Meet Larry Kinsella: Larry was raised in a log cabin in Fairview Heights, Illinois. He has been a carpenter for 50 years. Marilyn, his wife of 46 years, is a professional storyteller and volunteers at Cahokia Mounds. They have three children and one grandchild. He is an amateur archaeologist, a skilled flintknapper, and president of the Cahokia Archaeological Society.

Active in Archaeology: Larry recalled, “The thing that got me interested in archaeology was hunting arrowheads on the farm starting as a young boy.” His introduction to CM was a group driving tour. “After I found Cahokia Mounds in the 60s, I thought it could be more than it was. It’s changed a lot.” Since his first digs in the 70s, he has been on over 80 digs. With logs from his family farm and stone tools, Larry helped construct Woodhenge and the stockade around the Pit House at the old museum. He has received several awards, including the Don Crabtree Award (2010) from the Society for American Anthropology for significant contributions to advance understandings of archaeology. “It was one of the highlights of my life.”

Volunteering at CM: Besides helping with reconstruction projects and digs, Larry demonstrates and teaches flintknapping and primitive skills at CM. He makes a point (pun intended) of helping children realize their hard work in producing something tangible gives them pride. Larry said, “I enjoy interacting with the visitors from around the world. We have so many international visitors here and they know the place better than we do.” Larry is passionate about volunteering. “We’re all doing what we love and it really shows.” Thank you, Larry, for 35 years of exceptional commitment to Cahokia Mounds. For information on volunteering, call 618-346-5160.

Our spring intern is Dean Gunderson. He graduated with a BS in Geography with a minor in Anthropology in 2008 and is now a graduate student at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville where he is finishing his masters degree in Geographical Studies. While here he will be putting together a temporary exhibit about the Eastern Agricultural Complex, and contributed an article for the Cahokian. Dean’s interests include plants and their uses, human interaction with plants and their environment, and how those interactions vary across time and space. He is a gardener and forager himself and is writing his thesis on community gardening in St. Louis City.

Gabrielle Allan is a practicum student (intern) with the George Warren Brown School of Social Work and the Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Studies at Washington University, St. Louis. Gabby is and is of Navajo/Turtle Mountain Chippewa heritage, is from Gallup, New Mexico, and she is working on her Master of Social Work. She has been working closely with site director Mark Esarey, learning about the intricacies of operating a historic site and all the related aspects of management, marketing, interpretation, and various logistics. She has written an article for this issue of the Cahokian, on the use of Indian related mascots, and she is also preparing a temporary exhibit that will deal with Indian stereotypes, cultural diversity and modern perspectives of Indian people.