



*MVAC at the University
of Wisconsin-La Crosse*

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Archaeology News

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Summer Teachers' Institute a Success

Kathy Stevenson and Bonnie Jancik

This July MVAC and UW-L hosted our fifth National Endowment for Humanities (NEH) Summer Institute for Teachers. Twenty-five K-12 teachers from 18 different states across the nation (New York to California, Montana to Florida) came to La Crosse for an intensive three-week experience in archaeology. The program helps participants understand concepts of culture and how archaeologists move from broken potsherds to interpretations of human behavior—and how human cultures adapt and change through time. Teachers acquire new information and ideas to carry back to their classrooms, no matter what subjects they teach. Participants' teaching areas ranged from chemistry and earth science to art, language arts, and social studies.

The 2014 Institute was a team effort. Professor Emeritus Jim Theler directed the content, drawing from his years of teaching experience and vast knowledge of archaeology and human culture. Bonnie Jancik organized and facilitated the Institute and the teachers' experiences. Kathy Stevenson supplemented Jim's presentations with hands-on activities and regional examples. Connie Arzigian offered teachers authentic lab experiences.



Teachers sort faunal remains under the direction of Jim Theler.



NEH teachers excavating at the Cade Archaeological District.

Long-time MVAC friend Loren Cade hosted and worked with participants during their excavation day and technology day, and Robert Keiper entranced them with his flintknapping. MVAC friend Bill Gresens and recent UW-L archaeology graduates Mitch Running, Max Pschorr, and Casey Hintz offered their experience and perspectives as well.

***"This has been the
MOST rewarding pro-
fessional experience of
my career, hands down."***

- 2014 NEH participant

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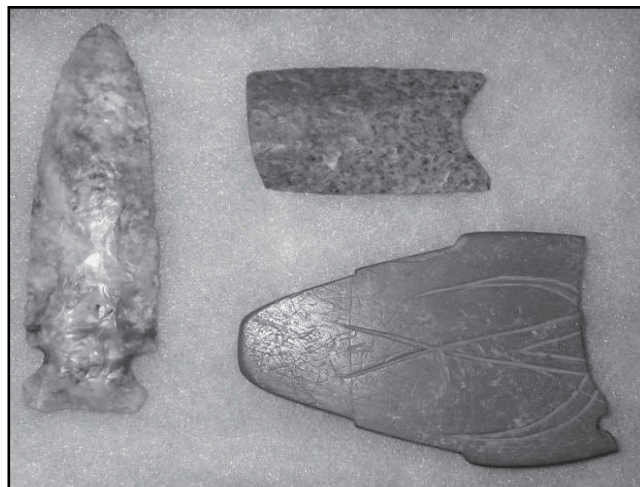
Lithic Materials Workshop

Constance Arzigian, MVAC Research Associate

On February 28 and March 1, 2014, despite cold and snow, over 120 people came to La Crosse from a four-state region for the third regional Lithic Materials Workshop, hosted this year by MVAC and UW-La Crosse. Participants shared their knowledge about raw materials and the technologies used by Native Americans in making stone tools. Participants included professional archaeologists, students from UW-L and other universities, flintknappers, artifact collectors, and interested members of the public. The event featured discussions, papers, posters, flintknapping demonstrations, a "lithic materials exchange," and a thought-provoking presentation on the peopling of the Americas by UW-L Assistant Professor of Archaeology Jessi Halligan.

A reception at the MVAC Archaeology Lab continued the lively discussion over refreshments. The diverse range of participants created an unusual opportunity for professional and public outreach, and a unique learning and networking experience for students.

The event was supported by Dean Ruthann Benson and the College of Liberal Studies, as well as the Minnesota Archaeological Society who provided the Saturday breakfast.



Artifacts displayed at the Lithic Materials Workshop.



Robert Keiper demonstrates flintknapping for students, collectors, and the general public.

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Education News

Matching Funds Grant:

Teachers interested in using MVAC's Archaeology Education Program resources in their classrooms can get financial help with our Matching Funds Grant. The grant matches a teacher or school's cost dollar for dollar. Thanks to the UW-L Foundation for providing funds for this program.

