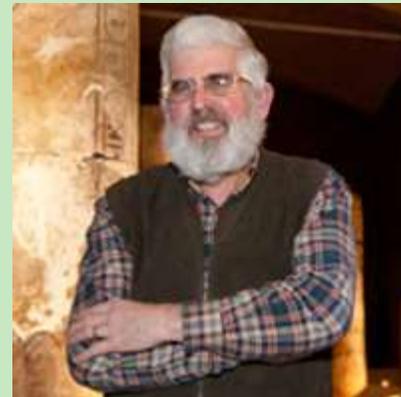


EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Summer Science Research Initiative

Regent Beth Fitzsimmons Lectures



Dr. Patrick McGovern

Scientific Director of the Biomolecular
Archaeology Project for Cuisine, Fermented
Beverages, and Health
University of Pennsylvania Museum

**Thursday, June 14, 4 pm
and Friday, June 15, 1:30 pm
both lectures in 154 Science Complex**

Dr. Patrick E. McGovern is the Scientific Director of the Biomolecular Archaeology Project for Cuisine, Fermented Beverages, and Health at the University of Pennsylvania Museum in Philadelphia. He is also an Adjunct Professor of Anthropology. His academic background combined the physical sciences, archaeology, and history—an A.B. in Chemistry from Cornell University, graduate work in neurochemistry at the University of Rochester, and a Ph.D. in Near Eastern Archaeology and Literature from the Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Department of the University of Pennsylvania.

Over the past two decades, he has pioneered the emerging field of Molecular Archaeology. In addition to being engaged in a wide range of other archaeological chemical studies, including radiocarbon dating, cesium magnetometer surveying, colorant analysis of ancient glasses and pottery technology, his endeavors of late have focused on the organic analysis of vessel contents and dyes, particularly Royal Purple, wine, and beer. The chemical confirmation of the earliest instances of these organics—Royal Purple dating to ca. 1300-1200 B.C. and wine and beer dating to ca. 3500-3100B.C.—received wide media coverage. A 1996 article published in *Nature*, the international scientific journal, pushed the earliest date for wine back another 2000 years—to the Neolithic period (ca. 5400-5000B.C.). His research—showing what Molecular Archaeology is capable of achieving—has involved reconstructing the “King Midas funerary feast” (*Nature* 402, Dec. 23, 1999: 863-64) and chemically confirming the earliest fermented beverage from anywhere in the world—Neolithic China, some 9000 years ago, where pottery jars were shown to contain a mixed drink of rice, honey, and grape/hawthorn tree fruit (*Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA* 101.51: 17593-98). Most recently, he and colleagues identified the earliest beverage made from cacao (chocolate) from a site in Honduras, dated to ca. 1150 B.C., and an herbal wine from Dynasty 0 in Egypt.

He is the author of *Ancient Wine: The Search for the Origins of Viniculture* (Princeton University Press, 2003), and most recently, *Uncorking the Past: The Quest for Wine, Beer, and Other Alcoholic Beverages* (Berkeley: University of California, 2009). In addition to over 100 periodical articles, McGovern has also written or edited 10 books, including *The Origins and Ancient History of Wine* (Gordon and Breach, 1996), *Organic Contents of Ancient Vessels* (MASCA, 1990), *Cross-Craft and Cross-Cultural Interactions in Ceramics* (American Ceramic Society, 1989), and *Late Bronze Palestinian Pendants: Innovation in a Cosmopolitan Age* (Sheffield, 1985). In 2000, his book on the Foreign Relations of the “Hyksos,” a scientific study of Middle Bronze pottery in the Eastern Mediterranean, was published by Archaeopress.

SSRI is sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences