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Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project Annual Report, 2007-08

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Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project

Annual Report, 2007-08

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November 19, 2008



Introduction

This past year (September 1, 2007 through August 31, 2008) was arguably the most productive for the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project (hereafter the “project”) since the site was initially identified on the ground by Western Michigan University archaeologists in 1998. The project has become one of the premier public archaeology programs in the Midwest, guided by the philosophy of community service learning in which students provide a community service and learn through civic engagement. Investigations and interpretations have spawned a number of significant recent developments. First, the City of Niles and Western Michigan University (WMU) entered into a 10-year collaborative agreement to ensure the continued archaeological study and protection of the fort site, as well as public access to the project’s findings. Second, the project helped to sponsor the Department of Anthropology’s 33rd annual archaeological field school and continued to host summer camps for middle/high school students and credit/non-credit adults in conjunction with the Fort St. Joseph Museum. Third, we welcomed the Michigan Humanities Council (MHC) as a partner in promoting and hosting our annual archaeological open house. These activities and opportunities for community participation have raised the public and professional profile of the project. The purpose of this report is to summarize the activities conducted under the auspices of the project that were made possible by financial support from WMU, the Fort St. Joseph Museum, private donations, and grants. (Appendix A lists our sponsors and supporters and Appendix B details our 2007-08 expenses and funding sources.)

The First Decade (1998-2008)

This past year marked the end of the first decade of site investigations and public interpretations at Fort St. Joseph. The WMU archaeological field school has been regularly held in Niles since 2002. Over 75 University students have participated in the program along with just as many middle/high school students, teachers, and continuing education adults. Excavations have established that the site contains intact features and artifact deposits with the potential to contribute important information on 18th century life at the edge of the French empire. Moreover, the site has proven to be a major cultural heritage destination, with over 5,000 visitors in the past three years. Efforts by members of the project team and volunteers have helped the site achieve local, regional, national, and international recognition. Just this past year, scholarly symposia were organized at the Midwest Archaeological Conference (South Bend, IN; October), the Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology (Albuquerque, NM; January), and the French Colonial Historical Society (FCHS) conference (Quebec City, Quebec; May). The FCHS conference was the culmination of a tour by project participants of archaeological sites and collections in New France including Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec, and Fort Niagara, NY. Six scholarly papers were presented in an organized session that summarized 10 years of site investigations to a very appreciative international audience. (See Appendix C for a more complete listing of our project outcomes over the past year.)

The 10-Year Agreement

Soon after the City of Niles appointed the Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Advisory Committee in May 2007, interest developed in formalizing the partnership between the City and

WMU. In July 2008, the Mayor of Niles Michael McCauslin and WMU's Provost and chief academic officer Dr. Bassam Harik signed a 10-year collaborative agreement to promote the public, educational, research, and economic benefits of the investigation and interpretation of Fort St. Joseph. The agreement will facilitate the partners' shared interests and serve the public as a cooperative venture for research, education, promotion, fund-raising, interpretation, and preservation of the history and material remains of the fort. In practice it gives WMU's Department of Anthropology exclusive rights to excavate at the site. In turn, WMU is committed to work with the community and continue to involve students in site investigations.

Field Investigations

Fieldwork was conducted under the auspices of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project during the 2008 season from July 8 through August 12 in Niles in conjunction with the 33rd annual WMU archaeological field school, the longest running field school in the state of Michigan. Members of the field school included 12 undergraduate and six graduate students under my direction. Several graduate students who had previously worked at the site received stipends and served in staff positions (e.g., two teaching assistants, public education coordinator, public outreach coordinator). In addition to the University students enrolled in the program, we also provided opportunities for public involvement through three weeklong youth and adult summer camps.

As in previous field seasons, excavations began on the terrace above the fort in an area known as the Lyne site (20BE10) where previous work identified ancient Native American, colonial, and more recent (19th-20th century) artifacts. In March the project received funding from the Joseph L. Peyser Endowment for the Study of New France to obtain a date from a carbon-14 sample consisting of carbonized maize from a smudge pit at the Lyne site. The age determination indicates that there is a 66% chance that the sample was deposited between A.D. 1660 and 1760, suggesting that the pit is contemporaneous with the Fort St. Joseph occupation. This supports the idea that groups affiliated with Fort St. Joseph likely used the terrace above the fort for fur trade-related activities in the 18th century.

