

# Archaeology News

Volume 24 Number 2

October 2006



*MVAC at the University  
of Wisconsin-La Crosse*

*Archaeology News  
is a publication of  
the Mississippi Valley  
Archaeology Center*

*[www.uwlax.edu/mvac](http://www.uwlax.edu/mvac)*

*1725 State Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601-3788*

## National Endowment for the Humanities awards MVAC \$115,605 grant

Constance Arzigian, Laboratory Director

A \$115,605 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) will provide 25 K-12 teachers with three weeks of study of the process of archaeology and the major cultures of the Upper Mississippi Valley, including how these societies adapted and evolved over the past 12,000 years.

The institute will be led by Connie Arzigian and Bonnie Jancik, with guest lectures and tours led by MVAC archaeologists Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt, Jim Theler, and Kathy Stevenson, as well as Bob Birmingham (former State Archaeologist, now with Friends of Aztalan State Park), and retired educator LeVern DeVries. The Institute will run from July 9 through July 27, 2007, and will be held on the UWL campus, with field trips scheduled to archaeological sites across the state.



Grant participants will visit Aztalan and other archaeological sites throughout the state.

Participants will explore the rich archaeological record of the Upper Mississippi Valley and the indigenous cultures as well as the process of archaeological discovery and interpretation. Besides being a fascinating story, the archaeological record of the Upper Mississippi Valley provides a laboratory within which to examine how we have come to know what we do about the past, and how archaeologists move from potsherds and projectile points to insights into how people lived, adapted to their surroundings, and changed through time.



Teachers participating in the NEH grant will experience archaeology first-hand, following the example of educators Todd Camlek and Kathee Wales.

Participants will learn about the nature of the archaeological record, including its strengths and limitations, through exposure to actual archaeological excavations and laboratory work, and discussion of how we can infer information from cultural remains. Through authentic research experiences and inquiry-based projects, teachers will learn to make relevant connections between in-depth archaeological, anthropological, historical, literary, and cultural content and their classroom teaching.

Teachers interested in participating in the Institute can find more information at <http://www.uwlax.edu/mvac/neh.htm>

## From The Director: Joseph A. Tiffany



Joseph A. Tiffany

Hello, Everyone!  
MVAC had a very productive summer. Vicki Twinde-Javner completed Phase III data recovery at 47CR660, a Wisconsin DOT sponsored project, in Prairie du Chien. Two small, deep historic cellars were exposed that may have been part of a circa 1840-1860 grocery store known to have been in the vicinity. After

the store was moved or abandoned, the cellars were filled with historic materials. Both middens contained numerous restorable ceramic items and other period material culture. MVAC held a press day at the site organized by Ernie Boszhardt and Vicki, and MVAC got excellent publicity from the project. Student interns and volunteers are now cleaning, cataloging and reassembling artifacts at MVAC.

Be sure to read about the designation of Silver Mound as a National Historic Landmark on page 3. This is a great success story for MVAC to help preserve this complex of prehistoric quarries, rock shelters and rock art. Silver Mound is one of only three archaeological National Historic Landmarks in Wisconsin. As part of the celebration, MVAC organized another Archaeology Day at Silver Mound 2006 where the site was formally dedicated as a National Historic Landmark with representatives from MVAC, the state and federal government, Ho-Chunk tribal members, and many others in attendance. The turn out was excellent with 350 people in attendance during the day. Silver Mound Day sponsors and

more about the various activities that took place are detailed in the electronic newsletter.

Vicki Twinde-Javner also led MVAC's participation in Cannons and Redcoats at Prairie du Chien this fall. A portion of the footings of the Fort Crawford II hospital were identified in small demonstration excavation across the street from the present museum building. Connie Arzigian received a \$95,000 contract with the Minnesota DOT to prepare a Multiple Property Documentation Form for the Woodland Tradition in Minnesota. Connie and Bonnie Jancik are co-principal investigators on a prestigious \$115,605 National Endowment for the Humanities grant for a Summer Institute for Teachers, entitled *Prehistory of the Upper Mississippi River Valley*. The participants will be "visiting scholars" at UW-L during the month of July 2007 during which they will be involved in researching the prehistory of the area while exploring and creating connections to their unique teaching situations.

The fall census numbers are in and the Archaeology program now has 108 majors and pre-majors. This is great news, but it also means we are taxed to the limit on the teaching side with only two and one half faculty teaching positions. 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.

Upcoming MVAC events include the Fall Reception on November 14<sup>th</sup> which will include award presentations and a silent auction. The lecture will be Highlights of MVAC's Summer Field Season- always a favorite among the membership.

