CURRICULUM VITAE

MICHAEL C. DiBLASI

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Education:

Ph.D.	anthropology–archaeology, Boston University, 1986
M.A.	anthropology–archaeology, Boston University, 1976
Student	University of Arizona Archaeological Field School, Grasshopper Pueblo, 1975
B.A., cum laude	anthropology, Pennsylvania State University, 1973

Research interests:

Late Holocene archaeology of northeast Africa (Ethiopia, Eritrea); environmental history and human ecology; archaeological palynology; development of complex societies

Courses taught:

Introduction to Physical Anthropology and Archaeology Introduction to Human Evolution Physico-chemical Methods of Analysis in Archaeology Quantitative Methods in Archaeology Environmental and Ecological Archaeology Data Processing in Archaeology Archaeological Theory and Methods Fieldwork and Excavation Pleistocene Geography Language and History in Africa Middle and Late Holocene Archaeology of Northeast Africa

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Professional positions:

2005-present	Associate Director, Program for the Study of the African Environment, African
2011-present	Studies Center, Boston University Adjunct Associate Professor of Archaeology, Department of Archaeology, Boston University
2001	Acting Assistant Director, African Studies Center, Boston University
1998-2000	Assistant to the Director, African Studies Center, Boston University
1995	Acting Assistant Director, African Studies Center, Boston University
1995-2011	Adjunct Assistant Professor of Archaeology, Department of Archaeology,
	Boston University
1991–present	Research Fellow, African Studies Center, Boston University
1990–92	Humanities Program Coordinator, African Studies Center, Boston University
1990–91	Acting Assistant Director, African Studies Center, Boston University
1987–89	Fulbright Scholar and Visiting Lecturer, Department of Archaeology, Obafemi
	Awolowo University, Ile–Ife, Nigeria
1979–87	Lecturer on Anthropology, Metropolitan College, Boston University
1978	Research Associate, Department of History, University of Nairobi, Kenya
1974	Research Assistant, The Axum Project, Department of Anthropology, Pennsylvania
	State University

Related professional experience:

2006-present	Publications Editor, African Studies Center, Boston University
2005-present	Member, Executive Board, African Studies Center, Boston University
2005–present	Editor, The International Journal of African Historical Studies, African Studies Center,
-	Boston University
2004-2005	Editorial Associate, Publications Program, African Studies Center, Boston University
1997-2003	Book Review Editor, Journal of Field Archaeology
1996–1997	Acting Publications Editor, African Studies Center, Boston University
1992–1998	Member, Editorial Advisory Board, NIGERIAN HERITAGE: Journal of the National
	Commission for Museums and Monuments (Nigeria)

Grants & Awards:

2006	National Science Foundation, Planning Visit Grant (grant # 0554693, co-principal investigator; Holocene landscapes in the Aksum region of northern Ethiopia)
2003	US Department of State, Cultural Specialist Program (Yeha, Ethiopia)
2000	Boston University Humanities Foundation Grant (African Material Culture in Its
	Context)
1996-2000	National Geographic Society Research Grants (co-principal investigator;
	archaeological research at Aksum, Ethiopia)
1996	Boston University Humanities Foundation Grant (Art and Artifact)
1992, 1993	USIA Academic Specialist Program (Nigeria)
1987–1989	Fulbright Scholar Program (Nigeria)
1980	Sigma Xi Society Special Research Award
1978–79	Fulbright–Hays Grant for Graduate Research (Kenya)

Research and field experience:

