



CONNECTING THE PAST, THE PRESENT, AND THE FUTURE



MISSISSIPPI VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGY CENTER

2023 | UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE



Volunteer Field Survey crew working in the lab



Shovel testing during a field survey

2023 Update

It's been a busy year—and a productive one! Our field crews have been out on dozens of projects, finding and evaluating sites before projects take place, and monitoring sensitive locations even during construction. We've continued our broad range of outreach activities, working with community members in all sorts of settings, both in person and online. And we've helped undergraduate students gain experience and develop their career skills.

The Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center

Founded in 1982, MVAC is a research and educational organization based at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (UWL). Our mission of regional research, preservation, and education focuses on understanding and preserving the rich cultural heritage of the Upper Mississippi Valley. We offer:

- Resources and professional expertise for research, preservation, and planning
- Public engagement and hands-on learning for all ages
- Career-building experience for undergraduates
- Curation of regional artifacts and documents

How We're Supported

MVAC is a self-sustaining unit of the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

We're funded by:

- Contracts and grants
- Endowment income
- Public donations
- United Fund for the Arts and Humanities (UFAH)



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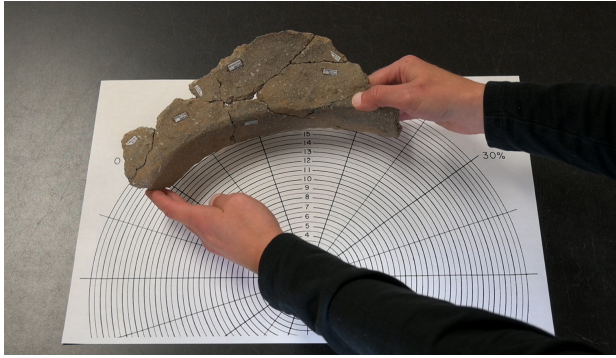
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Measuring pottery in the lab—click photo to watch video



MVAC CRM field survey

Archaeological Research and Cultural Resource Management (CRM)

MVAC offers a broad array of research and planning services to help agencies, developers, and others fulfill their historic preservation responsibilities. Our expertise in Cultural Resource Management (CRM) helps projects move from initial planning through successful completion. Our services include:

- Evaluation of project needs and requirements
- Initial records review to find out what is known about an area
- Special considerations for sensitive locations
- Surveys to see whether cultural sites are present
- Evaluation of site condition and significance
- Monitoring sensitive locations during construction
- Excavation to recover information
- Artifact processing and analysis
- GIS mapping
- Project reporting

MVAC provides services and information to agencies, municipalities, developers, engineering and other firms, and individuals. Many clients seek out our services as repeat customers.

Repository and Library

The cultural heritage of our region spans thousands of years. We're helping to preserve this rich, meaningful history for future generations. MVAC's archaeological repository is the largest in western Wisconsin, featuring:

- Documented collections from hundreds of sites
- An extensive library of reports and files
- Curation services for federal agencies and the State of Wisconsin
- Information for planning and research
- Respectful treatment of information and artifacts related to Indigenous sites

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Dr. Gregg Jamison speaking on UW MIA Recovery and Identification Project—click photo to watch lecture



Volunteer Field Survey participants shovel testing

Public Education & Outreach

MVAC's experienced and trusted public archaeology program encourages understanding and respect for the region's archaeological sites and the cultures they represent. Our outreach activities include:

- An on-campus exhibit area
- Outreach events:
 - Annual Artifact Show
 - Public lectures
 - Public field surveys
- Resources and information for avocational archaeologists and the general public
- Support for K-12 education:
 - Working with teachers
 - Classroom visits (in-person or virtual) and resources

We bring archaeology to you!

MVAC's digital resources make it easy to get the latest information:

- Free monthly **e-News** emails with updates, information, events, book reviews, and more
- **Archaeology News** newsletters with updates, project information, and more
- **Website** with news, upcoming events, and interesting content
- **Videos on YouTube** with a variety of topics
- **Facebook** posts with upcoming events, weekly informational posts, and regional information
- **Tumblr** blog with weekly informational posts and monthly archaeology fiction reviews

Questions about archaeology? Contact us at mvac@uwlax.edu or 608.785.6473.



Archaeology major Loudon Ferguson video on stone drills—
click photo to watch video



Dr. James Theler video on freshwater mussels—
click photo to watch video

Support for Undergraduate Education

UWL's highly regarded Archaeology program prepares students for careers in archaeology or other fields. MVAC offers hands-on experience and opportunities that foster academic and career development:

- Collections and resources that enhance undergraduate learning
- Internships and other opportunities for research, learning skills, and creating knowledge
- Hands-on field and lab experience as volunteers or paid crew

MVAC experience helps students and graduates shape and refine their career plans, get jobs, and apply for graduate school successfully. Many have become professional archaeologists, while others have carried their experience into other careers.

MVAC Staff

Timothy McAndrews
Director

Erik Anderson
Research Archaeologist

Michael Bednarchuk
Laboratory Manager

Jean Dowiasch
Education Coordinator
Senior Research Archaeologist

Wendy Holtz-Leith
Senior Research Archaeologist

Research Associates

David Anderson
Constance Arzigian
Suzanne Harris

Katherine Stevenson
Operations Manager

Bonnie Jancik
Director of Public Outreach
Development Budget Manager

Vicki Twinde-Javner
Senior Research Archaeologist
Contracts Budget Manager

Cindy Kocik
Archaeologist

Lindsay Lentz
Archaeologist

Amy Nicodemus
James Theler



1725 State Street | La Crosse, WI 54601
PH: 608.785.8463 | FX: 608.785.6474
uwlax.edu/mvac/ | MVAC@uwlax.edu