served as the 2010-2011 Fort St. Joseph Museum intern. In addition to our regularly updated website ([http://www.wmich.edu/fortstjoseph](http://www.wmich.edu/fortstjoseph)) and our Facebook page, a daily blog was instituted ([www.fortstjosepharchaeology.blogspot.com](http://www.fortstjosepharchaeology.blogspot.com)) this past field season and over 3,500 visitors viewed the site to keep abreast of current developments. Weekly posts continued on the blog after the conclusion of the field season. Facebook was particularly useful in alerting our members and others that the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project was entered into the Archaeological Institute of America’s worldwide Online Excavation Outreach Contest. Friends and fort followers cast over 3,000 votes for Fort St. Joseph, garnering first place by surpassing similar outreach projects in the Europe, Central America, and the United States. The Project’s vast network of community support undoubtedly helped cement its victory.
Our annual summer camp training program is coordinated through the Fort St. Joseph Museum under the directorship of Carol Bainbridge. For the first time this past season our camps for middle school students, teachers, and lifelong learners were oversubscribed. In addition to gaining an appreciation for the importance of archaeological materials in the interpretation and reconstruction of history and culture, some 35 students under the direction of returning public education coordinator, Tim Bober, learned how to excavate properly, take field notes, and identify artifacts. Several local volunteers and members of Support the Fort (STF) also stayed involved in the dig in various capacities. The field school benefited from meals provided by various individuals and community groups coordinated by Alyssa Klubeck, Barb Cook, and Mary Ellen Drolet. These social activities help to strengthen relationships and facilitate information exchange in the community.

The Director of the Fort St. Joseph Museum, Carol Bainbridge, also coordinated a range of educational activities aimed to disseminate information about the project. She and her assistants provided programming on Fort St. Joseph to various service organizations such as AARP, as well as elementary schools throughout the region. This past year nearly 600 students learned about the history and culture of the fort through outreach and visits to the Museum. In addition, Ms. Bainbridge’s attention to camp registration, preparation of manuals for all of the campers, and availability and willingness to assist whenever needed in support of the field school testifies to the close working relationship between WMU and the City of Niles.

In 2011 the project held its third annual summer archaeology lecture series in partnership with the Niles District Library. Project ethnohistorian and FSJ Archaeology Advisory Committee member Dr. José António Brandão, project zooarchaeologist Dr. Terrance Martin; State Archaeologist Dr. Dean Anderson; and principal investigator Dr. Michael Nassaney delivered lectures on the fur trade. The lecture room was filled to capacity each week and the public enjoyed provocative presentations, stimulating discussions, and refreshments provided by members of Support the Fort, Inc.

The fur trade theme of the lecture series was extended to the annual open house held the weekend of August 13-14. Kelley Walters, a graduate student in public archaeology from the College of William and Mary, served as our open house coordinator. Media day on August 11 served to alert local newspapers and television stations to the upcoming event and has become a venue for special greetings and announcements. Acting as master of ceremonies, Dr. Nassaney welcomed the community to the open house and introduced a number of project supporters including WMU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Timothy Greene; the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Alex Enyedi; the Chair of the Anthropology Department, Dr. LouAnn Wurst; and the Mayor of the City of Niles, Michael McCauslin. A new award, our Volunteer of the Year, was presented to Dorilee Schieble for her ongoing contributions to the project. A ribbon cutting ceremony once again officially opened the site for a sneak peek of the excavations. Other notable guests present included members of the FSJAC, the WMU community, STF, Niles City officials, the field school students, and representatives from various community groups and individuals who support our activities. Media coverage helped to promote the event and attract a large crowd to the open house the following weekend. A heavy rainstorm that came in on Saturday at precisely 3:55 pm and
lasted the entire night did little to dampen the spirits of nearly 2,000 visitors who attended the open house to view the excavations, interact with archaeologists, listen to presentations, and learn about the fur trade. A grant of $10,175 from the Michigan Humanities Council helped to underwrite the participation by two public scholars, Timothy Kent and Dr. Terry Martin who addressed a riveted crowd on the theme of the event. Ten new permanent informational panels paid for by the Chicago Office of the Delegation de Quebec displayed various aspects of the fur trade. Rachel Juen, graduate student in Public History, was awarded a research assistantship from the College of Arts and Sciences to develop the panels under the supervision of Drs. Brandão and Nassaney. She also worked with field school student Erica Stone to prepare three artifact cases containing fur trade-related artifacts from past and current excavations for display. Finally, Bob Myers and Barbara Schwaderer returned to coordinate the living history re-enactments associated with the annual theme.

