

Newsletter Vol. 21, Fall 2022
University of Michigan
Museum of Anthropological Archaeology



In 2022, the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology celebrated its 100th anniversary with an international archaeology conference. For four days, September 29 to October 2, archaeologists shared their visions for the future of their field. Above, the panelists and organizers of the sessions. See inside cover for names, and pages 4-9 for more photos.

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Cover photo key



UMMAA at 100 speakers, on the steps of the Rackham Building at the University of Michigan, October 2022:

1. Sarah McClure, 2. Erich Fisher, 3. Michelle Langley, 4. Helen Farr, 5. Dietrich Stout, 6. Ashley Lemke, 7. Jeremy Sabloff, 8. Grace Barretto-Tesoro, 9. Anna Prentiss, 10. David Hurst Thomas, 11. Ben Fitzhugh, 12. María Nieves Zedeño, 13. Alison Wylie, 14. Kisha Supernant, 15. John O'Shea, 16. Michael Galaty, 17. Amanda Logan, 18. Stephen Acabado, 19. Robin Beck, 20. Ayana Flewellen, 21. Marcus Hamilton, 22. Brian Stewart, 23. Angela Rodríguez Schrader, 24. Stefani Crabtree, 25. Matthew Reilly, 26. Melinda Zeder, 27. Alicia Ventresca Miller, 28. Bryan Miller, 29. Rowan Flad, 30. Henry Wright, 31. Giulia Saltini Semerari, 32. Raven Garvey, 33. Severin Fowles, 34. Tiffany Fryer, 35. Lindsay Montgomery. Not pictured: Michael Blakey, Patricia McAnany, Rachel Watkins.

All conference photos by Bruce Worden.

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Letter from the Director

Dear Alumni and Friends of UMMAA:

As I write this letter, autumn has returned to Ann Arbor, bringing a burst of fall colors and the inevitable mid-October drizzle. Last academic year gave our museum community a reprieve from the enormous challenges of the previous two years. Our ranges and labs began to reopen, as did access to the Research Museums Center and our collections. Our classes returned to in-person teaching—though some of us offered hybrid options—and we all adjusted to teaching through a mask. Most of us have been able to resume fieldwork, so we can finally get back to the hard but fantastic work of doing archaeology.

In the spring, we used the university's annual online Giving Bluesday campaign to support our goal of endowing the North American Range, which we'll dedicate as [The James B. Griffin North American Range](#). This endowment will both honor Jimmy Griffin and help to continue the innovative instructional and student research activities that have so long defined North American archaeology at Michigan. We raised \$25,000 towards this goal, and for that we thank you! If you would like to support this effort (especially if you have fond memories of Jimmy!), please direct your gift to The James B. Griffin North American Range Fund (sites.lsa.umich.edu/ummaa-coffee-cup-challenge/donate/).

As things on campus continue settling into a new 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 will be 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've started this process with the North American Range, but we plan to gradually extend it to all of the archaeological ranges at UMMAA.

One silver lining of the move to Zoom has been a proliferation of archaeology webinars that are open to the

public. Last year, UMMAA hosted a series of Brown Bag presentations covering archaeological research in North America, China, Peru, Egypt, the Mediterranean, and more, all of which are available on our [YouTube channel](#) (www.youtube.com/channel/UC3qj5DJEnFMpTyB9QRR8CPQ/ videos). This includes the 2022 Jeffrey Parsons lecture by Diné (Navajo) archaeologist Ora Marek-Martinez. If you could not watch them live, I encourage you to watch the recordings.

Many of you have generously supported UMMAA in various ways over the years. Thank you! Your support is greatly appreciated. Now, as we (hopefully!) close the pandemic chapter, we look forward to welcoming you back to campus.

At the beginning of the month we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Museum's founding with a large international conference and party! Please visit our conference website, [University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology at 100: Michigan's Mark – Past, Present, Future](#) (sites.lsa.umich.edu/ummaa-at-100/), where you can find links to the incredible range of talks we delivered in U-M's beautiful Rackham Auditorium. This was undoubtedly one of the biggest events in UMMAA's long history. We were happy to have many of you join us in person and many more via our livestream. We had fantastic sessions with presentations by an impressive lineup of scholars from around the world, all of whom came to Ann Arbor to help us celebrate Michigan archaeology. You'll find more stories about the conference here in this 2022 newsletter—it was a wonderful time!

Again, we appreciate all that you do for us, and we're looking forward to an exciting year.

Sincerely,

Robin A. Beck, Interim Director
Museum of Anthropological Archaeology

Thank you, generous donors! It is because of your support that the Museum can send students on excavation trips around the world in 2023. 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 use mail, cut out and complete the gift form (at left) and send it with your check.

Mail your check and the gift form (at left) 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.



UMMAA at 100

Michigan's Mark: Past, Present, Future

A conference celebrating the Museum's first 100 years
September 29 to October 2, 2022 • Ann Arbor, Michigan





Clockwise from upper left: On the steps of the Rackham building: Erich Fisher, Angela Rodríguez Schrader, Ashley Lemke, Helen Farr, and John O'Shea; Jeremy Sabloff (l) and Brian Stewart; UMMAA interim director Robin Beck at the podium; and (l-r) María Nieves Zedeño, Rob Stephan, and Lindsay Montgomery at the conference reception.

Opposite page (clockwise): Conference poster on central campus; registration table in the Rackham lobby on Thursday, September 29, the first day of the conference; one of the pumas that guarded the entrance to the Ruthven Museums Building, where UMMAA had its offices for nearly 90 years (the pumas now reside in the Research Museums Center, which houses the UMMAA's collections); plenary session speakers (l-r): Michael Blakey, Patricia McAnany, Jeremy Sabloff, Alison Wylie, Henry Wright, Michael Galaty, David Hurst Thomas.

Graduate students Michael Parnas, Megan Savoy, Hannah Hoover, and Jhon Percy Cruz Quiñones outside the Rackham building.



"The highlight of the *UMMAA@100* conference for me was the tour at the Research Museums Center. The tour gave me an idea how a collections storage can be integrated with laboratory spaces. I observed that managing collections involved not only providing a physical space, but also making sure that the conditions are right to safeguard the materials. Accessibility and an organized information and recording system are important to facilitate analyses."

—Grace Barretto-Tesoro, Archaeological Studies Program, University of the Philippines

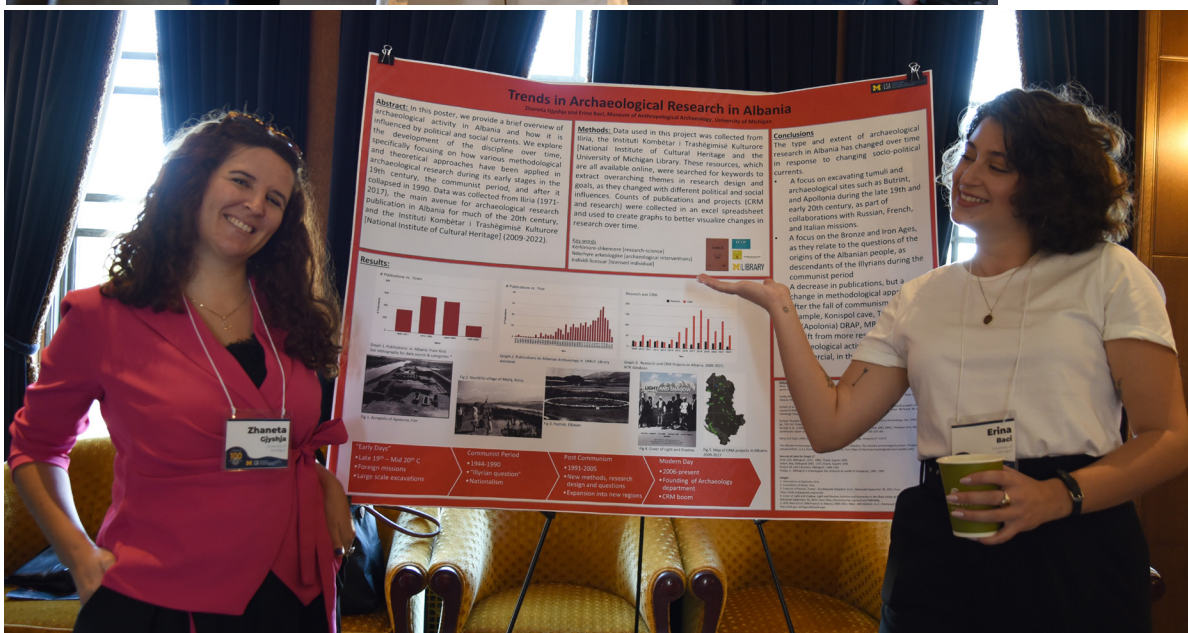
Grace Barretto-Tesoro (center) on a tour of the collections at the Research Museums Center, given by UMMAA collection managers Jim Moss (l) and Andrea Blaser (r).





“For the past 50 years, Michigan has played a pretty pivotal role in producing archaeologists working in the Americas, and this conference really set a tone that expands Michigan’s mark to a global stage. They’re engaging in more global conversations and contributing to much larger bodies of knowledge and theory production. Are there theoretical breakthroughs that are happening? The answer is yes, and Michigan is at the center of some of that work.”

