

Museum of Anthropological Archaeology



In 2021, archaeology graduate student Brendan Nash (at screen) and UMMAA curator Henry Wright (in chair) made headlines with their excavation of the Belson site in southwest Michigan. At 13,000 years old, it is the oldest archaeological site in Michigan and the only known Clovis site in the state. See page 21.

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Letter from the Director

Dear Alumni and Friends of UMMAA:

It is a true pleasure to see another UMMAA newsletter come together. It signals, in some small way, a return to normal, or at least a “new” normal. Last academic year tested our museum community in ways we could scarcely have imagined. Our ranges and labs were closed. Access to the Research Museums Center and our collections was curtailed. All of our classes moved online. Many students, curators, and staff were not able to meet each other in person for months. And most difficult of all, fieldwork projects were canceled. In the midst of the chaos, we asked you, our generous alumni and friends, for help. In the spring, we used the university’s annual online Giving Bluesday campaign to raise emergency funds to support graduate student research of all kinds—to take place this summer—and thereby close the COVID “gap,” a lost research year caused by the virus. I am happy to say that in May we dispersed \$14,732 to 11 graduate students for projects based in the field, in the lab, and utilizing the UMMAA collections. These grants have made a huge difference in the lives of our fantastic graduate students, and for that, we thank you!

As things on campus get back to normal, we will soon return to planning for a new museum, to be located on central campus. The new space will retain the “range” system so many of you know and love from your student days. One long-term goal we have is to rename and sustain each range with a small endowment that can be used to support the teaching and research activities of its curator and the students—undergraduate and graduate—based therein. We are excited to announce that we are currently

raising money to endow the North American range, which with the opening of a new museum, will be dedicated as the James B. Griffin North American Range Fund. If you would like to support this effort—if you have fond memories of Jimmy!—please visit our website (lsa.umich.edu/ummaa), click on Coffee Cup Challenge, and direct your gift to the James B. Griffin North American Range Fund.

One silver lining of the move to Zoom has been the proliferation of archaeology webinars that are open to the public. In response to the Black Lives Matter movement and in order to begin to diversify our own museum community, last year UMMAA hosted a series of presentations by Black archaeologists. If you could not watch them live, I encourage you to watch the recordings, all of which are available on our YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxaBSubLREUMFSvyvd4RcvgRe1d2CNvQF). They are fascinating and surprising, and they chart a positive future for archaeology. This year’s colloquium series focuses on Indigenous archaeology, and it is again online. Watch for email invitations!

Now, as we (hopefully!) close the pandemic chapter, we look forward to welcoming you back to campus for a very special occasion. **SAVE THE DATE!** We will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Museum’s founding with a large international conference and party in Ann Arbor, September 29–October 2, 2022! More information to come soon.

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

In Memoriam

Jeffrey R. Parsons, professor emeritus of anthropology and curator and former director of the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology, died March 19, 2021, at age 81.

“It is with great sadness and a deep sense of loss that we learned of the passing of our friend and colleague Jeff Parsons,” wrote **Michael L. Galaty**, director of the Museum. “Jeff was a giant in the world of anthropological archaeology, and he had an indelible impact on UMMAA, not only as a curator but also as a director. He will be sorely missed.”

Henry T. Wright, curator of Near Eastern archaeology at the Museum, wrote an essay in remembrance of his colleague and friend. Read the essay in the news archive on the Museum website (lsa.umich.edu/ummaa; search on Parsons).

In late 2019, the Museum had published Jeff’s most recent book, *Remembering Archaeological Fieldwork in Mexico and Peru, 1961–2003: A Photographic Essay*. Read more about this and the many other books Jeff wrote and co-wrote, visit the Museum books website (sites.lsa.umich.edu/archaeology-books) and search on Parsons.

SAVE THE DATE!

UMMAA at 100: Michigan's Mark—Past, Present, Future

September 29–October 2, 2022

held at the Rackham Building on central campus
4th floor amphitheatre for all conference sessions

conference schedule, list of participants, and more
information forthcoming

Thank you, generous donors! It is because of your support that the Museum can plan to send students on excavation trips around the world in 2022. 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.

To give online, go to the UMMAA main page (lsa.umich.edu/ummaa) and look for the blue Show Your Support rectangle. If you prefer to mail a check, include the completed gift form below with your check.

Mail your check and the gift form below to:

University of Michigan
Museum of Anthropological Archaeology
3010 School of Education Building,
610 E. University Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1259

Please make checks payable to the University of Michigan.

Name _____ Address _____
Phone _____ Address _____
Email _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

STEP ONE: CHOOSE YOUR GIFT

One-time Gift:

- ☐ \$100
☐ \$250
☐ \$500
☐ \$1000
☐ \$ _____

OR

Monthly Gift:

Charged the 10th of each month
☐ \$ _____ per month

STEP TWO: CHOOSE YOUR AREA TO SUPPORT

- \$ _____ Museum of Anthropological Archaeology Strategic Fund (325892)*
\$ _____ James B. Griffin North American Range Fund (701284)
\$ _____ Museum of Anthro Publications Gift Support (732105)
\$ _____ Other _____

*If no fund is selected, your gift will be used where it is needed most.

The university requires sufficient time to process credit card gifts prior to December 31, 2021, in accordance with IRS rules and regulations. In order for a credit card gift to be deductible in 2021, credit card gifts sent by mail must reach the University by December 18th; OR you may give online at donate.umich.edu. We are working at reduced capacity due to the pandemic, however you may also call (888) 518-7888 (toll free) or (734) 647-6179 (local), M-F 9 AM - 4 PM EST, between December 18 and 31, 2021 to donate over the phone. PLEASE HAVE THE SOLICITATION FORM ON HAND FOR YOUR CALL. Do NOT send your credit card information by email.



STEP THREE: CHOOSE YOUR PAYMENT METHOD

Online at: myumi.ch/givetoummaa

Credit Card: ☐ AMEX ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA

Acct. # _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature required _____

Check (Payable to the University of Michigan)
Phone (888.518.7888)

ID: _____

A: 23843

Meet the Museum's New Graduate Students

Megan Savoy



Megan in an excavated unit at the Bioarchaeology and Forensic Anthropology Field School at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2019.

Megan Savoy earned her bachelor's degree in anthropology and Chinese language at the University of Massachusetts Amherst in the spring of 2019. There she focused on bioarchaeology. For her thesis, she investigated the juvenile health of a medieval Italian population (Noli, Italy) using stature as a proxy. She reconstructed and analyzed the juvenile skeletal remains, which were part of the collection that was donated by the Archaeology Superintendent of Liguria for UMass Amherst students to study.