In addition to these events, the open house included a book dealer, descendants of fort occupants, children’s crafts, and period food. Donations and sales of fort-related merchandise generated funds that will help to offset some of the project costs. The Niles Senior Center sponsored a dinner on Saturday evening for over 50 open house participants, volunteers, students and their families. Donna Drolet of STF generously underwrote the meal expense for all of the project affiliates.

Finally, two important works related to the project were published this past year. First, Fort St. Joseph was featured in an article printed in American Archaeology, a publication of the Archaeological Conservancy that reaches 25,000 members worldwide. Second, the inaugural issue of The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project Booklet Series was released in 2011. Sponsored by the Michigan Humanities Council, the booklet focuses on the Women of New France and is written for a general audience (http://www.wmich.edu/fortstjoseph/docs/women-of-new%20france.pdf). It continues to receive high praise and was recently nominated for a book award from the Michigan Historical Society.

**Laboratory Analysis and Collections Management**

Fort St. Joseph researchers were busy over the past year conducting analysis, organizing the collections, and publishing their results. A complete list of project outcomes can be found in Appendix B. Andrew Beaupré completed his M.A. thesis that focuses on the meanings of religious artifacts from the fort and throughout New France. He determined that most religious objects have been found in close proximity to places where missionaries worked suggesting that the crosses, crucifixes, and medallions maintained their religious meanings in the hands of their users.

A large proportion of the materials we recover from Fort St. Joseph are subsistence remains, particularly animal bones representing the residue of meals consumed at the fort. Dr. Terry Martin continues to analyze these remains to reconstruct eighteenth-century dietary patterns. The ongoing archaeological investigation of Fort St. Joseph is providing the opportunity to compare and contrast the findings from the southwestern Michigan locale to other French sites in the Wabash River Valley of Indiana, and in St. Clair and Randolph counties, Illinois, in order to look at how local site functions (e.g., involvement in the fur trade,
local agricultural and livestock production, presence of governmental and commercial officials), proximity and interaction with local Native American populations, and local environmental settings influence animal exploitation patterns. Dr. Martin made numerous presentations on the results of his studies to professional and public audiences throughout the region and beyond.

Several samples of materials collected through flotation from the Lyne site were loaned to Jessica Hughes, a former student and intern at Fort St. Joseph and now a graduate student at the University of Cincinnati. In her analysis, presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Ethnobiology at the Ohio State University and during the open house, she identified the contents of several smudge pits and determined the types of plants foods the Fort St. Joseph community exploited in the 18th century.

An important aspect of the laboratory work is keeping the collections in order so that they are easily accessible to researchers for study. Towards that end, members of the project team applied for and were awarded a grant from Digital Antiquity to upload site data and documents through 2010 to the Digital Archaeology Repository (tDAR). Erin Claussen, a 2010 M.A. graduate and former FSJ Museum intern, and Ian Kerr, 2010-11 FSJ Museum intern, began working under Michael Nassaney’s supervision to prepare the artifact catalog and associated materials and publications for storage in digital format and dissemination to members of the archaeological community. Upon completion of the grant at the end of 2011, the results from the first decade of work at Fort St. Joseph will be more widely accessible (http://www.tdar.org/).

Future Challenges and Opportunities

Any initiative as large and enduring as the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project is bound to experience changing circumstances that present both challenges and opportunities that the project must meet if it is to grow and thrive. Among the most transformative aspects of the community service learning dimensions of our fieldwork has been the ability for students and staff to live in Niles and participate fully in the life of the community. This past season we occupied the Niles High School for six weeks. While much of the facility proved to be suitable for our needs, the high school is not the ideal place to house students, conduct lab work, and support the learning community we aim to establish. We have begun to explore the parameters of a dedicated building that will benefit the mission of WMU and the City of Niles. The Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Advisory Committee will be integral in any decisions made regarding the feasibility, design, placement, and function of such a permanent structure. In addition to a living and working space, we also anticipate the need for long-term storage of the many artifacts that the project has generated since its inception in 1998 and will continue to generate.

