Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project 2016 Annual Report

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This religious medallion recovered in 2016 depicts the Virgin Mary (left) and Jesus Christ (right). The Latin inscription reads “MATER DEI” (Mother of God). Photo by Austin George.

Introduction
This year the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project (hereafter the “Project”) continued to build upon its foundations and develop new research, teaching, and public outreach activities directed towards the study of the fur trade and colonialism in southwest Michigan. The Project is a collaboration between Western Michigan University (WMU) faculty and students, the City of Niles, the Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Advisory Commission (FSJAAC), interested stakeholders, supporters, members, and community volunteers in the greater Niles community. Here are some of our 2016 highlights:

- Anne Volpe received the prestigious Jane C. Walbaum Archaeological Field School Scholarship award from the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA). The award ($1,000) was used to defray costs associated with her enrollment in the field school.
- The Project hosted the seventh annual lecture series in partnership with the Niles District Library and featured nationally and internationally recognized speakers who discussed rivers and waterways in archaeological and historical perspectives.
- Austin George and Elizabeth Mantyck began redesigning and updating the Project’s main website, now accessible at: http://www.wmich.edu/fortstjoseph/
- Students and staff posted regular blog entries during the field season to keep followers up to date on recent discoveries and public outreach activities. To date, the blog has surpassed 54,000 views.
- The Project’s Facebook page surpassed 1,000 likes.
- The 2016 summer camp program provided hands-on archaeological experience for twenty-two campers.
- Candace Skalla was named the 2016 Volunteer of the Year.
- Over 1,000 visitors of all ages came to our annual archaeology open house Fort St. Joseph to learn about archaeology and experience eighteenth-century life through lectures, ongoing investigations, and educational activities.
- Project representatives helped to host Michigan Archaeology Day in Lansing, Michigan where they were able to discuss the history of Fort St. Joseph and the archaeology that has been done there since 1998 with hundreds of attendees.
- The Project continues to disseminate its results to public and professional audiences at various events throughout the year including the Conference on Heritage Issues in Contemporary Society (Prague, Czech Republic), the Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology (Washington, D.C.), the Midwest Historical Archaeology Conference (Detroit, MI), Michigan Archaeology Day (Lansing, MI), the Conference on Cultural Heritage and New Technologies (Vienna, Austria), as well as local events in Kalamazoo and throughout Michigan.

Overwhelming support provided by the local, regional, and national benefactors contributes to our success. The Project would like to thank its numerous volunteers, sponsors, donors, and partners for their generosity. (For a complete list of sponsors and supporters, and a financial statement please see Appendices A, B, and C.)

This report summarizes the activities that Project representatives have participated in over the past calendar year including excavations, laboratory analysis, public education, and dissemination of our results to both general and professional audiences. (A complete listing of our accomplishments is listed in Appendix D.)
2016 Field Season

The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project resumed site investigations in July and August 2016 at Fort St. Joseph—an 18th century French trading post in the western Great Lakes region. Western Michigan University (WMU), in collaboration with the City of Niles, hosted its 41st annual archaeological field school at the site, under the direction of Dr. Michael S. Nassaney, Principal Investigator. Survey and excavation were conducted in new and previously investigated areas of the floodplain in search of information on the nature and extent of 18th century activities and associated architecture.

Eight Western Michigan University undergraduate students participated in this year’s field school and four previous field school students returned as staff members. The 2016 staff included: Erika Loveland, Teaching Assistant; Austin George, Lab Coordinator and Site Photographer; Tim Bober, Public Education Instructor; Elizabeth Mantyck and Genevieve Perry, Public Outreach and Social Media Coordinators; and Gary Thompson, Field Assistant.

Previous excavations on the Lyne site terrace above the fort had yielded evidence of 18th century activities. We conducted a geophysical and shovel test pit survey this year on the western edge of this landform designated Locus 4, which is seasonally cut off from the mainland by floodwaters. Dr. William Sauk (Department of Geosciences, WMU) directed a magnetometer survey in hopes of identifying magnetic anomalies to guide future investigations. Seven magnetic anomalies were located that should be testing. All of these locations but two were near shovel test pits that yielded 18th century and pre-contact cultural remains.

