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Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project 2017 Annual Report

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Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project

2017 Annual Report

Presented by:
Dr. Michael S. Nassaney
Principal Investigator

With contributions by:
Erika Loveland, Hailey Maurer, Mallory Moore,
Genevieve Perry, Anne Volpe, and Meghan Williams

Department of Anthropology
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January 2018



Field school students preparing for the 2017 Archaeology Open House at Fort St. Joseph. Photo by Crystal DeRoo.

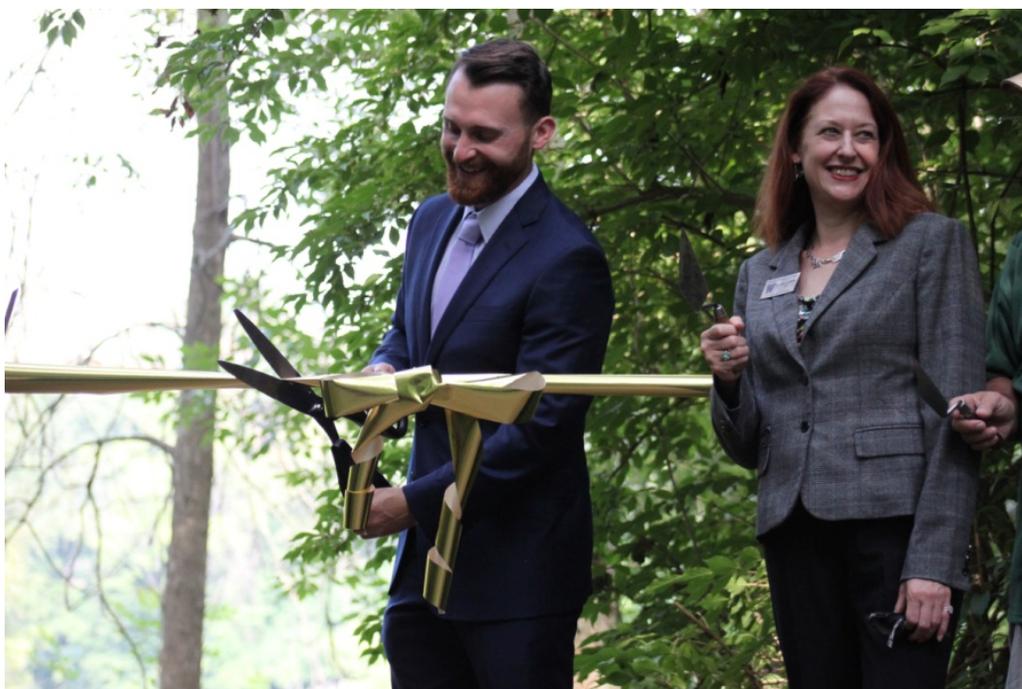
Introduction

In 2017, the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project (hereafter the "Project") continued its focus on discovering and sharing the history of Fort St. Joseph while emphasizing the importance of community partnerships. This was a logical theme for 2017 since the Project has long been a collaboration between Western Michigan University (WMU) faculty and students, the City of Niles, the Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Advisory Committee (see Appendix A), interested stakeholders, supporters, members, and community volunteers in the greater Niles area. In addition, the Project has embraced a community service-learning model to guide our field, laboratory, and outreach activities. Students learn by providing a service to the Niles community and benefit from the overwhelming local, regional, and national support that ensures the success of the Project. We thank our numerous volunteers, sponsors, donors, and partners for their generosity (for a complete list of sponsors and supporters, as well as a financial statement, see Appendices B, C, and D). This report summarizes the Project's recent activities including the 2017 excavations, site documentation, laboratory work, public education and outreach initiatives, Advisory Committee accomplishments, and dissemination of results to professional and general audiences (see Appendix E for a complete listing of our activities).

Some of our 2017 highlights include:

- The partnership between Western Michigan University and the City of Niles was extended for an additional five years through 2022.
- The Project hosted its eighth annual lecture series in partnership with the Niles District Library and featured nationally and internationally recognized speakers who discussed community partnerships and collaboration.

- Nearly 1,000 visitors of all ages came to the Archaeology Open House to learn about archaeology and experience eighteenth-century life through lectures, ongoing investigations, and educational activities.
- The 2017 summer camp program provided hands-on archaeological experience for eighteen middle school, high school, and adult campers.
- Neil Hassinger was named the 2017 Volunteer of the Year.
- Project representatives helped to host Michigan Archaeology Day in Lansing, Michigan, where they discussed the archaeology of Fort St. Joseph with hundreds of attendees.
- Students and staff posted regular blog entries throughout the year and more intensively during the field season to keep followers up to date on recent discoveries and public outreach activities.
- The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project's Facebook page surpassed 1,300 likes.



