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Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project Annual Report, 2011-12

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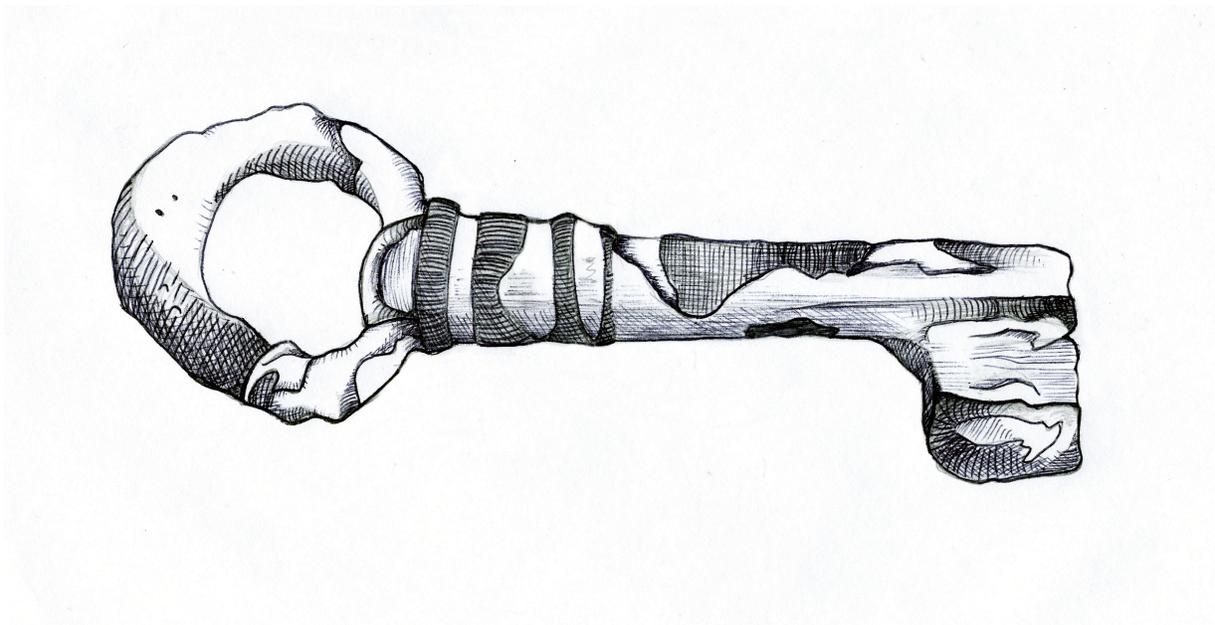
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Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project Annual Report, 2011-12

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November 27, 2012



This key, recovered during the 2012 excavations, was used to open a chest, padlock, or door at Fort St. Joseph. Drawn by Aryn Tiller.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Introduction

The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project (hereafter the “Project”) continued its multifaceted program of research, teaching, and public outreach focused on the study of the fur trade and colonialism in southwest Michigan, while involving the community in the process with the support of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Advisory Committee. Over the past year (September 1, 2011 through August 31, 2012) Western Michigan University (WMU) students and faculty, along with various stakeholders and community volunteers, collaborated to investigate the site of Fort St. Joseph and disseminate information to increasing numbers of people. Here are some of the year’s highlights.

- The project was the recipient of a \$10,000 grant from the Michigan Humanities Council (MHC) to support our annual open house.
- Our highly successful blog offered archaeologists the chance to share their experiences with more than 11,000 visitors from around the world (<http://fortstjosepharchaeology.blogspot.com/>).
- The fourth annual summer lecture series was devoted to the theme of “The Military in Historical and Archaeological Perspective” through the generous support of the Joseph L. Peyser Endowment of the Study of New France, among others.
- Niles Mayor Michael McCauslin, WMU Provost Timothy Greene, Dean Alex Enyedi, History Department Chair José António Brandão, and Michigan State Archaeologist Dean Anderson addressed the public at our annual media day.
- Larry Simpson was named the winner of the second annual Volunteer of the Year Award for service to the Project.
- Summer camps gave 27 students, teachers, and life-long learners the opportunity to experience archaeology firsthand.
- The third annual issue of the *Fort St. Joseph Post* newsletter was distributed.
- We obtained a new 5-year permit from the Department of Environmental Quality to continue excavations (2012-2017).
- A film crew collected footage for a new DVD during the 2012 open house featuring “A Colonial Militia Muster on the Eve of Revolution.”
- A new booklet on the fur trade was published with the support of the Michigan Humanities Council and has been distributed to over 280 schools, museums, and libraries throughout the state.