A total of 19 shovel test pits was excavated in Locus 4 to identify activities that may be contemporaneous with the fort. Lead shot, a musket ball, and a ramrod guide were among the probable 18th-century artifacts found. Lithic flakes and low-fired earthenware were also recovered providing evidence for pre-contact activities in this area. In addition, a rectangular concrete feature was located and designated as Feature 25. Decorative stones were placed along
the top of its walls and a small metal pipe enters the feature in the northwest corner. Any suggestions regarding the function of Feature 25 would be appreciated.

This rectangular concrete feature (25) was found in Locus 4 this year. Note the decorative stones and small metal pipe entering the feature in the northwest corner. Photo by Austin George.

The excavations on the floodplain where Fort St. Joseph (20BE23) has been identified dominated our field activities. Five 1 x 1 meter units were excavated and four 1 x 2 meter units were reopened in locations chosen for their high probability to provide information relating to site architecture, specifically building size, orientation, and construction methods. We encountered a foundation wall (Feature 26), a large stone fireplace (Feature 20), and a large bone midden (Feature 11), along with objects related to the religious, domestic, and commercial functions of the site.

Feature 26 consists of five structural stones (15 to 35 cm long) intentionally placed in a line oriented northwest to southeast. These structural stones appear similar to two other partial foundation walls (Features 17 and 24) associated with other buildings on the site. While four of these stones were unearthed last year, excavations this year revealed a fifth structural stone on the north end of the feature.
A large stone fireplace (Feature 20) was explored again this year to ascertain its size and orientation. Excavations revealed that the fireplace measures at least 2 x 1.2 m and consists of stones ranging in size from 10 to 60 cm. Its orientation appears to be perpendicular to other fireplaces at the site. It is possible that this fireplace may be associated with the Feature 26 foundation wall, although more excavation is needed to determine their relationship.

![Paul Bonenfant excavating oxidized soil in Feature 20. Photo by Austin George.](image)

We also defined the northern extent of a trash midden (Feature 11) that contains copious amounts of animal bones. Its abrupt boundary and placement suggests it lies immediately south of House 2.

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, the local farmer’s market, and the Open House weekend. 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.

Many of the students are continuing their involvement with the Project in the off-season by assisting in creating an artifact inventory, presenting results at professional conferences, and disseminating information about the history and archaeology of the Fort to followers everywhere. If you would like to keep updated with the project, please like us on Facebook, follow our blog at fortstjosepharchaeology.blogspot.com, and search “fsjarchaeology” on Instagram!

**Public Education and Outreach**

Every year the Project encourages the community to get involved with the Project and learn more about the work archaeologists are conducting. The Project provides opportunities through educational field trips, a summer camp program, a lecture series, special programs and site tours, the local farmer's market in Niles, and an Open House at the conclusion of each
season, among other events. This summer, Cindy Benson (Niles History Center) and Elizabeth Mantyck (Public Outreach Coordinator) invited YMCA “Summer My Way” elementary school campers to visit the site in order to teach them about the history and importance of the St. Joseph River. This history included the significance of Fort St. Joseph and its prime location for voyageurs. The children were able to see the site where the fort once stood and imagine that they were 18th-century voyageurs using the local portage. Seventy-five students and volunteers visited the site on these field trips.

The 2016 archaeology summer camp program provided an opportunity for participants to gain hands-on archaeological experience in excavation, artifact analysis, and site interpretation. Twenty-two campers of various ages and backgrounds were able to participate in the camps this summer. Campers spend a few hours learning the history of the Project and the fort during a morning classroom session, and then following a lunch break they work alongside students and staff in the field conducting field work.

A diverse array of campers of all abilities participated in the 2016 program. Here campers learn excavation techniques from WMU student Connor Frazier. Photo by Genevieve Perry.

