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Syracuse University Archaeological Field School
Elmina, Ghana

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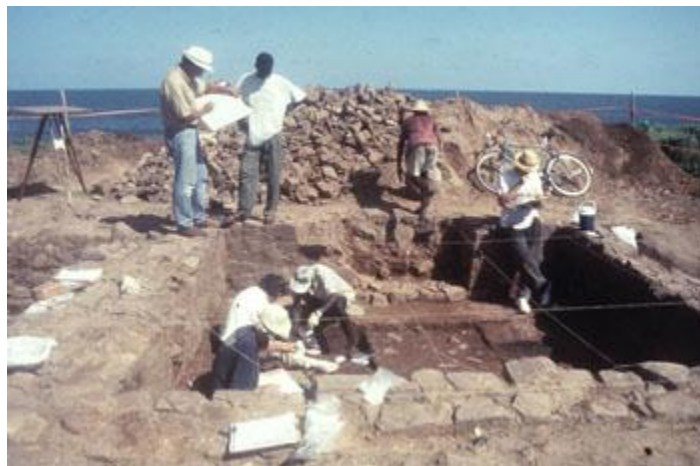
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**Syracuse University Archaeological Field School
Elmina, Ghana
July 1-14, 2007.**



Syracuse University is pleased to announce its historical archaeological field school at the Elmina trading fortress and in the surrounding area of coastal Ghana. Directed by Dr. Christopher DeCorse of Syracuse University, and as part of the on-going Central Region Project, historical archaeological investigations will be conducted into the Atlantic trade and its cultural repercussions and implications in the region. The field school will take place between July 1 and July 14, 2007. No previous archaeological experience is necessary, and academic credit will be offered through Syracuse University for both undergraduates and graduates. There may be grants available for student support for the field school.



The fortress of Elmina was established as a trading post by the Portuguese in the fifteenth century and played a significant role in trade between West Africa and Europe through the nineteenth century. Throughout its history, merchants from the Portugal, the Netherlands, Denmark, England, France and Brazil, among others, traded manufactured items such as

iron, beads, cloth and copper basins for various goods including gold, ivory, enslaved Africans and agricultural products. The fortress (variously called Elmina Castle, São Jorge da Mina or Saint George Castle), is a UNESCO World Heritage site and is located on the coast in the town of Elmina. The Central Region Project has been conducting archaeological investigations in the region for over twenty years; past archaeological investigations have concentrated on the fortress grounds themselves, on the immediately surrounding settlements, and on related sites at greater distances from the fortress.



Field school participants will help survey and locate archaeological sites, and excavate and map previously identified sites, as well as spend time in the lab processing artifacts and analyzing field data. Recently a maritime underwater component has been added to the Central Region Project. Qualified participants will have the opportunity to participate in either the terrestrial or maritime components of the project, possibly working in both areas. Due to the high-energy, high-risk diving environment, maritime archaeological involvement will focus primarily on conservation of materials from underwater maritime sites.



Students will receive 3 credits from Syracuse University for the 2 week field school. It may be possible for students wishing to extend their stay beyond the formal dates of the project to do so for additional credits and fees. Please contact Rachel Horlings [rlhorlin@syr.edu] for questions and an application.