



At the National Museum Cordillera Rice Terraces Regional Museum (formerly the Ifugao Museum) in Kiangon, Province of Ifugao, Philippines. NM Cordillera staff, volunteers, and the U-M ReConnect/ReCollect group are standing in front of a *hagabi*, a bench that marks one's social status. This *hagabi* was commissioned by Capt. Owen Tomlinson and dedicated on December 25, 1913. Tomlinson was the lieutenant governor of Ifugao province from 1911 to 1915. Photo by Jim Moss. See story, page 3.

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# Letter from the Director

Dear Alumni and Friends of UMMAA:

Greetings from Ann Arbor! We had an excellent summer at the Museum of Anthropological Archaeology. For the first time in what seems like a long time, curators and students were all in the field, across the country and around the globe, doing the kinds of cutting-edge research for which Michigan is best known. Alicia Ventresca-Miller and Bryan Miller were in Mongolia, digging looted royal tombs on the edge of the Mongol Empire. Brian Stewart continued excavation of Middle Stone Age levels in caves in Lesotho. And Giulia Saltini Semerari ran a field school in Italy, at an enigmatic Iron Age site called Incononata.

We continue to wait for permanent space to open up for our new museum. Nevertheless, despite space constraints, we continue to add capacity. Ventresca-Miller's new Ancient Protein and Isotope Laboratory ([sites.lsa.umich.edu/ventresca-miller-collaboratory/ancient-protein-and-isotope-laboratory](https://sites.lsa.umich.edu/ventresca-miller-collaboratory/ancient-protein-and-isotope-laboratory)) is now up and running. She and her students are sampling a wide variety of archaeological materials in order to address a range of anthropological-archaeological questions related to ancient diet, health, and lifeways.

Outreach remains a priority, whether in Michigan or with descendants and stakeholders. Curator Rob Beck is working with community groups in Detroit to locate the site of an African American Civil War camp—Camp Ward—and collections manager Jim Moss recently traveled to the Philippines with members of the ReConnect/ReCollect project ([reconnect-recollect.com](https://reconnect-recollect.com)). Read more about the trip

on the next page (“Reconnecting: Knowledge Repatriation in the Philippines,” page 3).

These projects, and the many others supported by UMMAA, are rewriting humanity's past and informing our future. They would not be possible without your assistance. Please consider a gift to the Museum's Strategic Fund, which is used to underwrite our various research endeavors. Your gift, whether small or large, makes a huge difference and is greatly appreciated.

In the fall of 2022, UMMAA organized an international conference, UMMAA at 100: Michigan's Mark—Past, Present, and Future, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Museum's founding (<https://sites.lsa.umich.edu/ummaa-at-100>). We took time to enumerate the Museum's many accomplishments, but also to reflect on the future of archaeology. Videos of the conference are available on our YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/@umuseumofanthropological1380](https://www.youtube.com/@umuseumofanthropological1380)), and I strongly encourage you to take a look. As Professor Michael Blakey (William and Mary) said during the plenary session, archaeology needs to “allow real, multiple voices, equally empowered, to move knowledge forward.” That sentiment permeated the UMMAA at 100 conference and will, we believe, be the dominant theme of our next 100 years.

Sincerely,  
Michael L. Galaty, Director  
Museum of Anthropological Archaeology

Thank you, generous donors! Your support allows the Museum to send students on excavation trips around the world. Gifts are critical for our ability to attract the best minds in archaeology, which in turn contributes to our standing as a vital and vibrant museum with a reputation as a leader.

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## Reconnecting: Knowledge Repatriation in the Philippines



During their August 2023 trip to the Philippines, the ReConnect/ReCollect group stopped at a scenic overlook of the Banauw Rice Terraces in the Province of Ifugao. Left to right: Johnny Bangao, Jr., Jim Moss, Cathy Ekid Domigyay, Analyn "Ikin" Salvador-Amores, Ricky Punzalan, Jesse Johnston, Deirdre de la Cruz, Orlando de Guzman, Alexis Antracoli, and Diana Bachman.

In the summer of 2021, Jim Moss, collections manager at UMMAA, joined a group called ReConnect/ReCollect: Reparative Connections to Philippine Collections at the University of Michigan. They were funded by a two-year grant from the U-M Humanities Collaboratory “to have conversations in terms of decolonizing the Philippines collections here on campus.” There are documents, photographs, and objects from the Philippines in UMMAA’s collection and in other collections on the University of Michigan campus, including at the Bentley Historical Library, Special Collections Research Center in Hatcher Library, the University of Michigan Herbarium, the William L. Clements Library, the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, and even a few musical instruments in the Sterns Collection of Musical Instruments.

During the next two years, the ReConnect/ReCollect team, led by Deirdre de la Cruz and Ricky Punzalan, discussed the role that the University of Michigan played

in the scientific exploration and subsequent colonization of the Philippines, how this context influenced the subsequent curation and interpretation of these collections, and how these objects ended up in Ann Arbor. Joseph Beal Steere, professor of zoology and paleontology and a museum curator, arrived in the Philippines on a collecting expedition in 1874. His visit led to several U-M graduates having prominent roles in the Insular Government after Spain ceded control of the Philippines at the end of the Spanish-American War.

As reflected in the name ReConnect/ReCollect, the group’s purpose was to connect with descendant Philippine communities. As part of this mission, ReConnect/ReCollect hosted several events to bring artists and culture bearers to Ann Arbor from communities in the U.S. and the Philippines in order to engage with the collections and the local community. (See News about UMMAA Collections, page 30.)



In the Ibaloi Heritage Garden in Burnham Park, Baguio, members of the Onjon ni Ivaday Association examine images of their ancestors. The University of Michigan is giving the photographs to the association. Association members include the Laoyan, Palaci, and Cariño clans, who occupied the area prior to the founding of the city of Baguio. The ancestors in the images were photographed in 1900–1906, when U-M’s Dean Worcester and the Second Philippine Commission scouted the area in order to create the “Summer Capital of the Philippines” in the mountains of the Cordillera. Photo by Jim Moss.

Another item was on the agenda: a trip to the Philippines. This was discussed at the start of the project, in 2021, but it didn’t seem possible because of the pandemic. Then, early in 2023, it began to look like it might happen. There was money left in the budget, and the team had been working with a professor of anthropology, Analyn “Ikin” Salvador-Amores at the University of Philippines Baguio, who had previously worked with U-M collections and was eager to help organize a visit from the ReConnect/ReCollect group.

The purpose of the trip was to make a connection with communities in the Cordillera, the mountainous regions of northern Luzon. Dr. Salvador-Amores is a former director of the Museo Kordilyera, and she has been working with communities in the region for several decades. With this intimate knowledge of the people and organizations of the region, she identified images and documents connected to specific communities in the Cordillera.

### **In the Philippines**

Several members of ReConnect/ReCollect went on the trip, including Jim, Ricky, Deirdre, Orlando de Guzman (documentary filmmaker), Jesse Johnston (clinical assistant professor in the U-M School of Information), Alexis Antracoli (director of the Bentley), and Diana Bachman (assistant director for reference services at the Bentley). Three people from the Philippines joined the travelers: Dr. Salvador-Amores and two artists who had visited Ann Arbor earlier in 2023—Catherine Ekid Domigyay and Johnny Bangao, Jr.

“We were retracing in some ways Dean Worcester’s travels as part of the Second Philippine Commission [ca. 1900–1906],” says Moss. “We were there to share copies of images and documents from UMMAA and the Bentley. We shared a mix of physical framed photos and binders as well as hard drives with digital copies. When we had the artists/culture-bearers here in Ann Arbor in May 2023, one of the things they stressed was the need for physical copies in these



Teachers from the Daklan Elementary School look at photographs of cultural belongings that U-M is giving to the Tawid Center, a cultural museum on the school's campus in Bokod, Province of Benguet. Photo by Jim Moss.

communities. Not everyone is going to have a computer that they can view high res images on. They will want to hang these photos of family members on their wall at home.”

There is also the pressure on physical materials of the hot and humid environment, he pointed out—and repositories in the Philippines are not humidity-controlled environments, as they tend to be in the U.S.

The team did share digital copies and hard drives with four university museums and archives, as these institutions are in a much better position to share these collections with local community members.

“That was the “why” we were there and what we were doing,” says Moss, “but also to make personal connections.”

The first public event of the trip was at the Ibaloy Heritage Garden in Baguio—this was the first time the group shared photos with the local community.

“It was a really large turnout, everyone was super warm and grateful,” says Moss. “We met descendants of some

of the people in these photos, in the Worcester collection. To hear a woman say “oh that looks like so and so” really drove home why we are doing this. We say museums hold collections for future generations. This is the future generation. The future is now. That was a pretty powerful moment.”

He considers the trip a success. “We accomplished what we set out to do—we shared copies of collections with the communities ... Because the materials were generated in these communities and there are still connections with these communities, they knew the people in these images.” However, only time will tell how widely these materials are distributed within their communities, and if the conversations started during the trip will lead to future collaborations.

### Future

“Most of us hope that this is the first of many trips,” says Moss. “The Museum has many collections from further



Members of the St. Vincent Elementary School. These *pattong* dancers, who had just shared a traditional dance, get ready for lunch with fresh cut bamboo “plates.” Bontoc, Mountain Province, Philippines. Photo by Anlyn Salvador-Amores.

south—the Visayas and Mindanao Regions. There’s a lot more of this work that can be done in the future, especially around human remains and trying to identify the communities they came from.”

The next step is to find a student to continue to develop a GIS of the 1922–1925 Guthe expedition from the University of Michigan, a project started by archaeology graduate student **Nicholas Trudeau**. The intention is to create a map interface through which communities and researchers can engage and explore the archival materials from the expedition. It will connect digitized documents, field photos, inventories, and images of objects in one interface.

“I’ve already had some really dedicated undergraduate students who have worked to develop digital content for our Philippine collections,” says Moss. “Alyssa Caldito designed and wrote many of the articles for the website dedicated to the Philippine Collections at UMMAA

([sites.lsa.umich.edu/ummaa-philippines/](https://sites.lsa.umich.edu/ummaa-philippines/)). Sara Reed and Sophie Wolf spent a year and a half researching and writing collection guides for many of the Museum’s Philippine collections, which are also available on the website.”

Moss and other members plan to continue the work that started with the ReConnect/ReCollect project. The team is working on updating the existing website ([www.reconnect-recollect.com/](http://www.reconnect-recollect.com/)) to include a summary of the Philippine collections at the University of Michigan as well as a digital “Toolkit” so that other institutions with Philippine collections can learn from and build upon the project’s work. The new content will go live in the next few months.

Moss feels that ReConnect/ReCollect and the trip to the Philippines created a foundation on which he and others can continue building connections with Filipino and Filipino/x-American communities, artists, archaeologists and other scholars, and museum staff.



Above: Diana Bachman, assistant director for reference services at U-M's Bentley Historical Library, speaks about the ReConnect/ReCollect project at the Mountain Province State Polytechnic College, Bontoc, Mountain Province. Photo by Jim Moss.

