



CONNECTING THE PAST, THE PRESENT, AND THE FUTURE



MISSISSIPPI VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGY CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE



Jim Gallagher



Jim Theler



Tim McAndrews

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 encompasses regional research, preservation, and education related to 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)

MVAC's History

New! Links to video reminiscences –

- **Creating MVAC: A 40th Anniversary Interview with MVAC's Founder, Jim Gallagher**
- **Growing MVAC: An Interview with Jim Theler**
- **MVAC at 40 and Beyond: Looking Forward with Tim McAndrews**



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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 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 of our clients are repeat customers.

Repository and Library

MVAC has the most extensive archaeological repository 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

The cultural heritage of our region spans thousands of years. We're helping to preserve this rich, meaningful history for future generations.



Public Education & Outreach

MVAC has an experienced, trusted, and active public archaeology program that encourages understanding and respect for the region's archaeological sites and the cultures they represent. Our educational activities include:

- An on-campus exhibit area
- Outreach events:
 - Annual Artifact Show
 - Public lectures
 - Public field surveys and field schools
 - Classes for K-12 students
- 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 lots of 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.



Support for Undergraduate Education

UWL's highly regarded Archaeology program prepares students for future careers in archaeology or other fields. MVAC's resources offer hands-on experience and opportunities for students and recent graduates that foster their academic and career development, including:

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

MVAC experience helps students and recent graduates shape and refine their career plans, get jobs, and apply for graduate school successfully. Many have gone on to 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
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Senior Research Archaeologist

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