



The laboratory at Varsity Drive contains state-of-the-art equipment. Below: Anthropology student Abigail Musch packs wood samples from Mexico to make the move from Ruthven to Varsity Drive.

## Our Collections Are Moving

**T**hree million objects. Two collection managers. One monumental move. In the spring of 2015, **Lauren Fuka and Kerri Wilhelm**, collection managers of the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology, began planning an intracampus move. With the help of about a dozen students, they are working to inventory and pack artifacts that are currently housed in two different locations—Ruthven and the Campus Safety Services Building (“Kipke”). The artifacts will find a new home in a renovated building on Varsity Drive, approximately 7 miles south of the Museum.

Items to be moved range in size from a nearly 6-foot-long Yakutat canoe to cactus seeds about a millimeter in diameter.

“We have collections from all over the world: more than 120 countries and all 50 states,” says Lauren. “There is an incredible diversity of objects and materials. We have projectile points, sherds and ceramic vessels, canoes, Native American baskets, Himalayan paintings, botanical samples, and everything in between.”

Items must be identified and recorded, packed and moved, then unpacked and re-shelved in the new building. The inventory is a great chance to clean up the collection management database, says Lauren.

“We can make sure catalog records exist for all the items and we can have updated storage locations as objects are moved into new cabinets at Varsity Drive.”



continued on page 2





Researchers will study artifacts in this dedicated space at the Varsity Drive building. Collections staff will bring artifacts from the storage area to the researchers' tables.

The move will be a family reunion, of sorts, for some artifacts. Long-separated items from the same archaeological site will be united for the first time in decades. Similarly, the move to Varsity Drive will also consolidate long-separated collections of the museums of zoology and paleontology.

Storage conditions at the new building will be better in several ways, explains Kerri.

“The physical storage will be improved by moving to the use of cabinets that meet the current best practice standards for object housing in the museum field. The new cabinets are held to archival storage standards and have soft gaskets that serve to create a micro-environment within each cabinet.”

The 5,963 square feet of collection space includes 392 new cabinets stacked nearly 13 feet high, 43 existing cabinets, 27 cantilever rack units (for textile storage), and 4 units of open shelving (for large objects).

Other improvements include better control of temperature and humidity and more dedicated space for artifacts (less crowding and stacking of items).

The new building also includes a laboratory (cover photo) designed by Curator **John O'Shea** and an open-plan lab and study area for visiting students and researchers.

Onsite researchers will have a much easier time at the new building, says Lauren. “Visitor parking will be available right in front of the Varsity Drive building. It will be much easier to visit and also to pick up or drop off collections.”

Remote researchers also have reason to cheer: plans are underway to merge a dozen older, separate collection databases into one new database, making searching for information that much easier.



Left: Most of the UMMAA collection will be stored in this climate-controlled room at Varsity Drive, on shelves nearly 13 feet high. Below: Cabinets arrived in October 2015.



## Our Undergraduates Go to the Field



Field camp on the river terrace in front of Sehonghong Rockshelter at 1800 meters.

**Briana Gladhill** worked in South Africa. She reports:

"In March 2015, I received a \$2000 award to help fund my participation in the Lesotho-Sehonghong field school. My gratitude goes to the Museum's undergraduate research funds (made possible by the Carl E. Guthe Endowment, the Christy Cogan Memorial Scholarship, and the Hays Family Endowment for Undergraduate Research) for helping me take part in an immeasurable life experience this summer.

"The Lesotho-Sehonghong archaeological project is focused on a rockshelter in the highlands of Lesotho, South Africa. This site is part of a larger project, Adaptations to Marginal Environments in the Middle Stone Age (AMEMSA), which aims to understand how early modern humans adapted to fringe environments and periods of great climatic variation from 200,000 to 10,000 years ago.

"The Lesotho-Sehonghong program was the first time I have been on an archaeological excavation. It provided me with the hands-on experience necessary to learn the techniques of archaeological excavation, including how to systematically document and remove archaeological strata while recovering cultural artifacts in a controlled manner.

