

**Seventh Annual Workshop in Archaeology
October 7, 2023**

**“By Thought, Word and Deed: Ways of Expressing
Social Identity.”**

Sponsored by the Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village, the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, and the John Heinz History Center

Archaeology Day Workshop | October 7, 2023 | Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village

The theme for the 2023 Meadowcroft Workshop in Archaeology is to explore the way(s) individuals and groups express their social identity to the world around them. Clothing, carvings, textiles, and hairstyles are ideal for expressing identity, but these generally perish. Instead we are left with the durable artifacts made from stone, clay, bone, antler, metal, and glass.

To this list can be added architecture styles and landscapes. The speakers will address the different ways material culture and the built environment can be used to set us apart, as well as uniting us.

Morning Session (11:00 AM – 12:30 PM)

11:00 – 11:10 AM | Andrew Donovan, John Nass, and SPA Workshop Moderator | Welcome and Workshop Overview

11:10 – 11:40 | John Nass, Jr., *An Introduction to the Material Record of Individual and Group Expressions of Social Identity and Community*

11:40 – 12:30 PM | Jonathan A. Burns, Ph.D., Director of the Juniata College Cultural Resource Institute - **“Colonial Bling: Interpreting Social Identity through 18th Century Artifacts from Pennsylvania’s Frontier”**

Archaeology can provide a tangible glimpse into the social construction of identity during the 18th century by focusing on items of personal adornment from Pennsylvania’s colonial frontier. This presentation is a survey of small artifacts like buttons, charms, and watch keys excavated from French and Indian War-era archaeological sites including Fort Halifax (Dauphin County) Fort Shirley (Huntingdon County) and Fort Ligonier (Westmoreland County). In addition to being utilitarian, these artifacts that were left behind in the wake of colonial expansion into western Pennsylvania are also encoded with social identifiers, helping to provide a richer interpretation of history and life on the frontier.

Break 12:30-1:10 PM | LUNCH

Afternoon Session (1:10 – 3:30 PM)

1:10 – 2:00 PM | Brian Redmond, Ph.D., Curator Emeritus of Archaeology, Cleveland Museum of Natural History - ***Archaeological Expressions of Social Identity in Late Precontact Northern Ohio: Pipes and Pottery***

Aspects of social identity are expressed in myriad ways across the globe. In most North American, pre-European contact groups, however, such expressions are limited to what is preserved in the Archaeological record, which often is very little. Among precontact Indigenous societies of northern Ohio, material remains most likely reflecting social identity are stone pipes and decorated pottery. The archaeological correlates of these past ethnic entities are known as the Whittlesey and Sandusky traditions. This presentation will describe representative examples of such artifact classes and offer some thoughts on what these assemblages may tell us about territoriality, exchange, and ethnic identity.

2:00 – 2:50 PM | Amy Hirshman, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, West Virginia University - ***“Ethnicity, class, and gender through a ceramic lens: Dimensions of identity in the Lake Patzcuaro Basin, Michoacan, Mexico”***

While "social identity" is a broad, multi-scaler concept in the social sciences, it has utility in directing our gaze upon the impact of larger social forces affecting groups and individuals, including those we can only know from the artifactual remnants that they left behind in the archaeological record. Three dimensions of social identity—ethnicity, class, and gender—provide analytical structure to this consideration of the people and potters of the Late Postclassic Tarascan State (AD 1350-1522), found in what is now Western Mexico. Ceramic artifacts act as a “lens” to sharpen the focus of this archaeological inquiry of the people experiencing the emergence of the state and state identity, class formation, and daily lives of some of the citizens of this political entity.

Break 2:50 – 3:00 PM

3:00 – 3:30 PM | *Question & Answer/Conclusion*

PARTICIPANTS

John Nass, Jr. (Ph.D.) is Professor Emeritus, Anthropology Program, California University of Pennsylvania. He received his MA in 1980 from Western Michigan University and his Ph.D. in 1987 from The Ohio State University. Before taking a position with California University in 1990, he was the senior archaeologist with Archaeological Services Consultants, Inc., based in Columbus, Ohio.

His research interests include colonial and 19th fortifications, food studies, late pre-contact Native American populations in the Ohio Valley, pre-contact agricultural systems, and Native American tool function.