—Lindsay Montgomery, University of Toronto

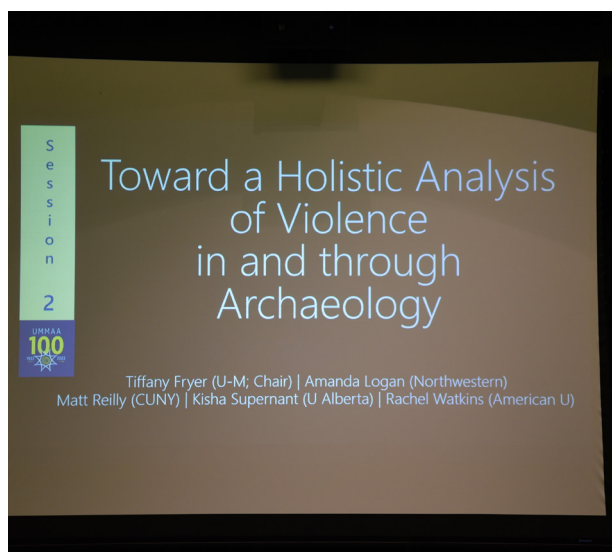


Top: U-M graduate student Iride Tomažič discusses her poster at the graduate students’ conference poster session.

Left: Zhaneta Gjyshja (l) and Erina Baci present their poster.

Below: Session 5 panelists (l-r): Alicia Ventresca Miller (organizer), Lindsay Montgomery, Sarah McClure, Stephen Acabado, Rowan Flad.





Above: Title slide for Session 2.

Above right: Ben Fitzhugh (l) and graduate students Martin Menz and Kimberly Swisher at the conference reception.

Below (l-r): UMMAA curators Raven Garvey, Giulia Saltini Semerari, Tiffany Fryer, and Alicia Ventresca Miller.

"The *UMMAA at 100* conference marked a watershed moment for UMMAA: four days, 40 speakers, people live streaming from all over the world. We honored our past and anticipated a future for archaeology that will be more inclusive and collaborative, but still grounded in primary fieldwork, which is our bread and butter."
–Michael L. Galaty, director of UMMAA





I haven't attended in-person conferences since the start of the pandemic, and it felt good to have my first entry to those gatherings be at Michigan. My time at UMMAA provided a generative intellectual space of nourishment. There are still ideas percolating from my time at Michigan and new connections that have been sowed."
—Ayana Omilade Flewellen, Stanford University

Above left: Grace Barretto-Tesoro (l) and Stephen Acabado outside the Rackham.

Above right (l-r): Ayana Omilade Flewellen and UMMAA curators Giulia Saltini Semerari and Bryan Miller.

Below (l-r): Brendan Nash, Ashley Lemke, Rowan Flad, and Marcus Hamilton at the conference reception.



Our Undergraduates Go to the Field



Josephine Broyles in northern Mongolia, at a previously looted burial site that the field school team excavated.

Josephine Broyles

I would like to thank the Museum of Anthropological Archaeology for awarding me this grant. Without it, I wouldn't have been able to afford this once in a lifetime trip to northern Mongolia with Dr. Alicia Ventresca Miller.

This was the first time I had ever been out of the country, so being on an overnight plane ride was a new experience for me, and there were so many other "firsts" on this trip. This was the first time I've ever done archaeology, first time I've milked a yak, first time I've faced the realities of working in the field, and the first time I've gone weeks without a shower.

The first week of the trip was almost exclusively travel. We had to get out of the States and into Mongolia, which took about two days, and then we had to wait in the capital to make sure no one caught Covid-19. From there we drove for several days to get into northern Mongolia. Along the "road" we did surveys to mark the locations of burials, known as *khirigsuurs*. These *khirigsuurs* have piles of stones laid over the location of the coffin and often a stone circle around them. They varied in style depending on the time period and culture: sometimes there was no stone ring, or a stone circle, or a rectangle of stones bordering the burial. Sometimes there were smaller rock cairns within the perimeter, which held various offerings, including different parts of sheep

and sometimes horse heads. Not many of the burials we saw on survey were visibly looted, but in the mountains, nearly every burial had been looted and torn apart.

After several days of survey we went farther into the mountains. Twice a day almost every day for a month, we drove up to the site to excavate the graves on the mountainside. My favorite burial was one that was filled in with modern trash and looted twice, but still had some very cool finds. On this project we were specifically looking for skeletal remains (teeth), textiles, and birch bark but we also found metals as well. Since most of the graves we worked on were looted, and the original context had already been disturbed, we did faster-paced salvage archaeology rather than the careful and measured approach that most other archaeological digs would use.

This Mongolian field school was an amazing opportunity that I will never forget. I am incredibly thankful to the Museum for helping fund this trip because I would not have been able to purchase all of the gear needed to live in the backcountry without you.

Allison Densel

My first time conducting archaeological fieldwork took place over three weeks this past summer in Israel, just south of Tel Aviv. Our project, A Multi-Survey Exploration of Residences Near Tell el-Hesi, Israel, consisted of two studies. The primary objective of these surveys was to identify areas with high potential for occupation by Early Bronze Age (EBA) pastoralists. This is the focus of Kara's Larson's PhD dissertation, and I am very grateful to have had this experience as I gained valuable skills, lasting connections and a growing appreciation and love for the science and practice of archaeology.

We began our fieldwork with a brief exploration of the region around the site. From a previous survey completed in 2008, we started with a set of GPS points that had a high potential EBA yield. We spent the first few days of the trip driving to these points and conducting a basic cardinal survey at each one. Based on the quantity of EBA artifacts we found on the surface, such as characteristic potsherds and lithics, we will now be able to identify the most promising locations for potential EBA settlements. In total, we surveyed more than 30 individual sites using this method. This also served as a wonderful opportunity to see the Israeli countryside, which is absolutely beautiful.

The main pedestrian survey took place at the Tell itself. In the field at the base of the mound, we established a grid of 86 squares, each 20 by 20 meters in size. These squares were then divided into 5 by 5 meter units. Kara would assign each of us undergraduates, myself and two others, a unit, and then set a timer for 5 minutes. In that time, we

Our Undergraduates Go to the Field



Allison Densel on survey in Israel, just south of Tel Aviv.



A view of Tell el-Hesi from one of the outer defensive walls.

would carefully patrol our squares, collecting any artifacts we found on the surface. Over the course of the trip, we surveyed over 600 of these 5 by 5s, approximately 15,000 square meters. This served as a good opportunity for me to learn about different ceramic traditions and how to identify them, as we were asked to give counts of EBA sherds in each unit we investigated. I also had the opportunity to assist Dr. Tony Boudreaux (Mississippi State University) with geophysics (primarily magnetometry) for several of the days we spent surveying at Hesi.

By far, my favorite artifact was a fragment of a stone sickle that I found during our main survey. It is a rather intact piece, made from a light brown chert and most likely EBA in origin. The blade edge has a slight sheen to it, indicating that it was used to harvest grain or other crops. Its size (about 2 inches in length) and condition are just spectacular given its age. This is my default answer whenever someone asks me what kinds of things we found!

I am extremely grateful for the fieldwork I participated in this summer. Not only did I learn a lot about the process of archaeological research, but I also grew as a student and person. Because of the work our team accomplished, Kara will be able to excavate at Hesi next summer. I plan on participating as a junior staff member, and I'm already looking forward to working on the Tell as well as taking on additional responsibilities for the project. This was

truly a life-changing trip, and I would like to extend my most sincere gratitude to the donors of the James B. Griffin Undergraduate Research Fund, the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology, and to Kara. Without the support of these parties, I would not have had such an amazing and transformative experience.

Cassandra Payne

This summer I was able to go to Mongolia for five weeks for an anthropology course that highlighted human osteology, burial excavation methods, and skeletal identification. We also learned about the culture of the Mongolian people from the fourteenth century.

As I have multiple chronic medical needs, the terrain and environment were challenging for me. However, it gave me an opportunity to learn more about laboratory work. I learned how to clean human remains properly and photograph them. This was the highlight of my journey, because I am interested in forensic anthropology. Being able to work in the lab gave me a sense of purpose. Also, I was able to write an osteobiography report on the remains; this was new for me. I enjoyed the tasks very much. Coming on this trip has opened my eyes to different experiences that I will never forget. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity. When I came to U-M as a transfer student during the fall at the start of the pandemic, I told

Our Undergraduates Go to the Field



Naadam Day in Mongolia. Cassandra Payne writes: "This girl's mother wanted to take a picture of her with me because of how I look. It was a very special happy moment. A lot of stares from the people in the Square."

myself to chase every opportunity that comes my way because I am reaching depths that I never knew I could achieve and for that I am grateful that I was able to receive an award from UMMAA. I believe I was destined to travel to Mongolia and learn from other very intellectual individuals. It was an amazing experience and the very first time traveling abroad for me. I've learned so much.

This experience allowed me to push forward in my academic career and open to new career opportunities. It also reminded me that more people that look like me (black) need to experience what the world has to offer! It is beautiful! I probably would not have been able to travel to Mongolia without this award, and for that, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Kaitlyn Poe

Thank you for donating to the Richard I. Ford Undergraduate Research Fund. By doing this, you created a unique opportunity for me to expand my experiences as an archaeologist. I was accepted into the University of Michigan Mongolia field school, where I was able to learn how to excavate looted graves and the complex processes that need to happen in order to have a successful field season. In addition, I was able to talk to the locals, try new foods, learn about traditions and cultures that I had never heard of before, and participate in the wide variety of job opportunities that archaeology has to offer.

