

# ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD SCHOOL

SMITHS ISLAND, BERMUDA

MAY 27-JUNE 24, 2018

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UNIVERSITY of  
**ROCHESTER**

Now entering its seventh season, the **Smiths Island Archaeology Field School** has trained dozens of students in excavation and research methods and prepared them for graduate study. Besides investigating a variety of 17th and 18th-century sites ranging from a 400-year old early settlers' house to a quarantine hospital, students



learn about the early Modern Atlantic World from an island at its center.

Students are involved in all aspects of fieldwork, including excavation, artifact identification, documentary research, mapping, photography, and 3D digital modeling. Through readings, exploration, tours of local sites and even an experimental archeology practicum, students will learn about Bermuda's extensive history and the process of Americanization. During the 2018 season, we will extend excavations near Oven Site (c. 1615) to find the main manor house, continue digging a military and civilian quarantine site, and survey the island's western bay to find new sites. **Prior archaeological experience or knowledge of early American history is not required!**



An ideal historical and archaeological research site, Bermuda has a rich history and tremendous natural beauty. Settlement began with a shipwreck in 1609 and the island has some of the oldest sites in English America - predating Plymouth and Boston. Tobacco and seafaring sustained Bermuda for 200 years, but after the American Revolution it became a British military stronghold and an important

Royal Navy base. Its central Atlantic location made it an important US base during World War II and the Cold War. Today, tourism, banking, and global business are Bermuda's mainstay.



Our field school is based in **St. George's**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, which boasts more than sixty 18th-century houses and forts for students to study – and is still an active sailing port which hosted the AMERICAS WORLD CUP in June 2017.

**Fieldwork:** We will spend four weeks excavating sites on 60-acre Smiths Island, located in St. George's Harbour, and will commute to work daily by boat. **Work will be physically demanding. Because the island is heavily overgrown, this field school may not be suitable for students highly allergic to poison ivy.** Work will include a blend of field excavation and artifact processing and analysis. On rain days, we will conduct primary research in the Bermuda Archives in Hamilton (Bermuda's capital). We may also snorkel over nearby bays and shipwreck sites to look for evidence of shipbuilding. The work, in short, will be hard but intellectually rewarding.





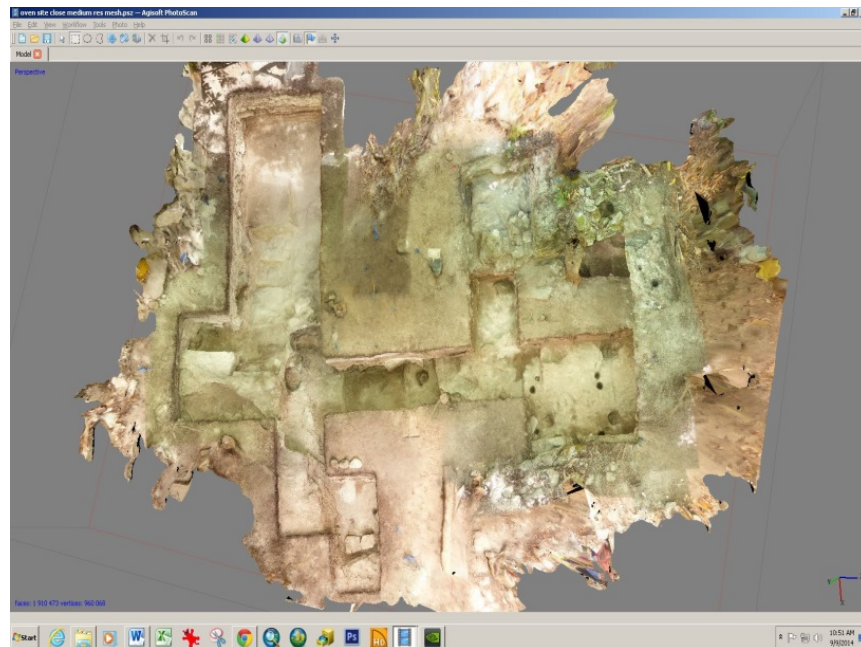
**Housing:** We will stay in Block House, an 18<sup>th</sup>-century building located at the center of St. George's. Housing and food are included in the program cost, but students may have to cook their own meals. Bermuda is very



