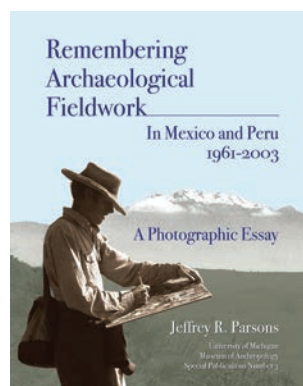
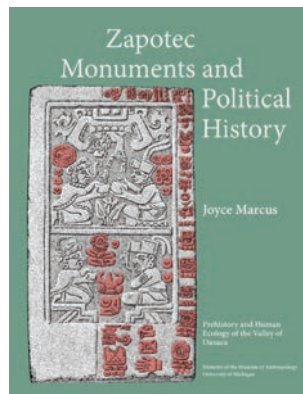


Museum of Anthropological Archaeology



Base camp in Mongolia
Alicia Ventresca Miller is the Museum's new curator of Asian archaeology, page 2

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Museum Profile: Alicia Ventresca Miller



The Museum is happy to welcome a new curator and colleague: Dr. Alicia Ventresca Miller. Her official titles are Assistant Curator of Asian Archaeology and Assistant Professor of Anthropology.

Alicia has had a diverse career, with experience in commercial archaeology, as a volunteer, and as an academic. She grew up in Buffalo, New York, and graduated from the State University of New York in Buffalo with a bachelor's degree in anthropology. Her first archaeological work was at a Pueblo site in northern Arizona (through Arizona State University).

After graduating with a master's degree from New Mexico State University, she became a project manager at a New Orleans archaeological firm. There she led archaeological surveys and excavations across the southeastern United States, spending her days off learning about the history of New Orleans and Mardi Gras. Alicia joined the Peace Corps in 2004 and was stationed in Karaganda, Kazakhstan, a coal-mining region of the country that reminded her of Buffalo. As a Peace Corps volunteer, she brought her focus on the past into the present while working with archaeologists in Kazakhstan to write grants, prepare exhibitions, and disseminate research to the public. She spent her

summers excavating Bronze Age (Andronovo) sites in northern Kazakhstan; she eventually became the project co-director. After finishing her service, she entered the PhD program at the University of Pittsburgh. Her dissertation integrated osteological, mortuary, and stable isotopic analyses of human remains from the sites she excavated during her Peace Corps days.

Alicia met her husband Bryan, a historical archaeologist, at a conference that she organized on Eurasian archaeology at the University of Pittsburgh. They married in 2010 and have lived in Mongolia, the United Kingdom, and Germany—all in all, they have moved eight times over the past nine years. They have a 4-year-old son, Vincenzo, who grew up speaking German as his first language. They are looking forward to going to the field as a family this coming year, with a field season planned in Mongolia in collaboration with the National Museum and NOMAD Science Mongolia.

Genetics and anthropology

In our globalized world, we take for granted that materials are easily transported across Eurasia along established routes of



Cover and opposite page: Alicia and the crew set up the Ger camp after a five-day drive from Ulaanbaatar (Khovsgol Province, Mongolia, 2019). Photo courtesy of NOMAD Science.

Above: Alicia excavates a looted Mongol Era burial (1206 to 1368 CE) in Khovsgol Province (Mongolia, 2019). Photo courtesy of Sandra Vanderwarf.

Below: Overlooking the valley from the Khorig cemeteries (Khovsgol Province, Mongolia, 2019). Photo courtesy of A. R. Ventresca Miller.



exchange. In fact, discussions of modern globalization piqued Alicia's interest in investigating the ancient movement of people and the transport of plants through the vast Eurasian steppe.

As part of a multispecies anthropological approach, Alicia explores the mechanisms fueling urbanization, including residential mobility, settlement provisioning, and the adoption of domesticates such as millet and livestock. Her groundbreaking research at the intersection of science and anthropology has helped construct a new narrative that places Eurasian societies at the center of global research.

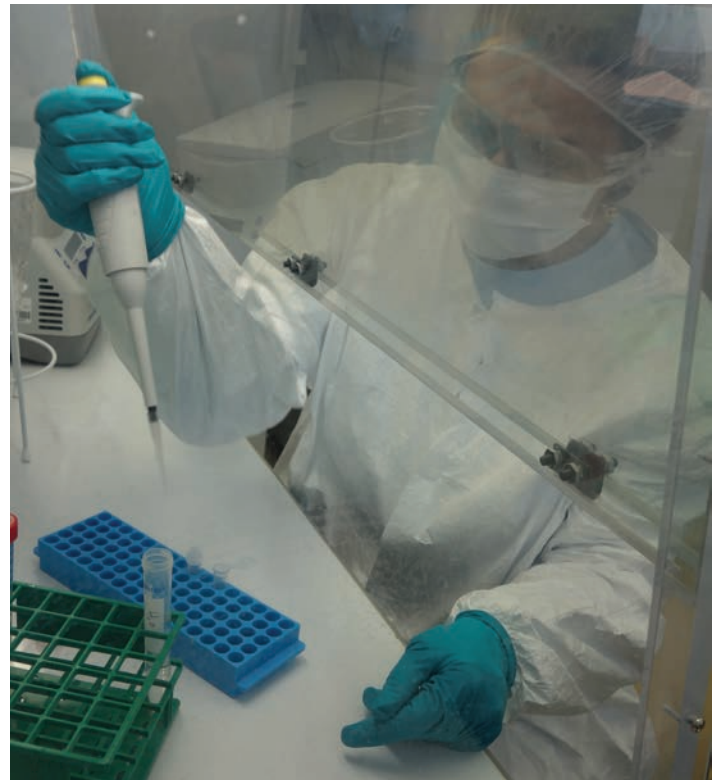
Since finishing her PhD in 2013, Alicia has held postdoctoral positions at the University of Kiel and at the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History (MPI-SHH) in Jena, Germany. At the MPI-SHH she acted as a bridge between anthropology and genetics, providing much needed contextualization and nuanced interpretations of genomic results. She applied biomolecular techniques to investigate how shifts in food production intersect with the emergence of complex societies.

Alicia's work challenges nomadic narratives by demonstrating that pastoralists engaged in agriculture and ate domesticated millet while moving within provinces rather than at pan-regional scales. Her meta-analysis of isotopic data demonstrates that contemporaneous pastoralists in Central Asia adopted millet agriculture while communities in Mongolia engaged in pastoralism for another millennium before incorporating millet into their diets. This work was the first to highlight the co-existence of hunter-gatherers, pastoralists, and agro-pastoralists, and it suggested that there was no simple widespread shift to agriculture.