The first week the group switched between survey, ethnography, and geophysics. I climbed mountains and learned about different types of Mongolian burials from different time periods and how to catalog them. I surveyed the ground to find pottery sherds from different eras of occupation. Before this I had only done a pedestrian survey in a flat agricultural field in Ohio.

For the ethnography section I met many amazing and kind people who told me things I would never think to ask about. I learned about the traditions that are dying because many kids in the new generation are not learning them, the problems climate change is causing, different religious practices, and everyday work differences between those working in the city and the country. Every time we met local people while surveying and excavating, I learned something.

Geophysics is something that I didn't know a lot about, but now I realize it is something I enjoy doing. I learned how to set up an accurate grid and the problems caused by different kinds of landscapes. I also learned that it is a good resource to get a rough picture beneath the ground. The equipment was not enough to make an exact picture but it was enough to give the archaeologist in charge an idea if there was anything there or not. While I was originally there for the excavating experience, these additional experiences made the field school more enriching.

When excavating numerous burials, I learned important archaeological techniques, e.g., how to use a trowel and other tools correctly to make it easiest and safest to excavate. Of course we also learned about the artifacts we uncovered and the different types of bones found, including animal and human bones. Some of the most important things I learned while excavating are how archaeologists set up a grid before digging and how to bag and store certain types of artifacts so they don't decay or become ruined. When artifacts like leather or silk are exposed they can rapidly decay if they are not stored in the proper environment. When we found anything like this we had to put it in a labeled bag along with some of the already sifted dirt to make sure they didn't dry out.

Everything I learned during this field school will help me find a job when I graduate in December. I have already been looking at the requirements, and many places require a field school before you can work there. This particular field school will be appealing for the places I will apply to because I learned about a wide variety of types of archaeology. Without the help I received from this scholarship I would not have been able to afford this field school. Without this field school I would not have been able to meet the people I had, learn about the unique and fascinating culture, or realize that I had picked the right line of work. Every experience on this trip solidified my future

Our Undergraduates Go to the Field



Kaitlyn Poe excavates a looted burial in the pit at Dood Sahir in northern Mongolia with the U-M field school.



Top: Abigail Rieck excavates a burial pit in northern Mongolia. Bottom: View from the main field school site.

plans and determination to become an archaeologist. Thank you once again for donating.

Abigail Rieck

Thanks to the generous grant from the Richard I. Ford Research Fund for the Anthropological Study of Humans & Environment, I was able to attend an archaeological field school in the mountains of northern Mongolia this summer. We spent approximately five weeks in the country doing both survey and excavation work. The first week was dedicated to surveying the region surrounding the city of Murun, where we located several rock art sites dating from several thousand to a couple hundred years ago. Additionally, we identified previously unrecorded burial mounds that will be further examined at a future date to help understand the often-overlooked cultural history of the region.

Following our survey work, we traveled further north to begin excavations, focusing our efforts on a heavily looted mountaintop burial site dating to the Mongol Empire. With careful work, we were able to recover a number of delicate artifacts, including large pieces of silk and birch bark that had been nearly perfectly preserved in the cold and arid soil of the mountains for centuries, but had been recently threatened by looting. We were fortunate enough to have a

dedicated conservationist working with us on this project. Working with him was a unique opportunity to learn about the best field practices, which can ensure important cultural objects are preserved for many generations to come.

Additionally, we were able to recover and preserve human remains that had been disturbed from their resting place. Later analysis of these specimens will provide a wealth of information on peoples' diets and use of landscapes in the region—a topic that has been understudied but has great implications for deepening our understanding of life in the Mongol Empire. I feel fortunate to have gained invaluable experience in working with these remains and artifacts in a way that was both respectful of past human lives and observant of important scientific methods. These will be skills I will carry with me for the rest of my life as I pursue my career in archaeology.

I am confident that the memories I made and skills I gained on this trip will serve me well. I feel that I have grown personally in ways I don't even realize just yet but which will help me become a more well-rounded global citizen. The actual excavation and survey skills I learned will be invaluable as I look forward to graduate school and beyond. This trip has given me the tools I need to become a good person and a good archaeologist, and I am incredibly grateful to have had this opportunity.

Above all, this trip truly would not have been possible for me without the support of generous donors. Thanks to the Richard I. Ford Research Fund, I was able to afford the costly airfare of traveling round-trip across the world without putting a financial burden on my family. I would like to offer my sincerest thanks to the donors who made this trip possible; this was a truly life-changing trip and I am forever grateful to have been able to experience it.

Danielle Tutak

My summer in Mongolia was an experience I will never forget. First, it was a multiple-day drive to get from Ulaanbaatar to the main site and it was still about a 25-minute drive from our camp to the site. Needless to say, we were driving a lot, but it was an opportunity to chat, joke amongst ourselves, listen to music if your phone had any precious battery left, or nap if you could sleep through all the bumps of our daily commute. Work in the field generally meant excavation of previously looted burials and occasionally surveying the area for other sites. The site we were working at was a Mongol empire-era cemetery that was heavily looted. We were primarily finding human remains, as most of the grave goods had already been taken by the looters.



Danielle Tutak works at the field school site in northern Mongolia.

When we had time off it meant a chance to do laundry or bathe. Time off also meant a chance to spend time with friends playing cards (euchre was a popular choice), swimming in the river, and often a bonfire in the evenings. We also had chances to learn about Mongolian culture outside of our normal routines, including visits to local families' gers, a ceremony performed by a shaman where we had the opportunity to ask questions, horseback riding, attending the Naadam festival in Tsagaan Nuur, and visiting the National Museum of Mongolia.

All in all, this trip was a wonderful opportunity to learn firsthand about excavation, conservation, survey, Mongolian culture, and so much more. The chance to connect with my peers and instructors during my time in the field was invaluable and I treasure the friendships I made with all of them. I, along with my peers, challenged ourselves in many ways during this field school, be it harsh weather, uncertain schedules with early mornings and late nights, adjusting to a new culture, sickness, or just plain having a bad day, we all came out with new insights and skills that we will use for the rest of our lives.

To the donors of this scholarship, thank you. This opportunity wouldn't have been possible without your generous gift. The Hays Family Endowment for Undergraduate Research helped me to pay for tuition, equipment, and airfare. It's heartwarming to see such generosity for archaeology students. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

Emma Weinberger

Thanks to the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology and the Richard I. Ford Undergraduate Research Fund, I attended the Institute for Field Research's US-CT: Mohegan field school June 27–July 28, 2022. The Mohegan Archaeology Field School is a collaborative project with the Mohegan Tribe focused on studying colonial-era Mohegan households and on teaching students about collaborative archaeology. On the first day, we were welcomed onto the Mohegan Reservation by a group of Mohegan elders, and we toured Fort Shantok, the site of a settlement built by the Mohegan Sachem Uncas. The next day, we began survey. We noted signs of human presence, including piles of rocks, pieces of metal, and medicinal plants such as pipsissewa and indian pipe. Including medicinal plants in our survey at the direction of the Mohegan Tribe allowed us to locate both where these plants grow for the reference of modern tribal members foraging for them and where a garden might have been situated hundreds of years ago. After three days of survey, we transitioned to digging shovel test pits. Most groups found artifacts from the historical period—such as pieces of roofing tiles and glass—within their first couple of pits, but my partner and I dug four pits populated only by roots and large rocks. On our third day of digging, my partner and I



Emma Weinberger runs the screen at the Stone Wall site, where the Mohegan Archaeology Field School team excavated in the summer of 2022.



Emma uses a field brush to gently clear dirt from under a tree at the Stone Wall site. The team found historic and prehistoric artifacts at the site.

were moved to a large flat area where no other groups had been digging. Within the first couple of screens, we found stone flakes. As we continued to dig that pit and another one nearby, we found pieces of shell and more stone flakes, including a remarkably pretty one made from clear quartz. The field director and others overseeing the project suggested the area might have been an ideal campsite for people who lived there before contact, due to its proximity to a river. I had been expecting to find artifacts only from the historical period, so I was surprised and excited that we found artifacts from the precontact period as well.

We began excavation of the Stone Wall site two weeks into the program. In the unit assigned to my partner and me, we found a wide variety of artifacts, including ceramic sherds of many different types, nails, chunks of metal, glass, charcoal, shells, pipe stems, a couple of buttons, the bottom of a knife, and pieces of bone, including one large piece that may have been a pig mandible. I was fortunate to be partnered with a graduate student who had worked as a potter and shared information about the ceramic sherds and how certain patterns and colors were likely created. Near the end of the field school, each group took turns spending a day in the lab cleaning and sorting artifacts.

In addition to fieldwork, our program provided us with opportunities to learn about the Mohegan Tribe through activities taught by members of the tribe, such as making wampum, learning about different types of baskets and weaving, and using an atlatl. We also took field trips to

other sites such as Cochegan rock, the Eastern Pequot Museum, the Mystic Seaport Museum, the Tantaquidgeon Museum, and the Eastern Pequot Archaeological Field School. We attended an educational powwow at the Eastern Pequot Museum and read and discussed articles and a grant application focusing on collaborative Indigenous archaeology. These informative and fun experiences added context to what we were doing in the field. For example, a plaque at the Mystic Seaport Museum described Indigenous men working as seamen as wage laborers rather than reflecting the reality that these men were forced to labor following their relocation to reservations. Seeing this misconception on display underscored the importance of collecting accurate data about life on the reservation.