Investigations in 2008 were oriented towards identifying and collecting further information on activities at the Lyne site that are contemporaneous with Fort St. Joseph. Towards that end students and staff of the 2008 WMU archaeological field school, in conjunction with participants in our public education program, excavated 7-1 x 1 m units in areas that had previously yielded 18th century materials. Students gained familiarity with field procedures and the recording system at an important site that exhibits fairly simple stratigraphy and easily excavated sandy soil. Although no new features were recorded, a number of 18th century artifacts were recovered including an iron projectile point, a piece of green glass that may have been hand blown, a hand-wrought nail, and a silver-plated brass trade brooch with an attached, movable tongue.

Work began at Fort St. Joseph on July 14 when we authorized DeWind Dewatering to install the de-watering system. The purpose of this season's fieldwork was to continue to expand excavations in areas where we had previously identified architectural features and sub-surface anomalies to gain a better understanding of site structures and associated activities. A total of 6-1

x 2 m and two 1 x 1 m units were newly excavated to obtain further information and several old units were re-excavated to expose features for public viewing during the open house.

As in previous years we removed the upper 25 cm of recent alluvium as a single unit and found only a few modern artifacts (post-1930s) in this soil horizon. The underlying late 19th and early 20th century plow zone was dug in 5 cm levels. All sediments were collected by trowel and wet-screened using 1/8" mesh to recover a representative sample from the deposits. Select soil samples were taken from each level and feature contexts for flotation in the laboratory.

The plow zone yielded numerous 18th century artifacts and animal remains indicative of a broad range of activities that took place at the fort. Musket balls, gunflints, ceramics (faience, porcelain), container glass, structural remains (hand-wrought nails, daub), and objects of personal adornment (a crucifix, glass and shell beads) were collected. Excavation units were placed in proximity to two stone fireplaces (Features 10 and 14) and a trash deposit (Feature 11) to gain a better understanding of these features. Two new features were also encountered. Feature 15 appeared as a small area of charcoal, ash, and baked clay in the southwest corner of unit N30 E17. At about 59 cm BD the feature looked like the corner of a wall trench with two square posts and may represent part of a *poteaux-en-terre* (post in the ground) building. Feature 16 was first identified in unit N26 E6 and appeared as a thin layer of small stones and gravel associated with mortar and animal bones. Although it is difficult to interpret the function of this feature, it may be a stone foundation, intentional fill zone, or a collapsed structure, such as a chimney. In sum, excavations continue to reveal 18th century artifacts associated with intact architectural features that represent buildings occupied by Fort St. Joseph residents. Further work will be conducted in 2009 to examine features like the possible wall trench (F. 15) and possible collapsed chimney (F. 16) to establish the size and construction methods of associated buildings.

Public Education and Outreach

The community service learning dimensions of our public archaeology program are best exemplified by our public education and outreach efforts that provide students with the opportunity to interact with various members of the community. Public education at Fort St. Joseph gained statewide recognition when we received the 2007 Education Award from the Historical Society of Michigan in September—a strong validation of our work educating the public about the archaeology and history of Niles. This past season we held three weeklong programs for teachers, middle/high school students, and non-credit adults organized by our public education coordinator, Andrew Beaupré, with the support of the Fort St. Joseph Museum. Students in the program learned how to excavate properly, take field notes, and identify artifacts, in addition to gaining an appreciation for the importance of archaeological materials in the interpretation and reconstruction of history and culture. The first week enrolled four teachers, all of who received scholarships from a generous donor to support their \$140 tuition costs. For the first time the program was available for Continuing Education Units (CEU) credit as certified by the State Board of Education, and one teacher took advantage of this opportunity. Two others took the class for graduate credit from WMU (ANTH 6900 – Doing Archaeology). Ten students were enrolled the following week ranging from the 7th through 12th grade. While all of the students were attentive and benefited from the program, their broad age range posed some

teaching challenges. During the last week of the camp we hosted 4 adults and 2 students. In addition, several local volunteers and members of Support the Fort (STF) who were previously enrolled in the camps (Mary Ellen Drolet, Tom Lister Fred Rogers, Larry Simpson, and Diane Williams) participated in the dig in various capacities. Several members of STF generously prepared weekly meals for University students in the field school, which provided further opportunities for interaction between the students and the community and helped to reduce student expenses.

