JOIN US! You will be part of an excavation team that will be recovering information from sites, your contribution will matter!!!

This Year’s Midwestern Archaeology Field School will be held in Lebanon, IL focusing on two Pre-Columbian mound centers in the uplands surrounding Cahokia. We are teaming up with University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign’s Field School, led by Professor Timothy Pauketat, in order to investigate how and why these ancient people constructed their world, and to discover the secrets of religious practices in early Mississippian society.

WHY? At or about AD 1050, an American Indian city was built at Cahokia, opposite St. Louis, MO. During its “Big Bang,” the city’s central earthen pyramids and plazas were constructed, new towns were established, and missions were sent off to distant lands. The new trajectory of this ancient society (Mississippians) is directly linked with the rapid expansion of a unique Cahokian Religion. The primary location of our field school will be the Pfeffer and Emerald sites, both an integral part of this burgeoning religious movement.

OUR GOAL: To understand to role of immigrants in the creation and dispersal of the ancient Mississippian religion

BACKGROUND: This year, based upon magnetometry and GPR survey, and well-guided research questions, we will seek to gain insight into two of the least-understood yet most important sites in the region. At Pfeffer, we will excavate around the base of the Ford Mound and into the remains of buildings, pits and posts that surround it. Excavations at Emerald will explore the remains of a village, locating an ancient roadway, and testing of a large Mississippian mound. Past investigations at these sites have uncovered several temples and ceremonial structures. The ceramic assemblage includes several Yankeetown vessels, connecting excavations with our investigation of Yankeetown from southern Indiana.

You will learn: survey, site, feature and profile mapping, and feature excavation by digging 1000 year old houses and pits

You will learn: Magnetometry, GPS, and mapping with a Trimble Total Station

You will meet and enjoy lectures from top Midwest archaeologists and visit their field sites

You will learn how responsible archeology is conducted by working with multiple institutions and communities

Weekends are yours, visit St Louis, and enjoy local entertainment—visit Museums, Parks, Shopping, or Six Flags

APPLICATIONS: available in the anthropology office, in SB 054 or online:
http://www.indiana.edu/~anthro/people/faculty/2012%20Solving%20the%20Mystery%20of%20Yankeetown%20application.pdf

After fieldwork ends, there will be opportunities for students to follow-up and continue to study and earn course credit for lab analysis, student projects and honors projects. Student participation in professional presentations and public education will be encouraged. Housing Provided: Fee: $600 MAX* (may be less)

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Susan Alt susalt@indiana.edu or Maura Hogan mehogan@indiana.edu See previous digs on facebook: http://www.facebook.com/pages/Solving-the-Mystery-of-Yankeetown-Field-school/90933020763

THIS FIELD SCHOOL MEETS AND EXCEEDS PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS