



*MVAC at the University
of Wisconsin-La Crosse*

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Archaeology News

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Teachers Spend Summer Learning Archaeology

Connie Arzigian, Research Archaeologist

Summer 2007 brought two groups of K-12 teachers to La Crosse to share in the excitement of archaeology, and gain new content and skills to take back to their classrooms. MVAC received a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Institute grant "Touch the Past: Archaeology of the Upper Mississippi River Valley," that ran for three weeks from July 9 through the 27th. Twenty-three K-12 teachers from all across the country came to La Crosse for an intensive overview of both the process of archaeology and the archaeological record in this area. Co-directors Connie Arzigian and Bonnie Jancik were joined by Kathy Stevenson, Jim Theler, Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt, Bob Birmingham, Barbara Kooiman, and Loren Cade.

The teachers got a chance to participate in an excavation of a Woodland site in the Bad Axe River Valley run by Jim Theler, following Jim's UW-L college field school in the same area. Loren Cade graciously took us out to the site on a hay-wagon ride across a stream. We also went on fieldtrips to Effigy Mounds National Monument, Aztalan State Park, Perrot State Park, and Larsen Cave. At Larsen Cave, we were stunned to discover that vandals had spray-painted graffiti over several rock art paintings and excavated a deep hole in the floor of the cave. Seeing such damage in person provided a powerful lesson to the teachers on the importance of teaching their students to value and protect the archaeological resources in their own community.

In the classroom, the teachers learned what archaeologists have discovered about this region, and tried their hand at a number of different skills, including using an atlatl, flintknapping, making cordage, using a bow drill, and starting a fire. They worked with a number of classroom activities and each cre-



*Coni Vaughn (left) and Nancy Davies
excavating pot sherds at 47Lc333.*

ated a lesson or other materials to take back to their school, including several in-depth lessons on making and using atlatls, creating and interpreting rock art, debating what should happen to Kennewick man, and so forth. The diverse regions and many different content areas and grade levels represented by the NEH summer institute participants gave all of us a wonderful exposure to new ideas and approaches.

Another group of 19 teachers were back in La Crosse for the second of three years of training in Language Arts as part of an ESEA Title II grant. Bonnie and I have been working with Susan Schumann and Ann Harry of the La Crosse School District, Carol Angel of the UW-L School of Education, and with Jennifer Kosiak from the UW-L Math Department as an internal evaluator. Bill Gresens joined us in the field. In 2007 the teachers returned to the Swennes site in Holmen to continue the excavation of features that they discovered last summer. Several of the pits produced large rimsherds that confirm the dating of the site to the Pammel Creek phase of the Oneota culture, about 1400 to 1500 A.D. We also excavated part of a pit with a ring of fire-cracked rocks that appears to represent an earth oven, as well
see Teachers, page2

From The Director: Joseph A. Tiffany



Joseph A. Tiffany

MVAC has been busy this summer. Currently, Vicki Twinde-Javner is working on a large site survey and testing project associated with the drawdown of the Flambeau Reservoir near Ladysmith. Almost everyone at MVAC has been up to this project including me, documenting sites along the old river terraces.

Vicki will also be testing another site near Ladysmith, 47RU109. This work has been graciously sponsored by Dairyland Power, and we thank them for their interest and support of Wisconsin archaeology.

We had another successful public field school directed by Connie Arzigian at the Swennes Brothers farm (47LC333). New storage pits and a probable house feature were identified. Bonnie Jancik and Connie Arzigian were involved in the second year of a three year ESEA Title II grant entitled "Language Arts and Archaeology." The biggest activity this summer, however, was the NEH Summer Institute for Teachers entitled "Touch the Past: Archaeology of the Upper Mississippi River Region" directed by Bonnie and Connie with special lectures and activities provided by Ernie Boszhardt, Jim Theler, Barbara Kooiman, and former MVAC staffer Kathy Stevenson. Read more about the Title II project and the NEH Summer Institute in this newsletter.

Mark your calendars for several fall events. MVAC will have an exhibit in the university gallery from October 19 – November 13. A reception is planned opening night October 19. This year marks MVAC's 25 anniversary, and as most know, we are planning a reception and banquet on November 13 at the Cleary Center on the UW-L campus. MVAC is also hosting another Silver Mound Day on Saturday, October 13. We are planning for another huge turnout! More particulars on these activities are in this newsletter.

On the academic side of the house, Jim Theler conducted the archaeology field school in the Cade Archaeological District in Vernon County. The Archaeology Studies Major continues to grow. The official census has not been done at the time of writing, but we estimate we are well over 135 pre-majors and majors at this point (I am guessing higher). Our expanding number of majors is a testament to the program's strength and broad appeal. We are still taxed to the limit on the teaching side with only two and one half faculty teaching positions, but we have strong support from the university administration and look forward to making new hires in the near future. In the meantime, MVAC staff is doing double duty by providing the instruction needed to maintain the quality undergraduate teaching experience for which the Archaeological Studies Program is nationally recognized.