2006-present	Co-principal Investigator; The Evolution of Holocene Cultural Landscapes in the Aksum Region of Northern Ethiopia.
2005-2012	Project Research Associate; The Agroecology of Maize and Malaria in Ethiopia. James McCann, Principal Investigator.
2003	Field Director; The Boston University–Università di Napoli "L'Orientale" Archaeological Expedition at Bieta Giyorgis, Aksum, Ethiopia.
2003	Program Coordinator and Project Archaeologist; Needs Assessment for Restoration and Maintenance of the Yeha Temple, Tigray, Ethiopia.
1996–2002	Field Director; The Boston University–Istituto Universitario Orientale (Naples) Archaeological Expedition at Bieta Giyorgis, Aksum, Ethiopia.
1995	Excavation supervisor (Ona Nagast I and III); The Boston University–Istituto Universitario Orientale (Naples) Archaeological Expedition at Bieta Giyorgis, Aksum, Ethiopia.
1994	Exploratory studies of pollen preservation and pollen record formation processes in Aksum. The Boston University–Istituto Universitario Orientale (Naples) Archaeological Expedition at Bieta Giyorgis, Aksum, Ethiopia.
1994	Participant; Kibale Workshop on the History of Land Use in Africa, Kibale Forest, Uganda.
1993	Archaeological reconnaissance in the Mbe Mountains region of Cross River National Park–Okwangwo Division, Cross River State, Nigeria.
1992	Consultant for program development in archaeological research and training; National Commission for Museums and Monuments, Lagos, Nigeria.
1992	Archaeological reconnaissance of the Okwangwo Forest Reserve, Cross River National Park–Okwangwo Division, Cross River State, Nigeria.
1992	Archaeological reconnaissance of the Aksum region, Tigray Province, Ethiopia.
1988–1989	Supervisor; The Asunle Excavation, Department of Archaeology, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile–Ife, Nigeria.
1988	Consulting archaeologist; archaeological survey of Oyo (Yoruba) Kingdom settlements in the Koso and Ipapo–Ile regions, Kwara State, Nigeria.
1987–1989	Archaeological reconnaissance of the Olu Oke–Aladura Hill region, Ile–Ife, Osun State, Nigeria.
1984	Consulting archaeologist; exploratory excavation at Boott Mill, Building No. 6, Lowell, MA; T. Mahlstedt, Principal Investigator.
1984	Consulting archaeologist; laboratory analysis and interpretation of palynological samples from the Reedy Meadow Brook site, Palynology Laboratory, Dept. of Archaeology, Boston University; Dr. G. Kelso, Director.

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1983	Consulting archaeologist; Phase II survey and test excavation, Park Meadow Pond Project, Braintree, MA; Office of Public Archaeology, Boston University; Dr. R. Elia, Director.
1983	Consulting archaeologist; Phase II survey and test excavation, Pepperell, MA Sewer Extension and Appurtenant Works Project; T. Mahlstedt, Principal Investigator.
1983	Consulting archaeologist; Phase III excavation of the Reedy Meadow Brook Site, a Late Archaic–Middle Woodland occupation in Pepperell, MA; T. Mahlstedt, Principal Investigator.
1982	Consulting archaeologist; Phase II survey and test excavation, Ward Hill Project, Haverhill, MA; Dr. R. Elia, Principal Investigator.
1980–1981	Laboratory analysis of palynological samples from Kwamboo, an Early Iron Age site in central Kenya; Palynology Laboratory, Dept. of Archaeology, Boston University; Dr. G. Kelso, Director.
1980	Research consultant for African ethnology and ecology; The Boston Zoological Society/Franklin Park Zoo; Dr. Hans Guggenheim, Project Coordinator.
1979	Analysis of Early and Later Iron Age ceramic collections from central Kenya; National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi.
1978–1979	Co-director; The Ithanga Hills Archaeology Project; survey and excavation, eastern highlands of Kenya.
1977	Consulting archaeologist; Phase I archaeological survey, Monson Sewage Line Project, Monson, MA; T. Mahlstedt, Principal Investigator.
1977	Consulting archaeologist; Phase I archaeological survey and test excavation, Millbury, MA, Waterline Project; T. Mahlstedt, Principal Investigator.
1977	Instructor and field supervisor; Boston University Archaeological Field School, Temple, New Hampshire; Dr. F. Gorman and Dr. D. Starbuck, Directors.
1977	Co-director; Phase I survey and test excavation, Ayer Wastewater Treatment Facility Project, Ayer, MA.
1977	Co-director; Phase I survey and test excavation, North Andover, MA Resource Recovery Facility Project.
1976	Field assistant; The Tellico Archaeological Project, McClung Museum, University of Tennessee; Dr. J. Chapman, Director.
1975	Student; University of Arizona Archaeological Field School, Grasshopper Pueblo; Dr. W.A. Longacre, Director.
1974	Research assistant and field supervisor; The Axum Project, Tigray Province, Ethiopia, Pennsylvania State University; Prof. J.W. Michels, Director.
1973	Field assistant; archaeological survey, The Columbia Reservoir Project, Department of Anthropology, University of Tennessee; Dr. D. Bruce Dickson, Director.