While at UMass Amherst, Megan completed the six-week Bioarchaeology and Forensic Anthropology Field School. There she learned how to locate and excavate an unmarked, pseudo-archaeological burial. While on the project, she was selected to be the team's lab coordinator and was asked to lead her team through the organization

and cataloging of artifacts as well as the interpretation and analysis for the final lab report.

At the University of Michigan, Megan is excited to expand her knowledge of archaeology by exploring her research interests, which include diet, mobility, and isotopic analysis. She is confident that her background in bioarchaeology will be key in providing a unique perspective as she explores questions related to diet and mobility in the past.

This summer, Megan joined fellow grad **Hannah Hoover** in South Carolina as Hannah collected data for her dissertation. As a team, they shoveled test pits during the week and then cleaned, organized, and catalogued the artifacts. Megan learned how to set up and use a total station, among many other skills.

Please welcome our new student, **Megan Savoy!**

Meet the Museum's New Graduate Students

Jhon Percy Cruz Quiñones



Jhon at an open-air site from the middle Holocene (8,000–5,000 BP) in the Ancash region, north-central Peru. He is shown screening material from a camp located in high-altitude grassland. Photo credit: Eduardo Sante, 2021.

Jhon Percy Cruz Quiñones is a Peruvian archaeologist who earned his bachelor's degree in archaeology from the University of Santiago Antúnez de Mayolo in 2013.

His research interests focus on the transition of hunter-gatherers to sedentism in the Andes. He is interested in the ecological, climatic, and cultural mechanisms for sustaining permanent occupation in marginal environments. Since 2014 Jhon has been researching hunter and gatherer settlement systems located in high-altitude environments that date to 12,000 to 5,000 years BP. His field projects have consisted of regional survey, excavation, lithic studies, and raw material procurement analyses. With these projects, he hopes to better understand the use of different ecological foraging patches and interaction networks that allowed for early aggregation.

Over the years, Jhon's archaeological fieldwork has brought him into contact with local communities and urban populations alike. Frequently, these local stakeholders informed him that they felt they lacked opportunities to participate in and access their own history. At that moment, Jhon asked himself: When did anthropology lose its commitment to making the past meaningful for people? In this sense, UMMAA and the University of Michigan stood out to him as institutions where he could recognize the diversity and participation of communities and translate archaeological findings into identities and narratives of social cohesion.

Please welcome our new student, **Jhon Percy Cruz Quiñones!**

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at UMMAA

Graduate students launch speaker series, establish international student group, and create webpage for change

From the 'New Archaeology' to Equitable Archaeologies: Global Lessons from Black Scholars was a 6-part lecture series hosted by the Department of Anthropology and UMMAA in winter 2021. The series was part of UMMAA's Black Lives Matter Action Plan and was created to highlight the topical, epistemological, and ontological diversity of archaeology practiced beyond the museum. The title references both the legacy of UMMAA in the formation of the 'New Archaeology' and the future the institution hopes to chart by enacting disciplinary equity. A committee of graduate students, faculty, and staff organized the series, and scholars were selected by the entire UMMAA community.

The lecture series ultimately brought together archaeologists whose research focuses on concepts like identity, race, ethnicity, and power, as well as specific

historical trajectories that shape and entangle them in places ranging from the Horn of Africa to the Caribbean. Speakers included Dr. Helina Woldekiros (Washington University in St. Louis), Dr. Justin Dunnivant (University of California, Los Angeles), Dr. Ayana Flewellen (University of California, Riverside), Dr. Terrance Weik (University of South Carolina), Debora Heard (University of Chicago) and Dr. Alicia Odewale (University of Tulsa). These scholars shared their broad knowledge of these topics, and many discussed the value of local and descendant collaboration as well as their visions and plans for more inclusive and just archaeological futures.

Lectures were co-sponsored by several units on campus and were well attended via Zoom by the general public and academic audiences. Recordings can be found on UMMAA's Videos webpage.

The poster features a background map of the world. At the top, the title is in a large, bold, serif font. Below the title is a Zoom Webinar link. The poster is divided into six sections, each featuring a speaker's portrait, name, title, and date. The speakers are Dr. Helina Woldekiros, Dr. Justin Dunnivant, Dr. Ayana Flewellen, Dr. Terrance Weik, Debora Heard, and Dr. Alicia Odewale. At the bottom, there are logos for the Museum of Anthropological Archaeology and the Department of Anthropology at the University of Michigan, along with social media handles.

From the "New Archaeology" to Equitable Archaeologies: Global Lessons from Black Scholars

Zoom Webinar: <https://umich.zoom.us/j/91766825227>

Dr. Helina Woldekiros
Niche Economy: The Afar Salt Caravan Route and the Political Economy of the Aksumite State, Ethiopia
January 22nd, 1 pm

Dr. Justin Dunnivant
A Historical Ecology of Slavery in the Danish West Indies: An Archaeology of Redress
February 1st, 1:30 pm

Dr. Ayana Flewellen
"The Will to Adorn:" Black Women and Sartorial Practices Post-Emancipation
February 26th, 1 pm

Dr. Terrance Weik
Archaeologies of African Diasporan Reparations
March 12th, 3 pm

Debora Heard
The Barbarians at the Gate: Early Black Historiographical Attempts to Redefine Nubia's Place in World History
April 2nd, 3 pm

Dr. Alicia Odewale
The Next Revolution: Developing an Anti-racist Archaeology
April 23rd, 1 pm

M | LSA MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARCHAEOLOGY UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

M | LSA ANTHROPOLOGY UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

University of Michigan Anthropology, Museum of Anthropological Archaeology @umichanthroarch

Poster from the winter 2021 speaker series at UMMAA. Graduate students worked with faculty and staff to create and organize the online lecture series as part of the Museum's Black Lives Matter Action Plan.

Michigan International Student Anthropology Association (MISAA)

Beginning as the “International Student Working Group” (ISWG), the Michigan International Student Anthropology Association (MISAA) was established through a recognized need for an international graduate student voice within the Department of Anthropology. The establishment of MISAA was only possible with the hard work of pioneer members and advocates—Sharmi Sen, **Györgyi Parditka**, and **Yuchao Zhao**—as well as our current MISAA board members: Paloma Contreras, José Enrique Solano Del Castillo, Saifullah Nasar, **Zhaneta Gjyshja**, **Iride Tomažič**, and **Erina Baci**. Additionally, a special acknowledgment goes to the several faculty members who have supported MISAA from its inception: Kelly Askew, our first designated faculty advisor; **Raven Garvey**, our current faculty advisor; and Museum director **Michael Galaty**.