The Project, in partnership with the Niles District Library, also hosted its seventh annual Summer Archaeology Lecture Series. Nearly 400 guests had the opportunity to gain deeper insight into the archaeological record and interact with the guest speakers and field school personnel. This year the theme of the series was “Flowing Through Time: Rivers and Waterways in Historical and Archaeological Perspectives.” The speakers and their topics were:

- Kevin Finney- *Bark Canoes and Dugouts: Early Transportation on West Michigan Rivers*
- Dr. Michael Nassaney- *The Archaeology of the North American Fur Trade*
- Dr. Terrance Martin- *A Plentitude of All Things: Resources of la Riviére St. Joseph*
- Dr. Kenneth Sassaman- *A History Runs Through It: Nine Millennia of Human Experience along the St. Johns River of Northeast Florida*
The Project also responded to various invitations to meet with school groups, seniors, and other community organizations. During this field season, Elizabeth Mantyck and Anne Volpe shared lunch with members of the Brentwood Senior Center and presented our most recent outcomes with a slideshow depicting excavations and artifacts found at the site. The site itself has uneven ground, making it difficult for the residents to attend the Open House. Many residents also do not have access to our social media sites and our blog. Our presentation about Fort St. Joseph archaeology at the Center provided an underserved population with information about our findings and our work in the community.

Nolan Powers explains his excavation unit to an engaged group of Open House visitors.
Photo by Genevieve Perry.

The most anticipated event of the season, the annual Open House, is the culmination of months of field work and planning by Project staff, students, volunteers, and members of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Advisory Commission. The two-day event, held on August 6-7, attracted over 1,000 visitors, nearly doubling last year’s attendance. The Open House offers a range of activities for all ages including children’s games and crafts, tours of ongoing excavations and wet screening demonstrations, informational panels, artifact displays, food provided by local Boy Scout Troop 579, period demonstrations related to the program theme, eighteenth-century music and dance, and rides in a voyageur canoe. Upon arrival, children were given a booklet filled with historical information, games, and other activities aimed at teaching them about the history and archaeology at the fort. A new children’s activity was added to the itinerary this year by Monica Topash, a Niles resident of Native American ancestry, who crafted Honor Feathers with children at the event. Visitors were able to tour the outdoor museum, showcasing informational panels, recent finds from the field season, as well as other artifacts related to the Open House theme. On display this year was a religious medallion depicting Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary that generated considerable interest among the public. Guests of the Open House were also able to tour the living history village. This year, re-enactors brought sailing and fishing demonstrations to life as well as other eighteenth-century activities including:

- Dave Schmidt- Sailing and ships
- Craig McGirr- Jesuit priest
The field school employs the community service learning approach to education. This means that students enhance traditional academic learning by providing a service to the community for mutual benefit. The approach emphasizes that sources of knowledge lie traditional classroom settings in the form of community assets like local knowledge, collections, and archaeological resources. In their engagement with the community, students and staff are able to build personal connections.

Community meals are one way to create social relationships. Community members generously provide meals for field school students and staff, creating opportunities for the community to learn more about the archaeological findings, while students and staff showcase public archaeology by sharing their stories of discovery and the significance of their finds. On Saturday evening after the open house, the interpreters host a “Fur Trade Frolic” for Project staff, students, and their families. This year marked the second annual frolic. Candace Myers provided an eighteenth-century style meal for guests. We also had the chance to practice tomahawk throwing and fire blank rounds from a flintlock musket. Project participants look forward to this event each year because it allows everyone connected with the Project to interact with others who share similar interests in the history and archaeology of the fort.

Over the years we have developed various opportunities that help to build connections with the community. For example, this past summer we participated in Niles Main Street’s “Third Thursdays,” a community initiative where we can promote our work to the public. Similar
public outreach occurs at the weekly farmers’ market that allows us to sell Project paraphernalia and inform the community about upcoming events the significance of our work.

Another outreach effort is our social media presence. The Project first started to expand their platforms in 2015 and experienced the benefits of heightened visibility. Students selected photos from the site and from the lab to post on Instagram, an app designed to instantly share photos. Students were encouraged to take numerous photos to post throughout the summer. You can find our Instagram by searching “fsjarchaeology.” 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. The blog continues to be regularly updated during the off season. To date, the blog has surpassed 54,000 views. To keep up with Project events during the year, read the blog online at fortstjoseph.blogspot.com. We also starting providing definitions of a different words each day during the field season, in an effort to educate the public about the terminology that archaeologists use while in the field and the lab. Finally, we hosted a contest for the 1000th person to like our Facebook page and provided the winner with a special tour of the site at the annual open house.

