



MVAC at the University  
of Wisconsin-La Crosse

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Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center

# 2020 Archaeology

DISCOVER THE EXCITEMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY  
Education opportunities for adults, youth, and teachers

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## 2020 Schedule at a Glance

### March

- 7 Artifact Show
- 26 Lecture: The UW MIA Recovery and Identification Project: Bringing Missing Service Members Home

### May

- 1-31 Wisconsin Archaeology Month
- 2 MVAC Members-Volunteer Field Survey
- 9 Volunteer Field Survey rain date

### July

- 13-15 Public Field Experience (3 day)
- 13-17 Public Field School (5 day)
- 13 Experimental Archaeology, grades 4-6
- 14 Introduction to Archaeology, grades 5-9
- 15-16 Middle School Field Experience, grades 5-9
- 16 Field School Open House

### October

- 29 2020 Awards, Lecture: The Kensington Runestone and Golf Balls on the Moon

MVAC Educational Programs are supported in part by  
the United Fund for the  
Arts and the Humanities and the  
National Endowment for the Humanities



For more information on these and other events,  
contact MVAC's main office at 608.785.8463  
or check MVAC's website at:

[mvac.uwlax.edu](http://mvac.uwlax.edu)



## Public Lectures

### The UW MIA Recovery and Identification Project: Bringing Missing Service Members Home

Since 2016, the UW MIA Recovery and Identification Project has been working in Partnership with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) to identify, recover, and repatriate the remains of service members lost during WWII. The project combines archaeological, forensic, and historical research methods to conduct recovery missions in western Europe. This multi-disciplinary approach provides students and volunteers with valuable fieldwork, service, and leadership experiences, and helps fulfill our Nation's promise to bring all of our missing service members home. Dr. Jamison will discuss his experiences serving as the lead archaeologist on the project, including reflections on methods, challenges, successes, and some of the project's future goals.

Speaker: Gregg Jamison, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the UW-Milwaukee at Waukesha

Date: Thursday, March 26

Time: 7:30 PM

Location: Student Union, Room 3310, UWL

### 2020 Annual Awards and Lecture:

#### The Kensington Runestone and Golf Balls on the Moon

In 1898, Olaf Ohman, a Swedish immigrant farmer, claimed he discovered a stone covered with Norse runic letters on his farm near Kensington, Minnesota. His discovery didn't get much attention until Hjalmar Holand, a Wisconsin historian interested in Scandinavian immigration, promoted it as an authentic relic dating to 1362. In the early 21st century, the Runestone found new champions in Scott Wolter, the president of a cement testing company in Minneapolis, and Richard Nielson, a Texas engineer. The authenticity of the Kensington stone continues to be debated, although interest in the stone has once again waned as Wolter has moved on to reality TV stardom and Nielson has died. Arguments for and against the Kensington Runestone will be presented in the contexts of archaeology, history, linguistics, geography, pseudoscience, common sense, and Scandinavian humor.

Speaker: Scott Anfinson, author and former Minnesota State Archaeologist

Date: Thursday, October 29

Time: Social 6:30 PM, Awards 7 PM, Lecture 7:30 PM

Location: Student Union, Room 3310, UWL

## Public Events

### MVAC Artifact Show

Come to Valley View Mall and see artifacts representing the area's long history. Local collectors will display their personal collections, and MVAC staff will bring artifacts recovered from local excavations. Archaeologists will be on hand to answer questions. Bring in your own artifacts for help in their identification. Call MVAC at 608.785.8454 or e-mail Jean Dowiasch (jdowiasch@uwlax.edu) if you would like to display your artifacts.

Date: Saturday, March 7

Time: 10 AM–5 PM

Location: Valley View Mall, La Crosse

### Wisconsin Archaeology Month

A variety of activities will be offered throughout the state during May to introduce the public to Wisconsin's long and rich cultural past. For a complete list of activities check out the Wisconsin Historical Society's web site at <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/> and type "Archaeology Month" in Search.

Dates: May 2020



### Volunteer Field Survey Opportunity for MVAC Supporters

MVAC will celebrate Wisconsin Archaeology Month by involving volunteers in surveys of local fields to find unreported archaeological sites. The day will begin with an introduction at the archaeology laboratory, followed by helping with an actual field survey. Participants will end the day back at the lab to wash the artifacts recovered and learn more about their history. The number of participants is limited, so register early. Children may participate if accompanied by an adult. E-mail or call MVAC at jdowiasch@uwlax.edu or 608.785.8454 to register. **Advance registration required!**

Date: Saturday, May 2 (rain date: Saturday, May 9)

Time: 8:30 AM–4 PM

Location: Archaeology Center & Laboratory, UWL

### Public Field School Open House

See what the MVAC Public Field School participants are doing this summer! Stop by on Thursday, July 16, between 10 AM and 2 PM. Check MVAC's website for updated information at: mvac.uwlax.edu. Call MVAC at 608.785.6473 or e-mail MVAC@uwlax.edu for more information.