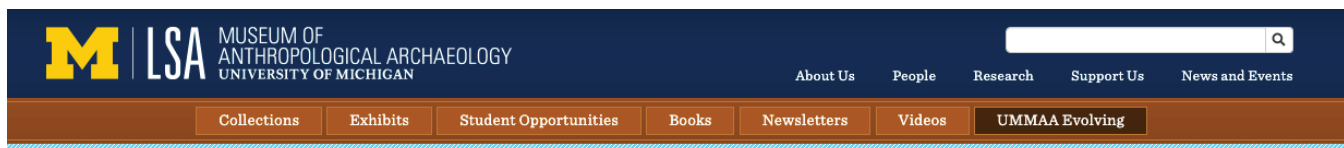
MISAA’s mission is to provide an inclusive, supportive, and safe space for international students within the department. This mission was developed from the acknowledgment that international students’ position and needs are very different from our American peers.

MISAA intends to serve as a network of institutional knowledge provided by fellow international graduate students and offer a support system in order to create a sense of community. MISAA will help with the seemingly small but actually quite challenging requirements associated with moving to Michigan, navigating the program, and acclimating to life in Ann Arbor.

Since MISAA’s creation, the organization has created, published, and curated three informational student



resources, compiling institutional knowledge from students on a series of topics, from applying to the program to finding an apartment in Ann Arbor. MISAA has hosted several virtual and in-person social hours to allow students to connect. The organization has also received a DEI grant from Rackham, which was used to create a series of mini-grants awarded to incoming first-year international students to help cover living expenses in Ann Arbor during the first few days after arrival. For the winter 2022 semester, MISAA is planning a social BBQ as well as a grant-writing workshop to provide a space for peer review and advice on grant writing for international students.



UMMAA EVOLVING

UMMAA EVOLVING

[Land Acknowledgment](#)

[Black Lives Matter](#)

[Student Manifesto and Action Plan](#)

[Values and Commitments](#)

[Collaboration](#)

[Public Outreach](#)

[Fighting Harassment and Discrimination](#)

[Feedback and Help Resources](#)

UMMAA Evolving

UMMAA Evolving: Change in our Museum

We are a community of faculty, staff, and students committed to creating a cultural and academic space in our Museum and University that allows people to participate and contribute with the full expression of their identities and abilities. We recognize that many of these identities have historically been marginalized and systematically excluded from participating and engaging in anthropology, archaeology, and museums. Within these fields, the goal is to understand and relate to the human condition in all its expressions, but as scholars and humans we have fallen short of this ideal in everyday practice. Researchers in all three disciplines have often viewed individuals and even whole societies as the “other”—subjects of curiosity to be studied and classified. We reject this view, and we celebrate the full spectrum of identities, including race, culture, gender, sexual orientation, and ability. Further, we recognize that inequities in these fields continue to this day and that it is our responsibility to deconstruct the systems that allow injustice to persist. To this end, our community has created an [action plan](#) to address the systemic failures within these fields.

The Museum's Action Plan, which grew out of the 2020 Black Lives Matter movement, is posted on a new UMMAA webpage called UMMAA Evolving. Also found here are the Museum's land acknowledgment, values statement, and related documents.

News about UMMAA Collections

Exhibitions, remote education, accessions, and collaboration

Over the past year, despite the pandemic, the Museum's collections continued to be active. Artifacts were accessioned, loans went out, and we continued our commitment to world-class research and education.

Two new exhibitions of UMMAA collections are on display at the University of Michigan Museum of Natural History (UMMNH). They can be found in the atrium, behind the mastodons. Both exhibits will be on display until the summer of 2022.

The first is in the Student Showcase, titled *Knowledge Sharing: Students Learning from an Ethnobotanist and Anishinaabe Artists*. This exhibition is a collaboration between UMMAA, UMMNH, and Dr. **Lisa C. Young's** Winter 2020 Museum Anthropology (Antharch 497) students, who researched the objects collected by former UMMAA curator **Volney Jones** from Ketegaunseebee/Garden River First Nation. Dr. Young is a faculty member in the University of Michigan Department of Anthropology and a research affiliate in the Museum of Anthropological Archaeology.

The second is in the Collections Case, titled *Wiidanokiindiwag (They Work with Each Other)*. This exhibition is a reimplementing of an exhibition that was previously on display at the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways in 2019. It was co-curated by William Johnson, curator and interim director of the Ziibiwing Center, and **Carla Sinopoli**, UMMAA curator emerita and director of the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology at the University of New Mexico.

The University of Michigan Museum of Art recently reinstalled their African galleries, doubling the space dedicated to African art. The exhibition, titled *We Write to You About Africa*, includes a number of Ghanaian bronze sculptures from UMMAA.

Over the past year, the UMMAA received a number of donations, including the **John D. Speth** Archives; a spinning wheel and spindle whorl made by Rup Chand, gift of Lois and Gordon Kane; a group of Scandinavian neolithic stone tools originally collected by Frederick Sterns; a pair of Canadian sealskin mukluks, gift of Professor Stephen C. Rand; and a Navajo "eye dazzler" rug made by Anna Ashley, gift of Anne Percy Knott.

We continued to engage students through remote classes and tours. Pär Cassel, associate professor of history, brought his class (History 354: War, Rebellion and Revolution in China through Two Centuries) to the Research Museums Center via Zoom to view material from the Museum's Chinese Government Collection. **Lisa Young**, anthropology lecturer and UMMAA research affiliate, presented the famous Michigan Relics, or Soper Frauds, to her class, Fakes

and Frauds in Archaeology. Graduate students in the U-M Museum Studies Program virtually toured the Research Museums Center and worked with collections managers to create a proposal to improve RMC accessibility.

Finally, UMMAA staff are part of a project titled *ReConnect/ReCollect: Reparative Connections to Philippine Collections* at the University of Michigan. The group has received a two-year grant from the Humanities Collaboratory, with the goal of constructing models for community engagement and more ethical stewardship around the University of Michigan's Philippine collections that were acquired during the U.S. colonial period in the Philippines. This includes the work of UMMAA's founding curator and director **Carl E. Guthe**, as well as the Dean C. Worcester photographic collection. The *ReConnect/ReCollect* project builds on recent efforts to decolonize collections and foreground Indigenous perspectives and community collaboration, consultation, and dialogue.

—**Jim Moss** and **Andrea Blaser**



Baskets are among the Museum's more than 3 million artifacts. They are held in humidity-controlled cabinets at the Research Museums Center.



Jim Moss, one of three collections managers at UMMAA, with the Museum's collections at the Research Museums Center.