The Project benefits from the generous support of various partners, sponsors, and donors who contribute time and resources to further our goals. Particularly noteworthy are the efforts of WMU faculty, administrators, staff, and students; City of Niles public officials; the Fort St. Joseph Museum; members of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Advisory Committee (FSJAAC), which is responsible for recommending and promoting the course of action for site development; and countless other supporters who assist us in realizing our mission.

This report describes the 2011-12 activities of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project, a collaborative research and service-learning partnership between Western Michigan University and the City of Niles. (See Appendix A for a list of our sponsors and supporters and Appendix B for a list of Project outcomes.)

Project Activities and Personnel

In 2012 we initiated the 10th field season of excavation and interpretation at one of the most important eighteenth-century French trading posts in the western Great Lakes—Fort St. Joseph. In conjunction with Western Michigan University's 37th annual archaeological field school, over 50 students and summer campers expanded previous excavations to recover artifacts and evidence of features to shed new light on the history and culture of the eighteenth-century fur trade on the frontier of New France. Members of the field school included 10 undergraduate students and 5 graduate students enrolled for academic credit, 27 campers, and 5 staff members under the direction of Dr. Michael Nassaney, Principal Investigator. Staff members in paid positions include: Joe Hearn, teaching assistant; Erica D'Elia, public outreach coordinator and house manager; Tim Bober, public education coordinator; Alex Brand, laboratory coordinator; and Skylar Bauer, intern.

Public outreach is an important component of the Project and takes many forms. In addition to the annual open house that attracted nearly 2,000 visitors to the site, the Project sponsored its 4th annual summer public lecture series, offered its annual summer camps, maintained a booth at the French Market, and presented regular updates on current activities through its blog (<http://fortstjosepharchaeology.blogspot.com>). Presentations were also delivered at conferences, workshops, meetings, and other venues throughout the country.

Field Investigations

Fieldwork was conducted in July and August under the auspices of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project, marking the 10th season of investigations at Fort St. Joseph since 1998. Excavations began at the Lynn site (20BE10) on the terrace above the fort. A total of 15-1 x 1 meter excavation units were placed adjacent to the river in a location that yielded archaeological materials during limited testing in 1998. As with the rest of the terrace, this area was plowed in the 19th century, resulting in mixed deposits of significant quantities of archaeological materials representing ancient, colonial, and modern activities. Materials of interest include a number of chert flakes from tool production and maintenance; fire-cracked rock; a small, triangular projectile point; a possible stone drill; several glass seed beads; and some lead and iron shot. Perhaps most intriguing was the recovery of a copper alloy thimble that resembles specimens recovered from Fort St. Joseph. The 2012 specimen was of interest because it had been intentionally perforated suggesting that it had been employed as a decorative object, not for its intended function as a sewing accessory. These European imports indicate the terrace was occupied at the same time as Fort St. Joseph.

In order to conduct fieldwork at the site of Fort St. Joseph, we were required to renew our 5-year permit with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The application process was delayed this season because we were attempting to expand our investigations in the floodplain both upriver and beneath the landfill that borders our previous excavation area immediately to the south. Unfortunately, we were unable to get permission to investigate the area beneath the landfill at this time. The DEQ required us to conduct water purity tests in the floodplain given the potential contaminants that could be leached into the site from the landfill.

The results indicated minute amounts of lead and mercury in the water from one of four test areas, requiring us to devise a new dewatering procedure that involved pumping the water through a 400' hose into the City's sewer system where it could be purified at its treatment plant. With the assistance of the City and local volunteers, we met DEQ requirements with this new dewatering installation and began fieldwork in late July.