Below: Dr. Rosemary Gutierrez, vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of the Philippines Baguio, presents Jim Moss with a certificate of appreciation for participating in a roundtable discussion and for the gifting of digital images to the Northern Luzon Archives on behalf of UMMAA. Dr. Analyn Salvador-Amores, professor of anthropology, is on the left.



# The PASH Data: A Link to the Past, A Model for the Future



Photo of Gajtan hillfort, looking south into Nënshkodër from the main fortification wall. Test excavations at Gajtan were performed in 2014 and 2016. (See PASH, Vol. 1, Chapter 1, page 6.) Photo by Sylvia Deskaj.

*By Laura Bossio*

Prior to this century, northern Albania had never been the site of an intensive and systematic archaeological survey. With the recent publication of a two-volume work on the Projekti Arkeologjik i Shkodrës (PASH), Michael L. Galaty, curator and director of UMMAA, has changed that. He and his co-authors have significantly added to the knowledge of Albania's archaeology and provided a template for linking archaeological publications to accessible project data.

PASH was directed by Galaty and his co-investigator, Lorenc Bejko, professor of archaeology and cultural resource management at the University of Tirana, Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies. In 2010, they launched their project: a systematic and intensive regional survey of northern Albania and selective test excavations of targeted hillforts and tumuli.

Their primary interests were the Bronze and Iron Ages. During these periods, people started living in hillforts,

which were sometimes fortified; they also started burying their dead in mounds. These changes in lifeways caused archaeologists to suspect that people from outside northern Albania must have moved in and brought these lifeways with them. However, as PASH discovered, hillforts were first occupied in the Late Neolithic, circa 5000 BC, well before the Bronze Age, and mound burial appears to have been adopted by local people; it was not introduced. Another research incentive for Galaty was the investigation of social hierarchies and inequality. Burial mounds are typically thought to mark changes in social structure and hierarchy, and because the PASH investigations are diachronic, use through time can be assessed. The work conducted by PASH is foundational in understanding these cultural changes, and thus changes in social structure.

When it came time to publish their project research, Galaty and Bejko decided they wanted to do more than produce a book. They wanted to give scholars and readers



access to all of their data. To that end, when *Archaeological Investigations in a Northern Albanian Province: Results of the Projekti Arkeologjik i Shkodrës* (PASH), Volumes 1 and 2, was published as a print book and an e-book, the associated dataset was made available online via the Fulcrum platform of the University of Michigan Press and the U-M's Deep Blue Data Repository. This was an enormous undertaking. Galaty explains that publishing the volumes and the dataset simultaneously “was a complex and complicated project with many people involved. It took a lot of people and a lot of organization.”

Central to this undertaking were Charles Watkinson, director of the University of Michigan Press, and Rachel Woodbrook, data curation specialist for U-M's data storage, the Deep Blue Repository.

Charles Watkinson, an archaeologist himself, met Galaty a few decades ago. They began a conversation on the relationship between narrative publications and the underlying data. They wondered whether that interface could be made explorable and interactive. In 2015, the Fulcrum platform was born.

“As I was thinking about the structure and architecture of that digital publishing platform, I was very informed by the problems of archaeology,” says Watkinson. “The Fulcrum platform that is used for the PASH project is very influenced by that question: how do we publish data-rich multi-modal monographs?”

Data curation specialists at the Deep Blue Data Repository were also critical in making this project successful—among them Rachel Woodbrook. Woodbrook describes the PASH data project with Deep Blue as a “really interesting and interdepartmental effort” that included many moving pieces. There is a seamless link between the publications and data, she says.

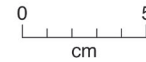
“[It] really adds a lot of value and richness to the experience of how people can follow the thread of that research and that work.”

She believes this collaboration between researchers, the data depository, and publishers is very exciting, and she hopes to be a part of similar work again.

“It does take a big investment of time and of labor, but it adds so much to create those connections for people,” she explains.

In publishing PASH, existing systems of both Fulcrum and Deep Blue Data Repository were used—but they had never been used together in that way, while also being linked to specific chapters in a book. With the publication of PASH, the UMMAA Press now has a template to use for publishing more books linked to online, open-access data.

Watkinson commends the Museum press. “It’s about the willingness of UMMAA to collaborate with publishing experts, data curation experts, and librarians on campus—it’s just being really open to those opportunities of collaboration that’s been really important,” he says.



Slip-painted vessel. (See PASH, Vol. 2, Chapter 13, page 238.) Image by Dritan Çoku, Michael L. Galaty, and John Klausmeyer.

Galaty sees many more such projects in the future. “I think we are fast approaching technologically a time where there won’t be much excuse not to figure out how to do this for archaeologists,” he says. “But it is still difficult, and still takes a lot of time.”

His advice for archaeologists who want to do something similar with their data and publications: think about data management early and take the endeavor seriously. Talk to the librarians and data curation specialists available at your institution before embarking on the project. Being prepared before starting to collect data in the field will make things easier when it comes time to create an accessible dataset.

Find PASH on Fulcrum (free to read until March 2024): <https://www.fulcrum.org/concern/monographs/vm40xt799>

Dig into PASH data at the Deep Blue Data Repository: <https://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/data/concern/collections/st74cr005>

Read more about PASH, buy the book, and search other UMMAA Press publications at <https://sites.lsa.umich.edu/archaeology-books/>

## Undergraduates Go to the Field

Several undergraduates who spent their summers in the field in 2023 were able to do so thanks to funding from you and other generous donors to the Museum. Undergraduates went far and wide (Israel, Belize, and Peru) as well as close to home (excavating a Paleoindian site in Michigan and exposing formerly submerged landscapes in Florida).

### Lily Heald

*Lily went to Israel to work with Kara Larson.*

I would like to thank the Museum of Anthropological Archaeology for awarding me funds to participate in **Kara Larson's** excavations, which were conducted at Tell el-Hesi. This was my first time working on an archaeological excavation. I learned so much about archaeological practices and the history of the southern Levant in just three weeks. Studying pottery was an incredible experience; it was amazing to see how much can be learned from small fragments of pottery.

My favorite part of the excavation was finding faunal remains. I was equally amazed and excited every time I found a tooth. We found many bovine, caprine, and ovine teeth, which will be used to understand diet, mobility, and ultimately, animal husbandry practices.

I spent most of my freshman year of college working in the Ancient Protein and Isotope lab, collecting samples from faunal remains from Tell el-Hesi. Being able to work at the archaeological site after having spent the past year learning about it in a laboratory setting was incredibly rewarding, providing a completely different perspective on archaeology. Returning to laboratory work after being able to work in the field has given me a much deeper understanding of my work.

I was also able to participate in weekend trips to see the Western Wall, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and many other incredible historic and religious sites. Those visits were awe-inspiring.

I would like to thank the Museum of Anthropological Archaeology and the donors for their generosity and for helping me participate in this incredible project. This experience has enriched my academic and personal growth in immeasurable ways, and I look forward to continuing to learn about the field of anthropological archaeology.

### Danielle Tutak

*Danielle also went to Israel to work with Kara Larson.*

This past summer, thanks to the support of the Hays Family endowment for Undergraduate Research, I had the extraordinary opportunity to participate in fieldwork at two sites in Israel-Palestine. The first was Tell el-Hesi. The second site was Khirbet Summeily, where Mississippi State University was running a field school. A typical field day began by trying to beat the heat. Ideally, we woke at 4 am, prepared breakfast, and made sure that we had enough water before heading to the site by 5 am. Once we

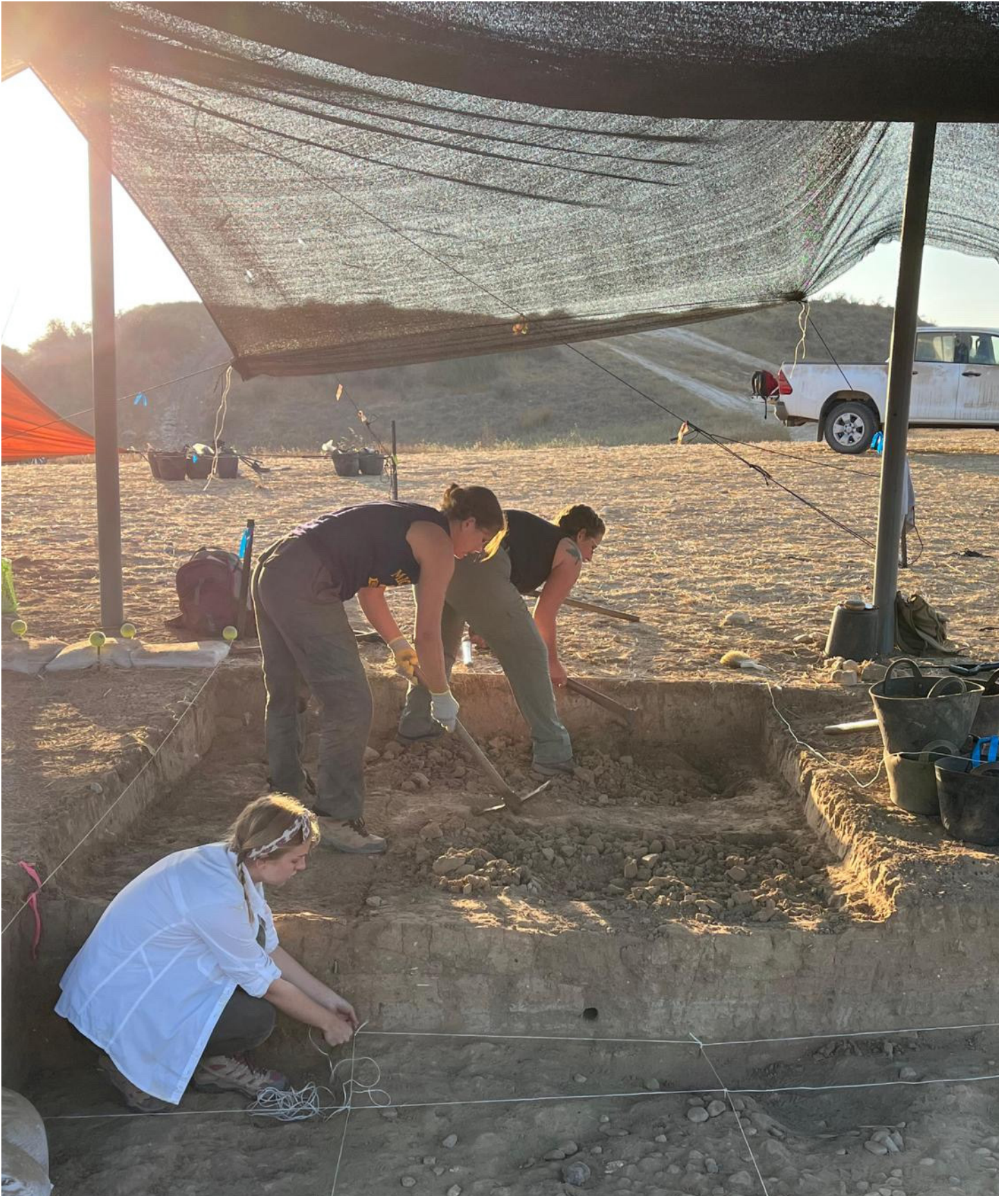
arrived at the site, we set up shade cloths, unloaded tools, and starting digging. During the day, we took several short breaks, first for morning coffee, a mid-morning breakfast around 9 am, and a much needed fruit break toward the end as the temperature climbed. Around 12:15 pm we finished our excavations and cleaned up. We left the site by 12:30 pm, eagerly returning for lunch and showers. The midday break allowed time for short naps, which many of us took.

