Since the founding of the Museum of Anthropology in the 1920s, our curators have been actively engaged in archaeological research in many regions of the world, directing projects that spanned from the Philippines to the Middle East and Latin America. This expansive focus continues today as international fieldwork is increasingly constructed through formal collaborations with foreign researchers and institutions in the host country. Today’s international research is committed both to the acquisition of scientific knowledge about the past and to giving back to the inhabitants of the countries in which we work—through contributing to the training and education of future generations of archaeologists; constructing museum exhibits, educational materials, and project websites to disseminate archaeological knowledge to diverse audiences; and assisting in developing long-term curation facilities and plans for the materials our research recovers. Increasingly, and promisingly, international collaborative efforts also involve non-U.S. researchers traveling to the United States for research as well as training. Here we describe a small number of the international collaborations UMMA curators are currently involved in.

In Romania, curator John O’Shea is co-directing a multiyear collaborative project with Dr. Florin Drașovean of the Museum Banatului Timişoara, Dr. Peter Huegel of the Museum Judeţean Arad, and University of Michigan alumnus Dr. Alex Barker (University of Missouri). Initiated in 2003, this project focuses on the important Bronze Age site of Pecica “Şanţul Mare” and explores the social and economic changes that occurred during the course of the Bronze Age. Pecica was a major center for bronze manufacturing throughout the Bronze Age and occupies a strategic location astride the river Mureş between the ore-producing region of the Western Carpathian Mountains and the metal-using societies of the Carpathian Basin and beyond. The 2006 field season involved opening a large block excavation to investigate the final Late Bronze Age occupation of the settlement and the circumstances under which the site was abandoned. Michigan doctoral students Amy Nicodemus and Paul Duffy and undergraduate Stephanie Salwen and Tyler Carter participated in this summer’s excavations.

Other European collaborations include curator Bob Whallon’s ongoing research at the Middle to Upper Paleolithic cave site of Crvena Stijena in Montenegro, a collaborative project of the University of Michigan, the Center for Archaeological Investigations of Montenegro (CZAICG), and the National Heritage Museum of Niksic, Montenegro.

Curator Carla M. Sinopoli is collaborating with Kathleen D. Morrison (University of Chicago) and the Karnataka Department of Archaeology and Museums in the “Early Historic Landscapes of the Tungabhadra Corridor” project, focused on exploring the formation and nature of institutionalized social inequality and territorial polities in the first millennium BC in South India. Research since 2003 has focused on the ca. sixty-hectare settlement and mortuary site of Kadebakele, where households and commemorative features have been excavated. Students from Delhi and Kerala have joined American students and project staff in excavations and laboratory analysis. Other project members include archaeometallurgist Dr. Sharada Srinivasan from the Bangalore Institute of Science, who is studying iron technology at the site, and Dr. Kajal Shah from MS University in Baroda, who is conducting petrographic analysis of ceramics. Team members are working to develop bilingual Kannada-English museum exhibits on their work, which will be displayed at the Karnataka Department’s museum in nearby Hampi (medieval Vijayanagara) and in the village school at Kadebakele.
Letter from the Director

