



**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- The College of Wooster Archaeology Day 4-24-2010 11-5pm
- Guest Lecturers in Archaeology
- Spotlight on Senior Independent Study Projects
- Archaeology Field school Reviews

## Archaeology Day

**Date:** April 24 from 11-5.

**New location:** Lowery back Patio

**Activities:** flint knapping, atlatl, sand pit and presentations by, the Wayne country Historical Society and Cemetery Preservation society along with members of the junior and senior class.



## Archaeology Guest Lecturers Spring 2010

**Prof. Michael Galaty**

Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Millsaps College

**"High Altitude Archaeology in Albania: Results of the Shala Valley Project"**

Monday, February 1, 2010

7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Scovel Hall 105

**Abstract of lecture:**

In antiquity, Albania was occupied by Greek colonies, and later by the Roman Empire. Western archaeologists have conducted a limited number of projects in Albania since the collapse of the communist regime about 20 years ago. In three field seasons, 2005-2007, the Shala Valley Project surveyed the whole of the Shala Valley in far northern Albania, home to the Shala *fis*, or tribe. Data were collected for substantial settlement in the Iron Age, at a newly discovered hillfort called Grunas (excavated 2006-2008), and in the Late Medieval-Modern period, during which time the tribal system formed. This presentation will compare and contrast the prehistoric and later settlement episodes and explain why they were so very different.

**Prof. John Hale**

Department of Anthropology, University of Louisville

**“Dragons of the North: The World of Viking Longships”**

Monday, February 15, 2010

7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Lean Lecture Room, Wishart Hall

**Abstract of lecture:**

Viking ships are among the most remarkable artifacts in the entire realm of archaeological discovery, dominating European history for the three centuries between 800 and 1100 AD. As warships they terrorized coasts from Scotland to the Mediterranean; as trading craft they ventured down the rivers of Russia to Byzantium, and as vessels of exploration and colonization they crossed the open Atlantic to Ireland, Iceland, Greenland and ultimately America. Yet all these amazing achievements were accomplished by open, undecked ships with a few oars and a single square sail.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century witnessed dramatic finds of royal Viking ships in Norwegian burial mounds along Oslo fjord. More recently, underwater archaeologists have recovered virtually intact Viking ships from harbors in Denmark. The most ambitious project in the field of experimental archaeology has involved the reconstruction and sea trials of many Viking ship types. John Hale has traced the ancestry of Viking ships all the way back to sewn-plank canoes of the Scandinavian Bronze Age, and shows the links between these remarkable ships and the watercraft of the Pacific and central Africa.

Radiocarbon dates provide a time frame for these activities and we are beginning to flesh out the sketchy archaeology from this poorly studied region.

**Prof. John G. Jones**

Department of Anthropology, Washington State University

**“New Insights into the Peopling of the Caribbean: Evidence from the Microscope”**

Monday, March 1, 2010

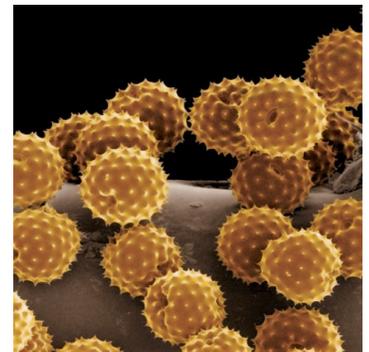
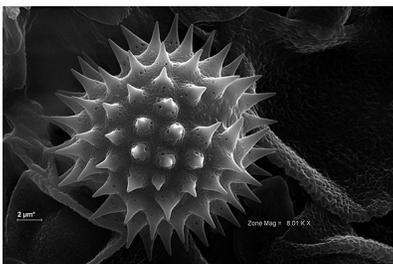
7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Scovel Hall 105

Reception immediately following

**Abstract of lecture:**

Exciting research in the Lesser Antilles is revealing new evidence for the early colonization of the Caribbean. Sediment coring operations on Trinidad, Grenada, Barbados, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Antigua and Barbuda and St. Croix are revealing clues on population movements, early settlement, agricultural activities and subsistence practices, and forest modification. Radiocarbon dates provide a time frame for these activities and we are beginning to flesh out the sketchy archaeology from this poorly studied region.



