

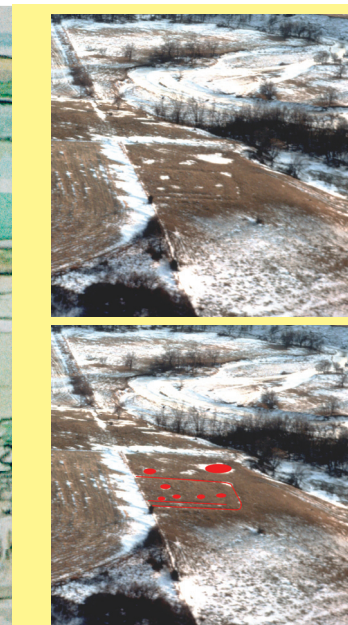
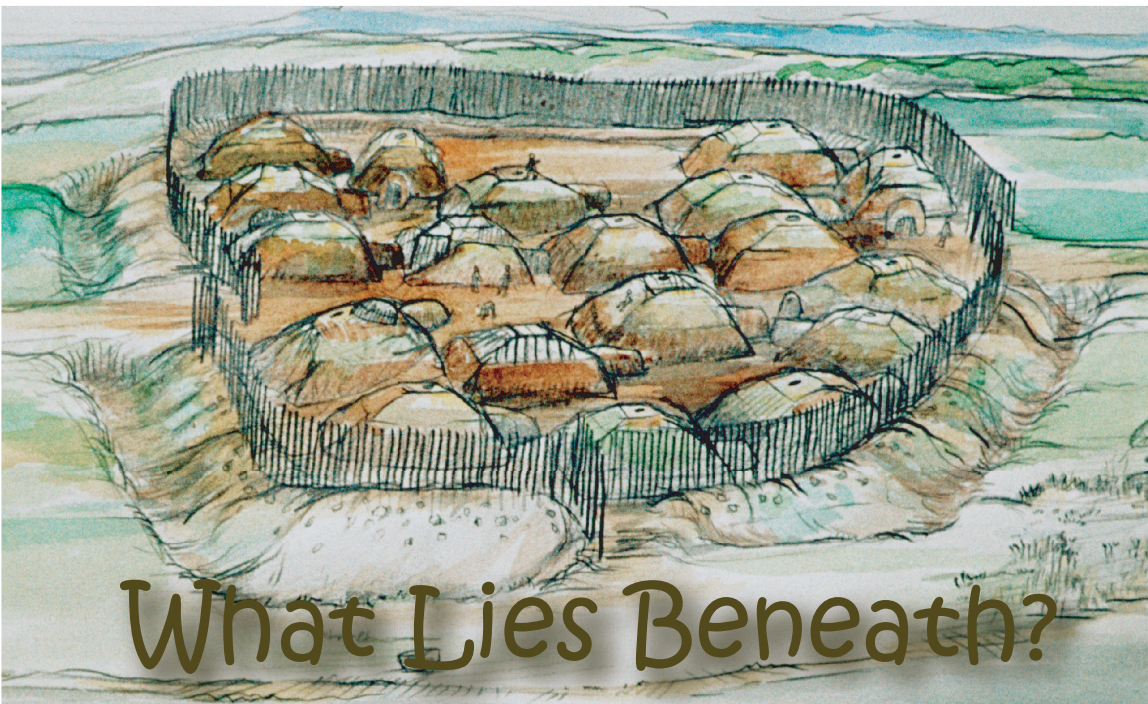
Newsletter of the *Iowa Archeological Society*



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Double Ditch, 130B8. Ditch and house depressions in red.

Artist's rendering of the Wittrock site (130B4) as it would have appeared around A.D. 1200

Geophysical Survey of a Prehistoric Fortified Village

By Christopher Goodmaster

MY INTRODUCTION TO THE DOUBLE DITCH site (130B8) began in the spring of 2005 when I traveled to northwest Iowa with Ken and



JoAnn Kvamme and fellow graduate student Jason Hermann. At the invitation of Lynn Alex and Steve Lensink, who had received a grant from the Iowa Academy

of Science, we were to conduct a multi-sensor geophysical survey at the site. Ken, an Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Arkansas, directs the Archeo-Imaging Lab, Center for Advanced Spatial Technology at the University, a leader in geophysical research.

Geophysical survey is a nondestructive way to detect and map buried features at archaeological sites. It applies the methods of physics to remotely investigate and de-

fine objects or materials below the ground without direct contact and without disturbance to either the soil or features.

Application of geophysical survey techniques at Double Ditch seemed to promise the opportunity to answer specific questions about village layout and length of occupation for the site. It also offered a chance to evaluate how well the techniques would work at a Mill Creek settlement.

In preparation for the survey, the barbed wire fence separating the plowed field from the native prairie at 130B8 was removed. This eliminated any barrier to the survey transects as well as some of the iron-containing metal in the survey area. Metal objects profoundly affect instruments used in magnetic survey. IAS members Chad Goings, George Horton, and Linda Zintz joined Steve and Lynn to search on hands and knees to find and dig out metal objects including dozens of fence staples and bits of barbed wire.

Lynn and Steve previously had established a grid system at Double Ditch with axes aligned to the cardinal directions.

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Double Ditch site & Mill Creek culture

About the time the Incas rose to dominate the South American Andes and the Anasazi

built their cliff dwellings in the American Southwest, a native community established a small village overlooking a tranquil valley in today's O'Brien County, Iowa. Virgin timber along the creek offered the raw material for rectangular-shaped houses set in shallow sub floor pits grouped closely together in a compact village plan. The terrace top presented a long view of the valley's resources and afforded a vantage point from which to monitor approaching strangers, friend or foe. Around the site's perimeter, double, 6-meter-wide ditches dug to a depth of about a meter may have frustrated anyone threatening to raid the caches of corn stored between houses and beneath floors. A millennium later, the site would be named Double Ditch after these most distinguishing features.

Decades of archaeological research tell us that Double Ditch (13OB8) represents the northernmost of 27 related village sites found along the

Little Sioux River and three of its principal tributaries—Mill Creek, Brooke Creek, and Waterman Creek—and six additional sites along the Big Sioux. All belong to the Mill Creek culture first described and named by Charles R. Keyes.

Until recently, archaeological studies seemed to have provided a fairly complete picture of Mill Creek culture. We know that Mill Creek sites date to A.D. 1100–1250 and share a constellation of recognizable characteristics including similar house types and village plans with structures often arranged in a street-like fashion surrounded by a perimeter ditch and wooden palisade. Residents subsisted by bow-and-arrow-hunting a variety of animals, particularly bison, and gathering plants, but they also composed some of the first Indian communities in Iowa that relied on corn agriculture. Sites produce prolific numbers of distinctive stone, pottery, shell, and bone artifacts. Among these are foreign items suggesting that Mill Creek people participated in a broad trade network with materials coming from as far away as the Gulf Coast, probably through Mississippian towns such as Cahokia located near modern East St. Louis, Illinois.

