We sat cross-legged on the concrete floor in the antechamber of the Marabout, three first-year graduate students in anthropological archaeology from the University of Michigan, while flies buzzed languidly in the warm, stale air. After six weeks of fieldwork in Senegal, we had learned how to excavate human remains, how to record archaeological data, and how to work together as a team. And waiting for our audience with the Marabout, we learned the virtue of patience. Marabouts are well-respected scholars of the Islamic brotherhoods in West Africa and many are gifted with mystic powers by the grace of Allah.

Weeks before, we had arrived in Dakar, Senegal, with Dr. Augustin Holl to participate as a student cohort in the spring field season (May 16–June 30) of the Sine Ngayene Archaeological Project (SNAP) sponsored by the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology. With Dr. Holl we set off for our field site in a Land Rover piloted by our driver and good friend Tamsir Maiga. Heading inland to the Saloum region of central Senegal, we were immediately struck by the thick humidity that anticipates the summer rains. The UMMA archaeological field station is located in the village of Ngayene only a few kilometers from the Gambia border. For over a century this region has been known to archaeologists for its first millennium megalithic cemeteries. Augustin Holl’s multi-year SNAP project had already conducted a survey along the seasonal watercourse Petit Bao Bolon to locate megalithic cemeteries and their associated stone quarries, as well as habitation and iron-production sites. This year, we assisted Dr. Holl with the excavation of Ngayene-II, a medium-sized cemetery a few minutes’ walk from the field station. This site included numerous megalithic stone circles, earthen tumuli and a possible ritual space. Building upon the work of previous seasons of UM students, our excavations revealed at least two different types of burial practices. One large megalithic stone circle included a secondary interment of numerous individuals with associated grave goods such as copper and iron jewelry and iron spear points. Notably, some of the iron points may have been ritually “killed” by bending the tip backwards. Other mortuary circles made of smaller stones contained the primary burials of individuals laid to rest successively over time. In one case, however, four individuals were probably interred atop one another, together in one burial event.

Unfortunately, many of the human remains we recovered were in an advanced state of decay. Soil chemistry and termites had taken their toll. Indeed, termites continue to ravage human populations, we discovered, as they rained down upon us from the wooden roof beams of our field station during hard rain storms. During our final, fervent week of excavation, rain showers left us digging in the mud, passing only to toss the occasional happy frog out of our excavation unit. And suddenly our field season was over. Having successfully taught some of the local children to throw a frisbee, we returned to Dakar in our (t)rusty Land Rover laden with archaeological samples that continue to be analyzed at the Museum of Anthropology in Ann Arbor.

We had journeyed north from Dakar to the town of Louga to visit the Marabout, and receive his cosmic wisdom of things present and future. Finally, we entered his chamber and whispered our desires into a handful of sand, writing there with our breath a future read only with the grace of Allah. But our thoughts inevitably drifted to the dynamics of the past societies who produced the megalithic cemetery of Ngayene-II and the knowledge of prehistory which no cleric can help us understand. The pieces of this knowledge are buried in the sands of central Senegal, waiting to be put together by archaeologists such as ourselves.
Curator Retirements

Jeffrey Parsons Retires

Curator and Professor Jeffrey Parsons retired this fall, though we are no evidence that he is slowing down. The University of Michigan’s (Dick) Ford Professor emeritus, will maintain their active research programs and their long-standing association with our Museum. And both continue to share their vast knowledge with students and colleagues. But their daily presence in our institution will be deeply missed as well. Jeff, Dick, and their families the very best as they begin this next stage of their lives and careers.

This is a challenging and exciting period in the Museum’s history, especially made daunting by declining resources available from the State and University. Yet the Museum remains a center of exciting and innovative archaeological research conducted around the globe by our curators and graduate students, as well as in our laboratories. Through our field schools, internships, and research in our laboratories in the Navajo Nation, we remain committed to providing top-notch graduate and undergraduate education and hands-on training in archaeological practice. In addition, we are working hard to improve our collection documentation and accessibility and very soon will have our 30,000+ images of the week available on the World Wide Web for your use in teaching and research.

As we devote our energies to maintaining and enhancing the Museum’s activities and status as a center for excellence in anthropological archaeology, we thank you for your commitment to our institution and look forward to working with you in the future to assure our intellectual and financial stability.

Carla M. Sinopoli
November 1, 2005

Curator Honors

Charles Loring Brace was awarded the Charles R. Darwin Lifetime Achievement Award by the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. This award was given in 1992 to recognize and honor distinguished scientists of the American Museum who have demonstrated a lifetime of contributions and commitment to physical anthropology, through their scholarship, teaching, and service. Professor Brace has had an enormous influence on the field of biological anthropology, and this award acknowledges his long and distinguished career. He has been a consistent advocate of adopting a Darwinian perspective to address questions in biological anthropology. He pioneered the use of quantitative metric data to investigate the evolutionary relationships of humans. He has been a strong and vocal proponent of the idea that race is a not valid biological concept. Loring’s writings on this topic have had a significant impact and were recently summarized in his book: “Races and Race” (Oxford University Press, 2005). Early in his career, Loring’s “single-species hypothesis” focused attention on the number of species of early humans in the fossil record. This debate currently lives on in the form of the multiregional hypothesis of modern human origins. Loring has long championed the hypothesis that Neandertals were a part of a single evolving human lineage.

As we acknowledge this much-deserved honor, we also express our profound sadness that Loring Brace is no longer with us. Mimmi passed away on August 15, 2005.

As Loring’s wife, editor, collaborator, and inspiration for nearly 50 years, Mimmi’s contributions to Loring’s academic career and life are profound and immeasurable; this Lifetime Achievement Award belongs to her as well as Loring.

Kent V. Flannery was elected to the American Philosophical Society. Founded in 1743, election to the Society honors extraordinary accomplishment in all scholarly fields and seeks to promote useful knowledge in the sciences and humanities through excellence in scholarly research, professional meetings, publications, library resources, and community outreach.

Richard I. Ford presented the 26th College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Distinguished Senior Faculty Lecture “Mummies in Stone: Interpreting Rock Art in New Mexico,” in the Fordham Amphitheater in March 2009. Joyce Marcus was awarded the University of Michigan’s Distinguished Faculty Lectureship in the year 2008, and is the first female faculty honoree to be named the Robert L. Carneiro Distinguished University Professor of Anthropology. This Distinguished University Professorship honors Joyce’s originality and scholarly achievement in Pre-Columbian archaeology, ethnohistory, ethnography, and historical anthropology, as well as her dedication and commitment to teaching and mentorship.

In September 2004, Henry Wright presented the annual Robert Stanley Ulam Lectures at the Santa Fe Institute, New Mexico, addressing theories of early state emergence and research on early states in Mesoamerica and Madagascar.

Jeffrey D. Speth is on sabbatical in 2005-06 but remains in Ann Arbor to write about his recent excavations at Bactro Mound, a site in northwest Thailand. The conference, the International Conference on India’s Prehistoric and Early Historical Archaeology: Implications for the Southeast Asian Peopling, is scheduled for March 2009, in New Delhi, India.

Lisa Young was appointed a Research Associate at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, and a Fellow at the W.E.B. DuBois Institute for African and African-American Research, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Dr. Young has been a visiting fellow at the University of Oxford, Oxford, England, and was the lead excavator at the Fikirte Temple, Ethiopia, for the National Geographic Society.

Richard Redding was elected to the Board of Directors of the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society.

Henry Wright continued his peripatetic ways, conducting fieldwork in Madagascar and Syria, interspersed by trips to China, Thailand, and Myanmar (Burma).

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Augustin Holl conducted two field seasons in Senegal, working with undergraduate students in the Winter term and graduate students in the Spring. The course "Advanced Field Studies" is new and provides collaborative field-training experience to first year graduate students in anthropological archaeology.