Members of the project take great pride in our accomplishments in investigating and interpreting the remains of Fort St. Joseph and what they can tell us about the history and culture of the fur trade and colonialism in southwest Michigan. We are particularly proud of the ways in which we have continually disseminated the results of our studies through scholarly publications, our summer camp public education program, public lecture series, newsletters, our website, social media, our annual open house, and a new booklet series. We aim to reach
even wider audiences by continuing to publish readily accessible works through our booklet series. We also plan to begin working with local museums in South Bend and Kalamazoo to develop a major exhibit on the archaeology of Fort St. Joseph that will highlight how archaeology is a tool that can connect us to the past and illuminate the life ways of the people who called the fort their home. Discussions have begun with representatives from several museums and we hope to share more definitive plans in the near future.

APPENDIX A

Project Sponsors, 2010-11

Members of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Advisory Committee

Barbara Cook, President
Candace Skalla, Vice-President
Carol Bainbridge, Secretary
Bob Ahrens
David Bainbridge
Dr. José António Brandão
Mary Ellen Drolet
Juan Ganum
Larry Horrigan
John Lamore
Dr. Michael S. Nassaney
Dorilee Schieble
Larry Sehy
Candace Skalla
Mike Zimmerman

Donors

Lifetime Members ($10,000)

City of Niles, MI
Leighton-Oare Foundation, Inc.
Michigan Humanities Council
Western Michigan University

Commandant ($500-$9,999)

Anonymous
Barbara J. Cook
Delegation de Quebec, Chicago Office
DeWind Dewatering Company
Fort St. Joseph Historical Association
General Society of Colonial Wars
John LaMore
Gale D. McCarty
Michigan Humanities Council
Michigan State Housing Development Authority
Robert Myers
Michael Nassaney
Randy Peyser
Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Michigan
Barbara Schwaderer and Craig McGirr
Support the Fort, Inc.

*Explorer ($250-499)*

Sharon Carlson, Ph.D. and Tom Dietz
Donna Drolet
Mrs. Darlene F. Jackson
John LaMore
Mary Ann Levine, Ph.D.
Terrance Martin, Ph.D.
Mrs. Dorilee J. Schliebe
Mr. Victor K. Swanson

*Voyageur ($100-249)*

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Mr. and Mrs. Richard Barber
Richard C. Barron
Al Casperson, Al Casperson Books
James T. Clark
Mr. and Mrs. Comden
Teresa B. Cooper
Mr. and Mrs. Coulston
The Country Doctor – Dr. Diane Williams
William M. Cremin, Ph.D.
Lisa Donaghe
Mary Ellen Drolet and Family
Sean Dunham
Denis Fortin
David A. Ikerd
Darlene Jackson
Ronald J. Jenner
Donald Johnston
Denton K. Kime
Kiwanis Club of Niles
Alyssa Klubeck
Tom Lister
Therese Malmberg
Diane K. Newbury
Mr. and Mrs. Ochenryder
Oshkemo Historical Society
Father David C. Otto
Flora M. Riddle
Roseville Community Schools
J. William Ross
Kenneth Sarkozy, Sarkozy Bakery
Mr. and Mrs. Staten
Mr. and Mrs. Vanderwoude

Habitant ($1-99)

Barbara S. Adams
Carol and David Bainbridge
Dean O. Barnum
Douglas A. Birk, Ph.D.
Lesley Bookout
Dr. and Mrs. Carter
Mr. and Ms. Caruso
Judith Kay M. Chase
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James Souers, DDS
James E. Teall
Dale M. Wiars
Wal-Mart, Mary Jane Davis
Gregory R. Walz
Wolfs Marine
Mr. and Mrs. Wright
Mary Wyber

