



## Notes from the Field: The 2008 Campaign at Pecica Șanțul Mare, Romania



On a balmy morning in early August, two dozen American and Romanian archaeologists efficiently backfilled the large excavation block at Pecica Șanțul Mare. As we hurled shovelfuls of earth over the ancient living floors, two realizations hit us: (1) we had moved *a lot* of dirt during the eight-week season; and (2) as a result, we had collected a significant amount of data, which would improve the archaeological understanding of this important site.

Pecica Șanțul Mare is a large Bronze Age tell in the Carpathian Basin of western Romania, which has been excavated by the Museum of Anthropology's Dr. John O'Shea, Dr. Alex Barker, and a collaborative team of American and Romanian archaeologists for several seasons. Their work seeks to clarify the rise of trade and metallurgy in Bronze Age Eastern Europe, and the effects of those developments on social organization and

evolution on local and regional scales. Such research goals will certainly be furthered by information generated from the ceramic, faunal, geologic, lithic, and metal material collected, and the structures and features excavated, during this most recent season.

In addition to pursuing this research agenda, the 2008 campaign also offered an invaluable learning experience for three graduate students, fresh from their first year at the University of Michigan, who had never excavated in Eastern Europe. We benefited greatly from the analytic expertise of several colleagues. Dr. Sarah Sherwood, geoarchaeologist at Sewanee: The University of the South, demonstrated myriad techniques for exploring the soils and stratigraphy of Pecica, encouraging us to approach the site's matrix as an artifact, since "the dirt don't lie." The flotation work led by the Museum's paleobotanist Laura Motta will likely yield valuable insight regarding

## Letter from the Director

University Museums inhabit peculiar places in the academic landscape, and research museums like ours, an especially peculiar place. We are an educational unit that does not offer formal courses; we have collections of more than three million objects and no exhibit space; and we are, as this newsletter shows, most certainly a center of research and knowledge production in our laboratories and field projects. Through all of these, the Museum of Anthropology plays an important role in the life of the University. Recently, that role has been acknowledged through our invitation to join the University's Public Goods Council, a collaboration of University museums, libraries, and other cultural organizations that work together to "enrich the University's teaching and research environment" and "promote the value and use of collections, performance, and concepts of the public good." As part of the Council, we will be hosting a museum open house on November 14 and 15 to celebrate the finale of the University's latest development campaign. I hope that you can join us, and if not, I hope that this newsletter will provide some information on the many things that our curators, staff, and students have accomplished over the last year.

We have our own thanks to extend as part of the campaign finale—to all of you who have supported and continue to support the Museum's activities, and especially the research of our undergraduate and graduate students. On pages 10 and 11 we acknowledge the generous gifts of Wes Cowan and John and Linda Halsey, as well as all of you who have so generously supported the Museum over the last year.

Thanks as always, and as always, I look forward to seeing you in Ann Arbor, at a professional meeting, or at my field site in rural South India.

Carla M. Sinopoli  
October 20, 2008



## Staff Spotlight



Combine sophisticated artistic talent, an eye for detail, a lot of patience, and plenty of good humor, and you have **Kay Clahassey**, our Museum illustrator. Kay applies her many talents to a wide range of projects. Besides designing the covers of all Museum of Anthropology monographs, she also develops most of the illustrations for our curators' publications. She designs eye-catching speaker series posters, and creatively meets any special marketing, publicity, and advertising requirements. Needless to say, her hand is evident in this very newsletter! While Kay mostly works on whatever artwork our curators require, she is also the department photographer—documenting collections as they come in, taking official portraits, and providing authors and researchers with photographs for study and publication.

Over the years, Kay has had to mesh her artwork with new technologies. The digital age has displaced film and darkroom, vellum paper and pen and ink—as it's ushered in file-sharing and podcasts. Sending images worldwide for nearly instant review and use has made the illustrator's job faster, as has the computer's enabling quick editing and standardization. Still, the intrinsic quality of a work that makes it *art* depends on an artist's virtuosity, and for that, we depend on Kay.

## Curators



Curator **C. Loring Brace** celebrated with his PhD students at his April 2008 retirement party.



Curator **Henry T. Wright** was awarded the **Gold Medal Award for Distinguished Archaeological Achievement** by the Archaeological Institute of America. The award recognizes Henry's "distinguished contributions to archaeology through his fieldwork, publications, and/or teaching." Henry will accept his award at the annual AIA meetings in Philadelphia in January 2009, where he will be honored by a Gold Medal Symposium: "Archaeological Approaches to the Study of Early States. Papers in Honor of Henry T. Wright," co-organized by Sharon Herbert (UM Kelsey Museum) and Carla M. Sinopoli. Presenters include UM alumni Geoff Emberling, Zoe Crossland, and Jen Gates-Foster, in addition to Rita Wright (NYU), Nicola Terrenato (UM, Classical Studies), and Joshua Wright (Stanford).

