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## **Mackinac State Historic Parks Announces Staff Appointments, Promotions**

MACKINAC ISLAND, MICH. — Mackinac State Historic Parks (MSHP) is pleased to announce the hirings of Alex Michnick as Archaeology Inventory Assistant, Joshua Maynard as Information Technology Technician, Jack Swartzinski as Interpretation Coordinator, and Brandon Blaskowski as Accountant. In addition, MSHP is pleased to announce the promotions of Brian Jaeschke to Curator of Collections, LeeAnn Ewer to Curator of Interpretation, and Judy Elmore and Lori Thornton to Accounting Technicians.

“We announce these hirings and promotions with confidence that all bring excellent skills and experience to their various positions,” said Steve Brisson, Mackinac State Historic Parks Director.

Michnick started in his role October 17 and is based out of the Petersen Center in Mackinaw City. He is from West Michigan and graduated from Grand Valley State University with a degree in Anthropology and History. Michnick spent the summer of 2022 on the archaeology crew at Colonial Michilimackinac where he became acquainted with Mackinac State Historic Parks. He has had the opportunity to take part in several archaeological projects and curation tasks from Middle/Late Woodland indigenous sites to nineteenth-century American Fur Company trading posts in the Grand River Valley in addition to his time with MSHP.

“I am an anthropologist at heart and have a beloved appreciation for all things colonial history,” Michnick said. “I will enjoy the parts of my new role dealing with discovering or understanding the

cultural contexts of the artifacts I'm inventorying. I'm pleased to continue my career with such a storied organization that remains a stronghold of historic preservation in the Great Lakes region and beyond."

Maynard started in his role October 31 and will be based out of the Petersen Center in Mackinaw City. He is originally from Rogers City and received his associates degree from Alpena Community College in Network Administration. In his role he'll oversee network and software administration, support security, will serve as IT asset coordination, telecommunications support, and other IT-related duties. Maynard served as the Information Technology Intern for MSHP this past summer.

"I have a passion for technology, learning new things and helping people," Maynard said. "I'm looking forward to the learning opportunities working for MSHP will offer."

Swartzinski also started in his current role on October 31. He will be based out of the Petersen Center in the winter months and at the Post Hospital Administration Building on Mackinac Island in the summer months. Swartzinski worked as a seasonal interpreter at Fort Mackinac in 2021, served as an Archival Intern during the 2021-22 winter, and was Lead Interpreter at Fort Mackinac during the 2022 season. Originally from Northville, Swartzinski graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a degree in Political Science and Public Administration. In his role he'll oversee the interpretive staff at Fort Mackinac and Historic Downtown Mackinac.

"The dedication and passion MSHP has towards its guests and history was a driving motivator in making the decision to stay here full time," Swartzinski said. "I'm looking forward to not only taking on this new role, but also being a contributing member to the larger goals of the organization and hopefully being a helpful co-worker."

Blaskowski started in his role November 28 and is based out of the Petersen Center in Mackinaw City. Originally from Cheboygan, Blaskowski attended Northwood University for Hospitality Management and Marketing/Advertising and received an MBA from The DeVos Graduate School at Northwood University. He has worked in hospitality management, insurance, retail, at Walt Disney World, and most recently with the City of Cheboygan. He is a sports enthusiast and enjoys spending time with his family.

“I am very excited to be joining the MSHP team, and I am looking forward to working with everyone,” Blaskowski said.

Jaeschke has been employed by Mackinac State Historic Parks since 2006 as Registrar and has offices at the Petersen Center in Mackinaw City and at the Heritage Center on Mackinac Island. He manages Mackinac State Historic Parks’ vast collection. Ewer started as a seasonal interpreter on Mackinac Island in 2007 and has steadily worked her way into various promotions, spending the past few seasons as Interpretive Assistant. Her responsibilities in her new role will include overseeing daily interpretation at Colonial Michilimackinac and Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse in Mackinaw City. Elmore and Thornton were both hired in 2017; Elmore as General Office Assistant and Thornton as Accounting Assistant. Both have assumed additional accounting responsibilities while working for Mackinac State Historic Parks, and their titles reflect their expanded roles.

Mackinac State Historic Parks has more than 40 full-time, year- ‘round staff between Mackinaw City and Mackinac Island. During the summer months Mackinac State Historic Parks will employ more than 150 people. More information about Mackinac State Historic Parks can be found online at [mackinacparks.com](http://mackinacparks.com). A downloadable version of this release can be found [here](#). Pictures available upon request.

*Mackinac State Historic Parks, a family of living history museums and parks in northern Michigan’s Straits of Mackinac, is an agency within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Its sites—which are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums—include Fort Mackinac, the Biddle House, The Richard & Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, the American Fur Co. Store & Dr. Beaumont Museum, McGulpin House, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park and Michilimackinac State Park in Mackinaw City. Mackinac State Historic Parks is governed by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, established in 1895 to protect, preserve and present the parks’ rich historic and natural resources for the education and recreation of future generations. Visitor information is available at (231) 436-4100 or online at [www.mackinacparks.com](http://www.mackinacparks.com).*

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