We enjoy sharing our research, education, and outreach activities with you. MVAC provides many opportunities for active public involvement in archaeology in the region. As most of you know, even though MVAC is part of the university, our public archaeology, research and education programs are not funded by the university. We cannot do all the good things that everyone have so long associated with MVAC and provide the services we do without your help and support. Please take a moment and consider MVAC and the services we have provided for over a quarter century. If you have not renewed your membership for this year, please do so. Or, if you are thinking about gifting to MVAC in other ways, please let us know. Thank you for your continued support!

### MVAC Staff Contacts:

**Executive Director:** Dr. Joseph Tiffany,  
(608) 785-6465

**Regional Archaeologist/Associate  
Director:** Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt,  
(608) 785-8451

**Main Office:** (608) 785-8463

**Newsletter submissions:**  
(608) 785-8454 or  
dowiasch.jean@uwlax.edu

**MVAC Educational Programs are  
supported by:**

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE  
**HUMANITIES**



## Silver Mound - National Historic Landmark

Silver Mound, one of the Midwest's oldest and more important archaeological sites, was designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) earlier this year. A dedication ceremony led by Associate Director Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt was held on Saturday, October 7 at the Hixton-Alma Center KOA. Officials who spoke of the site's importance included Vergil Noble (National Park Service), Paul Gardner (Midwest Director of the Archaeological Conservancy), Ellsworth Brown (Director of the Wisconsin Historical Society), Steve Miller (Director Bureau of Facilities and Lands - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, representing Governor Doyle's Office), Nettie Kingsley (Ho-Chunk Nation Office of the President), and Mark Seitz, aide to Representative Ron Kind.

Over 350 visitors attended Archaeology Day at Silver Mound, held in conjunction with the dedication ceremony. Participants attended tours of the site's features, tried their hand at atlatl throwing, stone tool drilling, and games. Entertainment was provided by Art Shegonee and the Wisconsin Dells Singers. Demonstrations included flintknapping, artifact displays, and Early Native People artifacts. Traditional basketry, beadwork, and food were demonstrated by Dorothy Decorah, Velma Lewis, and the Paul and Suzette Arentz family.

(See the October 2006 electronic newsletter at [www.uwlax.edu/mvac](http://www.uwlax.edu/mvac) for more information.)

### Special thanks to all the sponsors who helped make the day a success!

Black River Area Chamber of Commerce

Black River Falls Rotary

Heller Farms

Ho-Chunk Nation

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Wisconsin Archeological Society

Black River Falls Foundation

Richard & Beth Hilliker

Hixton-Alma Center KOA

Lunda Charitable Trust

National Park Service

Wisconsin Humanities Council

## 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.

## Announcements

### La Crosse School District's 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 Dowiasch at 608-785-8454 to reserve materials.

### Matching Funds Grant

A grant provided by the UW-La Crosse Foundation encourages teachers to use MVAC education resources. The grant allows MVAC to match a teacher's school's cost dollar for dollar. For more information, contact Jean at [dowiasch.jean@uwlax.edu](mailto:dowiasch.jean@uwlax.edu) or 608-785-8454.

## Read More In Our Digital Newsletter

There will be a link to the digital newsletters on the MVAC Home Page at [www.uwlax.edu/mvac](http://www.uwlax.edu/mvac).



*MVAC at the University  
of Wisconsin-La Crosse*

1725 State Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601-3788

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
LA CROSSE, WI  
PERMIT #545

*[www.uwlax.edu/mvac](http://www.uwlax.edu/mvac)*

## 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](http://www.uwlax.edu/mvac)*

### **Lab Work Day for Members**

Saturday, November 4, 2006

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Call Jean Dowiasch at (608) 785-8454 to register.

### **Annual Reception and Silent Auction**

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

5:30 p.m.

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

Join MVAC as we honor our 2006 award winners and hold our second annual Silent Auction. Highlights of MVAC's Summer Excavations lecture to follow.

### **MVAC's Summer Excavations: Historic Prairie du Chien**

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

7 p.m.

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

This past summer **Vicki Twinde-Javner** directed Phase III excavations on two stone lined possible cellars in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. The excavations recovered numerous bottle, ceramic, and pipe fragments; along with a variety of other miscellaneous artifacts dating to around the 1840's and 1850's. Lecture will follow the MVAC Annual Reception and Silent Auction.

---

Thanks to all those who helped make **Archaeology Day at Silver Mound** a Success!

Paul & Suzette Arentz family	Dorothy Decorah
Scott Dobler	Robert Keiper
Velma Lewis	Dan Maas
Phil Palskill	John Pellowski
Keith & Sharon Scarce	Tom Pleger
Betty Steele & Harold Frank	Kathy Stevenson
Hoyt Strandberg	Jim Theler
Jim & Donna Rankin	

UW-La Crosse Archaeology Club