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Publications:

Articles

DiBlasi, M.

2012 "Aksum," in Neil A. Silberman, ed., *The Oxford Companion to Archaeology*, Vol. 1, 2nd Edition. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 47–49.

Tsige Gebru, Zewdu Eshetu, Tadesse Woldemariam, Nikki Strong, Mohammed Umer, **Michael DiBlasi**, Valery Terwilliger

- 2009 "Holocene Palaeovegetation of the Tigray Plateau in Northern Ethiopia from Charcoal and Stable Organic Isotopic Analyses of Ravines. "*Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology,* 282: 67–80.
- Schmid, T., M. Koch, M. DiBlasi, and Miruts Hagos
- 2008 "Spatial and spectral analysis of soil surface properties for an archeological area in Aksum, Ethiopia, applying high and medium resolution data." *CATENA* 75: 93–101.

Bard, K., M. DiBlasi, R. Fattovich, A. Manzo, C. Perlingieri, F. Sulas, L. Phillipson, and S. Tilia

2002 "The IUO–BU Archaeological Expedition at Bieta Giyorgis (Aksum), 2002 Field Season—A Preliminary Report." *Nyame Akuma* 57: 2–6.

Fattovich, R., A. Manzo, M. DiBlasi, and C. D'Andrea

2001 "The IUO–BU Joint Archaeological Expedition at Bieta Giyorgis (Aksum, Ethiopia): 2000 Field Season." *Nyame Akuma* 55: 15–22.

Bard, K., M. Coltorti, M. DiBlasi, F. Dramis, and R. Fattovich

2000 "The Environmental History of Tigray (Northern Ethiopia) in the Middle and Late Holocene: A Preliminary Outline." *African Archaeological Review*, Vol. 17, no. 2; pp. 65–86.

Fattovich, R., Y. Beyene, C. D'Andrea, M. DiBlasi, and A. Manzo

- 2000 "Scavi Archeologici Nella Zona Di Aksum. I. (Bieta Giyorgis)." *Rassegna di Studi Etiopici* Vol. XLIII (1999): 43–63.
- Bard, K., M. DiBlasi, R. Fattovich, A. Manzo, C. Perlingieri, C. D'Andrea, and L. Chaix
- 1998 "The IUO and BU Archaeological Expedition at Bieta Giyorgis (Aksum): 1998 Field Season." *Nyame Akuma* 50: 10–12.
- Bard, K., M. DiBlasi, R. Fattovich, A. Manzo, C. Perlingieri, and L. Crescenzi,
- 1996 "The B.U.–I.U.O. Archaeological Excavations at Bieta Giyorgis (Aksum, Ethiopia): A Preliminary Report of the 1996 Field Season." *Nyame Akuma* 45: 21–23.

DiBlasi, Michael

1996 "Human–Environmental Relationships and the Aksumite State: Recent Archaeological Research at Beta Giyorgis, Aksum, Ethiopia." *MOTHER TONGUE*. *Newsletter of the Association for the Study of Language in Prehistory*, No. 27, pp. 16–17.

DiBlasi, Michael

1993 "Ecology and Culture History in Cross River National Park, Nigeria." *Africana Bulletin* No. 8 (May); pp. 1,4.

Gorman, F., and M. DiBlasi

1981 "Gravestone Iconography and Mortuary Ideology of South Carolina and Georgia." ETHNOHISTORY 28 (1): 79–98.

Mahlstedt, T., and M. DiBlasi

1978 "Archaeological Survey of the Ithanga Hills, Eastern Highlands of Kenya: Preliminary Analysis." *AZANIA* 13: 192–193.