"My senior thesis will be based on this site. The training I received not only furthered my understanding of the evolutionary forces that shaped our species, but also allowed me access to some of the leading experts in the field—Curator **Brian Stewart** and Genevieve Dewar—who will be instrumental in helping me to refine these interests."

**Andrew Fiasco** worked at Sehonghong and in Eastern Europe. He reports:

"I received the Museum's Undergraduate Research Award to participate in the Sehonghong, Lesotho, project this past summer. This opportunity was made possible by the generous support of the Carl E. Guthe Endowment, the Christy Cogan Memorial Scholarship, and the Hays Family Endowment for Undergraduate Research. I am very thankful for the donors' contribution, and I am very excited to share what I learned during my first field season.

"This funding allowed me to purchase my airline ticket to South Africa, as well as buy essential camping gear. Prior to entering the field, we spent approximately three days in Johannesburg, where I spent time at the Origins Centre Museum and at the Rock Art Research Institute at the University of the Witwatersrand. At the University, I was fortunate enough to hear lectures from the staff and doctoral students, including Professor David Pearce, Dr. Sam Challis, Professor Karim Sadr, and Dr. Rachel King. Interacting with the archaeological community in South Africa was an incredible opportunity.

"In Sehonghong I took part in a Middle Stone Age excavation of a rockshelter directed by **Brian Stewart**. We camped directly in front of the rockshelter that we would be working in. After removing backfill and preparing steps into the trench, I cleaned section walls with a trowel and a brush. I learned how to perform single context removal archaeology with a trowel, interpret the stratigraphy, and properly document what I had removed.

"This was the first time I conducted my own personal research. Using the total station, I and another student analyzed and documented 100 surface grindstones.

"This first step in my archaeological career has been successful and enlightening."



## Our Undergraduates Go to the Field



Shobhana Panuganti in front of the Statue of Liberty in Arad, Romania.

**Shobhana Panuganti** worked in Romania. She reports:

"This summer, I had the opportunity to do research and live abroad in Romania for eight weeks as a part of the excavation crew on the Bronze Age site of Șanțul Mare in Pecica. The project was led by **John O'Shea** and **Dr. Amy Nicodemus** from the Museum of Anthropological Archaeology in partnership with the Arad Museum. With the aid of the Richard I. Ford Fund from the Museum to cover the cost of round-trip airfare to Romania, I was able to participate in a project at one of the best preserved and unique Bronze Age settlements in the Carpathian Basin.

"A typical day in the field began before sunrise and ended only after we were all completely exhausted. Initially, I found myself struggling to remember all of the information, but by the third week, I felt fairly confident in my abilities. As the layers became more complex, I learned how to properly dig and document various types of post holes, features, and structures. This field experience has had a huge impact on my career goals. I am very grateful to the directors of the project and to the Museum for this amazing opportunity."

**Melanie Lowrie** also spent a summer in Romania. She reports:

"This summer I was asked to be lab manager at the Pecica Șanțul Mare project in Pecica, Romania, directed by **John O'Shea** and **Amy Nicodemus**. I was fortunate in receiving

one of the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology's Undergraduate Research Awards, which paid for my airfare. This award afforded me the opportunity to participate in this wonderful experience.

"The job of lab manager was both challenging and rewarding. I oversaw all of the work that was done with the artifacts after they were excavated from the site. From the washing of the artifacts, through sorting the lot bags and flotation material, to the final boxing and packaging, I was in charge of making sure everything was done correctly.

"This was a valuable learning experience for me, one that cannot be learned in the classroom. A field lab runs so differently than a lab back in the Museum, as I found out this summer. At the lab in the Museum, things get done on a much looser schedule, whereas at the field lab, things needed to be done as quickly and as accurately as possible.

"Another important aspect of the field lab is the data. Most of the time the artifact itself cannot tell researchers all they need to know, but the numbers (count and weight) add another dimension to the artifacts."