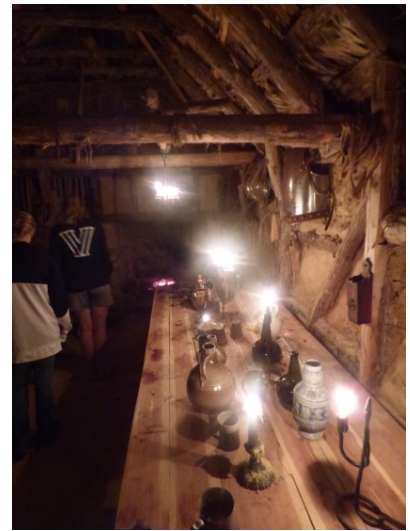
expensive: most food is imported and rents are very high. There will be a certain element of "roughing it" to keep the field school affordable. That said, you will be living in the oldest town in English America and a short walk away from four beaches. Program Costs are now estimated at **\$4,250**, exclusive of airfare to/from Bermuda (about \$450) but includes housing, food, transportation, and field trips within Bermuda. **NEW for 2018: UR students can get a grant up to \$500 for airfare.**



Most students enroll in **HIS 299 (Field and Research Methods in Archaeology)** and earn 4 University of



Rochester credits. Students with prior archaeological field experience can take **HIS 398, Advanced Field Methods**. These courses can satisfy requirements in the UR Archaeology, Technology and Historic Structures program or be used toward history or anthropology majors. **Graduate Students** can get 5 credits for taking **HIS 498 Archaeology Field & Research Methods** for the same program fee. For more information about living and excavating in Bermuda, see the **Field School Blog:** <http://Smithsislandarchaeology.blogspot.com>



Applications for the field school are due by April 1, 2018, but are accepted earlier on a rolling basis before then until all slots are full. The total program fee (including tuition) for 2018 is \$4,250 plus airfare to Bermuda. The best way to apply is via the [UR Education Abroad PORTAL](http://studyabroad.rochester.edu/) (<http://studyabroad.rochester.edu/>), but you can also send a paper application to the Smiths Island Archaeology Project, C/O Michael Jarvis, Dept. of History, Rush Rhees 364, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY 14627 or by email attachment to Michael.Jarvis@rochester.edu.

## 2018 Smiths Island, Bermuda, Archaeology Field School Application

**FULL NAME:**

**Address:**

**Email & phone #:**

**Date of Birth** (for Bermuda Emigration):

**School, Academic Year, Major, and any prior archaeology/early American history courses/experience:**

**Do you have any physical limitations and/or dietary restrictions? If so, please list:**

**Do you have a valid US or other national passport good through the end of 2018?** If so, please list your passport number, date of issue, and date of expiration.

**Do you have any boat-handling, SCUBA diving or snorkeling, or computer CAD/GIS experience? Can you swim? If so, how strong a swimmer are you? Are you allergic to poison ivy? Can you cook stuff?**

**Reality Check:** Archaeology has little to do with Indiana Jones or Lara Croft and is hardly the romantic action-packed enterprise that movies present. This field school will be both physically and mentally challenging and

involve meticulous attention to detail in the archives, field, and lab. Please attach an academic resume and a statement (500 words) relating why you want to participate in this project and what you hope to learn.

**Letter of Recommendation:** Please list the name, department, title, and email of a professor willing to write a letter of recommendation on your behalf. Also arrange to have this person send this letter directly to MICHAEL JARVIS at the address or email above.

**Recommenders:** please comment on the student's background, intellectual aptitude, maturity and suitability for undertaking an experiential learning program. It would be especially helpful to note any previous historical or archaeological training the applicant has had and how participation in this field school will deepen the student's intellectual development at your college or university.