Since 1991 the Double Ditch site itself has received a considerable amount of attention. Grassy circular dips on the site's surface denote the location of former house pits and linear depressions outline the perimeter ditches, both clearly visible in low altitude aerial photographs. IAS members led by Steve Lensink and Lynn Alex test-excavated a number of these features revealing the presence of typical Mill Creek structures, hearths, cache pits, post molds, as well as the impressive double ditch along at least two sides of the site's perimeter. The extremely light sheet midden found in the ditches and low density of artifacts in houses suggest that the Double Ditch residents abandoned the location after only about a year. High precision topographic mapping using an electronic total station was conducted at the site in 2000.

While native prairie grasses cover and preserve most of Double Ditch, approximately one quarter of the site has been disturbed by modern agriculture, and until recently that area seemed unlikely to provide new information. Then along came some amazing technology that promised to show what lies hidden beneath the surface....

—LYNN M. ALEX

While the prominent ditches at the site also align to roughly cardinal directions, the geophysical grid was rotated to about 45 degrees. All geophysical surveys employ transect methods to guide and control instrument placement. It is generally best for survey transects to cut an angle across linear archaeological features so that the anomalous readings produced by those features can be detected in profile and the features mapped.

Four of the geophysical survey techniques applied at 13OB8 included electrical resistance, conductivity, magnetic gradi-

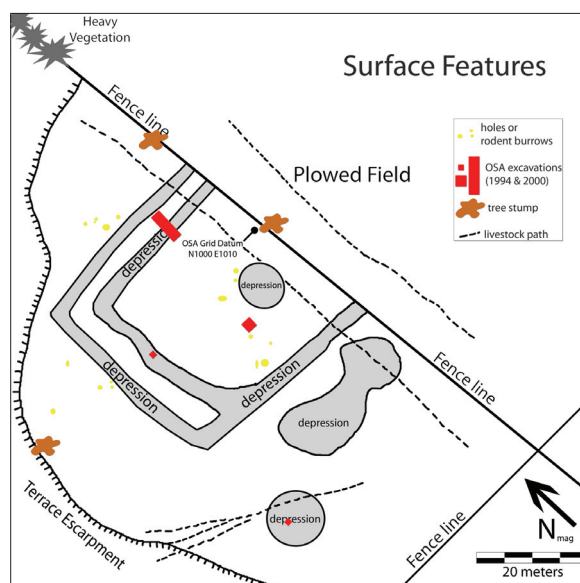
ometry, and magnetic susceptibility. We conducted the survey within 20-x-20-meter blocks placed in the survey grid. The data were collected in parallel transects, each separated by a half meter to yield high resolution survey results. Within each transect, data sampling occurred at regular intervals with the sample spacing varying with each instrument type depending upon its data acquisition speed. Each survey technique covered a total of 13 survey blocks or 5,200 square meters.

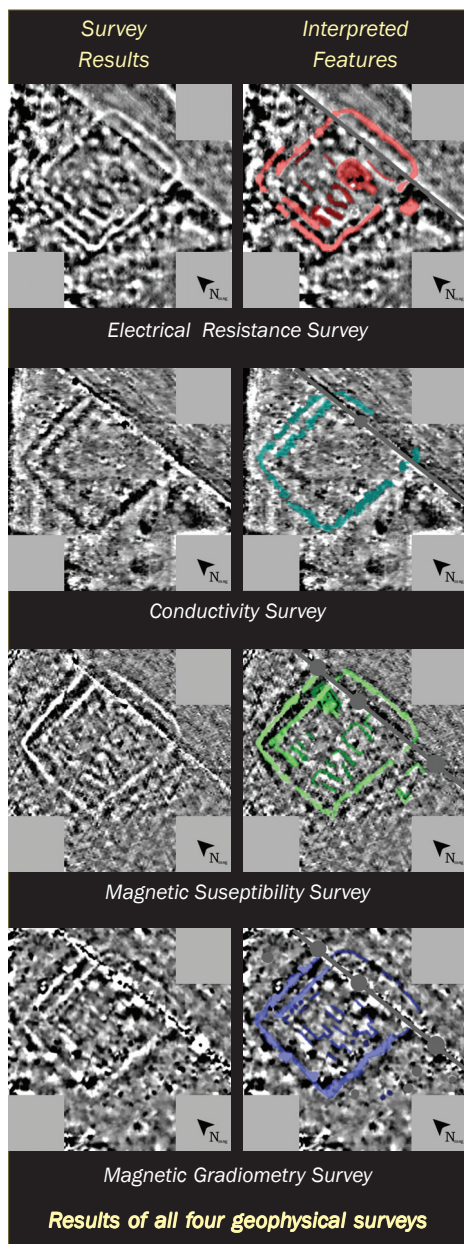
The survey detected a number of site features including several house structures, clearly defined the boundaries of the perimeter fortification system, and suggested several discontinuities along the ditches. Electrical resistance survey revealed the perimeter fortification ditches in both the plowed and unplowed portions of the site and a ditch continuity of the western ditch. One complete house structure was clearly shown in addition to several other areas which may indicate houses pits or houses disturbed by later construction. Information from conductivity survey showed several discontinuities along the perimeter fortification ditches in the unplowed portion of the site but did not detect

features in the disturbed site area.

Magnetic susceptibility and magnetic gradiometry detected the perimeter ditches in both the plowed and unplowed portions of the site and evidence of several possible house structures. Magnetic gradiometry was most affected by the metallic debris at the site. Despite the efforts of IAS members, the many fence staples and other metal artifacts discarded on site, including a chunk of a tractor, introduced a substantial amount of magnetic "noise" into the survey results.

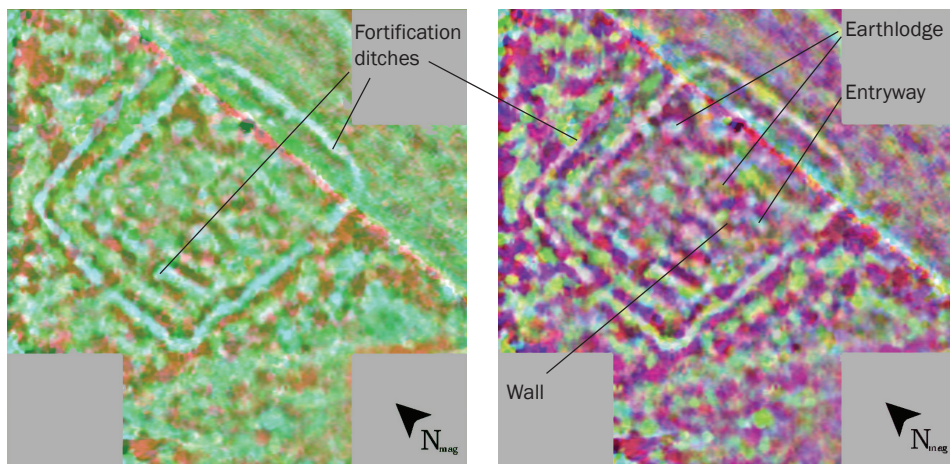
Each geophysical method, although sensitive to different physical parameters of the site's shallow subsurface, provided complementary information to interpret the archaeological features present. By graphically "fusing" the information collected by each method, we can view the data collected by all methods simultaneously. Here I have provided two examples of graphical fusion. In the first, the results of the electrical resistance, magnetic susceptibility, and magnetic gradiometry surveys are assigned the colors red, green, and blue, respectively, and then overlaid to produce a RGB composite. In the second, magnetic gradiometry, electrical resistance, conductivity, and magnetic susceptibility results are assigned the colors cyan, magenta, yellow, and black (key), respectively, and overlaid to produce a CMYK composite.





