



The Move: Six Months In

by

Lauren Fuka &
Kerri Wilhelm

Mike Koons and Scott Wells move a rolling cart full of artifacts onto a truck bound for the Research Museums Center.

From 2016 to 2018, Corrigan movers will carefully pack, transport, and unpack three million UMMAA artifacts. Lauren Fuka and Kerri Wilhelm, collection managers of UMMAA, are managing the relocation of artifacts from the Ruthven and Kipke buildings on central campus to the Research Museums Center (formerly known as Varsity Drive) in south Ann Arbor. Below Lauren and Kerri offer a glimpse behind the scenes of this complicated undertaking. (Photos for this story by Lauren Fuka.)

The move began in June and started with the Ethnobotany Collection at Ruthven. Two packers from Corrigan are coordinating the move. In Ebot, they carefully padded and wrapped drawers of plants and seeds to prepare them for transport. There were 22 cabinets (containing 885 drawers and ca. 13,000 specimens) plus 200 large boxes of oversized specimens. Once the drawers were prepared and completely wrapped, the movers placed them on rolling carts and moved them to the Research Museums Center (RMC).

The empty cabinets were also moved out to the RMC and installed on top of new cabinets. Once the ethnobotany cabinets were stacked on top of RMC cabinets, the top drawers were 12 feet high. The Corrigan team used a lift to place the drawers into the recycled cabinet.

The move of the Ethnobotany Collection took two and a half weeks to complete. The movers then started work on the Latin American and Near Eastern collections.

In the Near East and Latin America collections, the wooden cabinets stayed behind; only the artifacts were moved to their new home at the RMC. The artifacts were removed from the

wooden drawers, then wrapped in tissue and foam, and packed into Coroplast boxes. Once at the RMC, the artifacts were placed in new metal drawers and new cabinets.

The team packed seven cabinets housing Latin America collections and three of Near East collections, plus the eight reconstructed vessels from the top of the cabinets. They finished moving Near East and Latin America in four weeks.

In July, work started on the North American collection. The team averaged three cabinets per week. During an average week they packed, transported, and unpacked 18 cart-loads of artifacts. Some items were easy to pack (such as small archival boxes of sherds or flakes); others (glued-together whole ceramic vessels) required much more skill.

They completed the move of the North American collection in three months. This collection has so far been the largest to pack and move. There are 32 cabinets in the North America Range: an estimated 372,000 individual items, including sherds, flakes, animal bones, shell fragments, groundstone tools, and other artifacts collected from sites across the United States. They finished in early October. Next to be moved is the

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Before (top) and after moving the artifacts and cabinets out of Ruthven's Ethnobotany Range.

Asia Range, followed by the Great Lakes. We expect the move of all the collections housed in Ruthven will be completed in February 2017. But don't think the Corrigan folks are the only ones doing the work! Teams of undergraduate students, GSRAs, and volunteers help with preliminary packing, inventory, and database entry.

In September, the Corrigan team also started moving artifacts from Kipke to the RMC. It took the movers only a few days to pack up cabinets containing 66 trays of 1,609 artifacts.


But plenty of work had to happen before the movers even started.

"We 'prepacked' about 3,402 individual artifacts by designing and then engineering 2,064 custom mounts, trays, and substrates composed of archival materials," wrote Kerri. "There were many burnt fingertips and cut thumbs as a result of brandishing the tools of the trade (Exacto knives and hot-glue guns), but the team created some amazing mounts to ensure the safety and integrity of these collections from Point A to Point B."

Below (L to R): Curator Henry Wright helps remove Near Eastern ceramic vessels from their home atop a wooden cabinet at Ruthven; Sarah Hillegonds and Mike Koons begin wrapping a pot to prepare it for the move; Josh Wiese places a pot in its new home at the RMC.



Our Undergraduates Go to the Field



Undergrad Anne Sherfield saw Monte Albán and many other sites during four weeks of fieldwork in the Oaxaca Valley, Mexico.