The Mayor of Niles, Nick Shelton (left), and the Dean of WMU's College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Carla Koretsky, at the Media Day ribbon cutting ceremony opening the site to public visitation. Photo by Crystal DeRoo.

2017 Field Season

Western Michigan University (WMU) hosted its 42nd annual Archaeological Field School in July and August 2017, under the auspices of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project, a long-term, multidisciplinary, community-based partnership between the City of Niles and WMU that investigates and interprets colonialism and the fur trade in the region. Fort St. Joseph was a significant eighteenth-century French mission, garrison, and trading post complex located in present day Niles, Michigan. In recognition of the Project's success and its importance to local stakeholders, the partnership between Western Michigan University and the City of Niles was extended for an additional five years through 2022. Given the central role of community participation from the outset of the Project in 1998, the 2017 theme, *Community Partnerships: Building Meaningful Connections Through Archaeology*, highlighted community involvement in the Project, throughout Michigan, and across the globe.

The Project's principal investigator, Dr. Michael S. Nassaney, and field director, Erika K. Loveland, supervised excavations at Fort St. Joseph which continued to focus on the discovery of architectural remains to gain a better understanding of the physical appearance of the fort. The field crew included thirteen undergraduate students (from WMU [7], Wayne State [2], Kalamazoo College [1], Alma College [1], Kellogg Community College [1], and University of Michigan-Dearborn [1]) as well as four additional staff members: Anne Volpe (Lab and Online Blog Coordinator), Tim Bober (Public Education Instructor), Mallory Moore (Public Outreach and Social Media Coordinator), and Gary Thompson (Field Assistant). This year, excavations began just north of Locus II at the Lyne site (20BE10) in an area that had not been examined since 1998 when the original shovel test pit survey was conducted in search of Fort St. Joseph. The Lyne site refers to the archaeological remains found on the terrace which overlooks the

floodplain area where Fort St. Joseph (20BE23) is located. Previous archaeological excavations have identified materials at the Lyne site dating as early as the Late Archaic period (approximately 3000 years ago). In an attempt to determine the nature and extent of the Lyne site deposits and identify materials that were contemporaneous with the fort, our excavations this year focused on an area near the bottom of the terrace. During the first week of the field school, the Lyne site grid system was extended into this area and fifteen shovel test pits were excavated leading to the recovery of a low density of cultural material including lead shot and several lithic flakes, suggesting the presence of limited eighteenth-century activity and possibly an earlier Native occupation in this location.

Over the following five weeks, excavations were conducted at Fort St. Joseph (20BE23) on the floodplain where we installed our dewatering system once again to lower the ground water table and allow dry site excavations. Seth Allard, a former field school participant of Ojibwa ancestry, purified the site with a burned sweet grass ritual and tobacco offering to acknowledge and facilitate our efforts to obtain knowledge from our excavations. Students began by shovel-skimming the uppermost layer of alluvium in their units. When they dug down to 20-25 cm below the surface and encountered artifacts, we instructed them to begin wet-screening the soil to collect small finds like seed beads, straight pins, and lead shot, among others. Wet-screening included five tetrapods with hanging 1/8" mesh screens that are set up at the edge of the site. Water is sprayed from a hose systematically over the soil so that very small artifacts that would otherwise be missed while digging can be recovered. As artifacts are collected, they are bagged by provenience. Tags are filled out for both the wet-screened artifacts and dry "hand-picked" artifacts found while troweling to record their context.



Field school students wet-screening sediments to recover archaeological material at Fort St. Joseph. Photo by Hailey Maurer.

Three new and three previously excavated 1 x 1 meter units in addition to four new and one previously excavated 1 x 2 meter unit were explored and reopened in locations chosen for their high probability to provide evidence of architectural remains at the fort. By unearthing these remains, insights can be gained on the size and layout of the buildings present. Their contents can tell us about the identities of their occupants. We encountered a large stone concentration (Feature 27) which may be an additional fireplace feature and evidence of the remains of charcoal and ash (Feature 28) that appears to represent the southeast corner of Structure 5, along with objects related to the religious, domestic, and commercial functions at the site.



Plan view of Feature 27, a possible fireplace found at Fort St. Joseph (20BE23). Photo by Crystal DeRoo.