NAGPRA

The University of Michigan recently published two Notices in the Federal Register as part of U-M's NAGPRA compliance. A Notice of Inventory Completion was published on August 17, 2021. This Notice was for 50 individuals and their 108 associated funerary objects from sites in Antrim, Newaygo, and Roscommon Counties, Michigan. Another Notice of Inventory Completion was published on August 25, 2021. This Notice was for

9 individuals and their 25 associated funerary objects from a site in Menominee County, Michigan. Transfers of legal control for these individuals and their associated funerary objects to the Tribes listed in the Notices have been completed; transfers of possession are upcoming. To date, the University of Michigan has transferred over 800 individuals and their funerary objects to Federally Recognized Tribes under NAGPRA. More information about the University of Michigan's NAGPRA compliance can be found at <https://nagpra.umich.edu/>.

News from the Field 2021

In spite of the pandemic, UMMAA students and faculty were able to advance their research. Included here is news on their 2021 work in various regions of the world.

Africa

With the pandemic precluding fieldwork in Africa, Museum curator **Brian Stewart** focused his year on research and writing, as well as teaching and mentoring. His new book manuscript was submitted and is currently in review; entitled *A Foraging Nexus: Space, Subsistence and Society at Dunefield Midden*, Stewart's book is a spatial study of site formation, sociality, and ritual life at a well-preserved hunter-gatherer campsite in coastal South Africa. Other

outputs this year included articles in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* and *Quaternary Research*, both co-authored with graduate student **Yuchao Zhao**. Brian also edited a special issue of the journal *Quaternary International*, to which he contributed another article with graduate student **Kyra Pazan**.



Prehistoric coastal foragers butchering an eland at Dunefield Midden on South Africa's west coast. The pointing woman is offering advice on what should be shared with whom. John Klausmeyer, former illustrator at UMMAA, created this and several other reconstructions of daily life at the site for Museum curator Brian Stewart's forthcoming book.

Asia

Curator **Alicia Ventresca Miller** started a new project entitled Centering the Northern Realms: Integrating histories and archaeologies of the Mongol Empire (1200 to 1500 CE). Funded by the Humanities Collaboratory at the University of Michigan, Alicia and her co-PI (Christian de Pee, History Department) are investigating the Northern Realms during the Mongol Empire by integrating histories and archaeologies. Their collaborative research challenges existing descriptions of the northern people of the forest as minor participants in the Mongol Empire. They are finding that power was concentrated in the north, with elites engaging in religious pluralism, controlling rare resources, and affecting Mongol politics. Northern communities were highly influential in networks of exchange, bearing clothing of imported silk and fur while wearing jeweled rings and gold ornaments. The aim of the project is to broaden our understanding of power in the Mongol Empire by demonstrating the central role of the northern realms. They will publish their results, hold seminars, and prepare a comic book and exhibit.

In addition, Alicia had two major publications come out this year: “Re-evaluating Scythian nomadism: Isotopic analysis of diet and mobility in Iron Age Ukraine,” in the journal PLOS ONE, and “Dairying enabled Early Bronze Age Yamnaya steppe expansions,” in *Nature*. Both publications got a fair amount of press.

Read the press releases:

<https://www.shh.mpg.de/2045776/milk-and-migration>

<https://www.shh.mpg.de/1968873/miller-scythian-people>

And examples of media coverage:

<https://gizmodo.com/long-known-as-nomads-scythians-may-have-been-solidly-s-1846448929>

<https://www.mpg.de/17544984/milk-enabled-massive-steppe-migration>

https://www.science.org/content/article/milk-fueled-bronze-age-expansion-eastern-cowboys-europe?utm_campaign=NewsfromScience&utm_source=Social&utm_medium=Twitter&

Right: Museum curator Alicia Ventresca Miller works in the paleoproteomics lab at the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

Save the Date!

Ancient Protein and Isotope Laboratory opening in spring 2022

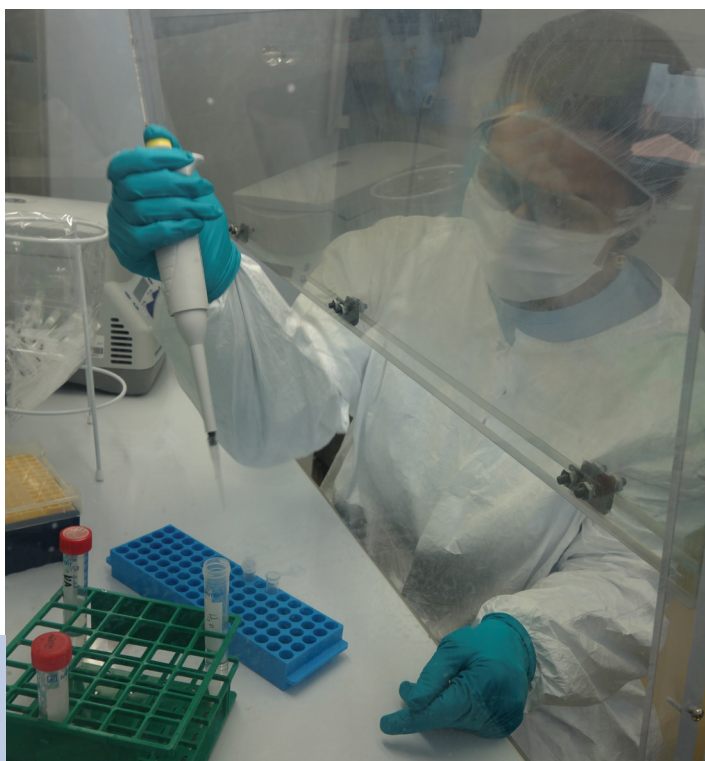
In 2022, the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology (UMMAA) will open a new laboratory suite in the Chemistry building, directed by Museum curator **Alicia R. Ventresca Miller**.

The Ancient Protein Laboratory is a state-of-the-art facility with separate areas for sampling and extraction of proteins. The facility has the potential to extract proteins from a wide variety of archaeological samples, including dental calculus, bone, enamel, and residues from ceramics and tools.

The Isotope Laboratory is a dedicated space for the analysis of archaeological materials, including enamel, bone, dentin, and plants. This facility includes areas for collagen extraction and the preparation of organic samples, and a separate drilling room for sub-sampling of archaeological materials. There will also be a dedicated location for the extraction of proteins and preparation of sample plates for ZooMS.