At the UMMAA, there's a tradition of undergraduate students helping graduate students with doctoral dissertation fieldwork. With support from the Museum's **Guthe Fund** for undergraduate research, **Anne Sherfield** was able to work in Mexico with Ph.D. candidate **Lacey Carpenter**. Anne sends this report: "Just hours after walking off the plane in Oaxaca, Mexico, I was standing on the North Platform looking down in amazement at the monumental ruins of Monte Albán. As a Classical Archaeology major, I've spent a majority of my time, predictably, studying the classical world and what appeared before me was drastically different in its style, utilization of space, and message. What intrigued me the most was the depiction of human and animal forms. While they spectacularly failed to recreate what a dolphin looks like, the Romans and classical Greeks aimed for a natural recreation of the physical form. In the Oaxaca Valley, more emphasis seemed to be placed on symmetry, and they seem interested in having the form appear square or rectangular with figures sitting in impossible ways with massive headdresses. Living in a western culture that draws a lot of its artistic inspiration from the classical world, it is easy to forget that there are so many different ways to experience and connect with the world around you, so I was very excited to learn about a new culture and how they chose to live."

"I was in Oaxaca to work with Lacey Carpenter on her dissertation excavation in Tilcajete. Lacey has been excavating a pair of sites at Tilcajete in order to see any changes in daily life that may have occurred after their conflict with Monte Albán. Lacey has been in Oaxaca since January analyzing and documenting her finds from the previous season. I joined her in mid-May for four weeks to help her finish as much as possible before she started excavation in July. I spent three weeks drawing sherds and complete vessels and my final week was spent photographing those same vessels and sherds. I am very happy that this project allowed me to develop my skills in drawing pottery specifically. It was nice to be able to dedicate time to perfecting one skill instead of only being introduced to multiple skills as I have been in other projects. I also found it interesting to see what happens to the objects in between excavation seasons and how they are inventoried. I am planning to pursue a career in museum management, so it was really nice to see first-hand what happens after an object is excavated but before it arrives at a museum.

"Typically, we would work from 9 to 5 on weekdays and go out to visit sites on the weekends. Lacey took me out to many of the sites and villages that surround Monte Albán and Oaxaca City. We visited sites that dated to all different time periods, from the Early Formative to the Terminal Classic. This allowed me to really gain perspective on the growth and variety of life present in the Oaxaca Valley. I also really loved seeing the interactions between the current inhabitants of the village and the ruins they live near. For example, when we visited San José Mogote, some of the residents told us that they would be playing a version of the ball game on the court in the ruins later that week."

"I am very thankful to both the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology for their undergraduate award and to Lacey Carpenter for making this trip a very enjoyable experience. I knew very little about pre-Hispanic Mexico before my trip; now I know a little about the Zapotec civilization, and I am inspired to continue to explore the history of the Americas in the future."

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Our Undergraduates Go to the Field



Daniel Hansen attended field school at the Berry Site this summer.

Undergraduate **Daniel Hansen** says, “Thanks to the Museum’s **Cogan Fund**, I was able to spend two weeks at the Berry Site, near the town of Morganton, North Carolina. The Berry Site Field School, which is offered by Warren Wilson College with **Dr. Robin Beck** (University of Michigan) and Dr. Chris Rodning (Tulane University), teaches students like myself the fundamentals of archaeology, while exploring the material remains of the Native American town of Joara and the 16th-century Spanish Fort San Juan. I am certain that the experience I had at the Berry Site will prove invaluable to me as I continue my career in archaeology. I essentially started from scratch this summer, having had no previous field experience. I now feel confident with the tools of the trade, as well as the basics of archaeological procedures including the washing, sorting, and bagging of artifacts, flat-shoveling, and troweling both the floors and profiles of units. I was also exposed to the life of a field archaeologist, along with all of the challenges that come along with it. The days were long and sweltering, with essentially zero shade. I ruined nearly all my clothing with the southern red clay. Trying to figure out the logistics of covering the units with plastic sheets got tedious at times. This was exactly what I



was hoping for! I wanted as much of the full experience as I could get in the two weeks that I had, and the Berry Site was able to give that to me.”

“The field school was very focused on ensuring that every member received the best possible education in the amount of time that they chose to attend. Every time there was a task to be done, the professors would do their best to find a student who had not yet had that specific experience, and let them do it. I was able to start off sifting shoveled dirt, and by the end of the program I was mapping with field computers and doing more sensitive excavation procedures. None of it felt too rushed or stressful, and the professors were very helpful. In addition to the technical aspects of field school, I also had the opportunity to make some valuable connections and to immerse myself in the world of archaeology for two weeks. I had every meal around a table in the field house with my fellow students and the professors when we discussed the events of the day, the world of archaeology, graduate programs, and our various institutions. It was a great opportunity for casual conversation in an academic context.

