

Newsletter of the Iowa Archeological Society

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Est. 1951

ISU Archaeological Lab Founded 50 Years Ago



ISUAL'S first field crew, 1964, at 13MA41, Milo's Silo Site. Left to right:
Georgina Granberg, Ron Seastrand, Pat Trow Mericle, Ron Kivett, Peter Brennan, Mike Wonio, John Rosenberg,
Mark Peterson, Lynn Swanson, Robert Knowles, Don Graybill, Allan Sharlin, and Steve Polley.

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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL LABORATORY (ISUAL) FOUNDED FIFTY YEARS AGO

David Mayer Gradwohl
Professor Emeritus of Anthropology
Founding Director of ISUAL

The year of 2014 marks half a century since the Iowa State University Archaeological Laboratory was established on the Iowa State University (ISU) campus in Ames. The ISU Summer Field School in Archaeology was also initiated at that time. The conjunction of several factors in 1964 made the creation of this educational and research facility possible, in addition to opening an opportunity to offer a summer field training session for academic credit.

Early in 1962, Iowa State University advertised a position open for a cultural anthropologist in the Department of Economics and Sociology. Dr. William F. Kenkel, then Professor in Charge of Sociology, wrote a letter to the Chair of the Department of Anthropology at Harvard University apprising him of the opening. That letter was placed in the job file kept by the secretary of the Anthropology Department. In those days, most job openings were circulated in this manner or by "word of mouth" — no positions advertised in association newsletters, no placement booths at professional meetings etc. By April, I had completed all my qualifying examinations, course work, and language requirements for my Ph.D., and I was writing drafts of my dissertation. Hanna, my wife, had interrupted her graduate work at Boston University and quit her full-time job as a social worker to take care of our infant son, Steven. I decided that I needed to get a job to support our growing family, so I went down to the department office to look over their job file.

Having grown up in Nebraska, Hanna and I wanted



Figure 1. This abandoned farmhouse located near Dunreath, Iowa, served as ISUAL'S first field headquarters, 1964, in Red Rock Reservoir.

to return to the Midwest. So the ISU position looked interesting, and I thought it might offer an opportunity to pursue my specialty in the archaeology of the prairies and plains. On the other hand, the courses ISU had slated to be taught included "Peoples of Sub-Saharan Africa" in addition to "Introduction to Anthropology", "Cultural Anthropology", "The Family in Different Cultures", and "Intercultural Relations". Having been trained in holistic anthropology that included the four sub-disciplines (archaeology, social anthropology, physical anthropology, and linguistics), I was reasonably sure I could manage all the quarter-long classes except Sub-Saharan Africa. Yes, during my stint at Edinburgh University in Scotland, I had taken a year-long social anthropology class and read works by E.E. Evans-Pritchard, Melville Herskovits, A.R. Radcliffe-Brown, Daryll Ford, and Audrey Richards. But I failed to see how that could get me through 10 weeks of lectures on Africa!

Nonetheless, I submitted an application, and Harvard's Appointment Office sent off my transcripts and letters of recommendation to ISU. Pursuant to that, Dr. Kenkel invited me to Ames for on-campus interviews in May. Throughout the interviews, I ascertained that the course on Sub-Saharan Africa was a specialty class, and I would be free to offer a specialty class of my own choosing. We agreed that my specialty class could be "North American Archaeology". I also was directed to the course catalog, which listed "The American Indian" scheduled for the following year. This all looked good to me. In sum, I was offered the job before I left campus to return home. I told Dr. Kenkel he would have an answer after I had returned to Boston and conferred with Hanna. At that point I was actually sitting on a contract from a university in the far west, and two other universities had returned letters of interest in pursuing my applications further. Hanna and I decided rather quickly that we wanted to come to Ames, and toasted our good fortune with a bottle of champagne.

In sum, this was the first factor in the establishment of ISUAL. ISU had hired an anthropologist whose specialty was archaeology. I replaced Dr. Philip Leis, an Africanist social anthropologist, who had been hired to teach half-time sociology and half-time anthropology. Dr. Leis went on to a distinguished career at Brown University. And I became the first

anthropologist hired to teach full-time in anthropology at ISU.