After this afternoon break, while most other students washed pottery, I had the opportunity to illustrate notable sherds found during excavation. As an interdisciplinary art and archaeology student, this exciting role allowed me to refine my skills and define my niche. Weekends were filled with trips to explore renowned archaeological sites, culturally significant locations, and the region's must-see attractions. Highlights included floating in the Dead Sea (a word of caution: avoid getting the water in your eyes—trust me, it's not pleasant). Other highlights included visiting Masada (where some of our team bravely climbed the path while others enjoyed a ride in the gondola), swimming in the Mediterranean Sea, and my personal favorite, exploring Jerusalem's Old City.



Danielle Tutak takes a nap at Tell el-Hesi.

## Undergraduates Go to the Field



Lily Heald (foreground) sets up a grid to take flotation samples from the cobblestone floor at Tell el-Hesi in Israel.

## Undergraduates Go to the Field

My journey of working and learning at Tell el-Hesi and Khirbet Summeily has been one that I will never forget. The experiences, knowledge, and friendships I acquired have enriched my academic and personal growth. I am unwavering in my commitment to carry forward the knowledge and experiences from this fieldwork season to my academic pursuits, aspiring to make meaningful contributions to the field of archaeology. I extend my heartfelt gratitude once more for the extraordinary opportunity provided through this generous endowment, which has undeniably guided my aspirations and goals.

### Elizabeth Meyer

*Elizabeth accompanied Kara Larson in Israel.*

Thanks to the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology Undergraduate Award, I was able to participate in an archaeological excavation at Tell el-Hesi in the southern Levant during summer 2023. We excavated during the week, uncovering an Early Bronze Age residential area, and spent the weekends exploring Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, and other archaeological sites.

### Matt Michalski

*Matt reports here on his excavations at Belson, a Paleoindian site in Michigan.*

Around 13,000 years ago, a group of people roamed the Americas. Known as the Clovis people (named after a specific style of flintknapping), they produced a masterful array of stone tools. These projectile points, originally discovered near the town of Clovis, New Mexico, are known from many sites across America. A small group chose to camp at the confluence of two rivers in what was to become Michigan's St. Joseph County. The site is situated on farmland owned by Robert Belson and was originally surveyed by local historian Thomas Talbot. When Mr. Talbot found a large biface, UMMAA curator Henry Wright and graduate student Brendan Nash were contacted, and they immediately recognized the tool as a Clovis artifact. Since then, a large array of stone tools and debitage has been documented.

Having my gas costs covered by funds from the Museum allowed me to commute to the site and to spend more time at the site. I also was able to acquire my own set of trowels, which I previously had to borrow from anyone who had an extra set. The opportunity to be on a Paleoindian site was crucial for me to develop my skills as an archaeologist. The meticulous recording of artifacts and data is necessary to ensure that all archaeologists can analyze them.

This year at Belson we focused on Feature 2, a thick clay layer located roughly 40 cm below the surface. The full extent of the feature is not yet known. Our focus was



A stone tool found on the surface of the Belson site, a Paleoindian site in southwest Michigan. Photo by Matt Michalski.

on Unit 126. Located east of the center of Unit 126 was a stump with an indeterminate age, though potentially much more modern. The stump and feature both have well-associated samples of  $^{14}\text{C}$  datable material that we carefully collected and sent for analysis. The feature has an abundance of lithic material with an apparent cluster in the northernmost portion of the feature. Once the flakes and tools are cataloged and analyzed, it will be interesting to plot them in GIS to see the overall distribution in three dimensions. We expected to encounter the bottom of the feature at ca. 70–80 cm, but we discovered the feature continued much deeper. This led to the discovery of two of the deepest debitage flakes discovered at the site, at more than 1 m below the surface. The main focus of the 2024 season will be to finish the excavation of Feature 2 and open new units to the west to ascertain the limits of the feature.

I hope to be part of the Belson project moving forward, and I am glad and grateful to help add more data to the overall Clovis database. Thank you for the award and the opportunity to become a better archaeologist.

### Nicolas Payeras

*Nicolas went to Belize. He says:*

I would like to thank the Museum of Anthropological Archaeology and the donors. With the funding I was able to attend a field school in Belize directed by Dr. Scott

## Undergraduates Go to the Field



A sample of the artifacts found at the excavation in the town of San Pedro on the island of Ambergris Caye, Belize. Photo by Nicolas Payeras.

Simmons. This was my first time conducting archaeological fieldwork, and the experience was amazing. I gained valuable skills, made connections with peers from other institutions, and reaffirmed my decision to pursue a career in archaeology.

We arrived in Belize City, then boarded a water taxi to reach San Pedro (the main town on the island of Ambergris Caye). Once there, we headed to the site where we would be excavating for the next four weeks. It was not some remote place as I had expected, but right in the middle of town across from a bustling plaza. We laid out trenches in the grassy courtyard of a building and, after rigorous measurements, got to digging. From the time we first broke ground to the end of the excavation, we found a plethora of artifacts. Many were irrelevant, modern-day detritus, but among them were a great number of Maya sherds, bones, and the rare obsidian blade. Many of the bones we excavated were immediately identified by Dr. Tracy Mayfield, who also accompanied the field school.

The variety of bones was impressive, from fish and cow vertebrae to manatee ribs to an entire turtle shell the size of a human torso. We got to experience the entire excavation process—from digging up the artifacts to cleaning, classifying, and processing them. I even spearheaded a group of students who worked to find the relative altitude of all our trenches from sea level. It was a challenge that I enjoyed tackling. We also visited another field school on Marco Gonzales, a mangrove swamp to the south of where we were staying. It, too, had a bunch of interesting finds.

Attending the field school on Ambergris Caye was an amazing experience for me, both because I got to see and experience the beautiful country of Belize with a group of strangers who quickly became friends, and on a more practical level because these are the skills I will need to pursue a career in archaeology. Good fieldwork training opens a lot of doors and job opportunities. I would like to again thank the Museum and its benefactors for making this experience possible. I am incredibly grateful to have had this opportunity.

### **Mya Welch**

*Mya reports on her field experiences in Florida.*

I am a lucky recipient of funding from the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology. I am writing to thank all contributors to these funds for their support. It really means a lot that people are invested in supporting undergraduate research, and these contributions have allowed me to gain invaluable and unforgettable experiences that directly contribute to my academic goals.

I traveled to Florida to participate in fieldwork on a number of submerged landscape projects. The main project was called Exploring the Pleistocene/Holocene Transition and Human Lifeways in the Aucilla River Basin of Northwest Florida Project. Most work focused on excavations at Page-Ladson, one of the oldest sites in the Americas, though some time was also spent digging exploratory units at Half Mile Rise Sink, about 200 meters downriver.

I also spent time working with two other projects: excavations at the submerged prehistoric site on the Aucilla River called Ladybug (led by a PhD student at Texas A&M) and site survey for the Submerged Paleo-Landscapes Archaeological Survey and Heritage Project (SPLASH) in the Apalachee Bay of the Gulf of Mexico.

The connections I made this summer allowed me to acquire the data I needed for my honors thesis, which I will be writing this academic year. My thesis work is associated with the SPLASH project. A number of prehistoric sites in the Apalachee Bay were discovered and excavated in the 1990s, including J&J Hunt, Ontolo, and Fitch. The GPS

## Undergraduates Go to the Field



At Half Mile Rise Sink, we hung our wetsuits on this line when we weren't in the water. In the background are the bins we used for sediment flotation. Photo by Mya Welch.



Leah Larsen at the site of Muyumoqo in the Sacred Valley of Cusco, Peru. Formative (2200 BCE-300 CE) remains can be found very near the surface.

technology in the 1990s, however, was not nearly as precise as that available today. One of the goals of the SPLASH project is to relocate these sites and obtain more precise coordinates so that the sites may be added to the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research site register.

My honors thesis involves plotting the site coordinates from those original excavations in GIS, as well as adding the new coordinates from those sites generated by the SPLASH project using side scan sonar, sub-bottom profiling, and diver survey. Once these points are mapped, I will be comparing the new and old points and analyzing any patterns that emerge. Hopefully this will provide new insights and make relocating other sites easier and more precise for the SPLASH project.

The funds I received covered the vast majority of my expenses, for which I am endlessly grateful. Without this opportunity, I would not have been able to gain the practical experience or professional connections necessary for me to advance my own skills in archaeology, much less obtain data with which to write an honors thesis my senior year. Donations from donors like you who believe in the pursuit of knowledge, and who want to support the researchers of the future, mean the world to students like me. Thank you.

### Leah Larsen

*Leah reports on her fieldwork in Peru.*

This summer I spent six weeks in Cusco, Peru. With PhD candidate **Matthew Brown**, I was able to work at Muyumoqo, a site near the village of Matinga (modern day). Muyumoqo was occupied during the Formative (2200 BC–AD 200). After excavating 540 square meters with local Matinga residents, we found nine to ten structures, 29 human burials, hearths, offering boxes, and lots of ceramics, animal bones, and obsidian. I had the opportunity to scan the obsidian with a pXRF to get an idea as to where that obsidian originated. I also learned about Formative pottery. From the evidence of everyday living, we have concluded that Muyumoqo was probably a residential site.

This fieldwork was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I learned so much about anthropology and archaeological field methods. I am excited to continue researching and publishing about these people. I loved experiencing a different culture and learning about the history of the people of Cusco. I was involved in lots of fun activities, too, like hiking, touring museums, and exploring the city. I am very thankful to the UMMAA for providing me this opportunity.

# Meet the New Graduate Students

## Timilehin Ayelagbe



Timilehin in 2022 at the Iba Rockshelter in Osun State, southwestern Nigeria, West Africa. The site has not been dated, but early evidence points to the Late Stone Age.

**Timilehin Ayelagbe** received his bachelor's degree in marine science and technology at the Federal University of Technology Akure in Nigeria. While there, he studied the impact of shipping operations on trace metals in the ocean. He then received his master's degree in archaeology from the University of Ibadan. For his thesis, he used palynological data to study the impact of climate change on human occupations at Okomu National Park in Nigeria.

After receiving his degrees, he began working at the Museum of West African Art, where he conducted paleoenvironmental and archaeological research. He was

very interested in the implications of climate change on human occupations of coastal landscapes in Nigeria, so he decided to pursue a PhD in archaeology. He applied to UMMAA because he is eager to lead his own research project, and he was also really excited about the prospect of an interdisciplinary and collaborative project, which he can see himself bringing to fruition here at UMMAA. Here at the University of Michigan, he is excited to learn more about archaeological work with isotopes and heavy metals.