La Crosse School District:

Funds are available from the La Crosse School District for their elementary and middle school teachers to use MVAC presentations and resources in their classrooms. Thanks to the La Crosse School District for providing funds for this program.

MVAC Educational Programs are supported by

The United Fund for the Arts and Humanities
The National Endowment for the Humanities

Summer Institute -continued from p.1

MVAC and UW-L have been fortunate to receive NEH support for five of these institutes. The application process is extremely competitive, with only 12 institutes funded nationwide for 2014. The biggest reward is seeing what a difference this experience makes for the teachers - and their future students. One participant said "This has been the MOST rewarding professional experience of my career, hands down." Others said, "My classroom and curriculum will never be the same," and "It will have an immediate and significant impact on my teaching." Those are the results we hope for!

The key to the institute's success is the teachers themselves. These outstanding, dedicated educators devote three weeks away from their homes and families to expand their knowledge and enhance their teaching. We feel honored to have spent this time with such a wonderful, motivated group!



2014 NEH Summer Institute for Teachers.

Public Field School

The 2014 Public Field School was held at the Norskedalen Heritage and Nature Center's Skumrud Farm near Coon Valley. Led by Connie Arzigian, field school participants recovered artifacts dating back to the Woodland period. Thanks to Chris Hall, Executive Director at Norskedalen, for inviting us out to their site!



MVAC MEMBERSHIP FORM

Consider becoming a member of MVAC

MVAC's innovative Public Education Program brings the excitement of archaeology to children and adults throughout the area. Become a member of MVAC and receive our newsletters, which report on programs, current research, upcoming events, and volunteer opportunities. Also, as a member, you will receive reminders of special "members only" events. Please remember that your contribution is tax-deductible.

Yes! I want to support the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center Programs!
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Membership Categories

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Contributing: \$50 - 99
Active: \$35 - 49
Students: \$10

Please make checks payable to UW-L Foundation, Inc. for MVAC and send to MVAC, 1725 State St., La Crosse, WI 54601. Gifts to the UW-L Foundation for MVAC qualify as charitable tax deductions to the full extent of the law as applied to the individual circumstances of each donor. You can increase your gift's value if your employer has a matching gift plan. Check with your human resources office.



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Upcoming Events

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Who Was Here First? Exploring the Peopling of the Americas

Until recently, scientists were sure the first Americas arrived about 14,000 years ago, crossing the Bering Land Bridge from Asia to Alaska, moving through an "ice-free corridor" between huge glaciers, and spreading across the continent by 13,000 years ago. New research has challenged every part of this narrative, indicating that the peopling of the Americas is much more complex and interesting than originally thought. This talk will present new data and discuss why we still do not know exactly what happened, even after a century of research.

Date: Tuesday, October 14

Time: 7 PM

Location: Port O'Call, Cartwright Center, UW-L

Speaker: Dr. Jessi Halligan, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Sociology/Archaeology, UW-L; MVAC Research Associate

13 Millennia in 30 Years: An Archaeologist's Take on Coulee Country and Beyond

Dr. James Theler, Professor Emeritus, UW-L Department of Sociology and Archaeology, has spent over thirty years studying past peoples and past environments of the Midwest, and has a wealth of experience in the Coulee Region. His entertaining talk will offer an insider's perspective on regional research and fascinating archaeological discoveries throughout this time.

Date: Thursday, November 13

Time: Social 6 PM, Awards 6:30 PM, Lecture 7 PM

Location: Valhalla, Cartwright Center, UW-L

Speaker: Dr. James Theler, MVAC Senior Research Associate; Professor Emeritus, UW-L Dept. of Sociology and Archaeology

Mark Your Calendars!

February 19: Lecture- Booting Up Humanity, Dr. John Hawks

March 14: Artifact Show, Valley View Mall

April 2: Lecture- The Attacking Ocean, Dr. Brian Fagan