The second factor regarding the founding of ISUAL had to do with the welcoming by Dr. Kenkel and the sociologists to my developing courses in archaeology as well as other areas of anthropology. This was coupled with high student interest and enrollment in anthropology classes, including those in archaeology. Looking back, I realize that the social sciences and humanities were on a roll in the 1960s and 1970s, and students (including a good many members of the counter-culture movement) found anthropology not only interesting but also relevant.

The third factor that was crucial in getting an archaeological laboratory and field school operating was the availability of funds from the National Park Service (NPS) for “salvage archaeology” in Iowa. In that regard, serendipity came into play. As an undergraduate student at the University of Nebraska, I had met Dr. Wilfred D. Logan at a Plains Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska. Dr. Logan was then Superintendent at the Effigy Mounds National Monument in northeast Iowa. By 1962, he was the Regional Archaeologist at the NPS Midwest Regional Office in Omaha, Nebraska. Even before I arrived in Ames, Dr. Logan sent his congratulations to me for landing the job at ISU, and he apprised me that the NPS had funds for an archaeological salvage project in Red Rock Reservoir along the Des Moines River. He subsequently invited me to attend a “collaborators meeting” hosted by the NPS the day before the Plains Conference in 1963. It was at those meetings that individuals representing various universities and historical societies met with NPS personnel to ascertain what funds were available for various projects

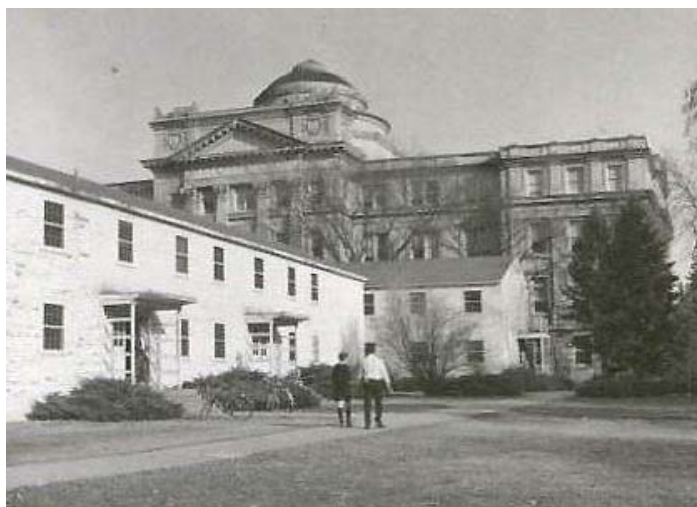


Figure 3. Temporary Building G, left, ISUAL's first location on the Iowa State University campus. In the background are Temporary Building H, and Beardshear Hall. Courtesy of the ISU Library Archives: Neg. 05378-05381, 1966, Temporary Buildings 66-635.



Figure 4. East Hall on the ISU campus, location of ISUAL since Fall 1966.

and just who might be interested in doing that field work. I put in a bid to work in Red Rock Reservoir, went back to ISU and wrote a formal proposal to the NPS that was supported by Dr. Kenkel and by Dr. Chalmer Roy, Dean of the College of Sciences and Humanities. Dean Roy was a geologist, had run field school camps, and knew the importance of field training sessions and laboratories as part of the university's role in science teaching and research.

It was thus via a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service that Iowa State University made its maiden voyage into archaeology. ISU was delighted to have the monetary overhead and support for a department; NPS was glad to have someone wanting to work in Red Rock Reservoir; and I was ecstatic to have funds to launch a field teaching and research program. Plans were made for students to register for academic credits in anthropology for an eight-week field school.

Basically we started with no field equipment, part of an operation I have often said I would have neither the courage nor naïveté to do again. I set about ordering field equipment from the ISU Central Stores. The director of Central Stores questioned why a “sociology professor” needed shovels and trowels, but we were able to acquire those in addition to wheelbarrows, folding rules, line levels, measuring tapes etc. We borrowed a transit and alidade from the Civil Engineering Department. I was given a Purchase Order to set up accounts with a lumberyard and hardware store in Knoxville to buy wood and hardware cloth to build screens and purchase other needed field equipment. The ISU motor pool provided us with vehicles to move materiel and personnel into the field — they were some of the most decrepit vehicles I have ever driven!