As a result of these events, less time was spent at Fort St. Joseph than in previous field seasons. Nevertheless, we continued to investigate a number of features in order to ascertain the size, location, construction methods, and content of buildings at the site. We began by re-excavating previously explored units, particularly in the vicinity of Features 10 and 14, which are large fireplaces probably associated with domestic buildings. In order to hasten excavations to expose undisturbed deposits, the plow zone was removed as a single stratigraphic unit in all of our 6-1 x 2 m excavation units. While excavations adjacent to the units provided a larger sample of artifacts that we can relate to these buildings, time did not permit us to expose structural features as we had planned.

Nevertheless, excavations led to the discovery of a number of unusual artifacts, as well as a large ash deposit (designated Feature 23) associated with the Feature 10 fireplace. This ash deposit appears to be material that may have been cleaned or washed out of Feature 10. Flotation samples were collected that will allow for the identification of charred botanical remains that may be preserved in this deposit. Artifacts from the 2012 excavations relate to daily life and can be classified according to their commercial (e.g., lead cloth seals), personal (e.g., adornment objects like glass beads), domestic (e.g., imported ceramics and glass containers), occupational (e.g., hunting equipment like gun parts), architectural (e.g., nails and other hardware), or religious functions (e.g., cross). Among these were several objects of particular interest. Two iron keys were found in the plow zone of the same excavation unit. The keys, one of which is illustrated on the cover of this report, were probably used to open a chest, a padlock, or a door. A brass bell was found with the clapper in tact. Also recovered was a small rectangular plaque of what appears to be bone or ivory engraved with the image of a bird. Finally, a silver or pewter cross with a loop for attachment was found. Its irregular shape suggests that it was locally made and cut out of a larger piece of raw material. This makeshift object, crudely fabricated to symbolize a Latin cross, may speak to the devotion of its maker or wearer.

In addition to excavation, we also resumed our geophysical survey by examining a 10 x 10 m and a 20 x 20 m block west of the dewatering system using a gradiometer to detect changes in the earth's magnetic field caused by localized anomalies that may be of archaeological interest. The survey revealed several areas that may have archaeological potential and should be tested in the future.

Public Education and Outreach

Our public education and outreach efforts continued in order to disseminate information to the public and our followers about our findings at Fort St. Joseph. Over 100 members are now fort followers and received special benefits such as the third issue of our newsletter, the *Fort St. Joseph Post*. The newsletter, edited by Erica Stone who served as the 2011-2012 Fort

St. Joseph Museum intern, was distributed in both digital and print formats. We continued to update our website (<http://www.wmich.edu/fortstjoseph>), Facebook page, and blog (www.fortstjosepharchaeology.blogspot.com) to keep visitors abreast of current developments. Weekly posts continued on the blog after the conclusion of the field season to report on lab findings, conferences, and outreach events attended by team members.

Our annual summer camp training program is coordinated through the Fort St. Joseph Museum under the directorship of Carol Bainbridge. The camps continue to attract middle school students, teachers, and lifelong learners who want an authentic historical experience. Under the direction of returning public education coordinator, Tim Bober, 27 students learned how to excavate properly, take field notes, and identify artifacts. Several local volunteers and members of Support the Fort (STF) also stayed involved in the dig in various capacities. A number of organizations and individuals provided meals for the field school members including the Fort St. Joseph Historical Association, Kiwanis Club, Barbara Schwaderer, Craig McGirr, Barbara Cook, the Layman family, and the Drolet family. Erica D'Elia, Barb Cook, and Mary Ellen Drolet coordinated these efforts, which help to strengthen relationships and facilitate information exchange within the community.

The Director of the Fort St. Joseph Museum, Carol Bainbridge, also coordinated a range of educational activities aimed to disseminate information about the Project. She and her assistants provided programming on Fort St. Joseph to school groups throughout the region. This past year over 400 students and Boy Scouts learned about the history and culture of the fort and the fur trade through outreach and visits to the Museum. In addition, Ms. Bainbridge's attention to camp registration, preparation of manuals for all of the campers, and availability and willingness to assist whenever needed in support of the field school testifies to the close working relationship between WMU and the City of Niles.