Date: Thursday, July 16

Time: 10 AM–2 PM

Location: TBD

#### More Information

Contact MVAC at 608.785.8463, e-mail mvac@uwlax.edu, or check the website mvac.uwlax.edu for more information on these and other MVAC programs.

## Youth Events

### Experimental Archaeology - gr. 4-6

Learn how stone tools were made and how Native Americans used them. Take a nature hike through the marsh to explore food, shelter, and tools Wisconsin's first people could have used. Try playing the chunky game and making pottery. Cancellations prior to June 29 will receive a full refund minus a \$40 cancellation fee. No refunds for cancellations after June 29.

Date: Monday, July 13

Time: 9 AM–3 PM

Location: 312 Wimberly Hall, UWL

Age: Students entering grades 4–6

Fee: \$80

Note: Bring a lunch, drink, snacks, water bottle



### Introduction to Archaeology - gr. 5-9

Explore MVAC's Archaeology Lab and work with artifacts recovered from area excavations as an introduction to the science of archaeology. Discover how the first Native Americans in Wisconsin survived using the area's natural resources. Students *must* take this class in order to attend the Middle School Field Experience. This program takes place in the classroom. It does not include excavation activities. Cancellations prior to June 29 will receive a full refund minus a \$40 cancellation fee. No refunds for cancellations after June 29.

Date: Tuesday, July 14

Time: 9 AM–3 PM

Location: 312 Wimberly Hall, UWL

Age: Students entering grades 5–9

Fee: \$80

Note: Bring a lunch, drink, snacks, water bottle

#### Financial Assistance

Financial assistance for youth and teen events may be available. For more information, contact MVAC at 608.785.8454 or jdowiasch@uwlax.edu.

## Field Schools

### Middle School Field Experience - gr. 5–9

Take your excitement for archaeology into the field! Students who have taken MVAC's *Introduction to Archaeology* class in the past can join a La Crosse area project. Participants will work alongside professional archaeologists in the field. Activities may include shovel testing or small-scale excavations. Weather may require alternate activities. Cancellations prior to June 29 will receive a full refund minus an \$80 cancellation fee. No refunds for cancellations after June 29.

Dates: Wednesday–Thursday, July 15–16

Time: 9 AM–3 PM

Location: 312 Wimberly Hall, UWL

Age: Students entering grades 5–9

Fee: \$200

Note: Bring a lunch, drink, snacks, water bottle, insect repellent, sunscreen. Wear comfortable walking shoes and clothes that can get dirty.

Prerequisite: MVAC's *Introduction to Archaeology* class

### Public Archaeology Field Schools (3 and 5 day experiences) – high school/adult

This multi-day field and lab experience is a well-rounded opportunity for those who want to learn about the process of archaeology. Work alongside professional archaeologists on an actual archaeological excavation and survey work. Lab work may include washing and sorting ceramics, stone tools, and other remains. An experimental archaeology component may explore making stone tools and using an atlatl (spearthrower). Optional lab hours and local field trips will be available after regular field school hours. No previous experience is necessary.

This experience is open to high school students through adults. Fee includes a one-year MVAC membership. Supervised dorm facilities are available for high school students at an additional cost of \$225 for 3 days and \$335 for 5 days. Cancellation prior to June 15 will receive a full refund minus a \$100 cancellation fee. No refunds for cancellations after June 15.

## Registration

Registration for fee events is administered through Extended Learning, 220 Morris Hall, UW-La Crosse, La Crosse, WI 54601. For more information, contact Jennifer Carlson at 608.785.6500. To register online, go to: [www.uwlax.edu/ex/archaeology-workshops/](http://www.uwlax.edu/ex/archaeology-workshops/)

To reserve a table for the Artifact Show or to attend the Public Field Survey, contact Jean at [jdowiasch@uwlax.edu](mailto:jdowiasch@uwlax.edu) or 608.785.8454.



### Three-Day Experience

Dates: Monday–Wednesday, July 13–15

Time: July 13: 9 AM–5 PM;

July 14–15: 7 AM–3:30 PM

Location: 3110 Student Union, UWL

Fee: \$350

### Five-Day Experience

Dates: Monday–Friday, July 13–17

Time: July 13: 9 AM–5 PM;

July 14–17: 7 AM–3:30 PM

Location: 3110 Student Union, UWL

Fee: \$500