

# M.A.R.I.

*Milford Archaeological Research Institute*

## Summer Field Class via PCC

Despite recent statewide budget cuts to public education, Pasadena City College pulled through for another summer season of the Field Archaeology class. In May, on a site visit to prepare for the upcoming field season, it had been discovered that the neighboring farmer had damaged a portion of the Mariville Property. Therefore, this year's class revolved around salvaging those portions of the site and documenting what was found during surveys and excavations, as well as documenting the damage done. Despite the saddening situation, the students' efforts were put to good use through the use of salvage methods in hopes of recovering any and all artifacts.

The class was headed by Mari Parker-Pritchard and as an added bonus, Dr. Jeanne Day Binning, Dr. Jill Minar of Fresno City College (FCC), and Mr. Steve Stacey assisted. The students of the field class of summer 2010 learned techniques in field archaeology such as unit excavation, surface scraping, screening, artifact identification, recording and

cataloging, soil composition, and surveying techniques.

Of additional benefit to the students was the help of the student volunteers - Jairo Avila, Omar Rice, and Yvonne Verser. With their help, new students gained valuable knowledge and field know-how.



**Figurines on display  
at the Fremont Museum**

Mr. Steve Stacey, provided training to each student in field surveying. Students were taught students how to read the stadia rods and emphasized the "precision is determined by repeatability" motto. Following the introduction to the survey tools, the students would read the measurements and document them. It

was hands on experience to a key component to any archaeological site.

The two week class was rich with site work, labs, field trips and lecture classes. There were also valuable hands on learning experiences such as Dr. Banning's flint knapping class. After a luxurious treat of having had a power-point lecture presented to the students at an air conditioned hotel conference room, Dr. Banning provided all of the necessary tools for the students for their try in flint knapping. The students all came in fully prepared as they had gathered their own obsidian specimens at the nearby obsidian quarry days before.

Field trips were a primary educational tool to the class; students went to the Fremont Museum and were able to see firsthand the types of artifacts that could be found at the very site they were working. Other trips included Pavant Butte, Lehman Caves, and Frisco Ghost Town. Parowan Gap boasted breathtaking petroglyphs and sunset views. Additionally, one of the many highlights of the course was the visit to the Southern Utah University's Archaeological Repository where Barbara Frank gave an in depth and hands on tour. The collection included artifacts from the Fremont, Virgin Anasazi, and the Paiute, although it was noted that the collection was primarily Virgin Anasazi.

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At the midway point of the two week session, the students received a day of rest. Some students went for hikes, others went white water rafting. Despite being given the day off, the students found themselves mostly staying together to enjoy adventures as a group!

Utah weather was as expected - hot during the day, windy in the afternoons, and cool in the evenings. Many of the students took advantage of the day use entrance fees at the nearby lake where they enjoyed hot showers and a place to swim after a day's work in the sun.

To end the two weeks with a bang, the class held a pot-luck dinner and enjoyed the July 4th weekend in Milford and joined in the parade. -K.J. Pruhs ■

## Voices

"My experience taking the archaeology field class was great. Its a great taste of what field work is like. I would recommend this class to students who plan on taking a field involved career path. My suggestions would be to stay on top of all your journal work and keep the complaints to yourself. Be involved and volunteer when needed. To get the full experience, participate in all that is taught." - Brandon Ryerson

"It was an eye-opening experience for me. I'm not much of a traveler, so going out of like this for a pretty long chunk of time and doing all the activities we did was a really great experience." - Alice Tokunaga

"Getting some background knowledge on the Fremont and the Anasazi wouldn't be a bad idea seeing how the dig and the majority of the field trips revolve around them. Even though I knew some going out there I regret not knowing more so that I could fully appreciate some of the sites that we visited." - Michael Suszycki

"The MARI experience, it was a blast throughout and I don't just mean the unrelenting wind/sand/heat. In fact, I may have learned the most in the group even though I was the oldest: I was amazed that there are so many people in the world who like to do what I like to do... dig dirt! I learned that at any age, it is important to set goals and then complete them. I learned that in shared hardship, lifelong bonds of friendship are forged." - Steven Roberts

"This year's students were a lot better prepared than in the past and quite a bit more intent in learning...I think the staff at PCC prepares the students much better than in the past and maybe I am getting more interesting stories about survey!" - Steve Stacey