Participating in the Institute for Field Research's US-CT: Mohegan field school was a great experience that not only provided my first exposure to fieldwork and the opportunity to start developing an understanding of best practices in fieldwork, but also allowed me to meet many more experienced students who gave me a better idea of what to expect of my education and training after college and helped me reach a deeper understanding of the importance and value of collaborative archaeology both for Indigenous communities and for archaeologists. This field school helped convince me that I want to pursue a career in archaeology and do collaborative work with tribes, so I can work on projects of value to descendant communities.

Meet the Museum's New Curators

Tiffany Fryer



The Museum welcomes Dr. Tiffany C. Fryer as Assistant Curator of Historical and Contemporary Archaeology and Assistant Professor of Anthropology. Tiffany teaches and writes on colonialism and political violence; research methods, praxis, and politics in historical archaeology and anthropology; as well as museums, cultural heritage, and collective memory.

She comes to us from the East Coast, where she held a Cotsen Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Society of Fellows for the Liberal Arts and a lectureship in anthropology and the Humanities Council at Princeton University. She completed her PhD in anthropology in 2019 at the University of Pennsylvania, where she gained experience working with museums at the Penn Museum and Penn Cultural Heritage Center.

Tiffany strengthens our Mesoamerican and Maya programs by focusing on historical archaeology, which complements the focus on Preclassic and Classic Maya life already present in the museum. Her principal

archaeological fieldwork has been conducted in Quintana Roo, Mexico, as a component of a community-based heritage initiative—the Tihosuco Heritage Preservation and Community Development Project. This work is anchored by an interest in the history and present-day significance of a nineteenth-century conflict called the Maya Social War (or Caste War of Yucatan), as well as Maya experiences of colonialism more broadly. Tiffany and her local colleagues have, to date, documented the remains of more than 40 settlements and significant places, including towns, haciendas, ranches, water sites, and quarrying sites, as well as an intricate network of roads. These places were sometimes in use well before the onset of Spanish colonialism, but all were in use at the start of the war. The project's ongoing surveys add annually to this robust evidence. Her research shows that this region was much more dynamic during the colonial and early national periods than many scholars give it credit for. Her findings also demonstrate the momentous changes to the landscape and geopolitical boundaries that large-scale conflicts like the Maya Social War can create. She draws on this localized history to consider what might be learned about the broader durabilities of colonialism and other forms of political violence in the Americas. To this end, she has recently co-edited a volume (University Press of Colorado) on the archaeology of coloniality in the Maya Lowlands and is in the process of writing a book manuscript detailing the research conducted with the Tihosuco Project.

Tiffany also strengthens the Museum's ethnographic programs in her focus on the relationships between contemporary communities—especially Indigenous and African descendant communities—and the past. In this vein, she recently co-edited a collection on feminist approaches to archaeological heritage practice, published with the Archaeological Papers of the American Anthropological Association. She is especially energized to explore the UMMAA collections archaeologically, working with students to excavate the collection's histories in the archives and pursuing opportunities for community outreach.

Finally, Tiffany is delighted that her appointment as curator of historical and contemporary archaeology coincides with the 100th anniversary of the Museum. The centennial celebration introduced her to a wonderful array of UMMAA's past and present students, curators, and supporters, whom she looks forward to working with over the years to come.

Meet the Museum's New Curators

Bryan Miller

Dr. Bryan K. Miller is Assistant Curator of Chinese Archaeology and Assistant Professor of Central Asian Art and Archaeology, and he comes to the Museum through a circuitous route of degrees, fieldwork, and research institutions. His interdisciplinary engagements with complex polities of East and Central Asia stem from his diverse background, which began with a dual B.A. in archaeology and East Asian studies at Washington University in St. Louis.

After spending six months of his final undergraduate year studying in Beijing and Nanjing, Bryan studied Chinese archaeology at the (now) Cotsen Institute of Archaeology in Los Angeles, under guidance from Lothar von Falkenhausen. He wrote his master's thesis in archaeology on the effects of Han imperial control on production systems of the iron industry, investigating material remains of workshops and excavated texts detailing local management strategies. During his time at UCLA, he also became interested in the nomadic steppe empire that was contemporary with Han China and a peer rival—the Xiongnu.

After working for a year in cultural resource management in southern California, he moved to Taiwan, where he furthered his study of ancient Chinese texts, enrolled in Russian language classes, and spent his summers doing archaeological fieldwork in Mongolia (learning Mongolian language as best he could in the field). In his first summer he was part of a small team who (re)discovered the largest cemetery of the Xiongnu Empire, Gol Mod 2. He spent the next several summers at this site, working on the dozens of accompanying burials of the largest-known royal tomb of the steppe empire.

With several years of experience working in Mongolia, he returned to graduate school to pursue a doctoral degree at the University of Pennsylvania Department of East Asian Languages & Civilizations.

For his dissertation fieldwork, he shifted his focus toward the far western frontier in the Altai Mountains, between the steppe empire and the Silk Roads regions of Central Asia. With his now long-time collaborator and close friend Jamsranjav Bayarsaikhan, he worked at two cemeteries that demonstrated the investment and impact the empire had in this new frontier. He completed a dissertation on power politics in the Xiongnu Empire that wove together textual records as well as the full corpus of mortuary remains at hundreds of sites spread across Mongolia, northern China, southern Siberia, and eastern Kazakhstan.



Entering his final year of graduate school, he co-organized an international conference on Xiongnu archaeology in Mongolia with his colleague Ursula Brosseder (and with great financial support from the Silk Road Foundation), which they turned into a large volume of papers on Xiongnu archaeology two years later. While finishing his dissertation that year, he met a new colleague and friend who changed his life—now his wife, Alicia Ventresca Miller.

After his first job, teaching in the History Department at Rowan University, he and Alicia were married and moved to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia for a year, where he had his first of many postdoctoral fellowships. He then received a fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and moved to Bonn University, in Pre- and Proto-Historical Archaeology. Amidst doing work to transform his dissertation into the foundation of a book, he completed a research project on the long history of the so-called Great

(continued on page 19)

Meet the Museum's New Curators

Giulia Saltini Semerari



The Museum welcomes Dr. Giulia Saltini Semerari, our new Curator of Mediterranean Archaeology. Giulia was born in Rome, grew up in Milan, and graduated from the Università degli Studi di Siena. Her love of archaeological excavations and persistent interest in excavation methods began on the shores of Italy and Crete, where she followed her professors and took her first steps digging Roman temples and Byzantine artisan quarters.

Since her early University days, she was fascinated by the early Mediterranean and its long history of human connections, a topic that in Siena was mostly explored for Roman times to Late Antiquity. To reach back in time she moved to the UK to pursue a master's degree at the University of Oxford, where she could study the Bronze and Early Iron Age Aegean. After her master's, Giulia continued studying at Oxford. She wrote a doctoral dissertation that focused on the long history of contacts between southern Italy and Greece from the Bronze Age to Greek colonization (early first millennium BCE). This was a watershed event in Mediterranean history. Casting Aegean settlers from the Black Sea to Spain in the eighth and seventh centuries BC, it was a catalyst for an exponential increase in social complexity, urbanization,

Mediterranean-wide exchange networks, and the spread of new technologies such as wine-making and the alphabet.

In 2010–2011 Giulia worked briefly in cultural resource management in Cambridge (UK) and taught at the University of Bristol, before starting on an itinerant career phase as a postdoc researcher, first at the VU University Amsterdam with a Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship and then at the Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen with a Gerda Henkel Postdoctoral Fellowship. While writing her dissertation, she became increasingly convinced that archaeometry could be more fully used in the Mediterranean to document migrations of the past. To address this lacuna she set out to study a number of Italian cemeteries dating before and after Greek colonization to reconstruct the demographic underpinnings of the Greek colonization and its impact on the construction of local social identities. The project (AMICI or Ancient Mediterranean Interactions between Colonizers and Indigenous populations) integrates bioarchaeological (human skeletal—including biodistance, multi-isotope and aDNA) analyses with material culture in multiple indigenous and colonial sites of southern Italy. The biodistance and isotopic investigations conducted thus far have contributed to upending traditional interpretations of Greek colonization. They have shown that most of the colonies' inhabitants were—contrary to expectations—of local descent, while a smaller number of “foreigners,” likely from the Aegean, were present both in the colonies and indigenous settlements. This suggests that mobility and admixture across the “Greek/indigenous” divide was far more widespread than previously imagined. The project is ongoing and is currently expanding to include further isotope analyses, aDNA analyses, and new cemeteries, thanks to a multi-university collaboration between Tübingen, Copenhagen, and Leiden. At the same time, the AMICI project raises key methodological and theoretical issues such as the incorporation of cutting-edge bioarchaeological data into long-standing archaeological debates and the complex relationship between socially constructed and biological identities.

To gain further resolution on these complex Mediterranean interaction dynamics, Giulia started her collaboration in 2017 with the Incoronata project (southern Italy), run by the University of Rennes 2, where she became responsible for the metal finds, and eventually vice-director of the field school. A major Early Iron Age indigenous ritual center, the latest phase of Incoronata was characterized by co-habitation of

locals and Aegean migrants. Excavation has uncovered uniquely well-preserved structures associated with Greek and indigenous pottery and metal production in loco and rituals combining Greek and indigenous traditions. One important aspect of this excavation is the distribution and use of textile implements closely associated with female graves, such as spindle whorls and loom weights. This study builds on that of the site's metal artifacts, such as knives, daggers, pendants and rings, which have equally well-defined associations with gender and status. This research aims to add further detail to our understanding of indigenous–Aegean contacts: as locals grappled daily with the introduction of new social relations, resources, technologies, and beliefs, they certainly had to renegotiate gender roles with the newly arrived migrants, but little of this crucial process is understood.

