



PREHISTORIC COPPER MINING IN MICHIGAN

The Nineteenth-Century Discovery of "Ancient Diggings"
in the Keweenaw Peninsula and Isle Royale

John R. Halsey



Contents

Cover story: Leaving Ruthven page 2

Profile: Marjorie and Peter Pratt page 4

Undergraduate news page 6

Graduate news page 10

Museum donor form page 16

Faculty news page 18

Museum publications page 21

Feature: RAPID Kosova survey page 22

Leaving Ruthven

Generations of archaeologists say goodbye to the historic building that was the Museum's home for 90 years



There were stories about Ruthven's marble stairs, about lectures in Room 2009, and about entering the "magical doors" that led to the Museum's research wing. There were memories of Jimmy Griffin, Lew Binford, and other legendary scholars who once taught at Ruthven. There was general agreement that some of the most important learning took place not in any lecture or lab space, but in "007" and in the Coffee Range.

Dozens of University of Michigan alumni, faculty, and graduate students gathered on Saturday, May 12, 2018, to say goodbye to the Ruthven Museums Building, where the Museum of Anthropological Archaeology had its home for 90 years.

Director **Michael Galaty** opened the evening's program by inviting alums **Chuck Cleland**, **David Brose**, **Doug Price**, **Melinda Zeder**, **Margaret Schoeninger**, **Wes Cowan**, **Alan Covey**, and **Bill Parkinson** to share anecdotes of their time at Ruthven. Those who spoke covered more than five decades of the Museum's history.

Chuck Cleland (1966) reminisced about James B. Griffin, one of the Museum's most important directors. Griffin's encyclopedic knowledge of prehistoric ceramics of the eastern U.S. was well known. Earlier in the evening, Cleland had said that Griffin could look at a sherd and identify it to within 50 years of its date and 50 miles of its origin.

Some memories were bittersweet. Doug Price (1975) got a roar of laughter when he reminded the crowd that **Bob Whallon's** statistics class should have been named "Pain & Torture." Melinda Zeder (1985) said she came to U-M to study archaeology because she had a teenage crush on renowned anthropologist Leslie White, only to find that by the time she arrived, he had left. Wes Cowan (1985) asked Jimmy Griffin to critique a paper he wrote, only to be told that if he wanted to stay at U-M, he had better "learn how to spell archaeology!" David Brose (1968) recalled Griffin telling him to study the remains of 30,000 snails and give a talk about them at the next archaeology conference—even though Brose knew nothing about snails.

Many shared their conviction that the heart of the Museum is not a building but a group of people. "Take the spirit of Ruthven with you," advised Alan Covey (2003).

Bill Parkinson (2009) spoke about the environment of excellence and innovation that curators created at Ruthven. "Keep creating those kinds of spaces," he said.

Earlier in the day, collection managers Lauren Fuka and Jim Moss led tours of the Research Museums Center and spoke about the Museum's collections and lab and research space. Following the RMC tour, **Carla Sinopoli** and Terry Wilfong gave a tour of the Excavating Archaeology exhibit at the Kelsey Museum.

At the evening gathering, Margaret Schoeninger (1980) spoke of the Museum's reputation for excellence, the outstanding research facilities at RMC, and the central location of the Museum's future home on the Diag of the central campus.

"You have all the pieces," she said simply.

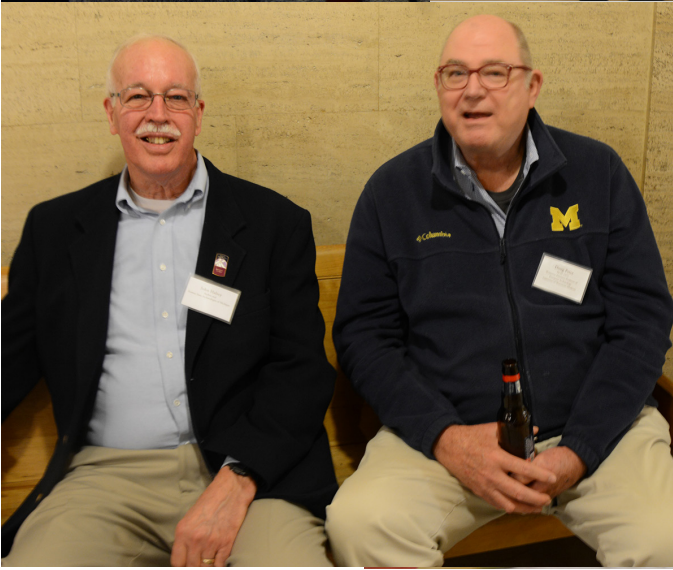
In October, the Museum moved into temporary space at the School of Education. A new permanent home is being prepared in the Chemistry Building.

A retrospective video of the Museum's years at Ruthven, including personal interviews with alumni, is available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/4Zus0rg8IL4>.

Above: Archaeologists gather in Ruthven's atrium. Photo by Lauren Fuka. **Opposite page, clockwise from top right:** 1927 photograph of Ruthven during construction (Museum of Zoology records, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan); cocktail hour in the Ruthven atrium; alumna Margaret Schoeninger speaks about her memories of Ruthven; curator Rob Beck (l) with guests outside his office during the tour of archaeological ranges on the fourth floor of Ruthven; (l to r) alumnus Peter Pratt, director Michael Galaty, alumna Sarah Nelson, and collection manager Lauren Fuka look at textiles at the Research Museums Center; author John Halsey (l) and alumnus Doug Price in the atrium; professor emerita Carla Sinopoli. All photos by J. Amadeus Scott unless noted.



JUNE 1, 1927



Museum Profile: Marjorie and Peter Pratt



Peter and Marjorie Pratt leave the Mandana Inn near Skaneateles Lake (one of the Finger Lakes) in New York.

As a child in northern Michigan, Marjorie Pratt watched the Wolverines play every weekend. Or to be more precise: she tried to watch.

“At the time, communications were difficult,” she recalled. “[We got] only a snowy picture from two stations on TV. If you got the dial just right, you could bring in most of the University of Michigan football games. I became hooked.”

For Marjorie and her husband, U-M alumnus Peter Paul Pratt (1966), the connection to U-M—and particularly the Museum—has stretched over time and distance. In the spring of 2018, many years after watching those football games, the Pratts drove eight hours each way from their home in Syracuse, New York, to be present at the Ruthven farewell weekend. On the occasion of the Museum’s move from its home of 90 years, they generously shared (by phone and email) some of their memories of the place and the people, and of a lifetime spent doing archaeology.

The archaeologist as a young man

During his Toronto childhood, archaeology fascinated Peter Pratt. “My interest in archaeology began when, as a young boy, I read *Under the Chewing Gum Tree* by Roy J. Snell,” he remembered. “I wrote to Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews at the American Museum of Natural History, asking to be taken along on his adventures in the Gobi Desert, even if only as a water boy. He responded that he would consider it when I was a little older.”

Through a combination of luck, curiosity and perseverance, Peter worked with legendary archaeologists as a young student, long before he went to college. A casual outing with a scout troop in Oneonta, New York, turned up several features and artifacts and led to a meeting with Kenneth E. Kidd, then of the Royal Ontario Museum, who introduced Peter to the Ontario Archaeology Society. Peter bicycled to archaeological sites in

the Toronto area and began working in the museum laboratory of Norman E. Emerson, an archaeologist at the University of Toronto. Eventually Peter became the president of the society.

This work led to field seasons with William A. Ritchie in the Trent waterway and with Richard “Scotty” MacNeish in Tamaulipas, Mexico.