## Curator Notes and News

In the Zooarchaeological Laboratory, **Kent Flannery** is busy analyzing an important faunal collection from the period before, during, and after the creation of Mesoamerica's first state. This collection includes refuse from Mesoamerica's first known palace.

**Joyce Marcus** was made a member of the American Philosophical Society this year, and now holds the "triple crown" with her memberships in the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She was awarded the Cotsen Book Prize, awarded for *Excavations at Cerro Azul, Peru: The Architecture and Pottery* (Monograph 62, Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Monographs, UCLA). In addition, Joyce has been working hard on the archaeological and photographic collections of the Museum's Latin American Division—expanding and connecting the new collections to published materials and photos of objects that so much of our own collections speak to. She is working with GSRA **Howard Tsai** and several UROP (Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program) students on a range of activities—including library research, updating catalog descriptions, relabeling drawers, and digitizing photographs.

**John O'Shea** is enjoying a well-deserved sabbatical this year and is working hard on three field projects—the Pecica Șanțul Mare excavations focused on the Romanian Bronze Age (co-directed with Dr. Alex Barker; see page 1), and his two underwater projects in Lake Huron (see page 9).

**Richard Redding** was appointed the Director of Research of the Ancient Egypt Research Associates.

**Carla Sinopoli** continues research on Late Prehistoric India and on Southeast Asian trade ceramics. Her book *Ancient India in the Wider World* (co-edited with Grant Parker, Center for South Asian Studies, Ann Arbor) came out in 2008. Carla received a grant from the Rubin Foundation to document the Koelz Collection of material culture.

**John Speth** and doctoral student **Khori Newlander** are using ultraviolet fluorescence to identify projectile points at Bloom and Henderson pueblos that they believe were made by the villagers, using chert from several sources in Texas, while on the plains hunting. The abundance of points made on different types of "non-local" chert provides clues to where in the Southern Plains the Roswell villagers did most of their bison hunting. John plans to return to Roswell this summer with the UMMA archaeological field school to continue to explore an early stage in the development of plains-pueblo interaction, and the cost that the Roswell villagers paid for their participation after relations with communities of the Southern Plains deteriorated. John is completing a book manuscript on the role of big-game hunting in human evolution, which looks at hunting and meat-eating from many different perspectives. It surveys the energetic and opportunity costs to foragers of hunting large mam-

mals; the return rates that foragers get from their hunting large versus small game; the extent to which meat is the "high-quality" food that paleoanthropologists so often assume it to be; the importance of animal protein and the need for a dietary source of DHA (docosahexaenoic acid) in the evolution of our uniquely large brains; and the social, political, and reproductive benefits that accrue to men from their hunting activities. The somewhat counterintuitive conclusion of the book is that large-game hunting very likely has more to do with social and political forces than with nutrition. Nutritionally, foragers would generally do better pursuing resources other than large game.

**Bob Whallon** returned to Montenegro this summer with doctoral student **Andy White** to continue excavations at the Paleolithic site of Crvena Stijena, which contains one of the deepest stratified Middle Paleolithic sequences in Europe. Bob's edited book *Late Paleolithic Environments and Cultural Relations around the Adriatic* (International Union for Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences, Proceedings of the XV World Congress [Lisbon, 4-9 September 2006], Volume 4) was published by the BAR International Series (No. 1716) in 2007.

Over the last year, **Henry Wright** has conducted fieldwork in Syria, Madagascar, China, and Michigan. After a few false starts with the printers, Henry's monograph on his Madagascar research finally came out in winter 2008 (see page 9).

## UMMA Archaeological Field Schools

The Museum sponsored three archaeological field schools in the summer of 2008, involving undergraduate and graduate students in field projects in Arizona, Michigan, and Senegal.



### ~ MICHIGAN ~

2008 marked the third UMMA field school at the University of Michigan Biological Station (UMBS) on Douglas Lake in Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula. We gratefully acknowledge the staff of the Biological Station for support and collaboration in this work. UMBS celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this summer and our seasons of archaeology have revealed that this lakeside location drew people together for many centuries before this one.

The Michigan fieldschool was directed by Museum Research Scientist **Dr. Meghan Howey** (UM PhD, 2007; currently Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of New Hampshire) assisted by doctoral candidate **Allison Davis** and UM alumna **Bethany Dykstra**. Ten students enrolled in the field school: UM students **Bailey Benson**, **Alice Culin-Ellison**, **Caely Hambro**, **Katherine Heflick**, **Noah Levinson**, **Avie Linden**, **Sarah Oas**, **Hye-Jin Park**, and **Megan Victor**, and Northern Michigan University student Laura Coon.

