2015 Schedule at a Glance

February
19  Lecture: Booting Up Humanity

March
14  Artifact Show

April
2   Lecture: The Attacking Ocean

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

July
20-24 Public Field School
20-22 Public Field Experience
20   Egypt, grades 4-6
21   Introduction to Archaeology, grades 5-9
22-23 Middle School Field Experience, grades 5-9
23   Field School Open House

November
12   MVAC 2015 Awards, Lecture: Archaeology in Our Own Back Yard

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

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Booting Up Humanity
The origin of our species was surprisingly complex. We have within us the genes of ancient Africans, Neandertals, and a mysterious population known as the Denisovans. Only a relative handful of genetic changes mark humans today as different from these ancient people. So how did the characteristics of modern humans, including complex social systems, symbolic thought, and language, evolve? New discoveries point in a surprising direction: Modern humans used a diversity of genes in a common social environment to bootstrap themselves to humanity. With the origin of modern human behavior, cultural evolution began to direct our genetic evolution, with rapid and unprecedented results. Professor John Hawks is an expert on human evolution and genetics. He has done fieldwork in Africa, Asia, and Europe.

Public Events

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.

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.

Youth Field Schools

Egypt – grades 4–6
Learn about mummies, pyramids, and the people who lived in Egypt at the time of the pharaohs! Hands-on activities will include making a mummy case and mask, and writing a message in hieroglyphics. Cancellations prior to July 3 will receive a full refund minus a $40 cancellation fee. No refunds for cancellations after July 3.

Program Number: 81-43

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.

More Information
Contact MVAC at 608.785.8454 or e-mail mvac@uwlax.edu for more information on those and other MVAC programs.

Registration
Registration for fee events is administered through the Continuing Education Office, 205 Morrill Hall, UW-La Crosse, La Crosse, WI 54601. For more information, contact Karen DeSchepper at 608.785.6508. To register online, go to http://www.uwlax.edu/cont/young/archaeology.html.

To reserve a table for the Artifact Show or attend the Public Field Survey, contact Jean Dowiasch at jdowiasch@uwlax.edu or 608-785-8454.