The Project depends on visibility from promotional materials in order to disseminate information on current and upcoming activities. Project intern Genevieve Perry and past field school students created a new brochure and flyers advertising archaeology summer camps, field school, and lecture series with the assistance of Dr. Nassaney. Interns Austin George and Elizabeth Mantyck redesigned the Project’s website and are continuing to update it with new materials of interest to our followers.

Research and Laboratory Work

The Project is most visible in Niles during the summer months; however, staff and students conduct activities throughout the year including ongoing research, collections management, and presentations at conferences, public lectures, and publications. This past year has seen ten independent study students and four paid interns working in the lab, analyzing artifacts, and presenting Project results to the public and professional audiences.

In spring, students completed the inventory of the 2015 artifacts and returned them to the Fort St. Joseph Museum in Niles. In summer, Project staff and students washed and sorted artifacts collected in excavations; artifact inventory began in the fall. Flotation samples collected during the field season were processed to recover seeds and other small finds from features and other contexts where organic remains are likely to be preserved. Students will be assisting the interns with various tasks and also be conducting their own research. For example, Dale Kraai, an Anthropology student conducting independent study is compiling an annotated bibliography on French colonial ceramics in preparation for an analysis of ceramics that have been recovered from excavations.
Erika Loveland and Dr. Nassaney are preparing a third installment of the Project’s booklet series on architecture, tentatively titled “Sheltering New France.” These will join the first two booklets on “Women of New France” and “The Fur Trade.” For a complete list of Project outcomes in 2016 see Appendix D.

**Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Advisory Commission**
Chair: Candace Skalla  
Vice Chair: Christina Arseneau  
Members: Bob Ahrens, Barbara Cook, Mary Ellen Drolet, Kristie Erickson, Robert Myers, Michael Nassaney, Larry Sehy, Mollie Kruck Watson, Jason Wesaw

**Sub Committee Reports**

*By-laws Committee*
Members: Candace Skalla, Bob Ahrens, Christina Arseneau, Mary Ellen Drolet, and Kristie Erickson
In 2016, the City of Niles issued a Boards and Commissions Handbook to standardize rules and procedures. The by-laws subcommittee is working to update the FSJAAC by-laws to comply with this new Handbook.

*Education Committee*
Members: Christina Arseneau, Cindy Benson, Mollie Kruck
The role of the FSJAAC Education subcommittee supports education programs related to Fort St. Joseph history which are coordinated by the Niles History Center. During the 2015-2016 school year, a total of 449 students participated in programs at the Fort St. Joseph Museum and at the site.

Summary and Future Initiatives

The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project experienced a very successful year conducting site investigations, public outreach, and interpretation of one of the most important French colonial sites in the western Great Lakes region. The Project, under the guidance of the Advisory Commission, has recently revisited the Strategic Plan (2014) and identified several short and long-term priorities. Long-term artifact curation and more effective ways to present our findings to increasing audiences remain our priority. Dr. Nassaney is also soliciting and assembling chapters from past students and staff on various aspects of fort archaeology for publication in an edited book by a university press, tentatively titled “Fort St. Joseph Revealed.” In addition, discussions will soon begin between WMU and the City of Niles in regards to the continuation of their partnership before the 10-year agreement signed in 2008 comes to an end. The future is bright for the Project thanks to the strong institutional commitment of the partners, generous support from donors, and the hard work of numerous volunteers who work to help us uncover the archaeology and history of Fort St. Joseph.

APPENDIX A
2016 Project Sponsors and Supporters

LIFETIME: ($10,000 OR MORE)
Anonymous
City of Niles
Michigan Humanities Council
Leighton-Oare Foundation
Ms. Gale McCarty
Dr. Michael Nassaney and Mrs. Nadine Godin-Nassaney
Peyser Family
Western Michigan University

COMMANDANT: ($500 - $9,999)
Cultural Events Committee, Western Michigan University
General Society of Colonial Wars in the U.S.
Mr. Lawrence J. Sehy
Joseph L. Peyser Endowment for the Study of New France
Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Michigan