Volunteers

2011 WMU Archaeological Field School Staff and Students
2011 Archaeology Summer Campers
Bob Ahrens
Linda Alexander
Carol Bainbridge, Director, Fort St. Joseph Museum
Cheri Bales, College of Arts & Sciences, WMU
Debby Barkman
Suzanne Beals, WMU Annual Fund
Dr. José Brandão, Department of History, WMU
Mayor Michael McCauslin, City of Niles
Barb Cook (dinner sponsor)
Lisa Croteau, Niles Main Street
Daughters of the American Revolution (lunch sponsor)
Susan & Alan Degraw (lunch sponsor)
Donna Drolet (dinner sponsor)
Margaret Drolet Stuver (dinner sponsor)
Marla Drolet Hansen (dinner sponsor)
Mary Ellen Drolet (dinner sponsor)
Lauretta Eisenbach, Administrative Assistant, Dept. of Anthropology, WMU
Terry Eull, Niles City Administrator
Fort St. Joseph Historical Association (dinner sponsor)
Lisa Frucci
Patricia Gondeck
Norman Guentert
Leona Hein
Ellie Hein
Sam Hein
Huntley Cub Scout Troop #587 & Leaders
Ian Kerr
Kiwanis Club (lunch sponsor)
John LaMore
Tom Lister
The Majerek Family
Jim Maurer
Gail McCarthy
MDS Priority Delivery Service
John Mittlebrun
Kylie Morris
Bob Nightingale
The Niles City Council
Jan Personette
Emily Powell
Frances Pratl
John Pugh
Dr. Tim and Crissy Ready (dinner sponsors)
Flora Riddle
Carla Ripley
John Ripley
Anita Rodgers
Fred Rogers and Dr. Diane Williams (dinner sponsor)
Peter Rodgers
Cheryl Roland, Vice President for University Relations, WMU
Ken Sarkozy
Barb and Craig Schwaderer (dinner sponsor)
Terry and Dorilee Schieble
Carolee Sechrist
Larry Simpson
Roni Sionakides
Candace Skalla (volunteer coordinator)
Jenny Skalla
William (Tim) Skalla
Billy Walters
William Walsh
Dale Wiars
Mike Zimmerman, Consultant, Pokagon Band
APPENDIX B
Project Outcomes: 2010-11

September 2010

* Ian Kerr was named the 2010-11 Fort St. Joseph Museum Intern.


* Five field school students enrolled in independent study to conduct lab work and projects relating to the archaeology of Fort St. Joseph.

* Fort St. Joseph material and information was on display at Michigan Archaeology Day, held at the State Museum in Lansing.

* Terrance Martin included examples of identified animal remains from the Fort St. Joseph site among zooarchaeology laboratory projects exhibited at the Open House Tour of the Illinois State Museum’s Research and Collections Center in Springfield, IL.

October 2010

* Michael Nassaney organized the annual conference of the Center for French Colonial Studies in South Bend, IN and Niles, MI devoted to “The French in Michigan.” Support was approved from the French-Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan, the Canadian Studies Initiative at Western Michigan University, and the Joseph L. Peyser Endowment for the Study of New France. Many of the approximately 70 people in attendance were treated to a tour of the Fort St. Joseph site and the Fort St. Joseph Museum and a viewing of the Women of New France panels. Several FSJ students assisted with hosting the meeting.

* Terrance Martin and Angela Perri displayed animal remains from the Fort St. Joseph and Fort Ouiatenon sites as part of the site tour of Fort St. Joseph and Fort St. Joseph Museum in Niles at the annual meeting of the Center for French Colonial Studies.


* Members of the project attended the annual meeting of the Midwest Historical Archaeology Conference held at Heidelberg University (Tiffin, OH). Ian Kerr was awarded first prize for his poster on the 2010 archaeological field school.
*Ian Kerr and Michael Nassaney completed the 2010 WMU archaeological field summary.

**November 2010**

*Andrew Beaupré presented a paper co-authored with Michael Nassaney, “Michigan’s Fort St. Joseph: Public Archaeology on the French Colonial Frontier” at the conference of the American Council for Québec Studies, Burlington, VT.

*Ian Kerr designed a new brochure to solicit support for the project.

**December 2010**


*Terrance Martin discussed on-going analysis of animal remains from excavations at the Fort St. Joseph site in an Illinois State Museum Brown Bag presentation, Springfield, IL.

**January 2011**

*Ten students and faculty represented the project at the 44th annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology in Austin, TX.

*Andrew Beaupré presented a paper co-authored with Michael Nassaney, “Cheek by Jowl: Archaeology and the Public at Fort St. Joseph, Niles, MI” at the Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, Austin, TX.

*Michael Nassaney discussed how he teaches about the fort in the forum “Teaching Historical Archaeology: A Panel Discussion,” at the Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, Austin, TX,

*Staff photographer, Jessica Hughes won third place in the color artifact category competition sponsored by the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology in Austin, TX.

**February 2011**

*The project won the prestigious Archaeological Institute of America’s inaugural Online Excavation Outreach Contest. The project is now recognized as the world’s premier public archaeology project.