The weather in northern Michigan in the late spring is unpredictable to say the least. This year it was cold and wet (with occasional chance of snow), yet the crew soldiered on, working long days, wearing lots of warm clothing and doing some dancing to keep spirits high. This season we continued to focus on two sites (20CN61 and 20CN63) located in our 2005 test season, both situated on the low terrace of Grapevine Point beneath a cluster of over 25 cache pits identified on the high terrace.

Excavations at 20CN61, an early Late Woodland occupation, produced no evidence of long-term habitation. We uncovered no major features and very little Fire Cracked Rock

(FCR) and sparse calcined bone. The lithics are overwhelmingly formal tools, all made on non-local cherts. The faunal remains, preserved remarkably well due to the wetness of the site, suggest this was a resource extraction site with primary processing of deer and spring-spawning fish, notably perch and pike. Bethany Dykstra will focus on materials from this site for her Master's thesis at FSU.

The second site on Grapevine Point's low terrace is quite different in both content and date. 20CN63 dates to the late Late Woodland/Late Prehistoric period, and has been the focus of excavation since 2006. In contrast to the early Late Woodland 20CN61 occupation, this site is substantially larger and denser, producing numerous cultural features and dense FCR, suggesting this was not a seasonal extraction site but the locus of long-term habitation. Four large burned posts in a tight square suggest the presence of a major central support for a large structure. This season we had great success in finding smaller posts showing the end of this oblong structure, which our preliminary analysis suggests was a multi-family multi-season dwelling. Finds inside the structure include a series of linearly arranged hearths with dense remains from cooking activities, a distinct ceramic production area, numerous pots broken in place, 8 copper tools, and a polished axe found in situ with a pile of fishing net weights. We continued to find distinct ritual deposits associated with the hearths. In 2007, we found an unusual deposit of cut and polished permineralized wood (the nearest source of which is located hundreds of miles away in northern Canada), which had been cut, polished and deposited with a pile of incisors from at least 3 beavers. This season, we found an offering of bear teeth and a bear paw in another hearth, as well as a possible wild cat jaw offering with yet another hearth. These deposits seem to be familial focused ritual offerings being used to affirm association with a important animal spirit/totems.

2008 continued the project's ongoing commitment to public outreach. We worked with the UMBS Camp Stewards, retiree volunteers, to conduct a shovel test survey of Biological Station land to identify additional archaeological sites. Engagement and collaboration with local Native American communities and organizations, including MACPRA, the Little Traverse Bay Bands, and Burt Lake Band of Odawa Indians, remains a vital component of the work.

~by Meghan Howey

### ~ ARIZONA ~

UMMA Research Scientist **Lisa Young** directed the third season of fieldwork at a pit-house village in northeastern Arizona as part of the Homol'ovi Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (HUROP), funded by the National Science Foundation's Research Experience for Undergraduates Program and UM. Three UM students (**Zach Bennett**, **Katherine Carlton**, **Valerie Grabski**) and ten additional undergraduates from across the country helped Lisa and two UMMA graduate students (**Matt Kroof** and **Uthara Suvrathan**) uncover five eighth-century A.D. pit-houses, a cluster of rooms dating to the late 1100s, and many pits for storing food and making plaster. Graduate student **Rachel Gruszka** oversaw the lab activities, working with students to process and wash the artifacts from the excavations. You can see an on-line journal of the excavations with weekly photos and commentary by students at [www.hurop.wordpress.com](http://www.hurop.wordpress.com). **Jennifer Beyer**, an intern from UM's Museum Studies Program, helped students produce this online journal and other public outreach projects that will enhance the visitor experience at the Homol'ovi Ruins State Park (<http://azstateparks.com/Parks/HORU/index.html>).



Zach Bennett helps Uthara Suvrathan draw a profile while Bate College student Aaron Bobik records a feature.

## Undergraduate Portraits

### Excavations in Belize ~ by Maia Dedrick

This summer was my second season excavating at the site of Medicine Trail in northwestern Belize. Medicine Trail, a small Maya agricultural village located 2 km from the large site of La Milpa, is the focus of the Programme for Belize Archaeological Project, directed by Professor Fred Valdez of the University of Texas at Austin. My research has focused on off-mound excavations of a small house lot from the Late Classic period that is associated with numerous agricultural and water-management features. I am interested in understanding the relationship between the household's residents and agricultural decisions and practices at the site.

Over the six weeks spent excavating, I received assistance from field school students and junior staff. My excavations exposed a platform wall that formed the foundations for the main house structure. I excavated test pits around and behind the different structures to identify possible midden locations and other evidence of activity areas. I was able to clarify household chronology as well as identify spaces available for outdoor activities. Besides finding many ceramics and lithics, I found a *mano*, indicating a residential function for this group.