As a graduate student, Peter studied at the University of Michigan for several years in the 1950s. One of the key reasons he went to Michigan was to study with James B. Griffin, who became a major mentor. The relationship didn’t start out well, however: the day Peter arrived, and told Griffin how much he was looking forward to studying with him, Griffin responded by telling Peter he couldn’t take Griffin’s course, as he was two weeks late (having been in the field).

Though Peter was shocked and hurt, he recovered when Griffin told him he could show the slides. Later Griffin asked him to take over the class while Griffin was away at a conference. Studying with Griffin was a core part of Peter’s experiences at the Museum.

“I don’t remember too much about specific courses,” Peter recalled. “The atmosphere was more Socratic, with people working together on research. Archaeology in that day was much more collegial and less formal. Everyone knew each other, and if you didn’t know someone personally, you knew someone who would introduce you. It was an intense time at the Museum. My wife can’t believe that none of us ever thought about going to a football game, but we didn’t.”

After several years, Peter left to gather information for his dissertation on the archaeology of the Oneida Iroquois. He returned to Ann Arbor in the early 1960s.

“I finally completed the dissertation during the Blizzard of 1966 when we were all snowed in for over a week,” he remembered. “No one could do anything but wait for it to stop snowing—and I was glad because all I could do was write!”

The archaeologist as a young woman

Marjorie's path was more circuitous: she explored several fields of study on the way to archaeology.

"While I was in high school, the Russians launched Sputnik," she explained. "Like all red-blooded Americans, I decided to become an engineer and help develop a space program to beat the Russians."

At Michigan State University, she studied engineering for two years and then switched to economics, with a focus on Latin American development and culture.

"I kept getting notes on my term papers that I had too much anthropology and needed more economics. At that time, I didn't even know what anthropology was."

After earning her undergraduate degree, she began graduate work in economics at Syracuse University. Then fate intervened in the form of an archaeological field school.

"We jumped at it as a cheap vacation," she remembered. "I loved the fieldwork and quickly discovered that this was a field where I could apply my studies in the sciences, history of science and technology, and mathematics."

Fate also played the romantic card that summer.

"I got hooked both on archaeology and on Peter," Marjorie recalled with a chuckle.

Back at Syracuse, she dropped economics for anthropology.

"I felt that anthropology and economics were not that different, they just used different data. A senior professor heartily disagreed. He would yell down the hall at me, "Anthropology is not quantifiable, and it will never be quantifiable!!!" Despite completing my prelims and having tentative approval for my dissertation project, I was not happy."

"The more I learned about Michigan and the work that was going on there, the more I was convinced that I needed to go there. I think I was an "anthropological archaeologist" before I knew there was such a thing. You can imagine my excitement when one of my first courses was a team-taught course on ecology with Kent Flannery, Dick Ford, Skip Rappaport, and Conrad Kottak. When Dr. Flannery began talking about systems theory, I knew I was at the right place."

Marjorie studied for a year at Michigan before she and Peter returned to New York.

"While I was not fortunate to complete my Ph.D. at Michigan, I cherish the time I spent there," she wrote. "It is the place where academically I am most comfortable. The energy, excitement, quest for and acceptance of new ideas is unsurpassed. It is a special place."

Ruthven and beyond

This year's Ruthven farewell was a chance for Peter and Marjorie to revisit that special place.

"The goodbye party was an opportunity to meet the new director and curators we did not know, as well as renew acquaintance with other Michigan people that we knew from the past," Marjorie explained.

Their fond memories and belief in the Museum's significance have led them to deepen their ties in still another way.

"We have long thought of supporting the Museum through a gift from our estate," they wrote. "Our experiences over that weekend reassured us that this was the right decision. We found impressive energy with like-minded people who are interested in pursuing archaeology at the highest level."

As for saying goodbye to the building itself, both are more interested in what lies ahead than what's left behind.

"While Ruthven is a stately old building in which we spent so much time, I don't remember too much about the building," Peter admitted. "It is the people and atmosphere that I remember most."

Marjorie agreed. "Ruthven is a wonderful building that has been the location of long and often tedious hours of study and research, as well as moments of great excitement and joy at the culmination of degrees and research projects. While the building will live on in other uses, the legacy and memories from the past will nurture future curators and students in the new facility. In time, and after hours of study and late night discussions, the new building will gain the dedication and love that Ruthven has for us older folks."

Advice for young archaeologists

With the wisdom gained from two long and successful careers—including running their own business, Pratt & Pratt Archaeological Consultants, since 1977—the Pratts had advice for those in the early stages of a lifetime in archaeology.

"Stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before you," Peter advised. "Use their data as you add your own. Realize the biases in the data, because of the time and level of understanding when the data were collected. Be open to the surprises that the data may reveal. And remember that while you try your best (and I hope you always will), 50 years from now, your own data will be the old data that the new crop of students will wonder how you could have been so stupid or careless in collecting. Have fun!!"

Marjorie added: "There is only one standard: Excellence. While theory is wonderful to argue about well into the night (especially with appropriate libations), the integrity of the data is what matters. While a hundred years from now your pet theory may long have been abandoned or modified for the new wondrous understanding (though hopefully your contributions will have moved us ever closer to understanding), can your data be used to reanalyze the site and test the then current theory? Take a few extra moments and make sure you have collected the best data and that it is carefully recorded and archived."

"Be open to new approaches in gathering data. Who would have thought of ¹⁴C, computer databases, GIS, GPS, digital photography, radar, LiDAR, big data analysis, DNA—and my favorite: drones? It's an exciting time. There are so many new techniques that we could not have imagined, but boy, would they have been wonderful back in the day! Never stop learning. Embrace new techniques, but always with care to protect the integrity of your data. And enjoy every minute that you have—especially when your knees are young and your eyesight clear."

Both agree that the UMMAA is the perfect place to launch a distinguished archaeological career.

"[It is a] place of great excitement filled with curators, researchers, and students who share a dedication to research at the highest level," Marjorie wrote. "A place where it is not enough to count flint chips and weigh pot sherds, but to use the data to understand past cultures and how they functioned. The Museum of Anthropological Archaeology is indeed a special place."

Peter assented. "The Museum of Anthropological Archaeology means distinction in scholarship and curation of the archaeological record."

Our Undergraduates Go to the Field

Kristin Cimmerer



Above (left to right): Kristin Cimmerer, Bree Doering, and Xinglin Wang open unit 5 of the Lower Locus at the Klein Site on Quartz Lake in central Alaska. Photo by Bree Doering.



A large chert biface discovered along the receding lakeshore at Quartz Lake, Alaska. Photo by Kristin Cimmerer.

This summer, thanks to the Richard I. Ford Undergraduate Research Fund, I was able to assist U-M graduate student Bree Doering with excavations at the Klein Site at Quartz Lake, Alaska. Fellow U-M undergraduate Xinglin Wang was the third member of our crew.

During our first weeks in the field, we expanded previously excavated trenches at the lower and upper loci of the site, which have cultural components dated to 1000 cal BP. Throughout the first week, we were assisted by three staff researchers from the University of Alaska Fairbanks Museum of the North, as well as four local high school students participating in the University's Alaska Summer Research Program. We established six additional 1 x 1 m units around the perimeter of the lower locus and dug these units to 40 cm below the surface. The cultural material we recovered included chipped stone, faunal remains, and a substantial number of fire-cracked rocks. In a couple of these units, as well as a 1 x 1 m unit opened at a separate upper locus, we found large greasy pockets of dark soil that contained bone, fire-cracked rock, and chert flakes. These could represent ancient cooking hearths or trash deposits. They were the first of their kind I excavated myself.