Finally, if you get the chance, stop by MVAC and take a look at our new compactor shelving! You will not recognize the lab and collections area!! MVAC provides many opportunities for active public involvement in archaeology in the region, and we enjoy sharing our research, education, and outreach activities with you. Our thanks to all of you for your continued help and support. We appreciate it. Please take a moment and consider MVAC and the services we have provided for over a quarter century and think about a gift to MVAC that reflects your interests in our program. There is always a need; please contact us and we will be happy to work with you!

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NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
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and the:

The United Fund for the Arts and Humanities

Teachers (continued from page 1)

as several large pits that were probably abandoned storage pits refilled with refuse, including a lot of ash and charcoal from fires. Finally, a large area of burned earth, charcoal, and several postholes appears to represent some sort of structure, only part of it was exposed in 2007. Future excavations will tell us more. In the classroom, the teachers learned a variety of techniques for teaching nonfiction reading and writing in their classrooms, and have created action research plans to implement new instruction in their classroom and assess the results.

Silver Mound Day

Saturday, October 13, 2007

10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Hixton-Alma Center KOA, STH 95
north of Hixton

Fee: \$4/adult; under 6 free

Join MVAC at Silver Mound, one of Wisconsin's most important prehistoric quarry/campsites. Take guided tours of rockshelters and quarry pits, try your hand at atlatl (spear) throwing and prehistoric games. Demonstrations of flint-knapping, local artifacts, and traditional art. Dancing and drumming provided by the Wisconsin Dells Singers.



2007 Grant Participants

ESEA Title II - Language Arts and Archaeology

Tim Donovan	Holly Dowling
Jeffrey Falck	June Hootman
Mariah Hootman	Dianna Moua
Janet Sandner	Carol Helmke
MaryJean Seiler	Mary VanDeHey
Nancy Davies	Sara Schupbach
Rose Stanek-Tiedeman	
Amy Anderson	Jeanine Brieske
Jan Hesson	Carol Niedfeldt
Coni Vaughn	Kathee Wales

NEH Summer Institute

Amanda Argazzi	Irving Kagan
Arnold Chamberlain	Judy Cloues
Patricia Coughlan	Vicki Darwin
William Eckerstorfer	Jeffrey Falck
Wendy Gorton	Amanda Harrison
Jan Hesson	Catherine Bornfletch
Vance Mead	Rachel Merino
Brenda Most	Katherine Olson
Linda Ruehle	Kimberly Schiller
Lucinda Shinn	Mary Summerfield
Denise Trufan	Amy Woods
Philip Zike	

Education News

Matching Funds Grant

The UW-La Crosse Foundation has once again provided a grant to encourage teachers to use MVAC educational resources. The grant matches a teacher/school's cost dollar for dollar. For more information, contact Jean at 785-8454 or dowiasch.jean@uwlax.edu.

La Crosse School District Archaeology Funds

Funding is available for La Crosse School District teachers to use Archaeology and Native American resources from MVAC. Teachers interested in using the funds should contact Jean at 608-785-8454 to schedule materials and presentations.

Read more in the MVAC Digital Newsletter

A link to the digital newsletter can be found on the MVAC Home Page at www.uwlax.edu/mvac.

Estate Planning

Successful estate planning is a valuable way to continue your support for MVAC into the future. By giving a gift in your will or estate plan, you are providing for future programs in archaeological research, public education and site stewardship. Please consider MVAC when planning for trusts, gifts and bequests. Contact Marcee H. Peplinski, Development Director at the MVAC office for more information, (608)785-8463.

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: _____



Membership Categories

Patron	\$1000 +
Benefactor	\$500-999
Supporting	\$100-499
Contributing	\$50-99
Active	\$25-49

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

Unless otherwise noted, events are free and open to the public. Contact MVAC at (608) 785-8454 for more information or visit our web site:

www.uwlax.edu/mvac

Silver Mound Day

Saturday, October 13, 2007

10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Hixton-Alma Center KOA, STH 95 north of Hixton

Fee: \$4/adult; under 6 free

see **page 3** for more information

Continuity in Culture: MVAC at 25 Years

October 19 - November 13, 2007

Monday -Thursday 12 - 8 p.m.

Friday - Saturday 12 - 5 p.m.

UW-La Crosse Art Gallery, Center for the Arts

To commemorate MVAC's 25th Anniversary, this exhibit will explore the Native American heritage of the Upper Midwest from archaeology to the Ho-Chunk. Prehistoric artifacts ranging from 10,000 to 500 years ago will be displayed along with historic Ho-Chunk photographs and basketry. In addition, a rock art area will be featured.

Continuity in Culture: MVAC at 25 Years

Opening Night Reception: Friday, October 19, 2007
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

UW-La Crosse Art Gallery, Center for the Arts

Rock Art Panel Discussion

Friday, November 2, 2007

3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Room 116, UW-La Crosse Center for the Arts

Held in conjunction with the Continuity in Culture exhibit held at the UW-La Crosse Art Gallery. This panel will include perspectives of Ho-Chunk member Chloris Lowe, rock art painter Geri Schrab, and MVAC archaeologist Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt.

Annual Reception - Celebrating 25 Years

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

5:30 p.m.

Cleary Center, UW-La Crosse

Cost: \$30/person

Members of MVAC are invited to attend our annual banquet, awards presentation, silent auction and retrospective on MVAC's first 25 years.