Please join us in welcoming **Timilehin Ayelagbe** to our program!

# Meet the New Graduate Students

## Dan Garner



Dan holding a Mid-Holocene projectile point found in the auger bucket at the Bachner site in Quartz Lake, Alaska, 2022.

**Dan Garner** studied at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he received his bachelor's degree in anthropology. He then received a second bachelor's degree in environmental studies at Boise State University. He knew he wanted to continue studying anthropological archaeology, so he applied for master's programs. At the University of Wyoming, his advisor was Dr. Todd Surovell. For his master's thesis, Dan used lichen growth and optically stimulated luminescence to date a surface stone feature of a medicine wheel outside of Laramie, Wyoming.

Following that, Dan applied to UMMAA to study the Yamnaya—people of the Eurasian Bronze Age. He is

interested in exploring technological transmission—how bronze metallurgy moved from its source in Mesopotamia to Eurasia. He wants to investigate residential patterns and analyze habitation sites to better understand how these ancient people used bronze technologies and the impact it had on their lifeways.

Dan is looking forward to learning from the curators here at UMMAA, and he is eager to get into the field and travel for fieldwork this upcoming field season. Please join us in welcoming **Dan Garner** to our program!



## Africa

### Kenya

With an NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, **James K. Munene** is conducting obsidian sourcing using a portable X-ray fluorescence (pXRF) analyzer at the National Museums of Kenya. His dissertation project uses a multiproxy approach involving carbon isotopic records from plant waxes ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{wax}}$ ), bulk organic matter ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{COM}}$ ), and carbonate nodules to reconstruct the paleoenvironment of his study sites. He will travel to Bryant University in Rhode Island and later to the Max Planck Institute of Geoanthropology (Jena, Germany) to analyze the samples he collected from the Naivasha Lake basin in central Kenya.

### Lesotho

Curator **Brian Stewart** undertook two further excavation seasons at Ha Soloja rockshelter in highland Lesotho (southern Africa). Perched on a mountain-ringed altiplateau named Sehlabathebe, the site is being excavated as part of an NSF-funded research project exploring early human engagements with high mountain systems. Ha Soloja's uppermost levels were removed in the early 20th century to make way for a homestead inside the shelter, and a series of new radiocarbon ages confirms that the entirety of the remaining sequence predates 50,000 years before present. With teams including University of Michigan alumni and graduate students, colleagues from University of Toronto and Flinders University (Australia), and skilled local archaeologists, progress was made on the two excavation trenches initially opened in 2022.



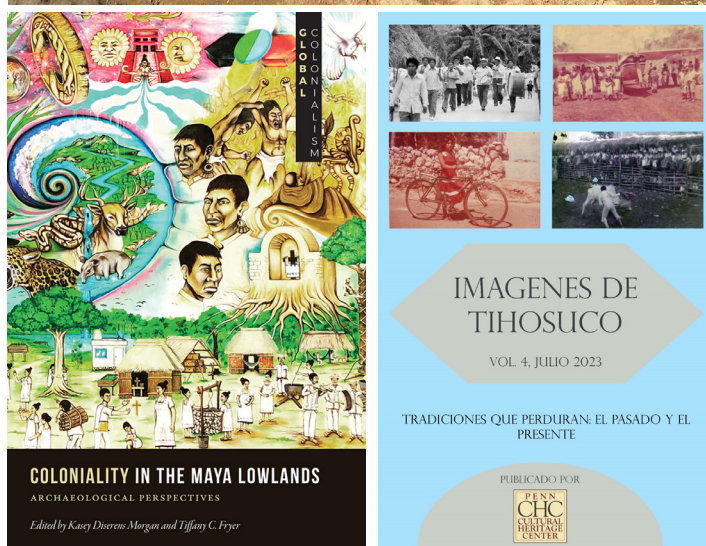
James K. Munene tries out a portable X-ray fluorescence (pXRF) analyzer at the National Museums of Kenya. Photo by John Munyiri.

Towards the end of a January–February 2023 season, the team working in the main trench encountered artifacts diagnostic of technologies that were prevalent in southern African 60,000 years ago. Much of the subsequent (April–May 2023) season was spent excavating through a series of thick fluvial silts left when the adjacent river entered the shelter during a period of high hydrological activity. Likely corresponding to a cold glacial period 75,000–60,000 years ago, these layers saw artifact densities plummet as the Lesotho Highlands were largely avoided on account of harsh conditions. The river-borne silts sit directly atop a massive layer of rockfall, some clasts of which are the size of living room furniture, the product of intense freeze-thaw processes weathering the shelter's ceiling during temperature fluctuations. A series of samples for optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating, sediment micromorphology, and sediment geochemistry were obtained with which to begin constructing a geochronological framework. The cultural material recovered thus far is heavily dominated by flaked and fire-cracked stone artifacts. Low artifact densities, high rates of retouch, and abundant small flaking debris all speak to the presence of a recurrent short-term logistical camp, lending preliminary support to our hypothesis that Ha Soloja functioned as a deep-time high-altitude hunting station. The data from this site will form one prong of a multidisciplinary program of rockshelter excavation, paleoenvironmental reconstruction, landscape survey and heritage valorization for the beautiful and unique Sehlabathebe region of highland Lesotho.



Curator Brian Stewart and U-M alumna Dr. Kyra Pazan draw sections at the end of the January–February 2023 field season.

## The Americas



### Belize

This summer graduate student **Brett Meyer** conducted the second season of excavations at the Maya site of Ek Tzul in west-central Belize with the help of Michigan undergraduate Allison Densel. Units were opened in one of the site's largest structures and in each of the three plazas to gather charcoal for chronology building and to examine the site's development over time. In addition to excavating, Brett participated in an outreach event with today's Maya from the village of San Antonio, where he gave a presentation on how animal remains are useful to archaeologists. There he was lucky enough to try traditional *jute* soup.

### Chile

Following a successful pilot season in Aysén, Chile, **Ian Beggen** spent the last year preparing for regional subsurface survey once again in Patagonia. He intends to use shovel testing to find new open-air sites that he will excavate for his dissertation. While not conducting any of his own fieldwork this summer, he was able to help out at the Belson Clovis site in Michigan.

Clockwise from left: Brett Meyer excavating an in situ ceramic vessel at Ek Tzul; Ian Beggen excavating a clay feature at the Belson site in Michigan; UMMAA curator Tiffany Fryer co-edited a book on the Maya Lowlands and helped produce a fourth volume of oral histories and historic photos from her research region on the Yucatan peninsula.

### Mexico

Curator **Tiffany Fryer** spent time in Mexico on the Yucatan Peninsula helping to further research at an hacienda (plantation estate) called xCafe (located on the Ejido de Tihosuco, Felipe Carrillo Puerto, Quintana Roo). Alongside University of Pennsylvania colleagues Samantha Seyler and Richard Leventhal, she worked with longtime local collaborators to create an accurate architectural and land use survey of the historic property, as well as to collect and curate oral histories about the property. She also worked with colleagues Marcelina Chan Canche and Kasey Diserens Morgan (U Pennsylvania) to produce the fourth volume of oral histories and historic photos from

## News from the Field 2023

her research region on behalf of her community partners. She released a co-edited volume, *Coloniality in the Maya Lowlands: Archaeological Perspectives*, on historical archaeology and cultural heritage work in the region (published with the University Press of Colorado).

Three archaeology graduate students are conducting their doctoral dissertation fieldwork projects in Oaxaca:

**Joseph Wardle** has begun his excavations at Cerro Danilín, an archaeological site in the Valley of Oaxaca. His work, funded in part by a Fulbright-Hays DDRA, explores warfare, defense, and the rise and fall of the Zapotec state.

**Soren Frykholm** began his dissertation project by directing his first round of excavations at the key site of Monte Negro in western Oaxaca. He plans another excavation season in 2024.

This past spring **Jennifer Larios** finished her second season of excavations at the Early Postclassic occupation at Jalieza. She conducted excavations on three domestic terraces on the slopes of the site. Since finishing excavations, Jennifer has been washing ceramics and creating a detailed inventory of the materials from her last two seasons. She plans to return to Jalieza for one final season of excavations before she writes her dissertation.

Curator **Kent Flannery** and his collaborator, Professor Frank Hole of Yale University, are working with UMMAA Press to publish their site report on Gheo-Shih, an Archaic site in the Valley of Oaxaca. Gheo-Shih was a 1.5 hectare “macroband” camp near the Mitla River, repeatedly occupied in the summer rainy season during the period (cal.) 7500–4000 BC; it may have been occupied by 25–50 people. At other times of the year the local population



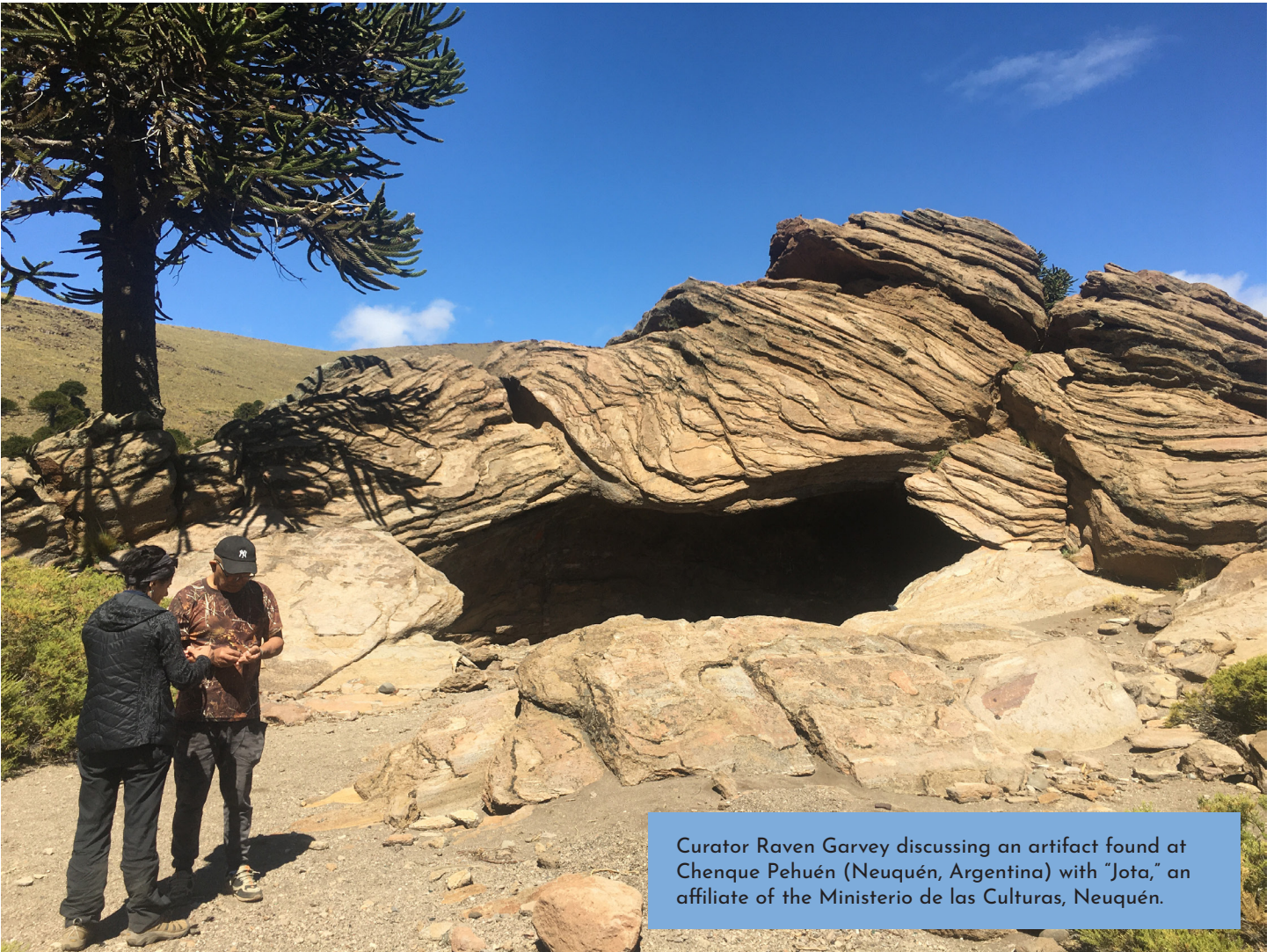
Joseph Wardle in Oaxaca, viewing the valley floor from Cerro Danilín.