“I know that I will stay in touch with the professors and students I met, and I look forward to seeing what they all contribute to the academic world. My intent in pursuing a fieldwork opportunity this past summer was to know for certain whether archaeology was the right discipline for me. I had been interested in it for years, but I didn’t want to commit to anything without any field experience. Having worked at the Berry Site, I now know without a doubt that I will be staying in archaeology for a long time. Without this award, I likely wouldn’t have been able to have this experience at all. The Museum paid my tuition to the field school, and helped cover the travel and auxiliary costs. I am very grateful that the Museum chose me as a recipient so that I could truly begin my career as an archaeologist.”



Graduate Students in the Field

Africa

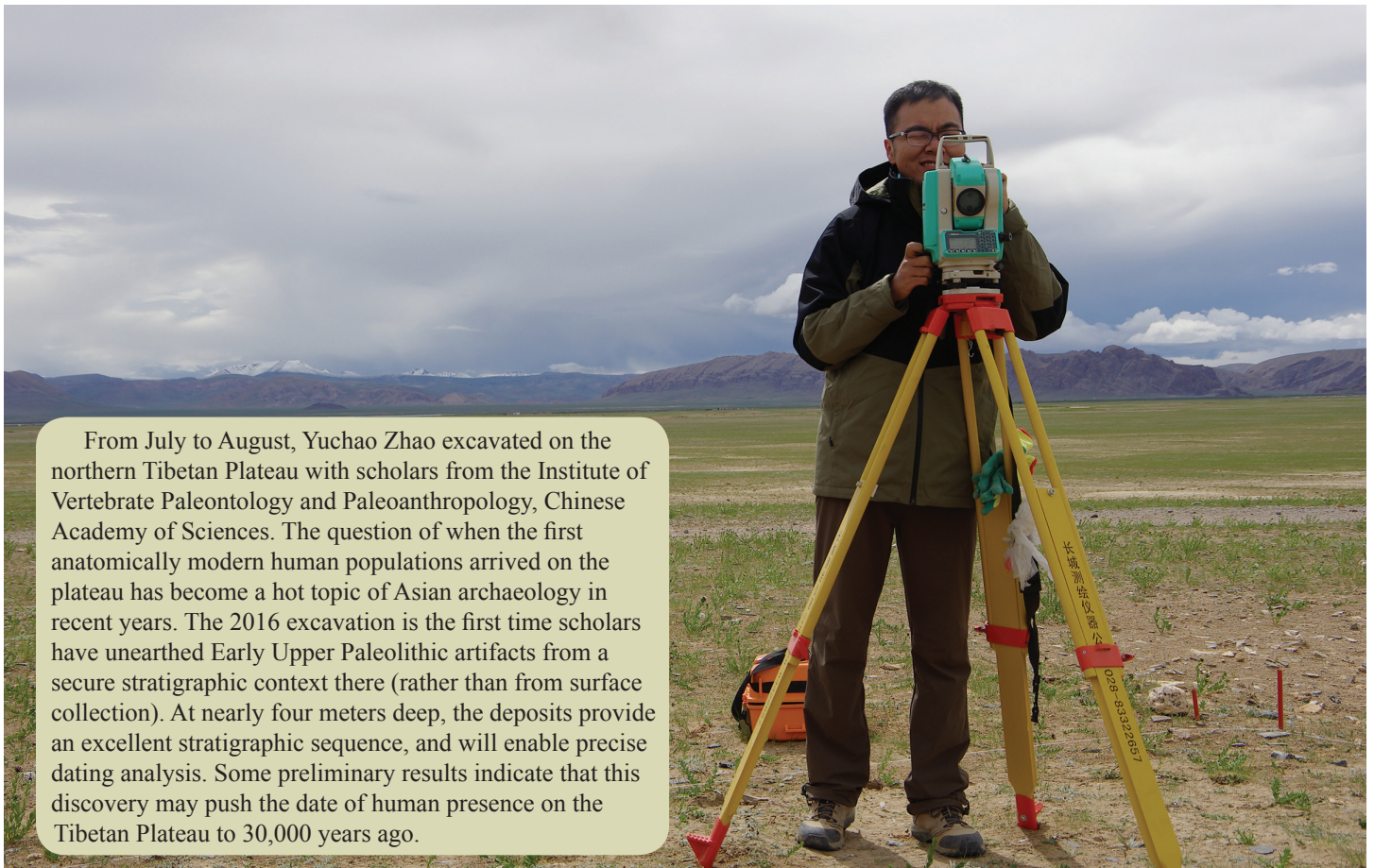
James Munene, a first-year graduate student, has worked on various projects in his native Kenya. His Master's thesis was a comparative study of archaeological materials from two Late Stone Age sites in the Rift Valley. The sites, occupied approximately 10,000 years ago, are separated by 650 km. Munene was interested in the similarities and differences in ecological and climatic conditions at the two sites, as well as the variability in stone tools and subsistence systems. Summer 2016 saw him working on a project in the Turkana region of Kenya.