Data fusion displays features which were shown by all geophysical methods as dark (indicated by dark areas approaching black), or by a few methods (indicated by the light areas approaching white). If some feature were detected with only one method, they are shown as a single color. For example, the RGB composite shows the earthen berm separating the plowed field from the unplowed pasture as red because it was primarily detected by the electrical resistance survey.

The results of the nondestructive geophysical survey at 13OB8 demonstrate the value of this method for studying other fortified villages in Iowa, particularly Mill Creek sites where fortifications have been suspected but never documented and whose surface features have been obliterated by plowing. The findings at Double



Color composites of the geophysical survey results: Left, RGB; Right CMYK.

Ditch also mean that we can learn many things about such sites without ever probing them with shovel or trowel. Because

Double Ditch remains one of only two pristine examples of Mill Creek settlement, conservation of the site is highly desirable.

Most **geophysical survey** techniques involve the use of instruments which work in one of two ways. Either they measure distortions of the earth's magnetic field created by buried features such as hearths or pits, or they pass various kinds of energy through the ground in order to detect such features.

Electrical resistance transmits a low voltage current into the soil via inserted metal probes. The ability of buried materials to resist the electrical current provides the basis for resistivity survey. Buried materials resist electricity generally as a consequence of their moisture content. Buried foundations and stone walls may be more resistant to an electrical current while ditches, pits, and metals more easily conduct.

Conductivity. Although conductivity instruments are generally less sensitive than resistance meters to the same phenomena, they do have a number of unique properties. One advantage is that they do not require direct contact with the ground, and can be used in conditions unfavorable to resistance meters. Another advantage is relatively greater speed

than resistance instruments. Unlike resistance instruments, conductivity meters respond strongly to metal. This can be a disadvantage when the metal is extraneous to the archaeological record

Magnetic gradiometry. Buried materials often produce slight distortions of the earth's magnetic field. These distortions appear as "hot spots" or anomalies detectable with an instrument known as a magnetometer or gradiometer. After establishing a grid of transects at a site, the archaeologist passes the magnetometer over the surface obtaining measurements at regular intervals. The data are transferred to a portable computer and a map is produced which displays the locations of the anomalies.

Magnetic susceptibility. Iron minerals within the soil can be altered through biological decay and burning which can enhance the magnetic susceptibility of the soil. Field equipment (see instrument shown in conductivity photo) can be used to measure the magnetic susceptibility of the soil allowing zones to be mapped which may indicate areas of potential archaeological activity.

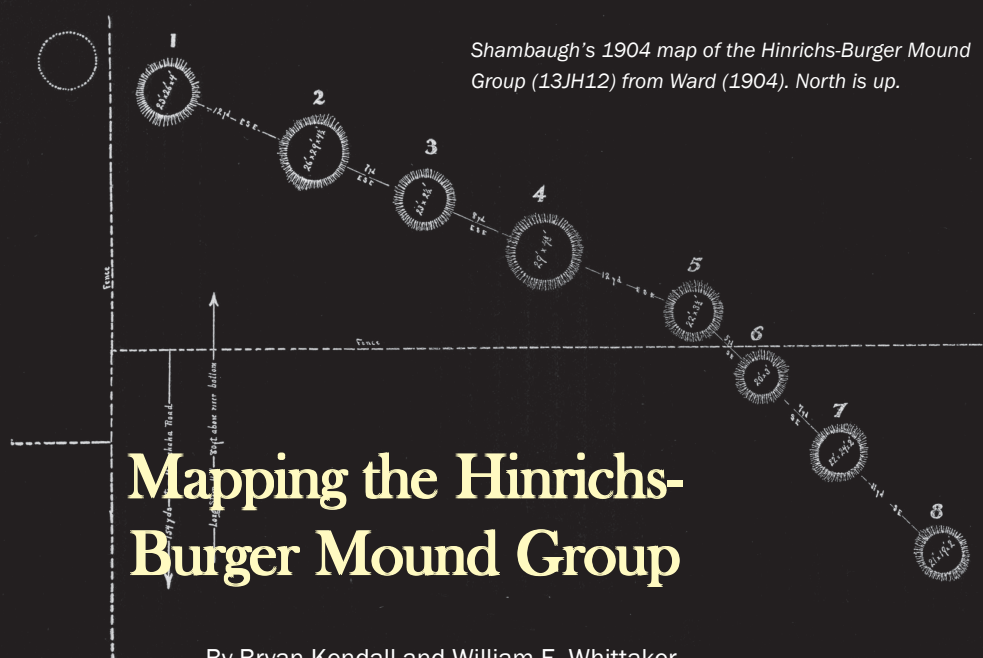


Geophysical Survey



All photos taken at the Double Ditch site, spring 2005

Shambaugh's 1904 map of the Hinrichs-Burger Mound Group (13JH12) from Ward (1904). North is up.



Mapping the Hinrichs-Burger Mound Group

By Bryan Kendall and William E. Whittaker

IN APRIL OF 2007, we conducted a survey of the Hinrichs-Burger Mound Group (13JH12) in Iowa City. Despite periodic investigations between 1889 and the mid-1950s, previous details of the site were limited. The earliest published report (Webster 1889) suggests that at least 14 to 16 mounds may originally have existed. By 1904 only eight mounds and two partial mounds were visible when mapped by Benjamin Shambaugh of the State University of Iowa and later Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa (Ward 1904). Unpublished excavations by Reynold Ruppé during the 1950s recovered no diagnostic artifacts. A small number of diagnostic artifacts in the repository of the Office of the State Archaeologist suggests a Late Woodland cultural affiliation.

The purpose of the 2007 investigation (Whittaker and Kendall 2007) was to check on the current state of the mound group and create the first detailed topographic map of the mounds and surrounding area. The destruction of prehistoric mound groups in Iowa has been pervasive since European settlement. The dramatic reduction in the size of mound groups over time is all too frequently perceived when reviewing site reports. Periodic reexamination of mound sites not only results in more up-to-date site infor-

mation, but provides an understanding of the factors that act to protect or destroy these sites. The creation of a topographic map serves to most accurately record and display the current physical state of a mound group.