The weeks leading up to July 26-27 were focused on preparing for our annual open house, organized by our public outreach coordinator LisaMarie Malischke. This year's open house event, which culminated the field season, benefited from a \$6,000 matching grant awarded to the project by the Michigan Humanities Council (MHC). The award was presented to WMU during a media event held at the site on July 24, in conjunction with the signing of the collaborative agreement. Present for the media event were William Anderson, Director, Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries; Jan Fedewa, Executive Director, MHC; representatives from the offices of U.S. Senator Carl Levin, Senator Debbie Stabenow, and Rep. Fred Upton; and members of the Society for Colonial Wars, the College of Arts and Sciences, the City of Niles, and other groups and individuals who support our activities. Media from throughout the region provided coverage of the event, which attracted large crowds over the weekend. Over 1,500 visitors at the open house viewed the excavations, interacted with archaeologists, listened to presentations, and learned about Fort St. Joseph and its role in the fur trade. WMU President Dunn and his wife made a surprise appearance on Sunday and were very pleased with their first site visit. The MHC grant allowed us to prepare eight permanent informational panels and refurbish the artifact cases for our outdoor museum, develop a web site devoted to the event (www.fortstjosephopenhouse.org), hire 130 historical re-enactors who conducted demonstrations of 18th century daily life over the weekend, and produce a DVD to disseminate information about the event to school groups and the public. The informational panels have been posted to the website and the DVD will be distributed throughout the region to further publicize the event and its benefits.

Members of the project and STF sold fort-related paraphernalia such as T-shirts, DVDs, VHS tapes, medallions, and books. These sales combined with on-site donations yielded approximately \$1,500 to help offset some of the event and project costs. Over 175 invited guests, re-enactors, students, and their families were invited to share a meal on Saturday evening.

Our public education and outreach activities are important vehicles for highlighting the importance of the site to the public and demonstrating how much the public cares about the history and archaeology of the fort. For the third straight year these programs have raised interest in the site and provided the opportunity for the public to share their pride in community history. Maintaining, promoting, and investing in this important heritage tourist destination will showcase the role of Fort St. Joseph in public education, scholarship, and economic development. The partnerships that have been developed are clearly among the most important assets of the project and they serve as a solid foundation to continue the investigation and interpretation of this national historic treasure for the benefit of Niles, WMU, numerous stakeholders, and the public well into the future.

APPENDIX A
Project Sponsors and Supporters, 2007-08

The following sponsors have contributed financial resources to the project:

Michigan Humanities Council
College of Arts & Sciences, WMU
Department of Anthropology, WMU
Fort St. Joseph Museum
Society for Colonial Wars in the State of Michigan
Conference on Michigan Archaeology
Mel Bookout
Nancy O. Butler
Dr. Kenneth C. Carstens
Dr. John Carter
John & Pat Cary
Barbara and Grafton Cook
Dr. William M. and Mrs. Claudia L. Cremin
Dr. Penelope B. Drooker
Four Flags Area Credit Union
Mr. and Mrs. David Ikerd
Darlene Jackson, Niles District Library
Dr. Alan H. and Mrs. Marilyn C. Jacobs
Dr. and Mrs. Timothy Light
Main Street Antique Mall
Gale McCarty
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Mason
Mr. Dennis Miczulski
Mrs. Josephine Nassaney
Niles Optimist Club
Tim and Cynthia Nostrant
Father David Otto
Joseph L. Peyser Endowment for the Study of New France
Larry Sehy
Teachers Credit Union
Mr. Robert Gordon White
Dr. Diane G. Williams and Fred Rogers
Wolverine Electrical Contracting, Inc.
Don Weir, Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group

The following supporters have contributed their time and/or in-kind services to the project:

Kristi Arntzen, Faunal Analyst, Washington University, St. Louis, MO
Carol Bainbridge, Director, Fort St. Joseph Museum
Cheri Bales, College Arts & Sciences, WMU
Dr. José Brandão, Dept of History, WMU
Butler Family Enterprises
Mayor Michael McCauslin, City of Niles
Terry Eull, Niles City Administrator
Lisa Croteau, Niles Main Street
Dewind Dewatering, Zeeland, MI
Lauretta Eisenbach, Administrative Assistant, Dept. of Anthropology, WMU
Juan Ganum, Niles Community Development Director
Dr. Kris Gremillion, The Ohio State University
Dean Thomas Kent, College of Arts & Sciences, WMU
Dr. Terry Martin, Curator of Anthropology, Illinois State Museum
Martin's Supermarket, Niles
The Niles City Council
Niles Daily Star
Niles Noon Optimist Club
The Joseph L. Peyser Family
Cheryl Roland, Vice President for University Relations, Western Michigan University
Sam's Club
Saylor's Pizza
Larry Simpson
Subway Sandwiches
Robert Ulin, Chair, Dept. of Anthropology, WMU
Watson's Tree Services, Niles
The FSJ Archaeology Advisory Committee
Support the Fort, Inc., especially President Larry Horrigan, Barb & Grif Cook, Colleen Senger,
Jan Personnette, Janine Frizzo- Horrigan, Mary Ellen & Donna Drolet
2008 WMU Archaeological Field School Staff (Andrew Beaupré, Amanda Brooks, LisaMarie
Malischke, Cynthia Nostrant, Emily Powell, David Martinez)
2008 WMU Archaeological Field School Students