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Books, Monographs

DiBlasi, Michael

n.d. *Daamat and Aksum: The Rise of State and Empire in the Horn of Africa.* Critical Themes in African Studies. Boston: African Studies Center, Boston University; in preparation.

Book chapters

DiBlasi, Michael

2005 "Foreword," in Joseph W. Michels, *Changing Settlement Patterns in the Aksum-Yeha Region of Ethiopia:* 700 BC–AD 850; Cambridge Monographs in African Archaeology, 64, British Archaeological Reports International Series 1446, Oxford: Archaeopress; pp. ix–xvii.

Bard, K., **M. DiBlasi**, M. Koch, L. Crescenzi, A.C. D'Andrea, R. Fattovich, A. Manzo, C. Perlingieri, M. Forte, M.S. Harris, G. Johnson, S. Tilia and B. Trabassi

2003 The Joint Archaeological Project at Bieta Giyorgis (Aksum, Ethiopia) of the Istituto Universitario Orientale, Naples (Italy), and Boston University, Boston (USA): Results, Research Procedures and Preliminary Computer Applications." In M. Forte and P. R. Williams, eds., *The Reconstruction of Archaeological Landscapes Through Digital Technologies*. British Archaeological Reports International Series 1151; Oxford: Archaeopress, pp. 1–13.

DiBlasi, M., M. Koch, A. Manzo, C. Perlingieri, and J.M. Sisón

2003 "GIS Applications for Research and Archaeological Resource Management in Aksum, Ethiopia." Proceedings of the 30th CAA Conference, Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology; Vienna, Austria, April 8–12, 2003.

DiBlasi, Michael

1997 "Pollen–analytical Approaches to the Study of Late Holocene Environmental History and Human Ecology on the Shire Plateau of Northern Ethiopia." In K. Bard, ed., *The Environmental History and Human Ecology of Northern Ethiopia in the Late Holocene*. Studi Africanistici, Serie Etiopica 5. Naples: Istituto Universitario Orientale; pp. 45–80.

DiBlasi, Michael

1994 "An Agenda for Palynological Research on Late Holocene Environmental History and Human Ecology in Northern Ethiopia." In H.G. Marcus, ed., New Trends in Ethiopian Studies: Papers of the 12th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, Vol. II. Lawrenceville: Red Sea Press; pp. 675–687.

DiBlasi, Michael

1990 "Standardizing Methods for the Description of Pottery Assemblages in Nigeria." In J.F. Jemkur and Z.A. Gundu, eds., *Archaeology and Society: Implications for National Development*. Zaria: Archaeological Association of Nigeria; pp. 29–36.

Gorman, F., and M. DiBlasi

1977 "Nonchronological sources of variation in the seriation of gravestone motifs in the northeast and southeast colonies." In P. Benes, ed., *Puritan Gravestone Art*. Boston: Boston University Press; pp. 79–87.

Bard, K., M. DiBlasi, R. Fattovich, A. Manzo, and C. Perlingieri

n.d. "Settlements." In K. Bard, R. Fattovich, eds., From Articact to Landscape. Archaeological Research at Bieta Giyorgis, Aksum, Ethiopia: 1993–2003.

DiBlasi, Michael

n.d. "Palynology of Archaeological Sediments from Bieta Giyorgis." In K. Bard, R. Fattovich, eds., From Artifact to Landscape. Archaeological Research at Bieta Giyorgis Hill, Aksum, Ethiopia: 1993– 2003.

DiBlasi, M., R. Fattovich, M.S. Harris, G. Johnson, M. Koch, A., Manzo, C. Perlingieri

n.d. "Spatial Analysis." In K. Bard, R. Fattovich, eds., From Artifact to Landscape. Archaeological Research at Bieta Giyorgis Hill, Aksum, Ethiopia: 1993–2003.

DiBlasi, M., R. Fattovich, A. Manzo, and F. Sulas

n.d. "Archaeological Survey on Bieta Giyorgis: a landscape approach." In K. Bard, R. Fattovich, eds., *From Artifact to Landscape. Archaeological Research at Bieta Giyorgis Hill, Aksum, Ethiopia:* 1993–2003.