Feature 27, a possible fireplace feature, consists of large stones ranging in size from 15 cm to 35 cm along with oxidized soil, ash, and charcoal. There is no clear orientation to the stones or burnt soil at this time. However, this feature may represent a sixth structure uncovered at the site!

Feature 28 has been interpreted as the remains of two walls that form the southeast corner of Structure 5. This feature consists of two linear light gray clay soil zones (possible wall trenches) that form a 90-degree angle but do not intersect. They are associated with a dense concentration of wood charcoal. There are also three possible postholes found in association with these soils along with a B-horizon fill zone that is located along the outside of the east wall. The fill zone is very similar to a B-horizon fill zone found in another unit located 5 m to the

southeast, which appears to align with the Feature 28 south wall foundation. This may be backfill from the excavation of the wall trenches.



Plan view of Feature 28, showing the remains of the southeast corner Structure 5 at Fort St. Joseph (20BE23). Photo by Crystal DeRoo.

In addition to learning field and lab procedures, students participated in community service-learning and public outreach activities by assisting and taking part in the project's public lecture series, archaeology summer camps, local events and programs (e.g., presentation to the Optimist club and the Air Zoo summer camp, radio interviews), community meals, and the Archaeology Open House. Daily blog and social media postings also provided students with the opportunity to connect with the public and report on findings, interpretations, and other events of interest to the community.

Public Education and Outreach

Since its beginning, the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project has made collaborating with community partners a top priority. The Project owes much of its success to those who have

donated their valuable time, effort, and resources. Stakeholders from within the City of Niles, and beyond, have helped to make the Project a successful community-based partnership. For this reason, the theme of *Community Partnerships: Building Meaningful Connections Through Archaeology* was chosen for 2017.

Field school students and staff interacted with members of the public through various outreach events including classroom visits, the lecture series, summer camps, the Archaeology Open House, and community-sponsored meals in Niles and beyond. The public outreach aspects of the Project are designed to inform the community of archaeological findings and convey the message that archaeologists are interested in incorporating public feedback into their research designs. After all, if archaeology is not of interest to the public, used for the public good, or used to answer questions that are significant to people of various groups, it no longer holds value nor appears relevant. For this reason, the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project focuses on involving community partners and sharing its findings with public, academic, and professional audiences.

One significant aspect of the Project's public outreach initiatives is the annual Summer Archaeology Lecture Series. In partnership with the Niles District Library, the 2017 Lecture Series hosted four distinguished speakers who presented topics associated with this year's theme. Roughly 200 visitors came to listen and interact with the guest lecturers during the 2017 Lecture Series. The lecturers and their topics were:

- Dr. Jonathan Bush, *Conversations and Collaborations; Objectives, and Obligations: Building and Sustaining Meaningful University-Community Partnerships in Context*
- Dr. Sonya Atalay, *Braiding Knowledge: Community-Based Archaeology with Turkish and Native American Communities*

- Dr. Beverley Smith, *Negotiating Multiple Communities Surrounding (Literally and Figuratively) the Stone Street Recovery and Repatriation Project in Downtown Flint, MI*
- Dr. Dean Anderson, *Archaeology and Communities, Past and Present*



Michigan State Archaeologist, Dr. Dean Anderson, discussed community archaeology during the 2017 Summer Archaeology Lecture Series. Photo by Crystal DeRoo.

Members of the Niles community generously hosted the 2017 archaeological field school for eight community dinners and two lunches over the course of the field school's six-week stay in Niles. These meals served as a way of strengthening connections with local organizations (e.g., Kiwanis Club, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Niles History Center) and various community members including our landlady Stephanie Layman and the Hassinger, Christenson, and Drolet families. During these meals, students shared stories of their field discoveries and community members welcomed the opportunity to hear, firsthand, results of their field research. Near the end of the field season, students and staff reciprocated by hosting our supporters at the Morris Farm for a meal to acknowledge their contributions.

Throughout the course of the field season, three, one-week long summer camp programs were offered to various age groups with an aim to engage more members of the public in the archaeology of Fort St. Joseph. Eight middle school students, two high school students, and eight lifelong learners and educators participated in the summer camp program under the direction of WMU Anthropology instructor Tim Bober, who teaches the campers about the history of Fort St. Joseph and excavation procedures used on site. The archaeology summer camp program has provided and continues to offer an opportunity for participants of all ages to gain hands-on archaeological experience. Summer campers participated in excavations, wet-screening, field note-taking, and identification of recently discovered artifacts, while working alongside WMU field school staff and students. The 2017 archaeology summer camp program provided an opportunity for participants of all ages to gain a new appreciation for archaeology.