Anna Forringer-Beal at the Maya ruins of Palenque, Mexico.

**Anna Forringer-Beal** worked in Chiapas, Mexico. She reports:

"Receiving the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology undergraduate award allowed me to travel to Mexico to interview migrants from Central America for my senior honors thesis research. Without the Museum's support, I would not have been able to complete this research or travel to Mexico. I'm very grateful for the opportunity to do ethnographic research and further my education. Thank you!"



# Graduate Students and Faculty in the Field

## Africa



From left: Tim Everhart, Henry Wright, and Bree Doering in northern Madagascar.

This summer **Bree Doering** embarked on an adventure to Madagascar with Curator **Henry Wright** and fellow student **Tim Everhart**. Together with a team of local professional archaeologists, they surveyed and made test excavations across northern Madagascar, from rice paddies to rockshelters.

This year's field season had three objectives. The first was more survey in Northwest Imerina (crucial for Henry's work on early Malagasy state formation). Henry hoped to finish surveying the 18th-century Kingdom of Marovatana. Full-coverage survey of the high east-west granite ridges on the northern frontier of Marovatana is providing evidence of its development.

The second objective was survey and targeted excavations in the far north of Madagascar, around the port city of Antsiranana. This was needed to complete the late Bob Dewar's work in this region, which is important for understanding both early hunter-gatherers and later trade systems. Several tracts needed to be surveyed or re-surveyed to give a regional overview.

The third objective was a visit to the Bay of Antongil on the northeast coast to help the Oxford Sealinks project recover 8th- to 10th-century plant remains from known sites on the island of Nosy Mangabé near Maroanetra. The field project was led by archaeologist and archaeobotanist Alison Crowther from Queensland University.

**Kyra Pazan** spent her summer studying how humans lived during the last glacial. She worked in Lesotho with **Brian Stewart** and the AMEMSA project at Sehonghong. She also traveled to Ukraine and Romania with Dr. Philip Nigst (University of Cambridge) to work at Middle Paleolithic and Upper Paleolithic sites on the Dniester River.

## Asia

**Elsbeth Geiger** worked in Mongolia:

"This summer I joined the crew of Julia Clark on the Northern Mongolia Soyo Project. In collaboration with the National Museum of Mongolia, this project focused on the development of pastoralism in the Darkhad Depression. This season we completed initial testing of a Neolithic-Bronze Age settlement."

With the financial support of National Natural Science Foundation of China, first-year graduate student **Yuchao Zhao** was able to conduct systematic research in Gansu province in China's Western Loess Plateau. He reports:

"I am mostly interested in exploring the relationship between major Late Quaternary climatic shifts and variability in lithic technology, subsistence, and interconnection in China. In 2013, I spent two months excavating the Paleolithic site of Yangshang (220,000 to 55,000 years ago) for my master's thesis. In 2014, I participated in excavations at a new site, Shixiakou Locality 2, in the same basin as Yangshang. Nearly 1700 stone artifacts and more than 330 animal remains were unearthed from Yangshang in 2013. Six cultural layers were identified and archaeological materials were mainly unearthed from the 3-5th cultural layers.

"My 2015 master's thesis was entitled 'The open-air site of Yangshang: preliminary results and perspectives.'" There are four major parts to my dissertation: lithic analysis, animal bone analysis, site formation process, and mobility organization. In the summer I also participated in the Zhoukoudian Locality 1 excavation, led by the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, Chinese Academy of Sciences."



Yuchao Zhao at the Yangshang site.