## Spotlight on Senior Independent Studies in Archaeology



### Shiny Rocks:

#### Studying the Transition to Horticulture Using the Techniques of Microwear Analysis

Andrew Marley

This work will utilize the principles of experimental archaeology to attempt to create a body of data with which to compare artifacts from the Wansack Site in Western Pennsylvania. Several trials utilizing various combinations of use-materials and use-actions will be examined to create a range of data with which recovered artifacts were compared. The tools will be examined under low to medium magnifications (40X-200X) using a metallurgical microscope, and qualitatively analyzed for micropolishes, edge damage and striations. The data was used to compare subsistence patterns at the rock shelters across spatial and chronological levels.

#### Household Archaeology of the Frankish Period in Greece

Nicole Bethel

In 1204, Frankish soldiers of the Fourth Crusade invaded the Byzantine Empire. The Peloponnese was occupied by Frankish upper-classes who inhabited settlements across the region. The invasion of the Franks allowed for the diffusion of their culture into the Morea. Local Byzantine cultures were affected by the new traditions and beliefs that filtered into the area upon the arrival of the Europeans. By looking at archaeological evidence of settlements from Corinth and other sites in the Peloponnese, the extent of the change on the local population can be discerned. Comparing data from multiple sources on the region gives a more accurate depiction of the effects of the Frankish occupation on the former Byzantine Empire in the Peloponnese.

#### Factors and Results of Disintegration During Combat. An Examination of the Discrepancy between the Historical and Archaeological Records from the Battle for Saipan during WWII.

Steven Conroy

War is a horrific event of every nation's past. The chaos and trauma that combat causes has immediate and long-term effects. The disintegration that a soldier goes through during a battle can alter his perspective and memory of the conflict. This discrepancy can influence the permanent official record. Battlefield archaeology is an expanding subfield of archaeology; it looks to close the gap between the actual events and the historical record through scientific excavation. This study applies that concept along with a theoretical model to data from excavations done on the Island of Saipan, searching for the aspects and results





## THE ROAD TO SALVATION: MEDIEVAL PILGRIMAGE TO CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

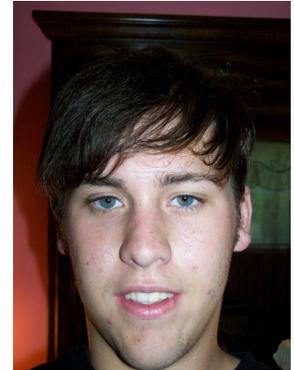
Nora Simon

This study examines the material remains along the popular medieval pilgrimage route to the shrine of Saint Thomas Becket at Canterbury Cathedral. The goal is to catalog the towns, sacred and secular facilities, and natural features along the route from Winchester to Canterbury. Locales and features are analyzed in terms of Renfrew's model for identifying sites of ritual importance, while the act of pilgrimage is described as a rite of passage using Turner's theory of liminality and communitas. The entire route is analyzed as a ritual, or sacred, landscape of late medieval England.

## "Wait, Are We Related?" A Critical Analysis of the Neanderthals and the Ancestry of Modern Humans With Regards to the Child from Abrigo do Lagar Velho, Portugal

Dustin Gatrell

The disappearance of the Neanderthals is debated extensively in anthropology. Some speculate that they were unable to adapt to the harsh weather conditions during the last interglacial period, whereas others feel that competition with migrating *Homo sapiens sapiens* led to their extinction. Recently, some archaeologists have proposed a couple theories. One is that the Neanderthals had assimilated with early modern humans through inbreeding. Christopher Stringer suggests that there is a point in time where the traits of archaic modern humans evolved. Milford Wolpoff suggests a multiregional hypothesis, which states that two million years ago, *Homo erectus* was created through cladogenesis, and because of environmental pressures and evolutionary processes, *Homo sapiens sapiens* came to exist. A mixing of different populations continued to occur, preventing groups from being completely separated genetically. I examine these theories with respect to the Neanderthals, a possible modern human ancestor, and the recent "hybrid child" from Abrigo do Lagar Velho in Portugal using osteological data.



