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2008 Archaeological Fieldschools Addressing African Diaspora Subjects

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2008 Archaeological Fieldschools Addressing African Diaspora Subjects

Compiled By Christopher Fennell

The following fieldschool list includes announcements sent to me by the fieldschool directors and others listed on various directories. The fieldschool announcements that follow are presented below in alphabetic order by location, starting with those in North America, then two in the Caribbean, and two in Africa.



North America

Fort Garland Colorado Field School. Adams State College is conducting its 5th season of work at this military post. The field school is conducted over a six week period in three, ten-day sessions with four-day breaks between. Optional field trips are offered during the breaks. Fort Garland is a state owned property and operated as a public museum. Thus, students get training and experience public archaeology. Five adobe structures, of the 21+ structures that made up the original fort, are still in use as museum buildings. Fort Garland was originally established to control Indian raids in the territory. During the Civil War, it was the home of the Colorado Volunteers who saw action in the Battle of Glorietta Pass. Later, during the Indian Wars, it was the home of a unit of Buffalo Soldiers (African-American troops). For a few years the fort was commanded by Kit Carson. Throughout its military occupation, there were women and children present at the post. After it was abandoned, the fort was used for a variety of civilian purposes including a trading post, a ranch, and a hotel. The preservation is excellent and the fort provides chances to pursue a

variety of research avenues including life at a frontier outpost and military-civilian relationships on the Western frontier. For further information visit our website: fieldschool.adams.edu or contact Dr. Richard Goddard: dick_goddard@adams.edu.

University of Florida Historical Archaeological Field School. Kingsley Plantation (1792-Circa 1900) and the Spanish Mission San Juan Del Puerto (1587-1702), Ft. George Island. May 12, 2008 to June 20, 2008. Kingsley Plantation: Zephaniah Kingsley was a slave trader and ship's captain who took as a wife Anna Madgigine Jai Kingsley, an enslaved girl from Senegal. African-American archaeology began here in 1968, when Dr. Fairbanks (UF professor) conducted the first-ever excavation of a slave cabin. Building on our 2006-2007 work, we will continue excavating the interiors of slave Cabins W-12, W-13, and W-15, as well as begin searching for the lost structures, some of which were destroyed when the Seminole Indians burned the plantation during the Patriot's Rebellion of 1812. San Juan del Puerto: This Spanish mission and Timucuan Indian Village site was established in 1587 and saw continuous occupation until it was destroyed by the English in 1702. Our work will center in the mission core, including the church, cemetery, and associated aboriginal village, to gain a better understanding of the relationships between the Native Americans and Spanish. Application deadline: March 31, 2008. Contact: Dr. James M. Davidson, Department of Anthropology; phone 352-392-2253 ext. 256; email davidson@anthro.ufl.edu. Additional information available at: <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/davidson/kingsley.htm>.

New Philadelphia Archaeological Research Project: Fieldschool in Archaeology and Laboratory Techniques. May 27, 2008 to August 1, 2008. Sponsored by the National Science Foundation's Research Experiences for Undergraduates Program. Field school co-directors: Anna Agbe-Davies (DePaul University), Christopher Fennell (University of Illinois), and Terrance Martin (Illinois State Museum). The New Philadelphia story is both compelling and unique. Many studies in historical archaeology that concentrate on African-American issues have focused on plantation life and the pre-emancipation era. The history of New Philadelphia is very different. It is a chronicle of racial uplift and centering on the success of an African-American family and their ability to survive and prosper in a racist society. In 1836, Frank McWorter, an African American who was born into slavery and later purchased his own freedom, acquired 42 acres of land in the sparsely populated area of Pike County, Illinois, situated in the rolling hills bounded by the Illinois and Mississippi rivers. He founded and platted a town, subdivided the property, and sold lots. McWorter used the revenues from his entrepreneurial efforts to purchase the freedom of sixteen family members, with a total expenditure of \$14,000 -- a remarkable achievement. Families of African American and European American heritage moved to the town and created a multi-racial community. New Philadelphia likely served as a stopping place for the "Underground railroad" as enslaved African Americans fled northward escaping the

oppression of southern plantations. The history of New Philadelphia serves as a rare example of a multi-racial early farming community on the nation's Midwestern frontier (Walker 1983). Application deadline: March 21, 2008. Additional information available at: <http://www.histarch.uiuc.edu/NSF/fieldschool.html>.