I write this two days after an eventful election day, as the University of Michigan begins to explore the implications of the anti-affirmative action ballot initiative that has just been passed by the people of our state. In the Museum of Anthropology, whose scope is the entire world, our commitment to diversity—for that of the University of Michigan embraces ... and believes in diversity” [http://www.umich.edu/press/speeches/061103div.html], it is fitting that in this issue of our annual newsletter we report on the many, multi-faceted and cross-cultural activities of our Museum scholars from Mexico and Peru. In Mexico, they are involved in a tour of rock art sites in northern New Mexico. Ford also met with members of the Homol'ovi Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (HUROP) and the UM Museum Studies Program, and Ms. Susan Secakuku, of the Hopi Tribe, serve as faculty mentors on the project. Excavated materials were brought to Ann Arbor for analysis by UM undergraduate students and assisted by UM doctoral student Maia Dedrick (from Anthropology and American Culture and the University’s Museum Studies Program). Funded by the National Science Foundation’s Undergraduate Research Experience for Undergraduates Program, HUROP integrates archaeological research with public outreach to teach students the methods and processes involved in archaeological fieldwork and the skills necessary to communicate information about scientific research in a meaningful way to the general public. The integration of archaeology with public outreach creates a dynamic environment in which students learn about scientific research and, in turn, share what they have learned with the public. During the summer of 2006, participants conducted independent research projects that were integrated into public outreach displays at the Homol’ovi Ruins State Park. Dr. Silverman, the director of the UM Museum Studies Program, and Ms. Susan Secakuku, of the Hopi Tribe, serve as faculty mentors on the project. Excavated materials were brought to Ann Arbor for analysis. This semester, the three UM field school participants have been joined in the laboratory by graduate students from the University of California at Santa Barbara, Maia Dedrick, and Meg Nisch; they are working in the North American archaeology division to process and analyze the artifacts recovered from Creswell Pueblo.

International Collaborations cont.

Curator Henry Wright spent part of the summer in 2006 in China engaged in three collaborative efforts. He taught in a summer school program on Complex Systems, contributing lectures on efforts to model cultural evolution. Sponsored by the Santa Fe Institute and held in Beijing, the program involved 52 students: 31 from China and 21 from other countries including Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Mexico, the U.S., Canada, Spain, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Iran, India, and Australia. Henry then headed to Laying in the Yi-Luo River Valley to meet with his colleagues from the Yi-Luo archaeological survey project—Prof. Chen Xing (Institute of Archaeology, Beijing), Liu Li (La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia), and Lee Yunkuen (Harvard University)—to begin preparing the publication of the results of their multiyear archaeological survey focused on the region surrounding the site of Erlitou, the earliest state center in China. Before leaving China, Henry went on to Jinan in Shandong province to visit UM doctoral student Li Min and to begin discussions about our future, reaffirming our commitment to remain a first-class educational and research unit even in the face of the challenging economic situation that our state and university are currently confronting. At the same time, we continue to work to enhance the incredible archival and ethnographic collections entrusted to our care. In summer 2006, with funding from the John Hope Franklin Library and University Services, we conducted a “Curator in Assessment Survey” of the Museum’s three collection spaces. We are now digesting the daunting results of that report, to develop long-term strategies for improving collection care and accessibility. This will, of course, require resources and we will no doubt engage our long-time friends and supporters, to ask for your continued assistance. Today, though, I merely thank you for your friendship to the Museum and invite you to enjoy this brief report on a small subset of our ongoing activities.

Carla M. Sinopoli
November 9, 2006

UMMA Newsletter — Fall, 2006

UMMA Archaeological Field Schools

In 2006, Museum researchers sponsored three archaeological field schools, offered in concert with the Department of Anthropology.

International Collaborations

Curators Joyce Marcus and Kent V. Flannery remain active in engaged in collaborative research with scholars from Mexico and Peru. In Mexico, they were collaborating with Dr. Maria de los Angeles Romero Frizzi and Dr. Manuel Eparaza of the Centro Regional de Excavaciones de Pueblos Prehispánicos, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, and Dr. González Lican (Museo Nacional de Antropología). Their Penvinian colleagues include Dr. Ricardo Ramírez (Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos), Dr. Duccio Bonavia (Universidad Católica del Sur in Chile, and the Universidad Mayor de San Marcos), and Dr. Jorge Silva (Universidad Ricardo Palma and Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos).

Within the U.S., curator Richard Ford hosted Dr. Su Sheng, head of the China Rock Art Society, in a tour of rock art sites in northern New Mexico. Ford also met with members of the Oman Cultural Heritage Preservation team who visited New Mexico last summer to discuss a range of issues concerning the preservation of archaeological heritage.

