Mercyhurst Archaeological Institute seeks field crew for Vero excavation

Mercyhurst Archaeological Institute (MAI), in cooperation with Old Vero Ice Age Sites Committee (OVIASC), is seeking 12 archaeological field technicians for an upcoming Phase III excavation at the Old Vero Site (8IR9) in Vero Beach, Florida.

Site Background Information

In 1913, construction efforts on a drainage canal exposed the well preserved remains of Late Pleistocene flora and fauna (e.g. mammoth, mastodon, dire wolf) in Vero, Florida. The material was brought to the attention of the then state geologist Dr. E. H. Sellards, who consequently investigated and published on findings in the area through the mid 1900s. In addition to unique and well preserved flora and megafauna, the site also yielded human skeletal remains, lithic, and ceramic artifacts. The discovery of human and megafauna remains and artifacts, from purportedly the same deposits, generated a great deal of controversy as Sellards claimed that humans and megafauna were contemporaneous and associated at Vero. This claim attracted the attention of many anthropologists including Aleš Hrdlička who argued that the human and megafauna remains were not recovered *in situ* and, therefore, Sellards implications were unscientific and thus unsupported.

Very little work has occurred at Vero since 1916 and the goal of the 2014 investigation is to conduct a methodical, well documented excavation in order to precisely establish the age of the stratigraphic sequence, flora, fauna, human remains, and human artifacts, which will allow us to accurately determine the formation processes and prehistoric uses of the site.

The Old Vero Site excavation is scheduled to begin in early January of 2014 and end by May 10, 2014. Lodging and field vehicles will be provided, in addition to $51 per diem. Crew should expect to work 10 hours a day which may include weekends. Preference will be given to individuals who are able to commit to most of, or the entire four month time frame.

Job Responsibilities

Field crew will have various responsibilities in the field, and when necessary, in the field laboratory. These responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Data recovery (excavation, assisting with total station operation, photography, etc.)
- Assisting in field conservation of flora, fauna, and artifacts
- Working with or supervising volunteers
- Preliminary processing or stabilization of artifacts
- Crew members must have a positive attitude and strong work ethic

Work in both the field and field laboratory will be under the supervision of the field directors.
Qualifications

Field crew must either currently hold, or be working towards, a Bachelor's degree in anthropology/archaeology or geology and must have completed at least one archaeological field school or have equivalent field experience in Phase III excavations. Crew must also have basic knowledge of archaeological data recovery methods.

Project assignments will require a combination of meticulous and strenuous field and laboratory work and individuals must be able to sit, kneel, stand and be outdoors for long periods of time in variable weather conditions. In both the field and laboratory, heavy lifting is frequently required and crew members must be able to lift and move up to 50 pounds and occasionally lift and move up to 100 pounds. Crew must also be knowledgeable of proper and safe equipment usage.

Interested individuals must submit a copy of their curriculum vitae to Anne Marjenin via email at amarjenin@mercyhurst.edu. Documents must be submitted by December 15, 2013.