EXPLORER: ($250 - $499)
Mr. Richard C. and Ms. Nona L. Barron
Dr. Sharon L. Carlson and Mr. Thomas A. Dietz
Ms. Michaela T. Mukasa-Clark
Ms. Mary Ellen Drolet
Mr. Herb and Mrs. Donna Ochenryder  
Mr. Daniel B. O’Connell  
Ms. Susan K. Reichert  

VOYAGER: ($100 - $249)  
Alliance Française de Kalamazoo  
Mr. Fred Flegal  
Mr. Russell A. Holm  
Kiwanis Club of Niles/ SW Michigan  
Dr. Terrance J. Martin  
Mr. Michael and Mrs. Lucy McCauslin  
Mr. John A. Pugh  
Mrs. Marybeth Janei Smith  

FRIEND OF THE FORT: (UP TO $99)  
Mr. Douglas A. Birk  
Mrs. Lesley Bookout  
Mrs. Judith L. Brown  
Mr. Jim and Mrs. Mary Ann Chellman  
Ms. Barbara J. Cornette  
Mr. Neil C. and Mrs. Trish Coulston  
Ms. Robin Drew  
Mr. Russell A. Holm  
Mr. Charles L. Hurtubise  
Dr. Karla M. Koretsky  
Mr. John LaMore  
Pfizer Foundation  
Mr. Steven M. Rice  
Mr. Stan S. Smeed  
Mr. Michael E. Smith  
Mr. Andrew J. Van Doren  

APPENDIX B  
Donations and Volunteers  

Donations (by Organization)  
Brentwood Senior Center  
City of Niles, MI  
Daughters of the American Revolution  
Four Flags Chamber of Commerce  
Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Advisory Commission  
Niles-Buchanan YMCA  
Kiwanis Club of Niles/SW Michigan  
MDS Priority Delivery Service  
Shelton Farms
Saylor’s Pizza
Niles City Hall
Niles District Library
Niles History Center
Western Michigan University

**Donations (by Individuals)**
Seth Allard
Christina Arseneau
Alex Brand
Dr. José António Brandão
Lynn and Meryl Christensen
Jim Clark
Barb Cook
Jessie Drolet
Margaret Drolet
Mary Ellen Drolet
Laura Hollister
Mollie Kruck
Layman Family
Steve and Jessie Marshall
Dr. Terrance Martin
Bob and Candace Myers
Pam and Tyler Noel
Neil and Cathy Sahlien
Larry Sehy

**Open House Volunteers**
Council Member Gretchen Bertschy
Council Member Bob Durm
Council Member Tim Skalla
Bob Ahrens
Debby Barkman
Leon Bertschy
Anne Damiecka
Stephanie Dorstewitz
Emily Egan
Lisa Frucci
Sharon Gregorski
Norm Guentert
Patrick Guentert
Eleanor Hein
Leona Hein
Meg Hein
Sam Hein
Jessica Layman
APPENDIX C
Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project
2016 Financial Statement

Income

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<td>Membership donations</td>
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<td>Camp fees</td>
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<td>Student fees</td>
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<td>City of Niles</td>
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<td>WMU Cultural Event Committee</td>
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In-Kind Contributions

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<td>Field school director (WMU)</td>
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<td>Graduate teaching assistant (WMU)</td>
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<td>Field Assistant (Gary Thompson)</td>
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<td>Fort St. Joseph Museum Intern (City of Niles)</td>
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<td>Public lecturer: Dr. Kenneth Sassaman (Anthropology)</td>
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<td>Printing programs, children’s booklets, and survey forms (cost share with Anth)</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$29,968</strong></td>
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TOTAL REVENUE $45,828

Expenses

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<td>Laboratory supervisor</td>
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<td>Public outreach coordinator (2 @ $2,000 each)</td>
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<td>Project zooarchaeologist (travel, meals, honorarium)</td>
<td>$700</td>
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**Transportation**

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<td>Rental vehicles for the field school (2 @ $1,263 each)</td>
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<td>Sub-total</td>
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**Housing** (July 5-August 16, 2016) $3,200

**Meals**

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<td>Educators’ lunch (July 28, 2016)</td>
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<td>Field school: celebratory lunch (August 17, 2016)</td>
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**Open House**