Pastoralism, trade, and mobility

At the dawn of the Iron Age, a network of exchange grew from the Altai Mountains to the Black Sea based on shared animal style motifs. Contrary to discussions of massive migrations in the steppe, Alicia's work indicates that Bronze Age humans engaged in small-scale mobility within limited ranges, and land use decreased over time. Livestock including cattle, sheep, and goats were herded near settlements, but horses grazed considerably farther away, staying outside of areas affected by humans. In marginal areas such as the semi-arid steppe, sustainable proto-urban economies emerged through a diversification of herding strategies, including vertical transhumance and the foddering of sheep in winter. These findings inform modern policies concerning pastoral land use in Central Asia, where pasture reserves are of global significance.

To further understand the rise of urbanization in the steppe, Alicia investigated how aggregated populations were sustained on local resources. Scythians are often described as nomadic pastoralists, but they inhabited massive urban sites in the Black Sea zone. Her work dispels notions of vast migrations, demonstrating that people were moving at smaller provincial scales and that most Scythians consumed millet while engaging in agriculture. Highly mobile people ate less millet, but were crucial transmitters of ideas and goods. Building on Alicia's success using isotopic and osteological analyses, her future research draws on ancient proteins, ancient DNA, and historical texts to clarify how the influx of goods and people along the northern Silk Roads influenced dietary diversity, cuisine, and the spread of pathogens.



Alicia extracts ancient proteins from dental calculus in the Paleoproteomics Laboratory at the Max Planck Institute (Jena, Germany, 2018). Photo courtesy of Jessica Hendy.

In collaboration with the National Museum of Mongolia and NOMAD Science, Alicia is directing a bioarchaeological project at a Mongol period cemetery (1200 CE). This rescue excavation offers a unique opportunity to engage with community members and students to preserve an important site threatened by looting. This project will clarify the impact of disease on Mongol Empire populations during a period of unprecedented globalization of goods, ideas, and pathogens. During the 2019 season, the team recovered silk and leather garments, wall hangings, and ceramic vessels full of substances resembling dairy and tallow. Analyses of clothing and food preserved in the permafrost are still underway.

As a broadly trained anthropological archaeologist, Alicia has directed and participated in archaeological projects throughout the Americas and Central Asia. Her fieldwork project, *Sustenance in the Hungry Steppe*, examines evidence for the emergence of proto-urban centers during the Final Bronze Age (1500–1000 BCE) in central Kazakhstan. Her team is investigating how pastoralists managed livestock and exploited resources to maintain large populations in the semi-arid steppe. Initial fieldwork will include geophysical prospection to determine site function, and strategic excavations (burials, pithouses) to recover paleobotanical samples for radiocarbon dating. There is great potential to demonstrate the early presence of domesticated grains at this site.

We at the Museum look forward to collaborating with our new colleague.



Above: Alicia and curator Sandra Vanderwarf unfold a large felt object recovered from the permafrost in a Mongol Era burial (2019). Photo courtesy of Julia Clark (NOMAD Science).

Right: Alicia hiking in Buryatia after a conference in Ulan Ude, Russia (2017). Photo courtesy of Bryan Miller.



Our Undergraduates Go to the Field

Summer Field School in Kosova and North Carolina

This year five undergraduate students received Museum funding in order to attend a special two-part field school: during the first part, students traveled to Kosova, where they learned techniques of large-scale survey; in the second part, they joined a project in North Carolina, where they learned how to excavate. Below, the students share their experiences.

Martin Anderson

The UMMAA field school granted me a unique experience that will provide a robust foundation for graduate school and a career in anthropology.

In Kosova, the directors and graduate students of the RAPID-K project (Regional Archaeology in the Peja and Istog Districts of Kosova) showed us how to conduct large-scale survey. This included pedestrian survey, GIS mapping, shovel testing, and preliminary artifact analysis. Working alongside **Dr. Michael Galaty** and the graduate students exposed us to new techniques and a wide range of approaches that we would not have acquired in a classroom setting. This in-depth introduction was deeply important to someone like myself, who hopes to pursue archaeological research as a career. More than just the archaeology itself, experiencing Kosova's landscape, culture, and people became one of the most memorable moments in my life. I ate incredible foods, had coffee with wonderful people, and played late-night soccer with the hotel staff. Never have I felt so far from home yet so comfortable and welcome.

In North Carolina, I was trained to excavate. At the Berry Site, I worked on the initial excavation of a 3 x 3 m unit in

Structure 9 (a Native American townhouse), and later I was responsible for the excavation of a 1 x 1 m square inside the Spanish fort. Within this square, we found evidence of postholes of a large structure that had been burned before the fort was built. **Dr. Rob Beck** was an excellent instructor: he was incredibly knowledgeable and enthusiastic while teaching us about the site and how to excavate properly. I also got to work with other experts at the Berry Site. One of these was Dr. Chris Rodning from Tulane University. From him, I learned how to excavate a small, high-density unit. I found that I love small, intricate excavation, because it gives you a depth of knowledge of a specific site that survey and shovel testing do not. This field school was one of the most valuable experiences of my education. I would like to thank the James B. Griffin Undergraduate Research Fund and the Riggs Hoenicke Undergraduate Student Experience Fund for affording me this incredible opportunity. I greatly appreciate the support. I could not have attended this field school without these awards. They have aided not only my education, but also my career.

Gabriella Armstrong

Support from the Carl E. Guthe Endowment was crucial to my participation in the 2019 field school, which has become my most valued educational experience. I had not done archaeological fieldwork before this summer, but I knew it was an important step on my journey to becoming an archaeologist.

Working on two projects enabled me to learn many archaeological techniques and methods (specifically pedestrian



Above: Three students sort through pottery sherds after survey during the RAPID-K project in Kosova.

Right: Students in the UMMAA field school survey a hillside just south of Peja, Kosova.



Our Undergraduates Go to the Field

Summer Field School in Kosova and North Carolina

survey and excavation) and also compare projects and understand differences in data collection and research questions for different sites.

In the first part of the field school, I learned how to dig shovel tests, complete pedestrian survey, and work in a lab organizing sherds. I also learned about the history of Kosova and was immersed in the culture for two weeks. My favorite day in the field was when I went with my survey team in search of a tumulus (burial mound). We surveyed some fields and didn't find very many artifacts, but after speaking with two men who lived in the area, we were able to locate the potential tumulus. It was a mound in the middle of a field and when we searched the top we found an overgrown hole that our team leader said may be a looted grave. We decided to survey the field next to it (we couldn't survey the field it was in, due to high grass). In the field next to the mound we were excited to find more than 40 artifacts, mostly ceramics.

Although I was sad to leave Kosova after two weeks of work, I was excited to try excavation at the Berry Site. I loved mapping out units and then opening them to uncover the past. We found lithics and many ceramics, which had varying designs that helped date and identify the pottery. I mainly worked in units that uncovered a Joara (the Native American) structure. On the last day of excavation, we uncovered a burned building. I learned how to read soil patterns at the site to determine if the soil had been burned, if it was a cultural level, and even how to identify postholes.