In the past, the Klein Site would have been near the lakeshore—a good spot for exploiting aquatic resources like fish.

During the period 2000–1000 BP, a marked dietary transition took place in central Alaska. Subsistence strategies dependent on large terrestrial mammals gave way to those exploiting a wider variety of resources, among them salmon. This occurred at the same time other lines of evidence point toward decreased mobility and the introduction of new tool technologies.

We conducted shoreline surveys as well as excavations. Except for one beautiful red chert scraper, most of the stone tools were flakes with no apparent signs of use or retouch. I learned from Bree that this is because Holocene Alaskan foragers most often made formal tools, while smaller flakes produced in the process were discarded. We also found microblades and huge bifaces in different stages of reduction, both of which have been present in Alaska for thousands of years. The animal bone, though fragmentary, appeared to be from large mammals like moose or caribou. We also found faunal evidence that these hunter-gatherers ate smaller mammals, birds, and fish.

I gained a lot of valuable knowledge during my time in Alaska, thanks to Bree's mentorship. I am forever grateful to her and the UMMAA Ford Research Fund for making this summer experience a truly unforgettable one.

Our Undergraduates Go to the Field

Xinglin Wang



Kristin Cimmerer and Xinglin Wang (lower left) draw profiles at the Lower Locus of the Klein Site at Quartz Lake in central Alaska. Photo by Bree Doering.

In 2018 I participated in an excavation in Alaska thanks to the Richard I. Ford Undergraduate Research Fund awarded by the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology. I arrived in Fairbanks in the middle of a heat wave. I was there to work at the Klein Site with Bree Doering, our team leader, who is investigating a cultural and behavioral transition that happened about 2000 years ago. Quartz Lake is one of her four sites.

We started work on July 24, a super-hot day. Before we started excavating, Bree, Kristin Cimmerer, and I measured 1 x 1 m units near an old excavation where archaeologists from the University of Alaska Fairbanks had opened several units. Measuring was the first practical skill I learned. Since then, I've realized that there are challenges in the field that cannot be imagined when sitting in the classroom. For example, how do we measure the depth of the first

level if the unit is not flat? How difficult is it to get rid of a thick root in the unit without damaging the context?

In the classroom, students learn about artifacts from colorful and beautiful pictures, but those pictures don't show the difficulties of excavating. Screening is also challenging. You have to keep your eyes open for every piece of bone and stone flake.

During my last week of excavation, tiny pieces of animal bones, charcoal, and flakes kept appearing in my unit. It took days to clear them from one of my 5-cm levels. I put all the black soil from the feature into a plastic bag for further analysis. Those delicate flakes suggest toolmaking. There were many pieces of quartz. Those pieces cracked because they were exposed to high temperatures from a fire. Bree showed us how quartz cracks by placing some underneath our campfire. We clearly heard the sound of cracking and saw the quartz change from gray to red.

Our Undergraduates Go to the Field

Addy Zeigen

Thanks to the generosity of the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology, I received support from the Richard I. Ford Undergraduate Research Fund. This funding allowed me to participate in the Eastern Pequot Archaeological Field School in North Stonington, Connecticut.

The field school, directed by Dr. Stephen Silliman and affiliated with the University of Massachusetts Boston, was a collaborative effort with the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation. I worked alongside tribal council members, tribal member interns, undergrads and grad students.

The field school began with a small gathering of Eastern Pequot tribal council members and field school participants. The tribal members shared reservation stories and stories about past field seasons. Seeing their faces and hearing their stories added a human element to the work and allowed me to go into the field thinking critically about the impact of archaeological fieldwork.

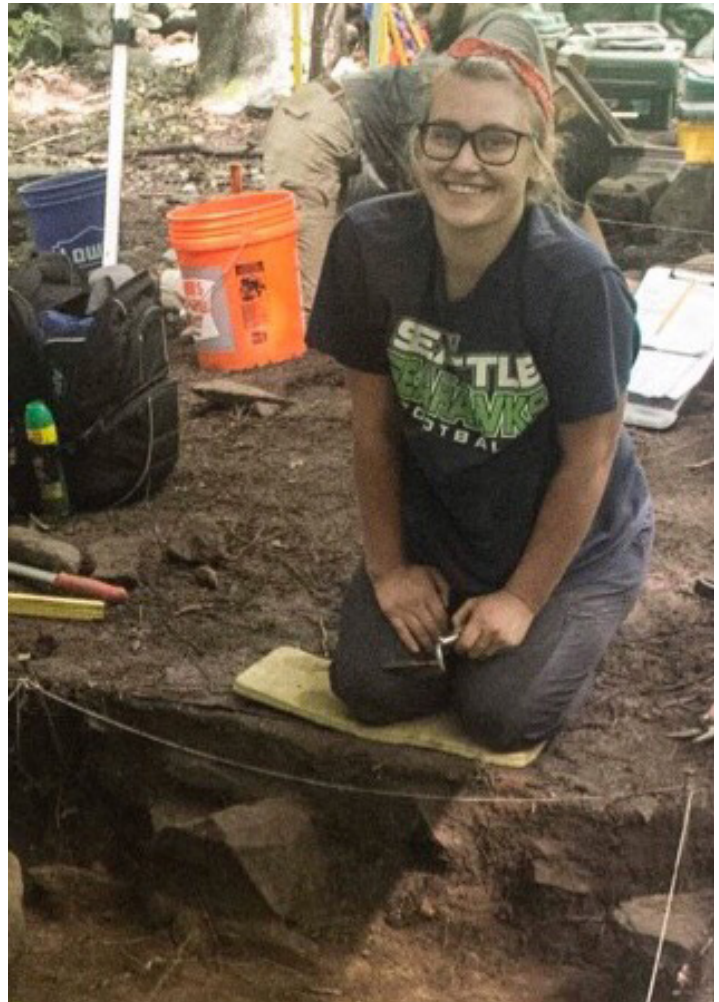
During week one, we visited the reservation for the first time. After we were cleansed with sage, we learned about mapping, survey, shovel testing, and ground-penetrating radar (GPR).

During the second week, we continued with shovel test pits and began clearing an area for excavation. We also visited the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center.

In week three, we were assigned units and taught excavation techniques, including how to document everything.

At the end of the field school, we had the privilege of attending the Eastern Pequot Pow-wow, normally open only to tribal members and their closest friends and family members. I felt extremely fortunate to participate.

This field school taught me fieldwork methods and introduced me to collaborative archaeology. I hope to continue archaeological work that involves collaboration with indigenous people. I am very grateful to UMMAA for the opportunity to participate in this wonderful project, which helped me figure out the direction I want to take professionally and personally.



Addy Zeigen excavates a unit at the Eastern Pequot Archaeological Field School in Connecticut.

Hunter Muirhead

Thanks to the Hays Family Endowment for Undergraduate Research and the Museum of Anthropological Archaeology, I was able to participate in the Bolgar International Archaeological Field School.

The school is located in Tatarstan, Russia. During most of the field school, I participated in the geoarchaeology program. In that program, we were trained in 3D modeling, ArcMap and ArcGIS programs, phytolith and pollen analyses, and soil stratigraphy at three different locations. Along the Kama River near Izmeri, Tatarstan, the professors taught us how to describe stratigraphy and collect soil samples that would later be analyzed. At this site, we found a campfire from several thousand years ago. Near Urnyak, at the archeological site of Beganchik, we learned how to use a total station and make a 3D model of a small archaeological monument with ArcGIS. This site was particularly difficult because it was in a dense forest along the Volga.