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## *Excavations at San José Mogote 2 The Cognitive Archaeology*

by Kent V. Flannery and Joyce Marcus

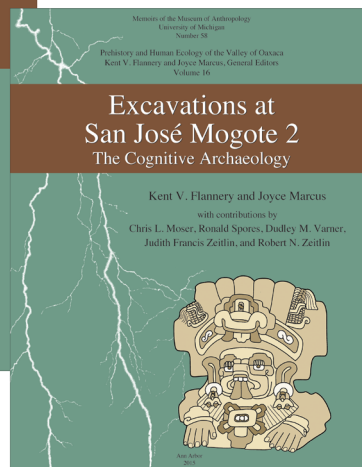
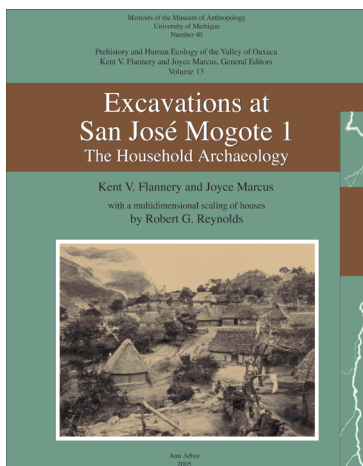
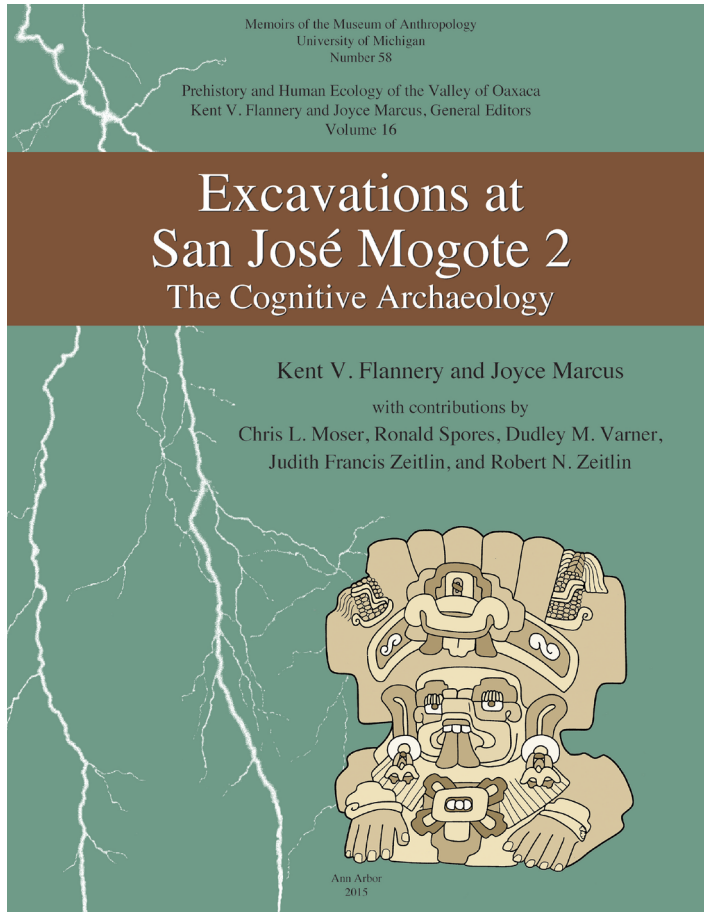
San José Mogote is a 60-70 ha Formative site in the northern Valley of Oaxaca, Mexico. Occupied for a thousand years before the city of Monte Albán was founded, San José Mogote sent most of its population to Monte Albán around 500 BC and was later reborn as a second-level administrative center for the Zapotec state.

The University of Michigan is publishing the final site report on San José Mogote in three volumes: Volume 1, published in 2005, described the household archaeology; Volume 2 documents the cognitive archaeology; and Volume 3 will explain the mortuary archaeology.