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<td>Living history coordinator (2 @$500 each)</td>
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<td>Historical re-enactors (10 @ $200 each)</td>
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<td>Portajons (includes field school usage for 6 weeks)</td>
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<td>Craft supplies</td>
<td>$75</td>
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<td>Printing informational panels (6 @ $162.74)</td>
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<td>Hotel for public scholar (1 night @ $120/night)</td>
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**Other Program Expenses**

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<td>Public lecturer: Kevin Finney</td>
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**TOTAL EXPENSES** $19,754

WMU Foundation Fort St. Joseph Project Account Reserve: $41,275
APPENDIX D
Project Outcomes: 2016

January
- John Cardinal continued as the Fort St. Joseph Museum intern.
- Six WMU independent study students (Carmell Dennis, Austin George, Elizabeth Mantyck, Genevieve Perry, Rebecca Stoddard, and Anne Volpe) began conducting lab work and developing promotional materials for the Project.
- Project participants presented the archaeology of Fort St. Joseph at WMU’s Career Cruising event. The FSJAP represented the Department of Anthropology and set up a “trash bag” activity that elementary school students took part in. This activity promoted critical thinking and analysis for the students where they were asked a series of questions about objects. This mimicked the questions archaeologists often ask themselves when they discover new artifacts.
- Austin George presented a paper “First Person Archaeology: Exploring Fort St. Joseph through Go-Pro Footage” at the 49th annual conference of the Society for Historical Archaeology, Washington, D.C. (with E. Loveland).
- Erika Loveland presented a paper “Fireplaces and Foundations: Architecture at Fort St. Joseph” at the 49th annual conference of the Society for Historical Archaeology, Washington, D.C.

February
- El Sol students from Kalamazoo visited WMU’s archaeology lab and participated in the trash bag activity.
- Dr. Nassaney was invited to participate in WMU’s Spring Convocation and present a Scholar Talk entitled: “The Secrets of an Eighteenth-Century French Trading Post in Niles, Michigan.”
- Dr. Julie Stein, University of Washington, visited Niles and Fort St. Joseph.
- Erika Loveland successfully presented her M.A. thesis proposal entitled “Archaeological Evidence of Architectural Remains at Fort St. Joseph (20BE23), Niles, MI” in the Department of Anthropology, Western Michigan University.

March
- Dr. Nassaney presented an invited lecture on “The Archaeology of the North American Fur Trade” at the Dowagiac Area History Museum, MI.
- Kevin Jones presented his M.A. thesis proposal entitled “An Examination of Flintlock Musket Components at Fort St. Joseph (20BE23), Niles, Michigan” in the Department of Anthropology, Western Michigan University.
April
- Dr. Nassaney presented an invited lecture on “The Archaeology of the North American Fur Trade” at the North Berrien History Museum, Coloma, MI.
- Dr. Nassaney presented an invited lecture on “The Archaeology of the North American Fur Trade” at the Support the Fort, Inc. annual meeting, Niles District Library, MI.
- Katelyn Hillmeyer defended her M.A. thesis “An Intra-Site Spatial Analysis of Fort St. Joseph (20BE23), Niles, MI” in the Department of Geography, Western Michigan University.

May
- Dr. Nassaney presented an invited lecture on “Cultural and Natural Challenges to Heritage Authenticity and Sustainable Practices in Site Interpretation” at the 7th Annual Conference on Heritage Issues in Contemporary Society, Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague, May.

June
- Mollie Kruck and Elizabeth Mantyck represented Fort St. Joseph at the Southwest Michigan Mini Maker Faire, attended by over 500 families.
- Dr. Nassaney and Elizabeth Mantyck gave a radio interview to WMUK on the Open House and Lecture Series.
- Dr. Nassaney presented an invited lecture on “French Colonial Architecture” to the Alliance Français, Kalamazoo, MI.
- Erika Loveland presented an invited lecture on “History and Archaeology of Fort St. Joseph” at the South Shore Poster Unveiling “Battle on the Dunes” hosted by the Porter County Museum, Valparaiso, IN.