## The Workman's Manual: An Archaeological Field Guide to the Classification, Dating, and Conservation of Ohio's Prehistoric Ceramics

Rik Workman

This study involves the creation of an archaeological field guide for the classification, dating, and conservation of Ohio's prehistoric ceramics. At this time, there has been no attempt to create a field manual compiling all of the ceramic typologies for Ohio's prehistoric cultures. Such a manual would provide the archaeologist, excavating in Ohio, the ability to date and classify any ceramic sherd discovered at their site. For this project, I am analyzing the literature, compiling all known ceramic types discovered in Ohio, and studying methods of ceramic conservation through interviews with conservators within archaeology, with two aims in mind: Constructing a field guide for classifying and dating Ohio's prehistoric ceramics, as well as identifying the role of the archaeological field conservator. Such a field manual, coupled with a prehistory of Ohio's cultures and knowledge from scholars on the conservation of their ceramics, would be a contribution to field archaeology in Ohio.





### The Roman Lead Tesserac

Bill Dalzell

The purpose of this article is to reconsider the ancient lead tesserac in light of modern theories regarding the nature of the Roman economy. In addition to available literary sources, tokens from a number of cities and regions in the ancient world will be examined: Athens, Corinth, Ephesos, Palmyra, Seleukia, Judaea, Egypt, and Rome. Furthermore, experimental casting of lead tokens will be carried out to determine the efficiency with which they were produced. The primary body of material examined is the collection of tesserac housed in the British Museum, Department of Coins and Medals.

### The Effects of Climate Change on the Hopewell Cultural Collapse.

William Hansen

The Hopewell culture was a Native American group located in the Midwest, roughly between Ohio and Illinois, during the Middle Woodland Period. The culture engaged in a trade system that extended from the Rocky Mountains to the Carolinas. The tribe is mostly known for the earthen mounds that they built and the artwork they created between 100 BC to AD 500. There is not a good explanation for why the culture collapsed. Some of the reasons include the Hopewell being defeated by an enemy, a widespread disease, or a decrease in their agricultural production. What I suggest is that a climatic event occurred at ca. AD 500 putting stresses on the agricultural system, which in turn caused the Hopewell collapse. The primary data for examining this problem comes from lake cores collected at Long Lake, a glacial lake in northeastern Ohio. The cores contain layers of sediment that act as proxy records for climatic conditions in the past. These sediments suggest that a period of significant cooling characterized the middle of the



### Reconstructing the Paleoenvironment:

#### Early Holocene Moisture Variability and its effects upon Culture Kenai Lowlands, Alaska

Terry Race Workman

Fluctuations in regional groundwater tables through the early the Holocene were investigated through the analysis of twenty-three overlapping lake sediment cores extracted from a closed basin Lake of Alaska's Kenai Peninsula. Detailed three dimensional sediment packages, mapped using sediment cores and geophysical surveys, were analyzed to separate the landscape evolution signal from the climate signal in this region. Sediment coring locations were determined based upon detailed geophysical and bathymetric maps, which allowed for precision coring. Sediment core analyses include the description of stratigraphy, magnetic susceptibility, loss on ignition, macrofossil sampling for radiocarbon ages, and taxonomic peat analysis. Radiocarbon data suggests a paleo-lake level transgression from terrestrial peat-lacustrine gyttja ca. 7,930-8,630 cal years B.P. This study attempts to correlate archaeological data with the paleoclimate record through a cultural ecologists approach, linking cultural occurrences to climatic variability. An increase in pluvial activity, suggested by the paleo-lake level transgression from Jigsaw Lake, denotes dramatic changes in regional climate which may be linked to the evolution of regional culture ca. 8,000-9,000 cal yrs. B.P.