Cameron Gokee, Khori Newlander, and Uthara Suvrathan participated (see p. 1).

Jamie Clark conducted preliminary dissertation research on the Middle Stone Age in South Africa. During her trip, Jamie received training in the identification of Southern African fauna and participated in excavations run by Dr. Lyn Wadley at the Middle Stone Age site of Sibudu Cave. Jamie's dissertation will examine fauna from the Howiesons Poort substage of the MSA, exploring the relationship between demography and the emergence of "modern" behaviors.

Doctoral candidate Howard Tsai spent the summer in Peru, surveying the site of Las Varas in the Jequetepeque Valley. This unusual lowland site contains material remains associated with the highland Cajamarca polity, and will be the focus of his dissertation research. He will be exploring the nature and history of this intriguing community.

Carla M. Sinopoli continued her work on 1st millennium BC emergent complexity in South India. Excavations at the 60 hectare site of Kadebakele revealed stratified domestic architecture spanning from c. 800-500 BCE, and complex ritual architecture and deposits of the South Indian megalith tradition. UM doctoral students Elizabeth Bridges and Matt Gallon joined the international team, which also includes archaeometallurgist Dr. Sharada Srinivasan and ceramic petrographer Dr. Kajal Shah. The NSF-supported project, entitled "Early Historic Landscapes of the Tungabhadra Corridor," is co-directed with Kathleen D. Morrison (U. Chicago) and R. Gopal (Karnataka Department of Archaeology and Museums).

In July and August, John O’Shea, with co-directors Alex Barker and Sarah Sherwood, began NSF-sponsored collaborative research at the important Bronze Age site of Pecica in western Romania. Working in collaboration with Romanian archaeologists from the Banatuli Museum in Timisoara and the County Museum of Arad, UM graduate student Amy Niedermuehr, Eric Rupley, and Paul Duffy and former undergrad Christopher Papalas participated in this first season of excavation of the renowned tell. The site was central in controlling the production and distribution of bronze goods throughout southeastern Europe, and is critically important in understanding the chronology of the Bronze Age.

In May and June 2005, curator John O’Shea and doctoral candidate Meghan Howey co-directed our 2005 North American archaeological field school, assisted by doctoral student Dan Pugh and recent BA graduate Bethany Dyskta. Students participated in an ongoing long-term project in north central Michigan, conducting excavations at the Missaukee Earthworks and Chief White Bird sites. And they were involved in the startup of a new archaeological research program at the University of Michigan Biological Station along Douglas Lake, in Petoskey, Michigan.

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A busy year: we finished the Museum Loan Network project, adding over 100 baskets to this database for loan and exhibit purposes. Check out the Museum’s website next spring for a virtual exhibition of the baskets in our collection. In April, Dr. Kelly Hayes-Gilpin (Northern Arizona University) visited us and helped identify over 300 southwestern pottery vessels that had recently been restored, cleaned and inventoried.

The UMMA library contains over 30,000 images from our collections is almost complete. It will be available through the UMMA website. Patrick Livignood will present a poster at both the SAA (November 2005) and SAA (April 2006) meetings to show it off. There are still some mystery images: stop by and take a look. Maybe you can help us identify people, places and sites from the history of North America.

Several new collections were added to the Museum: field-generated collections from August Holf’s excavations in Senegal and from the Museum’s field school run by John O’Shea and Meghan Howey is Northern Michigan ethnographic pottery and baskets collected in China, Malaysia, and Thailand by Henry E. White and several private donations from Dr. Richard I. Ford, Mrs. Flora Wright, Mr. Peter Elliott, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Warner, and Mrs. Richard Del Duca.