The present team conducted a pedestrian survey and used a total station to map the topography of the remaining mounds at 13JH12 and the surrounding area. The site has been significantly impacted by development. Of the 14 to 16 mounds originally reported only two were clearly visible above the land surface (A and C). Four

additional mounds (including D) may lay buried to the side of an old road cut. Modern construction and land modification appear to be the cause of much of the destruction. Overlaying the 1904 map of the mound group on the 2007 map shows a tentative correlation. One feature, labeled B, does not correspond with the mounds on Shambaugh's map and may have been built after 1904, perhaps when a field road destroyed other mounds. Subsurface excavation likely would be necessary to confirm this. The site is under no threat of destruction and no further investigation is planned at this time.

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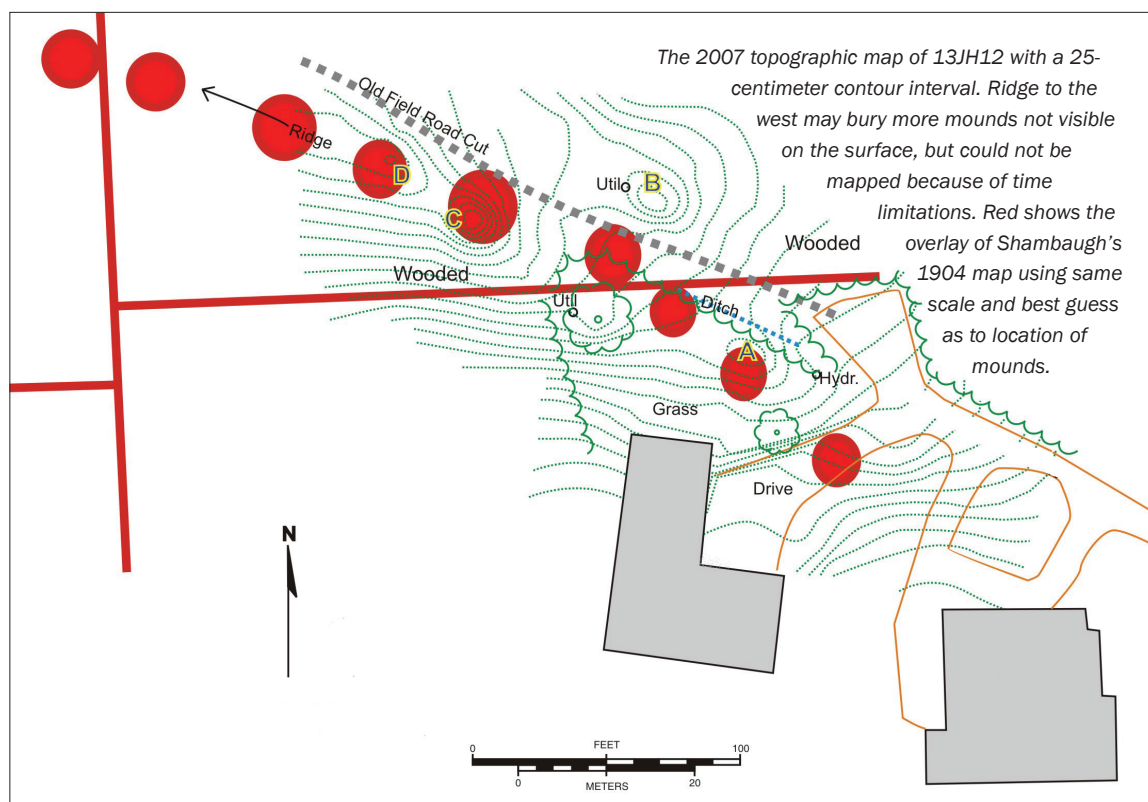
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Whittaker, William E., and Bryan Kendall.

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Bryan Kendall is an anthropology graduate student at the University of Iowa, and Bill Whittaker is a project archaeologist with the Office of the State Archaeologist.



SAVE THE DATE

Events currently scheduled for Iowa
Archaeology Month 2007

Archaeology of the Loess Hills (Lynn M. Alex)

September 15, 11–1 pm
Harrison County Conservation, Woodbine

Prehistoric Archaeology at Indian Hills (Leah Rogers)

September 15, 2 pm
Indian Creek Nature Center, Cedar Rapids

Sixth Grade Archaeology Day Camp (Lynn M. Alex and Cherié Haury Artz)

September 17–21
Glenwood Lake Park, Glenwood (students only)

Special Exhibit of the 1837 No-Heart Map, archaeological collections from lowaville and Oneota sites, historic photographs, biographies, and artistic expressions of loway descendants

September 17–October 21
Museum of Natural History, UI, Iowa City

Archaeology Day (multiple presenters)

September 22
Effigy Mounds National Monument, Harpers Ferry

Ioway Heritage Weekend (multiple presenters)

September 29–30, 8 am–4 pm
Living History Farms, Des Moines

Lost Nation: The loway ticketed fundraiser and film premier (Tammy and Kelly Rundle, Fourth Wall Films)

October 11, evening
State Historical Society Museum, Des Moines

Lost Nation: The loway public opening (Tammy and Kelly Rundle, Fourth Wall Films)

October 12, evening
State Historical Society Museum, Des Moines
(Additional showings October 13–14)

Presentation on the 1837 No-Heart Map (Bill Green)

October 12, 6 pm
Macbride Hall Auditorium, Museum of Natural History, UI, Iowa City

Oneota and lowaville Collections on Display

October 13, 1–3 pm
Office of the State Archaeologist, Iowa City

Tandem Car Tour to the lowaville Site

October 14, 9 am
Office of the State Archaeologist, Iowa City

Lost Nation: The loway (Tammy and Kelly Rundle, Fourth Wall Films)

October 16, 6:30 pm
Wickiup Hill Learning Center, Linn County Conservation, Toddville

Let's Celebrate Archaeology (multiple presenters)

October 17–19
State Historical Society Museum, Des Moines
(students only)

President's Message

Moving Forward



Don Raker

FIRST OF ALL, I want to thank the membership for allowing me to serve as president this year. I will do my best to advance our society.

We had a wonderful spring meeting at the University of Iowa, where we met old friends from all over the state and some new ones too. Schaeffer Hall rekindled fond memories of my student years, studying Greco-Roman classics there, back in the Stone Age.

We have a great society—a good mix of amateurs and professionals who work well together, each profiting from the other. Our professionals supervise field schools, discuss their research at meetings, and provide leadership and support to the Society. Our amateurs shovel and trowel at field schools; they also provide programs and leadership and bring a lot of enthusiasm and questions to meetings. My primary reason for joining the IAS was to expand my longtime interest in archeology, but I soon discovered a side benefit of making a lot of new friends who shared my interests.

We do have some goals. First of all, we need to boost our membership to 500 or more. We need the brain power, the strong hands, and the finances of our people in order that we can engage in the activities we like to do. People are so busy these days, which makes it a challenge to keep our membership up. I believe one key to this problem is to strengthen the local chapters.

How do we strengthen local chapters? For one thing, elect sparkplugs for your local leaders—people who enjoy leading an active club. Moreover, a chapter might profit from an affiliation with a nearby institution, college, museum, or county con-

servation center which may have facilities to serve as a home base.