University of Maryland Field School in Urban Archaeology. June 2, 2008-July 11, 2008. Project director: Dr. Mark P. Leone; associate director Matthew Cochran. The University of Maryland Department of Anthropology announces the 27th season of excavation with Archaeology in Annapolis, a summer program of onsite archaeological excavation and research. This intensive, six-week program devotes eight hours daily to supervised archaeological fieldwork, laboratory work, stratigraphic analysis, technical drawing, writing and interpretation. The summer 2008 excavations extend a long-term program of public archaeology in Maryland's state capital that is supported by the Mayor and City Council of Annapolis. This year excavations will be conducted in the Parole neighborhood of Annapolis, and outside the City of Annapolis at Wye House, the former plantation of Edward Lloyd on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay, on Maryland's Wye River. Skill development will focus on: soil identification and description; accurate record keeping and photography; artifact identification and cataloguing; understanding of site formation processes and reconstruction of site stratigraphy; basic surveying and mapping; elements of site report production (e.g., background historical research, reconstruction of site stratigraphy, production of unit summaries and familiarity with professional standards and guidelines for conducting and reporting on fieldwork and laboratory analysis); and public speaking and interpretation. For further information, contact: Amelia Chisholm (achisholm@anth.umd.edu), Department of Anthropology, University of Maryland, 1111 Woods Hall, College Park, MD 20742-7415; 301-405-1429. For Application and Registration information, contact Student Services: email: summer@umd.edu; 301-314-8240; web site: www.summer.umd.edu. Additional information available at: <http://www.bsos.umd.edu/anth/aia/school.htm>.

2008 Archaeological Field School at the Scott Joplin House State Historic Site in St. Louis, Missouri. June 16, 2008 to July 4, 2008. Missouri Valley College; project director: Dr. Timothy Baumann. The 2008 Missouri Valley College archaeological field school will investigate the rear yard of Scott Joplin's home, uncovering portions of his privy, outbuildings, and general yard activities. Information gathered from this field study will be used to expand the interpretation of the Scott Joplin State Historic Site through new exhibits and educational programming. These excavations will be performed as a college course through Missouri Valley College for three (3) credit hours. Participants will be introduced to historic research methods and archaeological field techniques. Registration is open to any college student in good academic standing. For additional information see the below web site or contact Dr. Timothy Baumann at 660-831-4044, baumannt@moval.edu,

**or missouri.archaeology@gmail.com. Web Site:
<http://www.moval.edu/Faculty/baumann/joplindig.html>.**

**Syracuse University Archaeological Field School at the Harriet Tubman Home. May 15, 2008 to June 5, 2008. Project director: Douglas Armstrong Ph.D., darmstrong@maxwell.syr.edu. Syracuse University's 2008 summer archaeological field school will excavate sites at the Harriet Tubman Home in Auburn, New York. The field course is being offered as a 6 unit class (ANT443) through Syracuse University Summer Sessions/University College. Students will car pool to the site from the Syracuse campus. See information about registration and tuition (web sites below). Students participating this summer will learn archaeological field techniques while contributing to a significant examination of Harriet Tubman's residence (1859-1913) and her Home for the Aged. This summer's field season is particularly important as we will be conducting excavations in advance of restoration of Harriet Tubman's residence, barn, and structures associated with the home for aging African Americans that she established. This project is being carried out as a joint project of Syracuse University and the Harriet Tubman Home, Inc (AME Zion Church - as owned and cared for the property since 1903). Students will be contributing to our understanding of the life of Harriet Tubman, her family and associates. It is an excellent opportunity to learn archaeology while making a and contribution to a site of national significance!!! Students who participate on the Tubman program will have the opportunity to participate in a follow-up research opportunity in the Virgin Islands. Information about the project can be found at the following web sites:
<http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/anthro/archfield/tubman/index.asp>
http://www.suce.syr.edu/students/current/courses/courselists/currentsemester/Tentative_summer/TSum08A-Bprefixes.html.**