The positive effects of the field school have continued: professors Galaty and Beck will both advise me on an honors

thesis. I will be working with Mississippian ceramics, which relates to the work that I did at the Berry Site. I cannot thank UMMAA enough for their support, as this field school was the best learning opportunity I have ever had. It also assured me that anthropological archaeology is the path that I want to pursue for future study.

Trevor McKinney

I am extremely grateful for the James B. Griffin Undergraduate Research Fund, which generously covered all my airfare. This field school was an amazing experience. During the first portion of the field school, we conducted survey with the RAPID-K project in Kosova. I learned a lot about how the project managed its data, such as digital mapping of land tracts and how to catalogue the artifacts we brought back from the survey. One such artifact was the point in the photo below, which we found while shovel testing. The second half of the field school was at the Berry Site in Morganton, North Carolina. There we had a chance to excavate at the Native American village called Joara. We came across chipped stone, pipe fragments, and ornately designed ceramics. In addition to practicing our excavation skills, we learned about the project's system for recording artifacts and extensive photo-data collection. It was enlightening to see such careful work and learn how it creates information to answer archaeological questions.

I met amazing people and had so much fun during the entire field school. The teams at RAPID-K and the Berry Site were awesome. Working alongside archaeologists with much more



Above left: Gabby Armstrong and Rob Beck remove a large piece of decorated ceramic in the Spanish Fort by the moat at the Berry Site.

Above right: Trevor McKinney holding a stone blade that was found while shovel testing outside of Peja, Kosova, during the first part of the 2019 UMMAA field school.

Our Undergraduates Go to the Field

Summer Field School in Kosova and North Carolina

experience than me made for a constant learning experience. Even after the day's work was done, I was able to talk with people about all things archaeology. It was truly an immersive experience that showed me how archaeology operates in the field. Because of this field school, I have the skills I need to participate in any academic or professional field project in archaeology.

Madeline Topor

I'm very grateful for the award from the Carl E. Guthe Endowment (part of the UMMAA Undergraduate Research Fund), for providing me with the opportunity to participate in this unique field school experience. I was able to work in two different locations while gaining experience in both excavation and survey. While I had some prior archaeological experience, I was able to greatly expand on it this summer.

In Kosova with RAPID-K, I learned survey techniques that I had never been exposed to before. I got to walk through many fields in the region looking for surface objects, which was exciting because you never know what you may find. I also spent time digging shovel test pits and working with ceramics in the lab. While shovel testing, I helped test whether the soil in an area contains artifacts that aren't visible from the surface and see the concentrations of them. It was really interesting to put the soil through a screen to see what objects are found in each layer of the pit. In the lab, I got experience working with ceramics and learned what happens to objects after they are collected in the field. It was fun to work with sherds spanning time periods from the Neolithic up to more modern times.

At the Berry Site I learned how archaeology is being used to answer questions about a site with a complex history of contact and colonialism. I participated in many aspects of an excavation during my time there, from setting up a unit to screening for artifacts to troweling. I saw how the stratigraphy in my unit changed as we reached the surface of the structure we were investigating. I also learned how to better identify objects like ceramic sherds, quartz flakes, and pipe stems. I practiced using a trowel to cut profiles and troweling to make the ground surface ready for photography.

I also had the chance to work with the total station to see how the site is mapped out. Setting it up and taking datum points helped me to understand how the coordinate system at the site works. Finally, I saw how drones and aerial imagery can be used to view the excavation site from a new perspective. Learning all of these skills from experienced archaeologists has made me a lot more capable in the field, which is essential for a career in archaeology. I will be able to apply everything that I've learned at this field school to future excavations and research projects I participate in, along with having the necessary experience when I apply to graduate school. I'm thankful for being part of this field school and for the Carl E. Guthe Endowment for providing the funds so that I was able to take part in it.

Celia Weberg

This summer I was able to participate in the UMMAA field school due to a generous scholarship from the Richard I. Ford Research Fund for Anthropological Study of Humans &



Madeline Topor stands on top of ruins in Kosova during the first phase of the 2019 UMMAA field school.



Decorated sherd found while excavating at the Berry Site, in North Carolina, during the second phase of the field school.

Our Undergraduates Go to the Field

Summer Field School in Kosova and North Carolina

Environment. The field school took place in June and consisted of two separate projects that we worked on for two weeks each. The first project was in Kosova, where I gained experience in survey, shovel testing, and recording collected artifacts by working with a variety of materials spanning prehistoric times to the medieval era. For the first few days I worked with Survey Team D in the Istog District. Survey involved systematically locating and walking through fields with decent ground visibility (which generally means plowed, with low vegetation) and collecting all artifacts on the surface. During survey, teams explore new areas, interact with local people to gain insight on the region, and pick up pieces of history along the way. In Kosova, I hiked through the mountains in the western part of the country on the lookout for artifacts. We met new people in every village. The sights were beautiful, the people welcoming, and the archaeological knowledge of the region expanded with every field we surveyed.

The second half of the field school took place at the Berry Site. Here I participated in excavation within a number of units exploring the buildings and living areas. The Spanish fort was only standing from 1566 to 1568, when it was destroyed by the Native Americans living in Joara. Now the project is excavating the remains of that fort and the buildings within it, which may be both Spanish and Native American. Interestingly, the Native American buildings both pre- and post-date the fort. One current hypothesis is that the Spanish came to Joara, made the local tribe deconstruct their longhouse, and built a fort and buildings on top of that location. A few months later, the Native Americans

attacked and destroyed the fort, supposedly burning it down and rebuilding the longhouse. My excavation team worked inside the fort in Structure 7. This building is believed to be the Native American longhouse and is outlined by a series of postholes that were ritually filled with a yellowish soil when the building was deconstructed and the posts were removed.

As exciting as excavation is, it is actually a very slow process filled with a lot of paperwork. Every site has different methodology, and at the Berry Site I learned how to write labels for bags, tags, and cards as well as fill out maps and spreadsheets on the computer. It's interesting to learn how to navigate different technologies and programs alongside the traditional excavation work, which largely consists of shoveling, screening excavated dirt, and troweling. Once we excavated underneath the modern levels, it became very precise work in small areas. My team worked in a 1 x 1 meter unit and only dug about 50 cm deep in two weeks. The speed of excavation all depends on the precision and care put into it, the amount of paperwork involved, the density of artifacts and features, and even the weather.

The UMMAA field school taught me skills that I was able to use on other projects this summer and will be able to use far into the future. I have been considering further study in the Mediterranean and Balkans due to my time in Kosova. I am very happy with my experience on both of these projects and I highly recommend the UMMAA field school for anyone interested in archaeology.



