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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Anthropology

Vol. 5, No. 1 Spring 2012

Participant/Observer

A Newsletter for Friends of the Western Michigan University Department of Anthropology

Anthropology Unveils New Archaeology Labs

This fall we moved into the new archaeology labs in Moore Hall. The new labs are in the space that formerly housed the Writing Center, which moved to Ellsworth Hall. There are three lab rooms—one dedicated to the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project, directed by Dr. Michael Nassaney, professor of anthropology; one for the Farmstead Archaeology Project in the Finger Lakes National Forest in New York, directed by Dr. LouAnn Wurst, chair of the Department of Anthropology; and the last to be used as a “wet lab” to process artifacts recovered through other local projects by faculty and students.

There are currently up to a dozen students working on research projects who will use the labs. The most distinguishing feature of the new archaeology space is

the floor, which incorporates an image of dried earth with scattered artifacts to cover the concrete floor.

WMU interior designer Sheri Harper (Facilities Management-Projects and Construction) designed the labs. Sheri's design won third place in the national Association of University Interior Designers competition for the category of renovations in the \$50,000-\$150,000 range.

The renovations feature a mural showcasing all aspects of anthropology that welcomes students as they enter Moore Hall. The mural includes stonework representing stratigraphic layers that surrounds a large glass window that allows people to see students at work in the lab, as well as various depictions of global cultural diversity, human evolution, and a variety

of anthropological research endeavors. The mural includes a flat screen monitor that allows the display of images relating to faculty and student research activities. We have also included a motion-activated sound system to include the audible and linguistic aspects of anthropology.

The mural was completed by artist Conrad Kaufman, a WMU alumnus who has done other artwork across campus, including murals in the third-floor suite of Wood Hall that is occupied by the Environmental Studies Program, in the Hoekje-Bigelow dining hall and in the Meditation Room of the Health and Human Services Building. Kaufman murals also can be found throughout the local area and elsewhere in Michigan on the walls of public places and private businesses, plus more than

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Ribbon cutting ceremony with (l-r) Dean Enyedi, President Dunn, Department Chair Wurst, mural artist Kaufman, and Provost Greene.





Conrad Kaufman working on the anthropology mural

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100 residential buildings. He owns and operates Fence Rows studio in Galesburg, Mich., which serves as his painting studio and a base for conducting art classes in pottery, painting, and woodworking.

He earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Western Michigan University in 1986 and became a full-time artist in 1995. Now a widely admired painter of landscapes and murals, he spent eight weeks on campus in 2009-10 as a visiting artist in residence. Kaufman has more than a student link to WMU. His father, Maynard, taught comparative religion and environmental studies at the University from 1963-87. The elder Kaufman also co-founded WMU's Environmental Studies Program in 1972 and served as its first director.

The Department of Anthropology hosted its annual open house on October 7, 2011 to dedicate the new space. Western Michigan University president John Dunn was joined by Provost Timothy Greene, College of Arts and Sciences dean Alexander Enyedi, Department of Anthropology chair LouAnn Wurst, and muralist Conrad Kaufman to cut the ribbon.



Detail of lab floor



WMU's new archaeology labs

Letter from the Chair



The Department of Anthropology has had an exciting and busy year. The most momentous change has been the “opening” of the new archaeology labs and completion of a mural dedicated to anthropology in the hallway of Moore Hall. The mural was created by Conrad Kaufman, an alumnus of the Department of Anthropology and well-known Kalamazoo muralist. It is so nice to have such beautiful space as part of our departmental facilities. I have found the mural and labs a great selling point for prospective students, and current students are enjoying it as well.

As part of the new anthropology facilities, we also have a new media lab equipped with three new Mac computers and a teaching lab with two PC computers loaded with ArcMap 10 as well as a range of other software packages. These two labs allow us to provide many new opportunities for our students.

This year the Department of Anthropology completed the process associated with the Native American

Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). As required by this federal law, WMU had already completed an inventory of all items in its collections subject to NAGPRA. Repatriation of Native human remains and associated funerary objects took place during 2010-11 and WMU is now fully NAGPRA-compliant. In all, 79 human individuals have been repatriated (returned) to Native tribes along with 225 associated funerary objects. These individuals and objects were returned to several tribes including the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, Mich. and Ind., the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Mich., the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Mich., and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan.

We have also been hard at work curating the archaeological collections housed at WMU. These materials were collected through research and summer archaeological field schools by emeriti faculty over the last 40 years. We have been re-bagging and boxing the artifacts, and will start

working on a collections inventory. Our goal is to make it easier for other researchers to see the great research collections that we have, and help to make the materials available for their own research projects.

This year our Speaker Series focused on gender, sexuality, and the body. We were lucky to host Dr. K. Anne Pyburn (Indiana University at Bloomington), Dr. Anne Fausto-Sterling (Nancy Duke Lewis Professor of Biology and Gender Studies in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology and Biochemistry at Brown University) and Dr. Don Kulick (Professor of Comparative Human Development, University of Chicago).

I hope that alumni and friends of the Department of Anthropology will continue their interest in and support for our programs and will use this newsletter to keep in touch with faculty and fellow alumni. Please update us on your achievements and activities by sending a letter or email to louann.wurst@wmich.edu.



2011 Farmstead Archaeology Project Season



WMU graduate students Mark Hoock, Dustin Conkin, and Kyle Lesage excavating a unit on the Dusenbury site.

WMU graduate student Stephen Damm excavating the privy at the A. Dunham site.

Stephen Damm Graduate student

From May 6-27, 2011, Dr. LouAnn Wurst of Western Michigan University led a team of students to the Finger Lakes National Forest to conduct archaeological investigations of historic farm sites. The students from Western Michigan University included graduate students Dustin Conklin, Mark Hoock, Stephen Damm, Jaynee Michaels, Erica D'Elia, Kyle Lesage, Alison Thornton, and Dan Schwartz, and undergraduates David Lang and Cathrine Davis.

The goals of the 2011 field season were to gather historic data from the Schuyler County courthouse in Watkins Glen as well as to map property boundaries and farm features. In addition, several farms were subject to targeted archaeological excavations.

This summer marked the eleventh consecutive year of fieldwork as part of the Finger Lakes National Forest Farmstead Archaeology Project. The Finger

Lakes National Forest is located in central New York, and the project is centered along what is known as the Hector Backbone, the high ridge separating Seneca and Cayuga Lakes. Since 2000, we have researched 23 different farms, as well as a school house and sawmill, dating from the early 19th through early 20th centuries. Archaeological investigations of these farms have yielded well over 150,000 artifacts.

The Hector Backbone was initially settled in the early 19th century and the farms located there experienced an economic boom through the first half of the century. By the end of the 19th century, the economic prosperity of the region was declining and the population of the area declined. By the early 20th century the Backbone community became the target of federal land management programs.

