

New department celebrates independence

By **Stephanie Koss**
Senior Reporter

The Department of Archaeology and Anthropology celebrated the opening of their new department at an open house on Thurs., Sept. 24, from 3:30pm to 5:30pm at the Archaeology Center and Laboratories.

Open house attendees were able to tour the new department and see artifacts found during the recent archeological digs in Europe.

The archaeology major program has been offered at UW-La Crosse since 1992. Since then, the archaeology and anthropology departments at UW-L have been housed in the joint Department of Sociology and Archaeology. However, due to substantial differences in the two fields, there had always been talk of moving archaeology and anthropology into its own department separate from sociology.

"With the Growth, Quality, and Access Initiative, new faculty members were added to both the sociology and archaeology programs, and we determined collectively, at the beginning of the 2014-15 academic year, that we could advance our programmatic goals more efficiently and serve our students' needs more effectively as separate academic departments," said department chair and archaeology professor, Timothy McAndrews. McAndrews also stated that he is most

excited for the types of students that this new department will draw to UW-L.

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one of, if not the best, program of its kind in the country. Now, as the only Department of Archaeology and Anthropology in the world, we believe our academic programs will be a draw for even more students," he said.

The new department has eight full-time faculty members and approximately 100 students majoring in archaeology. The department also includes two minors, anthropology and archaeology studies. It is one of the only comprehensive undergraduate degree programs of archaeology in the country.

In addition to the faculty's excitement for the new department, many of the students majoring in archaeology and anthropology

are excited for what the new department will bring to UW-L.

"Although we are now a separate department, we continue to partner with other departments to enrich our learning, and possibility exists of hiring more professors with different areas of expertise or viewpoints. The combination of archaeology and anthropology really creates a well-rounded learning experience," said sophomore archaeology major Maddy Younce.

Younce also commented on the benefits that the separation will have on her area of study.

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benefit our department without having to worry about another. It allows more room to grow for each newly developed department," she explained.

McAndrews added that their faculty

already stands out, saying, "We have an outstanding faculty of active teacher-

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scholars with ongoing archaeological and ethnographic research projects in the United States, South America, Egypt, Hispanola, Kenya, Tanzania, Eastern Europe and Hmong America. This allows us to bring our own research experiences into every class we teach, and it provides us a means of mentoring our students in research endeavors within our research programs."

Interested in majoring in archaeology or anthropology at UW-L? Contact Department Chair and Professor Tim McAndrews at tmcandrews@uwlax.edu for more information.