Both the IAS and local chapters need activities! We can often supply speakers for chapter meetings. A summer picnic is a great chance to get acquainted and learn who makes a great walnut pie. Recruit a potter, a flint knapper and a weaver. Try archery or the atlatl.

Do stuff. Sign up for a field school. The Glenwood field school last year was beyond fantastic. Hundreds of school kids learned about Iowa's past because of the cooperation of the OSA, IAS, Sanford Museum, and local school officials.

Broaden your scope. We are not limited to just Native American archeology—the Romans, the Aztecs, and Great Zimbabwe all have stories to tell. Fred Gee gave a talk at our chapter about archeology in the Holy Land. Doug Jones told us about the rough-and-tumble characters in the Underground Railroad in southwest Iowa. He could write a whole book about them. The IAS Board of Directors wants to hear any ideas you have concerning revitalizing local chapters. I also want to thank Robin Lillie for all she has done for the IAS as President and also for helping me in transition into the office.

Finally, Mike Heimbaugh's editorship of the IAS *Newsletter* cannot be applauded enough. It was a great run, and we need to thank Nancy Heimbaugh as well. I learn a lot reading the *Newsletter*. We have added color to it and have excellent editors for this year, Steve Lensink and Lynn Alex. We must look ahead to the future; so if you have newsletter experience or want to get some, please talk to Steve or Lynn.

Lost Nation: The loway (Kelly and Tammy Rundle, Fourth Wall Films)

October 20, 2007, 7 pm
Macbride Hall Auditorium, Museum of Natural History, UI, Iowa City

Presentation on the No-Heart Map (Bill Green)

October 21, 1:30 pm
Putnam Museum, Davenport

Lost Nation: The loway (Kelly and Tammy Rundle Fourth Wall Films)

October 21, 3–4 pm

Putnam Museum, Davenport

A Fishy Story from Iowa (Doug Jones)

October 6
Western Historic Trails Center, Council Bluffs

Contact Lynn M. Alex to add your event and check out the Calendar of Events coming soon to:
www.uiowa.edu/~osa/IAM/2007Calendar.

Successful 2007 Annual Meeting!

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY co-hosted the IAS's Annual Spring Meeting held at the University of Iowa, April 21–22. The program featured talks on recent archeological investigations across the state; tours of the Paleontology Repository, Museum of Natural History laboratory, and the Office of the State Archaeologist laboratory; an early evening reception in the Museum of Natural History's Iowa Hall; and two workshops.

Saturday's presentations included two on historic sites by Lowell Blikre of Bear Creek Archaeology, Cresco, and Leah Rogers of Tall Grass Historians, Iowa City; prehistoric sites archaeology by John Doershuk, OSA, and Colin Betts, Luther College, Decorah; and recent IAS-related field projects at Glenwood by Jason Titcomb, Sanford Museum and Planetarium, Cherokee, and River Mill Farm by Jacob Oswald, Murray.

New State Archaeologist John Doershuk was introduced, and Interim State Archaeologist Steve Lensink received the Keyes-Orr Award for his years of service. Holmes Semken, UI Professor Emeritus of Geoscience, presented a fascinating keynote address on *The Tarkio Valley Ground Sloth Site* in southeast Iowa. Results of this year's board election include Don Raker of Polk City, President, Steve Lensink and Lynn Alex, Newsletter Editors, and Leah Rogers, Mike Heimbaugh, Mark Mertes, Linda Zintz, and Robin Lillie, board members.

Student Presenter

My name is Jake Oswald, and I am a seventh grader at Murray Community School in Murray, Iowa. Murray is a town of about 700 people located 10 miles west of Osceola in Clarke County. Some people might think that "the bigger the better" but I personally feel that the smaller schools offer more opportunities to students.

For as long as I can remember, I have been interested in paleontology and archeology. I could not believe it when Mrs. Risser, our Talented and Gifted Program

teacher, first began talking about possibly visiting the River Mill Farm site. For me it was like getting to meet the President.

We would really like to thank Mrs. Risser for all of her hard work. She is such a great person! She puts so much of her time, energy, and money into us. She is liked by everyone.

I would also like to thank Lynn Alex for allowing us to experience something like this, something that we would ordinarily never get to see. How many kids get to do something like that?? Thank you, Lynn, for opening this experience up to students like me. I thoroughly enjoyed it. You and Mrs. Risser made archeology real and tangible and not just a daydream to me.

—JAKE OSWALD

Workshops

Ground-truthing the Iowa Archaeological Site Form

Twenty-eight IAS members tramped through the woods, poison ivy, and wildflowers at Lake Macbride State Park to visit the Woodpecker Cave site (13JH202) and learn a bit about the Iowa site form and how to decipher some of the categories of information it requires. Those braving the walk in the woods on a beautiful Sunday morning included students Cheyenne Ash-



by, Eli Barr, Collin, Courtney, Summer Glasener, Colin McCracken, Jacob Oswald, Megan Oswald, Allison Peterson, Ashley Rider, Courtney Siefkas, Zack Thacker, Katie Titus, and Joe Webb; parent chaperones John Siefkas and Heather Titus, teacher Kay Risser; and IAS members Mary Foulk, Steve Kroeger, John Lisle, Marsha and Marty Miller, John Oosternryk, John, Charlotte and MeMe Palmquist, and Jason and Megan Ullrick.

Archaeologists from the Smithsonian Institution investigated Woodpecker Cave in the 1940s and 1950s, prior to the construction of the Coralville Dam and Reservoir. The site, actually a southwest facing limestone rockshelter, produced a series of occupations and artifacts suggesting use from late Paleoindian times to the nineteenth century. Perhaps the most surprising discovery was the Great Oasis pottery found intermixed with more typical Late Woodland Madison ware, suggesting some interesting interaction scenarios across Iowa a thousand years ago.

Using Woodpecker Cave as an example, participants heard about locating a site on a topographic map, determining landform, identifying cultural affiliation, and suggesting site boundaries. Everyone also learned that Colleen Eck, the OSA Site Records Manager, is extremely helpful in walking people through the completion of the Iowa site form. She has posted instructions on completing the form at www.uiowa.edu/~osa/recording/collect/sites.htm. Several IAS members expressed interest in a more detailed workshop at OSA later in the fall.

—LYNN M. ALEX



Murray School students



Working with Archaeological Collections

The UI Museum of Natural History hosted an archaeological collections workshop for IAS members on Sunday following the Spring IAS meeting. Eight IAS members participated in the workshop and spent more than two hours in the Museum laboratory in Macbride Hall working with the Quigley Archaeological Collection. The workshop time also counted towards IAS laboratory certification hours for the participants.

Workshop participants learned about the various tasks associated with cataloging a surface collection with little provenience. A variety of available projectile point identification guides were examined, as well as other important literature helpful in the analysis of chipped stone tools. The participants were also introduced to the new Lithic Raw Material Assemblage identification tool, which can be found on the OSA web site (www.uiowa.edu/~osa/lithics/).