Subsequently, the farms were all purchased by the federal government as part of the New Deal's Resettlement Administration's Submarginal Farms

Program, designed to save farmers stranded on unproductive farm land. Archaeological data from all of the farms has yielded data that challenges this dominant narrative. We have discovered that these farms were more productive than thought; the farm families were constantly improving their homes and farms, and they had a greater level of consumer goods than we would expect. The research focus is geared toward understanding the contradictions between the dominant historical narrative and the material realities of these farmers' lives.

Last summer's field season kicked off with Dr. Wurst leading a walking tour along Burnt Hill Road. Several dozen local community members toured several of the farm sites and learned about the results of the archaeological work done at them. This tour was sponsored and organized by the Backbone Ridge History Group and the Finger Lakes National Forest Ranger District.

For much of the season, crew mem-

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bers worked in the county courthouse recording data from the agricultural and population schedules for 1855-75, as well as collect deeds and property records for the farms on the Hector Backbone. We will use these records to assess the products and productivity of the farms, trace the farms' ownership, as well as supply genealogical information across the region.

While the historic records were being researched, other crew members conducted walking surveys along property lines to test the adage that good fences make good neighbors. They utilized GPS devices to record the fence lines, and noted the size and composition of the fence materials, which were predominantly stone. This information will be used to reconstruct farm layout and will allow us to analyze field size and how they were separated. We hope to be able to link this reconstruction to farm production information listed in the agricultural schedules.

In addition to these investigations, traditional archaeological excavations were conducted at a number of farms along the Backbone. Work at the Dusenbury, A.C. Wickham, and Bement farms entailed drawing detailed maps, writing up descriptions of site features, and digging numerous excavation units. Much of our work focused on the Alexander Dunham farm. This farm was established around 1870 by Alexander Dunham and his wife Olive. Alexander bought this land soon after returning to Hector after he was injured in the Civil War. The Dunhams lived there until their deaths in 1914, after which the farm may have been occupied by tenant farmers until the land was sold to the federal government in 1937.

Our investigations revealed a large complex including a house with additions, a dug well and a later drilled well, a large barn complex, and a stone-lined privy, along with several other smaller features. In addition, a large garbage dump was located on the edge of the property, which exhibited a wide array of material that may be associated with the tenant occupation. Dave Lacy, the



Forest Service archaeologist assigned to the Finger Lakes National Forest, joined the crew briefly at the Alexander Dunham farm.

As part of ongoing community outreach and involvement, Dr. Wurst and several members of her team spoke to the Backbone Ridge History Group at the Hector Presbyterian Church in the evening of May 25th. Dr. Wurst discussed the overall project and its importance in local, regional, and national histories.

Dustin Conklin presented his master's thesis research on the role community and family ties played in farm abandonment. He has since finished his master's work at Western Michigan

University and is currently pursuing his Ph.D. at SUNY Binghamton, where he is investigating tenant farmers in the Finger Lakes under the auspices of Dr. Randall McGuire.

Several other Western students presented their research projects: Mark Hoock, a multi-year veteran of the project, discussed the impact of transformations in agricultural productions on the landscape; Jaynee Michaels talked about domestic production, food preservation and canning; Stephen Damm presented his work on the role of household age and life-cycles in determining consumer behavior. Mark, Stephen, and Jaynee have all continued with these research projects as their master's theses in anthropology at Western Michigan University.

Dr. Wurst is planning to return to the Finger Lakes National Forest this year at the end of May for a brief period. We will use this time to maintain the project's ties to the local community and engage in additional public outreach efforts. In particular, Kyle Lesage has been working on a project website geared toward public education. We plan to unveil the website and solicit comments and suggestions from local community members.



Finding Fossils in New Ways: Using GIS and Remote Sensing Approaches in Paleoanthropology

Robert L. Anemone
Professor of anthropology

How do paleontologists decide where to search for fossils? You may be surprised to learn that today's vertebrate paleontologists (students of the history of vertebrate life) work in very nearly the same way that the first paleontologists did more than 100 years ago.

We often follow in the footsteps of geologists whose maps can point out to us the presence of sedimentary rocks of the desired age and type that may bear fossil evidence of life of the past. In the American West, large sedimentary basins of several to many thousands of

square kilometers in extent are places where fossils tend to be found. So we drive out to the field every summer with colleagues and students, find a nice campsite or two, and methodically search the eroding badlands for fossils.

While geological and topographic maps may point us to areas where the rocks we are interested in are exposed and may bear fossils, what we typically do is drive down roads (often rough two-tracks suitable only for four-wheel drive vehicles) looking for badland exposures, to which we then walk for long distances, hunched over at the waist looking for evidence of fossils eroding right out of the sandstones and mudstones.

When we find a scatter of fossils that looks promising, we then crawl the area on all fours, searching for the very tiny remains of these ancient (and small-bodied) fossil mammals. As you can imagine, under these circumstances chance and good luck can play a large role in determining the success or failure of a paleontological expedition.

I began working in the Great Divide Basin (GDB) of southwestern Wyoming in 1994 because I was interested in finding early primates and other fossil mammals from the Paleocene (65-55 million years ago) and Eocene (55-34 million years ago), epochs in the American West. I also knew that a few of these fossils had been found



Surface collecting and dry screening for fossils at Tim's Confession locality in the Great Divide Basin.

at a couple of places in this basin by a U.S. Geological Survey geologist and a Smithsonian Institution paleontologist in the 1950s and '60s. During most summers since 1994, I have led groups of students and other scientists to the GDB in search of these elusive indicators of the mammalian community that lived in southern Wyoming 55 million years ago.

Prior to our 2009 field season, our work had been reasonably rewarding: we had located nearly 100 different fossil mammal localities and recovered about 8,000 fossil mammals from these sites. But in 2009, two of my graduate students (Tim Held and Justin Gish) found an extraordinary new mammal locality that is one of the richest sites from this time period in the entire American West!

After one week of intensive work, we had collected nearly 2,000 mammal

fossils, or about one quarter of the total number of fossils we had recovered in over more than 10 field seasons, including one species of rodent and one primate that were new to science!

How did we find this exciting and rich new site? On the morning in question, we were planning to check some known and moderately productive localities in a place called Salt Sage Draw. We never made it to Salt Sage Draw that morning because we took a wrong turn on an unfamiliar road that led right past some interesting-looking sandstones. Since the two-track road we were on was gradually disappearing in some tall grass and sage brush, I decided we should park and have a look at the sandstones. The rest is, as they say, history.