Methods

- Ancient Proteins / Paleoproteomics
- Carbon and Oxygen Isotopes of Tooth Enamel
- Carbon and Nitrogen Isotopes of Bone Collagen
- ZooMS (Zooarchaeology by Mass Spectrometry)



Europe

Museum director **Michael Galaty** directed fieldwork in Kosova. This was the third field season of intensive archaeological survey and builds upon the first two seasons in 2018 and 2019. The project, called RAPID-K—Regional Archaeology in the Peja and Istog Districts of Kosova—is co-directed by Galaty, Haxhi Mehmetaj (Archaeological Institute of Kosova), and **Sylvia Deskaj** (University of Michigan). The primary goal of RAPID-K is to locate archaeological sites of all periods in western Kosova on the Dukagjin Plateau and to address changes in settlement patterns through time. In three years the team has discovered 52 new sites. One of these, Pepaj, is a very large Late Bronze Age site (c. 1200 BC). Another, Lluga, is a Late Neolithic village (c. 5000–4500 BC). In 2021, the team conducted geophysical surveys at both sites, led by Apostolos Sarris (University of Cyprus). Lluga is of particular interest: magnetometry identified what may be the remains of several large intact longhouses and a possible enclosure ditch. RAPID-K plans a study season in 2022, followed by publication of the survey results. Large-scale excavations will (hopefully) commence in 2024. Several Michigan students participated in RAPID-K 2021, including **Gabriella Armstrong, Erina Baci, Matthew Brown, Zhaneta Gjyshja, Buck Roberson (IPCAA), Julian Schultz, and Madeline Topor.**



In 2021, the RAPID-K crew conducted its third year of intensive archaeological survey of western Kosava. Above: geophysical survey at Pepaj, a very large Late Bronze Age site. Below: the 2021 RAPID-K crew.



News from the Field 2021

In the late spring and summer of 2021, graduate student **Györgyi Parditka** conducted a significant portion of her dissertation-related data collection in Hungary and Serbia, with support from the Rackham International Research Award. From early May until mid-July Györgyi worked with museum collections at the Móra Ferenc Museum in Szeged, Hungary. She collected ceramic stylistic information for her doctoral dissertation research from three Bronze Age sites.

In the second part of the summer Györgyi visited museum collections at Kikinda, Serbia with fellow graduate student **Iride Tomažič**. They helped each other in their data collection. In addition to collecting data at the museum, they also visited the Rabe Anka Siget Bronze Age tell site. The visit to Serbia also provided the chance to extend her professional network and to visit an ongoing excavation by Serbian archaeologists in the area.

Iride Tomažič spent her summer in Hungary and Serbia, collecting samples for her dissertation, both in museums and in the field. She spent the first part of the summer in the Móra Ferenc Museum. The remaining part of the summer she spent in Serbia, where she collected soil samples from

the site of Rabe Anka Siget with the help of Györgyi. Iride also worked on the Copper Age cemetery of Podlokanj and helped Györgyi with her data collection.

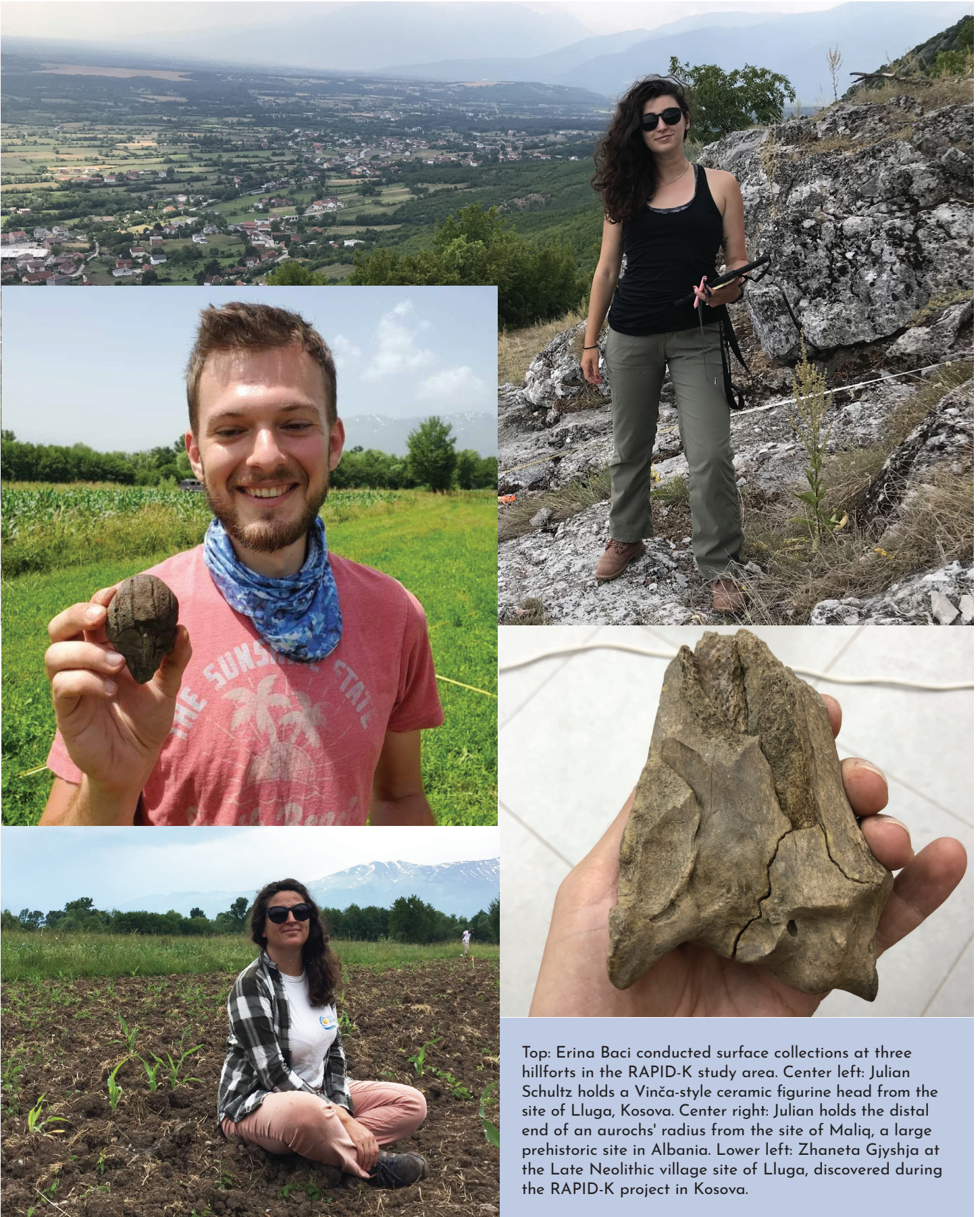
Erina Baci returned to Kosova to conduct her first pilot season of dissertation research in addition to participating in RAPID-Kosova, where she serves as the GIS database manager. Erina completed her pilot season in July, when she conducted surface collections at three hillforts in the RAPID-K study area. Magnetometry survey was conducted at two of the three hillforts, with promising results! Erina spent ten days in Prishtina, based at the site of Ulpiana, analyzing her surface finds with the help of RAPID-K co-director Haxhi Mehmetaj (Archaeological Institute of Kosova) and RAPID-K team leader, graduate student **Zhaneta Gjyshja**. Erina will present findings of her pilot season at the 2021 Society for American Archaeology meetings in Chicago.