## ARCHAEOLOGY STUDENT COLLOQUIUM

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## ADVENTURE

### The Kingship of Cleopatra VII: An Examination of Imperial Propaganda

Elizabeth Terveer

Cleopatra VII was a dominant force in Mediterranean politics in the 1st century B.C.E. She demonstrated her legitimacy to the Egyptian throne using a combination of Hellenistic and Egyptian kingship patterns, artistic and architectural representations of which can be seen in the archaeological record at several key sites including Alexandria, Dendera, and Edfu. A variety of media provide a broad picture of dynastic propaganda, which reflect beliefs and events during her time. This propaganda and the symbolism therein reflect cultural beliefs and lay bare the true source of her power. Using archaeological evidence as the backbone of this study, the truth of Cleopatra's life is revealed, while challenging the images and myths that are now evoked by her name.



### Social Metaphors: an Analysis of Social Structure through a Study of Paracas Textiles

Emma Schmitt

This study examines the floral and faunal designs on Paracas (Peru) textiles from several museum collections. The natural imagery indicates hierarchical relationships (e.g. predator and prey) that reflect social stratification. Production processes and motifs indicate that the two different types of textiles, block color and linear, held different symbolic roles in society. The complex designs on linear textiles are assumed to have a more spiritual role in society compared to the block color textiles. This study uses Marxist and feminist theory in combination with D'Altroy and Earle's wealth finance/staple finance model and prestige goods theory to explore issues so-



### Learners in Clay: Assessing Childhood Development and Skill Sets within Woodland Ceramic Manufacture

Erica Prange

American archaeological studies, primarily in the southwest, provide evidence of child potters through quantitative data derived from ridge breadth measurements of fingerprints. Others attribute specific aesthetic values to products of child potters, associating lesser quality vessels with psychologically defined steps of cognitive development. I relate these studies to the archaeological record of Woodland ceramics from Ohio and Pennsylvania. I assess these methods and speculate how prehistoric learning of ceramic production may have taken place based on experimental recreating of the manufacturing process, archaeological data from several sites, and historical learning behaviors.



## Archaeological Field School Review

### The Bone Collector: Mortuary Field School in Poland

Dustin Gatrell

This summer, I, as well as Stephen Conroy, took part in a field school excavation just outside of Drawsko, Poland of an unmarked graveyard. It ended up being a rough, yet thoroughly educational and enjoyable experience. Everyday, we woke up around 6:30 or 6:45 AM, went to breakfast, and then by 8 AM sharp, we were either on our way to the field, which was a nice twenty minute walk outside of town, to continue excavations or to the lab to analyze further remains already excavated. Each plot in the field was a 4 m by 4 m pit, composed mainly of various sands. Three of these pits were being actively dug during my stay at the school, and the fieldwork was generally monitored by the three



Polish archaeologists: Elzbieth Gajda, Ewa Loba-Bronowicka, and Darek Blaszczyk. Sometimes, Professor Peer Moore-Jansen from Wichita State University, the skeletal biologist helping with the excavations, would come to help remove and transport the remains. Then, around 3:00 PM, everyone would return to the school and the rest of the evening would be lab work and possibly hour-long lessons on various osteological aspects of the body. We would return to where we were staying at various times, usually before 10 PM. The highlight of the very small town of Drawsko was the "Ink Ba," or the drink bar just down the street, and so if there was a general consensus we would spend some time there afterwards.

The research in question was why there was a mass, unmarked cemetery in the middle of farmland just outside of the town. One of the skeletons retrieved was covered in a white, unknown substance, only later realized to be a heavy coat of lime. Some of the skeletons contained intriguing grave goods, such as large rocks sitting on one of the necks, two small farming scythes sitting on two respective skeletons, various copper coins, rosary beads, etc. All except one of the burials were in proper anatomical position (laying on back, head facing east). Doing research and history of the area, as well as talking with the locals about old myths, that around the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, which is the time period where most of these skeletons come, a cholera epidemic swept Poland as well as other Eastern European countries. Many of the burials are either of elderly people or small children, which fits with a Superstition led them to believe, however, that such people were affected by something supernatural, possibly even vampirism (which explains the rocks and farming scythes). The copper coins are typically seen in burials of those from the Catholic faith, used to pay their debts in the afterlife. As more burials are excavated, more evidence seems to point to this explanation.