The experience of finding an incredibly rich site through this combination of good luck and bad route-finding

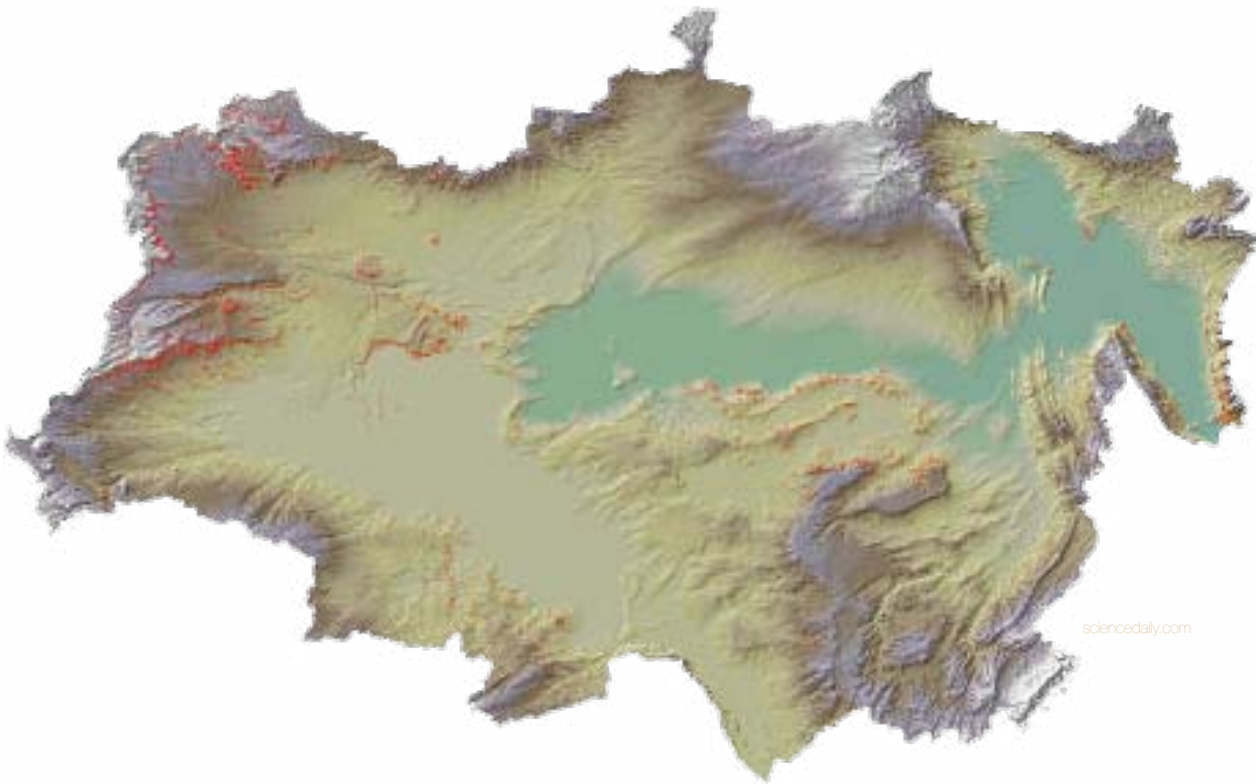
made me think seriously about the role of chance and serendipity in finding fossil sites, and I thought to myself that there must be a better way to do this. I knew that geographers and remote sensing specialists had tools for the analysis of spatial data and for imaging the earth's surface in a number of different ways.

I decided that a collaborative effort with such a scientist might lead to some interesting new approaches to determining in a more rigorous fashion where my field crews' efforts might best be spent in the search for new fossil localities. Luckily for me, just such a colleague existed in the person of Dr. Charles "Jay" Emerson from WMU's Department of Geography. Jay had all the technical expertise in remote sensing and GIS (geographic information

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A newly recovered lower jaw of an approximately 50-million-year-old carnivore from the Eocene of Wyoming.



This map of the Great Divide Basin is based on Landsat imagery and indicates areas (in red) that are predicted to yield productive localities based on our recently published neural network model. During our July 2012 field season we will “ground truth” this model.

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sciences) analysis and he was keen to come out to Wyoming to see what collecting fossils was like. More importantly, he was keen to work with me on developing a predictive model for the location of new fossil localities. During the summer of 2010, Jay accompanied me and my field crew to the GDB and collected GPS data at a series of localities, as well as some fine fossils, and when we returned to campus in the fall of 2010, we began to work in earnest at developing this model.

The result of our interdisciplinary collaborative project was an artificial neural network (ANN) model that utilized satellite imagery from Landsat 7 to characterize the spectral signature of known productive localities in the GDB. We essentially “trained” the ANN model to recognize what good localities looked like to the satellite sensor in six different bands of electromagnetic radiation reflected from the earth’s surface into space.

We then asked the model to find similar spectral signatures in other parts of the GDB, many of which we

have never surveyed (the GDB is about 10,000km² in area: even after more than 10 field seasons, we have only surveyed a small fraction of its area). After some manipulation within our GIS software and the addition of several constraints (e.g., concerning geology and topography), the results of our predictive model (see image nine), where the red pixels are the places where the model suggests we should concentrate our surveying and collecting efforts because they most closely resemble our known productive localities.

I presented our results at the Society for Vertebrate Paleontology’s annual meeting in Las Vegas during November 2011, and our paper was chosen as one of only 10 “featured abstracts” at the conference. This led to a series of interviews with journal editors, science journalists, and science bloggers and an enormous amount of positive publicity and media coverage of our results.

We also published three peer-reviewed papers on our work. Links to our papers and to much of the media coverage of our work can be found at my website http://homepages.wmich.edu/~anemone/RL_Anemone/Home.html.

What does the future hold for this project and our research? Plans are well under way for a 2012 field season in the GDB during the month of July when our main goal will be to “ground-truth” our predictive model. We plan to intensively search several of the areas that our model predicts have the highest density of high-probability places for finding fossils (i.e., red pixels in Fig. 10).

Our neural network predictive model is only the first step within our larger goal of developing, applying, and testing new approaches from the geographic and spatial sciences to the search for fossils.

The data that we will collect on the ground in the GDB during the summer 2012 field season will be utilized to improve our ability to predict where fossils might be found. We are currently working with colleagues on applying these and other approaches to the search for Eocene fossils in Utah’s Uinta Basin, and in the search for human fossils in the Plio-Pleistocene of South Africa, where I spent the summer 2011 field season. These are exciting times to be a paleontologist!

WMU Archaeologists Invade Baltimore for the Annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology

Mark Hoock and Emily Powell
Graduate Students

The Battle of Baltimore held a pivotal role in the war of 1812 as well as helped shape the identity of America. Outside of denoting one of the turning points in the war, holding off the British at Fort McHenry inspired Francis Scott Key to write the Star Spangled Banner. This year marks the bicentennial of this conflict between America and the British and considering the historical significance of this battle it seemed fitting that the 45th annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, hosted by the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA), was held this January in Baltimore.

Archaeologists from the department jumped at the opportunity to attend the conferences to share their findings and learn about the latest developments. The SHA welcomed over 1300 historical and underwater archaeologists from around the world to share their work, engage in current debates, and tour the sights and sounds of this thriving waterfront city.

Department chair LouAnn Wurst co-chaired a symposium entitled “Biting the Hand that Feeds: Capitalism in the Countryside” in which she, WMU alumnus Dustin Conklin, and Mark Hoock presented papers examining how agrarian capitalism has been viewed and defined.

Current WMU student Andrew Robinson and WMU alumnus Andrew Beaupre co-chaired a symposium paying tribute to an archaeologist from Michigan entitled “Archaeology in Michigan: Papers in Memoriam of Charles Rinehart.” Along with their respective papers, this symposium included a paper written by WMU graduate student Ian Kerr and read by fellow student Emily Powell.

Dr. Nassaney, ending his term as Secretary of the organization, presented a poster discussing racial issues within the organization and the field itself. Always aware of how his work affects the greater public, Dr. Nassaney strives at



Department of Anthropology students, faculty, alumni, and friends at the SHA meeting that we could round up for the photograph included (l-r): Sarah Hooker, Jayne Godfrey, Kelley Walters, Emily Powell, Michael Nassaney, Andrew Beaupré, Cathrine Davis, LisaMarie Malischke, and Andrew Robinson.

teaching students and colleagues alike how to be culturally sensitive and more inclusive when conducting the history and archaeology of others. Dr. Terrance Martin (M.A., '86), chair of Anthropology at the Illinois State Museum, contributed multiple papers on the usage of animal bones including one entitled “Fur Trapping and its Zooarchaeological Signature: An Example from the Midwest.”

Also in attendance from WMU were Stephen Damm, Erica D’Elia, Catherine Davis, and Jayne Godfrey, whose photographs from her field season on the Finger Lakes National Forest Archaeological Project adorn two pages in the SHA sanctioned 2012 calendar. Gracing the month of March is a photo taken at Fort St. Joseph by alumnus Jessica Hughes (B.A., '10), now studying archaeology at the University of Cincinnati.

An SHA conference would not be complete without tours of the host city. Archaeologists, given a backstage pass, visited numerous places around the state of Maryland with local researchers. Some tours included the capitol of Annapolis, historic Mary’s City, the Monocacy National Civil War Battlefield, Frederick Douglas’ boyhood home, and the Smithsonian Institu-

tion’s Natural History Museum. We made sure to attend the Public Archaeology Expo at Fort McHenry, the birthplace of our national anthem and a critical site during the War of 1812. The Expo featured a variety of displays on local community service learning endeavors, including posters and interactive activities.

The SHA in Baltimore did more than inform the field of current programs and digs. There was much networking for students, new technology to sample, and books on hand for sale. Of course, pub-crawling through local watering holes was a must, especially Max’s Taphouse in the historic Fell’s Point neighborhood, with 140 rotating drafts, five hand-pumped cask ales, and a collection of 1,200 bottled beers in stock!

Overall, these conferences are important in maintaining communication in the field of archaeology for students, professors, and professionals in this line of work. In the end, the SHA helps all of us to get motivated to jump back into our research with fresh ideas. Next year the SHA conference will be held in Leister, England, and you can bet we will be there to represent WMU and the work we’re doing to help reconstruct the past.

El Sol Students Get a Firsthand Look at Anthropology

Nichole Trammel
Graduate Student

On a sunny March afternoon, 45 third grade students from the local elementary school El Sol visited Western Michigan University's Anthropology Department. Their main destination on campus was the Department's newly renovated archaeology lab, where they learned about what anthropology and archaeology is, the kinds of work that anthropologists and archaeologists do, and even tried some out themselves!

For two hours, the 8-9 year olds participated in a series of rotating activities that aimed to showcase department highlights—the new hallway mural, archaeology labs, and important archaeological and ethnographic collections—to inspire critical reflection on the construction of social and historical knowledge. Utilizing their own curiosity and observation skills, children analyzed anthropological practices and how they tell stories of human experiences. They also considered how material culture embodies these stories and how archaeologists interpret data to create historical knowledge. Students witnessed a



A scavenger hunt for the El Sol students led to numerous “finds” in the new archaeology lab floor.

functioning archaeology lab complete with archaeology student volunteers as they asked questions, hunted for artifacts, washed faunal remains, and compared pottery from different periods of Michigan history.

After an afternoon of constructing and deconstructing stories, “reconstructing” ceramics, selecting subjects to interview, identifying objects, and

listening to samples of Inuit throat singing, El Sol's third grade class left understanding that anthropologists study people and gained an appreciation that archaeology is a messy but fun investigative process. Students exited to shouts of “We love anthropology!” and teachers vowed to return next year. El Sol's visit is a promising indication of future outreach opportunities for the department.



The anthropology mural excited the El Sol students.

The 36th Annual Western Michigan University Archaeological Field School

Erica A. D'Elia

Graduate Student, 2011 teaching assistant

HISTORY OF THE PROJECT

This past summer, WMU's archaeological field school stormed into Niles for the ninth season of investigations at Fort St. Joseph, the site of an 18th-century French mission, garrison and trading post. A diverse, multi-ethnic community of fur traders, priests, militia, Native women, and their *métis* children inhabited the fort for nearly a century. The fort played a major role in the fur trade where goods such as cloth, guns, metal tools, and kettles were exchanged with the local Potawatomi and Miami groups. It eventually fell into the hands of the British, and briefly the Spanish, before its abandonment in 1781.

The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project was established in 1998 by Dr. Michael Nassaney and works in conjunction with Western Michigan University's annual archaeological field school, the City of Niles, and the Fort

St. Joseph Museum in order to excavate and interpret the remains of the fort as well as educate and engage the public about its place within the context of French colonialism and the history of the western Great Lakes. Since 2002, public outreach has been a major goal of the project.

2011 FIELD SCHOOL

Dr. Nassaney led the 2011 archaeological field school students in the excavation of artifacts and features associated with the 18th-century fort. Ongoing investigation and research focuses on how social identities were actively created and negotiated and how the process of colonialism impacted the identities of both the Native Americans and the French.

Each year, the Project seeks to expand on previous investigations toward understanding how the diverse people who lived and worked at Fort St. Joseph actively negotiated their lives within the context of colonial encounters and how they expressed new cultural iden-

tities in a vastly changing world. Archaeologists work to situate the history of the fort within the larger contexts of the fur trade and cultural encounters on the colonial frontier.

Over 30 individuals comprised the student, staff, and volunteer workforce who labored at Fort St. Joseph this summer. Excavation units were placed near known features in order to increase our understanding of building construction techniques, site activities, and spatial arrangements. Several new features were identified during the 2011 season including a fireplace, a deep pit filled with fur trade-era artifacts, and a small concentration of Native American pottery associated with ash and charcoal deposits.

One of the most exciting finds of the season was a lead cloth seal. It was remarkably well preserved with "B" followed by a *fleur de lis* and letters spelling out "ORAIN DE LILLE" still visible on the front. This has been interpreted as "Bureau Foraine de Lille," which was an 18th-century taxing authority in a region of France well-known for cloth production. Other excavation units yielded artifacts relating to subsistence, architecture, adornment, and religious activities that complement the previous collection and add to the ongoing analysis of cultural continuity and change on the colonial frontier.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Public outreach and education efforts serve to disseminate information about the Project and site history to the public, and to involve them in the excavations. Middle school students, life-long learners, and educators were invited to participate in the program through week-long summer camps geared towards learning about French colonialism, Fort St. Joseph, excavation techniques, and material culture.

These programs were widely suc-

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Lifelong learners worked along side University students in the Department's 36th annual archaeological field school.



Nearly 2,000 visitors attended the open house in mid-August to see what WMU archaeologists had found out about the fur trade and how archaeology informs living history.

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cessful, enrolling over 35 students during the field season. Building on the success of previous years, a four-part lecture series was held at the Niles District Library, which brought together historians and archaeologists to present talks focused on the year's theme of the fur trade. The season culminated in a two-day open house event, also focused on the fur trade, held on site in Niles, which drew nearly 2,000 visitors. The event consisted of presentations, historical interpreters, historians, and archaeologists who gathered together to share their knowledge of Fort St. Joseph and the fur trade with visitors from the Niles community and beyond.

The event also gave the public the opportunity to speak with student archaeologists who were eager to answer questions and share what they had learned about the fort through the

summer's excavation. The event continues to be a huge success and draws first-time, as well as returning, visitors. The 2012 open house will be held August 11-12 and will examine the Fort St. Joseph militia.

In February 2011, the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project entered the Archaeological Institute of America's worldwide Online Excavation Outreach Contest. Fort St. Joseph took first place with over 3,000 votes beating similar outreach projects in the Mediterranean, South America, and the United States.

The Project's vast network of community support undoubtedly helped cement its victory. The 2011 season saw the inception of an online blog on which the student archaeologists shared their experiences with people around the world. Over 3,500 visitors have viewed the site (www.fortstjoseph-archaeology.blogspot.com) to keep abreast of current developments.

CURRENT PROGRESS AND PLANS

In April 2011, the project received a grant from Digital Antiquity to upload site data to the Digital Archaeology Record (tDAR.) This will allow the artifact catalog and associated materials and publications to be stored in digital format and shared with members of the archaeological community. Data from the first decade of work at Fort St. Joseph is accessible at <http://www.tdar.org/>.

Archaeological investigations and analysis will be continued at Fort St. Joseph to increase our understanding of the site and its situation within colonial frontiers, and to continue to break down the colonialist paradigm that has informed interpretations in past decades. Events such as the lecture series, blog, summer camps, and Open House help the project reach its goals of community outreach and education and fulfill the desire of the public to be informed and involved in the unearthing of their history.

WMU Now Offering Virtual Lectures on Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Programs

Thanks to the initiative of one of our graduating seniors and incoming graduate students, Alexander Brand, the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project (FSJAP) is now offering virtual lectures discussing the progress and history of excavation of an 18th-century French fort in Niles, Mich. Fort St. Joseph is one of the oldest European settlements in the western Great Lakes Region and was occupied by the French, British, Spanish and Native Americans for nearly a century (1691-1781).

After a decade of excavation led by Dr. Michael Nassaney, the FSJAP is expanding its public outreach efforts to future archaeologists through new technologies and software. The FSJAP is now offering virtual lectures utilizing the free software Skype. The participants in this virtual lecture must download this free software and create an account and have access to a webcam, the Internet, and a projection area where the lecture can be viewed.

Skype enables the FSJAP to share PowerPoint presentations, display images of authentic artifacts, and entertain face-to-face discussion between participants and students, while allowing the public to enter our lab where post-fieldwork analysis takes place on

a weekly basis. This virtual lecture program is offered at no costs for the participants, utilizing the free software and technologies currently available. Also, this can take place in any classroom with a projector and webcam, so no permissions slips are needed, in most cases, for this virtual field trip.

This program is specifically designed to educate students, from grades three through 12, about what archaeology is, the history of the French fur trade in the Midwest, and the methods involved in recovering, identifying, and analyzing artifacts and other cultural materials. The program will also consider requests from adult groups interested in learning more about Fort St. Joseph and its importance in our collective heritage.

The lectures will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis, with a variety of time slots and dates available for scheduling your virtual field trip. The program lasts approximately 30 minutes. Alexander Brand is receiving considerable interest in this initiative and is currently scheduling lectures for the fall.

The FSJAP is a collaborative partnership between Western Michigan University, the City of Niles, the Fort St.

Joseph Museum, Support the Fort, and numerous individuals and community groups. It began in 1998 when Dr. Michael Nassaney conducted a preliminary survey, eventually locating the site of the fort, beginning over a decade of excavation and research. FSJ is located in Niles, Michigan, known as the City of Four Flags.

The FSJAP offers a variety of public education and outreach opportunities including our popular summer archaeology camp program for adults, students, and educators, where participants can excavate at the fort site under the supervision of archaeologists for a whole week. Each season the fieldwork culminates in our annual open house that has hosted over 10,000 visitors over the past five years in viewing ongoing investigations, informational panels, artifact exhibits, and living history re-enactors who make the 18th century come alive.

Excavation continues in 2012 as we work to recover the past and reconstruct the history of the French fur trade and the lives of the people of New France. For more information about our project, visit: <http://www.wmich.edu/fortstjoseph>



2012 Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Open House: A Colonial Militia Muster on the Eve of Revolution

AUGUST 11 AND 12, 2012, 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M., AT FORT ST. JOSEPH IN NILES, MICHIGAN

This year's open house will feature a militia muster and 18th century encampment where visitors can see living history re-enactors demonstrate activities from life at the time of the American Revolution. Activities available to all visitors include opportunities to hear presentations, see an archaeological dig in process, and engage in 18th century shopping, eating, games and other activities. The 2012 Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Open House is free and open to the public!

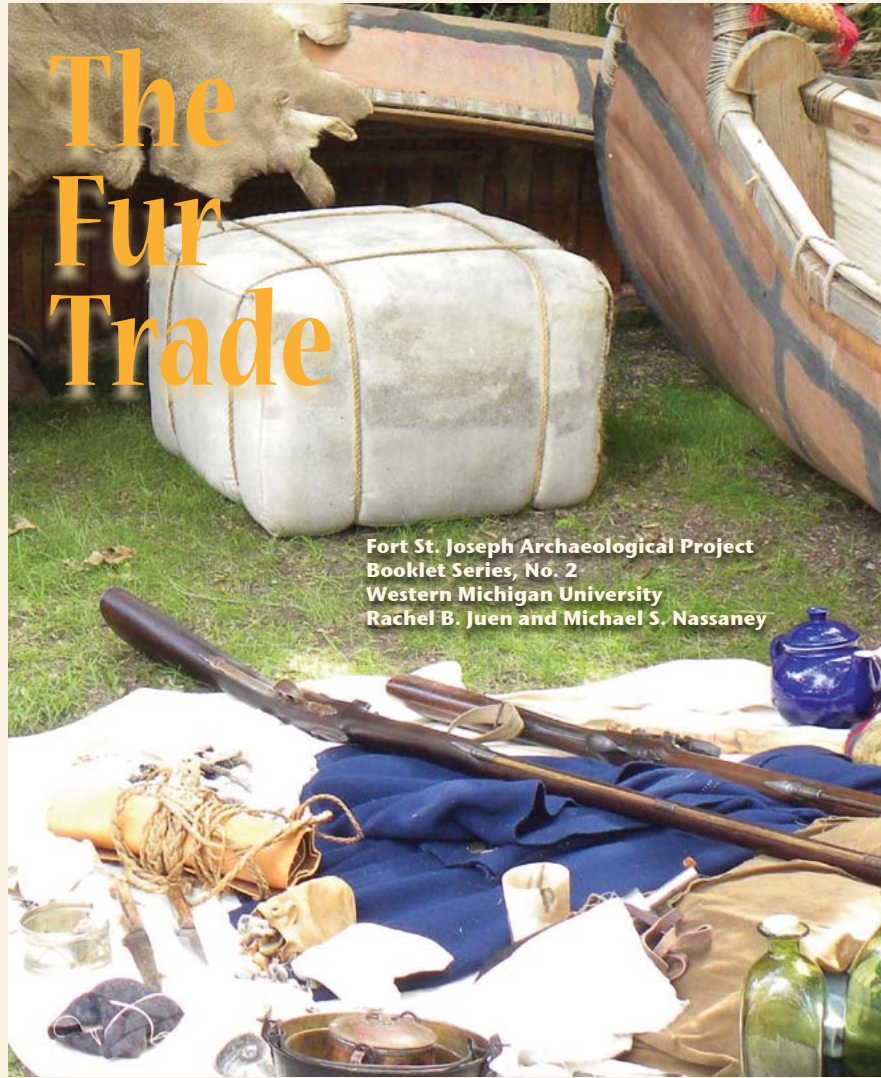
The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project is a partnership between Western Michigan University, the City of Niles, and the Michigan Humanities Council.



Fur Trade Booklet Now Available!

The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project is pleased to announce the publication of "The Fur Trade," the second issue in the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project Booklet Series. "The Fur Trade" is a valuable resource about the history and archaeology of the fur trade in our local region and in North America. The richly illustrated text traces broad outlines in the North American fur trade, and focuses in on specific examples from the Great Lakes region and the archaeology of Fort St. Joseph.

"Women of New France" was the first issue in the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project Booklet Series (2011). It looked at the roles, legal status, and everyday lives of women who lived in 17th- and 18th-century New France. You can view "Women of New France" online by visiting <http://www.wmich.edu/fortstjoseph/>. Both booklets were made possible by grants from the Michigan Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The booklets will be available free of charge at the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project annual Open House, August 11-12, 2012, and will be distributed to local libraries, schools, and community colleges, as well as public universities across Michigan. PDF versions of both booklets will also be available on our website.



Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project Booklet Series, No. 2
Western Michigan University
Rachel B. Juen and Michael S. Nassaney

34 Animal Exploitation Conclusion 35

Environmental Effects
 Native traditionally hunted beaver as a food and a fur source, but the intensification of hunting caused by the fur trade eventually decimated the beaver population. Beaver had built dams that formed ponds and wetlands and created new habitats for wildlife like fish, fish, insects, and amphibians. The dragging of dams also made paths for wildlife to access different resources for food and shelter. The overhunting of beaver led to harmful, long-term environmental consequences for these watersheds and wetland habitats.



Fig. 78 The trade in beaver skins led to the near extinction of the American beaver in the Plains in the nineteenth century.

Other fur trades, especially in sea otter and buffalo, also caused drastic drops in animal populations. Years of overhunting nearly drove these species to extinction. This trend continued until the early twentieth century, when government regulations were put in place to reverse centuries-old practices and restore their numbers.

"Their [beaver] decreasing in number is very easily accounted for; because the Indians, before the arrival of the Europeans, only caught as many as they found necessary to clothe themselves with, there being then no trade with the skins. At present a number of ships go annually to Europe, laden chiefly with beaver skins; the English and French endeavour to outdo each other, by paying the Indians well for them, and this encourages the latter to exterminate these animals."

—Peter Kalm, 1749 (Forster 1771:287)

Aftersmath
 Fur traders moved on to exploit new areas as fur-bearing animal populations declined. This led to widespread expansion of the French, British and American fur trades. As the fur trade moved westward, so did the territorial aspirations of these nations. In addition, fur traders had to rely on "second-line" species such as muskrat, marten, and white-tailed deer as overhunting depleted preferred species such as beaver, mink, otter, fisher, marten, and musk. Overexploitation of the beaver may have contributed to the use of new raw materials and techniques in hat making.

Legacies of the Fur Trade
 The fur trade was a global phenomenon that had varying consequences for both Native and newcomers throughout North America. Above all, it brought together people of varying cultural and ethnic backgrounds in economic, social, and political relationships. As scholars have noted, the fur trade required people of markedly different backgrounds to communicate and negotiate their places in a rapidly changing world.

The fur trade had no inevitable or predictable outcomes. Although the fur trade is a distant practice, the relations that it engendered through the transfer of objects on a daily basis have left a lasting legacy. Both European and Native learned to employ objects that served their needs in an effort to ensure their survival and success. The ways in which they made, used, and controlled of objects defy simple explanations drawn from a world of increasingly rapid technological change.

Examining the fur trade through the objects left behind gives us insights into the worlds of people who occupied the same space yet often viewed it in very different terms. Further study of the material legacy, together with the oral traditions and words written by the people themselves, bring us just a little closer to understanding the ways in which change can serve as bridges across cultural boundaries.

Fur Trade Timeline

- 1580-1600
- 1700
- 1800

—1580— First official fur trading voyage from Europe to the St. Lawrence Valley in France.

—1581— First fur garments from the fur trade to the St. Lawrence Valley in France.

—1582— First fur garments from the fur trade to the St. Lawrence Valley in France.

—1583— First fur garments from the fur trade to the St. Lawrence Valley in France.

—1584— First fur garments from the fur trade to the St. Lawrence Valley in France.

—1585— First fur garments from the fur trade to the St. Lawrence Valley in France.

—1586— First fur garments from the fur trade to the St. Lawrence Valley in France.

—1587— First fur garments from the fur trade to the St. Lawrence Valley in France.

—1588— First fur garments from the fur trade to the St. Lawrence Valley in France.

—1589— First fur garments from the fur trade to the St. Lawrence Valley in France.

—1590— First fur garments from the fur trade to the St. Lawrence Valley in France.

—1591— First fur garments from the fur trade to the St. Lawrence Valley in France.

—1592— First fur garments from the fur trade to the St. Lawrence Valley in France.