In 2012 the Project held its fourth annual summer archaeology lecture series at the Niles District Library, Niles Senior Center, and the Northern Indiana Center for History in South Bend. The WMU Department of Anthropology, Joseph L. Peyser Endowment for the Study of New France, Larry Sehy, and the Michigan Humanities Council supported the series. The theme was the "The Military in Historical and Archaeological Perspective." Presentations by Doug Scott, Ph.D. (National Park Service); Robert Myers (Berrien County History Center at Courthouse Square); Larry Horrigan (local arms expert); Joseph Gagné (Laval Université, Quebec), and Kevin Gladysz (author of *The French Trade Gun in North America*) were well attended, provocative, and followed by lively discussions.

The military theme of the lecture series was extended to the annual open house held the weekend of August 11-12. Erica D'Elia, a WMU graduate student in anthropology, served as our open house coordinator. Media day on August 9 alerted local newspapers and television stations of the upcoming event and has become a venue for special greetings and announcements. Acting as master of ceremonies, Dr. Nassaney welcomed the community to the open house and introduced a number of Project supporters including WMU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Timothy Greene; the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Alex Enyedi; the Chair of the History Department, Dr. José António Brandão; and the Mayor of the City of Niles, Michael McCauslin. The second annual Volunteer of the

Year Award was presented to Larry Simpson for his long-term contributions to the Project. A ribbon cutting ceremony opened the site for the weekend's activities. Media coverage helped to promote the event and attract a large crowd to the open house. We were fortunate to receive our fourth grant from the Michigan Humanities Council (\$10,000) to underwrite event expenses, including the participation by two public scholars, Kevin Gladysz and Dr. Terrance J. Martin. Three new permanent informational panels, prepared by Scott MacPherson and Susan Reichert and paid for by the Chicago Office of the Délégation du Québec, presented the history and archaeology of the Fort St. Joseph militia. Finally, Bob Myers and Barbara Schwaderer again coordinated the living history re-enactments associated with the annual theme. This year they had the added responsibilities of welcoming and organizing nearly 100 re-enactors of the Northwest Territory Alliance (NWTA), some of who came from as far away as Wisconsin and Missouri.

In addition to these events, the open house included a book dealer, descendants of fort occupants, children's crafts, and period food. Donations and sales of fort-related merchandise generated funds that will help to offset some of the Project costs. The NWTA sponsored a dinner on Saturday evening for over 100 open house participants, volunteers, students and their families. Period food and drink were followed by dancing, ax throwing, and other activities that provided field school students the opportunity to dress in eighteenth-century garb.

Finally, three important works related to the Project were published this past year. First, Fort St. Joseph was featured in an article written by Michael Nassaney published in the *Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology* that examines the way in which the research approach taken in the Project aims to be more inclusive of a variety of cultural perspectives. Second, Nassaney's chapter on his implementation of community service-learning at Fort St. Joseph was published in a prestigious book, *The Oxford Handbook of Public Archaeology*. Lastly, the second issue of *The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project Booklet Series* was released in 2012. Sponsored by the Michigan Humanities Council, the booklet focuses on the fur trade and is written for a general audience. This work is the culmination of over a year of research by Rachel Juen and Michael Nassaney. Over 280 copies of *The Fur Trade* and *The Women of New France* (Booklet No. 1) were distributed to schools, museums, and libraries throughout the state of Michigan. It was recently nominated for the Michigan Historical Society's state history award.

Laboratory Analysis and Collections Management

Fort St. Joseph researchers were busy over the past year conducting analysis, organizing the collections, and publishing their results. A complete list of Project outcomes can be found in Appendix B. Ian Kerr completed his M.A. thesis on the personal adornment artifacts from the fort. In his comparison with those found at Fort Michilimackinac, Kerr found that the objects recovered in our excavations are indicative of French fur traders, thereby providing important information on the occupants of the buildings that have been the focus of our investigations since 2002.

A large proportion of the materials we recover from Fort St. Joseph are subsistence remains, particularly animal bones representing the remnants of meals consumed at the fort. Dr.

Terrance J. Martin continues to analyze these remains to reconstruct eighteenth-century dietary patterns. The ongoing archaeological investigation of Fort St. Joseph is providing the opportunity to compare and contrast the findings from the southwestern Michigan locale to other French sites in the Wabash River Valley of Indiana, and in St. Clair and Randolph counties, Illinois, in order to look at how local site functions (e.g., involvement in the fur trade, local agricultural and livestock production, presence of governmental and commercial officials), proximity and interaction with local Native American populations, and local environmental settings influence animal exploitation patterns. Dr. Martin regularly presents the results of his studies to professional and public audiences (see Appendix B).