James Munene relaxes after a long day of survey in Turkana County, Kenya.

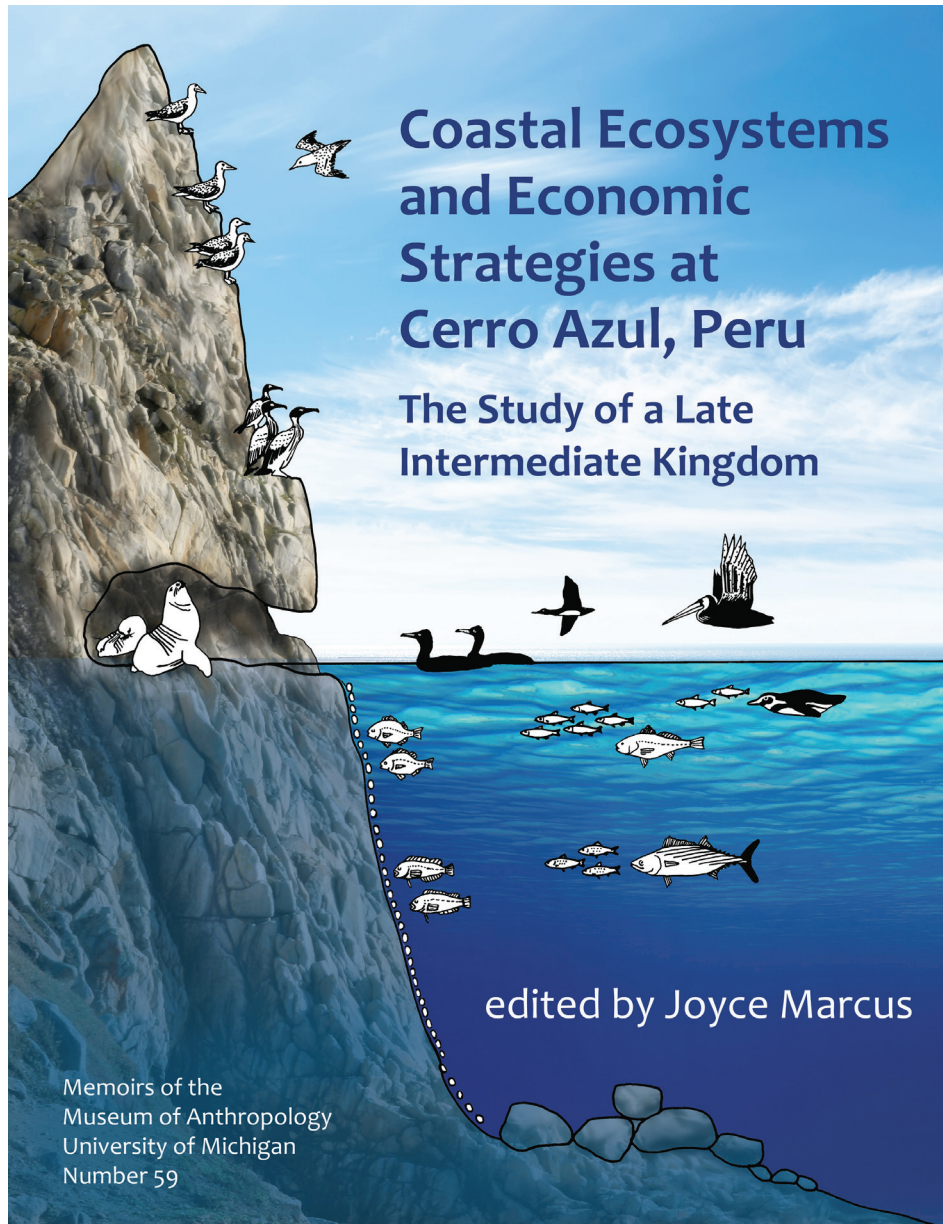


China

From July to August, Yuchao Zhao excavated on the northern Tibetan Plateau with scholars from the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, Chinese Academy of Sciences. The question of when the first anatomically modern human populations arrived on the plateau has become a hot topic of Asian archaeology in recent years. The 2016 excavation is the first time scholars have unearthed Early Upper Paleolithic artifacts from a secure stratigraphic context there (rather than from surface collection). At nearly four meters deep, the deposits provide an excellent stratigraphic sequence, and will enable precise dating analysis. Some preliminary results indicate that this discovery may push the date of human presence on the Tibetan Plateau to 30,000 years ago.



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Graduate Students in the Field

Europe



Above: Kyra Pazan cleans MIS 3 deposits at Neporotovo 7, Ukraine.

Below: Györgyi Parditka is studying this and other vessels from a collection at the Móra Ferenc Múzeum at Szeged.

Right: James Torpy on survey in Cyprus. He stands next to a fig tree that's growing out of a tomb.



Kyra Pazan traveled to Europe, first excavating with colleagues from the University of Liege (Belgium), University of Cambridge (UK), and the Iasi Institute of Archaeology (Romania) at Mitoc-Malu Galben, an Upper Paleolithic open air site on the banks of the Prut River. After excavations at Mitoc, Kyra traveled to western Ukraine and investigated the Middle and Upper Pleistocene site of Neporotovo 7 with the NEMO-ADAP (Neanderthal and Modern Human Adaptations in Eastern Europe) team, composed of Belgian, Austrian, Italian, British, and Ukrainian archaeologists.