*Excavations at San José Mogote 2: The Cognitive Archaeology* (2015) deals with every building and feature that can shed light on indigenous ritual, religion, and political ideology. Filling 432 pages and utilizing more than 400 photographs and line drawings, this book describes in detail more than 35 public buildings, including men's houses, one-room temples, a performance platform, two-room state temples, a ballcourt, and two types of palaces. These new empirical data allow the authors to reconstruct the evolution of complex Zapotec state religion from the simpler ritual features and buildings of Oaxaca's earliest sedentary communities. Many basic concepts of indigenous belief endured for thousands of years, but dramatic innovations signaled the periodic transformation of Zapotec religion to keep up with changes in society and politics.

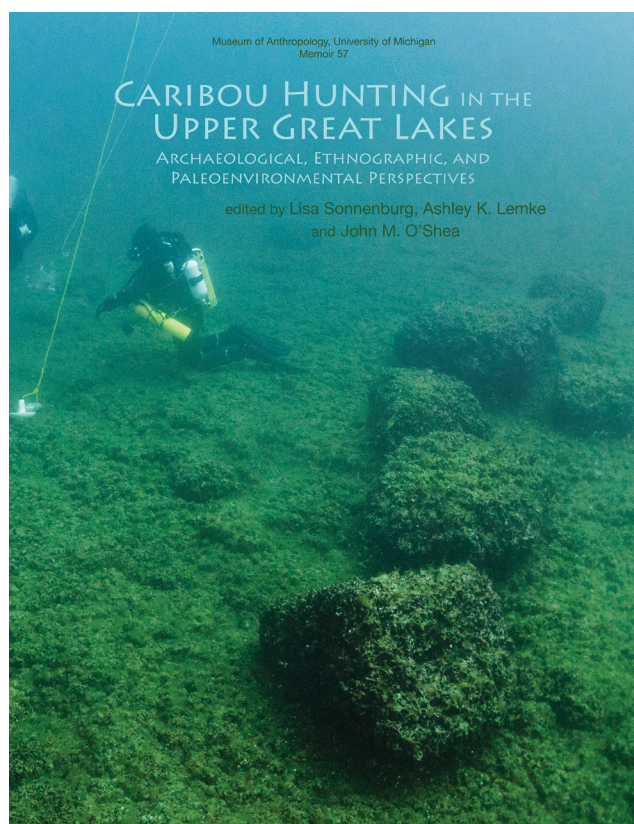
For a limited time, *Excavations at San José Mogote 2: The Cognitive Archaeology* is available at a reduced price of \$30. (List price is \$45.)

Some readers may want to purchase both volumes. *Excavations at San José Mogote 1: The Household Archaeology* and *Excavations at San José Mogote 2: The Cognitive Archaeology* are available as a set for \$60 (\$30 off the list price of \$90).



**Special 2-Volume Discount!**  
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## Caribou Hunting in the Upper Great Lakes Archaeological, Ethnographic, and Paleoenvironmental Perspectives

edited by Elizabeth Sonnenburg, Ashley K. Lemke, and  
John M. O'Shea

Bringing together American and Canadian scholars of Great Lakes prehistory to provide a holistic picture of caribou hunters, this volume covers such diverse topics as paleoenvironmental reconstruction, ethnographic surveys of hunting features with Native informants in Canada, and underwater archaeological research, and presents a synthetic model of ancient caribou hunters in the Great Lakes region. This book is well suited for anyone with interests in Great Lakes prehistory generally, past environments, or the archaeological discovery of the world's oldest caribou hunting structures 120 feet below Lake Huron.

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## Graduate Students and Faculty in the Field

### Europe



Kimi Swisher excavating in Hungary.

This summer graduate student **Kimi Swisher** and undergraduate **Kayla Pio** joined the team. Kimi was a 2015 WCEE grant recipient of the CREES Research, Internship, and Fellowship Program. Kimi was block captain of her crew of undergraduate students. Kayla, who was one of the NSF-REU students, studied archaeobotanical remains from the site with John (Mac) Marston (University of Boston).

During the six-week field season the team excavated eight cremation burials and collected information on the size of the cemetery, how mortuary customs varied in different parts of the cemetery, and the influence of modern agricultural practices in the preservation of the archaeological site.