Captivity and Community in Early New York, June 2, 2008 to July 18, 2008. Hofstra University; project director Christopher Matthews. The 2008 Hofstra University Archaeological Field School will examine the diverse lives of captive Africans on Long Island through the excavation of the remains of a slave quarter associated with the Joseph Lloyd Manor site in Lloyd Neck, New York. Lloyd Manor was home to Jupiter Hammon, one of the earliest published African Americans, whose work addressed enslaved Africans and challenged the injustices of slavery. Archaeology provides an opportunity to compare the words of Jupiter Hammon with the evidence left behind by others laboring at the site during the time of slavery. This interdisciplinary study will offer unique insight on the diversity of experiences and perspectives within the enslaved community on Long Island. New York was home to the largest number of captive people of African descent in the northern United States. Captivity imposed strict boundaries on the enslaved that were supported by conceptions of private property and race. The boundaries of slavery forced most captive people in New York to live in relative isolation. Despite these conditions,

African American communities formed. How did people cross boundaries and construct communities? What do these communities tell us about the meaning of freedom in early New York? Joseph Lloyd Manor is owned by the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities. The house was constructed in 1767 and is operated as a historic house museum. Contact information: Christopher Matthews, Department of Anthropology, Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York 11549 USA; 516-463-7625; anthlab@hofstra.edu. Application deadline: May 15, 2008; additional information available at http://www.hofstra.edu/Academics/Colleges/HCLAS/ANTHRO/anthro_anth33.html.

African American Dennis Farm Archaeological Field School, Pennsylvania, May 27, 2008 to July 03, 2008. Binghamton University (SUNY); project directors John Roby, Dr. Ann Stahl, and Dr. Nina Versaggi, Binghamton University. The Binghamton University Department of Anthropology will hold its 2008 summer field school on the property of the Dennis Farm Charitable Land Trust in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania. Dennis Farm is a sprawling 153-acre farmstead settled by one African American family in the late eighteenth century. The property has remained with descendents of these early settlers since then. As part of a multi-year study, students will participate in an archaeological investigation of the property. This research will address research themes, such as the role of free African Americans in community formation on the frontier, the shaping of an agricultural landscape, the place of Dennis Farm in historical memory, and new perspectives on the African Diaspora. Students will learn basic archaeological techniques of surface and subsurface survey, unit excavation, mapping using a total station and GPS, field photography, and artifact identification and processing. Instruction will include an overview of the historical settlement of the area, as well as current issues in the archaeology of the African American experience, including the types of research questions being raised by archaeologists working in the historic period. Instructors and guest lecturers will introduce the historic preservation process and discuss career paths in archaeology. The curriculum is designed to give students the basic knowledge and skills necessary to participate in professional excavations and to secure employment in the field of Cultural Resource Management. Enrollment is open to all undergraduate and graduate students, and individuals holding a college degree. Contact information: John Roby, Anthropology, Binghamton University (SUNY), Binghamton, NY 13902-6000 USA; 404-394-5624 or 607-777-2738 607-777-2477; jroby2@gmail.com. Application Deadline: May 22, 2007; additional information available at <http://anthro.binghamton.edu/fieldschool>.