Summer campers working in the field at Fort St. Joseph. Photos by Crystal DeRoo.

Staff members and students were invited to participate in three public presentations and two radio interviews. These public appearances provided exposure for the Project and informed audiences about the Fort's history and upcoming Project events. Anne Volpe (Lab Coordinator) and Meghan Williams (field school student) gave an archaeological demonstration to children at

the Air Zoo in Kalamazoo to educate them about the field of archaeology and to draw attention to Fort St. Joseph. Mallory Moore (Public Outreach Coordinator), Emily Fletcher (field school student), and Mollie Watson (Assistant Director of the Niles History Center) participated in a radio interview with 94.9 WSJM to promote the Project and the Archaeology Open House. Mallory also gave a short presentation to the retired priests of the Holy Cross House at the University of Notre Dame to showcase some recent finds from the 2017 field season. They were particularly excited when they saw a rosary bead that had just been recovered from our excavations! Dr. Nassaney and Bryan Schutte (field school student) spoke about the Project and the Open House in a short presentation to the Optimist Club of Niles and participated in a phone interview with a local radio station. At the end of the field season, the Project invited officials from the City of Niles and Western Michigan University, distinguished members of the community, and local media personnel to Media Day for the annual ribbon cutting to open the site to the public and a sneak peek of the Archaeology Open House.



Students and staff interacting with journalists on Media Day. Photo by Crystal DeRoo.

The most anticipated event of every field season is the annual Archaeology Open House, the culmination of months of fieldwork and planning by Project staff and students, volunteers, and members of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Advisory Committee. The two-day event (August 5-6) attracted nearly 1,000 visitors this year. The Open House offers a range of interactive experiences for people of all ages including children's activities, tours of ongoing excavations, wet-screening demonstrations, informational banners, displays of recently discovered artifacts, food provided by local Boy Scout Troop 579, living history reenactors, 18th-century music and dance, and rides in a voyageur canoe. Upon arrival, visitors are given a booklet filled with historical information, scheduled events, instructions for kid's activities, and a crossword puzzle focused on the history and archaeology of the fort. Monica Topash, a Niles resident of Native American ancestry, crafted Honor Feathers with children at the event again this year. A representative from the Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve brought pelts from fur-bearing animals that were economically important to the residents of the fort, which visitors could see and touch. Re-enactors used the theme of the field season to demonstrate what community partnership meant to the lives of those who once lived at Fort St. Joseph. Some of the 18th-century reenactments included:

- Colonial dance: Ethan Powelski and students
- Weaving and quill writing: Robert and Candace Myers
- Voyageur: Robert Miller
- Jesuit priest: Craig McGirr
- Spinning demonstration: Barbara Schwaderer
- Historic baker: Jeff Pavlik
- French mariner: Mark Thomas

- Canoe camp, netting, drawing, and fishing demonstration: Janine Frizzo
- Various maritime impressions: David Schmidt



Living history re-enactor viewing one of the informational banners at the Archaeology Open House. Photo by Crystal DeRoo.



Field school student giving a wet-screening demonstration at the Archaeology Open House. Photo by Crystal DeRoo.

During the off-season, students have the opportunity to stay involved with the Project. In January for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, WMU students associated with the Project participated in a Career Cruising event that introduces middle school students to several STEM departments, including Anthropology. The Anthropology students encouraged students in this activity to think critically about artifacts and history. In March, a bilingual elementary school group from Kalamazoo, El Sol, visited the archaeology lab where students learned about what archaeologists do when they are not in the field conducting excavations. In April, students traveled to Buchanan, MI to participate in their annual Plow Day, where they taught children about excavation procedures and dry-screening. In the 2017 Fall semester, WMU students participated in Portage Lake Center Elementary's I <3 STEM Night to teach kids in grades K-5 about the importance of stratigraphy. Michigan Archaeology Day, one of our most anticipated events, is held in October at the Michigan History Museum in Lansing, MI. Here, people from around the state came together to learn about archaeology that is occurring throughout Michigan.

Finally, the Project continued its efforts to create a larger social media presence. Throughout the year and especially during the field season, students were challenged to take as many photos as possible to share with the public through Instagram and Facebook. The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project's Facebook page surpassed 1,300 likes. You can find us on Instagram by searching "fsjarchaeology" or on Facebook by searching "Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project." Blogging became an essential part of the field season as it was updated daily by students who wrote short narratives of recent activities or discoveries they made during the season. For this season, the students and staff created a total of twenty-seven blog posts. To keep up with Project news and events during the year, read the blog online at fortstjosepharchaeology.blogspot.com.