My research expanded on prior work at Medicine Trail in several ways. I took soil samples from almost every stratigraphic layer, floated them in the field, and analyzed them. I also washed the ground stone and chert tools that I found in the field with a sonicator, and brought the resulting washes back to Ann Arbor to test for phytoliths.

Ultimately, I believe this research will lead to a better understanding of how social and agricultural organization represent changes at the end of the Classic period in this region that led to large-scale population losses by A.D. 800.



### In the Wilds of Northern Michigan ~ by Hye-Jin Park



Sarah Oas and Hye-Jin Park

My time at the UM Biological Station Archaeological Field School was one of the most memorable experiences of my college life. When I arrived at UMBS for the first time, I felt great about nature—huge needle-leaf trees encircle beautiful Douglas Lake. When it rained on the roof of my tin shack, I felt very close to the storm. On clear nights, I saw the sky full of thousands of stars twinkling.

Since this was the first field school for me, I was quite busy learning the basic skills of archaeology in the first week, but as time went by, I caught up fast. We each had our own 1 x 1 meter unit to dig. I also screened a lot of pottery, lithics, and fish bones. We started work at a 700-year-old site and then moved to one around 1000 years old. It was marvelous to think that people lived in this cold area so long ago.

Later, we also found deer bone, a cat's jaw, and bear teeth. We got very excited and found many more artifacts every day. Before I came to UMBS, I did not know about American Indian history in Michigan, but now I appreciate it much more, thanks to Professor Howey.

However, the experiences of archaeology were not like *Indiana Jones*. The film missed lots of steps in actual archaeological work. In a real archaeology project, we used tools such as trowels, shovels, and pliers. For cutting the wall after we dug, I used the skills that I learned in art school, which worked quite well in making a neat and clean line.

It rained for the entire last week of our season. As we backfilled, we were wet, muddy, and smelly, but filled with excitement and a sense of great achievement. Surely, the archaeological field school at UMBS will be one of my best memories of my time at the University of Michigan.

## Undergraduate Honors Students

**Claire Barker:** *Ceramics and Exchange Networks: Understanding Social Interactions at Pithouse and Pueblo Communities in the Prehistoric American Southwest* (Thesis advisor: Carla Sinopoli); Winner of a 2008 Virginia Voss award for writing excellence

**Nikole Bork:** *Understanding Changes in Sacred Space: The Architecture of the Panhellenic Sanctuary at Roman Isthmia* (Thesis Advisor: Lisa Nevett)

**Lara Ghisleni:** *Negotiations of Power and Shifting Ritual Landscapes at Stonehenge from the Later Neolithic to the Middle Bronze Age* (Thesis Advisor: Robert Whallon)

**Christopher Jackson:** *Toward a Further Understanding of Late Archaic Settlement in the Saginaw Valley of Michigan: Perspectives from a Special Activity Site* (Thesis Advisor: John O'Shea)

**Benjamin Shepard:** *Social Differentiation in Early Bronze Age Siberia* (Thesis Advisor: John O'Shea)

**Sarah Striker:** *Marking Juntunen Territory: Modeling Landmark Function in late Late Woodland Northeast Michigan* (Thesis Advisor: John O'Shea)

## Undergraduate Student Support

Undergraduate field experiences are made possible with financial support from the Museum's undergraduate research endowments. *Thanks to your generous donations, in 2008 we were able to provide funds to seven UM undergraduates.*

**Maia Dedrick** received support from the **Richard I. Ford Fund for Research on Humans and the Environment** for research on Maya households at the site of Medicine Trail in Belize. **Joseph Ramirez** used support from the **Richard I. Ford Undergraduate Research Fund** to work with Jason Sherman and Laura Villamil (both UM PhD, 2005), co-directors of the Margarita Maza de Juárez project in Mexico. **Christopher Jackson** received assistance from the **Homeopathic Hospital Guild Scholarship** to allow him to radiocarbon date materials from his work in the Saginaw Valley for his research on Archaic period seasonality and site function. **Hye-Jin Park** also received a **Homeopathic Hospital Guild Scholarship**, to participate in the UM Field School at the Biological Station on Douglas Lake. Three undergraduates received support to travel to Senegal to join the Sine Ngayene Archaeological Project. **Julie Chau** and **Dylan Imre** received awards from the **James B. Griffin Undergraduate Research Fund**; **Dylan Imre** and **Paridhi Agarwal** received support from the **Carl E. Guthe Endowment**.

If you would like to learn more about how to support undergraduate research, please visit <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/umma/support/> or contact Carla M. Sinopoli at [sinopoli@umich.edu](mailto:sinopoli@umich.edu)

# Snapshots from the field...



Research Scientist **Lisa Young** directed the third season of the HURUP project at Homdovji, Georgia (see page 2). She also directed the third season of the HURUP project at Homdovji, Arizona (see page 4).