I work with pottery in my honor's thesis research, and reconstructing the ecological landscape through phytolith and pollen analyses helps me understand the ways in which the pottery of this region may have been utilized.

At the end of the school, I presented a portion of my honor's thesis at a conference and received constructive criticism that will help me with future work. In addition to the technical skills I acquired at the field school, I gained perspective on the world outside America through social exchange with other international and Russian students. As I expanded my technical knowledge in archaeology and learned useful analytical tools, I deepened my passion for archaeological research.

I'm grateful to the Hays Family Endowment and the Museum of Anthropological Archaeology for making it possible for me to attend the Bolgar International Field School. This field school has given me knowledge to support my future plans in archaeology.

Our Undergraduates Go to the Field

Allegra Ward

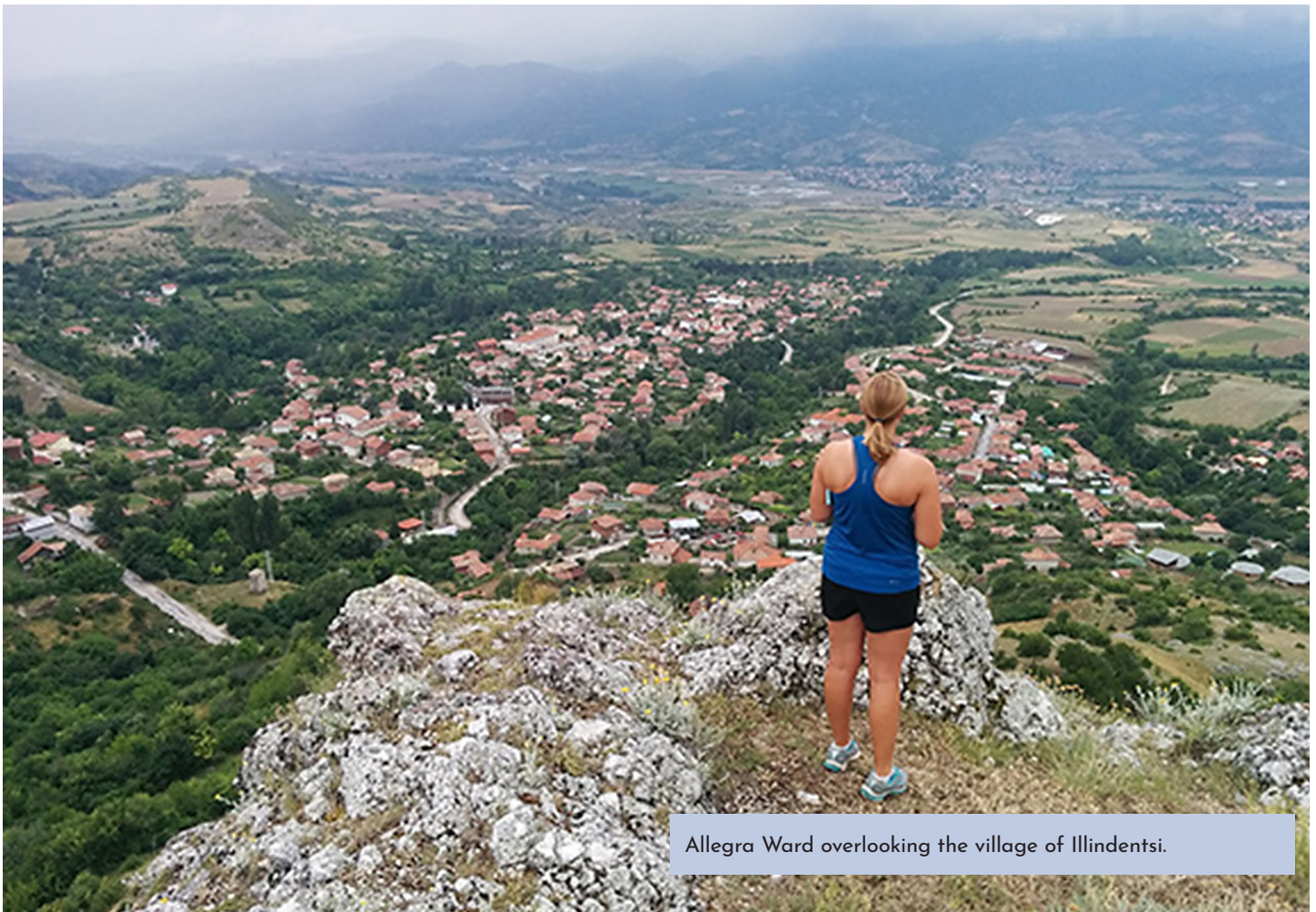
For the summer of 2018, the Museum of Anthropological Archaeology (UMMAA) granted me an award to participate in the Balkan Heritage Field School. The project was called The Birth of Europe: Excavations at the Neolithic Settlement of Ilindentsi. The site dates to ca. 5500 BC. The goal of the project, which began in 2011, was to investigate early European migration and the beginnings of agriculture in the area.

Since 2011, archaeologists have opened approximately eleven 5 x 5 m units. These excavations revealed domestic structures, stone axes, pottery sherds, and animal bones. These finds suggest that the people of Ilindentsi were migrants from the south.

Thanks to the UMMAA award, I was able to assist in excavations and research. Each weekday morning, we worked at the site. On the weekends we traveled to popular sites in Bulgaria and once to northern Greece, including monasteries, hiking trails, archaeological sites, museums, and more. These excursions taught us more about Bulgaria's history. We learned about the importance of Christianity and agriculture in the region and how both are still important there. It was fascinating to see the beginnings of agriculture through our excavations and relate that to how farming continues to support the community today.

Living a month in Bulgaria introduced me to a completely new country and culture. The most valuable part was the interaction we had with the surrounding community. The field school not only answered academic questions but also taught locals about archaeological research and the history of their people. We participated in a village feast at a local church and in other community events. Being welcomed into the community expanded my field school experience beyond the science of archaeology. Gaining this understanding of Bulgaria made the research more relatable and enhanced my perspective.

My experience in Bulgaria and my participation in this field school greatly benefited me. I was exposed to a culture that I otherwise never would have been introduced to. The field school taught me about archaeological research in a way that I could not have learned in a lecture setting. My experiences abroad greatly shaped my future plans and helped reaffirm my interest in archaeology. The time I spent in Bulgaria gave me a new perspective on my own culture and upbringing. Overall, I gained a great deal academically and personally through this field school. It was an irreplaceable experience.



Allegra Ward overlooking the village of Ilindentsi.

Graduate Students in the Field

Africa

James Munene spent the summer in Stockholm, Sweden, doing a museum practicum at the Etnografiska Museet (Ethnographic Museum) to complete a Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies. He catalogued their archaeological collection from Africa, which was brought to the museum in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This collection had never before been studied in detail. Munene's data were fed into the museum's catalogue and are now accessible through the online database Carlotta.

Asia

Yuchao Zhao participated in archaeological surveys and excavations in Ngari Prefecture, to the west of China's Tibet Autonomous Region. This project was led by the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Yuchao joined this project as a principal investigator. Working with Chinese scholars, he located two new sites in Ngari and was able to make test excavations on both sites. One of his discoveries was a cave in Gê'gyai County. Test excavations revealed multiple cultural layers preserved in the cave, suggesting that humans had occupied this cave during multiple periods since the Neolithic or earlier. It is the first prehistoric cave site in Tibet to be recognized by archaeologists, and large-scale systematic excavations are planned for next year.