The Archaeology of Chesapeake Slavery and Landscape, Virginia. June 2, 2008 to July 11, 2008. Monticello and University of Virginia; project director Fraser D. Neiman. Our fieldwork addresses changing patterns of land use and settlement on Thomas Jefferson's Monticello Plantation from c. 1750 to 1860. Toward the end of the 18th century, spurred by

shifts in the Atlantic economy, Thomas Jefferson and planters across the Chesapeake region replaced tobacco cultivation with a more diversified agricultural regime, based around wheat. Our research is revealing the implications of this shift for the landscape and for the lives of enslaved African Americans. Significant questions remain about the ecological processes that were unleashed, how they were experienced by slaves and slave owners, and the importance of changing slave work routines in explaining social dynamics among enslaved and free people. Field school students will focus on the exploration of how the domestic lives of slaves changed during the shift from tobacco to wheat cultivation. Students will learn archaeological excavation and recording techniques required by multi-disciplinary field research in landscape archaeology. Technical topics covered include survey and excavation strategies, the analytical possibilities for ceramics, faunal remains, plant phytoliths and pollen, deposits and the sediments they contain, soil chemistry, and spatial distributions of artifacts. The field school emphasizes multidisciplinary approach to archaeology. Guest lecturers are drawn from a variety of disciplines including geology, zooarchaeology, palynology, architectural history, and social history. On-site instruction, lectures, and discussion sessions at Monticello will be complemented by field trips to related sites. Students will attend classes forty hours per week, with the bulk of that time spent doing on-site field research. Reading assignments, lectures, and discussion will cover both technical and historical issues. Most weekends are free for individual travel. All students in the field school will receive a Monticello Archaeological Scholarship from the Thomas Jefferson Foundation. This tuition grant covers one-half of the normal University of Virginia tuition charge. Contact information: Fraser D. Neiman, Monticello Department of Archaeology, PO Box 316, Charlottesville, VA 22902 USA; 434-984-9812; fneiman@monticello.org. Application deadline: March 28, 2008; additional information available at <http://www.monticello.org/archaeology/fieldschool/index.html>.

Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest Retreat 2008 Field School. June 1, 2008 to July 4, 2008. Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest and the University of Virginia are pleased to offer the Twentieth Annual Summer Field School in Historical Archaeology. The field school provides a foundation in current methods and theories of historical archaeology, and offers a solid introduction to the practical skills of site survey, excavation, recording, and laboratory procedures. Students will actively participate in our ongoing interpretation of archaeology to the public. In the summer of 2008, field school participants will excavate an early nineteenth-century building complex, believed to be associated with plantation work spaces and possibly slave quarters, adjacent to Jefferson's ornamental grounds. Students will spend 40 hours a week at Poplar Forest, with most of the time split between the excavation site and the archaeology laboratory. Strenuous daily activity will require physical endurance and good health. Participants will have the opportunity to work with state-of-the-art equipment and software, including a total station for recording field information, a database system containing both the archaeological artifact and context records, and a complete inventory of over 1,000 historical documents relating to Poplar Forest. Application deadline: April 8, 2008; contact Jack Gary, Director of Archaeology

and Landscapes, Poplar Forest, P.O. Box 419, Forest, VA 24551; additional information: <http://www.poplarforest.org/ARCH/archfieldschool.html>.

Montpelier Virginia Field School. In 2008 the Montpelier Archaeology Department will be excavating the unplowed slave quarters for house slave located in the yard by the Montpelier mansion. These quarters were built in 1808 for the Madisons' house slaves and were abandoned by the mid 1840s when the structures were demolished. The site is remarkably well preserved and we will be sampling areas of the structure, yards, and adjoining work areas. The Montpelier Archaeology Department will host two field schools at this site: 1) May 15-June 15, 2008 through James Madison University and 2) July 1-31, 2008 through SUNY Potsdam. Montpelier has housing available for field school students. For more information, please check our archaeology blog (www.montpelier.org/latest_dirt) and click on field schools or training programs. There is a link on the blog to the Montpelier website for more information on the South Yard (the site of the slave quarters). We also offer summer internships for students interested in advanced archaeological training and offer a stipend and free housing on site (see blog for description and photos of intern house). Montpelier is located in Piedmont Virginia and is the family home of James Madison.