Doctoral student **Khori Newlander** collected geological samples in eastern Nevada to facilitate the source provenance analysis of lithics from Terminal Pleistocene/Early Holocene sites and to discern the cultural processes at play in the movement of stone tools across the landscape.

With Dr. J. Franklin and students from East Tennessee State University, **Alice Wright** conducted test excavations at Sachsen Cave in the Upper Cumberland Plateau of Tennessee.



The crew of the University of Michigan Biological Station field school at Grapevine Point (see pages 4-5).



With the support of a Fulbright IIE fellowship (and a sturdy donkey cart), **Cameron Cooke** conducted preliminary dissertation research in the Falembe River valley of eastern Senegal. Data obtained from excavation probes at the Iron Age site of Dioubouye and surveys of the surrounding region will guide future research into the transition from mobile foraging to sedentary village lifeways in West Africa.



**Emily Holt**, with the support of a Fulbright, conducted work on Sidi Platedo near Villanovatoru, Sardinia. Sidi Platedo is the site of sixteen stone towers and a megalithic tomb from the Middle Bronze Age and has the potential to provide important information about the development of middle-range societies on Sardinia.



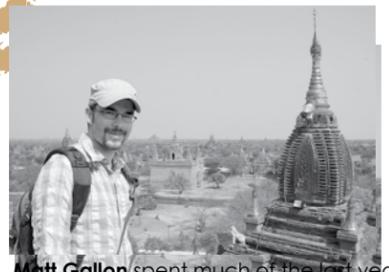
**John O'Shea** and students at the European Bronze Age settlement of Pecica Sautul Mare, Romania (see page 1).



In South Korea, **Rachel Lee** helped excavate a tomb at the site of Joksaem in Gyeongju, the ancient capital of an early state called Silla; they discovered the burial remains of an unknown elite. Rachel also worked at the site of Pyeongdeon, an early state of Baekje, excavating part of a village from the Neolithic period.



Doctoral student **Andrew White** and Curator **Robert Whallon** excavated at Crvena Stijena, a Paleolithic site in Montenegro. Crvena Stijena contains one of the deepest stratified Middle Paleolithic sequences in Europe.



**Matt Gallon** spent much of the last year in Thailand studying the Thai language, taking an archaeology course at Silpakorn University, and visiting early urban centers in Thailand, Cambodia, and Myanmar. This winter, he plans to begin survey and excavation of the first millennium CE fortified town of Kamphaeng Saen, Thailand.



**Ashley Lemke** participated in a NOAA-funded project to survey for archaeological and paleontological sites in the Gulf of Mexico. Drs. J.M. Adovasio (Mercyhurst College) and C.A. Hemming (University of Texas) headed the crew.



**Jeannette Bond**, with Dr. Richard Cooke of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama, conducted a preliminary geoarchaeological investigation in the Pearl Islands Archipelago that uncovered a pre-ceramic site useful for understanding the settlement of the islands.



**Veronique Belisle's** ongoing excavations at the eight-hectare Middle Archaic site of Akawili will explore the impact of Walker Line expansion on a local community in the Cusco Region of Peru.



With Kelsey Lutz and José Pelacios, a Peruvian archaeological technician, with funding by the International Institute for Cultural Heritage, **Alexi Smith** and the UM archaeological team are conducting archaeological sites in the middle section of the Inca Valley, a river valley in northern Peru. Locating and excavating the Inca Valley has been an invaluable first step in understanding the sequence of cultural developments in the area's prehistory.



**Richard Redding** teaching young Egyptian archaeologists faunal identification at a salvage project in Luxor, Egypt.



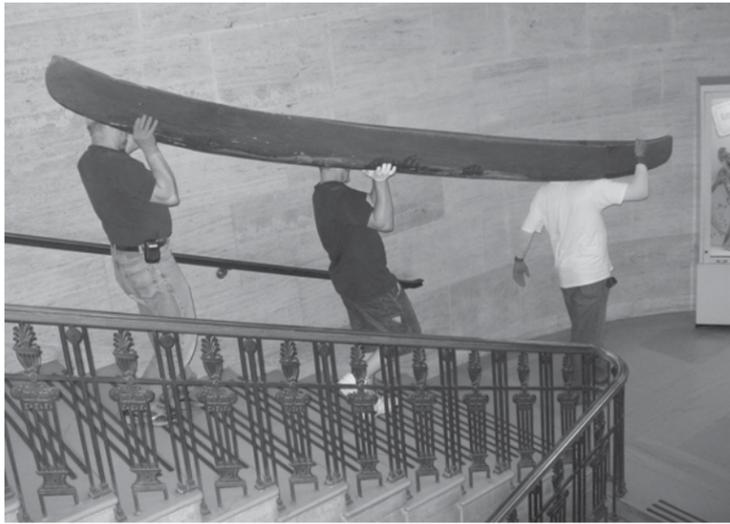
Doctoral student **Amanda Logan** joined Dr. Ann Stahl on the Banda Research Project in west central Ghana, which focused on an excavation of a site involved in the trans-Saharan trade. She also conducted research on early iron age subsistence and ethnoarchaeology in the Bassar region of Togo with Dr. Philip DeBarros.