Europe

James Torpy completed a summer of survey and research, working with Museum director **Michael Galaty**'s RAPID-K project in Kosova and returning to work in Athienou, Cyprus.



Above: Yuchao Zhao conducts a test excavation at the entrance of the Meilong cave site.

Top right: James Munene catalogues the African collection at the Etnografiska Museet in Stockholm, Sweden.

Right: James Torpy at a site in Athienou, Cyprus.



Graduate Students in the Field

Europe

Second-year graduate students **Iride Tomažič** and **Laura Bossio** participated in excavations at a Bronze Age tell in Rabe, Serbia, organized by alumna **Amy Nicodemus** (University of Wisconsin-La Crosse) and Museum curator **John O'Shea**. Laura also excavated at a Paleolithic cave site, Hohle Fels, in Blaubeuren, Germany, with Nick Conard and his team.

Laura Bossio, Jim Torpy, and first-year student **Erina Baci** participated in a new survey project in Kosova: the Regional Archaeology in the Peja and Istog Districts of Kosova (RAPID-K). (See more on this project on page 22.) This Kosova project is an intensive, systematic, archaeological survey, co-directed by Museum director **Michael Galaty**, Haxhi Mehmetaj, and Sylvia Deskaj. Baci participated in surveying and analyzed the geospatial data that were collected throughout the course of the project. As part of the survey team, Baci's days consisted of driving to their designated survey area and walking the fields in groups of three or more at 15-meter intervals. They counted all the artifacts they saw and collected diagnostic artifacts. The data were entered in the field by the team leader and used later to make density maps. The density maps were then used to highlight "hotspots" to investigate further as potential new sites.



Above: Iride Tomažič at a Bronze Age site in Rabe, Serbia.

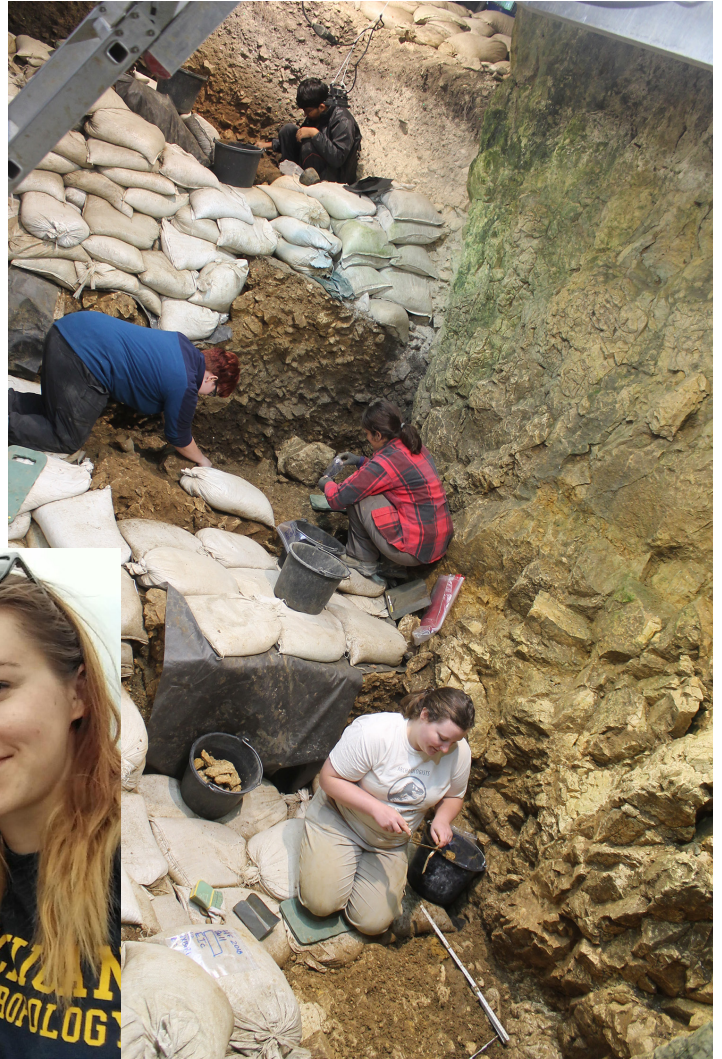
Below: The RAPID-K survey in Kosova. Team B out for survey in Lubozhdë. Shown left to right: Berbis Islami (University of Tirana), Anisa Mara (Mississippi State University), Dukagjin Mehmetaj (University of Prishtina). Photo by Erina Baci.



Graduate Students in the Field

Europe

Györgyi Parditka works in Serbia and Hungary on Bronze Age societies. In the first part of the summer, she worked with Amy Nicodemus and U-M graduate students Iride Tomažič, Laura Bossio, and **Brendan Nash**, excavating the Anka-Siget tell site in Rabe, Serbia. This research provided a great opportunity to learn about tell excavations. After the excavations, Györgyi visited museum collections at Kikinda, Vršac, and Senta to learn about the material culture and traditions of the local Bronze Age communities. In the second half of the summer, Györgyi continued her research as part of the BAKOTA project, co-directed by alumnus **Paul Duffy**, in Hungary. During the six-week season she ran the field excavation of the Bronze Age cemetery site and worked in the lab with students on ceramics.



Above, left to right: Museum graduate students Brendan Nash, Laura Bossio, Györgyi Parditka, and Iride Tomažič in Serbia.

Above, right: Laura Bossio and crew members at the Hohle Fels cave site in Blaubeuren, Germany.

Right: Györgyi Parditka (one foot in unit) ran the field excavation of the BAKOTA project in Hungary.



Graduate Students in the Field

Latin America

During the 2017–2018 academic year, **Jordan Dalton** directed the excavation of Complex N1 at the site of Las Huacas in the Chincha Valley, Peru. Complex N1 is a Late Horizon site (AD 1470–1532) with well-stratified deposits that are allowing her to analyze separate stages of Inca occupation. She encountered multiple burials, contexts of ceramic production, and major changes to the architectural layout of the site that correspond to the Late Horizon and Early Colonial period (AD 1532–1570). In the spring of 2018, second-year graduate students **Iride Tomažič** and **Jennifer Larios** went to Chincha to help Jordan Dalton with bioarchaeological and ceramic analyses. U-M undergraduate **Annie Sherfield** helped with ceramic analyses as well as cleaning and photographing artifacts. Dalton is now analyzing the artifacts to understand how the role of Complex N1 changed during the Late Horizon and Early Colonial era.

Jennifer Larios worked on various projects in Peru. First, she worked on the ceramic collection from Las Huacas in the Chincha Valley. She then headed to the Norte Chico, where she worked at Cerro Blanco. Finally, she returned to Chincha to participate in Jo Osborn's excavations at Jahuay and analyze the ceramics from late contexts. She also analyzed the distribution of distinct styles of pottery from a Chincha Valley survey with the goal of understanding Chincha political and economic interaction.

Soren Frykholm, a first-year student who plans to focus on Mesoamerican archaeology, joined Stephen Whittington on the Cerro Amole project in Oaxaca. Guided by the Mapa de Teozacoalco (a Mixtec map and genealogy painted ca. AD 1579), the team surveyed for archaeological sites.



Top: Soren Frykholm at Monte Albán, Oaxaca.

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

Below, left to right: U-M students Annie Sherfield, Iride Tomažič, Jordan Dalton, and Jenny Larios visiting the Petroglyphs of Huancor, Chincha, Peru.



Graduate Students in the Field

Latin America

Lauren Pratt spent the summer in three regions of Peru: Chachapoyas, Arequipa, and Puno. She is investigating hunter-gatherers' use of high-altitude landscapes, and employing behavioral ecology models to estimate the length of site occupation based on lithic assemblages. In the field, she participated in excavations on the eastern slopes of the Andes and in the altiplano.

