Crvena Stijena is a very large rockshelter on the western edge of the country of Montenegro, on the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is a famous site in the Balkans, although poorly known outside the region because virtually nothing is published on it in any western European language. Crvena Stijena was first excavated from the mid-1950s to the mid-1960s by archaeologists from Sarajevo. These excavations revealed an impressively deep (over 20 m) sequence of archaeological deposits, running from Bronze Age materials at the surface, through numerous Neolithic, Mesolithic, Epipaleolithic, and Upper Paleolithic levels, all above a long series of Middle Paleolithic (Mousterian) layers.

The later deposits, from the Upper Paleolithic up to the Bronze Age, were all removed by the earlier excavations. The current project found only disturbed remnants of Bronze Age materials on a few parts of the remaining surface and a small patch of still undisturbed Mesolithic layers, from which a very small sample of artifacts and a series of radiocarbon dates were obtained. Otherwise, everything later than the Mousterian is gone. However, substantial parts of the Mousterian layers remain today, and these are the focus of Whallon’s project. These layers begin at a depth of about 11 m in the site, immediately below a layer of volcanic tephra. This tephra has been identified by the project geologists as coming from a specific eruption in Italy, which left its distinctive tephra over a wide area of Europe. It is known as the Campanian Ignimbrite and has been well dated to 39,000–41,000 years ago.

Below this tephra are over 9 m of Mousterian deposits. As part of Whallon’s project, geologists from the United Kingdom have thoroughly sampled this entire sequence and carried out sedimentological, micromorphocal, remnant magnetism, and other geological analyses. This is an important component of the project because, as the project’s lead geologist says, this sequence “probably represents the longest record of Mousterian archaeology and palaeoenvironmental change yet discovered in the Balkan Peninsula.” This work is being extended and supported by a program for dating the entire sequence by optically stimulated thermoluminescence, which has been undertaken by colleagues from France.
Curator and Professor John Speath loves to be in the field—whether excavating Bison kills and pueblo ruins in New Mexico or mining Herkimer diamonds in upstate New York—and wherever he is digging, fossils are always waiting to be plucked from their mud or come to drop by for some spirited hunter. But underlying John’s great lay-back personality is a dedicated researcher and teacher.

John first became hooked on archaeology as a twelve-year-old, digging in a rockshelter in northeastern Pennsylvania. That interest deepened during his high school years and instead of attending his senior prom, he headed to New Mexico State University to participate in a University of New Mexico (UNM) field school. The fact that he would be the largest pueblo ruin of Pottery Mound. He attended UNM as an undergraduate, majoring in geology (BA, 1965) and nearly completing parallel majors in anthropology and biology. He then came to the University of Michigan for graduate studies in anthropology, completing his MA in 1968 and his PhD in 1971. His specialty was Paleolithic archaeology, particularly the Neanderthal period in the Near East, an interest he still actively pursues. John’s first job was at Hunter College (CUNY). He returned to Ann Arbor as a faculty member in 1976, “re-tooling” to become Curator of North American Archaeology. Throughout his career, he has researched in the southwestern U.S. John served as Director of the Museum of Anthropology 1986–1989, and as Associate Director 2006–2008.

In his research, John enjoys challenging prevailing assumptions by humorously pointing out their flaws while providing well-researched and thought-provoking interpretations. Interested in both New and Old World hunters and gatherers, including diet evolution, subsistence strategies, hunting techniques, and food processing technologies, John looks at old questions in new ways. With students in his New Mexico field school, he has studied the emergence of forager-farmer interaction and the economic ties that developed, and the collapse in violence, between Plains buffalo hunters and Pueblo farmers in the late prehistoric southwest. In his analyses of faunal remains from Middle Palaeolithic deposits in Kabaha Cave (Israel), John demonstrated that Neanderthals, rather than the passive scavengers that they’ve often been made out to be, were in fact effective hunters of large feral animals such as aurochs and wild boar. Contrary to the caricature of Neanderthals as bumbling dim-wits, he showed that they employed procurement strategies no less complex than those of contemporaries hunters and gatherers. John’s most recent new work, summarized in The Paleopathology of Big Game Hunt- ing: Protein, Fat, or Politics? (Springer, 2010), challenges the notion that big-game hunting developed primarily as a means of providing protein and calories to the hunter’s family, and suggests instead that it served most importantly as a means for males to acquire prestige. This year, John and four U-M graduate students—Klori Newlander, Aubry White, Ashley Lenke, and Lars Anderson (the Paleopathological “gang of five”)—co-authored a 175-page volume for the International Journal of Paleopathology, in press) that challenges many traditional assumptions about the lifeways of North America’s earliest (Paleo) inhabitants.

John greatly enjoys teaching undergraduates and graduate students. He holds a prestigious Arthur F. Thurnau Professorship for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education and was appointed as an Honors Fellow. Beyond the classroom, numerous U-M students have participated in his creative work, particularly on the Middle Palaeolithic of China. In late 2003, John joined the University of Michigan in Beijing, and in 2004, many field school alumni have presented their research at meetings and in co-authored publications. This is John’s last year of classroom teaching and he formally retires in June 2012. However, he looks forward to continuing to work with students on a one-on-one basis and to the creations this work will generate.

We thank John for his many contributions and look forward to his continuing presence in the Museum of Anthropology—in his work with students, dropping in to see his wife Lisa, or retreating with us his latest adventures.
Progetto Pran’e Siddi, Sardinia, Italy

in 2010 www.lsa.umich.edu/umma

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Today: Uthara Suwathana (PhD candidate, U-M) The most recent recipient of a Griffin Scholarship, Uthara’s dissertation research examines the changing political and economic organization of the Nalanda polity’s changing relations with and responses to interactions with larger South Indian states and empires throughout the first millennium AD. With support from the Griffin Scholarship and Trehan Fund for South Asian Studies, Uthara has completed two field seasons at Banavasi, and has recently been awarded an NSF Dissertation Improvement Grant to complete her fieldwork in 2011.

Looking back on 35 years of the Museum of Anthropology Griffin Scholarship Fund

The 1980s: Robert Kelly (University of Wyoming) used his Griffin fund to support his dissertation research on Holocene hunter-gatherer adaptations. The data generated showed a shift in territories from south to north about 1500 years ago. Kelly is currently Professor and Department Head of Anthropology at the University of Wyoming, and Director of the Prisun Institute; he served as president of the Society for American Archaeology from 2000 to 2003. His publications include The Focusing Spectrum, two widely used introductory textbooks, and over 100 professional publications.

Monica Smith conducting fieldwork in India—then... and now

The 1990s: Monica Smith (University of California, Los Angeles) used her Griffin fund to support her doctoral research at Kaundinyapura in Central India. Monica continues her research on early historic urbanization in South Asia in an ongoing collaborative project at the ancient city of Sarnath, with a particular focus on the gods and spaces associated with “ordinary people” and the opportunities for consensus and community in urban contexts. Monica is currently an Associate Professor of Anthropology at UCLA, and the author of the forthcoming A Prehistory of Ordinary People. Individuals, Multitasking, and the Foundations of Social Complexity (University of Wisconsin Press), and more than a dozen articles and dozens of professional publications.

The 2000s: R. Alan Covey (Southern Methodist University). The Griffin Fund supported Alan Covey’s 2000 archaeological survey and excavations in the Sacred Valley of Highland Peru. Located just north of Cuzco, the capital of the Inca empire, the valley was home to country estates of several Inca rulers. By identifying approximately 400 additional archaeological sites in the valley, Alan was able to combine archaeological patterns with 16th-century Spanish chronicles, developing a detailed picture of the rise of the Inca empire and the transformation of the imperial heartland. Covey is now an Associate Professor of Anthropology and is the author of two books about Inca rulers. With support from the Griffin Fund, Alan conducted a systematic regional survey of the fortified urban capital of Banavasi and its nearby second center, Gudhapura.

Alan Covey on break in the Sacred Valley, between him you see a landscape transformed by the Incas as they built their imperial heartland.

Her research explores the political and economic history of Banavasi and the polity’s changing relations with and responses to interactions with larger South Indian states and empires throughout the first millennium AD. With support from the Griffin Scholarship and Trehan Fund for South Asian Studies, Uthara has completed two field seasons at Banavasi, and has recently been awarded an NSF Dissertation Improvement Grant to complete her fieldwork in 2011.

The Museum of Anthropology was formally created in 1922 as a research and collections unit within the University of Michigan. The idea of the research museum, then and now, is based on two fundamental commitments. The first is that great universities should contain great collections of primary evidence, generated by leading researchers, for the study of the human past. The second is that these collections and the associated laboratories for their analysis are essential for the education of students.

Since its founding, graduate education has been a major focus of the Museum, in concert with our sister unit, the Department of Anthropology. And it was a primary focus of Director James B. Griffin, who led the Museum from 1946 to 1979. Upon his retirement, Griffin’s colleagues and friends created an endowment fund to support research by doctoral students in anthropological archaeology. The first award from the Griffin endowed giving was made in 1980 to the late Mary Hodge for her research on Aztec political economy; the most recent award was to current doc- toral student and former Griffin intern Uthara Suwathana for her archaeological fieldwork in South India. In all, more than 85 students have received small grants (ranging in value from $250 to $2500) from the Griffin Scholarship Fund to support their research. Here, we feature past recipients of Griffin awards, highlighting one individual from each of the last four decades. In featuring these scholars, we celebrate the past and future of graduate education in anthropology at U-M and the many students who have benefited from the legacy of James Griffin.

An Enduring Legacy: Looking back on 35 years of the Museum of Anthropology Griffin Scholarship Fund

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Snapshots from the field...

Curator John O’Shea and doctoral student Lars Anderson worked to identify ancient hunting sites beneath Lake Huron, using a small ROV to examine potential structures and carvings, and a multibeam survey of the central portion of the Apostle Islands in Lake Superior.

Doctoral student Alice Wright spent the summer at the University of North Carolina, analyzing Middle Woodland ceramics from Garden Creek Mound 2 in the Appalachian mountains.

Doctoral student Ashley Schubert and Christina Sampson worked at the Catawba Meadows site in Morganton, North Carolina, with Tulane University doctoral student Merritt Sanders and the Exploring Joara Foundation.

Doctoral student Jess Beck joined the University of Iowa excavation of Banavasi, a Late Neolithic mortuary rockshelter outside Vaiga, Vadras, Portugal.

Doctoral student Christina Sampson joined the ongoing American Museum of Natural History excavations of two Late Archaic shell ring sites on St. Catherines Island, Georgia.

Doctoral student Andrew Guadalupe assisted Dr. J. Cameron Monroe (UC Santa Cruz) on a UCLA field school in Cana, Benin, and collected data on the spatial organization of a Dahomean palace.

Doctoral student John O’Shea returned to Romania for a lab season of the Bronze Age tell of Pecica Farul More, joined by doctoral student Amy Nicodemus and U-M graduates Meghan Bowey and Alex Schorer. U-M students Colin Guine and Eric Ridley worked with Romanian colleagues to develop the first comprehensive GIS for Arad County.

Doctoral student Uthara Suvrathan (shown here with her team of Indian students) returned to India to complete a second season of systematic regional survey at Banavasi, India, to study the periphery of larger states and empires (see p. 3).

Doctoral student John Alden continued his work on ceramics, economic exchange, and pastoral nomadism in ancient Iran. John is shown here working at a shard yard near Persepolis in 2004. Recent IAA work reveals that some of these ceramics came from as far as 300 miles away.

Doctoral student Ji-Hyun Rachel Lee and Curator Henry Wright joined U-M alumnus Ji Min (UCLA) on an interdisciplinary project investigating the sacred landscape of Qufu (China), the birthplace of Confucius. Lee directed a regional survey in the Qufu area.

Research Scientist John Alden completed fieldwork at the first millennium AD town of Kamphaeng Saen in central Thailand. Galton’s project explores changing settlement and regional organization in the region’s first states.

Doctoral student Uthara Suvrathan (shown here with her team of Indian students) returned to India to complete a second season of systematic regional survey at Banavasi, India, to study the periphery of larger states and empires (see p. 3).

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New Assistant Collections Manager: Laura Ramos

The Museum is pleased to introduce our new Assistant Collections Manager Laura Ramos. Laura will oversee the care and continued documentation of the Museum’s NAGPRA collections and will work closely with the Museum curators, director, and Office of the Vice President for Research in tribal consultations, repatriations, and disposition claims from Native Communities. In addition to extensive archaeological experience in North America and the Near East, Laura most recently worked as a NAGPRA Curator Intern at Casa Grande National Monument in Arizona. She earned her BA in Anthropology from Occidental College, an MA in Human Osteology from the University of Sheffield, and graduate training at Binghamton University, where she specialized in Near Eastern Archaeology. We are delighted to welcome her to the Museum community.