Celia Weberg holds a medieval male's bronze signet ring, which she found while shovel testing during the field school in Kosova.



In a 1 x 1 m unit inside the Spanish Fort San Juan in North Carolina, Celia found both Spanish and Native American postholes.

Graduate Students in the Field

Yuchao Zhao cleans a piece of bronze fragment with sharpened chopsticks in the Meilong site, a cave in the western part of China's Tibetan Autonomous Region.

Below: Erina Baci at the Zatriq Hillfort, western Kosova. Photo courtesy of Dukagjin Mehmetaj.



Asia

From June to September, **Yuchao Zhao** participated in survey and excavation in Gê'gyai County, Ngari Prefecture, in the western part of China's Tibetan Autonomous Region. This project was led by the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. He joined this project as a principal investigator. Working with Chinese scholars and graduate students, Yuchao conducted systematic excavations in the Meilong cave site (4600 m). Four areas (each 2 x 3 m) were excavated in the front, middle, and back of the cave. The excavation revealed several cultural layers, which suggested that humans had occupied this cave at different periods at least since middle Holocene times. It is the first prehistoric Tibetan cave to be recognized by archaeologists. Thousands of lithic artifacts, pottery sherds, and animal bones were excavated, as well as a limited number of metal fragments and bone tools. These materials will provide Yuchao with the pilot data he needs to build a firm foundation for his dissertation research on the western Tibetan Plateau.

Europe

This summer **Erina Baci** participated in two Michigan-run field schools: RAPID-K in western Kosova and the Olynthos Project in the Chalkidiki. In addition to fieldwork, she worked on the GIS for both projects, running the databases and analysis at RAPID-K, and working the excavation data at Olynthos. Between projects, she conducted preliminary dissertation research in

northern Albania and western Kosova, visiting hillfort sites that will form the basis of the geospatial analysis for her dissertation.

Julian Schultz joins us as a first-year graduate student from Florida State University. In summer 2019 Julian worked as a crew member on the RAPID-K survey project in Kosova. He conducted pedestrian survey in search of artifacts that might help identify the locations of sites. Julian got the opportunity to handle a large variety of artifacts spanning the Neolithic to the Ottoman periods, and helped to identify faunal remains recovered from archaeological contexts. This project was a wonderful experience, as it served as his introduction to Balkan archaeology, which he intends to make the geographic focus of his dissertation. Julian is excited to be a part of the Museum's family!



Graduate Students in the Field

Europe

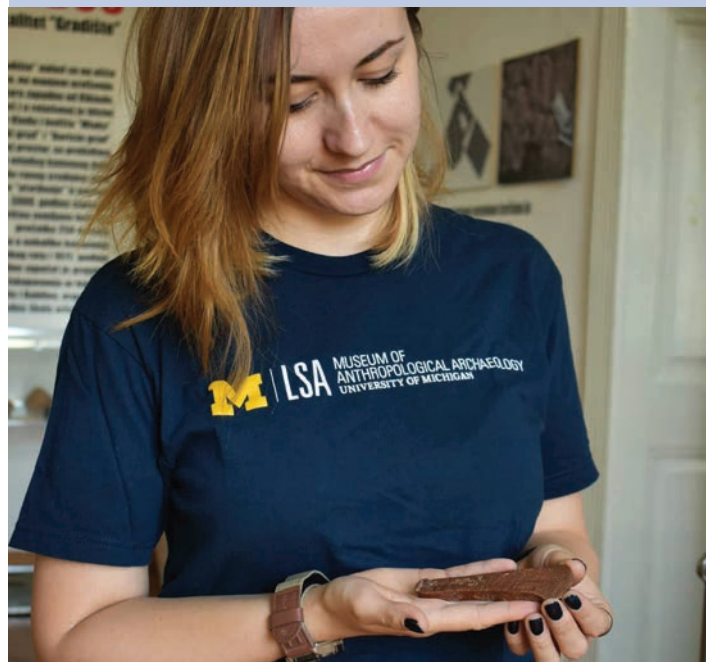
Györgyi Parditka traveled to Kosova, Serbia, and Hungary. In June she joined Michael Galaty's RAPID-K project with fellow graduate students Erina Baci, Jim Torpy, Laura Bossio, Julian Schultz, Alex Moscowitz (Interdepartmental Program in Classical Art and Archaeology), and U-M undergraduates. Györgyi worked with one of the survey teams that conducted systematic pedestrian survey to identify archaeological sites. After Kosova, Györgyi visited museum collections at Kikinda, Serbia, and at Békéscsaba, Hungary, to collect information on Bronze Age societies in these regions related to her doctoral dissertation. In the second part of the summer, she conducted a small-scale excavation at the Békés 103 Bronze Age cemetery site (Hungary) with Hungarian colleague László Paja and two American volunteers. During a short season they uncovered three cremation burials at the site. In addition to the excavations, she also conducted labwork on material collected in previous years from the site.

Iride Tomažič spent her summer in the basement of the museum of Kikinda, Serbia, where she analyzed the human remains and grave goods of the Middle Copper Age cemetery of Podlokanj Nove Baste, dated to the early third millennium BC. This work is the beginning of Iride's doctoral research about environmental and occupational contamination by heavy metals as a result of metallurgical activity in the southern Carpathian basin.

Jim Torpy spent the summer conducting field research in Kosova and Cyprus. In Kosova, he participated in the second full season of Michigan's RAPID-K project, including pedestrian survey as well as shovel-testing of the Bronze Age site at Pepaj. In Cyprus he participated in the Athienou Archaeological Project's continued work at the Iron Age sanctuary at Athienou-Malloura and carried out research on museum collections from tombs dating to the early first millennium BCE.



Clockwise from upper left: Györgyi Parditka at the Bronze Age Békés 103 site in Hungary with staked out research area; Jim Torpy on survey for the RAPID-K project in Kosova; Iride Tomažič in the museum of Kikinda, Serbia, holding a copper axe from the cemetery of Podlokanj; and Julian Schultz on a survey tract near Banja e Pejës, Kosova.



Graduate Students in the Field

Latin America

Lacey Carpenter and **Chelsea Fisher** defended their dissertations. Dr. Fisher is now teaching at Washington and Lee University, while Dr. Carpenter is teaching at Hamilton College.

This summer was especially exciting for **Jennifer Larios**. She directed the mapping of a site in the Valley of Cañete, Peru. She mapped the site using a differential GPS and a drone. She plans to use these data to understand the spatial layout, sectors, and neighborhoods at the site. This mapping project provides data to help her design her excavation strategy for next summer. It also didn't hurt that she had a puppy on her team!

Soren Frykholm excavated in the Valley of Oaxaca from April to August. He participated in two projects, the Proyecto Arqueológico del Conjunto Monumental at Atzompa and the "2017 Earthquake Project" at Monte Albán. Soren excavated a residential room at Atzompa that dated to AD 600–900 and also participated in excavations of Monte Albán's Building P, at the base of its previously unexplored east side.