Much of the digital data pertaining to Fort St. Joseph through 2010 have now been uploaded to the Digital Archaeology Repository (tDAR) thanks to a grant from Digital Antiquity and the work of Erin Claussen and Ian Kerr under the direction of Michael Nassaney. Among the data available are the artifact catalog and associated materials, various publications, and images associated with the project. With the completion of the grant this year the results from the first decade of work at Fort St. Joseph are accessible to a wider audience (<http://www.tdar.org/>).

Future Challenges and Opportunities

Any initiative as large and enduring as the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project is bound to experience changing circumstances, which present both challenges and opportunities that the Project must meet if it is to grow and thrive. Among the most transformative aspects of the learning community dimensions of our fieldwork has been the ability for students and staff to live in Niles and participate fully in the life of the community. This past season we returned to the Stables at 2000 Morris Road for six weeks. The proprietor, Stephanie Layman, made every possible accommodation to provide excellent facilities during our stay. Until we have a dedicated building to accommodate students and lab work, we hope to continue to use the Stables as our base of operations.

The Project has made tremendous strides over the past decade in the discovery and interpretation of Fort St. Joseph. The principal investigator, Michael Nassaney, devotes a significant amount of his professional activities (research, teaching, and service) to the Project. The Project is also fortunate to have active Advisory Committee members and a regular stream of graduate and undergraduate students in training, some of who learn as they work to promote the Project's mission. In addition, the Fort St. Joseph Museum continues to support an intern on an annual basis who works on various aspects of the Project throughout the academic year. The Project also benefits from funding generated through the membership program initiated by the finance committee several years ago, as well as ongoing financial support from external grants, WMU, and the City of Niles. The Advisory Committee is currently exploring new initiatives that will help to expand the impact of the Project. A major concern is the long-term curation of the materials recovered from the excavations. A curation plan and properly designed facility need to be developed to justify continued site investigations. As the Committee outlines a strategy to address this need, the goal remains to work towards the preservation of Fort St. Joseph and dissemination of our findings to a wide audience to increase an appreciation for our colonial heritage and the challenges faced by all of our ancestors.

APPENDIX A
Project Sponsors and Supporters, 2011-12

Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Advisory Committee

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

Cash Donations

Lifetime Members (\$10,000+)

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

Commandant (\$500-\$9,999)

Anonymous
 Mrs. Barbara Cook
 Fort St. Joseph Historical Association
 General Society of Colonial Wars
 Joseph L. Peyser Endowment for the Study of New France
 Dr. and Mrs. Michael Nassaney
 Ms. Barbara Schwaderer and Mr. Craig McGirr
 Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Michigan
 Support the Fort, Inc.

Explorer (\$250-499)

Mr. Richard C. Barron
 Dr. Sharon Lee Carlson and Mr. Thomas Dietz
 Ms. Mary Ellen Drolet
 Kiwanis Club of Niles/Southwest Michigan
 Mr. Larry J. Sehy
 Mr. Gregory Young

Voyageur (\$100-249)

Délégation du Québec, Chicago Office
 Department of Anthropology, WMU
 Department of History, WMU
 Mr. David A. Ikerd
 Mrs. Nancy Johnson
 Mr. and Mrs. Tom Lister
 Dr. Terrance Martin
 Mr. Michael McCauslin
 Ms. Stacy L. Moore
 Mr. and Mrs. Ochenryder
 Fr. David C. Otto
 Ms. Susan K. Reichert
 Ms. Marybeth Janei Smith
 Dr. Diane G. Williams and Mr. Fred Rogers

Friend (\$1-99)

Mr. and Mrs. David Bainbridge
 Mr. Dean O. Barnum
 Mr. Douglas A. Birk
 Mrs. Lesley Bookout
 Ms. Brininstool
 Mr. and Mrs. Jim Chellman
 Mr. Greg T. Claussen
 Mr. Jim Coplen
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cottini
 Mrs. Trish Coulston
 Dr. Ray DeBruler Jr. and Ms. Kristen Arntzen
 Ms. Patricia D. Gondeck
 Mrs. Barbara J. Groner
 Mr. Russell A. Holm
 Mr. Charles Louis Hurtubise, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Lawrence
 Dr. George S. Miller
 Mr. John A. Pugh
 Ms. Paulette F. Rayel
 Ms. Doris Schwaderer