Fattovich, R., and M. DiBlasi

n.d. "Administrative Devices, Figurines, Grinding Stones, and Miscellaneous Artifacts." In K. Bard, R. Fattovich, eds., *From Artifact to Landscape. Archaeological Research at Bieta Giyorgis Hill, Aksum, Ethiopia:* 1993–2003.

Technical reports

Fattovich, R., A. Manzo, M. DiBlasi, C. D'Andrea, and L. Crescenzi

2000 *The IUO–BU Archaeological Expedition at Bieta Giyorgis (Aksum): 2000 Field Season.* Technical Report to the Center for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Bard, K., **M. DiBlasi**, R. Fattovich, A. Manzo, C. Perlingieri, C. D'Andrea, L. Chaix, R. Silverman, N. Sobania, and E. Puntel

1998 *The IUO–BU Archaeological Expedition at Bieta Giyorgis (Aksum): 1998 Field Season.* Technical Report to the Center for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

DiBlasi, Michael

1997 "Pollen Analysis of Sediment Samples from Ona Nagast IV–V, Bieta Giyorgis, Aksum." Report to the Center for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

DiBlasi, Michael

1997 "ON VII/ON VIII." In K. Bard and R. Fattovich, eds., *The 1997 BU/IUO Excavations at Bieta Giyorgis, Aksum: A Preliminary Report;* pp. 17–33; Report to the Center for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Bard, K., M. DiBlasi, R. Fattovich, A. Manzo, C. Perlingieri, and L. Crescenzi

1996 *The BU–IUO Archaeological Expedition at Bieta Giyorgis (Aksum, Ethiopia): 1996 Field Season.* Report to the National Geographic Society Committee for Research and Exploration.

DiBlasi, Michael

1996 *Results of the Analysis of Archaeological Pollen Samples from Beta Giyorgis, Aksum.* Report to the Center for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

DiBlasi, Michael

1995 "Preliminary Results of the Analysis of Pollen Samples from Ona Enda Aboi Zagwe III (OAZ III), Beta Giyorgis, Aksum" (unpublished technical report).

DiBlasi, Michael

1995 "Pollen Analysis." In R. Fattovich and K. Bard, eds., *The IUO–BU Archaeological Investigations at Bieta Giyorgis (Aksum, Tirgay): 1994 and 1995 Field Seasons*. Report to the Center for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage (CRCCH), Ministry of Culture, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; p. 34.

DiBlasi, Michael

1993 *Cultural Resource Management in the Mbe Mountains, Cross River National Park.* Report to the Nigerian National Parks Board, Abuja, Nigeria.

DiBlasi, Michael

1992 Cross River National Park–Okwangwo Division: A Cultural Resource Management Plan. Report to the United States Information Agency, Washington, D.C.

DiBlasi, Michael

1988 *The Asunle Site: Survey Report.* Report to the Department of Archaeology, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile–Ife, Nigeria.

DiBlasi, Michael

1988 *The Olu–Oke Hill Site: Survey Report.* Report to the Department of Archaeology, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile–Ife, Nigeria.

DiBlasi, Michael

1983 *Kamba Pottery Manufacture*. Educational slide set; Outreach Program, African Studies Center, Boston University.

DiBlasi, Michael

1976 "Metallographic Analysis of M.I.T. Object No. 818: A Copper Artifact from Nuzi." Unpublished report, Center for Materials Research in Archaeology and Ethnology, The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA.

DiBlasi, Michael, and Gerald Kelso

1985 "Palynological Analysis." In T. Mahlstedt, *The Data Recovery Program of the Reedy Meadow Brook Site*. Report to the Massachusetts Historical Commission; pp. 63–76.