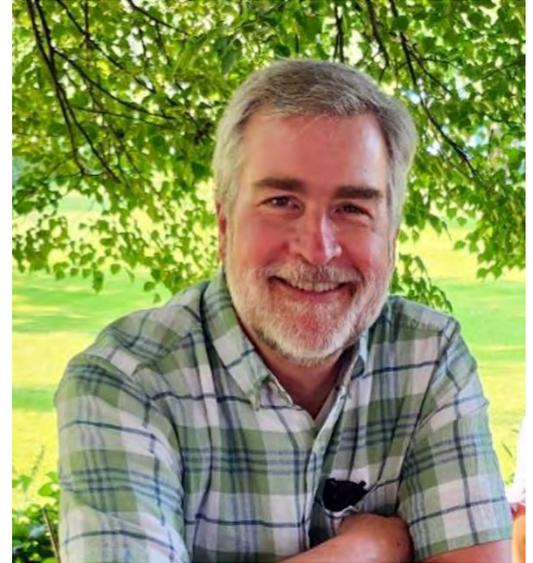


Jonathan Burns (Ph.D.) is an active North American Archaeologist having received his MA in 1996 from Colorado State University and his PhD. In 2009 from Temple University. He has been with Juniata College for thirteen years, starting as a Lecturer in International Studies and Anthropology in 2010. He became the Director of the Cultural Resource Institute (CRI), a research platform for historic preservation projects and student training, in 2015. In this capacity, he oversees artifact processing and curation in the CRI laboratory on campus. Since 2017, Jonathan has headed the Juniata College Veterans Archaeology Program at Fort Ligonier—an initiative that offers continuing education to U.S. military veterans.

Jonathan's research interests include colonial fortifications, battlefields, and prehistoric technology. He currently conducts archaeological research at several French and Indian War sites in Pennsylvania dating between 1755 and 1758. This work serves to highlight ethnic diversity and the roots of globalization during North America's colonial era, through historic preservation projects focused on material culture.



Brian G. Redmond (Ph.D.) is Curator Emeritus of Archaeology for the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. He is a native Clevelander and joined the Museum in 1994. Dr. Redmond received his Ph.D. in Anthropology from Indiana University in 1990 and began studies in Anthropology at the University of Toledo where he received the Bachelor of Arts degree in 1981 and the Master of Arts and Education degree in 1985. He also maintains an appointment as adjunct Associate Professor of Anthropology at Case Western Reserve University.



Dr. Redmond began doing field work in 1978 and has carried out surveys and excavations at numerous pre-European contact Native American sites in the lower Ohio Valley and Great Lakes regions. His major research interests include Paleo/Clovis bone modification, Archaic and Woodland ritualism in northern Ohio, and the development of settled village life and community organization in the lower Great Lakes region.

Some of his recent research topics include the analysis of the late Pleistocene-age Firelands Ground sloth from Huron County Ohio, Woodland ceremonialism at the Heckelman site in Erie County, Ohio, and Late Archaic period (ca 2000 BC) sedentism and ritual at the Burrell Orchard site in Lorain County, Ohio.

Amy J. Hirshman (Ph.D., Michigan State University) is an Associate Professor of Anthropology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at West Virginia University. Her primary research focus is on the potters and ceramic political economy of the Tarascan (P'urépecha) State (AD 1350-1522) of western Mexico. Her work is published in several edited volumes and archaeological journals, such as *Ancient Mesoamerica*, *Journal of Archaeological Sciences*, and *Latin American Antiquity*. Most recently, she completed the public exhibit “Hidden No More: The Enduring Impact of Native American and Enslaved People on the Evansdale Neighborhood and WVU Campus”

(<https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/hidden-no-more/>)



Additional Activities:

Artifact identification - Archaeology Room, Mon-Yough Chapter #3, Society for Penn. Archaeology

**Archaeological Site Recording – Archaeology Room, State Historic Preservation Office, Taylor
Napoleon**

Flint Knapping Demonstration – Monongahela Village – Steve Nissly

Weaving Demonstration – Visitor’s Center, Lori Stewart

PROGRAM NOTES