**Liz Bridges** and **Uthara Suvrathan** having lunch in a banana grove in southern India. Liz is directing a regional survey of the historic Vijaynagara era urban centers of Keladi and Ikkeri, post-Vijaynagara era urban centers of Keladi and Ikkeri.

## Collections

This past summer, in anticipation of new exhibits and for the safety of the objects, the Museum of Anthropology removed four of its largest objects from the halls of the Exhibit Museum of Natural History. Three of the objects had been on display for nearly forty years.



Two dugout canoes from Michigan, a kayak (*right*) from the 1925 MacMillan Expedition in Greenland, and a wooden coffin from the Philippines were packed and crated by a three-man crew from Fine Arts Services and Transportation, Inc., out of Detroit. The job took several months of planning. Each object was first measured, and plans for crates were made. The kayak was the largest of the objects, measuring nearly 19 feet in length, with the crate being closer to 24 feet long to accommodate padding around the kayak.

The removal of the materials required that each object be carefully carried down the central staircase of the Museum and then readied for packing. With help from School of Information student **Derek Spinei**, the objects were vacuumed to remove the dust before packing. Each object was then wrapped in plastic sheeting and placed within the padded crate.

The crates needed to be customized because of the difficulty in getting large objects into the Museum's offsite storage area. Each canoe crate had to be cut in half, and the kayak crate needed to be cut into thirds, to allow them to be assembled directly in the storage area. Although time consuming and a little out of the norm, the plan worked perfectly in the end.

Overall, the project was a success and the Museum is delighted to finally have these objects stored properly after so many years on exhibit.



## 2008 Accessions and Activities

Since January 2008, the Museum has accessioned 21 collections. Dr. Paul Minnis has been a steady donor, sending comparative materials from various parts of the U.S. for the Ethnobotanical Lab. Other donors include **Richard Redding** and **Kent Flannery** with more comparative animal skeletons for the Zooarchaeology Lab, and **Henry Wright**, who gave another collection of iron tools from China. Following last year's donation of Southwest U.S. pottery, Dr. Mark Warner donated the remaining pottery, Navajo blankets, and Great Lakes baskets from his parents' collection. These have once again added immensely to our Ethnographic collections.

This summer's field school at UM's Biological Station on Douglas Lake, Michigan, also generated a large collection. The majority of these items were cataloged during the field season and are now on loan to Dr. Meghan Howey at the University of New Hampshire for further study.

The activities of the Collections Department over the last year have been varied. Work continues on inventorying the last of the Ethnographic Collections at our off-site storage area. We are down to the last cabinet and plan on finishing by December. The inventory of the Ethnobotanical Laboratory also continues, through the dedication of graduate student **Daphne Gallagher**. In July, the Museum resubmitted a grant to the National Science Foundation Biological Research Division for rehousing the Ethnobotanical Collections. If successful, a three-year project to rehouse materials will begin in August 2009.

Finally, the Museum will be working on creating a Finding Aid and inventory of the Frank Boos Oaxaca Urn photograph file. The collection came to the Museum as a bequest in 1968 and became part of the Latin American Ethnohistory Library in the late 1970s. With help from the Bentley Historical Library, several graduate students and Collections Manager **Karen O'Brien** were trained in creating a Finding Aid for the collection, which will then be placed within the University's Library Catalog (Mirlyn) for access via the internet. A link will be established from the Museum's website once completed, so check back in a few months!

## New Survey Vessel



Curator **John O'Shea** has been spending his fall sabbatical on the deck of the UM Survey Vessel *Blue Traveler*, shown here tied up at Harrisville, Michigan. John and colleagues have been traveling roughly 40 miles off shore to survey the Lake Stanley Causeway beneath Lake Huron, using side scan sonar and a "Mini-Rover" remote operated vehicle. The boat is a 25-foot Parker, a hybrid work/fishing boat designed for use in the Atlantic, and is one of only a handful found on the Great Lakes. It was obtained through a shared major equipment grant from the UM Office of the Vice President for Research, with contributions from LSA, UMMA, the Engineering School, and the Marine Hydrodynamics Laboratory. The survey of the 10,000 B.C. causeway beneath Lake Huron is funded by NSF and is a collaboration between John, Professor Guy Meadows of the MHL, Professor Ryan Eustice of the Department of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, and Professor Bob Reynolds of the Department of Computer Science at Wayne State University. In addition to the NSF-funded study, the boat is also used for our ongoing research on nineteenth-century Great Lakes Shipwrecks, both as a survey vessel and as a platform for scuba operations.