dispersed in smaller, family-sized groups, occupying “microband” camps in caves and rockshelters. The available macrofossil and palynological data suggest that between 5000 and 4000 BC they were cultivating maize, squash, gourds, and (possibly) runner beans, while continuing to collect wild plants and hunt deer, rabbit, and mud turtle.



Soren Frykholm at Monte Negro in Oaxaca, collecting lime floor samples for residue analysis.

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Curator Raven Garvey discussing an artifact found at Chenque Pehuén (Neuquén, Argentina) with "Jota," an affiliate of the Ministerio de las Culturas, Neuquén.

### Peru

Curator **Raven Garvey** was on a fellowship this year (Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, New Directions Fellowship), working with aerospace engineers to better understand the effects of wind on prehistoric peoples in one of the windiest places on Earth: Patagonia. She also spent two months in Patagonia, advancing each of her two field projects. In January–February, Dr. Garvey partnered with archaeologist and remote sensing specialist Tommy Urban (Cornell) to look for buried hearth features in southern Chilean Patagonia. The region is rich in rock art but otherwise little is known about how past peoples used this densely forested Andean environment. Garvey’s project explores a broad watershed, and she and Urban are currently using magnetometry and targeted excavation to learn more about landscape and resource use through time. In February–March, Dr. Garvey worked with colleagues Claudia Della Negra (Ministerio de las Culturas) and Juan Maryañski (Dirección Provincial de Patrimonio Cultural) in

Neuquén Province, Argentina. This was the inaugural survey of Garvey’s new project, a region previously unknown to archaeologists. Seasonal availability of resources is pronounced at this latitude and altitude, and the uplands are characterized by old-growth *Araucaria* (pehuén or pinyon) forest. One project goal is to compare past human activities in this environment to those Garvey documented in much drier environments to the north. Dr. Garvey’s work in Patagonia was featured in the July/August 2023 issue of *Archaeology* magazine (<https://bit.ly/3XguqjF>), and a writeup of her work on sexual division of labor has over 140,000 reads on *The Conversation* (<https://theconversation.com/man-the-hunter-archaeologists-assumptions-about-gender-roles-in-past-humans-ignore-an-icky-but-potentially-crucial-part-of-original-paleo-diet-204772>). Most recently, Dr. Garvey was selected to join the Michigan Society of Fellows as a Senior Fellow, a group that has been “recognized over the past four decades as among the most distinguished members of the Michigan faculty.”



Above: Curator Raven Garvey documenting rock art at Chenque Pehuén (Neuquén, Argentina).

Right: Curator Raven Garvey auger-testing a magnetic anomaly detected by Dr. Thomas Urban (Cornell) during a remote sensing survey in Aysén, Chile.



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Jhon Cruz Quiñones recording and measuring megalith construction at Tuco Ragra, Ancash, Peru.



In 2022 graduate student **Jhon Cruz Quiñones** started his ethnographic study of agricultural systems and his archaeological exploration of early settlements in high-altitude zones along the Santa River Valley of Peru. In summer 2023, Jhon focused on the Conococha Lake, where the Santa River Valley originates. He conducted ethnographic research on today's pastoralists, seasonal subsistence, and mobility in high-altitude wetlands. He also conducted extensive mapping of the site of Tuco Ragra, a Late Archaic (5000–3000 years BP) site with evidence of early social aggregation with around 150 habitational structures, megalithic constructions, corrals, and high density of cutting and scraping stone tools. Through this research, he is looking to understand the social, cultural, and ecological mechanisms that allowed the formation of early villages during the transition from hunting and gathering to sedentism.

Graduate student **Matthew Brown** completed a second season of excavations at the Late Formative (600 BCE–200 CE) site of Muyumoqo in Cusco, Peru. With a team of local men and women, students from the local university of UNSAAC, and undergraduates from Millsaps College and University of Michigan (**Leah Larsen**), Matthew was able to excavate 540 m<sup>2</sup>. Matthew encountered several residences, an outdoor cooking area, a substantial amount of obsidian, and 29 burials. Using a pXRF, he was able to source a small fraction of his sample to better understand Muyumoqo's engagement with interregional trade networks. In addition, several complete vessels were recovered, including a small cup that could indicate the consumption of corn beer or *chicha*. Matthew looks forward to completing his labwork and then writing up the results.

Curator **Joyce Marcus** is publishing with UMMAA Press the third volume on her excavations at Cerro Azul,



Matthew Brown at the Late Formative site of Muyumoqo, Peru, giving a tour to a class on Early Horizon archaeology from the local university. He holds a cup found at the site.

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Peru. This volume reports on the salvage excavations she directed after discovering scattered human remains on the surface of the site. These remains—from a partially looted cemetery dating to AD 1000–1470—consist of men, women, and children buried in multiperson cists, one of which included 18 individuals. Some of the women were associated with belt looms, woolen bags, workbaskets filled with cotton and wool yarn balls, needles in needlecases, barcoded spindles, and decorated spindle whorls. Some of the men were buried with fishing nets, slings, bolas, metal tweezers, and breechclouts. Some of the children were associated with miniature vessels, gourd bowls with food, and bracelets and necklaces consisting of seeds strung on cords. The two previous volumes on Cerro Azul reported on the architecture, pottery, and coastal ecosystems. Marcus continues to serve as editor of the *Biographical Memoirs of the National Academy of Sciences* and on the editorial board of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*. One other activity in which she is engaged is supplying background materials (ethnohistoric and archaeological) for the new museum located at the archaeological site of Cerro Azul, which the Peruvian government has recently declared a national historic monument.

### United States

UMMAA curator **John O’Shea** spent the bulk of the field season working on and below Lake Huron. Dr. Morgan Smith of the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga joined the research team of Brendan Nash (PhD candidate at UMMAA) and U-M alumna Dr. Ashley Lemke (University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee) to test the ability of the sub-bottom profiler to identify buried deposits and lithic scatters on the lake bottom. The technology produced promising results, which were ground-truthed via SCUBA later in the season.

The summer also saw students and teachers from Alpena High School testing their predictions for the existence of underwater sites in real time on Lake Huron. The students in the Science in the Sanctuary class at Alpena High spent the winter semester exploring the simulated ancient environment on the Alpena-Amberley Ridge using the immersive virtual reality system, Deep Dive, which has been developed in collaboration with Dr. Robert Reynolds and his computer science students at Wayne State University.

Through the generosity of Jeff Gray, superintendent of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the students and their teachers were able to travel to central Lake Huron and examine their top selected locations via a remote operated vehicle. This is the second year of the collaboration with Alpena High School. In the coming years Reynolds and



UMMAA curator John O’Shea (left) and Dr. Morgan Smith (U of Tennessee-Chattanooga) lift the deployed sub-bottom profiler to the deck of the *S/V Blue Traveler*.

his team plan to expand the Deep Dive system to allow the students in Alpena to collaborate in real time with students in the Native village of Kotzebue, Alaska, to explore the cultural use of the ancient submerged landscape.

In January 2023, **Elsbeth Geiger** defended her dissertation: *Power and Provisions in Anishinaabewaki: Re-Contextualizing Human-Environment Interactions During the Great Lakes Fur Trade*. This research focused on the early French period (AD 1650–1760) in northern Michigan. She examined the role Anishinaabe human-environmental interactions played in avoiding coercion, provisions for travel, and maintaining territorial claims.

In December, Elspeth will join the Field Museum of Natural History as a curator path research scientist in anthropology with a joint appointment in the Department of Anthropology at Northwestern University.

Graduate student **Laura Bossio** spent much of her spring and summer in Ohio, where she conducted geophysical survey with OVAI, Inc. at a Late Precontact site in Perrysburg. Geophysical anomalies were cored and cultural features were verified. This work is essential for her dissertation. Laura also worked with the Fort Meigs Historic site, funded by the Student-Identified Rackham

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Clockwise from above: Deep Dive team at Alpena High School in Michigan (left to right): Dr. Robert Reynolds (UMMAA visiting researcher), Chencheng Zhang (PhD candidate, WSU), Dr. Ashley Lemke (U Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Eric Schlueter (APHS course instructor), UMMAA curator John O'Shea, Dr. Cailen O'Shea (educational technology, NDSU); Laura Bossio organized a public outreach day for youth, Digging into the Past, at the Fort Meigs Historic site in Perrysburg, Ohio; Kimi Swisher pulls macrobotanical samples for analysis at University of Georgia's Laboratory of Archaeology.

Doctoral Intern Fellowship. Working with staff members on archaeological outreach and engagement, Bossio organized a public outreach day for local youth titled “Digging into the Past,” which also featured archaeology graduate student volunteers. By collaborating with Fort Meigs, Bossio is hoping to increase the visibility of the archaeological past throughout the Maumee River Valley.

**Martin Menz** defended his dissertation in April. His dissertation—Re-Assessing “Village Life” at Hunter-Gatherer Ceremonial Centers: Occupation at Letchworth Mounds (8JE337)—investigated mobility and settlement of hunter-gatherer populations in northwestern Florida during the Woodland period (ca. AD 300–800). His research found that the transition to sedentary life in villages was uneven across the region, with some groups choosing to maintain more dispersed settlement patterns and greater mobility. Martin is looking forward to the release of his co-edited book from the University of Alabama Press, titled *The Archaeology of Arcuate Communities: Spatial Patterning and Settlement in the Eastern Woodlands*. Martin has started his new position as a senior archaeologist with Stantec in Chicago, Illinois.