Jordan Dalton conducted an outreach event in Peru in March with the Centro Poblado Las Huacas. Jordan has finished her excavations and analyses for her dissertation on economic specialization in the Chincha Valley during the Late Intermediate Period (AD 1100–1470) and Late Horizon (AD 1470–1532). Over the summer she continued writing her dissertation and taught a course that she designed, entitled Ancient Economies: Comparing the Aztec and the Inca.



Jennifer Larios at Ungará, with the most popular member of the crew. Photo by Jo Osborn.



Graduate student Soren Frykholm above Monte Albán's Main Plaza, in the Valley of Oaxaca, Mexico..

Graduate Students in the Field

Jo Osborn spent the past year in Peru directing excavations at Jahuay, a fishing village with multiple occupations beginning ca. 400 BC and extending to the early Colonial period. Her dissertation focuses on the earliest occupation and is aimed at understanding the development of economic specialization among fishermen on the Peruvian coast. She is also working on analyzing the late burials, which date from AD 1200–1550.

Hannah Hoover spent seven weeks working with the Aventura Archaeology Project in northern Belize. She led excavations of a Maya residence and a central plaza shrine that appear to date to the Late to Terminal Classic.

Lauren Pratt spent the summer in the Chachapoyas region of northern Peru. In the lab, she performed microscopic use-wear analysis on a collection of chipped stone from late prehistoric sites. She surveyed caves and rockshelters around the villages of Leymebamba and Uchumarca, recording both a wide range of modern uses and potential prehistoric

occupations. She hopes to return next year to begin excavations of select caves.

Matthew Brown is a first-year graduate student who comes to us from Millsaps College, where he conducted independent research identifying the level of inequality at the Middle Horizon site of Ak'awillay in Cusco. His interests include origins of inequality, methods for identifying inequality in the archaeological record, pXRF, interregional interaction, and the Initial Period and Early Horizon in Peru.

Ian Beggen joins the Museum as a first-year graduate student from North Carolina State, where he earned degrees in anthropology and Spanish and conducted fieldwork in the southeastern U.S. and the Andes Cordillera. His research interests include high-altitude hunter-gatherer archaeology, human response to environmental change, and technological adaptation. Ian is an avid soccer fan and a loyal supporter of the current champions of Europe, the Liverpool Football Club.



Jo Osborn and the crew at Jahuay, Peru. These stone walls divided workspaces during the site's early occupation as a fishing village. The walls were buried and rebuilt several times to reconfigure the space.



The Las Huacas research team and UMMAA PhD candidate Jordan Dalton share the rich cultural history of the Chincha Valley and the site of Las Huacas with the Centro Poblado Las Huacas in March 2019.

Graduate Students in the Field

Latin America



Clockwise from top left: A rockshelter near Uchumarca, Peru, shelters an abandoned modern construction (photo by Lauren Pratt); Matthew Brown, a first-year graduate student, has done research on the site of Ak'awillay in Cusco, Peru; graduate student Ian Beggen in a rural village near Huancavelica, Peru, where for the last two years he worked with the Environmental Health Council to help residents reduce their exposure to mercury, lead, and arsenic contamination in their adobe homes; and Hannah Hoover, graduate student, gives a tour to a group from the Corozal House of Culture as a part of the Aventura Archaeology Project's public engagement activities with the local villages and district capital.

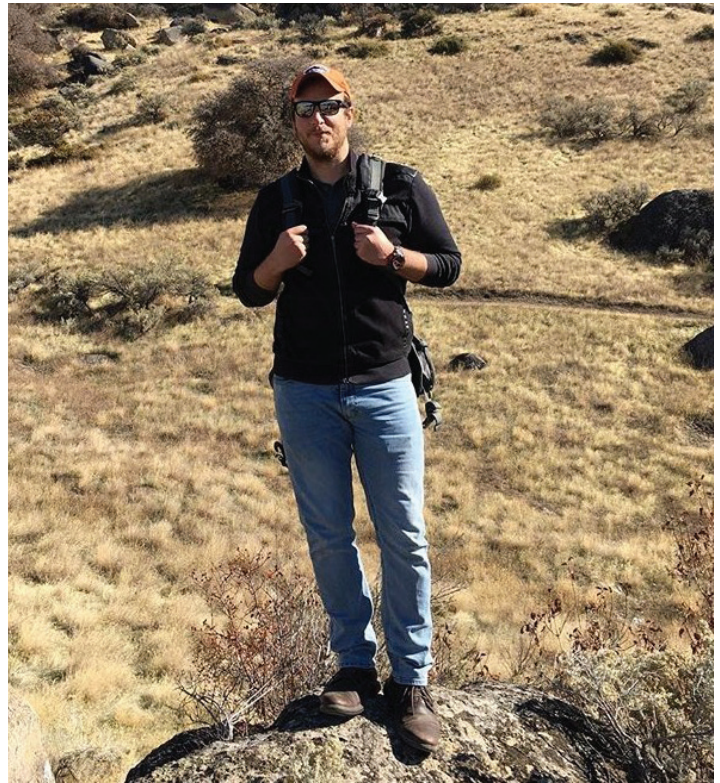
Graduate Students in the Field

North America

Joseph “Weston” Wardle received his master’s in anthropology from Boise State University. He is interested in fishing strategies among hunter-gatherers in the Great Basin and Pacific Northwest of North America, as well as Patagonia. Weston spent the summer surveying in southern Idaho.

This summer **Kimi Swisher** was awarded the James B. Griffin Endowment Fellowship from the Museum and received a federal permit to conduct her dissertation research in the Lower Chattahoochee River Valley in southwest Georgia at the Florence Marina State Park Site 9SW124, an Averett site that dates to the Late Woodland–Early Mississippian time periods. Kimi began conducting her fieldwork in September with Dr. Tim Horsley of Horsley Archaeological Prospection, LLC (<https://www.archaeopros.com/>). They conducted both magnetometry and ground-penetrating radar geophysical surveys over the site. This geophysics work will help to provide a better idea of the site’s components and occupational history. Kimi will use these data to help inform her continuing fieldwork at the Florence Marina State Park Site 9SW124 and her dissertation research, which is focused on the social and cultural practices of Late Woodland–Early/Middle Mississippian (AD 900–1300) local populations in the northern part of the Lower Chattahoochee River Valley.

Tim Everhart directed the third field season of his Woodland Ohio Monumentality Project. This season’s excavations focused on a circular enclosure, the largest of 13 earthworks at the Steel Group, a Hopewell site (ca. AD 1–250) near Chillicothe. Tim was assisted by **Nicholas Trudeau** and **Hannah Hoover** of the University of Michigan, Patrick Druggan of Penn State University, and Nicholas Vamvakias of Appalachian State, along with a few volunteers. **Dr. Henry Wright** also stopped by and lent a hand. The team documented the construction history of this earthwork and sampled many features within its interior that proved it had had many uses.