APPENDIX B
Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project
2007-20 08 Expenses

<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>WMU</i>	<i>Museum</i>	<i>FSJAF</i>	<i>MHC</i>
Salaries				
Field School Director	16,760			
Fort St. Joseph Museum Intern		2,000		
Public Education Coordinator		750	750	
Teaching Assistant	3,675			
Teaching Assistant (part-time)	2,075			
Salaries Sub-total	22,510	2,750	750	0
Transportation				
Rental vehicles for the duration of the field school				
Two mini-vans @\$1,500 each	3,000			
Fuel	700			
Transportation Sub-total	3,700	0	0	0
Housing				
Rental of the Stables from Morris Farm (July 8-August 12)			2,500	
Housing Sub-total	0	0	2,500	0
Site De-Watering				
System installation and rental			4,800	
Diesel fuel			500	
Site De-Watering Sub-total	0	0	5,300	0
Open House Event				
Salaries				
Public Outreach Coordinator			250	1,615
Assistant Public Outreach Coordinator	1,600			
Travel			215	
Telephone			150	
A/V rental			115	

<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>WMU</i>	<i>Museum</i>	<i>FSJAF</i>	<i>MHC</i>
Portable toilets	650			
Trash Removal		185		
Printing and Duplicating				
Promotional flyers	500			
Event programs	685			
Street banner			350	
Outdoor museum panels and easels				630
Exhibit case supplies				140
Craft table supplies			65	35
Signage			50	
Resource Materials				
Video production				900
Website				300
Evaluation				350
Other				
Honoraria for living history re-enactors			3,000	2,000
Food for re-enactors, archaeologists, and volunteers		860		
Hay bales		140		
Development luncheon (July 24)	235			
Sat. evening dinner (for 175 guests)			1,480	
Merchandise				
FSJ T-shirts			983	
FSJ water bottles			382	
Water and ice			50	
Open House Event Sub-total	3,670	1,185	7,090	5,970
Miscellaneous				
Scholarships for teachers		560		
Equipment and supplies	200			
B&W Film and developing	100			
Storage boxes, bags, and vials		250		
Gas for wet screen pump			100	
Sam's Club membership			35	
Meeting Poster (printing and lamination)			125	
Miscellaneous Sub-total	300	810	260	0
TOTALS	30,180	4,745	15,900	5,970
GRAND TOTAL: \$56,795				

APPENDIX C
Project Outcomes: 2007-2008

Publications and Reports

Brandão, José, and Michael Nassaney

2008 Suffering for Jesus: Penitential Practices at Fort St. Joseph (Niles, MI) during the French Regime. *Catholic Historical Review* XCIV(3):476-499.

Claussen, Erin, and Meghan Cook

2008 Fort St. Joseph, Niles, MI. Society for Historical Archaeology *Newsletter*, USA-Midwest, Michigan Update 41(1):33-34.
<http://sha.org/news/documents/2008Spring.pdf>

Lynch, Daniel

2008 *A Geophysical Survey of Fort St. Joseph (20BE23), Niles, MI*. M. A. thesis, Department of Anthropology, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.

Malischke, LisaMarie

2008 *An Analysis of Bead Collections Investigating Adornment, Identity, Social Interaction and Trade at Fort St. Joseph (20BE23), Niles, Michigan*. M. A. thesis, Department of Anthropology, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo (in preparation).

Martin, Terrance J.

2008 The Archaeozoology of French Colonial Sites in the Illinois Country. In *Dreams of the Americas: Overview of New France Archaeology*, edited by Christian Roy and Hélène Côté, pp. 185-204. *Archéologiques*, Collection Hors Série 2, Québec (Association for Des Archéologues du Québec).

Nassaney, M. S.