*Terrance Martin presented “Living Off the Land: Use of Animals at French Heritage Archaeological Sites in the Illinois Country and Upper Great Lakes” in a lecture series that accompanied the exhibition *Treasures of Napoleon* at the Missouri History Museum, St. Louis.

**March 2011**

*Terrance Martin included examples of unique modified animal remains from Fort St. Joseph that reveal the nature of cultural interactions between the French and local Native American populations in his presentation “More than Meat and Marrow: The Native American Craft of Making Artifacts from Bone and Shell” as part of the four-part winter lecture series on “crafting” by Native Americans at the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, Collinsville, IL.

*The second Fort St. Joseph Post newsletter was distributed detailing what alumni are doing and highlighting recent accomplishments from the field and lab.


*Michael Nassaney’s paper “Decolonizing Archaeological Theory at Fort St. Joseph, An Eighteenth-Century Multi-Ethnic Community in the Western Great Lakes Region” was accepted for publication in the Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology 37(1).

*Members of Support the Fort distributed promotional materials for the annual open house at the Living History Show in Kalamazoo, MI.

April 2011

*Michael Nassaney, Erin Claussen, and Ian Kerr received a grant from Digital Antiquity to digitize the artifact catalogue and associated documentation on the fort project ($9,605).

*Michael Nassaney was awarded a grant from the Michigan Humanities Council for the 2011 Open House: Trading on the Frontier at Fort St. Joseph ($10,175).


*Cezar Carvalhaes defended his Honor’s thesis on the excavated gunflints from Fort St. Joseph.

*Michael Nassaney was the featured speaker discussing “Eighteenth-Century Life Along the Banks of the St. Joseph River: What the Archaeology Tells Us” at the 23rd annual School of the Soldier (École de Soldat), Ste. Genevieve, MO.

*John LaMore cut and removed several dead trees from the site and conducted general site clean up in preparation for 2011 field season.
May 2011

*Project alumnus Jessica Hughes gave a presentation at the Society of Ethnobiology conference on her work on some of the smudge pit samples collected from Fort St. Joseph.

*Rachel Juen, M.A. candidate in public history, was awarded a graduate research assistantship to create a series of panels on the fur trade for the open house.

*Ian Kerr was awarded a graduate research assistantship to upload artifact catalogue information into the museum software database program PastPerfect.

*Terry Martin used examples of identified animal remains from the Fort St. Joseph site for the zooarchaeology laboratory projects exhibited at the Open House Tour of the Illinois State Museum’s Research and Collections Center in Springfield, IL.


June 2011

*Ian Kerr was invited to speak to Support the Fort and presented a program titled, “Present Pasts: Recent Excavations at Fort St. Joseph.”


July 2011

*Fort St. Joseph was the site of the 36th annual WMU archaeological field school.

*Bryan Bombersbach and Greg Savage were the recipients of the William M. Cremin Scholarship in archaeology for their participation in the 36th annual archaeological field school.

*A blog was created for enthusiasts and project supporters to follow all the action during the course of the field season. To date over 3,500 people have visited the blog.

*Michael Nassaney presented an invited lecture, “The Archaeology of the Fur Trade at Fort St. Joseph” at the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, Vancouver, WA.

*The third annual summer archaeology lecture series featured presentations on the fur trade by Drs. José Brandão, Dean Anderson, Michael Nassaney, and Terrance Martin.

*The Project hosted a site visit by the Niles Kiwanis Club.
*Kelley Walters coordinated several students weekly in promoting fort archaeology and the open house at the French Market in Niles.

**August 2011**

*The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project’s Open House on the fur trade attracted nearly 2,000 visitors to witness archaeology and living history at the site. Members of the project team researched, designed, and created 10 informational panels on the event theme.*

* Bob Myers and Barbara Schwaderer coordinated the fur trade activities of 10 historical re-enactors at the open house.

*Terrance Martin displayed archaeological animal remains from the sites of Fort St. Joseph and Fort Ouiatenon at the open house.

*Terrance Martin presented zooarchaeology workshops for WMU archaeology field school students and participants in the summer camp for educators in Niles, Michigan, using animal remains from previous seasons’ excavations at Fort St. Joseph.*

*Timothy Kent discussed the life of voyageur at the open house in his role as a public scholar supported by the Michigan Humanities Council.*


*Laboratory work to clean, process, catalog, and analyze the 2010 artifacts and field data began at the WMU campus.*