In the second half of the summer, **Györgyi Parditka** worked on the BAKOTA research project in Hungary, where she focused on ceramics. Working with students and co-director **Dr. Paul Duffy** (University of Toronto), she coded several hundred sherds' stylistic attributes. Györgyi also visited the Móra Ferenc Múzeum at Szeged and worked with the collection of the Tápé-Széntégláégető cemetery, which will be the subject of her pre-doctoral paper.

James Torpy went to Cyprus for the month of June to complete his fourth season with the Athienou Archaeological Project—now in its 26th year! Torpy helped re-survey several sites in the area, updating project maps, and was able to carry out aerial photography with a quadcopter drone. This imagery will serve as the basis of a study on the continued anthropogenic landscape change in the Malloura Valley.

Ph.D. candidate **Colin Quinn** is finishing his dissertation: “The Crucible of Complexity: Community Organization and Social Change in Bronze Age Transylvania (2700–1315 BC).” Quinn recently published “Essential Tensions: A Framework for Exploring Inequality through Mortuary Archaeology and Bioarchaeology,” an article in *Open Archaeology* that he co-authored with former doctoral student **Dr. Jess Beck**, now at the University of Pittsburgh. In September 2016, Quinn started a one-year position as Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology at Appalachian State University.



Graduate Students in the Field

Latin America



Left: Lacey Carpenter at Tilcajete in the Oaxaca Valley, Mexico, with Hilario and Jaime.

Below left: Jordan Dalton at Las Huacas in the Chincha Valley, Peru.

Below right: Chelsea Fisher washing sherds at the crew's camp in Yaxunah. She excavated at the Maya site of Tzacauil in the Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico.



Summer 2016 saw Ph.D. candidate **Jordan Dalton** mapping and excavating in Peru. She began her excavations at Las Huacas in the Chincha Valley. Las Huacas is a 60 hectare site that was a secondary center of the Chincha polity, located in the agricultural fields of the valley. She and her team excavated for six weeks and found evidence of Inca presence and craft production at the site.