Caribbean

Antigua Archaeological Field School. University of Calgary; project director Dr. Christy de Mille and Beau Cripps, University of Calgary, and Dr. Tamara Varney, Lakehead University. May 17, 2008 to June 14, 2008. Students will experience archaeological field work in a tropical setting while living in a small community in Antigua, West Indies. A wide variety of cultural, archaeological, historical and natural sites will be visited as field trips - as well as many beaches! The focus of the program is on training students in archaeological field methods and techniques. Students receive group and individual instruction while working side by side with professional archaeologists and members of the community. The program offers both basic and advanced field credit courses. Students that are new to field work can take our introductory course (Arky 306) on excavation and analytical techniques. Students that have taken Arky 306 or equivalent can take our advanced field methods course (Arky 506), which places emphasis on a research project. This coming season, the field school will work primarily at the historic sugar plantation of Green Castle Estate. The production of sugar, a key commodity through the 17th and 18th centuries, was entirely dependent on the use of enslaved Africans. Excavations will focus on two areas of the plantation associated with both enslaved and wage laborers at the estate. The goals of the research will be to identify the location of worker quarters on the

plantation and study the types of domestic activities enslaved laborers engaged in. This information can give interesting insights into how enslaved laborers, through daily practice, negotiated their social positions within colonial slave society in Antigua. Lab work (cleaning, sorting and cataloging of artifacts) will take place at a field research station. Students may also have the chance to participate in work ranging from survey to small excavations of other sites if the opportunity presents itself. One of the goals of our program is to provide diverse experience and learning wherever possible. Accommodations and meals are provided by the Field School. Living accommodations will be first class houses that are rented on a seasonal basis and are fully furnished. These houses are located in a quiet residential area of the historic Nelson's Dockyard National Park, English Harbour. The houses are on a hillside, are cool and spacious with adequate workspaces and have a good scenic view of the Atlantic Ocean. Three delicious meals are provided seven days a week, by our own fabulous cook. Everyone will meet at the main house for meals. All meals are varied, well balanced and delicious. Breakfast is light -- fresh fruit, cereal and toast; lunch is a brown bag, sandwich affair to be eaten in the field during the week, with a warm lunch being served on weekends; dinner is a full hot meal. Meals can be supplemented at the students cost with snacks available for sale at local shops. Students are not permitted to cook in the houses as part of the rental agreement. All students will be expected to assist with kitchen duties on a rota basis. Contact information: Tamara Varney, Dept of Anthropology, Lakehead U. Thunder Bay, ON P7B 5E1 Canada; 807-343-8204; 807-766-7117; tvarney@lakeheadu.ca. Application deadline: March 1, 2008; additional information available at <http://www.antiguafieldschool.com>.

DAACS-University of Virginia Field School in Historical Archaeology: The Archaeology of Sugar and Slavery in Colonial Jamaica (Anth 382). University of West Indies, Mona. Kingston, Jamaica. May 24, 2008 to June 21, 2008. The 2008 DAACS-University of Virginia Field School in Historical Archaeology, The Archaeology of Sugar and Slavery in Colonial Jamaica (Anth 382) offers a unique field school experience for advanced undergraduate and graduate students from universities throughout the United States and Caribbean. This field school provides students with a solid grounding in archaeological field and laboratory methods, with a specific focus on understanding slavery in the culturally diverse and economically complex context of the Caribbean through the archaeological record. The goals of this course are threefold. First, students will learn archaeological survey methods, basic excavation techniques and field recording methods through daily field work on 18th-century sugar plantations located on the campus of the University of West Indies, Mona, outside of Kingston, Jamaica. Second, regular participation in laboratory activities will expose students to 18th and 19th century material culture and provide the basis for analytical exercises that use the archaeological data to make concrete arguments about people living at the Papine and Mona villages. Finally, students will be exposed to collaborative interdisciplinary research through lectures, tours, and field recording projects with faculty from the University of the West Indies, the Jamaica National Heritage Trust, Colonial Williamsburg, and Monticello. Students will have the opportunity to travel throughout Jamaica through supervised weekly field trips