Ms. Roni Sionakides
 Mr. Stan S. Smeed and Ms. Barbara Cornette
 Ms. Patricia E. Smetana
 Ms. Gail S. Smith
 Mr. and Mrs. Douglas L. Stickney
 Mr. James E. Teall
 Mrs. Trudy Truesdell
 Mr. Dale M. Wiars
 Mr. Thomas Worms
 Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Zink

Volunteers and Gifts

2012 WMU Archaeological Field School Staff and Students
 2012 Archaeology Summer Campers
 Anonymous (dewatering services and supplies)
 Bob Ahrens
 Carol Bainbridge, Director, Fort St. Joseph Museum
 Cheri Bales, College of Arts & Sciences, WMU
 Debby Barkman
 Suzanne Beals, WMU Annual Fund
 Dr. José António Brandão, Department of History, WMU
 Jim Clark
 Barbara W. Cook (dinner sponsor)
 Barbara Craig
 Lisa Croteau, Niles Main Street
 Daughters of the American Revolution (lunch sponsor)
 Drolet Family (dinner sponsor)
 Lauretta Eisenbach, Administrative Assistant, Dept. of Anthropology, WMU
 Lisa Frucci
 Ele Hein
 Leona Hein
 Meg Hein
 Sam Hein
 Richard A. Huff, Niles City Administrator
 Fort St. Joseph Historical Association (dinner sponsor)
 Kiwanis Club (lunch sponsor)
 John LaMore
 Tom Lister
 The Majerek Family
 Jim Maurer
 Gail McCarthy
 Mayor Michael McCauslin, City of Niles
 MDS Priority Delivery Service
 John Mittlebrun
 Kylie Morris

Bob Nightingale
Kelly Nightingale
The Niles City Council
Sandy Paulson
Karen Persa
Jan Personette
Emily Powell
Frances Pratl
John Pugh
Nick Ratkay
Flora Riddle
Carla Ripley
John Ripley
Anita Rodgers
Fred Rogers and Dr. Diane Williams
Peter Rodgers
Cheryl Roland, Vice President for University Relations, WMU
Ken Sarkozy
Barb and Craig Schwaderer (dinner sponsor)
Terry and Dorilee Schieble
Carolee Secrist
Larry Simpson
Roni Sionakides
Candace Skalla (volunteer coordinator)
Jenny Skalla
William (Tim) Skalla
Billy Walters
Cindy West
Dale Wiars
Fern Williams
Sandy Williams
Mike Zimmerman, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Pokagon Band

APPENDIX B
Project Outcomes: 2011-12

September 2011

*Erica Stone, undergraduate student in Public History, was named the 2011-12 Fort St. Joseph Museum Intern.

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

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

October 2011

*Members of the Project attended the annual meeting of the Midwest Historical Archaeology Conference held at Michigan State University. Frank McManamon featured Fort St. Joseph in his presentation on tDAR.

*Erica D'Elia and Michael Nassaney completed the 2011 archaeology field summary.

November 2011

*Erica Stone designed a new brochure to solicit support for the Project.

*Dr. Terrance J. Martin presented "Patterns of Animal Use at French Colonial and Post-Colonial Sites in the Midwest" in Dr. Lynn Fisher's *Introduction to Archaeology* (SOA 245), University of Illinois Springfield at the Illinois State Museum's Research and Collections Center in Springfield.

*Dr. Terrance J. Martin exhibited examples of identified animal remains from Fort St. Joseph at the Open House Tour of the Illinois State Museum's Research and Collections Center in Springfield.

*Michael Nassaney presented an invited paper "An Archaeological and Historical Perspective on the Fur Trade in the Western Great Lakes and Its Impact on Native Culture: The View from French Fort St. Joseph" in the symposium "Wiping Away the Tears: The Battle of Tippecanoe in History and Memory: Recalling History, Rediscovering its Impact," co-organized by Kory Cooper and Dawn Marsh, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.

*Michael Nassaney and Rachel Juen discussed the archaeology of Fort St. Joseph at the Ninth Annual Southwest Michigan French and Francophone Studies Round Table, Department of Foreign Languages, WMU.