Above: First-year graduate student Joseph “Weston” Wardle plans to study fishing strategies of hunter-gatherers in the Great Basin and the Pacific Northwest.

Below: UMMAA curator Henry Wright (left) and graduate student Nicholas Trudeau identify features in the unit they excavated at the Woodland Ohio Monumentality Project.

Below left: Kimi Swisher conducted fieldwork for her dissertation at the Florence Marina State Park in the Lower Chattahoochee River Valley in southwest Georgia.



Graduate Students in the Field

North America

Laura Bossio participated in several exciting projects. She was the graduate student instructor for the peripatetic UMMAA field school, traveling with six undergraduates to two different projects. The first project was RAPID-K, co-directed by Michael Galaty, Haxhi Mehmetaj, and Sylvia Deskaj. Laura assisted in the survey near Istog, Kosova, where the team identified several new sites. From there, Laura and the field school students traveled to Morganton, North Carolina, where they excavated at the Berry Site with Rob Beck. At the Spanish Fort San Juan and Native American town of Joara, Laura opened new units around the largest Native American structure at the site, identifying its boundaries and revealing associated features outside the structure. After the field school ended, Laura traveled to northern Belize, where she (along with archaeologists from SUNY-Albany) surveyed around Progresso Lagoon, identifying Late Archaic sites. Laura also supervised excavations at a newly identified site in Belize, which contributed exciting insights to an understudied era in Mesoamerican prehistory.

Elspeth Geiger conducted her dissertation fieldwork at the Cloudman site in northern Michigan. With the help of undergraduates **Eloise Janssen**, **Trevor McKinney**, **Shoshannah Machlay**, and recent anthropology graduate **Emma Creamer**, her team completed excavations on the early historic and Late Woodland components. Her research focuses on the contact period in Michigan.

Bree Doering returned to Quartz Lake, Alaska, in May for her final season of dissertation research. Graduate student **Angie Feak** as well as Emma Creamer and anthropology senior **Kristin Cimmerer** were on the project. Emma Jones joined from North Carolina and Annika Rebentisch flew all the way from Tubingen, Germany, to be part of the crew. During four weeks of excavation sponsored by Rackham, the Wenner-Gren Foundation, and the National Science Foundation, the crew recovered copper and obsidian artifacts, a potential fish fermentation feature, and the remains of several hearths. Bree is currently writing up these finds with support from the Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship. She plans to defend her dissertation on late Holocene Athabascan behavior and migration this academic year.

Right: Laura Bossio at the Maya site of Lamanai in Belize, standing atop the High Temple with the New River in the background.

Below: The 2019 crew from the Klein site in Quartz Lake, Alaska, from left: Kristin Cimmerer, Emma Jones, Emma Creamer, Annika Rebentisch, Angie Feak, and Bree Doering.



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Faculty News

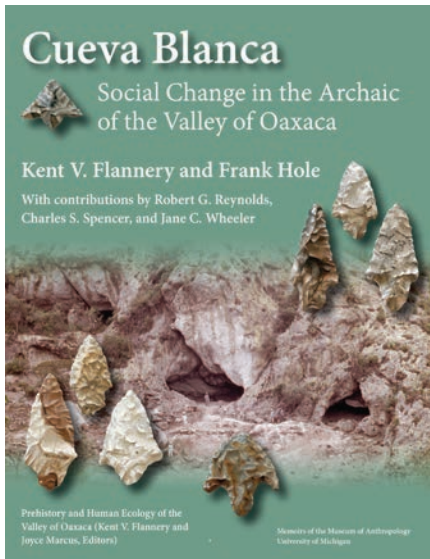


Above: The Berry site crew standing next to the excavations exposing Structure 9.

Right: Curator Rob Beck excavating at the Berry site in western North Carolina.



Curator **Rob Beck** continued his long-running project exploring the archaeology of Fort San Juan (1566–1568), located at the Berry site in western North Carolina. During the 2019 field season, Rob and colleagues were joined again by Jason Ur, professor of anthropology at Harvard University, who shared his knowledge of drones and aerial mapping with students. Beck and colleagues were also joined by six University of Michigan undergraduate students—Martin Anderson, Gabby Armstrong, Roy Gebara, Trevor McKinney, Madeline Topor, and Celia Weberg—led by UMMAA graduate student Laura Bossio. As part of the Museum’s field school, the students spent two weeks excavating at Berry after they had surveyed in Kosova with Museum director Michael Galaty. It was a great season!



Kent Flannery, curator of Human Ecology and Archaeobiology at the Museum, and his colleague Frank Hole co-authored a new book on Cueva Blanca, one of a series of Archaic sites near Mitla, Oaxaca, Mexico. *Cueva Blanca: Social Change in the Archaic of the Valley of Oaxaca* is the 17th volume in the Museum's Prehistory and Human Ecology of the Valley of Oaxaca series. The oldest stratigraphic level of the cave yielded Late Pleistocene fauna, including species no longer present in southern Mexico. The second oldest level, Zone E, produced Early Archaic material with calibrated dates as old as 11,000–10,000 BC. Zones D and C provided a rich Late Archaic assemblage, whose closest ties are with the Abejas phase of Puebla's Tehuacán Valley.

Michael L. Galaty, Museum director and curator of European and Mediterranean Archaeology, spent the summer in Kosova and Greece. In Kosova, he co-directed, with Haxhi Mehmetaj and Sylvia Deskaj, RAPID-K (Regional Archaeology in the Peja and Istog Districts of Kosova), a collaboration between the Kosova Institute of Archaeology and UMMAA. The 2019 season was the second season of intensive surface survey in western Kosova, involving students from the University of Michigan, the University of Prishtina, and the University of Tirana in Albania. They were joined by six undergraduate students participating in a new UMMAA field school.

In 2019, four RAPID-K teams (D-G) discovered 24 new archaeological sites, in addition to the 15 found in 2018. Many of these new sites, like those found in 2018, are multicomponent, having produced artifacts from several different periods. Team D worked in the vicinity of the known Neolithic site of Sredorekë, where Team A worked in 2018, further documenting its unexpectedly large size. Team E expanded work by Team C in 2018 in the fields surrounding the city of Banja e Pejës (the Baths of Peja, so-named due to the presence there of hot springs). They discovered numerous new sites, adding to the emerging picture of a landscape continuously occupied from prehistory to the present. Towards the end of the 2019 season, Team E identified a new prehistoric site, strewn with thousands of chert artifacts, which was almost certainly a lithic workshop. Team F worked in a new region to the south of Peja near Isnij. They found new

prehistoric and historic sites, and what may be a new, very large tumulus (burial mound), which is 50 meters in diameter. Team G worked in a new region as well, in the vicinity of Zallq, where they discovered a new, very large Roman site, which may be a villa rustica. Finally, a small team shovel-tested the very large Bronze Age site, Pepaj, discovered by RAPID-K in 2018. The hundreds of artifacts collected from the tests indicate that Pepaj was an extremely large settlement and is well preserved. We plan additional shovel testing and geophysical survey there in 2020.