The NPS arranged for our crew to utilize an abandoned farmhouse within the reservoir acquisition



Figure 5. ISUAL students cataloguing artifacts in Room 4, East Hall. Left to right: Lori Fisher, Bob Gearhart, Martha Stewart, Steven Mbutu.

area near Dunreath as our field headquarters (Figure 1). We also had permission to move an extra outhouse onto that property to accommodate a mixed gender crew (Figure 2, see cover). The fact that our crew consisted of three women as well as ten men caused a minor sensation since most archaeological crews, especially those associated with the NPS and the Missouri River Basin Survey field parties, excluded women (cf. Knudson 2014). In addition, our group included a cook (wife of one of the male students) and their two children aged 3 and 4; and finally, there was Hanna and our two oldest children, Steven (2.5 years old) and Jane (11 months old). During the summer of 1964, the crew tested several previously discovered Woodland and Oneota sites, and located a number of additional sites via reconnaissance survey. Further details of this field season have been discussed elsewhere (Gradwohl 1997; 2003).

One question that had not been answered before we set out for Red Rock Reservoir was just where all the accumulated artifacts and field equipment would be housed after the end of the field season. Throughout June and July, I exchanged letters and telephone calls (from public phone booths in Knoxville) with Dr. Kenkel and Dean Roy — no cell phones and laptop computers in those days! As the end of July approached, I jokingly told Dean Roy that if an appropriate space had not been found by the time we had to close down our field school, we would have to pull up in front of Beardshear Hall and unload our artifacts and field equipment in his office. Fortunately, a few days before our departure from Dunreath, I was informed that space for an archaeological laboratory had been found in Building G, one of several “temporary” buildings just west of Beardshear Hall (Figure 3).

Building G and a number of other World War II

wooden military barracks had been erected on campus in 1947 so the university could cope with the huge influx of returning veterans availing themselves of the G.I. Bill to pursue their higher education. Building G originally stood at the Sioux City Army Air Base. It was sold by the Federal government to ISU for \$1.00, torn down, and reassembled on the ISU campus (*ISU Daily*, October 29, 1965; August 14, 1969; July 6, 1973; and other clippings in the Temporary Buildings files, ISU Library Archives). For many years, Building G housed classrooms and offices for faculty in the Mathematics, English, and Speech departments. Building G was razed in 1973.

ISUAL was assigned the room on the east side of the second floor of Building G. Arrangements were made to install a sink to wash artifacts. It was a small bathroom-size sink, but we managed anyway! In those days, ISU’s faculty members were allowed to forage for used furnishings and equipment at the University Purchase Warehouse. Items there were either surplus or else cast-offs from the dormitories and other campus departments. So I was able to scrounge wooden storage shelves, tables, and chairs to outfit the lab. About the same time, ISU’s Agricultural Extension Service gave ISUAL permission to use a shed, located on one of their farms south of Ames, for the storage of field equipment. The shed was rife with holes and mice, but had a concrete floor, a roof that was not too leaky, and a stout hasp for a padlock. We christened this shed “Kroeber Hall” after the famous anthropologist A.E. Kroeber, author of the textbook used in my first anthropology class.

Meanwhile my office was located, and the Economics and Sociology Department headquartered, across campus in East Hall, a building constructed in 1904 for a creamery and butter-making operation conducted in ISU’s Dairy Industry Program (Day 1980: 224-226). Late in 1965, Dr. Kenkel asked me



Figure 6. Students washing artifacts in ISUAL’s satellite laboratory at the Dairy Industry Building, 1980. Left to right: Charla Prange and Donna Randall.