UMMA Newsletter — Fall, 2006

Excavation of the Michigan Biological Field School

Choose to honor our achievements and recent anthropology PhD Meghan Howey directed a field project excavating Late Woodland sites along Douglas Lake in north-central Michigan, in collaboration with the University of Michigan Biological Station. This project marks the start of an exciting new collaboration between the Museum and the University’s Biological Station, long a leader in environmental and ecological research and teaching in the Great Lakes. Fourteen undergraduate students from three different universities and colleges participated in the project with project staff Stephanie Salwen, Bethany Dykstra, and Uthara Suvartham. Excavations in 2006 focused on site 20CN63, a late prehistoric settlement dating to ca. AD 1200-1600. Dense cultural materials, including several features, were identified. Artifacts, currently being analyzed in the Museum’s Great Lakes Range, included abundant lithic stone circles, earthen tumuli and a possible ritual space. In summer 2006, the team excavated four mega-features containing the remains of numerous primary and secondary burials, as well as ceramics, iron spear points, and copper ornaments. The most recent feature also contained a historic clay tobacco pipe and worked glass. A portion of the materials excavated have been accessioned into the permanent collections of the Museum’s African Archaeology Division. In fall 2006, undergraduate students Julie Miner, Alex Kast, Laura Musial, Shaeli Bowers, and Eric Dryer are working to analyze and catalogue these materials as participants in the University’s Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP).
Snapshots from the field...

Under curator John O’Shea, the Great Lakes Range’s program in nautical archaeology was again active in Lake Huron. Senior, now graduate, Brad Krueger continued his work preparing plans drawings for a wreck in the vicinity of Drummond Island, while undergraduate students Tyler Carter, Stephanie Salwen, and Paul Duffy and doctoral student Matt Kroot (shown here) are pursuing honors thesis projects on wrecks in western Lake Huron.

Doctoral student Stephen Duennen completed his NSF-supported dissertation fieldwork exploring the origins and development of the Iron Age village of Krikongo near the Mouhoun River, Burkina Faso. Duennen gave a tour of the site and explained his research to Jeanine Jackson, U.S. Ambassador to Burkina Faso, and other embassy employees.

Doctoral student Allison Davis is spending the year in Peru as a Fulbright IIE Scholar excavating the early village settlement of Aksum (100 BC to AD 200) in the Cuzco region. Her project seeks to explore the beginnings of sedentary life in the region.

Curator Henry Wright and doctoral students Matt Kroot, Amy Nicodemus, and Margaret Wilson joined Dr. Rick Zurel (Schoolcraft College) and other volunteers to search for the Great Site, a rare and unique Paleoindian campsite in Michigan’s Monroe County, originally discovered by an amateur who never revealed its location.

Curator Henry Wright continued NSF-supported excavations around the Bronze Age campsite of Tell Brak in Syria.

Graduate student Amanda Logan participated in the Chu-Hakoda Archaeological Project in northern Ethiopia. This project, directed by Dr. Catherine D’Andrea of Simon Fraser University, includes ethnobotanical research, archaeological survey focused on documenting rural communities around the ancient urban center of Aksum, and archaeological research on excavated materials from Aksum.

Graduate student Davide Gallager recorded 500 sites during her NSF-supported full coverage survey of a drainage near the Gobnangou escarpment in southeastern Burkina Faso. Her research creates the first chronology for the region as it explores the adoption of agricultural economies by prehistoric communities.

With the participation of local Pervian archaeologists, Véronique Bélisle conducted preliminary excavations at the site of Akwaiw in the Cuzco region of southern Peru. She discovered the remains of an ancient house containing hearths, ceramic fragments, animal bones, bone and stone tools, and a human burial. This pilot project will be followed by more excavations that will allow Véronique to study the impact of the Wari Empire’s expansion (AD 600-1000) on a local village.

Doctoral student Daphne Gallagher excavated 300 sites during her NSF-supported full coverage survey of a drainage near the Gobnangou escarpment in southeastern Burkina Faso. Her research creates the first chronology for the region as it explores the adoption of agricultural economies by prehistoric communities.

Along with teaching in a complex systems summer school in Beijing, curator Henry Wright worked with his collaborators in the Tri-Luo survey project to revisit sites and refine publication plans for a monograph reporting on the 222 sites the team identified along the Tri-Luo River in their 1997–2002 fieldwork (see p. 2).

John O’Shea continued NSF-supported excavations at the European Bronze Age settlement of Pecica “First Lake” in Romania. In summer 2006, graduate students Amy Nicodemus and Paul Duffy and undergraduate Stephanie Salwen and Tyler Carter joined O’Shea and his collaborators in the excavations (see p. 1).

Curator Carla M. Sinopoli and doctoral student Matt Galton traveled to South India to continue analyzing ceramics and lithics from excavations at the Iron Age city of Kadebakele, and visited major sites in Sri Lanka as guests of archaeologists Sirin Deranayagoda and Sudarshan Senivratne (see p. 1).

Under curator John O’Shea, the Great Lakes Range’s program in nautical archaeology was again active in Lake Huron. Senior, now graduate, Brad Krueger continued his work preparing plans drawings for a wreck in the vicinity of Drummond Island, while undergraduate students Tyler Carter, Stephanie Salwen, and Paul Duffy and doctoral student Matt Kroot (shown here) are pursuing honors thesis projects on wrecks in western Lake Huron.

Doctoral student Stephen Duennen completed his NSF-supported dissertation fieldwork exploring the origins and development of the Iron Age village of Krikongo near the Mouhoun River, Burkina Faso. Duennen gave a tour of the site and explained his research to Jeanine Jackson, U.S. Ambassador to Burkina Faso, and other embassy employees.

Curator Henry Wright continued NSF-supported excavations around the Bronze Age campsite of Tell Brak in Syria.

Graduate student Amanda Logan participated in the Chu-Hakoda Archaeological Project in northern Ethiopia. This project, directed by Dr. Catherine D’Andrea of Simon Fraser University, includes ethnobotanical research, archaeological survey focused on documenting rural communities around the ancient urban center of Aksum, and archaeological research on excavated materials from Aksum.

Graduate student Daphne Gallagher recorded 500 sites during her NSF-supported full coverage survey of a drainage near the Gobnangou escarpment in southeastern Burkina Faso. Her research creates the first chronology for the region as it explores the adoption of agricultural economies by prehistoric communities.

With the participation of local Pervian archaeologists, Véronique Bélisle conducted preliminary excavations at the site of Akwaiw in the Cuzco region of southern Peru. She discovered the remains of an ancient house containing hearths, ceramic fragments, animal bones, bone and stone tools, and a human burial. This pilot project will be followed by more excavations that will allow Véronique to study the impact of the Wari Empire’s expansion (AD 600-1000) on a local village.

Doctoral student Daphne Gallagher excavated 300 sites during her NSF-supported full coverage survey of a drainage near the Gobnangou escarpment in southeastern Burkina Faso. Her research creates the first chronology for the region as it explores the adoption of agricultural economies by prehistoric communities.

Along with teaching in a complex systems summer school in Beijing, curator Henry Wright worked with his collaborators in the Tri-Luo survey project to revisit sites and refine publication plans for a monograph reporting on the 222 sites the team identified along the Tri-Luo River in their 1997–2002 fieldwork (see p. 2).

John O’Shea continued NSF-supported excavations at the European Bronze Age settlement of Pecica “First Lake” in Romania. In summer 2006, graduate students Amy Nicodemus and Paul Duffy and undergraduate Stephanie Salwen and Tyler Carter joined O’Shea and his collaborators in the excavations (see p. 1).