2008 Commemorating French Heritage at Fort St. Joseph, an Eighteenth-Century Mission, Garrison, and Trading Post Complex in Niles, Michigan. In *Dreams of the Americas: Overview of New France Archaeology*, edited by Christian Roy and Hélène Côté, pp. 96-111. *Archéologiques*, Collection Hors Série 2, Québec (Association for Des Archéologues du Québec).

2008 Identity Formation at a French Colonial Outpost in the North American Interior. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 12(4) (in press).

2009 Fort Saint Joseph, Niles, Michigan. In *Archaeology in America: An Encyclopedia*, edited by F. McManamon, K. Lightfoot, L. Cordell, and G. Milner. Greenwood, Westport, CT (in press).

2009 European Exploration and Early Settlements. In *Archaeology in America: An Encyclopedia*, edited by F. McManamon, K. Lightfoot, L. Cordell, and G. Milner. Greenwood, Westport, CT (in press).

- Nassaney, M. S., and J. Brandão,
 2008 The Materiality of Individuality at Eighteenth-Century Fort St. Joseph: A Mission-Garrison-Trading Post Complex on the Edge of Empire. In *The Materiality of Individuality*, edited by Carolyn White. Springer, NY (in press).
- Nassaney, M. S., J. Brandão, W. M. Cremin, and B. Giordano
 2007 Archaeological Evidence of Economic Activities at an 18th Century Frontier Outpost in the Western Great Lakes. *Historical Archaeology* 41(1):1-17.
- Symposia, Invited Presentations, and Posters
- Barrante, S., E. Claussen, M. Cook, L.M. Malischke, and A. Robinson
 2007 The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project: Research, Education, and Outreach. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C., November.
- Brandão, J. A
 2008 Fort St. Joseph: A Short History. Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Open House, Niles, MI, July.
- Brandão, J. A., and M.S. Nassaney
 2008 Material Expressions of Social Identity at Fort St. Joseph. Paper presented at the 34th annual conference of the French Colonial Historical Society, Québec City, May.
- Claussen, E., M.S. Nassaney, E. Mendes, J. Wilhelmi, E. Powell, B. Yaquinto, and A. Brooks
 2007 The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project: 2007 Field Season. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Historical Archaeological Conference, DePaul University, October.
- 2007 The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project: 2007 Field Season. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C., November.
- Claussen, E.
 2007 Clues in the Ruins: The Archaeology of Fort St. Joseph. Presented at Michigan Archaeology Day, Lansing, MI, October.
- Malischke, L. M.
 2008 The French in Michigan, Fort St. Joseph: A Busy Outpost, An Interesting Archaeological Site. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Michigan Archaeological Society, Lansing, MI, April.
- Malischke, L. M., and M. S. Nassaney
 2008 The French Experience in Southwest Michigan: Material Dimensions of Syncretism at Fort St. Joseph, a Mission-Garrison-Trading Post Complex at the Edge of Empire.

Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Vancouver, BC, April.

Mendes, E.

2008 Unexpected Developments: Excavations at the Lyne Site. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Michigan Archaeological Society, Lansing, MI, April.

Nassaney, M. S.

2008 The Materiality of Identity at an 18th Century French Colonial Outpost in the North American Interior. Paper presented at the Social Archaeology of the Southeastern Colonial Frontiers Conference sponsored by the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, Columbia, SC, April.

2008 Commemorating French Heritage at Fort St. Joseph, an Eighteenth-Century Mission, Garrison, and Trading Post Complex in Niles, Michigan. Paper presented at the 34th annual conference of the French Colonial Historical Society, Québec City, May.

Nassaney, M. S., organizer

2007 Recent Archaeological Investigations and Analysis at Fort St. Joseph, Niles, Michigan. Symposium presented at the annual meeting for the Midwest Archaeological Conference, South Bend, IN, October.

Papers presented: Nassaney, M.S., An Overview of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project; Claussen, E., M. Cook, and M.S. Nassaney, Continuing Investigations at Fort St. Joseph; Cook, M., Public Education and Outreach at Fort St. Joseph; Robinson, A., Stone Tobacco Pipes from Fort St. Joseph in Comparative Perspective; Malischke, L.M., Social Insights from an Analysis of Excavated Beads from Fort St. Joseph, Niles, MI; Barrante S., and M.S. Nassaney, Problems and Prospects in Public Archaeology.

Nassaney, M.S., organizer

2008 Ten Years of Archaeology at Fort St. Joseph: A French Colonial Mission-Garrison-Trading Post Complex in the North American Interior. Symposium presented at the annual meeting of the French Colonial Historical Society, Québec City, Canada, May.