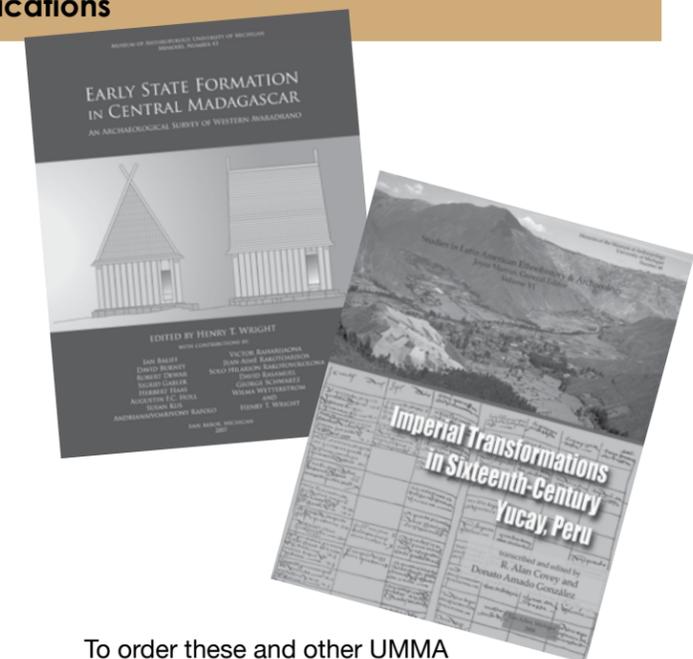


## New in 2008 from Museum of Anthropology Publications

*Early State Formation in Central Madagascar: An Archaeological Survey of Western Avaradrano*  
(Memoir 43)  
edited by Henry T. Wright

*Imperial Transformations in Sixteenth-Century Yucay, Peru*  
(Memoir 44)  
transcribed and edited by R. Alan Covey and Donato Amado González

*Prehispanic Settlement Patterns in the Northwestern Valley of Mexico: The Zumpango Region*  
(Memoir 45) -available early 2009-  
by Jeffrey R. Parsons



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## Notes from the Field cont.

the subsistence of the Bronze Age inhabitants of Pecica. Similarly, our fellow graduate student Amy Nicodemus will shed light on the local economy with her thorough analysis of faunal remains from the site, in addition to other contemporaneous sites in the region.

Midway through the season, all of these and other artifact categories began to exhibit the same quality—*serious* burning. Much of the work in 2008 involved excavating a thick, enigmatic orange layer—affectionately called “Baxter”—that covered almost two-thirds of the 10 × 11 meter block. Both the matrix and the artifacts within this layer exhibited significant burning and apparent mixing of cultural material before being deposited on the site. The exact nature of this layer remained inconclusive at the end of the season, but careful mapping of its artifacts and features will hopefully elucidate its function and construction.

As in any good field season, the 2008 campaign at Pecica Șanțul Mare generated a number of questions to be explored in future years. The test units that we dug with Amy Nicodemus off the tell revealed strange geological formations that, when investigated more thoroughly, may tell us a great deal about the ancient wetland environment that surrounds the site proper. The relationship between the two major structures excavated this season also necessitates further exploration



to discover intrasite social dynamics at Bronze Age Pecica. Issues like these will not only prove important in explaining the prehistoric society at Pecica, but for us, with our research interests in the Near East and the American Southeast, they will further the development of a case study important to archaeological conceptions of trade and social evolution in general. This fact, along with the skills we honed in jousting with wheelbarrows, push-starting a 1970s Volkswagen van, and enjoying Romanian plum brandy, rendered this latest season at Pecica an invaluable experience for three of Michigan's budding archaeologists.

~by Alice Wright, Casey Barrier, and Colin Quinn

## Graduate Student Successes

### PhD Dissertations

**Alice Yao** defended “Culture Contact and Social Change along China's Ancient Southwestern Frontier” in December 2007. Alice currently has a post-doctoral fellowship at NYU's Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, and in August 2009 will be beginning a tenure track position in Anthropology at the University of Toronto-Mississauga.

**Li Min** defended “Conquest, Concord, and Consumption: Becoming Shang in Eastern China,” and has begun a tenure track position in Asian Languages and Culture and the Institute for Archaeology at UCLA.

**Stephen Dueppen** defended “Reinventing Equality: The Archaeology of Kirikongo, Burkina Faso” in August 2008. Stephen is currently working as a Lecturer in our Department of Anthropology.

### Grant Accomplishments

**Veronique Belisle, Elizabeth (Liz) Bridges,** and **Allison Davis** were awarded NSF Dissertation Improvement Grants. **Veronique** and **Liz** also received Dissertation Fieldwork Grants from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research.

