



*MVAC at the University
of Wisconsin-La Crosse*

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La Crosse, WI 54601-3788*

Archaeology News

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Top-Notch Teachers Come to La Crosse

Kathy Stevenson, Projects Director

July was a busy month! In addition to conducting a major excavation in Onalaska (to be featured in a future newsletter) and other projects, MVAC and UW-L hosted 25 teachers from 13 states for an intensive three-week experience in archaeology. Funded by a prestigious National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Institute for Teachers grant, this program explored the dynamic nature of human culture and how people have adapted to the rugged landscape, challenging climate, and rich resources of the Upper Mississippi Valley for over 13,000 years. The goal was to provide teachers with new concepts, knowledge, and resources they could take back to their classrooms no matter what their teaching specialty. This is the third year in a row, and the fourth year total, that MVAC and UW-L have hosted an NEH Summer Institute for Teachers.

As in previous years, the institute was a team effort. Professor Emeritus Jim Theler came out of retirement to serve up his engaging teaching style—a big hit with the teachers—and his vast knowledge of archaeology. Bonnie Jancik, MVAC's Director of Public Education, performed her usual organizational wizardry to keep everything on track. I worked with Jim and Bonnie on the classroom sessions and field trips, and Connie Arzigian provided hands-on materials and real-time links to our mega-excavation in Onalaska. Loren Cade and Robert Keiper also offered their expertise.

Was it a success? Participants' evaluations were overwhelmingly positive, describing it as "an outstanding success," "wonderful in all ways," and "one of the best educational experiences in my life." One partici-



Loren Cade (left) supervises teachers Peggy Deichstetter, Merrill Bell, Richard Nevers as they excavate.

pant said, "This experience will profoundly affect my teaching. It has been enriching to every part of my life." Another said, "this NEH MVAC institute has been a remarkable experience that I will cherish for the rest of my days." For those of us who taught the institute, that's the real payoff!

Only 14 institutions nationwide received NEH funding to hold Summer Institutes for Teachers in 2012, and we were especially fortunate to receive funding for the third year in a row. No Institute is planned for 2013, but we are already discussing submitting a proposal for 2014.



Robert Keiper guides Carol Schnaiter as she tries flintknapping.

From The Director: Joseph A. Tiffany



Joseph A. Tiffany

We had a very, very busy summer. MVAC conducted an extensive archaeological project on site 47LC-288 in downtown Onalaska associated with the reconstruction of STH 35 (2nd Avenue). Although a site was documented in the area as early as the 1880s, prior work and heavy development led all of us to believe not much of the site was left. Not so! We excavated about 500 Oneota features from under the existing highway and old railroad bed in a five-block portion of the highway while the new road work was in progress. In addition to excavating this important site, it should be noted that we did not impede the construction schedule. This is a truly remarkable example of modern urban archaeology at its best. MVAC was featured on public radio, TV, and newspapers, and the AP picked up the story.

Bonnie Jancik and Kathy Stevenson led another NEH Summer Teacher's Institute for Teachers in July with the able support of our colleague Jim Theler. The university field school was again at the Tremaine (47LC-95) site under the direction of MVAC Board secretary and UW-L archaeology faculty member, David Anderson. When the field school was over, we were able to hire some of the students for the Onalaska project, providing them with excellent archaeological experience and giving us a trained crew with which to work. Additionally, Connie Arzigian directed the MVAC public field school at the Chalsma site (47Lc-816), a small Oneota site near Holmen where MVAC held the field school last year. Eighteen people participated in this week-long activity. MVAC staff was also busy completing reports on several large projects from prior years and beginning other projects as well. Please read the feature article on the NEH project in this newsletter!

We have a couple more events associated with our 30th year anniversary. On November 8 at 7 p.m. Robert Palmer from Effigy Mounds National Monument will present a public lecture on "Time Bandits and Those Who Pursue Them: A Story of Cultural Resource Theft (and Protection) in America." A social will begin at 6 p.m. and MVAC's awards program at 6:30 p.m. followed by Bob's talk. We will look for you there.