Curator Carla M. Sinopoli and doctoral student Matt Galton traveled to South India to continue analyzing ceramics and lithics from excavations at the Iron Age city of Kadebakele, and visited major sites in Sri Lanka as guests of archaeologists Sirin Deranayagoda and Sudarshan Senivratne (see p. 1).
Ghana working with traditional lost wax bronze casters. This important art, once focused on the production of ethnic objects for Ghanaian royalty, has now expanded to serve contemporary craft and tourist markets. The collection of more than 90 objects and associated documentary material on the artists and their technology was accessed into the Museum’s ethnology division.

Katalin Biró

In fall 2006, the Museum is hosting visiting scholar Katalin T. Biró, Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Archaeology at the Hungarian National Museum in Budapest. Dr. Biró is supported by the Fulbright Visiting Scholar program. Dr. Biró’s research focuses on the study of prehistoric trade in East and Southeast Asia, through the use of diverse methods of lithic raw material sourcing. She is also active in the arena of informatics and in the application of quantitative techniques to archaeological data, and serves on several international committees focused on these issues. While in Ann Arbor, Dr. Biró is teaching a seminar on “Teaching the long-distance movement of resources.”

She is also participating in several courses and is working closely with curators John O’Shea and Bob Whallon and graduate students focusing on European prehistory.

New Collections

The Museum has accessioned 21 new collections thus far in 2006. These include collections raised at the University of Michigan Folklife field school in Michigan and Senegal, as well as donated collections from Arizona, China, Michigan, and Syria, and comparative faunal specimens for the zooarchaeological laboratory. Professor Ray Silverman, director of the University’s Museum Studies Program, spent part of the summer in

Katalin Biró

West African Early Towns: Archaeology of Household in Urban Landscapes

(Anthro. Papers, 99) by Augustin F.C. Holt

The Last Pescadores of Chimalhuacán, Mexico: An Archaeological Ethnography.

(Anthro. Papers, 99) by Jeffrey P. Parsons

New in 2006 from Museum of Anthropology Publications

To order these and other UMMA publications see our website at www.umma.umich.edu and click on Publications. Or email umma-pubsub@umich.edu.

Richard L. Ford

Richard L. Ford received the Franz Boas Award for Exemplary Service to Anthropology from the American Anthropological Association. This award is given annually in recognition of an AAA member’s outstanding contribution to the AAA’s dissemination of humanistic and scientific knowledge and service to the profession.


Robert Whallon was co-editor with William Lovis and Randall Duchesne of a special issue of the Journal of Anthropological Archaeology on “Mesolithic Mobility, Exchange and Interaction” (vol. 25, no. 2), and was awarded a grant from the National Geographic Society for his research at the Vijayanagara Metropolitan survey project appeared in 2006.

John D. Speth was an invited speaker in a public symposium at UC-San Diego on “The Origin and Development of the First States” in the fall of 2006. Speth has published two recent articles on his research in Israel, and continues to work on materials from the Black site in southeastern New Mexico. Speth’s Arthur F. Thomas Professorship for Postgraduate Teaching, originally awarded for three years, was extended indefinitely.

Robert Whallon was co-editor with William Lovis and Randall Duchesne of a special issue of the Journal of Anthropological Archaeology on “Mesolithic Mobility, Exchange and Interaction” (vol. 25, no. 2), and was awarded a grant from the National Geographic Society for his research at the Vijayanagara Metropolitan survey project appeared in 2006.

For information on giving opportunities and development priorities of the Museum of Anthropology please contact Karen O’Brien (klobrien@umich.edu) or visit http://www.lsa.umich.edu/umma/support/

UMMA Newsletter — Fall, 2006

We thank our 2005-2006 donors

For information on giving opportunities and development priorities of the Museum of Anthropology please contact Karen O’Brien (klobrien@umich.edu) or visit http://www.lsa.umich.edu/umma/support/

UMMA Newsletter — Fall, 2006

We thank our 2005-2006 donors

Richard I. Ford
University of Michigan
Museum of Anthropology
Great Lakes Division
Pot, Bussinger Site, ca. 1000 AD
UMMA 17390