Finally, the same interest in how gender dynamics intersected with global Mediterranean changes has recently led Giulia, with two colleagues from the Universities of Barcelona and Valencia, to lead a research group on the subject. The aim of the group is to study this issue from a comparative, Mediterranean-wide perspective, focusing on local social dynamics within indigenous communities as they encountered macro-scale Mediterranean processes of migration, colonization,

and urbanization at the end of the Early Iron Age. A first volume on this issue, resulting from a workshop held in September 2022, is currently in preparation. Giulia's long-standing interest in gender archaeology also led her to develop a well-loved course in gender and archaeology when she became a lecturer at the University of Michigan in 2020, and she is very much looking forward to continuing to teach it as an assistant professor.



Sunset over inland Basilicata, near the Incoronata site.

(Bryan Miller, continued from page 17)

Wall frontier between the Han and Xiongnu empires, seeking to give greater attention to cultural mediations of local Southern Xiongnu groups navigating their existence between regimes.

Following his Humboldt postdoc, he received a fellowship from the Gerda Henkel Foundation to further foundational work for his book. In order to expand his engagements with Xiongnu archaeology out of the primarily mortuary realms, he conducted fieldwork in eastern Mongolia (with funding from National Geographic) at a walled site that exemplifies some of the early experiments in proto-urbanism that occurred under this first steppe empire.

Focus turned toward his book when he received a multi-year postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Oxford as part of the European Research Council project on nomadic empires. At the same time, he was given a research home at the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History in Jena, where he was brought into several group projects of materials analyses on ancient Mongolia, including isotopes, proteomics, and genetics. He continued investigations of archaeological remains throughout Inner and Central Asia, working with historians Pekka Hämäläinen and Marie Favereau at Oxford, and he signed a book contract with University of Oxford Press.

Following Alicia to Ann Arbor as she accepted her job as curator of Asian Archaeology at UMMAA, he was given a warm welcome with an affiliation at the Museum and soon after a job as lecturer in the History of Art Department. Over the course of two years (in addition to helping facilitate online kindergarten for their son Vincenzo), he developed a suite of new classes—including the Arts on the Silk Roads, Nomadic Civilizations, Arts of War, and Archaeology of Empires—and completed his book manuscript, titled *Xiongnu: The World's First Nomadic Empire* (2023).

In 2021, he joined Alicia and several new colleagues in Asian Languages & Cultures and History departments in a two year group project funded through UM's Humanities Collaboratory on Centering the Northern Realms of the Mongol Empire. He also welcomed long-time colleague in Mongolian archaeology Susanne Reichert as a visiting Humboldt Foundation fellow.

Now entering his new job at the Museum and in the History of Art Department, he enjoys his new colleagues, his new field project in northern Mongolia with Alicia, son Vincenzo, and colleagues Jamsranjav Bayarsaikhan and Julia Clark (of Nomad Science), delving into frontier communities of the Mongol Empire, plotting out his next book on culture and politics in early Central Asia, and developing a new lecture course on the arts and cultures of Star Wars.

Meet the Museum's New Graduate Students

Ying Cui



Ying Cui attending the University Archaeology Day at the British Museum as a volunteer in 2019.

Ying Cui earned her bachelor's degree in archaeology at Jilin University in China in 2018, and her master's in archaeology at the University College London, UK, in 2020. She has worked at several archaeological sites in China, including Baoma town and Changshan Village in Jilin and Hebosuo site in Yunnan.

Her research interests include hunter-gatherer archaeology, human-environment interaction; Middle and Later Stone Age Africa, lithic technology, and social network analysis.

Her PhD research focuses on the social capacities of *H. sapiens*. She writes, "Specifically, I am interested in how and when ancient humans began using material culture socially to buffer against subsistence and demographic risks, especially those associated with climate change. I aim to conduct a large-scale comparative analysis to measure the effects of vertical (cultural inheritance) versus horizontal (cultural diffusion) transmission processes in the Late Pleistocene archaeological record of southern Africa."

Please welcome our new student, **Ying Cui!**

Drosos Kardulias



Drosos (l) with half of the Medieval Roman Archaeological Survey of Kalymnos (MRASK) 2022 field team—P. Nick Kardulias, his dad.

Drosos Kardulias writes, "I grew up around archaeology, and it's been my goal in life since I was a child. I've worked on digs and surveys across the Mediterranean and the U.S. Notable highlights include the Settled and Sacred Landscapes of Cyprus project and the Athienou Archaeological Project. My interests are as far-flung as my fieldwork, from my primary focus in the Medieval Roman Aegean to old and new whole Bronze Ages. I am endlessly curious about the role of warfare in shaping societies (especially ones undergoing transitions), the military logistics of premodern states, and how warfare is altered by and alters landscapes."

Please welcome our new student, **Drosos Kardulias!**

Meet the Museum's New Illustrator

Bruce Worden



UMMAA's new illustrator Bruce Worden (r) with UMMAA's former illustrator John Klausmeyer at the *UMMAA at 100* conference, October 2022.

Bruce Worden joined the staff of UMMAA as an illustrator/graphic artist in July 2022. He has been a scientific illustrator and museum exhibit designer since 1997, and he spent the last 18 years drawing for the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, a twice-monthly biomedical journal.

Bruce worked for UMMZ and UMMNH while both were still in the Ruthven building, and considers himself lucky to know UMMAA's previous illustrator, John Klausmeyer, as a friend and mentor. Bruce has a book on the shelf at the Ann Arbor Public Library, a sculpture on display at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, and drawings hanging in a parking structure downtown. He makes comics and picture books when he has time but is excited to be devoting much of that time to UMMAA now. Welcome, Bruce!

News about UMMAA Collections

Fall semester 2022 has flown by. Here is a peek at some of the work going on behind the scenes with UMMAA's collections at the Research Museums Center.

— **Andrea Blaser**
and **Jim Moss**

Collections manager Andrea Blaser prepares a recent donation of archaeological material from a local avocational archaeologist to enter the Research Museums Center..



(continued on page 22)

News about UMMAA Collections

(continued from page 21)



Above and below: Members of the Filipino American Student Association at the University of Michigan (FASA) visit the Research Museums Center to engage with material from UMMAA and the Bentley Historical Library around three themes: Journey to Ann Arbor, Culture, and Finding your Community. Also see the feature story in the Fall 2022 digital edition of *LSA Magazine*, *Mending a History of Harm* [<https://lsa.umich.edu/lsa/news-events/lsa-magazine/Fall-2022/mending-a-history-of-harm.html>].





The Museum is lucky to have a talented team of undergraduate museum assistants who work on a variety of projects. Our student assistants help with the daily tasks of collections care and documentation, including photography. At left, anthropology and museum studies student Emma Bowers-Clark photographs a *kalan*, a ceramic stove from the Philippines, to upload images to the collections database for future use by communities and researchers. At right, anthropology and international studies student Fatimah Alhawary builds a box for a bevel rim bowl going out on loan.



The UMMAA collections staff assisted researchers from around the world this semester. This handheld broom, made by Mohegan Chief Harold Tantaquidgeon and gifted to anthropologist Frank Speck in 1930, was one of several items brought out from storage for a researcher visiting from the East Coast.

Africa

In May 2022, curator **Brian Stewart** opened new excavations at a rockshelter named Ha Soloja in highland Lesotho, southern Africa. Situated at 2300 m (7,000 feet) above sea level, Ha Soloja is perched just behind the Drakensberg Escarpment on a high plateau named Sehlabathebe. Today this alpine grassland is locally renowned for its high quality cattle pasturage, which in pre-colonial times would have attracted migratory herds of large antelope in late spring and summer, when the young shoots become nutritious. With colleagues from the University of Toronto and a team of skilled local archaeologists, Stewart opened two trenches in the shelter, a 2 x 3 m unit towards the center and a smaller 1 x 1 m test trench near the rear wall. Ha Soloja's upper Later Stone Age levels were unfortunately stripped off in the nineteenth century, when the shelter enclosed a historic Basotho home. Ironically, the home's daub walls protected the site's vivid rock paintings. The underlying Middle Stone Age sequence, which is the target of Brian's work, is capped by deposits that are roughly 40,000 years old at the shelter's surface and extends down some 3 m in depth. This gives the shelter excellent potential for shedding light on early modern human engagements with high mountain systems and the evolution of alpine summer hunting in particular. Brian's excavations at Ha Soloja are part of a larger NSF-funded project exploring early modern human adaptations in challenging habitats.



Above: Members of Curator Stewart's team break ground at Ha Soloja rock-shelter. The shelter's surface possesses archaeological material estimated to be 40,000 years old. Note the rock paintings on the shelter wall above the excavators.

Below: The team's "dig house" is a high-altitude lodge of traditional southern African "rondavels", wonderfully comfortable round huts of dressed sandstone and thatched roofs.



News from the Field 2022



Basotho archaeologist Nthabileng Rants'o explains the team's work to students during a heritage open day that included visits by local school groups.



The alpine grasses of highland Lesotho's Sehlabathebe region become nutritious in the growing season, attracting large game and hunters seeking summer hunting opportunities at altitude.

News from the Field 2022

Asia

In the summer of 2022, graduate student **Megan Savoy** joined the Daehan Institute of Cultural Properties, a South Korean CRM firm, in excavating an ancient Silla Kingdom cemetery site (57 BCE–930 CE) in Yeongcheon-si, South Korea, about 90 km from Busan.