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—1594— First fur garments from the fur trade to the St. Lawrence Valley in France.

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—1596— First fur garments from the fur trade to the St. Lawrence Valley in France.

—1597— First fur garments from the fur trade to the St. Lawrence Valley in France.

—1598— First fur garments from the fur trade to the St. Lawrence Valley in France.

—1599— First fur garments from the fur trade to the St. Lawrence Valley in France.

—1600— First fur garments from the fur trade to the St. Lawrence Valley in France.

Sweet Memories in Japan

Jon Holtzman

Most commonly when we think of Japanese cuisine our thoughts turn to fish, particularly raw fish served as sushi or sashimi. Much less well known outside of Japan are their rich array of sweets, ranging from traditional wagashi—intricate confectionaries beautifully prepared by specialists in designs that richly evoke the changing seasons—to recent creations such as the chocolate Pocky or the Purple Potato Crunky Bar.

Over the past two years I have directed my long-term interests in the cultural study of food, which has been a principal focus of my work among Samburu herders in Kenya, to this fascinating aspect of Japanese cuisine.

This new geographical area of re-

search has resulted from collaborations with Japanese scholars in the African Studies Program at Kyoto University who have invited me several times as a guest to Japan over the past several years (including as a visiting scholar in 2010) in regard to joint work in Kenya. During my stays in Japan I became drawn (partially to the delight, and perhaps partially to the chagrin of my Africanist Japanese hosts) to the study of Japanese food and culture.

Thus, in 2011, I formally began a research project focusing on the characteristics and varying uses of the diverse body of Japanese sweets, and more importantly attitudes and memories surrounding them.

Food is an area of human life that

molds some of our most intense memories—whether in the nostalgia of a favorite childhood food, or in a life-long sense of revulsion in a truly awful meal—oftentimes melding these food-centered memories with experiences far outside the culinary realm, whether in intimate family relationship, broad level political and social changes, or a host of other arenas. In interviewing a diverse range of Japanese about their experiences with sweets covering a time period from before World War II to the present, I aim to learn not only about the fascinating world of Japanese sweets but to use these memories of sweets as a novel window into broad changes in Japanese life.

Gender, Sexuality, and the Body Lecture Series

This year, the Department of Anthropology hosted a lecture series entitled, “Gender, Sexuality, and the Body.” Three internationally renowned experts on the subject came to campus and presented their research findings. The Series kicked off in October with a visit by archaeologist Dr. K. Anne Pyburn of Indiana University at Bloomington. Pyburn met with faculty and students and discussed her work on gender among the ancient Maya.

In December, Dr. Anne Fausto-Sterling, the Nancy Duke Lewis Professor

of Biology and Gender Studies in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology and Biochemistry at Brown University, discussed her award-winning work on gender and sexuality, focusing particularly on the ways in which humans internalize their gendered identities.

She also met with local pediatricians in the Kalamazoo area and members of the newly formed WMU Medical School. Her visit with the pediatricians highlighted anthropology’s central role in contributing to understandings of

the fundamental entanglement of biology and culture.

Finally, Dr. Don Kulick, professor of Comparative Human Development at the University of Chicago, presented a lecture on sexual accessibility among disabled persons in Sweden and Denmark. He challenged the audience to think about human rights, entitlements, and social justice in varying cultural contexts. All of the presenters were well received and generated considerable intellectual energy among faculty and students.

Faculty News



Dr. Eng (far left) is shown here with her research team (l-r): Dr. Tumen Dashtseveg (Head of the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology), Andrew Baker, and Dr. Erdene Myagmar of the National University of Mongolia.

Jackie Eng was awarded two grants, WMU's Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award and the American Association of Physical Anthropologists (AAPA) Professional Development Grant, which helped fund her bioarchaeological research into activity- and health-related changes among ancient Mongolian burial populations this past summer 2011. The latter grant supported the travel of an undergraduate student assistant, Andrew Baker, who assisted in capturing 3D laser scans of bones, as well as conducting his own independent research of the correlation between two dental markers of stress. Her work in Nepal was featured on a National Geographic Special, "Cave People of the Himalaya," which premiered on PBS on February 15 and can

continued on page 17



Dr. Eng examining skeletal remains in Mongolia.

Faculty News

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be viewed online (<http://www.pbs.org/programs/cave-people-himalaya/>). The PBS special highlighted research she has been conducted over the past two years, investigating the health, diet, and mortuary rituals of ancient people settling and adapting to the high altitudes of the Himalayan valleys.

Sarah Hill was invited by the Kalamazoo Public Library to give a talk in March on the realities of modern Mexico. The talk was part of the community events surrounding Luis Alberto Urrea's "Into the Beautiful North," which was selected as the Library's 2012 community read. Because the situation in Mexico is still too unstable for research, Sarah will continue her work in Santiago de Cuba this summer, hoping to

collect enough resources on Cuban recycling practices to finish a short book on Cuban material culture in the context of rapid economic change.

Michael Nassaney directed the department's 36th annual archaeological field school at the 18th-century site of Fort St. Joseph in Niles, Mich. His research on public outreach was supported by grants from the Michigan Humanities Council and the Center for Digital Antiquity. He recently published a chapter on archaeology and community service learning in the "Oxford Handbook of Public Archaeology" (2012). He continues to edit the highly successful series "The American Experience in Archaeological Perspective" (University Press of Florida) and co-authored

(with Rachel Juen, 2012) "The Fur Trade," the second issue in the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project booklet series. Michael just completed his second three-year term as secretary of the Society for Historical Archaeology, the world's largest organization devoted to the study of the recent past.

Laura Spielvogel continues to work on her web-based, role-playing game, "A Marriage of Cultures." Her recent fellowship at the Kauffman Foundation pushed her research in a new direction as she is now developing a wizard to allow any instructor to create his or her own simulation in five simple steps. She also had a piece of creative nonfiction published in the online journal Freerange Nonfiction.

continued on page 17



Andrew Baker assisted Dr. Eng in measuring human remains in Mongolia.

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Bilinda Straight and colleagues completed data collection this academic year for their National Science Foundation project on inter-community violence and health in northern Kenya (in collaboration with the University of Arizona). The project has been designated a “NSF Highlights” project, with results to circulate to Congress, federal and state policy makers, business and industry, and the general public.

Kristina Wirtz co-edited a special issue of the *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* on “Racializing Discourses” in August 2011. She also received a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend Award for 2012.

LouAnn Wurst has continued her research on the capitalist transformations in agriculture focusing on the Finger Lakes National Forest in New York. She published an article titled “Hidden Boundaries: Theory, Ideology and Archaeological Identity” in an edited volume on Ideologies in Archaeology. Wurst has also had a busy conference year: she co-organized and presented a paper in a session on the social relevance of archaeology for the American Anthropological Association meetings; co-organized and introduced a session on Capitalism and Agriculture for the Society for Historical Archaeology meetings; will co-author two papers for a session on Marxist Archaeology at the Society for American Archaeology conference; and will present a paper on Historical Archaeology for a symposium on the philosophy of internal relations held in conjunction with the Historical Materialism conference.