Ph.D. candidate **Chelsea Fisher** has been excavating the Maya site of Tzacauil in the Yucatán Peninsula. During summer 2016, she supervised the complete excavation of two Formative period house groups, bringing her running count to three (out of a total of nine house groups). Chelsea found a terrace wall near one house group, suggesting that land-use features can be recovered. Learning more about ancient Maya households and their land-use strategies are topics for her next field season. Chelsea has received a Fulbright-Hays award and a grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research (both for dissertation fieldwork).

Ph.D. candidate **Barry Brillantes** continued his project on diachronic mortuary practices at the Guatemalan site of Kaminaljuyu. Consisting of more than 100 burials, his research is providing unique insights into the social dynamics at an important Maya site. Barry has also begun to lay the groundwork for his dissertation research at Santa Isabel, a highland site located within Kaminaljuyu's sphere of influence.

Ph.D. candidate **Lacey Carpenter** conducted her third season of dissertation research at the Formative period Tilcajete sites in the Valley of Oaxaca, Mexico. Lizzette Soto of the American Museum of Natural History (New York) helped Lacey in Area X and Area P, exposing one house in each area. The neighborhoods—located at different distances from the plaza—were chosen because each had produced domestic deposits in the past. Current excavations are designed to expose neighboring structures. The houses had evidence of a number of domestic activities including food preparation, ritual activity, and craft production. In addition to her 10 weeks of fieldwork, Lacey conducted laboratory analyses with the help of Jordan Dalton and undergraduate Anne Sherfield, along with University of Montana graduate Molly Eimers. The data collected this summer will help Lacey address questions about how daily life and household organization may have changed in response to political transformations that took place during the era of rivalry with Monte Albán.

Graduate Students in the Field

North America

In June, Ph.D. candidate **Travis Williams** initiated his dissertation fieldwork at the George M. Murrell Home Historic State Park near Tahlequah, Oklahoma. The park includes the last remaining antebellum plantation house still standing in the state, and was once home to African-American slaves, Cherokee citizens, and white settlers. In operation from 1839 through the Civil War, the Murrell Home—owned by a Virginian who married into a prominent Cherokee family—serves as a case study for analyzing the complex economic, social, and political processes of industrial agriculture, tribal politics, and racialization engendered by plantations in Native American contexts. Travis' dissertation seeks to explain these processes as revealed through the material culture the Murrell Home's diverse community left behind. He is focusing on the location of domestic structures and activity areas of slaves.

Travis was assisted by graduate students **Nick Trudeau**, **Jim Torpy**, and **Tim Everhart**. Together they were able to excavate several thousand artifacts dating to the mid-19th century. Williams will return next summer to investigate the Murrell Home's main residence, as well as the blacksmith shop and barn.

Dr. Alice P. Wright (PhD, University of Michigan; now at Appalachian State University) has been awarded the prestigious C. B. Moore Award for Excellence by a young scholar in Southeastern Archaeology. Other University of Michigan PhDs to receive the award include **David Anderson** (1990) and **Patrick Livingood** (2010). Alice Wright's dissertation chair, **Robin Beck** (2006), also received the award.



L to R: James Torpy, Travis Williams, and Nick Trudeau in front of the Murrell Home in Oklahoma.

Above: James Torpy and Nick Trudeau wet screening for artifacts from the Murrell plantation.

Graduate Students in the Field

North America

With the help of pre-candidate fieldwork funding from the Department of Anthropology, grad student **Kimi Swisher** conducted fieldwork at the Mississippian site of Singer-Moye in southwestern Georgia. The project, led by Dr. Jen Birch and Stefan Brannan (University of Georgia), is part of an ongoing research project as well as a field school. During the field school, Kimi was a team leader for her group, and their focus was to continue the excavation of a midden in a residential area of the site's core. She will use some of these data (as well as those collected during the 2013 season) during her analysis of the fauna from the midden. Throughout the field season, the project kept a blog about the work that was being done. Please visit the website: <https://singer moye.com/> to read more about the fieldwork, project, and participants.

Graduate student **Györgyi Pardiitka** participated in two projects in North America. First, she worked with Dr. Meghan Howey (University of New Hampshire) and fellow graduate students **Jo Osborn, Yuchao Zhao** and **Nick Trudeau** in Michigan. The field season involved the mapping and initial testing of a Native American enclosure site near Sturgis. In June, Györgyi volunteered for two weeks at the Hopewell Mound Group in Ohio, where she



worked with fellow grad student **Tim Everhart**.