Finally, the Museum has started some multi- year inventory projects, which will allow us to update catalog and location information, and identify collection concerns. We’re nearly finish- ing with the Latin American Ethnohistory Librar- y and the Archaeology Laboratory, soon to be available on our website. Other inventory projects include the enormous Ethnobotanical Collection and a large section of the material culture collections. The ultimate goal of the latter is to better understanding of the materials in the museum and plan for new stor- age equipment and space.

Exhibits

Some of our collections were on exhibit this summer at the U-M Museum of Art. Our first formal collaboration in more than 20 years, “Paisley and Peacocks: Woven and Embroidered Textiles from Kashmir and the Punjab” featured objects from America’s Kress Collection of South and Central Asian artifacts, curated by Maribeth Graybill (Art Museum) and collabora- ted with Austrian curator, Carla Sinopoli. The museum published a monograph on the shawls by Grace Beardsey and Carla Sinopoli and undertook a conservation assessment by textile conservator Deborah Bede and a photo session in the College of Art and Architecture hallways by photographer Dwight Cendrowski.

The Museum’s enormous archaeological, ethnographic, and comparative collections, date from half a million years ago to the last century, and they provide great resources for teaching and research. Undergraduate and graduate students can directly experience and work with these materials from all over the world. Undergraduate engagement with these collec- tions ranges from class tours and projects in our introductory archaeology class to more intensive hands-on courses in archaeological analysis to individualized learning opportunities through

Undergraduate Field Research Opportunities in 2005-2006

The Museum sponsored two exciting under- graduate field research experiences in 2005 and we have at least three such projects in store for the spring and summer of 2006. In the winter semester (happily escaping an exceptionally harsh winter), curator Lisa Young and her fourth consecutive archaeological field train- ing course, “Subterranean Houses: Archaeology in Senegal” in collaboration with colleague Dr. Humayu Bocoum and graduate student Daphne Gallagher and Stephen Deupen. UM undergraduates partici- pated were Dano Begum, Amana O’Brien, and David Stobrt. This project focused on the semi- subterranean to above-ground houses, of Anthropology, focuses on a critical transi- tion. Students will work with Dr. Young and they will be directing the Homol’ovi Undergradu- ate School in northern Michigan in the spring and summer of 2006. In the winter semester (happily escaping an exceptionally harsh winter), curator Lisa Young and her fourth consecutive archaeological field train- ing course, “Subterranean Houses: Archaeology in Senegal” in collaboration with colleague Dr. Humayu Bocoum and graduate student Daphne Gallagher and Stephen Deupen. UM undergraduates partici- pated were Dano Begum, Amana O’Brien, and David Stobrt. This project focused on the semi- subterranean to above-ground houses, of Anthropology, focuses on a critical transi- tion. Students will work with Dr. Young and they will be directing the Homol’ovi Undergradu- ate School in northern Michigan in the spring and summer of 2006. In the winter semester (happily escaping an exceptionally harsh winter), curator Lisa Young and her

In May and June 2005, curator John O’Shea and doctoral candidate Meghan Howey co-di- rected our North American archaeological field school, assisted by doctoral student Dan Peugh and recent B.A. graduate Bethany Dysart. Students learned different stages of the archaeological research process: an ongoing long-term project focused on late prehistoric regional organization in north-central Michigan, conducting excavations at the Missaukee Earth- works and Chief White Bird sites, and the start- up of a new ethnoarchaeological research program along Douglas Lake, in Pellston, Michigan, where they conducted preliminary assessments of archaeological resources at the University of Michigan Biological Station.

Three field projects are on tap for Spring and Summer 2006. August Holf’s spring-semester field training in Senegal and two North American field school projects.

Undergraduate in the Collections

Richard Redding (second from left) with archaeo- zoology students.

The university’s Undergraduate Research Op- portunity Program, Senior thesis, and volunteer work. This Fall semester more than 200 students engaged with the Museum’s collections, creat- ing an exciting context for active-learning and direct engagement with the material remains of humanity’s past.