Graduate student **Kimi Swisher** received an NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant for specialized analyses for her dissertation, entitled Migration, Mississippianization, and Community Practice in the Lower Chattahoochee River Valley, Georgia: The Averett Culture. She is using the NSF funding for the macrobotanical





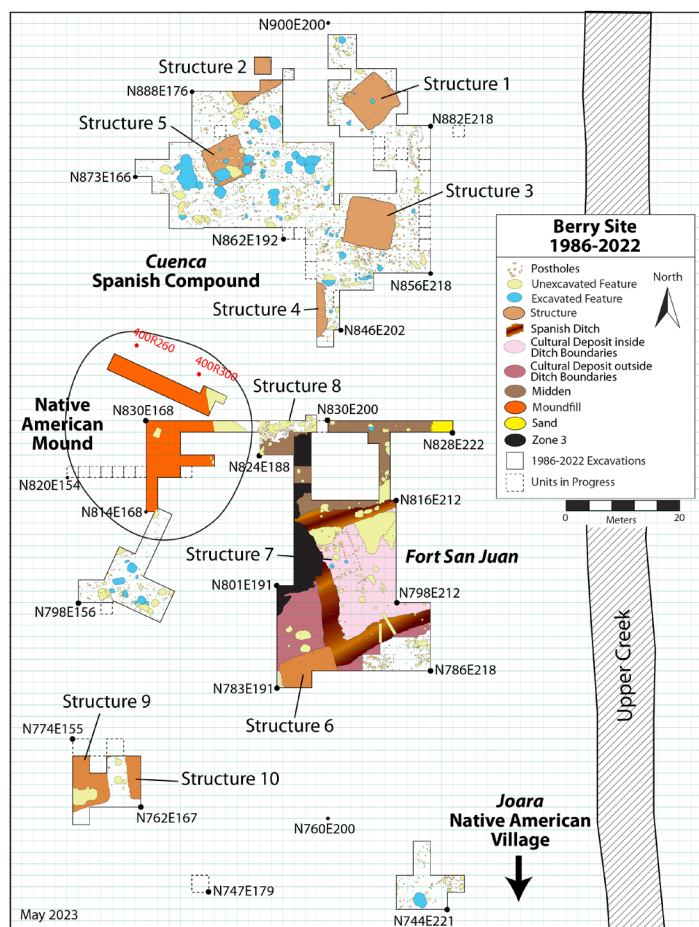
## News from the Field 2023

analysis (being conducted by Dr. Elizabeth Horton) and for AMS radiocarbon dating (University of Georgia's Center for Applied Isotope Studies, CAIS). These analyses will contribute to reconstructing subsistence practices and habitation chronology for the archaeological sites she has been investigating in the Lower Chattahoochee River Valley in Georgia.

Swisher spent part of her summer at the University of Georgia's Laboratory of Archaeology pulling macrobotanical samples for this research from existing site collections and visiting colleagues and archaeological sites in the Lower Chattahoochee River Valley. She also spent a week at Indiana University, where she was accepted to the Intensive NAGPRA Summer Training and Education Program (INSTEP). This was a pilot training program to help those attending learn best practices related to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Swisher is currently continuing her dissertation research and writing and is looking forward to sharing the results of the analyses.

During the summer, graduate student **Hannah Hoover** conducted a third and final field season for her dissertation at an early 18th-century Yamasee capital town in the South Carolina Lowcountry. Over the course of nine weeks, Hannah and a rotating crew of 15 student volunteers excavated in six areas (across the 45-ha site) to identify and sample domestic contexts. Three structures were identified, including two households that likely constituted a residential unit with nearby activity areas. Portions of Hannah's fieldwork were funded by the Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant and UMMAA's James Bennett Griffin Endowment Fellowship. Two awesome U-M undergraduate students accompanied her, as well as the Museum graphic artist's son, Harrison Worden.

Curator **Rob Beck**'s work at the Berry site in North Carolina continued in summer 2023 with excavations in another large building, Structure 9, which has a fired clay floor and a large prepared hearth. The building likely dates to the late 16th century and may be a Native American structure from the town of Joara, where Spanish Captain Juan Pardo built Fort San Juan in 1566.



Above right: Hannah Hoover led excavations at a Yamasee capital town in the South Carolina Lowcountry; here, student volunteers excavate along the marsh's edge.

Right: This map of the Berry site in North Carolina shows all the structures, including Structure 9, where UMMAA curator Rob Beck focused his excavations in 2023.

## Europe

### Albania

Graduate student **Zhaneta Gjyshja** spent the summer in Albania and Kosova doing fieldwork and lab analyses. In June, she participated in the Explo-Lin 3 project in Albania, where they excavated a pile-dwelling site, one of Europe's oldest. She spent the rest of the summer in Kosova, where she worked on the final stage of her pilot project. She worked at the Neolithic site of Lluga, where they did a geophysical survey and a complete site collection using a grid of 5 x 5 m squares. This work involved students from the University of Prishtina. Her aim was to identify structures and artifact densities. With the help of fellow graduate student Jhon Cruz, Zhaneta analyzed 1,970 pieces of chipped stone recovered at Lluga. Together they created the chipped stone databases, which Zhaneta will use to identify areas indicative of stone tool specialization on two levels: production and consumption areas.

In addition, in Kosova, Zhaneta was invited to talk to high school students about household archaeology. With colleagues from Kosova, she organized a symposium in August on the archaeology of Kosova and invited young archaeologists who work in Kosova to present their work.

### Hungary

During the spring and summer, graduate student **Györgyi Parditka** analyzed her dissertation data. During August, she visited the collections of the Munkácsy Mihály Museum at Békéscsaba and the Erkel Ferenc Museum at Gyula, Hungary, to collect samples for absolute dating to fill in gaps in her previously collected data. She presented some of the results at multiple conferences, including the annual meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists in Belfast at the end of the summer. She also published an article in the *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* with UMMAA alumnus Paul R. Duffy on a comparative framework for analyzing mortuary programs with varying body treatments.

### Italy

This summer curator **Giulia Saltini Semerari** went to Basilicata (southern Italy) to continue with the dig at the Indigenous/Greek sanctuary of Incoronata. Her team connected the northern and southern trenches, finally removing the latest layers to expose a large underground structure, whose function is not clear.

Following the dig at Incoronata, Giulia coordinated a small team of bioarchaeologists (from the University of Tübingen and Copenhagen, and one graduate student from the University of Michigan, Ashton Rogers) to stay in



Above: Zhaneta Gjyshja talks to a high school class in Kosova.



Left: A figurine head recovered during site collection at the Neolithic site of Lluga in Kosova.

Taranto for a couple of weeks to do biodistance analyses of individuals dating to the early phase of the Greek colony and to take aDNA samples.

Together with collaborators from the University of Durres, Amsterdam, Salento, and Bari, she started a new project focused on two river valleys (the Mat in Albania and Canale Reale in Salento, southern Italy). The project is aimed at understanding long-term shifts in prehistoric connectivity in the Adriatic Sea. She had a three-day workshop with collaborators and stakeholders to start and then spent a week in Salento and two weeks in Albania doing reconnaissance in preparation for next year's systematic surveys.

### Kosova

With funding from the NSF, graduate student **Erina Baci** conducted excavations in Lubozhdë and Syriganë, two of the hillforts located in western Kosova. Erina will use the data she collects to test hypotheses about settlement, mobility, and connectivity in the region of Dukagjin during

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Above: The Canale Reale river valley in Salento, Italy, where UMMAA curator Giulia Saltini Semerari did reconnaissance work this year in advance of 2024 systematic surveys for a project on prehistoric connectivity in the Adriatic Sea.

Below: Erina Baci leads a GIS workshop in Prishtina, Kosova, in April 2023.

the Late Bronze–Early Iron Age. To complete the work, she is working with six undergraduate students from the University of Prishtina. Erina also spent a semester in Prishtina conducting artifact analysis with five student lab assistants from the University of Prishtina. While there, she gave a guest lecture on her research at the university and held a “GIS for archaeology” workshop for archaeology students.

Erina has also been working with two Undergraduate Research Opportunity (UROP) students at the University of Michigan, Leela Anderson and Joana Hila, to create a GIS database of all known archaeological sites in Kosova. Their poster won the Blue Ribbon Certificate for outstanding poster presentation during UROP’s annual research symposium. Erina was awarded an Outstanding Mentor award for her work with her students.

Erina co-authored a chapter on geospatial analyses in *Archaeological Investigations in a Northern Albanian Province: Results of the Projekti Arkeologjik i Shkodrës (PASH)*, edited by Galaty and Bejko (see page 34).

UMMAA director and curator of European archaeology **Michael Galaty** spent last year on sabbatical, living in the



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city of Prishtina, capital of Kosova. He was accompanied by his wife, Sylvia, who co-directed their research project from 2018 to 2021. The project, Regional Archaeology in the Peja and Istog Districts of Kosova (RAPID-K), is an intensive survey focused on the western portions of the country. He was also accompanied by his son, Danny, who attended the American School of Kosova. Danny played for his neighborhood soccer club, Flamurtari. While in Prishtina, Mike managed to lay the groundwork for publication of the RAPID-K survey.

In September he organized and co-chaired a session on Balkan prehistory at the annual meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) in Budapest, Hungary. Later that month, he hosted a study season in Prishtina, which brought in specialists from across Europe to analyze RAPID's pottery and chipped stone. The resulting report is on the publication schedule for the Museum press. Chapters are being written by graduate students Erina Baci and Zhaneta Gjyshja.

In November, Mike spoke at an international conference on Balkan archaeology hosted by colleagues in Prishtina.

In April, he was a guest speaker at the Austrian Institute of Archaeology in Vienna. The year culminated in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Michigan and the Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sport of Kosova, outlining an additional four years of archaeological fieldwork in the country, this time focused on excavation. All in all, Mike had a very productive sabbatical, but he is also excited to be back home in Ann Arbor, directing UMMAA.

### Serbia

Graduate student **Iride Tomazič** spent her summer finishing the field portion of her dissertation. In May she excavated at the archaeological site of Crna Bara Prkoš. There, with the help of her Serbian collaborators and fellow U-M graduate student **Drosos Kardulias**, she excavated two test pits, cleared the profile, did LIDAR of the site, and collected samples for her dissertation. After the successful field season at Crna Bara Prkoš, she joined the ongoing excavations at Rabe Anka Siget in June.



Graduate candidate Iride Tomazič excavating at the site of Rabe Anka Siget in Serbia.

### Israel

In summer 2023, graduate student **Kara Larson** was principal investigator for an excavation project at Tell el-Hesi, Israel. She took a team of undergraduate students, graduate students, and professors from the University of Michigan, Mississippi State University, University of Manitoba, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Bar-Ilan University to run a three-week preliminary excavation to locate Early Bronze Age domestic structures. The field season was highly successful, locating two Early Bronze Age houses and a shared courtyard.

For an additional five weeks, Larson worked as a staff member and square supervisor for the Iron Age site of Khirbet Summeily in Israel. She brought several University of Michigan undergraduate students onto this project as well. The undergraduates who worked with Larson are Natalie Dziuban, Lily Heald, Anna Luurtsema, Elizabeth Meyer, Adam Perlstein, India Pruette, Paul Spens, Danielle Tutak, and Mya Welch.