In Greece, Galaty completed analysis of artifacts excavated from the open-air Final Neolithic site of Ksagounaki, located in the Mani region, just outside the famous Neolithic cave site of Alepotrypa. Working with UMMAA alumnus William Parkinson (Field Museum) and Daniel Pullen (Florida State), and based at the American School of Classical Studies' Weiner Laboratory, Galaty studied artifacts from a mysterious Mycenaean ossuary, which had been constructed atop the much earlier Final Neolithic village. The ossuary contained the secondarily deposited remains of numerous individuals, along with Mycenaean pottery; stone, faience, and gold beads; ivory hairpins; and a Mycenaean dagger.



During the RAPID-K project, the shovel-testing team excavated 34 shovel tests, thereby documenting a large, rich site occupied in the Bronze Age and Iron Age, with significant Late Roman and Medieval components as well. Left to right: Gabriella Armstrong, undergraduate field school student and anthropology major; Haxhi Mehmetaj, RAPID-K co-director and archaeologist with the Kosova Institute of Archaeology; and Trevor McKinney, undergraduate field school student and computer science major. The photo was taken by UMMAA graduate student Jim Torpy, who led the shovel-testing team.

Faculty News

Curator **Raven Garvey** was selected to give this year's Roy A. Rappaport Lectures (poster at right). She presented four chapters from her forthcoming book, *Patagonian Prehistory: Human Ecology and Cultural Evolution in the Land of Giants* (anticipated release, fall 2020). She is also amplifying her relatively new field project in southern Patagonia (Aysén, Chile) to investigate hunter-gatherers' responses to middle Holocene droughts (between 8000 and 4000 years ago), including potential interactions between people of the Patagonian desert (steppe) and forested eastern slopes of the Andes. The project is in a virtually unknown but strategically important Andean valley, and has already begun to yield important and exciting results!

Curator **John O'Shea**'s research this summer focused on Lake Huron and the recovery of cultural materials associated with hunting structures. This work revealed a previously unknown stone tool industry based on extremely small flake tools and micro-bladelets, which are believed to have been elements in composite bone or antler implements. The immersive virtual world simulation of part of Lake Huron as a dry land corridor was taken to Alaska, where traditional hunters entered the virtual world to offer insights into the location and character of the 9,000-year-old hunting sites preserved on the lake floor (photo below).



John O'Shea, curator of Great Lakes Archaeology at UMMAA, sits next to a traditional Alaskan hunter who is looking at a virtual simulation of ancient caribou hunting in an area of Lake Huron that was a dry land corridor thousands of years ago.

Henry Wright, curator of Near Eastern Archaeology at UMMAA, continues to do research in Madagascar and work on his forthcoming monograph: *The Evolution of Settlement Systems in the Region of Vohemar, Northeast Madagascar*.



The Department of Anthropology presents

The Roy A. Rappaport Lectures

Patagonian Prehistory:

Human Ecology and Cultural Evolution in the Land of Giants

by Raven Garvey
Assistant Professor of Anthropology & Assistant Curator at the Museum of Anthropological Archaeology

This lecture series presents a book manuscript titled *Patagonian Prehistory, Human Ecology and Cultural Evolution in the Land of Giants*. Following an introduction to the region and some of its archaeological puzzles, Dr. Raven Garvey will describe novel hypotheses related to colonization, abandonment, and meeting basic needs in a region widely considered marginal for human habitation. In particular, this series will examine unconventional evidence for gauging colonization speed, alternative explanations for a purported abandonment of the region between 8000 and 4000 years ago, and reasons Patagonians might have remained foragers despite farming-favorable conditions.

Joyce Marcus, curator of Latin American Archaeology at UMMAA, published "Competitive versus Peaceful Interaction," a chapter in a 2019 book edited by Joshua Englehardt and Michael Carrasco; and "Studying Figurines," in the 2019 issue of the *Journal of Archaeological Research*. Her new study of "Maya Usurpers" will appear in a 2019 book edited by Travis Stanton and M. Kathryn Brown (University Press of Colorado). She is also continuing to write up her excavations at Cerro Azul, Peru, and will publish the next book in the Museum's Oaxaca series in December 2019. *Zapotec Monuments and Political History* is a richly illustrated analysis of the origins and political uses of Zapotec writing.

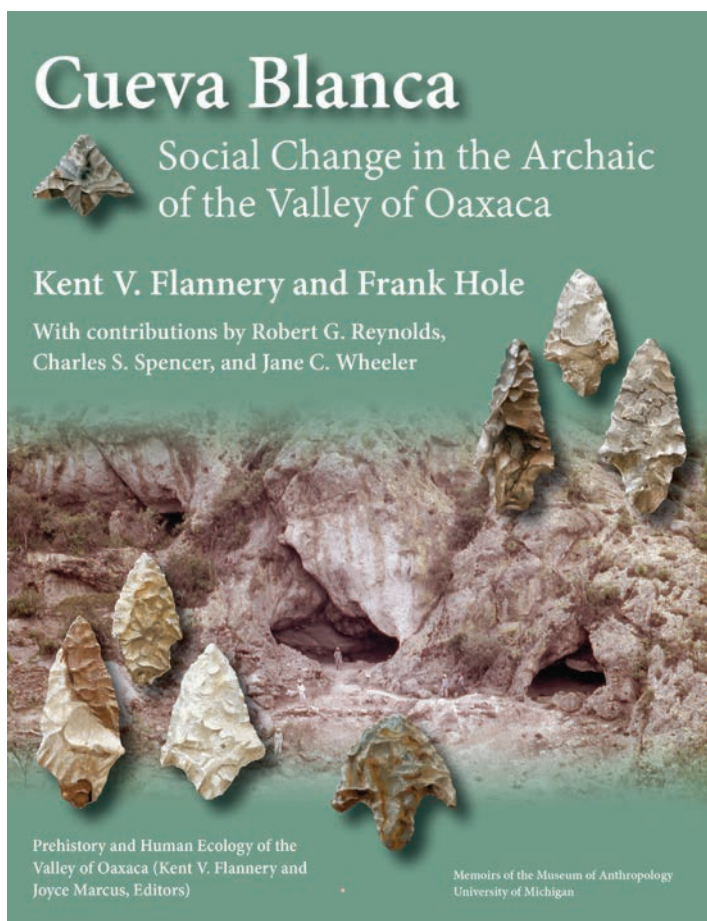
Curator **Brian Stewart** and University of Toronto archaeologist Genevieve Dewar co-directed the 2019 field season of Adaptations to Marginal Environments in the Middle Stone Age, which was a tremendous success. Work centered on the excavation of two rockshelters in the Spitzkloof Valley of Namaqualand in northwest South Africa. Deposits at each shelter bookend human occupation of this coastal desert. Stewart notes: "At Spitzkloof B we continued to work in the Middle Stone Age deposits and transitioned into Marine Isotope Stage 4 (~60,000 years ago), finding large hearths (1 m in diameter) and quartz crescents belonging to the famous Howiesons Poort industry. A new excavation was also commenced in nearby Spitzkloof D, a site with abundant herder artifacts (ca. 2000–1000 BP) on the surface, including pottery and the remains of cattle and sheep. It is clear that people carefully maintained the limited space within this shelter during repeated occupations, since we discovered pits with secondary interments of animal bone deposited within. Our most exciting discovery from Spitzkloof D was an iron spearhead, an artifact clearly exotic to the region, as there is no evidence for indigenous iron smelting in Namaqualand."