## Meeting President Coleman's Challenge

In fall 2007, UM President Mary Sue Coleman initiated a challenge program to enhance support for graduate students. As part of this challenge, President Coleman pledges to provide a 1:2 match for every dollar given to support graduate student research, making your \$50 gift worth \$75, your \$200 gift worth \$300, and so on. This challenge is due to expire at the end of December; please consider giving to assist the Museum in continuing to support graduate student research in anthropological archaeology.

How the graduate and professional student Challenge works:  
(from [http://www.giving.umich.edu/opportunities/index.php?page=president\\_challenge](http://www.giving.umich.edu/opportunities/index.php?page=president_challenge))

- The Challenge will leverage your gift, up to \$1 million for graduate student aid at Michigan, by contributing one dollar for every two dollars you give.
- The program continues until \$40 million in gifts have been received or the Michigan Difference campaign ends on December 31, 2008, whichever comes first.
- Pledges must be made by December 31, 2008, to ensure a match, and can be paid over a five-year period (by Dec. 31, 2012).
- The Challenge allows you to direct your gift of graduate support to a school or college of your choice.
- The University match is placed into an endowment so that your giving can generate valuable graduate student aid far into the future.
- A gift of \$50,000 or more will establish a named endowment, creating a legacy of support for the next generation of leaders and best.

Thanks to all of you who have given to the President's Challenge Fund over the last year; please consider making another gift or pledge before the December 31, 2008, deadline!

We especially acknowledge generous gifts to two graduate student funds to meet the President's Challenge: The Linda Britton and John R. Halsey Great Lakes Research Fund, and the RCYBP Fund.

### Linda Britton and John R. Halsey Great Lakes Research Fund

The Halsey family has a long personal and professional interest in the archaeology of the Great Lakes area and to the University of Michigan. Linda Britton Halsey graduated from Michigan and served as editor of the Museum of Anthropology publications. State Archaeologist Dr. John Halsey received BA and MA degrees in Anthropology from Michigan. The Halsey Fund was established in 1999 to support doctoral candidates conducting archaeological research in the U.S. or Canadian Great Lakes. A recent award from the Halsey Fund assisted **Meghan Howey** in her research on northern Michigan earthwork and settlement sites of the late Late Prehistoric/Early Historic period; another helped support **Margaret Wilson** in her ongoing research on Michigan's nineteenth-century lighthouses.

Since its creation, the Halseys have made generous annual gifts to grow the endowment. In response to the President's Challenge, Linda and John Halsey made a new five-year pledge to the Halsey Fund. We thank them for their continued support of our graduate students and for their commitment to Michigan archaeology.

## Challenge cont.

### The RCYBP Fund

A defining feature of the Michigan doctoral program in Anthropological Archaeology is that our students typically develop and direct independent archaeological projects for their dissertation research—designing sophisticated field projects that address important anthropological issues; obtaining necessary research permits and external funding; and coordinating field projects of various scale. Archaeological research of this sort is expensive, and acquiring sufficient funds for absolute dating of archaeological materials is often critical to project success. In 2007, to meet this need, **C. Wesley Cowan** (PhD, 1985) made a generous commitment to the Museum, creating the new RCYBP endowment, which will provide successful applicants with “funds for radiocarbon dates and other appropriate absolute dating methods on materials associated with their dissertation research.”

Wes describes his gift: “I'm fortunate to be in the position to help establish the RCYB endowment. While I'm no longer active in the field, I find daily value in the education I received at the Museum. Higher education in Michigan faces relentless pressure from the legislature; budget cuts seem endless. I find great satisfaction in knowing that my gift will be a source of revenue for graduate student research for many years to come.”

The RCYBP Fund is eligible for President's Challenge Fund match. Please consider making a donation to this fund; another \$17,000 in gifts or pledges will bring the endowment total to \$100,000 within four years and will provide invaluable support for future generations of doctoral students.



C. Wesley Cowan

## We Thank Our 2007-2008 Donors

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Special thanks to  
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of Baltimore, MD,  
for making a third  
generous gift annuity  
to the Museum of  
Anthropology. Mr.  
Berry earned an MA in  
Anthropology in 1950  
and fondly remembers  
working in the  
Museum's laboratory.  
The gift especially  
acknowledges Mrs.  
Margaret Guta,  
Museum registrar in the  
1940s and 1950s.

**For information on giving opportunities and development priorities of the  
Museum of Anthropology please contact  
Carla M. Sinopoli (sinopoli@umich.edu) or visit <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/umma/support/>**



Lost wax brass figurines from our collections  
(L: UMMA 2009-19-43, R: 2009-19-23)

Made by Yaw Amankwa of Ghana

Currently on display in the UM Exhibit Museum of Natural History in  
"Casting Tradition: Contemporary Brassworking in Ghana"

**The University of Michigan  
Museum of Anthropology**  
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