Current and Former Student Activities

Andrew Baker (B.A., '11) was awarded a renewal of the College of Arts and

Sciences Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Award with Dr. Eng as his faculty sponsor. He used these funds to support his travel and presentation of his findings at the 18th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Bioarchaeology and Forensic Anthropology Association. He also talked about his research at a department Brown Bag lunch in November, and in December collected new comparative 3D data at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, which will be used in continuing research projects with Dr. Eng. Andrew graduated in the fall and will begin graduate school at Purdue University next fall with funding from a teaching assistantship.

Rory Becker (M.A., '04) earned his Ph.D. from the University of Wyoming in 2010 while working for cultural resource management firms and federal agencies in Wyoming. His dissertation focused on the use of remote sensing techniques to locate Rocky Mountain rendezvous sites. He has joined the faculty at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande where he is pleased to be in a tenure-track position.

Amanda Brooks (M.A., '10) recently accepted an Archaeologist 1 position at Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex in Moundsville, W. Va. She will be helping initiate a collections management program for over 10 years of backlogged artifacts from the site, exactly what she was preparing for in graduate school.

Michaella Mukasa-Clark (B.A., '11) has accepted a position teaching English in China for E.F. English First.

Kristen Krueger (M.A.) completed her Ph.D. in Biological Anthropology at the University of Arkansas and begins a tenure-track job in the Department of Anthropology at Loyola University in Chicago in the fall.

Amanda Messer (B.A., '12) presented the results of her recent research project in a poster on “Lead Shot from Fort St. Joseph” at the annual meeting of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters in spring 2012.

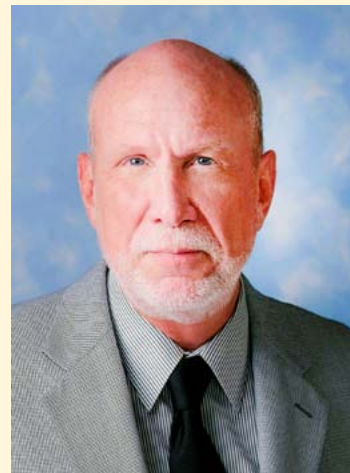
Dan Sayers (B.A., '95, M.A., '99) was among the first cohort in the new doctoral program in historical archaeology at the College of William and Mary in the fall of 2001 and he received his Ph.D., the first one granted by the Department of Anthropology, in May 2008. His dissertation work focused on the African American maroon and other diasporic communities that formed in the Great Dismal Swamp in North Carolina and Virginia between ca. 1600-1860. He joined the faculty of the Department of Anthropology at American University in Washington, D.C. in the fall of 2008 where he has continued his Great Dismal Swamp work through annual summer field schools and year-round laboratory analysis. With the help of a substantial National Endowment for the Humanities “We the People” Collaborative grant he received in 2010, Dan has brought American University masters and doctoral students into the Great Dismal Swamp project as well as colleagues from a variety of universities around the country. He is currently finishing a manuscript on his Dismal Swamp work for the University Press of Florida.

James Webber (B.A., '10) participated in the 2010 archaeological field school and is now enrolled in the anthropology doctoral program at the University of Arizona, one of the largest departments in the country. Stimulated by his barefoot running, his research focuses on the big question of why we ever developed a heel and other issues related to bipedal locomotion. He has been recruiting the runners through the psychology department for a related study that examines the mental effects of barefoot running.

2011-12 Department of Anthropology Awards

The Department was pleased to welcome Kenneth R. Pott as the recipient of the 2011 Department of Anthropology Distinguished Alumni Award. Ken holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in anthropology from Western Michigan University with an emphasis on the study of maritime cultures. During his academic and professional careers Ken has worked on maritime archaeological sites in Texas, Maine, East Africa and the Great Lakes region. From 1981-2000 he held the position of curator at the Michigan Maritime Museum, South Haven, Mich. In May of 2000 he was appointed executive director of

The Heritage Museum and Cultural Center at St. Joseph, Mich. Ken has served on working committees of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Council of American Maritime Museums, the Society of Professional Archaeologists, the Board of Directors of the Michigan Museums Association, and as president of the Historical Society of Michigan. He is currently active as a member of the Steering Committee of the Michigan Port Collaborative. On June 1, 2011 Ken began his new position as executive director of the Tri-Cities Historical Museum in Grand Haven, Mich.



Kenneth R. Pott was the recipient of the 2011 Department of Anthropology Distinguished Alumni Award.

THE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR AWARD

The most prestigious honor an undergraduate student can be awarded at WMU, it is awarded to a single graduating senior in each department every year. Presidential Scholars are determined by the department faculty.

Bryan L. Bommersbach

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES AWARD

Bryan L. Bommersbach

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES INTERNATIONAL STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP

*Catherine Davis
Sarah Nemire
Brandon Soderman*

WILLIAM M. CREMIN SCHOLARSHIP IN ARCHAEOLOGY

This scholarship was created in 2010 to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the WMU archaeological field school and to honor Dr. William M. Cremin who co-founded the program in 1976. The scholarship assists students in defraying the costs associated with attending the archaeological field school. The winners of \$500 scholarships are:

*Jordan Wojdula
Amber DePree*

MAHER AWARD

Awarded annually to one or more graduating seniors or graduate students in anthropology who demonstrate outstanding ability and promise for the future. Winners of the award are determined by the faculty of the Department of Anthropology. The award was established in honor of Robert F. Maher who taught at the University for 30 years, and who was the founder and first chair of the Department of Anthropology.

*Andrew Baker
Autumn Shroyer*

MAHER TRAVEL AWARD

Established in 2009, the Maher Travel Grant provides funds to support undergraduate and graduate anthropology students traveling to conferences to present professional papers or posters. This year, Travel Awards were given to:

*Mark Hoock
Amanda Messer*

ALAN H. JACOBS MEMORIAL AWARD

*Catherine Davis
Rachel Nichols
Brandon Soderman*

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD

Amanda Messer

ANTHROPOLOGY STUDENTS INVITED TO JOIN PHI BETA KAPPA

*Andrew Baker
Bryan Bommersbach
Jason Toorenaar
Cathrine Davis*

UNDERGRADUATE PAPER PRIZE: THE ANTHROPOLOGY COLLECTIVE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN WRITING

*Winner: Teresa Marin
First runner-up: Roxana Gamble
Second runner-up: Shannon Thompson*

Graduate College Awards

DEPARTMENT GRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE SCHOLAR AWARD

Ian Kerr

DEPARTMENT GRADUATE AWARD FOR TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS

Erica D'Elia

Faculty Awards

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES FACULTY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY

Robert Anemone

Department of Anthropology
Western Michigan University
1005 Moore Hall
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5306

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