2017 Lab Activities

WMU students and staff involved with the Project in the spring semester were tasked with off-season lab duties apart from public outreach events. During this time, the remainder of the artifacts from the 2016 field season were inventoried. This involves a closer inspection of each artifact to confirm its raw material, function, and other attributes that are deemed important such as size, shape, color, and completeness. After completion of the inventory, all of the 2016 artifacts from the Lyne site and the floodplain were returned to Niles to be integrated into the collections. All of the 2016 site forms, which are completed in pencil in the field, were digitized to ensure their long-term preservation and wider accessibility. Volume 7 of our newsletter, *The Fort St. Joseph Post*, was assembled and published in April. Students were also responsible for creating flyers to advertise the upcoming 2017 field school, summer camps, and lecture series.

During the 2017 Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Field School hundreds of artifacts were recovered. The 13-student crew dedicated lab hours in the evening to washing and sorting these items as they were collected. These activities helped students sharpen their analytical skills and many became familiar with the different raw materials used during the occupation of the Fort, as well as those naturally occurring within the environment. They learned the characteristics necessary for identifying specific objects along with their proper handling. By the end of the season, students were able to separate unburned bone from mudstone and calcined bone from limestone.

The washing process requires attention to detail and care in handling fragile items. Baked clay and charcoal pieces can be damaged by exposure to water while bones and certain types of metal objects require gentle scrubbing with water to expose physical properties otherwise hidden by the soil that once surrounded them. Once artifacts are brought in from the field, they are

washed and then allowed to thoroughly dry before they can be sorted. They are eventually sorted by accession number and placed with artifacts of the same category. Most artifact identification skills are gained through sorting, a process whereby materials are initially classified. Magnifying glasses and magnets are utilized throughout the sorting process to assist in inspection.



In the evenings, students wash and sort artifacts during lab. Photo by Genevieve Perry.

Later in the season, students used lab time to assemble artifact displays for use at the annual Open House. Each season, one display case is organized by theme and one for notable recent finds. Anne Volpe (lab coordinator), Claire Utrecht, and Sara King (field school students) prepared these cases in 2017, providing descriptions for each artifact used as well as images for visual aids. This comprehensive experience was useful in strengthening what they already knew as they aimed to teach others in a way that could reach an audience of all ages. In the themed case, artifacts were chosen to symbolize the various community partnerships that the Project

maintains. For example, in the religion section, some of crosses, crucifixes, and medallions from excavations were displayed, demonstrating the religious devotion of the fort residents.

Off-season lab work is just as integral to the preservation of the history of Fort St. Joseph as the work that is conducted in the field. Students, who continued involvement with the Project into the following fall semester, began inventory of the recently recovered 2017 artifacts in addition to completing the digitization of the 2017 field notes. The Fort St. Joseph brochure, used during outreach events and throughout the field season to give the public a quick overview of the fort's history and the Project's accomplishments, was revamped and printed in the fall.

Future Prospects and Challenges

The partnership between Western Michigan University and the City of Niles was renewed in 2017, testifying to the commitment of both parties to ensure the continuation of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project. The investigation, interpretation, and dissemination of information about life in the 18th century remain important priorities for the Project and the Advisory Committee. Greater emphasis should be placed on making the collections accessible to wider audiences including the public and the professional community. This will require careful curation of the collections to ensure that the artifacts and associated documentation are preserved into the future. As stewards of this valuable heritage resource, we owe future generations the opportunity to benefit from, be inspired by, and enjoy Fort St. Joseph.

APPENDIX A

Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Advisory Committee (2017)

Members: Candace Skalla (Chair), Christina H. Arseneau (Vice Chair), Bob Ahrens, Barbara Cook, Mary Ellen Drolet, Kristie Erickson, Jessica Deckard Mann, Michael Nassaney, Larry Sehy, Mollie Kruck Watson, Jason Wesaw

APPENDIX B

2017 Project Sponsors and Supporters

LIFETIME: (\$10,000 OR MORE)

Anonymous
 City of Niles
 Michigan Humanities Council
 Leighton-Oare Foundation
 Ms. Gale McCarty
 Dr. Michael S. Nassaney and Mrs. Nadine Godin-Nassaney
 Peyser Family
 Western Michigan University

COMMANDANT: (\$500-\$9,999)

Ms. Mary Ellen Drolet
 General Society of Colonial Wars
 Mr. Gordon B. Marshall
 Quebec Government Office in Chicago
 Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Michigan

EXPLORER: (\$250-\$499)