Curators **Alicia Ventresca Miller** and **Bryan Miller** excavated 10 previously looted burials from the Mongol Empire era (1200 to 1400 CE) in the Khovsgol province of northern Mongolia. In all, their team had 63 participants, which included **Angela Feak** (graduate student instructor) and 11 undergraduates from the University of Michigan. Because the burials are in the permafrost, the team was able to recover textiles (silk, cotton), leather (some with silver stitching), and items made from birch bark, including hats and quivers. They analyzed human osteological remains in the field laboratory. They also had two conservators working with their team, who helped to clean and preserve the materials found on the surface and as part of their salvage excavations.



Clockwise from top right: Megan Savoy excavating an elite burial from Silla Kingdom (57 BCE–930 CE). Sticking out of the wall is a vessel characteristic of Silla style pottery; milking yaks in Khuvsgul province, Mongolia, photo by A. Ventresca-Miller; Bryan Miller, Alicia Ventresca-Miller, and Vincenzo Miller by their family ger (Khuvsgul province, Mongolia), photo by M. Neyroud; worked bone found on the surface near a looted Mongol-era burial in Khuvsgul province, Mongolia, photo by B. Miller



News from the Field 2022

Europe

Curator **Michael Galaty** is currently enjoying a year-long sabbatical in Prishtina, Kosova, during which he plans to write a book reporting the results of three seasons of survey in the Dukagjin region of western Kosova. The project, Regional Archaeology in the Peja and Istog Districts of Kosova (RAPID-K), intensively surveyed 28 square kilometers and located 46 previously unknown sites, 15 of which are prehistoric. In September, Galaty directed a study season, during which specialists analyzed the project's nearly 9000 registered potsherds and 200+ chipped stone tools.

This summer graduate student **Julian Schultz** participated in two projects, the Gjyrashë Archaeological Project in Albania and the Lluga Archaeological Project in Kosova. Julian served as the faunal analyst for both projects, and the assemblages from each will be incorporated into his growing database of Albanian archaeological faunal material. Julian is currently in Albania on a Fulbright Fellowship, analyzing additional fauna and establishing the first permanent comparative faunal collection in the region."

During the summer, curator **John O'Shea** and associate professor **Amy Nicodemus** (University of Wisconsin–La Crosse), a Museum alum, conducted large-scale excavations at the Middle Bronze Age tell of Rabe Anka Siget in northern Serbia. The NSF-funded project involved an international team of investigators from Serbia, Hungary, Slovenia, Italy, and the United States, including archaeology graduate students Györgyi Parditka, Iride Tomažič, and Wes Wardle. Anka Siget is unique among the Maros region tells in having two distinct settlement precincts atop the tell, each separated from the other by a ditch and embankment.



Julian Schultz troweling in a unit at the Gjyrashë archaeological site, hoping to find evidence of a domestic occupation from the Bronze Age.

Using results of geophysical survey conducted in previous years, the excavations focused on the more westerly (and potentially higher ranked) of the two precincts.

During spring and summer, graduate student **Györgyi Parditka** finished the last portion of her dissertation data collection in Hungary and Serbia with support from the National Science Foundation DDRI grant. Györgyi worked with museum collections at the Munkácsy Mihály Museum at Békéscsaba and at the Móra Ferenc Museum at Szeged, Hungary. She collected ceramic stylistic information and samples for absolute dating from multiple Bronze Age



The crew of the 2022 RAPID-K study season (l-r): Michael Galaty (UMMAA), Joanita Vroom (Leiden), Peter Buis (Leiden), Tsveta Kodzhabasheva (Leiden), Danny Galaty (UMMAA), Haxhi Mehmetaj (Institute of Archaeology, Kosova), Tobias Krapf (Swiss School at Athens), and Dukagjin Mehmetaj (Institute of Archaeology, Kosova). Not pictured: Maja Gori (National Research Council, Italy), Eduard Shehi (Institute of Archaeology, Tirana), and Rudenc Ruke (Institute of Archaeology, Tirana). The study season was held at the ancient site of Ulpiana, outside of Prishtina.

News from the Field 2022

sites for her doctoral dissertation. Over the summer she also participated in The Vésztő-Mágor Conservation and Exhibition Program. The project is run by Museum alumni Paul R. Duffy, William A. Parkinson, and others.

Graduate student **Drosos Kardulias** visited three field sites on the Greek island of Kalymnos in the southeastern Aegean. He was able to verify their approximate dates as belonging to the late Antique–early Medieval transition, and he was introduced to numerous entirely undocumented sites across the island, from a late Antique cave-village to a Hellenistic trading settlement and a strange Archaic cave. He photographed extant architecture and surface finds, recorded walls and structures in GIS, clambered up and down mountains, and enjoyed the best seafood in the world, including fried cuttlefish and grilled octopus.

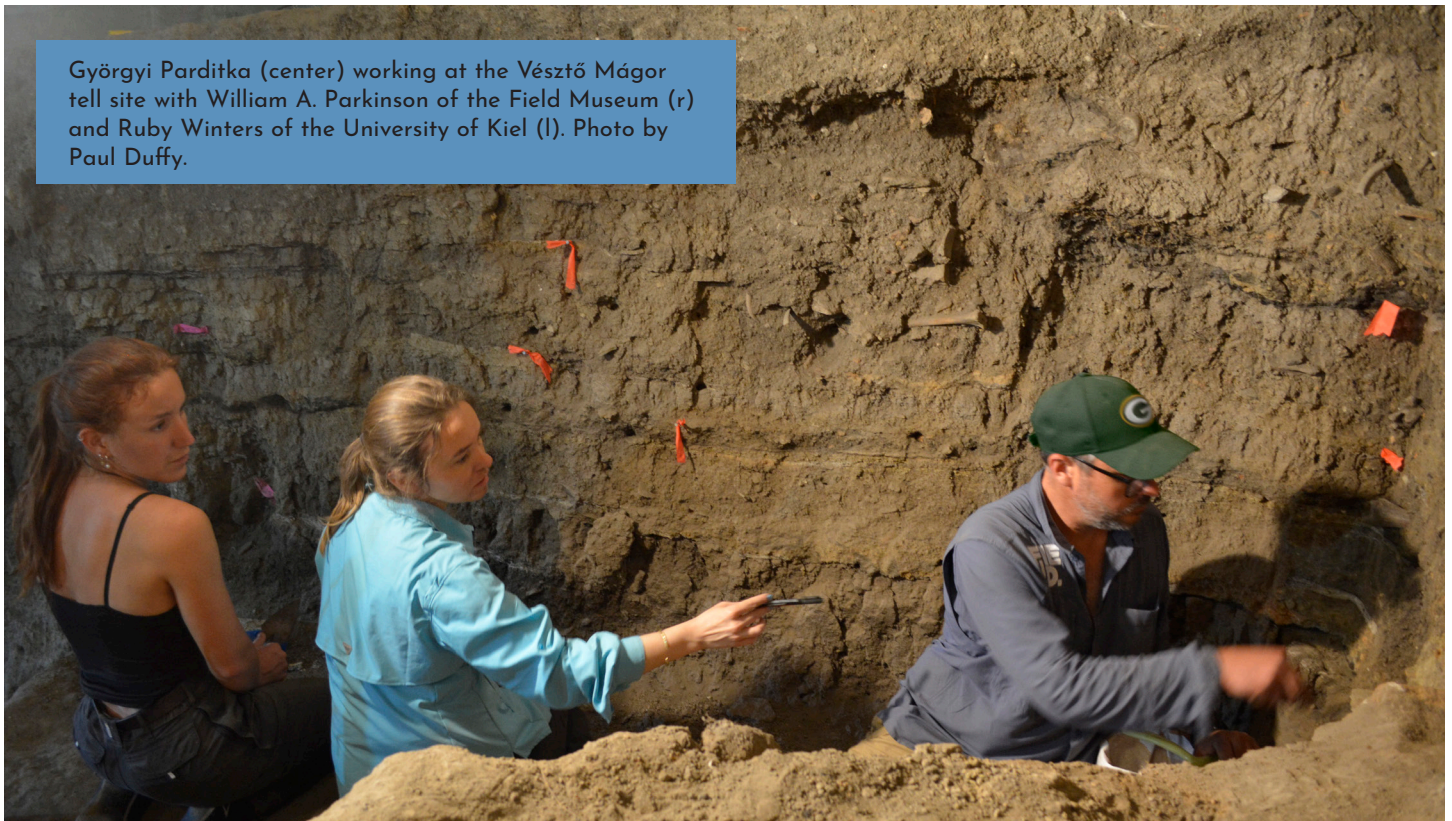
Graduate student **Iride Tomažič** spent her summer in the Balkans. She traveled in Slovenia, Croatia, Monte Negro, and Serbia, gathering information about modern and past societies that practiced metallurgy. During the second part of the summer, Iride excavated at the site of Rabe Anka Siget in Serbia, where she trained undergraduate students in field and laboratory methods. During the time she spent at Rabe, Iride conducted a significant portion of her dissertation fieldwork with the help of Wes Wardle and Györgyi Parditka. Iride Tomažič will attend the SciX conference this fall in Covington, Kentucky. She will present her research in a graduate student session organized

by the Society for Archaeological Science. After the conference, Iride will return to the field for a field season to gather more data for her dissertation.