July
- Elizabeth Mantyck and Anne Volpe presented a program on Fort St. Joseph at the Kalamazoo Air Zoo.
- The 41st annual WMU archaeological field school began at Fort St. Joseph
- Cindy Benson (Niles History Center) and Elizabeth Mantyck provided a tour of the fort to seventy-five YMCA “Summer My Way” campers.
- Elizabeth Mantyck and Anne Volpe presented a summary of the 2015 and 2016 Field Seasons at the Brentwood Senior Center, Niles, MI.

August
- Dr. Nassaney organized the seventh annual WMU Summer Archaeology Lecture Series enjoyed by over 200 attendees at the Niles District Library.
- The Open House drew over 1,000 visitors to learn about rivers and waterways and the archaeology being done at Fort St. Joseph.
- Students and staff completed washing and sorting the artifacts from the 2016 field school season in preparation for inventory and analysis during the 2016-17 academic year.
• Dr. Nassaney submitted his paper, “Problematicizng Heritage Authenticity and Sustainable Practices in Public Archaeology: A North American Colonial Case Study” for publication review to the journal *Heritage & Society*.
• Robert Myers, Dr. Nassaney, and Elizabeth Mantyck gave a radio interview to WSJM advertising the Open House.

**September**
• Austin George was appointed as the Fort St. Joseph Museum intern
• Elizabeth Mantyck and Genevieve Perry were appointed as Project interns
• Four WMU independent study students (Connor Frazier, Dale Kraai, Tommy Nagle, and Anne Volpe) began conducting lab work and developing promotional materials for the Project.
• Elizabeth Mantyck, Erika Loveland, and Dr. Nassaney presented the poster “2016 Public Archaeology at Fort St. Joseph” at the 12th annual Midwest Historical Archaeology Conference, Detroit, MI, September.
• Dr. Nassaney submitted his paper, “Social Identity and Materiality at French Fort St. Joseph (20BE23), Niles, Michigan” for review in a special issue of the journal *Historical Archaeology*, edited by M. Tveskov and C. Rose.
• Dr. Nassaney moderated the French-Canadian Roundtable with Dr. José António Brandão, Dr. Vincent DesRoches, and Dr. Lynn Heasley at the opening of the exhibit, “The French in North America: A Vast and Enduring Presence,” at the Chapin Mansion, Niles, MI.
• Dr. Nassaney was invited to present a lecture on “Making Connections Through Community Service Learning” at the Teaching and Learning Bash, Fall Convocation: To Improve Student Learning, Western Michigan University.

**October**
• Dr. Nassaney presented the paper “Embracing Anomalies” at the annual Midwest Archaeological Conference, Iowa City, IA. His paper examines how Fort St. Joseph advances our understanding of colonial encounters.
• Dr. Nassaney presented an invited lecture on “What Can Archaeology Teach Us About the Fur Trade?” at the Lowell Area Historical Museum, Lowell, MI.
• Several students from the Project participated in Michigan Archaeology Day in Lansing, MI.
• Anne Volpe and Genevieve Perry represented WMU’s Anthropology Department by attending I <3 STEM Night at Portage Lake Center Elementary School in Portage, MI in which they displayed recent artifacts from the 2016 excavations and engaged children in an activity developed to teach the importance of stratigraphy.
• Dr. Nassaney’s book, *The Archaeology of the North American Fur Trade*, received a positive review in the journal *American Antiquity* 81(4): 772-773. The reviewer remarked that the book “is a fine piece of scholarship that will appeal to a wide audience.”

**November**
• Dr. Nassaney had his co-authored paper “Food and Furs at French Fort St. Joseph” (with Terrance J. Martin) accepted for publication in *The Archaeology of Francophone Communities in the Americas*, edited by E. M. Scott. University Press of Florida.
• Erika Loveland submitted a summary of the 2016 field season to the Society for Historical Archaeology’s quarterly newsletter.
• Genevieve Perry and Dr. Nassaney developed the 2017 Fort St. Joseph brochure.
• Erika Loveland presenter a poster “Exploring Archaeology from a First-Person Perspective Using GoPro” at the 21st International Conference on Cultural Heritage and New Technologies in Vienna, Austria (with A. George).

December
• Susan Reichert completed her M.A. internship on “Lesson Plans to Incorporate Archaeology into the 5th Grade Curriculum in the Southwest Michigan Public Schools” in the Department of Anthropology, Western Michigan University.