Mr. Daniel O'Connell
 Dr. Sharon L. Carlson and Mr. Thomas A. Dietz

VOYAGER: (\$100-\$249)

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 Mr. Richard C. Barron
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 Mr. Donald J. Weir

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 Mr. James K. Sawyer
 Mr. Douglas L. Stickney and Mrs. Cheryl Stickney
 Ms. Denise M. Tiso
 Ms. Anne Volpe
 Mr. Eugene D. Wood and Mrs. Vivian Wood

APPENDIX C

Donors, Volunteers, and Supporters of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project

Alliance Français of Kalamazoo
 Christina Arseneau
 Dean O. Barnum
 Richard C. and Nona L. Barron
 Victor P. Bella, Jr.
 Douglas A. Birk
 Lesley Bookout
 Dr. Jose Antonio Brandão

Karen L. Brininstool
 Judith L. Brown
 Robin Oare Brown
 Dr. Sharon L. Carlson
 Thomas A. Dietz
 Philip P. Virginia A. Caruso
 Judith Kay M. Chase
 Jim and Mary Ann Chellman

Lynn and Meryl Christensen
 City of Niles
 Barbara Wood Cook
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 Neil C. and Trish Coulston
 Helen J. Coverdale
 Rebecca Dewey Chapter of the Daughters of
 the American Revolution
 Robin Drew
 Margaret Drolet
 Mary Ellen Drolet
 Michael E. Eggleston
 Fred Flegal
 Chris F. Fleming
 Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Advisory
 Committee
 Dennis Fortin
 General Society of Colonial War
 Barbara J. Groner
 Neil and Cathy Hassinger
 Laura Hollister
 Russell A. Holm
 Charles L. Hurtubise
 Marybeth Janei
 Nancy Johnson
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 Michigan Humanities Council
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 Michaelle T. Mukasa-Clark
 Bob and Candace Myers
 Niles-Buchanan YMCA
 Niles District Library
 Niles History Center
 Herb and Donna Ochenryder
 Daniel B. O'Connell
 Holly Perkins

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 John A. Pugh
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 of Michigan
 Douglas L. and Cheryl Stickney
 Support The Fort, Inc.
 Denise M. Tiso
 Andrew J. Van Doren
 Mollie Watson
 Donald Weir
 Dr. Frank Welsh
 Western Michigan University

APPENDIX D

Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project 2017 Financial Statement

Income

Membership donations	\$11,617
Camp fees	\$2,700
Student fees	\$6,500
City of Niles	\$2,000
WMU Cultural Event Committee	\$1,000
Sales	\$600
Donations	<u>\$1,000</u>
 TOTAL	 \$25,417

In-Kind Contributions

Principal investigator, Michael Nassaney (WMU)	\$22,462
Field Assistant (Gary Thompson)	\$2,000
Fort St. Joseph Museum Intern (City of Niles)	\$1,000
Public lecturer: Dr. Sonya Atalay (Anthropology)	\$1,000
Living history coordinator (2 @\$500 each) (City of Niles)	\$1,000
Printing programs, children's booklets, and survey forms (City of Niles)	\$200
Street banner date change and hanging fee (City of Niles)	\$75
Community meal (Michael Nassaney)	<u>\$50</u>
 TOTAL	 \$27,787
 TOTAL REVENUE	 \$53,204

Expenses

Field School

Salaries

Field director, Erika Loveland	\$4,480
Public education instructor, Tim Bober	\$2,560
Laboratory supervisor, Anne Volpe	\$1,900
Public outreach coordinator, Mallory Moore	\$1,900
Project zooarchaeologist (travel, meals, honorarium)	<u>\$500</u>
Sub-total	\$11,340

Transportation

Rental vehicles for the field school (2 @ \$1,300 each)	\$2,600
Gas	<u>\$250</u>
Sub-total	\$2,850

Housing (July-August, 2017)	\$3,200
Open House	
Historical re-enactors (10 @ \$200 each)	\$2,000
Portajons (includes field school usage for 6 weeks)	\$600
Craft supplies	\$50
T-shirts	\$900
Printing informational banners (6 @ \$125/each)	<u>\$750</u>
Sub-total	\$4,300
Other Program Expenses	
Hotel for public scholars (3 nights @ \$100/night)	\$300
Horizons 2017	\$225
Promotional flyers	\$37
Field equipment replacement	\$100
Poster printing for Midwest Historical Archaeology Conference	\$58
Lab supplies	<u>\$100</u>
Sub-total	\$820
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$22,510
WMU Foundation Fort St. Joseph Project Account Reserve:	\$32,060
Cash Reserve:	\$150