to go down to the basement of East Hall (Figure 4) and look at the old photojournalism laboratory, which was being abandoned. He suggested that this space might be suitably renovated for an archaeological laboratory. Upon first view, the space looked like some haunted house designed to spook kids on Halloween. The rooms were painted black, the plaster on the walls was dissolving because of moisture, and floors were cluttered with broken equipment. But Dr. Kenkel's vision was well founded. The space not only had running water and sinks, but there were associated storage cupboards in the hallway, and an at-grade loading dock which could be used to move artifacts and field equipment in and out of the lab. It was thus that Room 4 and some adjacent areas in East Hall were refurbished to serve as the center for ISUAL in succeeding decades (Figure 5). In the fall of 1966, when the renovation was completed and ISUAL had moved in from Building G, certain Full Professors in the Department of Economics and Sociology were not amused that this space had been allocated to a mere Assistant Professor. As time went on, the Economics Department and its faculty moved into the newly built Heady Hall, which connects to the north end of East Hall. The Department of Sociology and Anthropology ultimately inherited all of East Hall. Meanwhile, ISUAL attracted substantial funding from contracts and grants (hundreds of thousands of dollars) with the NPS, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, State Historic Preservation Office, county and municipal governments, and private corporations. At its apogee, ISUAL occupied the entire basement of East Hall with research labs, a teaching lab, and offices for myself, Nancy Osborn (ISUAL co-principal investigator) and several graduate assistants. Over the years, ISUAL was able to utilize additional spaces, some only temporary, for laboratory processing and storage of equipment. For a couple of years when ISUAL had projects in Saylorville Reservoir and was employing flotation and water screening to process the fill of features, the University Extension Program kindly allowed us to use a shed on their swine testing farm at Napier, several miles southwest of Ames. This temporary facility was affectionately called the "Napier Swine Testing and Flotation Station". Later, ISUAL was given permission to establish a flotation lab in an old sheep barn on campus. We christened this lab "Rhino Hall" since a rhinoceros being cared for by the ISU Veterinary Clinic died there. In the early 1980s, ISUAL was able to use space in the Dairy Industry Building, just north of the East Hall/Heady Hall complex. This space and an adjoining large outside loading dock were especially desirable for washing and processing massive amounts of historic artifacts from ISUAL's explorations at the Buxton townsite (Figure

6).

When I retired in 1994, Dr. Joseph A. Tiffany took over as Director of ISUAL. Since 2002, pursuant to Dr. Tiffany's departure to La Crosse for a position as Executive Director of the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center, ISUAL's Director has been Dr. Matthew G. Hill.

ISUAL still serves as an archaeological research and teaching facility. Up into the 1990s, ISUAL supported the weekend field trips required in Anthropology 308, the archaeology core course required for undergraduate majors in anthropology (Figure 7). Those required field exercises have since been discontinued. Through contractual agreements for perpetual storage and curation, ISUAL is a certified Federal repository for data and collections assembled by Iowa State University in cooperation with the National Park Service, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other agencies undertaking CRM projects with Federal monies. These collections still provide materials for teaching archaeology classes, for undergraduate and graduate papers at professional conferences, and for master's theses in archaeology.

The continuation of ISUAL for fifty years is gratifying to me, both professionally and personally. My hope is that ISUAL will remain a vital research and educational facility for many decades to come as Iowa State University expands its role as a land-grant institution and fulfills its motto of "Science With Practice". (continued on pages 6 and 7)



Figure 7. Anthropology 308 students with their teaching assistants and professor at 13BN103, Logansport, for fall field exercises, 1993. Front row, left to right: Beth Peters, Juli Bundi, Daria Seda, Jodee Emmett, Carrie Ohlendorf, Cyril Fernandez. Back row: Kirk Freeman, Nancy Osborn, Kyle Wright, David Gradwohl, Scott Thompson, Jamie McMichael, Jeff Carr, Eric Black, Eric Jeffries, Diedre DeRonde. Courtesy of Nancy Osborn



Iowa Archeological Society

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JANUARY 2013 TO DECEMBER 2013

Account Balances as of January 1, 2013:

Certificate of Deposit (matures 2/20/2015)	\$1,166.71
Checking	\$4,171.47
Savings	<u>\$3,730.39</u>
	\$9,068.57

Account Balances as of December 31, 2013:

Certificate of Deposit	\$1,190.10
Checking	\$4,174.92
Savings	<u>\$4,318.19</u>
	\$9,683.21

Income - January 2013 to December 2013:

Certifications	\$20.00
Interest dividends	\$31.19
Meetings	\$460.00
Memberships	\$8,092.00
Research and Education Fund Contribution	\$580.00
Sales (Journals, Patches, Pins, Royalties)	<u>\$125.00</u>
	\$9,308.19

Expenses - January 2013 to December 2013:

Archaeology Outreach 2013	\$2,000.00
Journal Volume 59 (2012)	\$1,667.21
Keyes-Orr Award	\$13.25
Meetings	\$722.54
Newsletters	\$1,902.16
Office Supplies	\$469.69
Postage	\$1,768.70
Project Archaeology Glenwood	<u>\$150.00</u>
	\$8,693.55

Net Gain or Loss (-) since January 1, 2013	<u>\$614.64</u>
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Respectfully submitted by,
Alan Hawkins, IAS Membership Secretary/Treasurer

ISUAL FOUNDED FIFTY YEARS AGO, continued.