Jo Osborn continues her second season at Jahuay, a fishing village on the Peruvian coast near Chincha. There, she is investigating how the rise of permanent inequality in the Late Formative (400 BC–AD 1) contributed to the development of economic specialization in prehispanic Peru. This year, she was lucky to be joined in the field by Jenny Larios, who helped direct the excavation of several midden contexts. Jo recently received a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad fellowship, which will allow her to remain in Peru through the 2018–2019 academic year and complete her research.

Chelsea Fisher is writing her PhD dissertation (Small-scale Maya Farming Communities and the Long View of Sustainability at Tzacauil) and has recently published an article in *Agriculture and Human Values*. That article discusses the relationship between Americans' religious beliefs and their support for sustainability initiatives. She also taught a spring 2018 course, which she designed, on the archaeology of agricultural sustainability.



Above: Due to rugged terrain and the remoteness of the archaeological sites, horses are often used in Chachapoyas to transport people and project equipment. Photo by Lauren Pratt.

Left: Jo Osborn and Jenny Larios at Cerro Azul, Peru, where Joyce Marcus excavated previously. Photo by Jo Osborn.

Graduate Students in the Field

North America



Martin Menz presented the results of his research in the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge in Wakulla County, Florida, at the Florida Anthropological Society conference in St. Petersburg. Following the conference, Martin continued investigating the Old Creek site, a Weeden Island period ring-shaped shell midden. He later traveled to northern Belize to serve as an excavation director for the Aventura Archaeology Project led by Cynthia Robin of Northwestern University. Martin's excavations at Aventura focused on a high-status Late Classic Maya household near the site core.

PhD candidate **Bree Doering** spent her summer conducting research at three sites in Alaska. At the Clearview and Delta Creek sites, Bree continued her excavations, recovering stone tool production debris, animal remains, and datable carbon at both sites. In July, Bree switched gears and began her first summer of research at the Klein Site on Quartz Lake. She had the help of two keen Michigan undergrads, Kristin Cimmerer and Xinglin Wang, who uncovered important cooking features at this multicomponent site. Additionally, Bree, Kristin, and Xinglin gave a hands-on archaeology introduction to talented high school students from the Alaska Summer Research Program (sponsored by the University of Alaska Fairbanks Museum of the North). These experiences were made possible by two UMMAA awards granted to Bree—the James B. Griffin Scholarship and the Richard I. Ford Award. This year Bree will analyze the artifacts and soils collected during her fieldwork, and she will begin writing her dissertation.

With the generous help of the James B. Griffin Scholarship and the Rackham Research Grant, **Kimi Swisher** spent June conducting fieldwork and analyzing material from the Averett Site in Georgia. At Southern Research, a culture resources management company, she processed soil samples taken from pit-like features at the Averett Site. Kimi spent the second half of her summer assisting in excavations and flotation at the Junction Group Site of Chillicothe, Ohio, working on **Tim Everhart's** Woodland Ohio Monumentality Project (WOMP).



Top left: Martin Menz excavating at the Old Creek ring midden site in Wakulla County, Florida.

Middle: Kimi Swisher conducting flotation tests on soil samples from the Averett Site in Georgia.

Left: Bree Doering with a biface at the Klein site on Quartz Lake, Alaska. Photo by Kristin Cimmerer.



Graduate Students in the Field

North America

This was Tim Everhart's third summer directing the Woodland Ohio Monumentality Project (WOMP). This year's WOMP team, which excavated at the Steel and Junction Group sites in Ross County, Ohio, consisted of five U-M undergraduates (**Allegra Ward, Addy Zeigen, Laura Nagengast, Elizabeth Ditullio, and Daniel Hanson**); two undergrads from Appalachian State University (Hannah Exum and Nichols Vamvakias); one undergrad from Ohio State (Madeleine Smith); and three graduate students, including Kimi Swisher and a local volunteer. UMMAA curator **Henry Wright** and graduate student Laura Bossio paid a visit as well. In one unit, the crew uncovered a large earth oven. In the other excavations, they found evidence of the construction and deconstruction events of these earthen monuments and the interplay between timber post circles and earthworks.

First-year graduate student **Hannah Hoover**, who has joined us from Tulane, is interested in culture contact and colonialism in both the American Southeast and the Mediterranean.

Christina Sampson is writing her dissertation: Safety Harbor at the Weeden Island Site: Late Pre-Columbian Craft, Community, and Complexity on Florida's Gulf Coast. She plans to defend in December 2018.

Right: Henry Wright, UMMAA curator of Near Eastern archaeology, excavates ditch fill at the Junction Group site. Photo by Tim Everhart.



Thank you, generous donors!

We hope you enjoy reading about the research done by the students and curators of the Museum of Anthropological Archaeology. It is thanks to the support of our very generous donors that the Museum is able to send students on excavation trips around the world. Gifts are critical for our work and 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 in our field. Thank you for your support!

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Public Archaeology Days 2018

October 13



Above, left to right: graduate students Jenny Larios, Iride Tomažič, Laura Bossio, Tim Everhart, and Kimi Swisher at Michigan Archaeology Day in Lansing.

Above right: Jenny Larios and Iride Tomažič help a scavenger hunter on Michigan Archaeology Day. Photo by Tim Everhart.



On October 13, 2018, a team of UMMAA graduate students represented the Museum at Michigan Archaeology Day in Lansing, Michigan. The Museum's booth was one of many highlighting research by faculty and graduate students across the state. Approximately 1,000 people attended, and the graduate students were able to share UMMAA's global archaeological research with many. The booth was also chosen to be part of the children's scavenger hunt, requiring many hundreds of children to ask questions to receive their pin for the scavenger hunt.

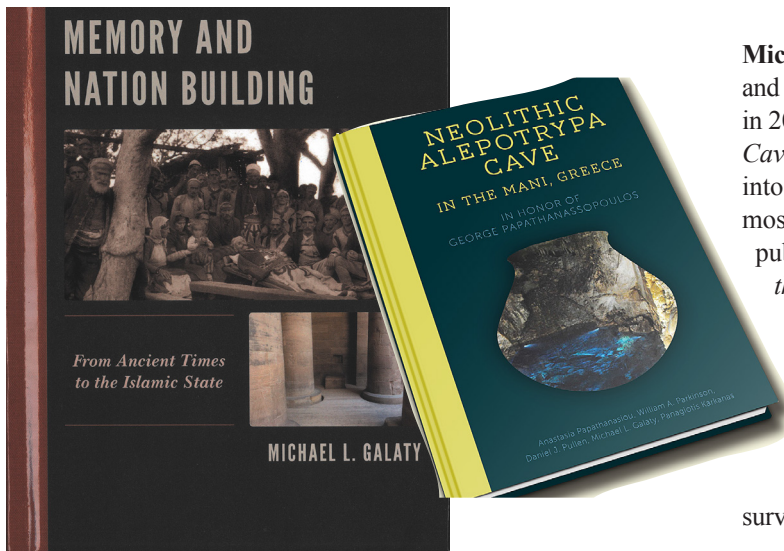
October 20



Above: During the Museum's Public Archaeology Day in Dexter, Michigan, visitors listen to a presentation about the UMMAA excavations in progress on the grounds of Gordon Hall.

Right: Students in the Museum's archaeological field methods course excavate a unit and screen for artifacts on the grounds of Gordon Hall. Both photos by Tim Everhart.