Grad student **Györgyi Parditka** continued her research as part of the Bronze Age Körös Off-Tell Archaeology research project in Hungary, Eastern Europe. The international research team, led by American (Julia I. Giblin, University of Quinnipiac), Canadian (Paul R. Duffy, University of Toronto) and Hungarian researchers (László Paja, University of Szeged, Hungary), aims to understand the social structure of the local population.

Earlier research on settlements in the Körös region showed the emergence of social complexity with little evidence for social inequality. This phase of the project concentrates on the area's mortuary customs. The team has been excavating the cemetery for four years. For the first time this year, the excavation was run as an NSF-REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) field school.

The 2015 field season marked the ninth and final year of excavation at the Pecica Șanțul Mare tell in western Romania. Under the direction of **John O'Shea** and **Amy Nicodemus**, the field crew of UM graduate student **Tim Everhart** and Michigan undergraduates **Andrew Fiasco**, **Shobhana Panuganti**, **Melanie Lowrie**, and **Briana Gladhill** investigated the Copper and Bronze Age occupations at the site. The primary purpose was to determine the age of the tell and to discover the character of the Early Bronze Age (ca. 2000 BC) settlement. The team now better understands the development of the Maros culture in the area and the process by which Pecica became a major locus for metal production and horse trading in the Middle Bronze Age.



A gathering of UM archaeologists:

Back row: Tim Everhart, Andrew Fiasco, Kelly Gillikin, John O'Shea, Györgyi Parditka, Paul Duffy.

Front row: Melanie Lowrie, Amy Nicodemus, Briana Gladhill, Shobhana Panuganti, Kayla Pio, Kimi Swisher.

**Jess Beck** spent the summer working on her dissertation, which focuses on the bioarchaeology of early complex societies in southern Spain. She also taught an archaeology course titled *The Science of Skeletons: Introduction to Bioarchaeology*.

**James Torpy** reports:

"I spent this past summer excavating with the Athienou Archaeological Project in the town of Athienou on the island of Cyprus. This season we focused on a sanctuary in use through the Iron Age and into the Early Christian era. We found evidence of offerings such as votive sculpture in limestone and terracotta, as well as burnt animal remains. This year produced the largest number of finds out of the project's 25 years of excavations and confirmed the site's position as the largest known rural sanctuary in Cyprus.

"While on the island I was also able to participate in a workshop held in partnership by the University of Cyprus and the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute. Several projects from across the island suspended their digs and came together to share their findings and outline goals.

"This year was a particularly exciting season for the team as



## Graduate Students and Faculty in the Field



James Torpy in a tomb at Athienou, Cyprus.

we commemorated the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the project. My participation with this project was made possible by funding from the National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates program.”



Jo Osborn at Huaca Soto, Peru.

recovered during two seasons of excavation at the site. In 2016 she'll return to Chincha to begin investigating the nearby Topará Valley.

**Jordan Dalton** says: “This past summer I excavated with multiple projects in the Chincha Valley and surveyed the Cinto Valley with the University of California at San Diego field school. In the Chincha Valley I excavated a Paracas (800-100 B.C.) ritual structure, a Chincha Kingdom (A.D. 1000-1450) mortuary site, and Chincha Kingdom domestic terraces. While in Chincha, I also surveyed possible dissertation sites with Dr. Charles Stanish of UCLA. On our survey we reexamined the agricultural center of Las Huacas. This site has the potential to illuminate the administrative structure of both the Inca and Chincha settlements in the valley. In the Cinto Valley, I was part of the first, of many, field seasons. With the UCSD field school directed by Dr. Paul Goldstein I surveyed the many peaks and gullies around the valley bottom and found interesting sites ranging from Formative túmulos to Tiwanaku cemeteries. The Cinto Valley has a rich archaeological heritage that the Proyecto Arqueológico de Locumba is just beginning to explore.”

## Latin America



Chelsea Fisher directs an excavation in Yucatán.