In addition to excavating at Anka Siget in northern Serbia, **Wes Wardle** also visited a dozen ancient fortifications in central and eastern Europe.

In summer 2022, graduate student **Erina Baci** conducted test excavations in western Kosova at two sites: Lubozhdë and Syriganë. Erina found abundant prehistoric ceramics, sheep/goat teeth, and even some chipped stone, including an obsidian blade! On rainy days, she and her crew collected grass samples from the region to create a strontium isoscape of the area. Erina also spent a month working in northern Albania as GIS and spatial data manager for the Gjyrashë Archaeological Project and a month working at the site of Lluga with fellow graduate student **Zhaneta Gjyshja**. Zhaneta has been working at Lluga-Vrellë, a site she identified in 2019. It is a very promising Late Neolithic site in western Kosova. The work she carried out and the absolute dates she obtained will help to establish the occupational history of the site and help to integrate western Kosova into the larger context of the Late Neolithic (particularly the Vinča culture in the Central Balkans). The artifacts she collected on survey and in her excavation suggest that this village was part of a dynamic and interconnected region.

Györgyi Parditka (center) working at the Vésztő Mágor tell site with William A. Parkinson of the Field Museum (r) and Ruby Winters of the University of Kiel (l). Photo by Paul Duffy.



News from the Field 2022



Clockwise from top left: Iride Tomažič at Rabe Anka Siget, holding a little pot from which she took a sediment sample for her dissertation; Wes Wardle at Predjama Castle in Slovenia; Zhaneta Gjyshja and Erina Baci excavating Unit 2 at the site of Lubozhdë, Kosova.



Latin America

Graduate student **Jhon Cruz Quiñones** established and directed the Human Ecology in the Santa Valley, Peru project, with two data-collection strategies. First, he collected ethnographic data on agricultural systems in four Quechua communities in the highlands, resulting in the identification of the social organization, mobility, and traditional agrarian strategies as cultural mechanisms to mitigate the risk of small-scale agropastoral economies. The second phase focused on excavating two archaeological sites from the Late Archaic and Initial Period (6000–4000 years BP) in high-altitude environments. He uncovered one open-air camp with evidence of biface reduction and possible processing of hides and plants, and one village with evidence of domestic structures and earth ovens.

Graduate student **Brett Meyer** conducted a pilot season at the site of Ek Tzul in the Belize River Valley of western Belize. This project was conducted under the auspices of the Belize Valley Reconnaissance Project (BVAR) and funded by a Lewis and Clark Grant from the American Philosophical Society. First found with the help of LIDAR in 2014, Ek Tzul will be a key site in which to examine the social and political integration in the valley given that multiple polity capitals emerged during the Classic period. Future excavations will seek to understand how this Tier 2 site, which housed intermediate elites, served as a mediator between the apical elites of Baking Pot and the commoners in the hinterlands. Continued collaboration with other ongoing BVAR projects in the valley will also enable a greater valley-wide understanding of social and political change.

Last year, graduate student **Jennifer Larios** had the opportunity to work at Monte Albán in Mexico. This summer Jennifer directed excavations at Jalieza in Oaxaca, a site which saw a significant rise in population after Monte Albán collapsed. Through her research she hopes to understand how non-elites at Jalieza were affected by the collapse of the Zapotec state and the abandonment of its capital at Monte Albán.

Soren Frykholm spent the summer laying the groundwork for his doctoral excavations in Teozacoalco, Oaxaca, a key Postclassic dynastic seat in the Mixteca Alta.

Curator **Raven Garvey** has been awarded an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation New Directions Fellowship. This fellowship supports faculty engaged in interdisciplinary research who seek formal training outside their own areas of expertise. Professor Garvey has been training in aerospace engineering and structural design theory to better understand the effects of wind on prehistoric peoples in Patagonia (farthest southern South America), one of the windiest places on Earth.



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This page, clockwise from right: Jennifer Larios and her top excavation assistant "Caperucita" at Jalieza (Caperucita is short for Little Red Riding Hood in Spanish); Raven Garvey with Chilean collaborator Francisco Mena in early 2020, on a trip to Cerro Castillo, Aysén (near one of Garvey's field sites), to talk with local landowners and stakeholders; Soren Frykholm in San Pedro Teozacoalco with the site of Cerro Amole in the background.

Opposite page, above: Jhon Cruz interviewing a Quechua informant about agricultural strategies for potato cultivation in poor soils in the upper Santa Valley of Peru; below, Brett Meyer and the crew at Ek Tzul, taking a break and pondering their next move.

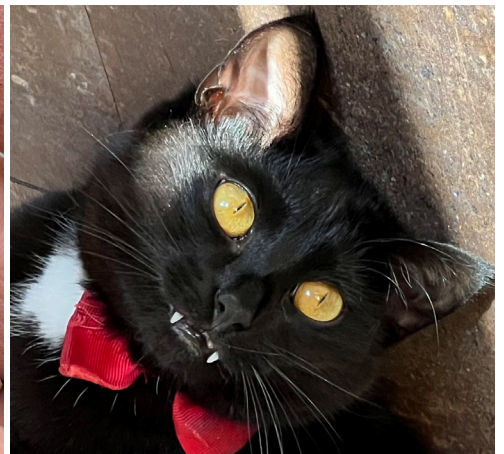


News from the Field 2022



Soren Frykholm took these photographs of a mezcal operation in Teozacoalco, Mexico. Top: a pit where magueys (agave plant hearts) are roasted. Right: the place where the liquid from the roasted magueys is harvested for fermentation.

Jenney Larios writes: "On what was supposed to be our last week of excavations, one of my crew members found this little figurine, which looks a lot like my cat Manolo. This figurine, as well as some other finds, made me extend my excavation season for two more weeks. Second to last day before this new deadline, the same crew mate encountered a burial. There are some people who draw great finds, and these finds almost always appear during the last week of excavations! Pictured are Manolo and the prehispanic figurine that looks like Manolo. I guess he hasn't used up all nine of his lives."



News from the Field 2022



Left: Lauren Pratt and Eyrín Chavez take measurements of a unit at Leymebamba-3, a deeply stratified ceramic and hunter-gatherer site in the Chachapoyas region of northern Peru.



Right: Ian Beggen takes notes in a rockshelter while on pedestrian survey in central western Patagonia, in Aysén, Chile. The photo captures Ian's moment of fear and surprise when his collaborator, Benjamin Sotomayor, yelled "Puma!" Luckily it was a joke.

Graduate student **Lauren Pratt** has been working in northern Peru since April, directing test excavations at local caves and rockshelters. This is the first project to target hunter-gatherer sites in the Chachapoyas region, quadrupling the number of excavated preceramic sites. She is now in the analysis phase, using her excavation data to address questions of subsistence, human-environment interaction systems, mobility, and domestication. In February 2022, she was awarded an NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Award to conduct her dissertation fieldwork in Chachapoyas, Peru. Lauren and her co-author Anna Guengerich published an article in *Latin American Antiquity*, entitled "Lithic Analysis of Andean Sedentary Societies: A Case Study from the Chachapoyas Region, Peru, and Potential Applications."

Curator **Joyce Marcus** finished a book manuscript on the burials she discovered at Cerro Azul, Peru. Like the desert sands of Egypt, those of the Peruvian coast preserve all kinds of items, including the occasional mummified

forearm with tattoos visible on the skin; workbaskets containing tools for sewing and weaving, including yarn balls; hollow cane segments containing needles; gourd bowls holding guinea pigs, fish, and corn on the cob; spindles that have painted barcodes to indicate individual ownership; backstrap looms with unfinished textiles; cloth with designs that reveal individual color choices; fishing nets, slings, ropes, bolas, and other items. Marcus reports on how women (those buried in the centuries immediately before the Inca era) had significant freedom in selecting their motifs, colors, and textile designs (see page 31).

Wes Wardle has been awarded a Fulbright-Hays DDRA to conduct his dissertation research in 2023 in Oaxaca.

Curator **Kent V. Flannery** is currently collaborating with Yale University Professor Frank Hole on the analysis and write-up of Gheo-Shih, an Archaic open-air campsite in the Valley of Oaxaca, Mexico. Gheo-Shih was a 1.5 hectare "macroband camp," occupied off and on during the period from 7000 to 4000 BCE. It contains Archaic ritual features and has yielded a large sample of chipped stone tools.

News from the Field 2022



An aerial photo of Matthew Brown (center, green jacket) at his dissertation site, Muyumoqo, in Peru, along with members of the nearby community of Matinga and local university students who assisted in the excavation. The semi-circular stone foundation of a potential house is also visible.

This summer, fourth-year graduate student **Ian Beggen** began pilot research for his dissertation. He conducted pedestrian survey and artifact analysis in Central Western Patagonia, in Aisén, Chile.

Graduate student **Matt Brown** spent last summer excavating at the Wari ceremonial site of Kaninkunka, and he completed the first season of excavations at his dissertation site, Muyumoqo. It is a Middle to Late Formative (1500 BCE–200 CE) site north of Cusco, Peru.

He uncovered two potential domestic contexts, including a well preserved stone foundation of one house. In addition, he and a team of students from the local university completed a surface survey to identify areas for future excavation. He also completed a preliminary analysis of the ceramics from both domestic contexts. He looks forward to reuniting with the community of Matinga and the local students and continuing his exciting fieldwork next year!