Book reviews

DiBlasi, Michael

- 2000 *The Exploitation of Plant Resources in Ancient Africa,* by M. Van Der Veen (ed.), New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers, 1999. *International Journal of African Historical Studies,* 33 (2): 418–420.
- 1998 Shanga. The Archaeology of a Muslim Trading Community on the Coast of East Africa, by Mark Horton. International Journal of African Historical Studies, 31 (1): 221–223.
- 1998 Iron Technology in East Africa. Symbolism, Science, and Archaeology, by Peter R. Schmidt. International Journal of African Historical Studies, 31 (2): 385–388.
- 1998 *Excavations at Jenné–Jeno, Hambarketolo, and Kaniana (Inland Niger Delta, Mali), the 1981 Season,* by Susan Keech McIntosh. *Journal of Field Archaeology*, 25 (1): 111–115.

Conference papers and public lectures:

Schmid, T., M. Koch, M. DiBlasi, and Miruts Hagos

2006 "Spatial analysis of land cover properties for an archeological area in Aksum, Ethiopia, applying high and medium resolution data." Poster presentation at the *Highland* 2006 *Symposium: Environmental change, geomorphic processes, land degradation, and rehabilitation in tropical and subtropical highlands;* Mekelle, Ethiopia, 19-25 September, 2006.

DiBlasi, Michael

2003 "Archaeological Resource Management at Yeha." Invited lecture presented at the Department of History, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

DiBlasi, Michael

2003 "Yeha, Daamat, and the Rise of the Aksumite State." Invited lecture presented at the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

DiBlasi, M., M. Koch, A. Manzo, C. Perlingieri, and J.M. Sisón

2003 "GIS Applications for Research and Archaeological Resource Management in Aksum, Ethiopia." Poster presentation at *The 30th CAA Conference, Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology;* Vienna, Austria, April 8–12, 2003.

DiBlasi, Michael

- 2002 "Aspects of Aksumite Environmental History as Reflected in Pollen Data." Invited lecture presented at the Departimento di Studi e Ricerche su Africa e Paesi Arabi, Istituto Universitario Orientale, Naples, Italy.
- Bard, K., M. DiBlasi, M. Koch, R. Fattovich, C. Perlingieri, A. Manzo, M. Forte, & S. Tilia
- 2001 "The BU/IUO Archaeological Project at Bieta Giyorgis (Aksum), Ethiopia: Archaeological Results and Computer Applications." Paper presented at the Italy-United States Workshop on the Reconstruction of Archaeological Landscapes Through Digital Technologies; Boston, MA. Nov. 1–3.

Bard, K., and M. DiBlasi

1998 "The 1997 BU/IUO Excavations at Bieta Giyorgis, Aksum, Ethiopia." Public lecture, Department of Archaeology, Boston University.

DiBlasi, Michael

- 1996 "Recent Archaeological Fieldwork at Aksum, Ethiopia." Walter Rodney Seminar Series, African Studies Center, Boston University.
- 1994 "An Agenda for Palynological Research on Late Holocene Environmental History and Human Ecology in Northern Ethiopia." Paper presented at the 12th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, East Lansing, Michigan.
- 1992 "Recent Developments in Archaeological Science and Their Application to Problems in the Archaeology of Nigeria." Invited seminar presentation to faculty and students at the National Commission for Museums and Monuments Archaeological Field School, Jos, Nigeria.
- 1992 "Cultural Resource Management and the Development of Archaeology in Ethiopia." Invited lecture to the staff of the National Museum and the Center for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- 1989 "Standardizing Methods for the Description of Archaeological Ceramics." Paper presented at the 8th annual conference of the Archaeological Association of Nigeria, Minna, Nigeria.
- 1982 "Axum and the Rise and Development of the Axumite Empire in Highland Ethiopia: 700 B.C. to the 10th Century A.D." Invited lecture in the series *Ethiopia: A Christian World in an African Nation*. Museum of the National Center of Afro–American Artists, Boston, MA.
- 1980 "Kwamboo: an Early Iron Age Occurrence in the Eastern Highlands of Kenya." Paper presented at the 79th annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C.
- 1979 "Iron Age Ceramics and Settlement in Central Kenya." Paper presented at the 78th annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 1976 "A Bronze Object from Nuzi: ca. 1500 B.C." Paper presented at the Materials Analysis Forum; Semitic Museum, Harvard University.