*Alexander Brand prepared a Field Logistics and Operations Manual.

December 2011

*Dr. Terrance J. Martin discussed "Consideration of Mysterious 18th-century Midwestern Bone Artifacts" with the Sunrise Rotary Club of Springfield, Hoagland Center, Springfield, IL.

*Amanda Messer was selected to receive an Undergraduate Research Excellence Award (\$500) under Michael Nassaney's direction for her research on lead shot from Fort St. Joseph.

*Bryan L. Bommersbach was selected to receive a College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Award (\$500) under Michael Nassaney's direction for his research on experimental approaches to stone smoking pipe production at Fort St. Joseph.

*Erica D'Elia published "Recent Archaeological Investigations at Fort St. Joseph: The 2011 Field Season." *Le Journal* 28(1):7-8.

*David MacDonald published "A French Cloth Seal Recovered at Fort St. Joseph, Michigan." *Le Journal* 28(1):8-9.

January 2012

*Nine students and faculty represented the Project at the 45th annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology in Baltimore, MD.

*Dr. Terrance J. Martin presented "Fur Trapping and Its Zooarchaeological Signature: An Example from the Midwest" at the 45th annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, Baltimore, MD.

*Ian Kerr presented "Recent Excavations at Fort St. Joseph: A Mission-Garrison-Trading Post in Southwest Michigan" at the 45th annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, Baltimore, MD.

*Ian Kerr prepared an artifact loan of Fort St. Joseph artifacts to the Tri-Cities Historical Museum, Grand Haven for their exhibit "Birchbark to Bateaux: Natives and French Newcomers on the Great Lakes."

February 2012

*Michael Nassaney published "Enhancing Public Archaeology through Community Service Learning" in *The Oxford Handbook of Public Archaeology*, edited by Robin Skeates, Carol McDavid, and John Carman, pp. 414-440. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

*Michael Nassaney, Erin Claussen, and Ian Kerr Digital submitted "Storage of Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Data: Digital Antiquity's Grants for Digital Archiving: 2011 Program Report" to Digital Antiquity to fulfill the requirements of their grant.

*Ian Kerr presented: "tDAR and Beyond: Digitization of Materials from Fort St. Joseph" at the monthly meeting of Support the Fort, Niles.

*Michael Nassaney presented an invited lecture on "Public Archaeology at a Long Lost Trading Post in Southwest Michigan: The Continuing Saga of the Fort St. Joseph Investigations" at the Chippewa Nature Center, Midland.

*Michael Nassaney presented an invited brown bag lecture on "Public Archaeology at a Long Lost Trading Post in Southwest Michigan: The Continuing Saga of the Fort St. Joseph Investigations" to the Department of History, WMU.

March 2012

*The Tri-Cities Historical Museum opened an exhibit “Birchbark to Bateaux: Natives and French Newcomers on the Great Lakes” that included artifacts from Fort St. Joseph and was developed in collaboration with WMU.

*Rachel Juen and Michael Nassaney published *The Fur Trade*, the second booklet in the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project Booklet Series. It was mailed to over 280 schools, museums, and libraries in the state of Michigan.

*Michael Nassaney presented an invited lecture on “Public Archaeology at a Long Lost Trading Post in Southwest Michigan: The Continuing Saga of the Fort St. Joseph Investigations” to the Friends of the University Libraries, Waldo Library, WMU.

*Amanda Messer presented her poster “Lead Shot from Fort St. Joseph” at the annual meeting of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters, Alma College, MI.

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

*Erica D’Elia piloted an archaeology lab program for members of the Pokagon Youth Council.

April 2012

*The Joseph L. Peyser Endowment for the Study of New France awarded the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project \$800 for its summer lecture series *The Military in Historical and Archaeological Perspective*.

*Michael Nassaney was awarded a grant from the Michigan Humanities Council for the 2012 Open House: A Colonial Militia Muster on the Eve of Revolution (\$10,000).

*Michael Nassaney participated in a panel discussion on the benefits of the Digital Archaeological Record at the 77th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Memphis, TN.

*Erica Stone compiled, edited, and designed the third *Fort St. Joseph Post* newsletter, which highlighted recent accomplishments from the field and lab and detailed alumni activities.