Last summer **Chelsea Fisher** directed excavations at two sites, Tzacuil and Yaxuná, in the Yucatán Peninsula of Mexico. She was looking for house mound clusters that date to at least as early as the Late Formative period (250 B.C. to A.D. 250). Chelsea was able to determine that Tzacuil presents a lot of potential for understanding social dynamics at the time of the earliest permanent settlements in the northern Maya lowlands.

This summer **Jo Osborn** excavated with UCLA's Chincha Valley Archaeological Project in Peru at the site of Huaca Soto, a Paracas platform mound. Jo analyzed the faunal collections



Jordan Dalton at Las Huacas, Peru.



Between January and March—summer in Patagonia—Curator **Raven Garvey** and a multidisciplinary team from Universidad Nacional de Cuyo (Mendoza, Argentina) surveyed a little-known part of the Andes. The team also performed strategic test excavations. This project is part of Garvey's continued research on human adaptations to harsh climates. Garvey also started a project in southern Chile, designed to clarify whether a controversial collection of stone objects—material from the walls of a rock shelter—were modified by people or natural forces, and to better understand human use of the Río Ibáñez Valley, Aisén.

First-year graduate student **Nick Trudeau** is interested in the Great Lakes during the time of European contact and in Native American languages. Last summer he worked on a Epiclassic site in Tlaxcala, Mexico, with archaeologist Dr. Aurelio López. He also helped **Lacey Carpenter** with the drawing and documentation of Tilcajete ceramics for her dissertation in Oaxaca.



Nick Trudeau and Lacey Carpenter at Monte Albán, Oaxaca, Mexico.

## North America

Before and after her participation on the Mongolian project, **Elsbeth Geiger** had two modest doses of Michigan archaeology. In June, she accompanied **Ashley Lemke** to Alpena, Michigan, to test the Paleoindian No Prize site, located near Hubbard Lake. After Mongolia, she visited Jeff Sommer of the Saginaw Castle Museum for some shovel testing in the Saginaw Valley.

After three weeks in Madagascar, **Bree Doering** headed to Kodiak Island, Alaska, where she spent three weeks excavating

prehistoric subterranean houses in a bayside fishing village. Finally, she returned to Alaska's interior for a month to excavate a 10,000-year-old bison hunting camp.

**Tim Everhart** says, "I began the summer by assisting the Ohio State Archaeological Field School under the direction of Dr. Robert Cook and Aaron Comstock. We were excavating the Turpin Site, which has components dating back to the Middle Woodland (ca. A.D. 1-500), Late Woodland (ca. A.D. 500-1100) and Late Prehistoric periods (ca. A.D. 1100-1650). The Turpin site is the type-site for the Newtown Culture and contains one of the most extensive datasets for the Fort Ancient culture. The excavations focused on two structures: one dating to Fort Ancient occupation and the other Late Woodland."

Following his work in southwestern Ohio, Everhart served as crew chief at Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, working on the Hopewell Hidden Landscapes Project. This year's excavation investigated a cluster of magnetic anomalies surrounding an entrance to the square earthwork at the Hopewell Mound Group.

The No Prize site (or 20AA109), which was originally discovered by **John O'Shea** and graduate students in 1984, will be included in **Ashley Lemke's** dissertation, which investigates Paleoindian occupations both underwater and on land near Lake Huron.