Zhaneta spent the summer doing survey in North Albania and Kosova. In Albania, she visited multiple previously excavated and unexcavated sites and looked at collections at the Institute of Archeology. In Kosova, Zhaneta joined the RAPID-K survey project as a team leader and joined



Györgyi Parditka and Iride Tomažič at the site of Rabe Anka Siget, Serbia, 2021.

News from the Field 2021



Top: Erina Baci conducted surface collections at three hillforts in the RAPID-K study area. Center left: Julian Schultz holds a Vinča-style ceramic figurine head from the site of Lluga, Kosova. Center right: Julian holds the distal end of an aurochs' radius from the site of Maliq, a large prehistoric site in Albania. Lower left: Zhaneta Gjyshja at the Late Neolithic village site of Lluga, discovered during the RAPID-K project in Kosova.

News from the Field 2021



French and American students work at the archaeological site of Incoronata (1000-600 BC), in southern Italy, 2021.

Erina Baci's dissertation project as a crew member. Her team assisted with magnetic gradiometry at multiple sites and she conducted a 5x5 m gridded surface collection at a multi-period site named Lluga. At Lluga, she collected artifacts, including chipped stone, ceramic fragments, daub, animal bones, stone axes, and a Vinča figurine head. The high density of chert tools indicates that it was a lithic workshop. It was occupied at least from the Late Neolithic into the Bronze Age. The magnetic gradiometry suggests longhouses, multiple anthropogenic features, and a potential enclosure. The site will be the focus of Zhaneta's dissertation.

Julian Schultz participated in two projects in summer 2021: **Michael Galaty's** RAPID-K survey project in Kosova, and Julian's own faunal analysis project, the Neolithic Albanian Archaeofaunal Analysis Project, in Albania. Julian completed crucial pilot work for his dissertation research, which he will begin next summer.

In June 2021, UMMAA research affiliate **Giulia Saltini Semerari** organized and vice-directed the field school at

Incoronata (southern Italy), under the overall scientific direction of Prof. Mario Denti of the University of Rennes 2. With a complex stratigraphic sequence spanning the tenth to the sixth centuries BC, Incoronata served as a cult and artisanal center for local communities until the seventh century, when they were joined by a group of migrants from the Aegean. Part of the broader process known as Greek colonization, the site became a key point of culture contact and negotiation at a moment of profound change towards increasing social complexity in the ancient Mediterranean. Previous work at the site uncovered substantial evidence of intentional obliteration and ritual activities prior to the abandonment of the site. This year, Giulia et al. uncovered the earliest contact phases, which were associated with a monumental wall.

While the Incoronata project has long operated as a field school for French students, this was the first year that American students were included (after quarantining in the Italian countryside!) thanks to a collaboration with the Institute for Field Research.

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Latin America



In 2021, archaeology graduate students Weston Wardle, Jennifer Larios, and Soren Frykholm excavated on the North Platform of Monte Albán in Oaxaca.

Graduate student **Matthew Brown** typically works in Cusco, Peru, but due to COVID-19 he was unable to return there in 2021. Instead, he assisted Museum director **Michael Galaty** in Kosova. Matthew also joined fellow graduate student **Weston Wardle** to conduct site visits in Oaxaca, Mexico. Matthew hopes to utilize the methods and knowledge he gained from the diverse field experiences in Kosova and Mexico when he returns to Cusco in January 2022. At that time, he will begin visiting sites and collecting preliminary data for his own dissertation.

During the winter and spring of 2021, **Weston Wardle** excavated at Monte Albán in Oaxaca as part of a conservation project. During the summer Weston visited more than a dozen communities and several archaeological sites throughout the Valley of Oaxaca that he is considering for his dissertation project. His project aims to explore what daily life was like in a small defensible village during and after the collapse of Monte Albán. Weston spent the fall

semester teaching in Ann Arbor and has returned to Oaxaca to continue his research.

Soren Frykholm also went to Oaxaca to excavate. From February to May 2021, he excavated at Monte Albán with **Weston Wardle** and **Jennifer Larios** on a project directed by Dr. Nelly Robles. They excavated and restored a building on the North Platform of Monte Albán. Soren is working on an article about the Mixtec site of San Pedro Teozacoalco, Oaxaca, where he hopes to conduct his dissertation research.

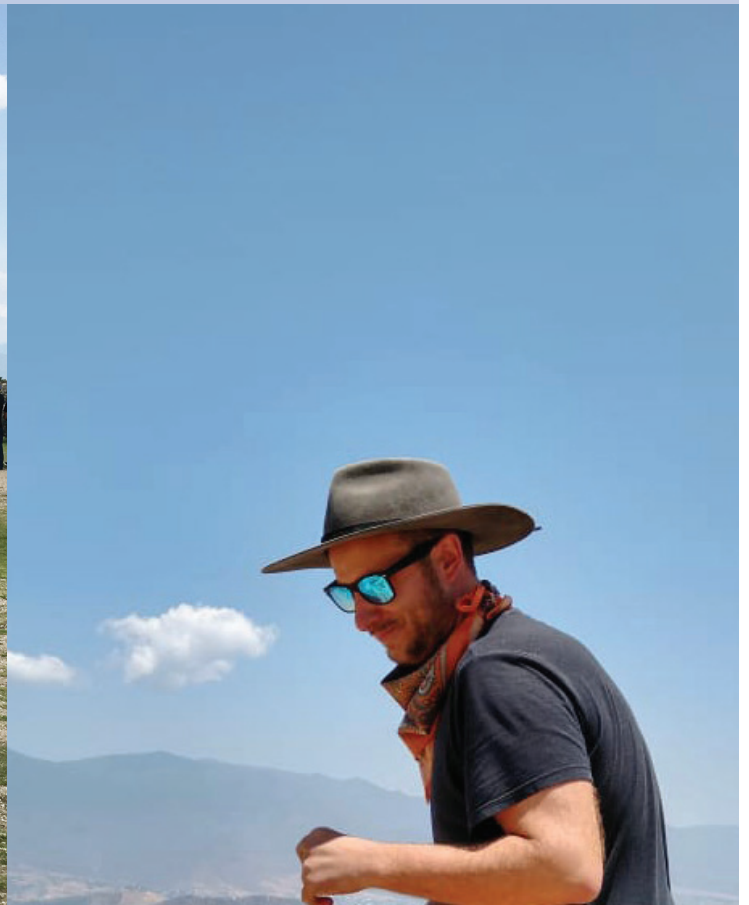
Due to the pandemic, **Jennifer Larios** switched her focus from Cañete, Peru, to Oaxaca. In addition to excavating at Monte Albán, she assisted **Laura Bossio** and **Brendan Nash** on their respective field projects.