and architectural field recording projects off campus. A detailed description of the field school, as well as a preliminary course syllabus, is available online through the University of Virginia's website. Contact Jillian Galle jgalle@monticello.org; 434-984-9873. Application deadline: March 15, 2008. Additional information available at <http://www.daacs.org>; apply online at <http://www.studyabroad.virginia.edu/>.

Africa

The Gambia Field Studies Program, St. Mary's College Maryland. May 24, 2008 to July 12, 2008. Prof. Bill Roberts SMCM, Kent Hall 303, wroberts@smcm.edu, 240-895-4387, www.smcm.edu/gambia. This program is open to students from any major who wish to gain valuable research skills and insights about West African life and history through field experience with Gambian professionals guided by St. Mary's faculty. Students spend the final four weeks carrying out research projects in The Gambia with guidance from SMCM faculty and Gambian mentors including archaeological investigations at the villages of Juffure and Albreda under the direction of Liza Gijanto of Syracuse University. Students learn to apply appropriate research methods including observation, interview, or archaeological field methods and analysis to a topic they select in consultation with the faculty. All participants make a trip to the World Heritage Site at Goree Island near Dakar, Senegal before returning to the US. The archaeological component of the field program is entering its third field season and investigations are geared toward assessing the impact of the Atlantic Trade on The Gambia and the continuing ramifications of the regions involvement in the African Diaspora -- specifically the continual recreation of the past. Archaeological work will consist of two separate goals. First, an analysis of shifts in regional trade dynamics as a result of culture contact will shed light on the changes in commercial, political, and social interactions along The Gambia River. The Senegambia as a whole experienced dramatic changes in the second millennium AD ranging from the introduction and spread of Islam, incorporation into the Saharan and Atlantic trade networks, in addition to the continual interaction between diverse groups attempting to control the vast amount of trade flowing in and out of the region. Overtime, four distinct groups -- Islamic traders, Mande (julas), Europeans, and Luso-Africans -- established trading enclaves that enabled the flow and exchange of goods across The Gambia, continually altering the region's place and importance within the global economy. Prior to the arrival of the Portuguese, Mande traders traveled from the Inland Niger Delta to the coast trading gold and other commodities for salt. In the mid-15th century, Portuguese merchants initiated commerce along the river, ultimately reorienting trade patterns in the Senegambia from interior land-based exchange to Atlantic maritime commerce. By the close of 17th century, the British and French had established trading factories in the region that were closely associated with Luso-African and Mande settlements.

Senegal, West Africa Summer Program in African Historical Archaeology. June 22, 2008 to August 1, 2008. University of Chicago; project director Dr. Francois G. Richard (Dept. of Anthropology, University of Chicago) Dr. Ibrahima Thiaw (Director of the Archaeology Laboratory, IFAN, Senegal). Specialized skills you will have the opportunity to learn: excavation techniques; mapping and transit survey; archaeological recovery procedures; basic artifact curation; material culture analysis (African ceramics, 18th-19th century Euro-American artifacts); independent research skills; introduction to African Atlantic history and relevant archaeological literature. This year's archaeology program will take place in Senegal, one of West Africa's most fascinating countries. In addition to boasting a rich, complex history and dynamic cultural life, Senegal has been the theater of first-rate archaeological research in the past decade, making it an ideal setting for this summer field studies program. In the course of this summer program, you will have the opportunity to participate in two sets of ongoing research projects as you become familiar with theory, methodology, and analysis in African historical archaeology. This field school combines at once the new and the old. It will be the launching pad for a brand new project in the Siin region, and the stage of continuing work on archaeological collections excavated on the island of Goree.