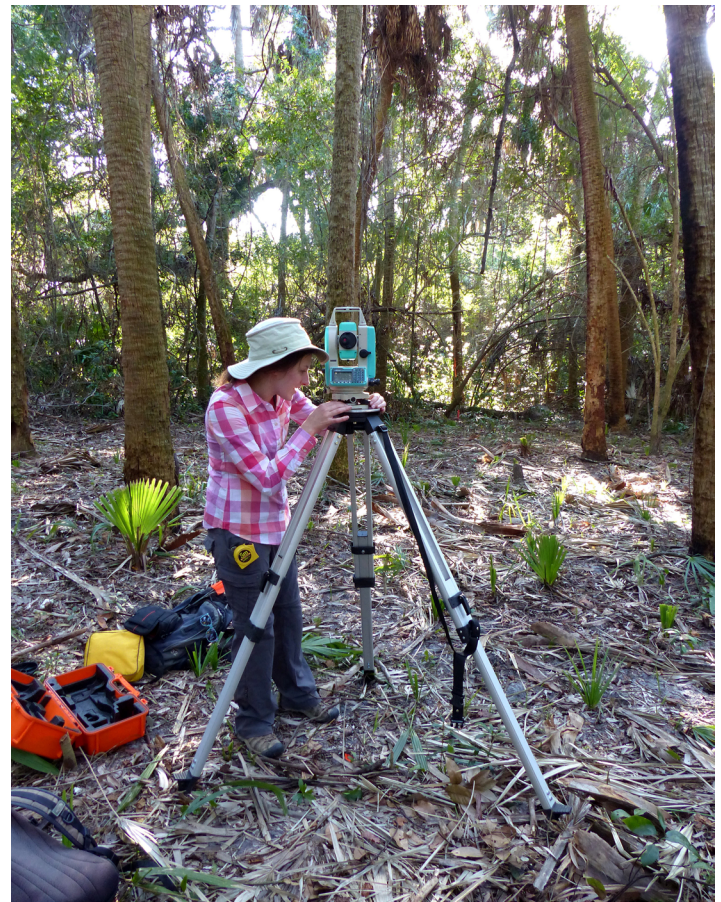
Lemke says, "This year we have done a lot of mapping with sonar. We've identified new hunting structures and a rectangular structure that was probably a meat cache. We also dove on a hunting blind to collect more samples."

This past spring and summer graduate student **Christina Sampson** continued her dissertation excavations at the iconic Weeden Island site in St. Petersburg, Florida. The site is best known for its Woodland period burial mound, but it also has a substantial occupation dating to the early Safety Harbor period (ca. A.D. 900-1300). In the Tampa Bay area, the early part of the Safety Harbor period falls between the communal ceremonialism of the Woodland period and the inequality and chiefly organization documented by Spanish explorers in the 16th century. Christina's research focuses on how Safety Harbor people at this site organized their community spatially and seasonally. Excavations at several areas of occupation—identified through geophysical survey with Dr. Tim Horsley in 2013-2014—are designed to sample domestic features adjacent to more prominent shell midden ridges. The site contains substantial quantities of mollusks, which provide a record of subsistence activities.

This summer **Anna Antoniou** completed her second season of fieldwork on Chinookan cultural continuity and change in the Willapa Bay of Washington State. She conducted the first ever systematic coastal survey of Long Island, Washington, and found five previously unrecorded archaeological sites. In her off time, Anna enjoyed fresh clams and oysters from the "backyard" of her field cabin. Fieldwork can be rough!

This fall, **Dr. Daniel Fisher** and UMMAA students excavated the partial skeleton of a woolly mammoth near Chelsea, Michigan. The working hypothesis is that ancient humans stashed the mammoth pieces in a pond to preserve the meat. James Bristle, the owner of the farmland where the skeleton was found, donated the bones to the University of Michigan.





Captions (clockwise from upper left): Scuba divers on Lake Huron (L-R: Derek King, Tyler Schultz, Michael Courvoisier, John O'Shea); Lacey Carpenter at Weeden Island, Florida; Anna Antoniou at Long Island, Washington; Ashley Lemke and Elspeth Geiger at the No Prize site in Michigan; Ashley Lemke with the woolly mammoth found near Chelsea, Michigan, in fall 2015.



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This building on Varsity Drive in south Ann Arbor will house the collections of the Museum of Anthropological Archaeology once the move is complete. It's estimated that about 3 million objects will be relocated here by summer 2016. Researchers will be able to study items onsite as well as on a new, user-friendly database.