Larson published a sole-authored paper on isotopes and secondary state formation in the Iron Age in southern Israel and continued analyzing isotopic results of recently sampled faunal remains from Tell el-Hesi.



Above: Sunrise at Tell el-Hesi, Israel. Photo by Kara Larson.

Left: Kara Larson at the Iron Age site of Khirbet Summeily in Israel.

## News about UMMAA Collections



Artists, culture bearers, and members of the ReConnect/ReCollect group in May 2023, following an open house. Left to right: Deirdre de la Cruz (U-M associate professor of Southeast Asian Studies and History and ReConnect co-PI); Justine Amores (Baguio-based illustrator); Ricky Punzalan (director of the U-M Museum Studies Program and associate professor, School of Information, and ReConnect co-PI); Ammin Achaur (tattoo arts, Kalinga); Johnny Bangao, Jr. (basket weaver, Bontoc); Analyn "Ikin" Salvador-Amores (professor of anthropology at the University of the Philippines Baguio); and Cathy Ekid Domigyay (textile weaver, Bontoc).

Over the past year and a half, UMMAA collections managers Andrea Blaser and Jim Moss have seen the benefits of working with Indigenous artists and culture bearers. Artists tend to approach cultural and historic subjects in different ways than academic researchers typically do, and their works offer a different type of insight into the collections. Artistic events tend to be more publicly focused, and they wrestle with process and emotion in ways that academic engagements often do not.

In May 2022, as part of ReConnect/ReCollect: Reparative Connections to Philippine Collections at the University of Michigan, three Filipino/x-American artists (Francis Estrada, Janna Añonuevo Langholz, and Maia Cruz Palileo) were invited to campus to spend two weeks exploring collections related to the Philippines in repositories throughout campus, including UMMAA. The artists were not asked to produce art but to engage with the collections and share their reactions and reflections at the end of the residency. (See the video of this presentation at: <https://youtu.be/zp4ju2OhQx0?si=9pE9LYuaPe-LEKQh>).

Inspired by the residency, Maia Cruz Palileo created a series of paintings, drawings, and sculptures for an installation in Chicago in 2023 that included a *banig* (woven mat) from the Philippines on loan from UMMAA.

Francis Estrada returned to Ann Arbor in April 2023, and brought with him Tuhon Rommel Tortal, an instructor in Pekiti-Tirsia Kali (PTK), a fighting art indigenous to the Visayan region of the Philippines. Together, they spent time examining the Philippine bladed weapons collection at UMMAA and gave a public demonstration of their martial arts, incorporating UMMAA collections.

The final ReConnect/ReCollect Artist Residency happened in May 2023. Five Filipino artists, scholars, and culture bearers were invited to spend two weeks engaging with the Philippine collections in UMMAA and the Bentley Library: Cathy Ekid Domigyay (textile weaver, Bontoc), Johnny Bangao, Jr. (basket weaver, Bontoc), and Ammin Achaur (tattoo arts, Kalinga), accompanied by Baguio-based illustrator Justine Amores and cultural anthropologist Dr. Analyn Salvador-Amores (University of the Philippines Baguio).

### Ongoing exhibits

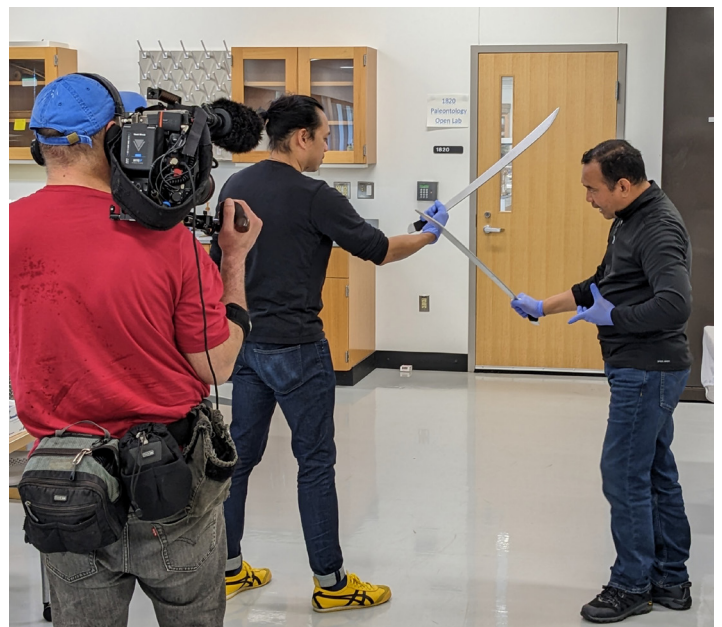
As part of ongoing Indigenous art initiatives at the U-M Museum of Art, UMMAA was asked to support research that artist Andrea Carlson (Grand Portage Ojibwe) was conducting on the history of displaced Indigenous peoples from the Burt Lake area of Michigan. Several of the objects

## News about UMMAA Collections



in the UMMAA collections, specifically from the Burt Lake area, directly inspired artworks created for her commission, and these objects are now on display in the exhibit *Future Cache* at the art museum. *Future Cache* is on display at UMMA until summer 2024.

The STAMPS Gallery asked UMMAA to contribute materials to a traveling exhibition, *The Blessings of the Mystery*, to connect the artists' themes (environmental justice, Indigenous food sovereignty, and the impact of colonial boundaries and resource extraction) to Michigan and local Indigenous groups. The collections managers worked with the STAMPS staff to select local ethnobotanical examples—such as wild rice, maple sugar, and corn varieties—that speak to our area's biodiversity and cultivation by Odawa, Ojibwe, Boodewadomi and Wyandot communities. *The Blessings of the Mystery* will be in the STAMPS Gallery through December 9, 2023.



Top: Maia Cruz Palileo: *Days Later, Down River*, 2023. Installation view at Monique Meloche Gallery. Image courtesy of the artist and Monique Meloche Gallery. Photo by Robert Chase Heishman.

Above right: Francis Estrada (yellow shoes) and Tuhon Rommel Tortal demonstrate the Philippine fighting art of Pekiti-Tirsia Kali (PTK) with practice weapons. Later they gave a public demonstration using Philippine weapons in the UMMAA collections.

## News about UMMAA Collections



Above: Installation view of Andrea Carlson's exhibition *Future Cache* at UMMA. Photo by Jeri Hollister and Patrick Young, Michigan Imaging. Courtesy of the University of Michigan Museum of Art.

Below: Artist Jason Reblando with a Philippine flag in the UMMAA collections. Photo by Jim Moss.

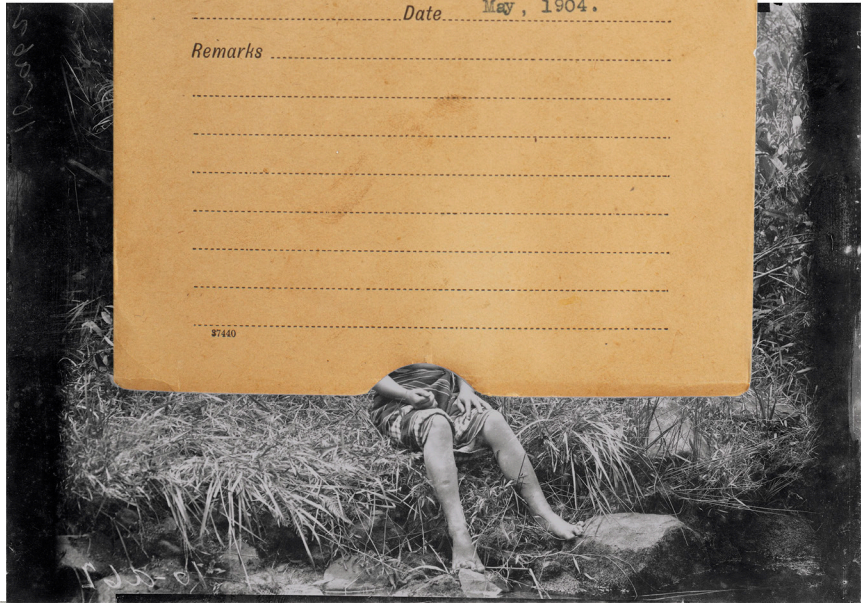
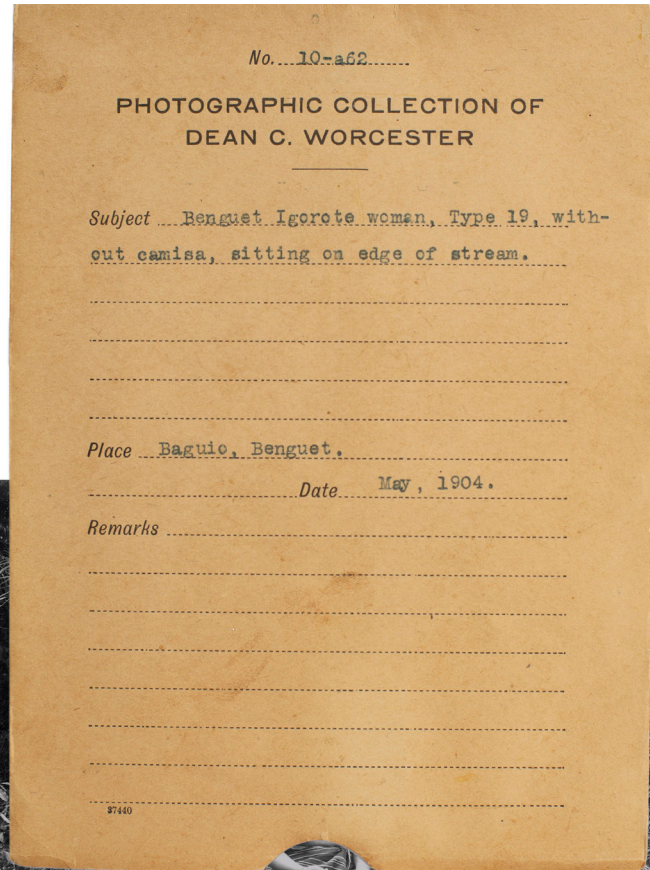