North America

Graduate student **Hannah Hoover** conducted a second phase of fieldwork for her dissertation in the South Carolina Lowcountry. With a group of volunteers, she excavated several units at the Yamasee primary town of Pocotaligo (AD 1691–1715) to answer questions about Yamasee daily life. This work was partially funded by a grant from the Archaeological Society of South Carolina. Hoover was also part of the Search For Stuart's Town, which dug shovel tests in downtown Beaufort, South Carolina to locate the remains of the short-lived seventeenth-century Scottish colony.

Graduate student **Martin Menz** hosted a public outreach event at the Letchworth-Love Mounds Archaeological State Park near Tallahassee, Florida in late August. The event drew more than 100 people, who came to learn more about the inhabitants of the site, including what their houses looked like and how they built the tallest earthen platform in the state around 1,500 years ago.

Curator **John O'Shea** and alum **Ashley Lemke**, associate professor at the University of Texas-Arlington,



Clockwise from above right: Hannah Hoover in front of an excavation block at the site of Pocotaligo in South Carolina; a flyer for the public outreach event Martin Menz held at the Letchworth-Love Mounds Archaeological State Park; Martin describes his research project to onlookers during the August 2022 outreach event.



Adventure Starts Here

Letchworth-Love Mounds Archaeological State Park



Letchworth-Love Mounds Archaeological State Park includes some of the largest Native earthworks in Florida, but what do we know about the people who built them? Archaeologists are working to answer these questions about Native American cultures in Florida. Join us to learn about this important site and see archaeological research in action! Activities include a guided tour of the site, overview of an active excavation, and educational displays from local archaeology organizations. Event is included with park admission—\$3.00 per vehicle.

Saturday, August 27th, 2022
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time
Letchworth-Love Mounds Archaeological State Park

News from the Field 2022

continued investigations of the submerged landscape beneath modern Lake Huron. The goal of the work this summer was to collect additional samples from an extensive deposit of peat (9500 cal BP), map and collect samples from the South Gap site, and conduct additional reconnaissance in a newly mapped area as part of a major award from NOAA.

The South Gap site is a key element in graduate student **Brendan Nash**'s doctoral research. As part of the site reconnaissance effort, students in the Science in the Sanctuary class at Alpena Public High School used an immersive virtual world simulation of the submerged landscape to predict possible locations for additional hunting site. Five of their top predictions were field tested on the lake, with one resulting in the discovery of both a potential hunting blind and a new area with preserved peat. This new peat deposit is at a greater depth than the first and has the potential of reflecting environmental conditions at an earlier time period. Samples from both peat deposits are currently being analyzed for environmental DNA.

Graduate student **Laura Bossio** spent spring and early summer completing an intensive pedestrian survey at the Buttonwood property along the Maumee River of northern Ohio. The results will help address questions regarding Late Woodland and Late Prehistoric occupations, and help move forward other types of fieldwork and analysis. Laura also began training in petrographic analysis—which she will employ for her own dissertation work—by participating in an intensive course through the Penn Museum's Center for the Analysis of Archaeological Materials.



Above: Brendan Nash on the research boat on Lake Huron holding a sediment sample that was collected by scuba divers from the bottom of the lake at the South Gap site. The sample will be examined for environmental indicators and cultural artifacts. Below: (r) Laura Bossio at the Maumee River access point near Buttonwood field on a very cold mid-April day; (l) a crisp spring morning at Buttonwood field—a great way to begin survey!



News from the Field 2022



Sunset over the Chattahoochee River at Florence Marina State Park, where Kimi Swisher has been conducting her dissertation research. Photo by Kimi Swisher.

In spring 2022, graduate student **Kimi Swisher** taught a course she designed, entitled “Food and Feasting in the Ancient World.” Kimi worked with a wonderful group of undergraduates on the cultural and social roles of food, both archaeologically and today. UMMAA collection managers Jim Moss and Andrea Blaser helped the class work with the Museum’s collections during hands-on sessions at the RMC and in the classroom.

Kimi spent the second half of the summer working on her dissertation, which focuses on the migration and cultural interactions of Late Woodland – Middle Mississippian (AD 900–1300) communities in the Lower Chattahoochee River Valley. This includes continuing collaborations with the University of Georgia’s Laboratory of Archaeology, the Mobile District United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Historic and Cultural Preservation Department. Kimi also conducted faunal analyses from previous work in 2016 and 2017 with the Singer-Moye Settlement History (SMASH) project in southwestern Georgia. She will present this work at the 2022 Southeastern Archaeological Conference and the 2023 Society for American Archaeology meeting in the Stability and Resilience in Zooarchaeology poster session, co-chaired by Kara Larson.

Israel

Kara Larson spent her summer surveying in the shadow of Tell el-Hesi in the northern Negev Desert of Israel-Palestine. Three different methods were used: pedestrian survey with 5x5m collection units, ground penetrating radar, and magnetometry. Kara led a team of three U-M undergraduates (India Pruette, Anna Luurtsema, and Allison Densel) and researchers from Mississippi State University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Tel Aviv University. By combining these three survey techniques, she discovered a likely Early Bronze Age neighborhood northwest of the tell; that area will be the target of her excavations next summer. Aside from her exciting fieldwork, Kara has been busy collecting faunal isotopic samples from several sites in the northern Negev region and analyzing them in Dr. Alicia Ventresca Miller’s new Ancient Protein and Isotope Laboratory. Kara published two first-authored papers, including her predoctoral paper in *Quaternary International* and an isotopic study on cultic uses of animals in the Iron Age. Kara also has a sole-authored paper coming out soon on isotopes and secondary state formation at the site of Khirbet Summeily.



Kara Larson directed this U-M survey team conducting dogleash survey at a potential Early Bronze Age encampment in the Greater Hesi region of the Negev Desert. U-M undergraduates (l-r) Allison Densel, India Pruette, and Anna Luurtsema.

Forthcoming in 2023

Archaeological Investigations in a Northern Albanian Province:

Results of the Projekti
Arkeologjik i Shkodrës (PASH)

Volume One: Survey and
Excavation Results

Michael L. Galaty and
Lorenc Bejko, editors



\$85 each volume; \$170 both volumes
hardcover • 800 pages • 8.5 x 11 inches
ISBN 978-1-951538-72-9 (print, 2-volume set)
Series: *Memoirs* No. 64

Situated beyond the reach and allure of the Classical Greek colonies, very few archaeological sites in the northern part of Albania have been surveyed or excavated—yet some of the earliest and largest hillforts and tumuli (burial mounds) are located near Shkodër in northern Albania.

Archaeological Investigations in a Northern Albanian Province: Results of the Projekti Arkeologjik i Shkodrës (PASH) is the first synthetic archaeological report on this region.

The results of five years of field and laboratory work are presented here in two volumes by editors Michael L. Galaty and Lorenc Bejko. Volume 1 covers the regional surveys and test excavations at three settlements and three tumuli. In Volume 2, the authors describe the artifacts recovered during the project and present the results of artifact analysis.

These two volumes place northern Albania—and the Shkodër Province in particular—at the forefront of archaeological research in the Balkans.

Archaeological Investigations in a Northern Albanian Province:

Results of the Projekti
Arkeologjik i Shkodrës (PASH)

Volume Two: Artifacts and
Artifact Analysis

Michael L. Galaty and
Lorenc Bejko, editors



Forthcoming in 2023

The Burials of Cerro Azul, Peru



Joyce Marcus

Memoirs of the
Museum of Anthropology
University of Michigan
Number 65

Between AD 1000 and 1470 on the desert coast of Peru, the inhabitants of the site of Cerro Azul used the terraced slopes of a nearby mountain as the final resting place for their domestic refuse. Eventually, the midden deposits on these terraces became deep enough to accommodate burial cists and mummy bundles.

Looters unfortunately discovered many of Cerro Azul's burials before the University of Michigan archaeologists arrived. The looters made ragged pits, removed items of commercial value, and left remains scattered on the surface. Dr. Joyce Marcus nevertheless decided to salvage as much of the mortuary data as she could.

It became immediately evident that the looters had worked hastily and carelessly. In one case, they missed a large silver disc because it was wrapped in a dirty cloth. In other cases, they missed some burials because their own backdirt hid them from view. As a result, Marcus' salvage efforts yielded even more data than she had expected.

It appeared that Cerro Azul's men had been buried with the tools of their trade, such as fishing nets, slings, and bolas for hunting. Women, on the other hand, were buried with weaving implements such as looms, spindles, needles, and yarn balls. Often these tools were found in workbaskets, bags, or decorated needlecases.

Food for the afterlife—guinea pigs, fish, shellfish, maize, and tropical fruits—had been left in gourd bowls. The most stunning grave goods, however, included polychrome textiles, gold foil, items of silver, fully dressed figurines, shell pigment palettes, and decorated balance beams.

This volume presents hundreds of these salvaged artifacts, many in full color.

Paperback

Approx. 400 pages

8.5 x 11 inches

Series: Memoirs No. 65

The University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology (UMMAA) has published academic books on archaeology and ethnology for 90 years. Our books are available in print, as ebooks, and online at Fulcrum, a data display and storage site hosted by the University of Michigan Press (www.press.edu). Browse all of our titles and purchase our books at sites.lsa.umich.edu/archaeology-books.

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In May 2022, Museum curator Brian Stewart opened an excavation at Ha Soloja (center-left in shadow), a large rock shelter situated at 2,300 m above sea level in the Sehlabathebe region of highland Lesotho. The rock shelter contains a sequence of Late Pleistocene archaeological deposits dating to 40,000 years ago and earlier.