Richard Redding and Kent Flannery offered a new class on archaeozoology. Using the Muse- um’s comparative and archaological collections, 17 students combined lectures and laboratory training to gain familiarity with zooarchaeologi- cal techniques and their application to the study of important anthropological questions. In an- other course, “Introduction to Asian Cultures” (Anthropology 235) more than 60 undergraduates conducted research on trade ceramics, inscribed bamboo texts, and other objects in the Museum’s Asian Division.

Richard Redding (second from left) with archa- eozoology students.

Susan Alcock
John Alden
David Anderson
Kurt Anschuetz
Jeanne Arnold
Susan Badger Doyle
Richard Blanton
David Brose
Michael Brown
James Brown
Donald Brown
Robert Brubaker
Maureen Burns
Robert Carreamo
Sergio Chavez
John Cherry
Beverly Chetnik
Caitolette Conrad Atkins
R. Michael Curley
C. Wesley Cowan
George Cowgill
Frank DeMita, Jr.
Susanne DelBartolo
Carolyn Dilworth
William Doelle
Robert Drennon
Robert Dunning
Rohn Bouc
William Englebrecht
William Forand
Gillian Feeley-Harri
Gary Feinman
Kent Flannery
J. Benjamin Flathg
Kent Flannery
Karen and Richard Ford
David Ford
Severine Fowles
Debra Gold
Lynne Golden
William Griff
John & Linda Hately
Amy Harris
Charles Hastings
Frances Hayashida
Helen Hays
Kelsey Hays-Clifton
Michael Hegmon
Mary Heims
Fredrick Heiber
Robert Hirtan
Augustin Holl
Craig Howe
Judith Irvine
H. Edwin Jackson
Edward Jackson
William Joffe
Anthur Jelinek
E. Webb Keane
Keith Kintg
Harriet Kuhlstein
Shane Kukow
Susan Kus
Lewis Larson, Jr.
Amy Lawson
Dana Lepetock
William Lockwood
William Love
Joyce Marcus
Claire McHale Meiner
Charles McNutt
Henry Merri
Nancy Messenger
David Mindell
Paul Minnis
Preston Miracle
John & Sally MITLAND
Hattula Moholy-Nagy
Cara Monroe
Katharine Moore Habert
Katharine Moynes
Virginia Nazarea-Rhoades
Ben & Peggy Nelson
Mara O’Brien
Karen O’Brien
John O’Shea
Jeffrey Parsons
Steve Pastner
Gene Peake
Helena Polnak
Mary Powell
Jennifer Pyne
Richard Redding, Jr.
Bhina Renna
Robert Reynolds
John Robb
Thomas Roeck
Martha Rolfseng
Mitchell Rothman
Stephen Williams
Alma Wool
Alfred Wool
First & Henry Wright
Jason Yaeger
Richard & Jean Yannell
Lisa Young
Ted Steggmann, Jr.
Vincas Steponaitis
Lauren Taladay
Bradley & Simone Taylor
Yasmina Vinci Manning
Robert Warner
Potty Jo Watson
Patricia Watkinson
Will Wettstrom
Polly Wesner
Richard Wilkinson

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New in 2005 from Museum of Anthropology Publications

Excavations at San José Mogote 1: The Household Archaeology (Memoir 40) by Kent V. Flannery and Joyce Marcus

Wrapped in Beauty: The Koelz Collection of Kashmir Shaws (Anthropo. Papers, 93) by Grace Beardsey in collaboration with Carla M. Sinopoli


To learn more about the UMMA’s Special Collections, please visit our website at www.lsa.umich.edu/umma.

The UMMA Image Library of more than 30,000 images from our collections is almost complete. It will be available through the UMMA website.
UM undergraduates Bradley Krueger and Bethany Dykstra in East Tawas Bay, Michigan

Part of John O'Shea’s shipwreck survey, they are searching for evidence of shipwrecked Linden, which burnt to the waterline just off Tawas Bay docks in the 1920s.

More about undergraduate field research opportunities inside (p. 6).