Working in pairs, the workshop participants measured the chipped stone tools, identified the projectile point type if possible, and recorded this information on catalog sheets. The lithic raw material, if known, and the presence of heat-treatment were also noted.

The Quigley collection is a surface collection of nearly 1,500 artifacts from Davis County, Iowa, collected by Harvey C. Quigley (1903–1987) in the early 1900s. Quigley found his first projectile point in 1917 at age 14 while following his grandfather as he plowed a farm field. From that day forward, Harvey developed a passion for hunting American Indian artifacts.

Virtually every Sunday afternoon until the age of 75, Quigley walked the streams and hills of southern Iowa looking for arti-

facts. He found most of his collection in the area north of Bunch (now Paris), near Lake Wapello in Davis County. The majority of the collection consists of chipped stone tools, with some ground stone items and prehistoric ceramic fragments. It was Quigley's belief that this area was a major hunting ground or that a major battle may have occurred in the area, although a preliminary search of the Iowa Site File does not show any recorded sites in the area.

Quigley attended the UI prior to the depression, possibly studying prelaw for two years. He was proud of the fact that he never bought or sold any of the artifacts in his collection, and it was his wish for the collection to be given to the Museum of Natural History. The collection was donated to MNH in 2003 by Patrick Quigley, Harvey's son.

The Quigley collection will be the subject of a long-term research project, including cataloging, analysis, photography, and eventual publication of the data. IAS members, UI students, and MNH volunteers will continue to work with the collection under the supervision of Museum staff. An MNH student intern in the Fall of 2007 will be conducting further research on Quigley's family and the area where he collected artifacts.

Any IAS members interested in working on the Quigley collection for IAS Certification should contact Sarah Horgen (319-335-0606 or sarah-horgen@uiowa.edu). A second collections workshop involving the Quigley collection, and other archaeological collections at MNH, is being planned for October. Look for more information in future IAS newsletters and the IAS list serve.

—SARAH HORGEN

Lensink Receives 2007 Keyes-Orr Award

Steve Lensink, a true Iowa "boy," received this year's Keyes-Orr Award in recognition of his outstanding service to the IAS, and to the research, reporting, and preservation of Iowa's archaeological heritage.

In presenting the award, IAS Board member Mike Perry noted that Steve was born, raised, and educated in Iowa and has focused most of his professional career on Iowa research. Steve's association with the IAS began as a teenager attending Northwest Chapter meetings, continued with his Ph.D. research in Winnebago County working with the collections of the late Arlo Johnson, another Keyes-Orr award-winner, and persists today as *Newsletter* editor. In the interim, Steve has been a Board director and *Journal* editor. He supervised nine field schools, seven of which were sponsored by the Society. Most recently, he engineered the agreement permitting last fall's excavations at the new Glenwood high school, cosponsored by the IAS. Since 1981 he has authored, co-authored, or edited 11 publications, and presented at least 39 papers at professional conferences on research relating to early Plains village cultures, particularly Mill Creek and Great Oasis.

Last year Steve assisted the Archaeological Conservancy as it extended its preservation efforts into Iowa, and helped broker OSA's first archaeological conservation easement. His service to Iowa and Iowa archaeology as interim State Archaeologist (thrice!) is inestimable.



Iowa Archeological Society Officers and Board Members

Don Raker	President	2007–2008
Nancy Heimbaugh	Vice President	2007–2008
John Doershuk	State Archaeologist	2007–
Kathy Dice	Secretary	2005–2008
Alan Hawkins	Treasurer	2005–2008
Alan Hawkins	Membership Secretary	2005–2008
Lynn Alex & Steve Lensink	Newsletter Editors	2005–2008
Mike Perry	Journal Editor	2005–2008
Jerry Baker	Director	2005–2008
Chad Burroughs	Director	2005–2008
Dale Essick	Director	2005–2008
Molly Ketchum	Director	2005–2008
Fred Gee	Director	2006–2009
George Horton	Director	2006–2009
Jason Titcomb	Director	2006–2009
Robin Lillie	Director	2006–2009
Mike Heimbaugh	Director	2007–2010
Leah Rogers	Director	2007–2010
Mark Mertes	Director	2007–2010
Linda Zintz	Director	2007–2010



graders toured the excavation and searched the back dirt piles for artifacts small enough to pass through the shaker screens. They were also informally quizzed on their ability to identify artifacts.

A total of 11 2-x-1-meter units were excavated this year. All units encountered a layer of densely packed artifacts. The abundance of brick and limestone suggests that it is largely debris from outbuildings removed when the mansion was restored to its current state. Previous excavations have encountered this layer around the entire perimeter of the house. The easternmost line of units had the thickest debris layer, but the thickness varied greatly even between adjacent units. No conclusive evidence has been found for any buildings in the area, however, previous excavations to the east recovered materials suggesting the location of a coach house. The presence of a relatively thick buried organic-rich soil in the area supports the idea that this area

was a garden.

This season's work has revealed that the east lawn has a far more complex subsurface than was previously thought. The processing of total station information and comparison of unit profiles should help to understand the relationship between layers within the subsurface. After more than 30 years of archaeological excavation, Plum Grove continues to provide new and exciting archaeological discoveries and excellent experiences for individuals interested in the field.

UI Field School at Plum Grove

By Bryan Kendall

This year marks the twelfth summer that the University of Iowa has offered a three week course in historic archaeology at the Plum Grove State Historic Site in Iowa City. The class focuses primarily on introducing archaeological field techniques to students, but a concurrent advanced section allows experienced students to review and improve their methods. The field school provides a unique opportunity to practice archaeological techniques and gain class credit while remaining close to campus.

The field school continues to be run by Thomas Charlton, professor of Anthropology at the UI, while I served as teaching assistant for the 2007 season. Twenty-two students participated this year, the majority was upper class men at the UI with a few from out-of-state. Students gain experience in both excavation and laboratory processing of materials. Participants also learn to use survey equipment including transits and a total station.

Plum Grove is located southeast of downtown Iowa City. The site served as the residence of the first territorial governor of Iowa, Robert Lucas. The main building was constructed in 1844, and the site was farmed. Subsequent families occupied Plum Grove until 1943 when the Iowa Conservation Commission began renovations starting with the restoration of the Lucas house to its original appearance. Additional renovation included the demolition of outbuildings and additions. Excavations this season were located to the east of house, an area believed to have served primarily as a garden.

Research at the site has often been a col-

laborative venture with other members of the UI faculty and graduate students lending their expertise and equipment. During the spring of 2007, Glenn Story, Department of Anthropology, and David Campbell, Department of Geosciences, conducted a series of geophysical surveys. The results of their electromagnetic testing, suggesting parallel linear anomalies in the east lawn subsurface, influenced the placement of this year's excavation units. Subsequent excavation showed these as backfilled trenches of unknown derivation. Topographic mapping of the northeast corner of the property by myself and fellow graduate student Alissa Whitmore using a total station will provide a three-dimensional model of this year's excavation.