APPENDIX E

Project Outcomes: 2017

January

- The Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Advisory Committee invited WMU students in Dr. Michael Nassaney's Anthropology in the Community class (ANTH 5030) to prepare a series of informational panels on the 2017 Open House theme, *Community Partnerships: Building Meaningful Connections Through Archaeology*.
- WMU students worked with middle school students from the Kalamazoo area for WMU's 6th annual MLK Career Cruising Day.
- Michael Nassaney presented the paper "Embracing Anomalies to Advance Frontiers," at the 50th annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, Fort Worth, TX.
- Elizabeth Mantyck, Austin George, Erika Loveland, Genevieve Perry, and Michael Nassaney presented the poster "Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project: Public Outreach in the 2016 Field Season" at the 50th annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, Fort Worth, TX.

- Cathrine Davis presented the paper “Threads across the Ocean: Investigating European Cloth in New France through Lead Seal Analysis,” at the 50th annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, Fort Worth, TX.

February

- Michael Nassaney submitted the paper “Embracing Anomalies to Decolonize Archaeology” for publication in a special issue of the *Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology*.

March

- Erika Loveland successfully defended her M.A. thesis, “Archaeological Evidence of Architectural Remains at Fort St. Joseph (20BE23), Niles, MI,” Department of Anthropology, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.
- Michael Nassaney introduced the newly installed exhibit "Evidence Found" at The Heritage Museum and Cultural Center in St. Joseph, MI.
- Michael Nassaney presented the lecture, “The Role of Waterways and Watercraft in the North American Fur Trade,” at the Michigan Maritime Museum, South Haven.
- Michael Nassaney presented the Hyatt and Ceci Brown Lecture in Archaeology, entitled “The Shifting Contours of Archaeological Knowledge in Colonial Contexts,” in the Department of Anthropology, University of Florida, Gainesville.
- Michael Nassaney and Jonathan Bush received the Michigan Campus Compact Award: Innovations in Community Impact, on behalf of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project in East Lansing.

April

- Project independent study students hosted El Sol Elementary School students during their annual visit to the Anthropology Department to learn about Fort St. Joseph archaeology.
- Project independent study students participated in Plow Day in Buchanan, MI.
- Michael Nassaney presented the lecture, “The Role of Material Culture in Challenging Dominant Narratives” in the History Department, Kalamazoo College.
- Michael Nassaney presented the lecture, “What Can Archaeology Teach Us About the Fur Trade?” for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, WMU.
- An inventory of the 2016 artifacts was completed.
- Volume 7 of our newsletter, *The Fort St. Joseph Post*, was disseminated to members and posted to our website.
- Michael Nassaney spoke to the Society of Colonial Wars in Michigan about “French Colonial Architecture” at their annual court in Grand Rapids, MI.

May

- Michael Nassaney was the inaugural participant in the University of Burgos (Spain) Short-term Faculty Exchange, where he lectured about Fort St. Joseph to faculty and students.
- Assistant Director of the Niles History Museum, Mollie Watson, and Susan Reichert (field school alumna) represented the Project to over 1000 attendees at the annual Southwest Michigan Mini Makers Faire in St. Joseph, MI.
- Susan Reichert completed an updated site map of Fort St. Joseph that displays excavations through 2016.

June

- The 42nd annual WMU archaeological field school began at Fort St. Joseph.
- Michael Nassaney submitted the book chapter “Archaeology, Heritage, and Community Participation: A Critical Appraisal” for inclusion in the volume *Archaeology and the Public in the 21st Century: Heritage and Community Participation* (University Press of Florida).

July

- Michael Nassaney organized the 8th annual WMU Archaeology Summer Lecture Series at the Niles District Library.
- The Project hosted a series of three week-long summer camps.
- Stephanie Layman and family hosted field school students and staff for a potluck.
- The Niles History Center and Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Advisory Commission hosted field school students and staff at the Chapin Mansion.
- The Drolet family hosted field school students and staff for dinner and a pool party.
- Neil and Kathy Hassinger prepared a fish fry for field school students and staff.
- The Kiwanis Club of Niles provided lunch for field school students and staff near the Fort St. Joseph site.
- The Rebecca Dewey Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution provided field school students and staff with a picnic lunch.
- Anne Volpe and Meghan Williams gave an archaeology demonstration to children at the Air Zoo in Kalamazoo.
- Mallory Moore set up a merchandise and information booth about Fort St. Joseph at the Farmer’s Market in Niles to promote the Open House and lecture series.
- Mallory Moore, Emily Fletcher, and Mollie Watson were interviewed at a local radio station, WSJM, to promote the Project and the Open House
- Mallory Moore gave a presentation to retired priests of the Holy Cross House at the University of Notre Dame about the work being done at Fort St. Joseph.
- Project staff and students hosted a meal at the Morris Farm to thank Project supporters.