Working in the Museum of Anthropology: Marisa Szytman

As a student who came to the University with an interest in a professional career in museum work, I began volunteering for Karen O’Brien, Museum Collections Manager, in my freshman year. I was specifically interested in collections management and began to work on multiple projects that taught me proper cataloging procedures. In my junior year, I enrolled in U-M’s new Museum Studies Minor. Each student in the program has to complete an internship that provides an in-depth experience of professional museum work, so Karen and I worked out a detailed plan to give me as many diverse experiences as possible. Through this internship, I broadened my knowledge of cataloging archaeological material, learned about cleaning and properly storing different types of artifacts, and received training on the Museum’s database system.

One of my tasks was to catalog materials from Curator John Speth’s 2009 excavations at Bloom Mound (New Mexico). My job was to catalog the animal bones. I first grouped them by species and then assigned each a catalog number, thereby making them easily accessible for future research. I also worked one day a week at the Museum’s offsite storage facility, learning about other aspects of collections work. My main job was to clean and prepare for storage several Native American ethnographic artifacts that had recently been on display. One of my favorite tasks was thoroughly cleaning a pair of Inuit bear fur. My job was to carefully comb through the fur and remove the exoskeletons with tweezers. Even though the work was very time consuming, I learned that each object must receive individualized attention based on its particular conservation needs.

I also assisted in re-housing several collections of artifacts, including Indonesian shadow puppets, bark cloth from Africa, and a collection of Tibetan metal and jeweled boxes. I exercised my critical thinking skills figuring out ways to use limited storage space while making sure each artifact was housed safely in its own box. I learned how to properly vacuume delicate artifacts made of animal hair, carefully store oily shadow puppets, steam the wrinkles out of bark cloth, and construct storage boxes so that small metal jewelry pieces are securely contained.

The third part of my internship involved work with the Museum’s collections database. Because a database is integral to the way museums organize their collections and the way students and researchers can access them, this knowledge will be valuable in any collections jobs I have in the future. During the course of my internship, two new student volunteers joined me to help catalog the thousands of objects from the Bloom Mound site. Since neither had previous museum experience, I was in charge of training them in proper cataloging and organizational procedures, writing up condition reports, and safe methods for handling artifacts. I was excited to be able to pass on my knowledge of museum work to new volunteers, whose work will be essential in furthering the Museum’s collections work in the future. This internship was a wonderful opportunity for me to continue working with and learning about the Museum of Anthropology’s diverse collections and the collections manager’s job. I have definitely gained a new perspective on the difficulties, and satisfactions, of working with artifacts behind the scenes to make sure that the objects that professors and students use in research and teaching, and that visitors see in exhibits, are well cared for and will be available for future generations. And, most importantly, I had a lot of fun with all of the work that I did!

I would especially like to thank Karen for her support and friendship over the past four years that I have been working as her student assistant. She inspires me daily with her continued support, enthusiasm, and dedication to her job. I would also like to thank Carla Sinopoli, Director of the Museum, for the opportunities she has given me to expand my involvement in the museum.

by Marisa Szytman
Class of 2011

Archaeology Days

During 2010–2011, the Museum is collaborating with the Exhibit Museum of Natural History and Kelsey Museum of Classical Archaeology to introduce middle and high school students from throughout southeast Michigan to archaeology. The students visit ten archaeological stations where they get to handle artifacts, perform hands-on activities, and meet with real archaeologists to learn about the past and to experience firsthand the excitement of discovery. This year, we will sponsor four separate Archaeology Days, during which Research Scientist Lisa Young and UUMA doctoral and undergraduate students will host more than 500 middle and high school students.

Collections Highlight: The Walter Norman Koelz Collection

In the early 1930s, zoologist Walter N. Koelz traveled to the Indian Himalayas on a collecting expedition for the U-M Museum of Zoology and Museum of Anthropology. Along with thousands of zoological and botanical specimens, Koelz returned with a remarkable collection of more than 500 objects, including Buddhist tangka paintings, bronze and silver amulet boxes and sculptures, textiles from Kashmir and Western India, and wooden bread molds, printing blocks and stamps (wooden book cover, UUMA 17014, pictured above). Today, the Koelz Collection is one of the most important collections of Western Himalayan material culture in North America.

