



*MVAC at the University
of Wisconsin-La Crosse*

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Archaeology News

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NEH Summer Institute Attracts Teachers from across the Nation

Katherine Stevenson, Project Manager

Teachers from across the nation came to La Crosse this summer to participate in a unique learning experience. Twenty-five K-12 teachers chosen from more than 100 applicants attended a three-week Summer Institute for Teachers hosted by MVAC and UW- La Crosse, to explore how human cultures adapt to complex and ever-changing environments.

The teachers learned how Native American and Euro-American peoples have adapted to the rugged landscape, challenging climate, and rich resources of the Upper Mississippi River Valley over the past 13,000 years, and how those adaptations keep changing even today. Activities included classroom discussions, demonstrations and presentations, lab studies, cleaning and cataloguing artifacts, fashioning an arrowhead and an arrow, and using a spear thrower. Field trips ranged from a site excavation to visits to local Amish farms and organic growers, Effigy Mounds National Monument, a cave with Native American rock art, and other locations.

The Institute was supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). UW-L Professor Emeritus Jim Theler served as lead instructor, drawing on four decades of archaeology experience to offer lively class discussions, demonstrations, field trips, and readings. Bonnie Jancik & I served as co-directors.

Some long-time MVAC friends provided invaluable help with the project. Loren Cade hosted the excavation and a technology day, and provided a wealth of



Bob Keiper (left) shows Michigan teacher Lauri Davis techniques unique to flintknapping.

information on topics ranging from artifact collecting to changing adaptations for local farmers. Bob Keiper's flintknapping demonstration was a big hit. The teachers also loved Bill Gresens' presentation on archaeology fiction (good and bad).

As part of the Institute, the teachers completed individual projects tailored to their own classroom teaching. Some of the projects are posted on MVAC's Web site (<http://www.uwlax.edu/mvac/Educators/LessonPlans.htm#NEH>) to make them available to teachers nationwide.

Teachers and instructors alike had a great time and found the Institute to be a wonderful learning experience. One participant's evaluation said, "Do this again!! This was phenomenal!" So we're especially pleased to announce that we've just received NEH funding to offer the Institute again next summer.

From The Director: Joseph A. Tiffany



Joseph A. Tiffany

Hello, everyone! We have been busy! Several of us (Vicki, Kathy, Connie and myself) with a small MVAC crew monitored construction for the USH 18 Bypass in Prairie du Chien, documenting a nineteenth-century well, two nineteenth-century stone foundations, and a limestone feature remnant uncovered during topsoil removal.

Kathy and Wendy oversaw coring and conducted archival research for the proposed location of the Great River Cultural & Tourism Center in downtown Onalaska. Connie and Kathy had field crews looking for new sites in Olmsted County, Minnesota as part of a large planning and survey grant they received, and Connie has also been busy investigating timber sales parcels in Wisconsin.

Jean and Wendy were busy with projects from a number of clients, from the National Resources Conservation Service to private developers. The fall is looking to be just as busy. Vicki is directing an MVAC crew in Iowa on a survey for Dairyland Power at this writing, Joe and Connie are teaching. It is likely that MVAC crews will be in the field until the ground freezes - which is good!

This summer Bonnie co-directed with Jim Theler and Kathy Stevenson a prestigious NEH summer institute for teachers entitled "Exploring the Past: Archaeology in the Upper Mississippi River Valley." We have received word that NEH has funded the summer institute for another year.



Participants in MVAC's NEH Summer Institute for Teachers look for Native American rock art in a local cave.

Please take a moment to read about new MVAC staff member, Farid Sabongi, in this issue. Farid will serve as senior architectural historian for MVAC.

I will lead a comprehensive tour of ancient Egypt later this year with Egyptian archaeologist Ahmed Ali through Meximayan Academic Travel. Look for more on this adventure in a future *Newsletter*.

We enjoy sharing our research, education, and outreach activities with you. We know you have many choices when it comes to your support. Please consider MVAC and the services we have provided for nearly 30 years, and think about a gift to MVAC that reflects your interests in our programs. There is always a need; please contact us; we will be happy to work with you!

MVAC Staff Contacts:

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MVAC Educational Programs are supported by:

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

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
HUMANITIES

Education News

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.

MVAC welcomes Farid Sabongi as senior architectural historian

Farid Sabongi recently joined the MVAC staff as senior architectural historian. Sabongi has 20 years of experience with historic preservation, interior design, and architecture (commercial and residential projects in Europe, Middle East (Persian Gulf States) and the U.S. His work focuses on site survey and history of preservation, documenting and recording historic buildings, archival research, field photography of historic sites, survey of traditional materials and methods of construction, conserving historic materials and independent research.

Sabongi has prepared nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and has led design charettes

for the structures. Farid has also done historic structures reports (the Historic American Buildings Survey), construction management, architecture, downtown restoration and renovation, property evaluation, restoration of historic property, American with Disabilities Act compliance, and energy conservation in historic buildings.

To contact Farid Sabongi, call (608) 785-6783 or you can e-mail him at sabongi.fari@uwla.edu.



"Farid brings a wealth of experience to our campus community," says MVAC Executive Director Joe Tiffany.

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@uwla.edu.

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.

Midwest Archaeological Conference 2011

MVAC/UWL Archaeology Studies Program will host the Midwest Archaeological Conference October 13 - 15, 2011. General public welcome: www.uwla.edu/mvac/mac2011.htm.

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 \$ _____

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Membership Categories

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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

Artifact Show

Join MVAC staff at Valley View Mall to see artifacts representing the area's long history. Local collectors will display their personal collections of artifacts. View artifacts recovered from the MVAC excavations in 2010. Archaeologists will be on hand to answer questions. Bring in your own artifacts for help in their identification. Call MVAC at (608) 785-8454 if you would like to display your artifacts.

Date: Saturday, March 5, 2011

Time: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Location: Valley View Mall
Onalaska, WI

Wisconsin Archaeology Month - May 2011

The Wisconsin Historical Society's website will have a complete listing of activities offered statewide:
<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/hp/hp-week/index.asp>

MVAC Awards/Lecture

Current State of Affairs at Cahokia and Beyond: A View from the Top of Monks Mound

Cahokia is located mid-way along the Mississippi River corridor at the center of the North American continent. This ancient city is very much alive today as researchers attempt to better define its role in the development of those societies ancestral to the American Indian tribes of the Midwest and Southeast. Cahokia, with a ritual core of four large plazas that envelop the largest earthen monument known as Monks Mound, comprises a cultural landscape of nearly 400 acres. This urban phenomenon sprawls continuously outward to incorporate an area of 13 sq km. In addition to its cosmologically based layout as a city, it is ritually connected to numerous towns, villages, and other communities in the nearby Mississippi valley and surrounding uplands. This presentation discusses the ongoing research efforts of the presenter and others at Cahokia and the surrounding region.

Date: April 12, 2011

6 p.m. Social

6:30 p.m. Awards

7 p.m. Lecture

Location: Port O'Call, Cartwright Center, UW-La Crosse

Speaker: John E. Kelly, PhD
Washington University,
Department of Anthropology