First-year graduate student **Lauren Pratt** graduated in 2015 from the University of Alabama, with a bachelor's degree in anthropology and interdisciplinary studies. She has had field seasons at the Mississippian site of Moundville and prehistoric sites in New Hampshire. In addition, she's spent time as a lab

volunteer in Dunedin, New Zealand, and this past summer at the Gault Site in Texas. Her research interests include lithic technologies, human-environment interaction, and the peopling of North America and the Pacific.

This summer, grad student **Yuchao Zhao** participated in two projects in Michigan.

In May he worked with **Dr. Meghan Howey** and graduate students **Nick Trudeau** and **James Torpy**. With joint support from the University of New Hampshire and our Museum, the project mapped and did initial testing of Camp Fort Hill, a site overlooking Klinger and Tamarack Lake near Sturgis, Michigan. Through shovel tests and test trenches, the team obtained a better understanding of



the structure and its state of preservation. They also surveyed the surrounding area and found potential sites, which will provide a solid foundation for next year's field school. In early June, Yuchao moved north to Alpena, Michigan, to join the UMMAA underwater team led by **Dr. John O'Shea** and **Dr. Ashley Lemke**.

The Kolomoki South Village Project, co-directed by University of South Florida professor Thomas J. Pluckhahn, Shaun West, and UM first-year graduate student **Martin Menz**, finished its final field season. The Kolomoki site in southwestern Georgia—inhabited during the Middle and Late Woodland Periods (ca. A.D. 300–900)—contains nine mounds, including the 17-m-tall Mound A. Recent work has focused on understanding population density and continuity of occupation along the southern portion of the village. Preliminary results reveal that the south village may have witnessed seasonal fluctuations in population and included multiple social groups.



Mound A at the Kolomoki site in Georgia.

Above left: Györgyi Pardiitka at the Hopewell Mound Group in Ohio; above right (L to R): Nick Trudeau, Yuchao Zhao, and James Torpy at Camp Fort Hill near Sturgis, Michigan.

Graduate Students in the Field

North America

Ph.D. candidate **Bree Doering** returned to Alaska for three months of excavation and survey in the interior. Her work at two Late Holocene settlements yielded several hundred new artifacts, which she will analyze as part of her research on settlement pattern and subsistence changes associated with the transition to Athapaskan culture. Bree was also given the opportunity to participate (with Dr. Kelly Graf and Dr. Ted Goebel of Texas A&M) in excavations at McDonald Creek, the second-oldest site in central Alaska.

Graduate student **Tim Everhart** continued his relationship with the National Park Service for the seventh season. At Ohio's Hopewell Culture National Historical Park he continued collaborative work with the German Archaeological Institute on large-scale remote sensing of monumental landscapes. Tim later worked with a team of archaeologists to excavate a large earth oven within the center of a re-discovered earthen enclosure. Initial interpretations, in light of present celestial alignments, are that this enclosure witnessed solstice-related feasts.

Ph.D. candidate **Christina Sampson** completed her dissertation excavations at Weeden Island near St. Petersburg,

Florida, and is now analyzing those materials in Ann Arbor. Christina is studying the early Safety Harbor component of the site (ca. A.D. 900–1300). Safety Harbor was a time of regional political consolidation, as well as trade and competition, with Mississippian polities developing to the north and powerful Calusa chiefs to the south. Christina's research focuses on the social, spatial, and temporal scales at which people organized food collection and craft production activities. The site is located on Tampa Bay, where residents had access to coastal and estuarine resources; excavations produced substantial quantities of well-preserved mollusk and vertebrate food remains, as well as material culture indicative of the production of artisan goods like shell and bone ornaments. Christina was awarded an NSF dissertation improvement grant that will fund specialist analyses of bone and plant remains as well as radiocarbon dates.

Grad student **Kyra Pazan** joined the FARM (Fort Ancient Regional Movement) Project in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, to excavate an early Fort Ancient site.



Bree Doering during a pedestrian survey for surface-level artifacts on Dinosaur Ridge in central Alaska. In three days, Bree and Whitney MacClaren found nine archaeological sites with potential for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

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The Kolomoki South Village Project in southwestern Georgia, a site inhabited during the Middle and Late Woodland Periods (ca. A.D. 300–900). Photo by Marty Menz.