While his fieldwork in Belize was once again canceled due to COVID-19, **Brett Meyer** was fortunate to gain access to a faunal assemblage collected by the Belize Valley Archaeological Reconnaissance (BVAR) project.

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Above: Matthew Brown surface collects by grid in Kosova. Below left: Jennifer Larios at Monte Albán in Oaxaca. Below right: Weston Wardle surveys sites in the Valley of Oaxaca.



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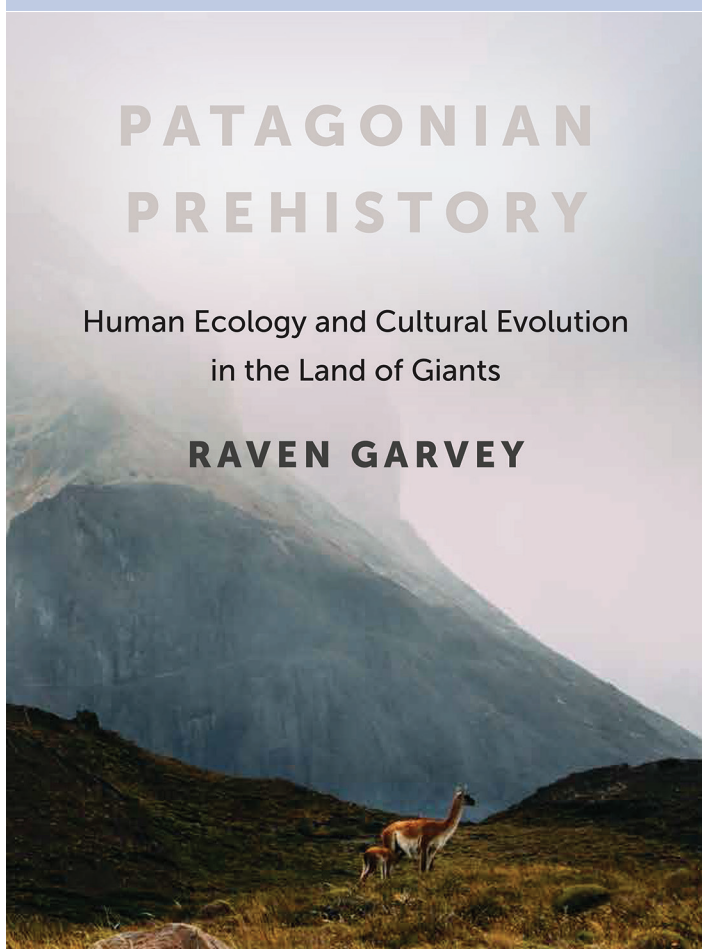
This assemblage consists of fauna from four sites—Baking Pot, Cahal Pech, Lower Dover, and Xunantunich—that span the full range of occupation in the Belize Valley from the Preclassic to the Terminal Classic. Brett's ongoing work is to reanalyze and catalog all the fauna. In addition, he will be analyzing the new material excavated since. The results of these analyses will serve as the comparative dataset for Brett's dissertation, which will examine how animals were used to reflect social inequality and how this inequality is manifested in non-elite households.

Curator **Raven Garvey** was fortunate to have a 2020 field season just before her host countries' borders were closed due to COVID. Her crew returned to a cave site in Argentina, Cueva Yagui, excavations at which are proving critical to an understanding of the region. The photo above is from that project. Among other things, the team had to document a roof collapse that happened since their 2017 work at the site.

Garvey applied for and was granted new permits to (1) attempt a new survey method in Chilean valleys and (2) begin survey in a previously unstudied part of Neuquén Province. In addition, she is working with students **Lauren Pratt**, **Laura Bossio**, and **Ian Beggen**, plus undergrad **Kaitlyn Poe** (through UROP), and a graduate student at the University of Colorado Boulder, Collin Power, on publications related to hunter-gatherer distributions.

Garvey's own book, *Patagonian Prehistory: Human Ecology and Cultural Evolution in the Land of Giants*, was released this year. Find it at uofupress.lib.utah.edu/patagonian-prehistory and on Amazon.

Above: Raven Garvey at Cueva Yagui in Argentina. Below: Garvey's book, *Patagonian Prehistory*, was published in 2021 by the University of Utah Press..



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Archaeological Research in Oaxaca, Mexico

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To feature the Museum's excavations in Oaxaca, Mexico, and the 18 volumes they have so far produced, curators **Kent Flannery** and **Joyce Marcus** collaborated with PhD candidate **Györgyi Parditka** to generate a new website (<https://sites.lsa.umich.edu/oaxaca-archaeology/>). Although some of the 18 volumes had been sold out, all are now available again.

The Valley of Oaxaca was chosen for excavation because it is a laboratory for the study of the origins of agriculture, the origins of village life, the emergence of hereditary inequality, the origins of the state, and the origins of hieroglyphic writing.

Many UMMAA students, both graduate and undergraduate, have participated in the Oaxaca project. Some used Oaxaca data to write undergraduate theses, while others excavated Oaxaca sites for their PhD dissertations.

Györgyi Parditka also collaborated with **Joyce Marcus** in generating a new website. This second website (<https://sites.lsa.umich.edu/peru-archaeology/>) features UMMAA's excavations at Cerro Azul in the Cañete Valley of Peru, directed by Marcus. Ethnohistoric documents reveal that these coastal valleys were characterized by specialized fishing and farming communities when the Spaniards arrived in the sixteenth century. One of the goals of Marcus' project was to determine when such community specialization began. Her excavations showed that Cerro Azul had been a specialized fishing community long before the Inca conquered the area in AD 1470. As far back as AD 1000, Cerro Azul's fishermen dried and stored vast quantities of small fish in sand-filled rooms, ensuring that those fish would be ready to export to farming communities in the same kingdom and beyond.

Check out these two new websites to learn more about the University of Michigan's excavations in Peru and Mexico.