August

- The annual Archaeology Open House was held at the Fort St. Joseph site in Niles and welcomed nearly 1,000 visitors. The Open House focused on the theme of community partnerships and invited individuals of all ages to learn about the Fort's history and significance.
- A series of informational banners created by Dr. Michael Nassaney's Anthropology in the Community class (ANTH 5030) related to 2017's Open House theme, *Community Partnerships: Building Meaningful Connections Through Archaeology*, were finalized, printed, and displayed at the 2017 Archaeology Open House, thanks to the efforts of Hailey Maurer, Ashley Sussman, and Meghan Williams.
- Students and staff completed the washing and sorting of artifacts from the 2017 field season in preparation for inventory and analysis during the upcoming academic year.
- The Four Flag Area Chamber of Commerce provided field school students and staff with dinner at Pizza Transit in downtown Niles.
- Neil and Kathy Hassinger provided field school students and staff with a meal at the Prime Table restaurant.
- Neil and Kathy Hassinger provided field school students and staff with a taco night.
- Michael Nassaney and Bryan Schutte discussed the Project and the Open House with the Optimist Club of Niles.
- Michael Nassaney and Bryan Schutte participated in a phone interview with a local radio station.

September

- WMU independent study students began conducting lab work and developing promotional materials for the Project.
- Michael Nassaney and independent study student Kaylee Hagermann began working on inventory and analysis in the lab at Western Michigan University.
- Independent study student Meghan Williams worked on digitizing field notes from the 2017 field season.
- Hailey Maurer began compiling a draft of the annual report.
- The informational banners on *Community Partnerships* were displayed in the Niles District Library.

October

- Students from the Project participated in Michigan Archaeology Day in Lansing, MI. The Project had a booth at the event and students used the opportunity to educate the public about the history and significance of Fort St. Joseph.
- James Schwaderer successfully defended his M.A. thesis, "Mining Archaeology: An Experimental Pedagogy for an Eighteenth-Century French Trading Post in Niles, Michigan," Department of Anthropology, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.

- Michael Nassaney presented the paper, “Interpreting Fort St. Joseph in the Public Interest: Who Gets Left Out?” at the 13th annual Midwest Historical Archaeology Conference, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.
- Erika Loveland presented the paper, “Architectural Remains of Fort St. Joseph (20BE23), Niles, MI” at the 13th annual Midwest Historical Archaeology Conference, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.
- Mallory Moore, Erika Loveland, and Michael Nassaney presented the poster “Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project: 2017 Field Season,” at the 13th annual Midwest Historical Archaeology Conference, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.
- Michael Nassaney discussed the WMU archaeological field school at Fort St. Joseph to the History Club, Olivet College, Olivet, MI.
- Michael Nassaney was the keynote speaker at the annual dinner and meeting of the North Berrien Historical Society, Coloma, MI.
- Erika Loveland spoke about archaeology and Fort St. Joseph to fifth grade students at the Ruth McGregor Elementary School, Sand Creek, MI.

November

- Michael Nassaney was the Guest Speaker for “An Evening of Archaeological Discovery: Fort St. Joseph,” sponsored by The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Michigan and The Society for Colonial Wars in the State of Michigan, at the Country Club of Detroit, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- Project students participated in Portage Lake Center Elementary’s I <3 STEM Night.
- Cara Mosier successfully defended her M.A. thesis, “Trading to Drink and Drinking to Trade: Assessing Alcohol Trade and Consumption in Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century New France,” Department of Anthropology, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.
- Michael Nassaney submitted a review of *LaBelle: The Archaeology of a Seventeenth-Century Ship of New World Colonization*, to the *Journal of Southern History*.

December

- Amelia Harp completed her M.A. practicum, “Matters of Perspective: An Assessment of Cross-Cultural Collaboration on the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project,” Department of Anthropology, Georgia State University, Atlanta.
- Garrett Mohney, a Mattawan high school senior with an interest in archaeology, completed his mentorship under the direction of Michael Nassaney.
- The 2018 Project’s promotional brochure was revamped.
- The informational banners, *Community Partnerships: Building Meaningful Connections Through Archaeology*, were posted to the Fort St. Joseph website:
<http://www.wmich.edu/fortstjoseph/about/panels>