The Koelz Collection is featured in a new online exhibition on the Museum’s web site (www.lsa.umich.edu/umma/koelz.html) and the Museum is in the planning stages with the University of Michigan Museum of Art and the Ella Sharp Museum in Jackson, Michigan, to mount major exhibitions of the collection in 2012–2013. To lay the groundwork for this exhibition, conservator Ann Shaftel (http://annshaftel.com) spent two weeks in Ann Arbor conducting a conservation assessment of the Museum’s collection of 56 tangka paintings. Ann’s detailed report on the paintings’ condition and conservation needs provides essential information to allow us to plan and pursue funding for the conservation of this rare and important collection.

Also in fall 2010, four tangkas from the collection were featured in an LSA theme semester lecture and tangka painting workshop, “Beauty makes life worth living: The art of thangka painting,” held at the University of Michigan Museum of Art and led by Rob Davis, Executive Director of Cooper Colored Mountain Arts. Rob can be seen discussing the conservation in 2009 at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mU-CBQIlts.

Rob Davis describes the Iconography of a Koelz tangka (UMMA 17462) at the U-M Museum of Art.

Conservator Ann Shaftel examining Koelz tangka in the Museum’s storage area.
Congratulations to Stephen Dupeppen (2008) who was awarded a New Frontiers grant from the American Council of Learned Societies. Stephen is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Anthropology at the University of Oregon.

**Doctoral Defenses**

Allison Davis: "Excavations at Yaffa: A Community Study in an Urban Village, Israel (400–100 BCE)." Spring 2010. Allison is now a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute of Archaeology and the Ancient World at Brown University.


Daphne Golopher: "Farming Beyond the Escarpment: Society, Environment, and Mobility in Precollozial Southeastern Burkina Faso," Fall 2009. Daphne is now a Research Associate in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Birmingham.

Dan Pugh: "The Swantset Site: Late Prehistoric Osteoarchaeology and Ethnoarchaeology 2010. Dan is a temporary Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Central Michigan University.

**Graduate Student Achievements**

NSF Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships

Cameron Gokee: "Social Production of Authority at the Iron Age Community of Dbayah, Eastern Senegal"

Emily Holt: "Competition, Resources, and the Consolidation of Social Complexity"

Amanda Logan: "Food Practices and Memory in Banda, Ghana: The Archaeology of a Small-Scale State"

Nic McDowell: "Bronze Age Economies of the Carpathian Basin: Trade, Craft Production, and Agro-Pastoral Interactions"

Uthura Sovathi: "Complex Societies on the Periphery: Regional Networks in South Asia in the 1st-1st C. BCE"


Amanda Logan: "Practicing Change, Remembering Community: Incorporating Global Foods into Daily Routine"

**UMMA Fund**

The UMMA Fund gave its first awards to Howard Taal to support radiocarbon dating of samples from Las Varas, Peru, and to Cameron Gokee for dating of a sample from Dbayah, Senegal.

**Dear Friends of the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology**

It's been more than 20 years since I finished my dissertation on early hunting and herding in Peru and left Ann Arbor to join a project in Central Asia with my husband, Fredrik Hiebert. It's been more than 25 years since Fred finished his doctoral dissertation on the Red Sea coast and left Ann Arbor for Cambridge. After many further field projects, collaborations, and chances to study collections around the world, we are convinced that the foundation for our work rests in our educational roots at the fourth floor of the Museum. To celebrate this, we're issuing a challenge to other graduates and friends of the program to support the Museum in its annual drive.

As a premier program in anthropology embedded in a world-class institution, the Museum of Anthropology has a unique mission: to support research and scholarly work that is both new and relevant. Projects and research costs that are an intrinsic part of training in anthropology are in short supply. Our challenge is particularly oriented towards the needs of the Gilchrist Scholarship Fund, the Museum’s fund for graduate students in the later part of their career, through we will match gifts to any of the endowment and gift funds that support the Museum’s important work. I hope that every former recipient of Gilchrist Fund money can remember the airplane tickets, field equipment, or data processing (my own case) granted and the difference those funds made in the project. I hope that you will join us in this challenge, and potentially in the lives of many of our colleagues who have used their Michigan edge both in and out of departments of anthropology.

I hope that many old and new friends will meet this challenge and pitch in. Fred and I have accumulated both gifts and commitments to these projects and careers of many of my classmates and younger colleagues that they have used their Michigan edge both in and out of departments of anthropology.

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Sincerely,

Katherine M. Moore
Curator Joyce Marcus and doctoral student Howard Tsai are curating a new exhibition, *Beer in Ancient Peru*, featuring objects from the Museum’s Latin American archaeology collections. The exhibition will open in 2011.