*Alexander Brand and Joe Hearn discussed the history and archaeology of Fort St. Joseph to the members of the Stephen Preston Chapter of the United States Daughters of the War of 1812, Grand Rapids.

*Students from Michael Nassaney’s Public Archaeology (ANTH 5000) seminar installed an exhibit on Fort St. Joseph in WMU’s Waldo Library.

*Michael Nassaney presented an invited lecture on “Public Archaeology at a Long Lost Trading Post in Southwest Michigan: The Continuing Saga of the Fort St. Joseph Investigations” to the Tri-Cities Historical Museum, Grand Haven, in conjunction with the exhibit “Birchbark to Bateaux: Natives and French Newcomers on the Great Lakes.”

May 2012

*Michael Nassaney contributed “Reclaiming French Heritage at Fort St. Joseph in Niles, Michigan” to the *Encyclopedia of French Cultural Heritage in North America* (http://www.ameriquefrancaise.org/en/article-687/Reclaiming_French_Heritage_at_Fort_St._Joseph_in_Niles,_Michigan.html)

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

*Cathrine Davis received a WMU College of Arts and Sciences International Study Abroad Scholarship (\$1,000) and a Lee Honors College grant (\$2,500) for her project “A Comparative Archaeological Analysis of Lead Seal Attributes from French Colonial Sites in the Western Great Lakes Region and the St. Lawrence River Valley” at Laval Université, Quebec.

*Michael Nassaney received a WMU Instructional Development Travel Grant (\$1,162) to attend the Seventeenth Annual War College of the Seven Years’ War to study eighteenth-century military techniques.

June 2012

*Ian Kerr defended his M.A. thesis “An Analysis of Personal Adornment at Fort St. Joseph (20BE23), an Eighteenth-Century French Trading Post in Southwest Michigan,” Department of Anthropology, Western Michigan University.

*Michael Nassaney’s review of *Land of Big Rivers: French and Indian Illinois, 1699-1778*, was reprinted in *Le Journal* 28(3):10-11.

July 2012

*The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project was granted a 5-year permit by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to conduct excavations in the floodplain of the St. Joseph River.

*Michael Nassaney’s paper “Decolonizing Archaeological Theory at Fort St. Joseph, An Eighteenth-Century Multi-Ethnic Community in the Western Great Lakes Region” was published in the *Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology* 37(1):5-23.

*Fort St. Joseph was the site of the 37th annual WMU archaeological field school.

*William Sauck of the WMU Department of Geosciences conducted a geophysical survey in conjunction with the field school.

*Amber DePree and Jordan Wojdula were the recipients of the William M. Cremin Scholarship in archaeology for their participation in the 37th annual archaeological field school.

*The fourth annual summer archaeology lecture series featured presentations on *The Military in Historical and Archaeological Perspective* with lectures by Doug Scott, Larry Horrigan, Robert Myers, and Joseph Gagné.

*Michael Nassaney presented an invited lecture on “Public Archaeology at a Long Lost Trading Post in Southwest Michigan: The Continuing Saga of the Fort St. Joseph Investigations” to the Optimist Club, Niles.

*The Project hosted a site visit by the Kiwanis Club of Niles.

*Erica D’Elia coordinated several students weekly in promoting fort archaeology and the open house at the French Market in Niles.

August 2012

*The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project’s Open House on the militia attracted nearly 2,000 visitors to witness archaeology and living history at the site. Members of the Project team researched, designed, and created 3 informational panels on the event theme and displayed related artifacts and current finds.

*Bob Myers and Barbara Schwaderer coordinated the activities of nearly 100 historical re-enactors from the Northwest Territory Alliance at the open house.

*Bob Myers and Michael Nassaney provided a radio interview to promote the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project’s open house on WIRX 107.1 FM, Benton Harbor.

*Dr. Terrance J. Martin (public scholar) and Amanda Burt (Illinois State Museum intern) displayed archaeological animal remains from the Fort St. Joseph site at the open house.

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

*Kevin Gladysz discussed the role of guns, knives, and axes in New France at the open house in his role as a public scholar supported by the Michigan Humanities Council.

*Laboratory work to clean, process, catalog, and analyze the 2012 artifacts and field data began at the WMU campus.