Papers presented: Nassaney, M.S., Commemorating French Heritage at Fort St. Joseph, an Eighteenth-Century Mission, Garrison, and Trading Post Complex in Niles, MI; Claussen, E., Interpreting the Material Remains of Fort St. Joseph; Martin, T.J., and R. J. Becker, Fort St. Joseph and a Consideration of Animal Exploitation Patterns at French Colonial Sites in Upper Canada and the Illinois Country; Brandão, J.A., and M.S. Nassaney, Material Expressions of Social Identity at Fort St. Joseph; Malischke, L.M., The Cultural and Historical Context of Beads from Fort St. Joseph; Cook, M. and S. Barrante, Public Archaeology at Fort. St. Joseph.

Robinson, Andrew, and Meghan Cook, organizers

2008 Engaging the Public Through the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project. Symposium presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology, Albuquerque, NM, January.

Papers presented: Claussen, E., Bridging Community and University: The Fort St. Joseph Museum Internship; Nostrant, C., The Trials and Tribulations of Creating an Educational Archaeology Website; Nassaney, M.S., Commemoration and Public Perceptions at Fort St. Joseph in Niles, Michigan; Nassaney, M.S. and J.A. Brandão, The Fort St. Joseph Cilice and its Implications for Understanding Religious Practice on the French Colonial Frontier; Malischke, L.M., The Benefits of Engaging the Public at Fort St. Joseph; Cook, M., and E. Powell, The Public Benefits of Education at Fort St. Joseph; Robinson, A., Stone Tobacco Pipes from Fort St. Joseph in Comparative Perspective.

Other Project Outcomes

- July '08 Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project's Open House attracts over 1,500 visitors to witness archaeology and living history, July 26-27.
- July '08 As a research collaborator with Western Michigan University's archaeological field school at Fort St. Joseph, Dr. Terry Martin participated in the annual public Open House on July 26th and 27th where he displayed and discussed animal remains from the 2006 collection at the Outdoor Museum. That weekend he also presented hands-on zooarchaeology workshops for the high school teachers' archaeology camp (July 25th), the high school students' archaeology camp (July 28th), and the WMU undergraduate college students (the evening of July 25th) [a total of 30 individuals overall].
- July '08 Western Michigan University and the City of Niles sign a 10-year collaborative agreement to ensure investigations of Fort St. Joseph, July 24.
- July '08 Michigan Humanities Council presents a \$6,000 check to WMU to support the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project's Open House and continue public outreach, July 24.
- July '08 Informational panels about the fort project are installed in the Niles Public Library.
- June-Aug. '08 33rd annual WMU archaeological field school held at the site of Fort St. Joseph in conjunction with a public education program through the Fort St. Joseph Museum.
- June '08 Behind the Scenes at Fort St Joseph, presented to Support the Fort, Inc., June.
- May '08 Informational table on Fort St. Joseph Archaeology presented at WMU Day at the Capitol, Lansing, MI.

- May '08 Nassaney brings 5 graduate students affiliated with the project on an 8-day tour of New France visiting museums, collections, and archaeological sites in Ottawa, Montreal, Québec City, and New York. Sponsored by the Joseph L. Peyser Endowment for the Study of New France, the WMU International Education Faculty Development Fund, and WMU Faculty Research Travel Fund.
- April '08 Informational table on Fort St. Joseph Archaeology presented for Plow Days, Buchanan, MI.
- April '08 Digging Archaeology, presented to Niles Public Library Children's Library.
- February '08 Slide presentation on The Archaeology of Fort St. Joseph delivered to the Michigan Society for Colonial Wars, Grand Rapids, MI.
- January '08 Slide presentation on Recent Archaeological Discoveries at Fort St. Joseph delivered to the Chippewa Nature Center, Midland, MI.
- November '07 Developed a new brochure for the 2008 fund drive to solicit financial support for the project.
- October '07 Informational table on Fort St. Joseph Archaeology presented for Michigan Archaeology Day, Lansing.
- October '07 Led a tour of Fort St. Joseph Archaeology for 25 professional archaeologists at the Midwest Archaeological Conference held at Notre Dame, IN.
- October '07 Participated in Education Days sponsored by Support the Fort, Inc.
- September '07 Release of a promotional video, "Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project: Service and Learning in the Community," Western Michigan University.
- September '07 Recipient of the Michigan Historical Society's Educational Program Award.
- September '07 Informational table on Fort St. Joseph Archaeology presented at Apple Fest, Niles, MI.