References:

Day, H. Summerfield

1980 *The Iowa State University Campus and Its Buildings, 1859–1979*. Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.

Gradwohl, David Mayer

1997 Accidental Plains Archeologist: Neither Courage Nor Naïveté? *The Kansas Anthropologist* 18 (2):19–43.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Daniel Horgen

Discovered: Allamakee County, Iowa.

Measurements: 2¼ inch in length with a maximum width of 1¼ inch.

Notes: This is a cast of the original that was recovered in June 1944. There has been speculation regarding the authenticity of the original specimen. Stone examples of these types are considered rare and unusual in Iowa.

Send your responses to Daniel G. Horgen at daniel-horgen@uiowa.edu. Answers will be listed in the next issue of the newsletter.

Last Issue's Point: The projectile point illustrated in the last issue of the Newsletter is classified as a Cumberland. These types have flutes which are long and relatively narrow, often running close to the full length of the point and almost always on both faces. The blade is thicker than in the Clovis and Folsom types. The basal and lateral edges are usually ground. Cumberland points are diagnostic of the Paleo-Indian period and a suggested age would range from 10,000 – 8,000 B.C. The greatest frequency of occurrence is in the Tennessee and Cumberland River valleys but distribution extends sporadically into eastern Iowa. However, fishtailed fluted points are extremely scarce. Dale Essick, Larry Van Gorden, Dan Boddicker, and Jim Zalesky submitted correct responses.



The raw material type would be classified as Wyandotte or Indiana Hornstone. This material commonly outcrops in Harrison and Crawford Counties, Indiana and in Meade, Breckinridge, and Hardin Counties Kentucky. It does appear on sites in Iowa, although rarely outside the eastern portion of the state.

References:

Bell, Robert E.

1960 *Guide to the Identification of Certain American Indian Projectile Points*. Special Bulletin No. 2. Oklahoma Anthropological Society, Norman.

Justice, N.D.

1987 *Stone Age Spear and Arrow Points of the Midcontinental and Eastern United States: A Modern Survey and Reference*. Indiana University Press, Bloomington.

Morrow, Toby A.

1984 *Iowa Projectile Points*. Special Publication. Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa, Iowa City.

ISUAL FOUNDED FIFTY YEARS AGO, continued.

Gradwohl, David Mayer

2003 From Turin to 2002: Reflections on My Career in Iowa Archaeology. In *Always on the Edge (in the Prairie-Plains): Essays in Honor of David Mayer Gradwohl*, edited by Larry J. Zimmerman. *Journal of the Iowa Archeological Society* 50:11–50.

Knudson, Ruthann

2014 Women in Reservoir Salvage Archaeology. In *Dam Projects and the Growth of American Archaeology: The River Basin Surveys and the Interagency Archeological Salvage Program*, edited by Kimball M. Banks and Jon S. Czaplicki, pp. 180–201. Left Coast Press, Walnut Creek, California.

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PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE 2014 SPRING MEETING



Dale Henning presents David Benn with this year's Keys-Orr Award.



Patron looking at an exhibit in the UI Mobile Museum.



Portion of the Mobile Museum's Glenwood exhibit.



Exterior of the UI Mobile Museum.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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MEMBERSHIP DUES

Voting

Active	\$25
Household	\$30
Sustaining	\$35

Non-Voting

Student (under 18)	\$14
Institution	\$35

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The Iowa Archeological Society is a nonprofit, 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 the Newsletter Editor:

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Lowell.Blikre@gmail.com

When submitting articles, please provide text, captions, tables, and figures separately. All photographs should be at least 300 dpi. Graphics should be high-resolution tiff or eps files or be scan-ready paper copies.

IAS WEBSITE

<http://archaeology.uiowa.edu/iowa-archaeological-society>