Michael L. Galaty, Museum director and curator of European and Mediterranean Archaeology, saw the publication of two books in 2018. In May, Oxbow Books released *Neolithic Alepotrypa Cave in the Mani, Greece*, co-edited by Galaty, which distills into one book forty years of excavations at one of Europe's most important Neolithic sites. In July, Rowman & Littlefield published *Memory and Nation Building: From Ancient Times to the Islamic State*, which explores how human societies form shared memories and the role those memories play in state formation. In this book, Galaty draws on his knowledge of ancient and modern societies in Egypt, Greece, and Albania to illustrate how the collective memory-making process is linked to and manipulated by political systems. Also in 2018, Galaty launched RAPID-K, a three-year intensive survey project in western Kosova (see page 22).

Joyce Marcus, curator of Latin America at UMMAA, recently published *Coastal Ecosystems and Economic Strategies at Cerro Azul, Peru* (a Museum book) and two articles: "The Inca Conquest of Cerro Azul" in *Nawpa Pacha* and "Studying Figurines" in the *Journal of Archaeological Research*.

Kent Flannery, curator of Human Ecology and Archaeobiology, continues work on a monograph about Cueva Blanca, a cave he excavated with Frank Hole in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Henry Wright, curator of Near Eastern Archaeology, is finishing a monograph on his survey project in Madagascar:

The Evolution of Settlement Systems in the Region of Vohemar, Northeast Madagascar.

John O'Shea, Great Lakes curator at the Museum, is collaborating on a new project with Amy Nicodemus of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. He also worked in Alpena, Michigan, where graduate student Brendan Nash and alumna Ashley Lemke (anthropology professor at the University of Texas at Arlington) screened materials recovered from a new site discovered beneath Lake Huron in the Museum's ongoing research project.

Curator **Brian Stewart** made the cover of *Nature Human Behaviour* with his "generalist specialist" theory of human evolution. In the feature article of the science journal's August 2018 issue, Stewart and co-author Patrick Roberts, of the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, propose that *Homo sapiens* survived longer than any other hominins—having outlasted contemporaries like Neanderthals, Denisovans, Asian *Homo erectus*, and others—not because of social collaboration or technological innovation, but because of our unique ability to adapt to and thrive in diverse environmental settings. *Homo sapiens*, the authors argue, is not a generalist (a species that can adapt to various settings and use a variety of resources) or a specialist (a species with a limited diet that is adapted to a particular environment), but a "generalist specialist."

The other species of the genus *Homo*, which migrated out of Africa in waves starting around 2 million years ago, seemed to have moved to places where the environment closely matched the one they were familiar with: a combination of open grasslands and riverine forests.

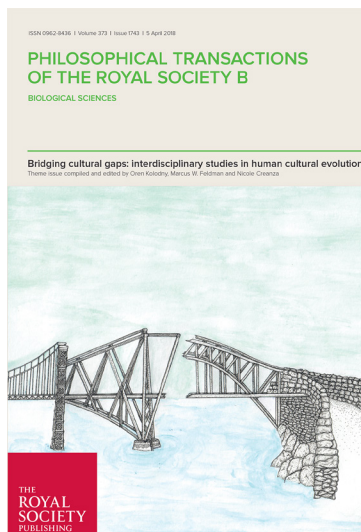
Stewart explains: "We suspect that at the root of this ecological savviness were selective pressures on cultural evolution—pressures likely exerted in Africa over a long (and climatically volatile) period of time before *Homo sapiens* left that continent. These pressures probably favored hyper-cooperative

behaviors like long-distance exchange and ritual relationships—social mechanisms that tightly knitted people and groups across landscapes and through generations."

Stewart and Roberts stress that more research is needed to support this hypothesis.



Faculty News



Curator **Raven Garvey** has amplified her human ecology projects, currently centered on Patagonian hunter-gatherers, with comparisons to same-latitude North American groups, including the Unangan (Aleut). One new and exciting theme is the potential effects of clothing technology on population size and subsequent cultural developments in cold environments. Many of the results are described in her book on Patagonian prehistory, which is nearing

completion! She was also invited to participate in a small workshop at Stanford University that paired early career scholars with leaders in the field of cultural evolutionary theory to chart progress and map future directions. Her contribution recently appeared in a special issue of *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*.

Right: UMMAA curator Rob Beck and Harvard archaeologist Jason Ur at the Berry site. Photo by Heather Mell.

Below: Rob with his children, Soledad and Cadir. Photo by Jason Ur.

Curator **Rob Beck** continued his long-running project exploring the archaeology of Fort San Juan (1566–1568), located at the Berry site in western North Carolina. An article by Rob and his colleagues on their recent discoveries appeared in *American Antiquity* in October 2018 (“A Road to Zacatecas: Fort San Juan and the Defenses of Spanish La Florida”). During the 2018 field season, Rob and colleagues were joined by Jason Ur, professor of anthropology at Harvard University. Rob’s and Jason’s families shared a house near the site and plan to do so again next year, as Jason brings his technological and landscape wizardry to the ongoing work at Berry. Finally, Rob has been tapped as editor-elect of *Southeastern Archaeology*, the journal of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference.



Faculty News



Carla Sinopoli in August 2018 with a textile from the Asian collection at the Research Museums Center. Photo by Lauren Fuka.

Below: Sinopoli on a photo tower at the Vijayanagara site in the Tungabhadra Valley, India.



In August 2018, the Museum said goodbye to one of its most senior faculty: **Carla Sinopoli**, curator of Asian Archaeology and Ethnology. Sinopoli, who was also the director of the U-M Museum Studies Program and a former director of the UMMAA, took a position as director of the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Sinopoli came to U-M in 1978 as a graduate student. After earning her Master's and PhD in anthropology, she continued on as a teacher: first as an adjunct assistant professor and then, in turn, an assistant, associate, and full professor and curator. She directed the Museum from 2005 to 2011.

An archaeologist's career

Growing up in Yonkers, New York, Sinopoli's favorite museum was the Cloisters, where the family went on Sunday afternoon. As a freshman at State University of New York at Binghamton, she worked at an archaeological field school in upstate New York. Though they found "almost nothing," she was hooked. In her junior year, she went to Morocco and excavated at Qsar es-Seghir, a site on the beach near the Straits of Gibraltar. That work became the topic of her undergraduate honors thesis.

At U-M, she intended to work in the Middle East with Museum curator Henry Wright, but the Iranian revolution intervened. Instead she went to India on an archaeological survey within the city of Vijayanagara. This turned into her doctoral project and led to work on the early historic landscapes of the Tunsabhadra Corridor, a Neolithic site dating to about 2000 BC.

The Museum itself is to blame for her focus on collections, Sinopoli said.

"The Asia Collections seduced me into being more focused on museum work. I came here as a field archaeologist, but interest in the collections led me down the rabbit hole of museum collections ... We hosted many Asian scholars over the years and they also have drawn me in to learning about the collections."

In 1998, Sinopoli co-curated a large exhibit on the Philippines with the Museum of Natural History, and over the next two decades she would do four more exhibits: two with the U-M Art Museum and two with the Kelsey Museum.

Her passion about the importance of curation was contagious. "The collections are amazing: a record of human past," she explained. "The Asian Collections are the best and most important of their kind in the country."

For students, she had this advice: "Be open to opportunities. I never thought I'd go to India. Take advantage of the fact that we have resources [to] learn from and teach others from ... [we have] the collections."