Two newspaper articles and a feature on the UI web site stimulated public interest in the project, and a few visitors observed the excavations nearly every day. Grant Wood Elementary School fifth and sixth



Student Teresa Font using a total station to piece plot artifacts



Excavations in the east lawn

Research Opportunities in Kosova

By Joe Alan Artz and Shirley J. Schermer

IN APRIL 2007, we traveled to Kosova, a region in the former Yugoslavia, to explore possibilities for interdisciplinary collaboration between the University of Iowa and University of Prishtina. We carried a memorandum of understanding signed by UI Interim President Gary Fethke, and on our first day in the country, watched as the document was signed by Enver Hasani, Rector of the University of Prishtina. The memorandum establishes a formal agreement enabling the two universities to pursue collaboration in education and research. A memorandum of agreement to pursue archaeological projects in human osteology and geographic information systems (GIS) was also executed. The signing ceremony was attended by the press and favorably reported on television and in newspapers.

The trip culminated a process that began in 2005 when we met Dr. Edi Shukriu, a professor of history at the University of Prishtina and a Kosovar poet who was in Iowa to attend the UI International Writers Program. An archaeologist by profession, Edi visited the Office of the State Archaeologist and was impressed by our programs.

Kosova is a mountain region about one third the size of Iowa, located in the southern Balkan Peninsula of southeast Europe. It is bounded on the southwest by Albania, on the southeast by Macedonia, on the northwest by Montenegro, and on the east and north by Serbia. Its two million people are 90 percent ethnic Albanian. Albanian is the everyday language except in a few areas inhabited by ethnic Serbs. Devastated by a genocidal war in the 1990s, the country is currently under United Nations protection with UN and NATO peacekeepers, including units of the Iowa National Guard.

During our eight day visit to Kosova, Edi introduced us to many scholars and scientists who share our interests in physical anthropology, archaeology, and GIS. Among these were faculty and students of the Departments of History and Anatomy and the Institute of History at the University of Prishtina. We met with individuals from two government agencies—the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and the Kosova Institute for Cultural Mon-

uments Protection. We also met people from two international agencies—the UN's Office of Missing Persons and Forensics, and a Swedish NGO, Cultural Heritage without Borders.

In these meetings, Kosovars and internationals alike expressed an eagerness to collaborate with the UI. Our discussions identified several areas where useful collaboration between the two universities might be pursued. These include the possibility for cooperative research, student and faculty exchange, and technology transfer in the areas of GIS, physical anthropology, heritage preservation, DNA research, general medicine, and biomechanics and bioengineering. The contacts we made are a firm foundation from which specific collaborative enterprises can be pursued, to the benefit of both universities, and to the advancement of the sciences and humanities in Kosova.

We were excited to visit several archaeological sites during our stay. The Roman settlement of Ulpiana is located



ed just south of Prishtina. Ulpiana dates to the early centuries A.D. and was an important administrative and mining management center. Encompassing an area of over 100 hectares, this is one of the sites where ground penetrating radar (GPR) could help in future excavations. Another highlight was a visit to Novobërda, a medieval castle ruin east of Prishtina. Located within the gold mining region of Kosova, this site hosted German goldsmiths during the medieval period. There is a need for GPR work, mapping, and excavations at this site also.

While in Prizren, in southern Kosova, we met with the director and archaeologist with the Institute for Protection of Monuments for the Prizren municipality. They discussed their programs, gave us a tour of their archaeological museum, and accompanied us on a visit to the Vermica site near the Albanian border. A crypt above the site holds close to 500 skeletons that need to be studied. They were excavated in 1974 and 1975 and date to the ninth through eleventh centuries A.D.





Street scene of Prizren

While in Gjakova, in southwestern Kosova, we visited with a senior commercial law advisor with the Kosovo Trust Agency and the Executive Director for Medica Kosova (working with Women Against Violence). They told us about the work they are doing and their experiences during the 1990s war and post-NATO bombing. In western Kosova, we visited the city of Peja and Rugova Canyon, between Peja and Montenegro.

We were impressed by the optimism and spirit of the people of Kosova, and by the high and sincere regard in which they hold the United States. This is an exciting time for Kosova as it emerges from the shadow of a tragic war. We are proud to have represented our university in an initiative that has the potential to provide opportunities for the people of Kosova as they strive toward independence and integration into the European and global communities. We will continue working with the UI International Programs to move forward with collaborative initiatives and will be seeking funding sources for the human osteology and GIS projects identified in the Memorandum of Agreement and other possible collaborations.

The success of our trip is largely due to



Edi Skukriu (right) talking with Arben Arifi, a Kosovar archaeologist and one of Edi's former students

Fort Atkinson Historians Honored

The Iowa State Preserves Advisory Board rewarded the dedicated efforts of two northwest Iowa historians this spring when it recognized Alan Becker and Myles Kupka of the Fort Atkinson Historic Preservation Commission for their more than 15 years of outstanding service on behalf of the Fort Atkinson State Preserve in Winnebago County. Al, retired from teaching social studies, and Myles, a retired construction worker, have faithfully promoted the 1840s Fort and associated sites. They've written grants, secured landowner permissions for excavations and surveys, organized volunteers for archaeological field and laboratory work, obtained oral history interviews, conducted historic research, and assisted archaeological investigations at the Fort and nearby trading posts, Winnebago (Ho-Chunk) villages, a possible Catholic mission, and the Turkey River Subagency sites. They made local arrangements for two University of Iowa archaeology field schools and two teacher-training workshops in the Fort Atkinson area. Each fall, their involvement with the annual Fort Atkinson Rendezvous School Day, held at the end of September to commemorate the 1840s, provides a hands-on learning experience to over 1,000 school children.

Through their enthusiastic participation in all aspects of Fort Atkinson history, Becker and Kupka contribute greatly to a better understanding of the history of the Winnebagoes, the Fort, and the Neutral Ground. All of their endeavors have significantly raised Iowan's appreciation and awareness for this important state resource.

The Iowa State Preserves System, within the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, seeks to identify and preserve portions of our natural and cultural heritage for this and future generations. Dedication as a State Preserve provides the highest level of state protection afforded a property. State Preserves may have unusual plant, animal, geological, archaeological, historical or scenic features. State Preserves in northeast Iowa include Fort Atkinson, the Bluffton Fir Stand, Brush Creek Canyon, Coldwater Spring, Crossman Prairie, the Decorah Ice Cave, Fish Farm Mounds, Wittrock, Hayden Prairie, Malanaphy Springs, Montauk, Roggman Boreal Slopes, Saint James Lutheran Church, and Slinde Mounds, among others. See the Preserves Explorer at <http://www.iowadnr.com/preserves/general.html> for the locations of other preserves across the state.

To honor their outstanding efforts, they received a plaque during the Preserves Board meeting on April 6, 2007.

—CINDY PETERSON



What's the Point?

Identify the artifact picture to the right (shown life size). The artifact is from the Wittrock site (13OB4) in O'Brien County. Wittrock is a Mill Creek village, but don't let that influence your answer!

Send your responses to Lynn Alex at lynnalex@uiowa.edu. Answers will be listed in the next issue.