Public Archaeology Day 2019



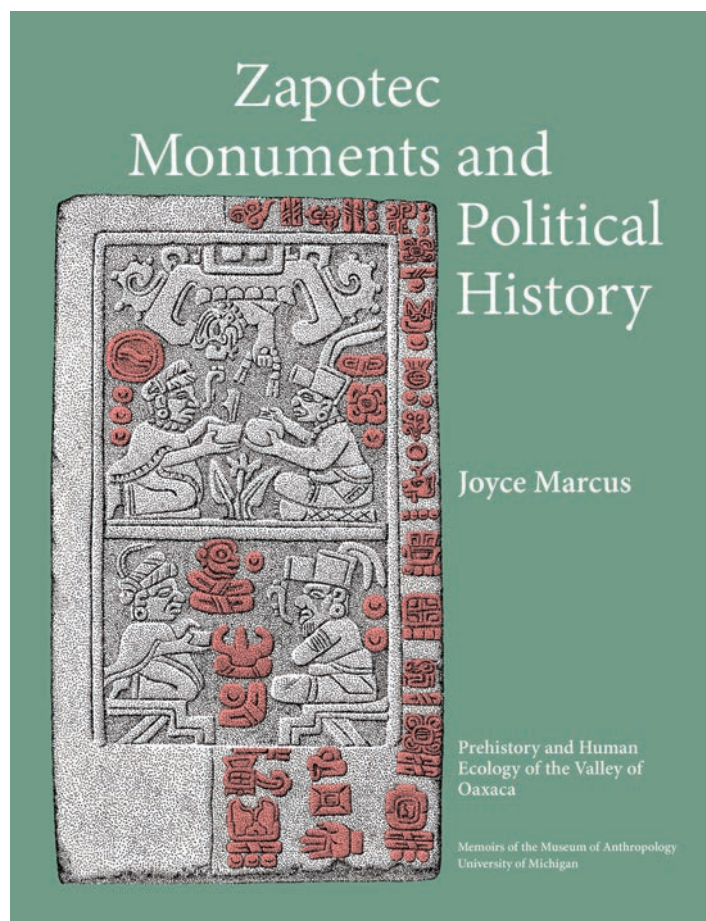
On October 19, 2019, the Museum celebrated Public Archaeology Day at Gordon Hall in Dexter and at the Michigan History Center in Lansing, Michigan. Clockwise from above: Lecturer Blair Zaid, who leads a UMMAA class in field excavation, spoke to the crowd from the steps of Gordon Hall; visitors toured excavations on the grounds of Gordon Hall; and graduate students Weston Wardle, Julian Schultz, and Soren Frykholm spoke with Michigan History Center visitors about the UMMAA.





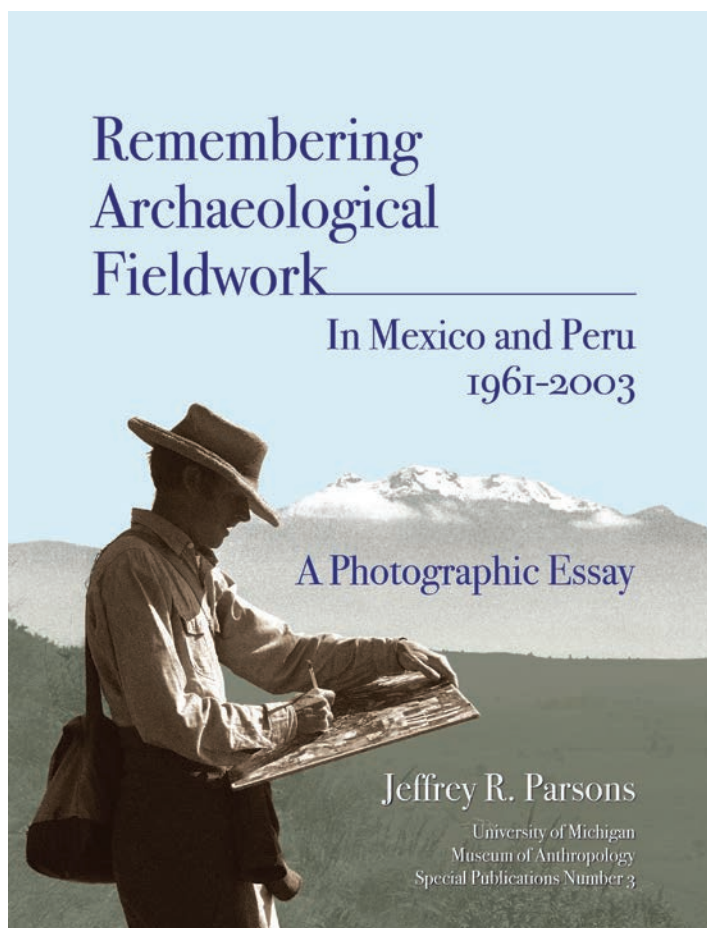
Archaeologists Kent Flannery and Frank Hole report on their excavations at the site of Cueva Blanca, where humans lived more than 12,000 years ago. Cueva Blanca lies in a volcanic tuff cliff some 4 km northwest of Mitla, Oaxaca, Mexico. It is one of a series of Archaic sites excavated by Flannery and Hole as part of a project on the prehistory and human ecology of the Valley of Oaxaca. The oldest stratigraphic level in Cueva Blanca yielded Late Pleistocene fauna, including some species no longer present in southern Mexico. The second oldest level, Zone E, produced Early Archaic material with calibrated dates as old as 11,000–10,000 BC.

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UMMAA illustrator John Klausmeyer's reconstruction of the sixteenth-century Fort San Juan de Joara.