Excavations at Cerro Azul, Cañete Valley, Peru



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North America

In April and May of 2021, doctoral candidate **Laura Bossio** began fieldwork at the Williams Site (33-WO-7a) in Perrysburg, Ohio. She conducted intensive and controlled surface survey at the property (the Buttonwood field) to address questions about Late Archaic and Early Woodland settlement patterns. She found a high density of artifacts during the survey, much of which seems to be related to significant and previously unknown settlements from the Late Woodland and Late Prehistoric periods. She is currently working on cataloging this collection and beginning analysis in the Research Museums Center (RMC). She is very excited to return to the field (which is now full of very healthy soybeans!) to conduct geophysical survey and to extend the very informative surface survey to learn more about these significant settlements.

This summer, graduate student **Elspeth Geiger** enjoyed teaching a course she designed. This class was called “How to Make Friends and Influence People: An Archaeological Guide.” During the process, she was able to use some of UMMAA’s collections for distance learning. She is currently writing her dissertation on French fur trade dynamics in Michigan.

Graduate student **Hannah Hoover** conducted a pilot season for her dissertation on the Mackay Point Plantation in South Carolina’s Lowcountry. She was joined by three U-M undergraduate students—**Isabel Matias**, **Theodora Bilich**, and **Eloise Janssen**—and archaeology graduate student **Megan Savoy**. Hannah excavated more than 500 shovel tests to define the boundaries of the site Pocotaligo, an eighteenth-century primary town of the Yamasee, as well as the location of the 1715 outbreak of the Yamasee War. This war was a pan-tribal conflict against the British that vastly reconfigured the Colonial landscape of the Southeast U.S. Summer 2021 excavations were the first of a multi-season and collaborative project that seeks to understand the political and social dynamics of Yamasee towns and their evolving relations with the British during a twenty-year period leading up to the war. Hannah’s fieldwork this season was funded by the Lewis & Clark Research and Exploration Fund, UMMAA, and the U-M Department of Anthropology.

Although unable to travel to the Near East due to Covid restrictions, graduate student **Kara Larson** still had a productive summer. Her summer was divided among fieldwork, lab research, grant writing, publication preparation ... and a wedding! Kara spent the month of May excavating at the Hester site, an open-air Archaic site in northeast Mississippi, with archaeologists from the



In the pilot season for her dissertation, archaeology graduate student Hannah Hoover dug more than 500 shovel tests at the Pocotaligo site in South Carolina.

University of Georgia and Mississippi State University. Following fieldwork, Kara worked as a team member on curator **Alicia Ventresca Miller’s** new collaborative project, entitled Northern Realms of the Mongol Empire, along with other faculty and graduate researchers from the University of Michigan. Kara also started her pilot isotopic project sampling and analyzing carbon, oxygen, and strontium from Early Bronze Age faunal remains at Tell

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Above: Doctoral candidate Laura Bossio found a high density of artifacts during her survey of the Buttonwood field at the Williams site in Ohio. Left: Graduate student Kara Larson excavated at the Hester site in northeast Mississippi. Here she is digging in levels containing Early Archaic materials.

el-Hesi, Israel, partially supported through an external grant from the American Society of Overseas Research. Kara submitted two chapters and an article for publication on Khirbet Summeily, an Iron Age outpost in southern Israel, and finalized additional articles for submission this fall.

Kara ended her summer by joining the excavations at the Belson site with **Brendan Nash** and Museum curator **Henry Wright**. In August, Kara had the pleasure of marrying the love of her life (a fellow archaeologist), James Strawn, from the University of Georgia.

This summer was the second year of excavations at the Belson site in Saint Joseph County. With the help of U-M students and local citizens, **Brendan Nash** and **Henry Wright** continued to uncover an early Paleoindian campsite. They meticulously mapped the location of every piece of cultural material. Their best interpretation of the site is that it was a short-term camp occupied by a relatively small group of people who were hunting and processing plants and animals. They plan to conduct a thorough analysis of the excavated material in the coming months.

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Archaeology graduate student Martin Menz with a stratified hearth feature from a domestic structure at Letchworth, one of the largest Woodland period mound centers in the southeast U.S.

Curator **Rob Beck** recently published an article in *Current Anthropology* (October 2020), “Encountering Novelty: Object, Assemblage, and Mixed Material Culture.” Drawing on his long-term research at the Berry site in North Carolina—where Spanish explorers occupied a garrison at the Native town of Joara from 1566 to 1568—he explores how colonial encounters offer both settler and indigenous communities new contexts for transforming material culture.

Martin Menz has been busy working with data from his 2019–2020 field project at the Letchworth-Love Archaeological State Park near Monticello, Florida. Martin’s excavations at Letchworth, one of the largest but least studied Woodland period mound centers in the Southeast, uncovered several domestic features, including the remains of a 1500-year-old house.

Because scheduled excavations at the Bronze Age settlement of Rabe in northern Serbia were cancelled due to Covid-19, Museum curator **John O’Shea**’s research this summer focused on the ancient submerged landscape of the Alpena-Amberley Ridge (AAR) in central Lake Huron. Other participants in the research effort included graduate

student **Brendan Nash** and U-M alum **Ashley Lemke**, assistant professor at University of Texas at Arlington. Work this summer included new multibeam sonar mapping of the lake bottom, detailed side scan survey of four micro-localities via an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV), and the direct examination of potential sites via a remote operated vehicle (ROV) and SCUBA. Among the notable finds from the summer is a large segment of preserved wood with evidence of possible human modification and a large peat deposit with intact seeds and plant remains. Both were recovered in 100 feet of water and date to 9700 cal years BP.

This summer, Museum visiting assistant professor **Ashley Lemke** directed an underwater archaeology field school in Michigan. Eight undergraduates from UT Arlington (a Hispanic and minority serving institution) attended the school, where they learned about historical shipwrecks and prehistoric sites in Lake Huron. **John O’Shea**, **Brendan Nash**, and Texas A&M University teaching assistant Michael Rivera helped teach the class. Students learned about underwater research using the UMMAA boat and other equipment.

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Above: John O'Shea carrying a large segment of wood (dated to 9700 cal BP) with possible evidence of modification, recovered during 2021 underwater research in Lake Huron. Graduate student Brendan Nash is in the background. Left (l-r): John O'Shea, UT Arlington assistant professor Ashley Lemke, Brendan Nash, and Texas A&M University teaching assistant Michael Rivera led an underwater archaeology field school in Michigan in 2021.

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Archaeology graduate student Györgyi Parditka works at the Bronze Age site of Rabe Anka Siget in Serbia.
Photo by Iride Tomažič.