# News about UMMAA Collections

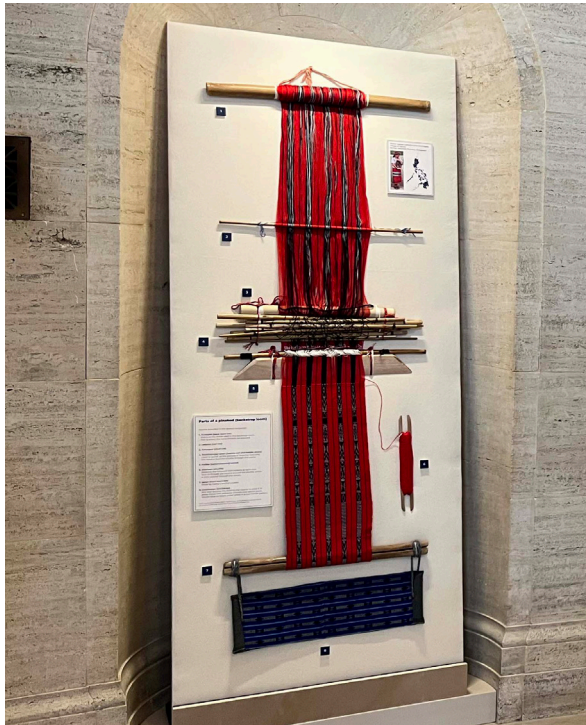
## Exhibition links

- Maia Cruz Palileo, *Days Later, Down River*, Monique Meloche Gallery, Chicago, IL. April 1–May 26, 2023. [https://www.moniquemeloche.com/exhibitions/211-maia-cruz-palileo-days-later-down-river/press\\_release\\_text/](https://www.moniquemeloche.com/exhibitions/211-maia-cruz-palileo-days-later-down-river/press_release_text/)
- Andrea Carlson, *Future Cache*, University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, MI. June 2022–June 2024. <https://umma.umich.edu/exhibitions/2022/andrea-carlson-future-cache>
- Carolina Caycedo & David de Rozas, *The Blessings of the Mystery*, Stamps Gallery, Ann Arbor, MI. Sept 28–Dec 9, 2023. <https://stamps.umich.edu/events/the-blessings-of-the-mystery>
- Jason Reblando, *Field Notes*, The Griffin Museum of Photography, Winchester, MA. April 20–May 28, 2023. [https://griffinmuseum.org/show/jr\\_fieldnotes/](https://griffinmuseum.org/show/jr_fieldnotes/)
- Cathy Ekid Domigyay, Philippine pinahod (backstrap loom), on display at the Ruthven Rotunda, through December 2023. <https://lsa.umich.edu/ummaa/news-events/all-news/search-news/loom-on-display-at-ruthven.html>
- See also an American Masters documentary (2020) on Maia Cruz Palileo, which includes UMMAA collections: <https://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/maia-cruz-palileo-becoming-the-moon/15825/>



Above: Jason Reblando, "Without Camisa," photocollage, 2022, from the series *Field Notes*. Inspired by the ReConnect/ReCollect artist residencies, artist and photographer Jason Reblando visited UMMAA to research the Dean Worcester Photograph Collection. He created a series of photographic art called *Field Notes*, which was displayed at The Griffin Museum of Photography, Winchester, Massachusetts.

Left: A Philippine pinahod (backstrap loom) by Cathy Ekid Domigyay. On display in the rotunda of the Ruthven building on U-M's central campus in Ann Arbor through December 2023.



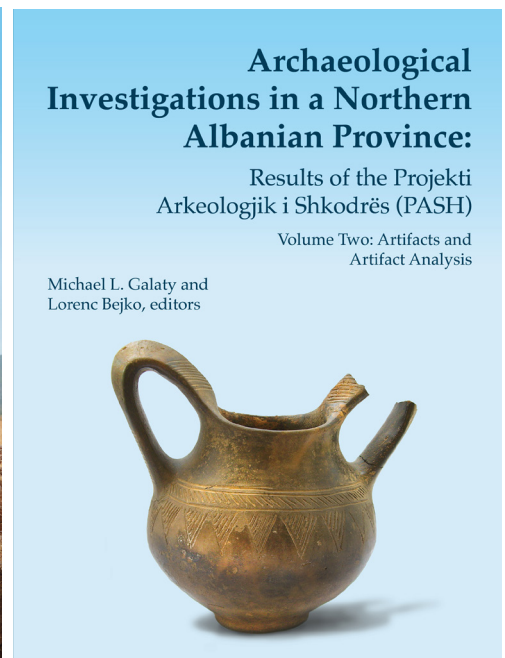
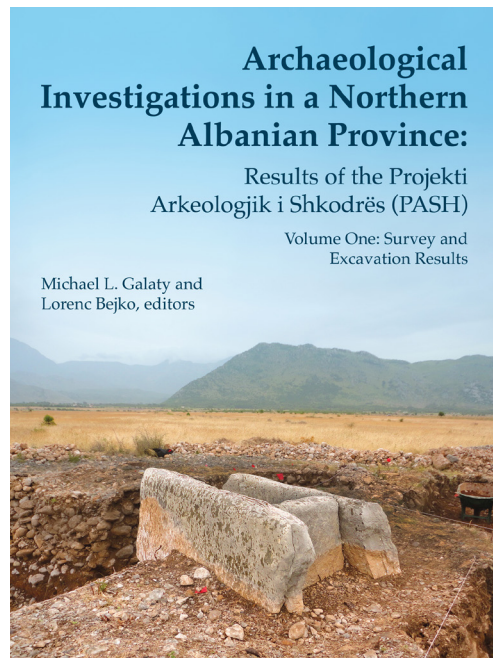
## Artists' websites

- Maia Cruz Palileo: <https://www.maiaacruzpalileo.com/>
- Andrea Carlson: <https://www.mikinaak.com/>
- Jason Reblando: <https://www.jasonreblando.com/>
- Ammin Achaur: <https://www.facebook.com/amminachaur/>
- Francis Estrada: <https://www.francisestrada.com/>

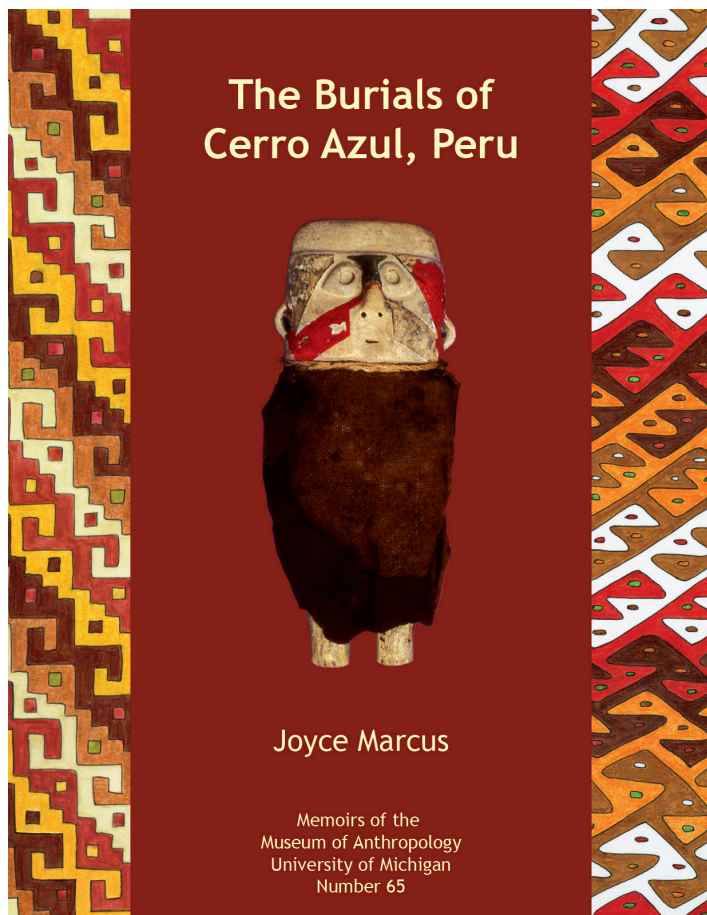
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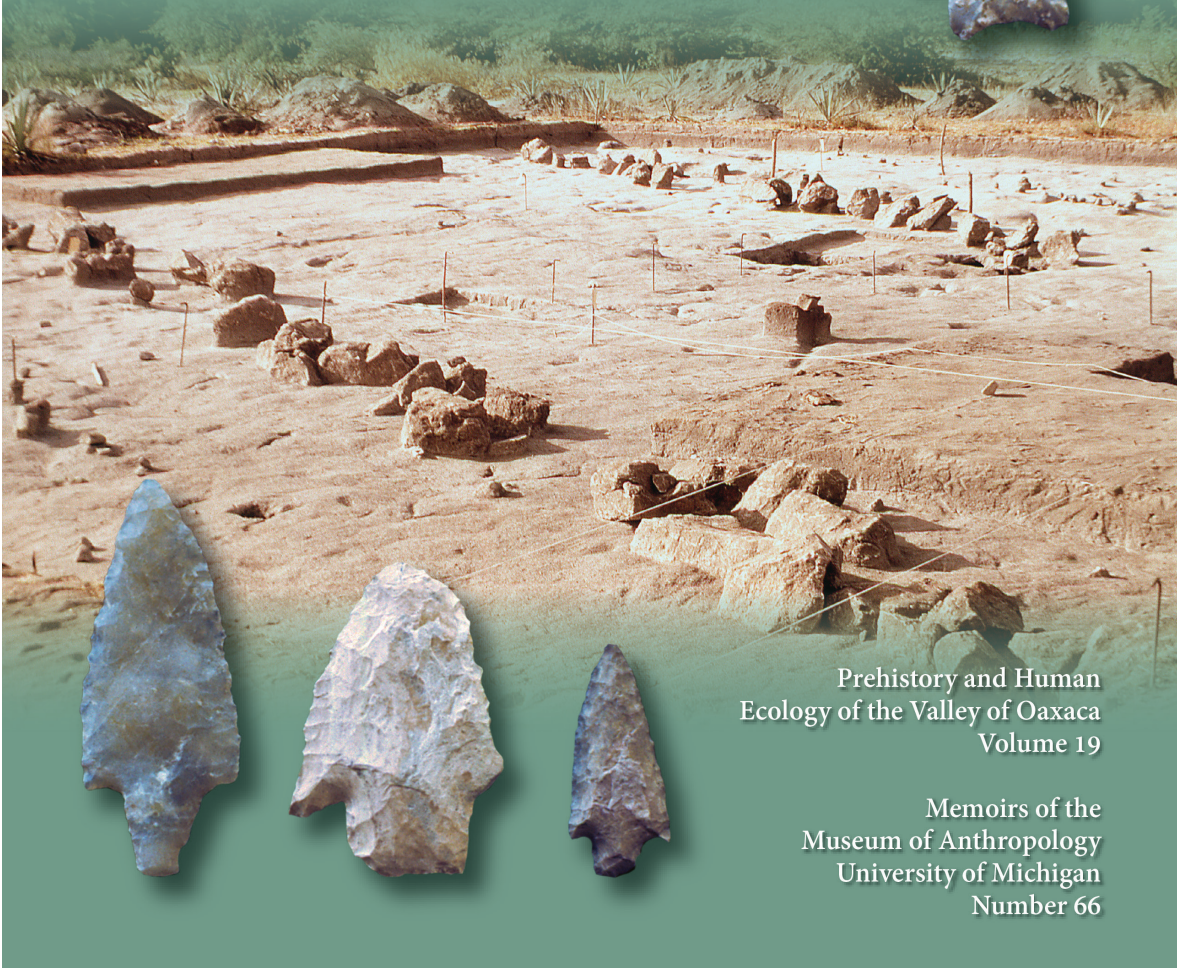
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A mosaic of Structure 9 at the Berry site in North Carolina, showing excavation units. Image courtesy of Rob Beck.