PREHISTORIC COPPER MINING IN MICHIGAN

The Nineteenth-Century Discovery of “Ancient Diggings”
in the Keweenaw Peninsula and Isle Royale

John R. Halsey

Nineteenth-century miners and explorers stumbled upon evidence of prehistoric copper mining in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, and they used the ancient pits as a guide to establishing their own, much larger mines. In the process, they destroyed the archaeological record of this industry. John R. Halsey, former state archaeologist of Michigan, describes the discovery and almost simultaneous destruction of these prehistoric copper mining sites.

“This volume will prove a valuable resource to current and future scholars. Through early accounts of prospectors and miners, Halsey provides a vivid picture of what once could be seen.”

—John M. O’Shea, curator of Great Lakes Archaeology at UMMAA

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A plateau rich in ruins



U-M, Kosova survey crew finds Bronze Age and medieval sites

Beyond the so-called Accursed Mountains, in western Kosova, there is a plateau—the Dukagjin Plateau—littered with the remains of thousands of years of history, from scatters of Neolithic pottery to medieval towers and cemeteries. Beginning in prehistoric times, a trade route connected this area to the coast of the Adriatic Sea through the Peja Pass. (Kosovars refer to their country as “Kosova,” so we use that spelling here.)

In the summer of 2018, an archaeological crew from the University of Michigan and the Kosova Institute of Archaeology (KIA) began to survey the Peja and Istog districts of western Kosova—the first time an intensive archaeological survey had been carried out there. They refer to the project as RAPID-K: Regional Archaeology in the Peja and Istog Districts of Kosova.

Michael Galaty, director of the Museum of Anthropological Archaeology, and his wife, archaeologist Sylvia Deskaj, co-direct the survey project with Haxhi Mehmetaj, an archaeologist at the KIA. Students from Michigan and the University of Prishtina participated, as well as several students from the University of Tirana in Albania. Galaty and Deskaj had visited Kosova in 2016 and, based on extensive surveys done previously by local archaeologists, knew that there were dozens of archaeological sites in the area. The primary goal of RAPID-K is to investigate the region in more detail.

The project also marked the KIA’s first international collaboration with American archaeologists.

“Since the war [in 1998–1999], there has been very little international archaeology,” said Galaty. “But Kosova is rapidly developing and this kind of survey work desperately needs to be done.”

What they were looking for

“We would expect trade connections through Albania and down to the coast,” explained Galaty, who has done archaeological work in Albania for 20 years, both on the coast (the PASH project) and in the mountains (the Shala Valley Project).

One purpose of the survey is to look for evidence of social change in the upland region. “With RAPID-K we’re looking at the interior,” said Galaty. “How are things changing through time? How are they similar to or different from what we see on the coast?”

Through trade, residents of the plateau would have had contact with many other cultures and empires, including Greek, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman. What isn’t known is how this contact affected the organization of local societies. In northern Albania, Galaty found that a complex economy and social inequality developed as early as the Copper Age (3500–3100 BC), and this development appeared to be directly connected to trade. RAPID-K should help establish whether the same was true for Kosova.

The project directors knew there would be plenty to investigate. Archaeological remains in the Peja-Istog region of Kosova are plentiful in part because the landforms there are fairly stable. “Things that were on the hilltops stayed on the hilltops,” said Galaty.

For the same reason, artifacts are often more complete than at sites in other regions—pottery is often found in large chunks rather than broken into dozens of small sherds.

Logistics

Workdays during the month-long project began with a drive. The crew split into three teams and drove from the Camp Karagoq Hotel in Peja 10 to 20 miles out to their respective survey areas. Each of the three teams surveyed approximately 5 square kilometers over the course of the month; crew members walked in transects 15 meters apart and recorded every artifact they found. The project’s lab was set up in the hotel itself. There they cleaned and analyzed diagnostic sherds—rims, handles, bases—and other distinctive pieces brought in from the field.

What they found

The crew found more than 3,000 diagnostic artifacts—most of them pottery and many of them from the Bronze and Iron Age. They also





found 15 new sites, ranging in age from the Neolithic to the Ottoman period. Many of the sites were medieval cemeteries and towers. Perhaps most important were two new Bronze Age sites—one of which stretches across nearly 50 hectares (about 124 acres). Stuck between a burial site and a hilltop fort, the Late Bronze Age site of Pepaj dates to about 1250 BC, according to recent ^{14}C results. These ^{14}C dates, taken from a construction cut through the site, are the first ever recovered for the Bronze Age in Kosova.

What's next

Galaty is very pleased with the project's results so far. "We had a great team and our partners from the KIA are fantastic," he said.

"Next summer, we plan to investigate the site of Pepaj more fully, using coring and geophysics, and to expand our survey zones."

The significance of the site goes beyond this summer's discoveries. "Kosova is an important, understudied region," said Galaty. "It sits at the environmental interface between the Mediterranean and continental Europe. When you combine RAPID-K with the work being done to the north, in Serbia, by UMMAA curator John O'Shea, it becomes clear that Michigan is a leader in Balkan archaeology."

Galaty and team look forward to many years unravelling the mysteries of the Dukagjin Plateau.

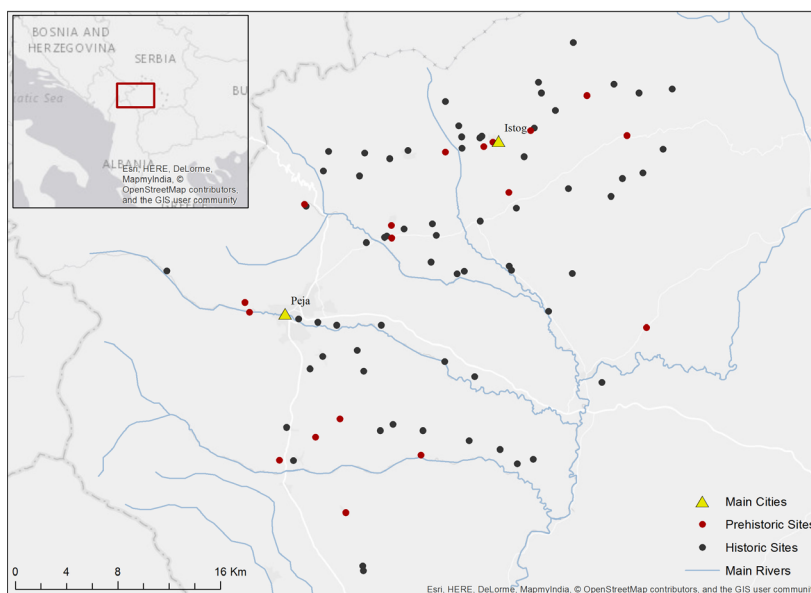
Prehistoric and Historic Archaeological Sites in the Peja and Istog Districts of Kosova

Above: RAPID-K co-director Michael Galaty and crew members excavate artifacts from a profile exposed during construction in the vicinity of the Pepaj site. Radiocarbon analysis of samples from the profile shows they date to approximately 1250 BC.

Right: Map of archaeological sites in the survey area: the Peja and Istog districts of western Kosova. Map by Erina Baci.

Opposite page, top: RAPID-K crew members Erina Baci (left) and Anisa Mara find prehistoric pottery in the Vrelle Mountains. Photo by Erina Baci.

Opposite page, below: project directors (front row, l to r) Haxhi Mehmetaj, Sylvia Deskaj, and Michael Galaty with the RAPID-K crew in Kosova.



Sources: Berisha (2012), ESRI (2010, 2016), Gashi and Alaj (2015), Perzhita et al. (2006), Rexha (2012).

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Graduate student Yuchao Zhao explores a Neolithic cave dwelling. It is the first prehistoric cave site discovered in Tibet.