Last Issue's Winners Planetary alignment

Gary Stam and Steve Kroeger correctly identified the projectile point from the River Mill Farm site illustrated in the last issue of the *Newsletter* as a Pelican Lake.



MEET UI STUDENTS WORKING AT THE OSA

Anne Griffith from Mount Vernon, Iowa, has a B.A. from Beloit College. Currently she is working on a one-year post-baccalaureate certificate in Classics. She will be attending graduate school this fall at the University of Missouri-Columbia studying Mediterranean archaeology. Her work for the OSA includes cataloging and recording archaeological materials, organizing the lithic collection, and fieldwork. Anne hopes to teach or work in a museum.



gland studying historical European archaeology. She is leaving her career options open, with interests in contract archaeology, college teaching, or museum work.

Elizabeth Fox is from Boone, Iowa. She is a senior anthropology major with an interest in archaeology. Elizabeth volunteers with the OSA, Museum of Natural History, and Old Capitol Museum. Her work at OSA involves cataloging and completing condition reports for the UI-Stanford Collection. She hopes to work with museum collections.



Liz Macken is from Readlyn, Iowa. She is a freshman and still undecided about her major, but she

has a strong interest in anthropology. She holds a work-study position with the Burials Program doing osteological documentation and archival research.



Clayton Schuneman is originally from Las Cruces,

New Mexico, but has been living in Iowa for the past several years. He attended Kirkwood Community College and now is a senior in anthropology at the University of Iowa. This semester he enrolled in an internship and independent study with Shirley Schermer and has been working on osteological analyses of seven UI-Stanford Collection skeletons. His main area of interest is physical anthropology and he plans on continuing his education with graduate studies. He would like to teach at a community college since it was his own community college experience that got him interested in anthropology.



Stacy Evans from Ames, Iowa, is a junior pursuing a double major in anthropology and German. She began volunteering for Lynn Alex cleaning and cataloging the River Mill Farm site field school materials and was a paid student employee working in the archives for Cherié Haury-Artz. After participating in UI's spring field school at Plum Grove, Stacy was hired by the OSA's General Contracts Program. She plans to attend graduate school at the University of Texas. Her area of interest is Mesoamerican archaeology.



Beth Petrenko from Brookfield, Illinois, is a senior with a double major in anthropology and vocal music. She has an internship at the OSA and has worked on the GIS database for Joe Artz and is currently doing a curation project for John Cordell. This fall she will be attending graduate school in En-



NEW STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST HIRED

The University of Iowa announced in April that **John Doershuk**, formerly Director of the OSA Contracts Division, has been selected for the position of OSA Director and State Archaeologist. John's tenure at OSA began in 1995 when he was hired to head up the General Contracts Program. John received unanimous endorsement from the Search Committee. Upon announcing his selection, UI Vice President for Research, Meredith Hay, stated "John's anthropology background, teaching and research experience and a dozen years of service with the Office of the State Archaeologist made him extremely qualified for the position. We are confident in his ability to lead the Office of the State Archaeologist, which plays a key role in preserving our state's past." John is Iowa's sixth State Archaeologist. He replaces Steve Lensink who served as Interim Director following the resignation of Elizabeth Pauls in November 2005. Watch for an interview with John in the next issue of the *IAS Newsletter*.

SAA ANNUAL MEETING

Lynn Alex, John Hedden, and Steve Lensink attended the 72nd Society for American Archaeology annual meeting in Austin, Texas, the week of April 23.

...its new Spink display
...featuring Iowa archaeology
...Month posters from the last 14 years.

IAS Joins Teaming with Wildlife Coalition

We are pleased to announce the IAS Board's recent decision to join Teaming with Wildlife, a coalition of over 190 groups in Iowa and 5,000 organizations nationwide that is working to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered. The Teaming with Wildlife Coalition supports increased state and federal funding for wildlife conservation, wildlife-related recreation, and conservation education. We look forward to working with Teaming with Wildlife to support Iowa's Wildlife Action Plan and other proactive conservation efforts to enhance Iowa's quality of life for wildlife and humans!

If any IAS member would like to take a more active role or perhaps join the coalition on behalf of a business or other organization please contact Stephanie Shepherd with Iowa's Wildlife Diversity program at 515-432-2823 or join on-line at www.teaming.com/action.

Newsletter Editor Position

As noted in the last issue, Mike Heimbaugh has handed over the duties of *Newsletter* editor to Lynn Alex and Steve Lensink for the duration of his term, or, until spring, 2008. At that time the position is open. If anyone desires to take over as editor in 2008, please contact Don Raker, IAS President, or any other Board member. The OSA plans to continue to assist with the publication and printing of the *Newsletter*.

Upcoming Talk....

*A Fishy Story from Iowa:
New Considerations of Prehistoric
Fishing Practices in the Eastern Prairie
Plains*
by Douglas W. Jones

1:30 pm, July 28, 2007. Herbert Hoover
National Historic Site Visitor Center, 110 Park-
side Drive, West Branch, Iowa

Iowa has a broad spectrum of lakes, streams, and wetlands that contain 148 species of fish. Archaeological evidence suggests that fishing played an important role in the food economies of the early historic and pre-contact times. Fish remains, fish hooks, and fish lures are found in features at archaeological sites in Iowa, while fish weirs have been reported from streams across Iowa.

This talk presents the archaeological evidence for fishing activities in Iowa and is given in conjunction with an exhibit entitled "Fishing for Fun" currently at the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site Visitor Center, March 17 through September 30, 2007. For more information about the exhibit visit the following web site www.nps.gov/heho/planyourvisit/temporary-exhibit.htm.

Archaeology Month/Week Poster Awards

Iowa's 2007 Archaeology Month poster met stiff competition in the Society for American Archaeology poster contest. This year's winners in award order are Arizona, Wyoming, and Alaska. To see the award-winning entries visit: www.saa.org/public/resources/ArchMonthforpublic.

Membership Information

Contact the Membership Secretary, Iowa Archeological Society at The University of Iowa, Office of the State Archaeologist, 700 Clinton Street Building, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1030.

Membership Dues

Voting:

Active	\$20
Household	\$25
Sustaining	\$30

Non-Voting:

Student (under 18)	\$9
Institution	\$30

Newsletter Information

The Iowa Archeological Society is a non-profit, scientific society legally organized under the corporate laws of Iowa. Members of the Society share a serious interest in the archaeology of Iowa and the Midwest. The *Newsletter* is published four times a year. All materials for publication should be sent to Editors Lynn M. Alex and Stephen C. Lensink, The University of Iowa, Office of the State Archaeologist, 700 Clinton Street Building, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1030. Email: lynn-alex@uiowa.edu or steve-lensink@uiowa.edu. When submitting articles, please provide text, captions, tables, and figures separately. All digital photographs should be at least 300 dpi at full size. Graphics, if supplied digitally, should be high-resolution tiff or eps files. Paper versions of articles and photos are also acceptable.

IAS web site

www.uiowa.edu/~osa/IAS/iashome.htm.

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