Membership renewal letters will be coming out later this fall. We thank you in advance for your continuing support.

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MVAC Educational Programs are supported by:
The United Fund for the Arts and Humanities
The National Endowment for the Humanities

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, the UW-L College of Liberal Studies, and the School District of La Crosse for donating toward this program. To view MVAC's Teacher Resource Brochure, check out the Educators section of MVAC's website at www.uwlax.edu/mvac.

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.

For information on the Archaeology Education Program, Matching Funds Grant, or La Crosse School District Program, contact Jean Dowiasch at (608) 785-8454 or jdowiasch@uwlax.edu.

Next Issue: STH 35 in Onalaska

The reconstruction of STH 35 kept MVAC staff and our student field crew busy much of the summer. Connie Arzigian, Wendy Holtz-Leith, and Kathy Stevenson worked with the construction companies to monitor all ground disturbance in sensitive areas. Additional MVAC staff and crew headed to the field to quickly excavate the features discovered during monitoring. Along with individual artifacts, MVAC staff collected hundreds of bags of soil containing small pieces of charcoal, fish bones, and microflakes. Washing the artifacts and floating the matrix samples will continue this fall, followed by cataloguing. The next issue of *Archaeology News* will look at some of the early findings from the site.



Matrix samples spilled over into the office space at the Archaeology Lab this summer.



MVAC staff members Connie Arzigian (left) and Bonnie Jancik (foreground), along with Bill Gresens and the MVAC field crew excavating along STH 35.

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!
Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail address: _____

I want to charge my contribution to:

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard
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Amount: \$ _____
Card No.: _____
Security Code: _____ Expiration Date: ____/____
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Date: _____ Phone: _____

Membership Categories

Patron: \$1000 and above
Benefactor: \$500 - 999
Supporting: \$100 - 499
Contributing: \$50 - 99
Active: \$35 - 49
Students: \$10

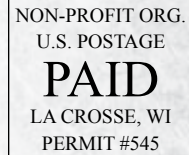
Please make checks payable to UW-L Foundation, Inc. for MVAC and send to MVAC, 1725 State St., La Crosse, WI 54601. Gifts to the UW-L Foundation for MVAC qualify as charitable tax deductions to the full extent of the law as applied to the individual circumstances of each donor. You can increase your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



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Upcoming Events

Contact MVAC at (608) 785-8454 for more information or visit our web site: www.uwlax.edu/mvac

MVAC 2012 Awards and Lecture

Time Bandits and Those Who Pursue Them: A Story of Cultural Resource Theft (and Protection) in America

Every year, millions, if not billions of dollars worth of protected items change hands in the underground world of illegal artifact trafficking and fraudulent misrepresentation of Indian Arts and Crafts. From individuals and multinational criminal organizations, the rising tide of trafficking and misrepresentation threatens to steal and destroy some important elements of who we are as a nation: items that make up our unique and irreplaceable American cultural history. Join us on Thursday, November 8, 2012 for a presentation by United States Department of Interior officer Bob Palmer on his experiences in the world of "time bandits and those who pursue them."

Date: Thursday, November 8, 2012
Time: Social 6:00 p.m. Awards 6:30 p.m.
Lecture 7:00 p.m.

Location: UW-L, Cartwright Center, Port O'Call
Speaker: Bob Palmer, United States Department of the Interior

NEH 2012 Participants

Merrill Bell, NC
Nancy Cotter, MI
Peggy Deichstetter, IL
Jeanne Faucheux, LA
Teresa Gable, NY
Julie Gapp, WI
Douglas Gouff, WI
Jonathan Halabi, NY
Steven Hammerman, FL
Brian Huebner, WI
Nancy Jacobsen, IA
Judd Lefeber, WI
Miranda Meyerson, NY

Martin Momsen, MN
Jonathan Morton, OR
Richard Neves, ID
Judith Reeves, LA
Jaclyn Sawyer, MN
Carol Schnaiter, IL
Johnny Sherman, TX
Bart Shindelar, IA
Carl Sieracki, WI
Katrina Smith, NY
Julie Striewski, MI
Gregory Thomas, PA