

## 2010 Great Dismal Swamp Landscape Study Archaeology Field School

### *Archaeology of Maroon Communities in a Remote Landscape*

American University and the Department of Anthropology are pleased to invite students to participate in the 2010 Great Dismal Swamp Landscape Study Archaeology Field School. The Field School will take place in the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) located in southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina (near Norfolk, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach VA and Elizabeth City, NC). As the Refuge is ca. 190 square miles in size, participants will spend several weeks learning how to do archaeology in an immense, haunting, and beautiful wetlands landscape that is unique among Tidewater places for its natural and historical pasts. It will be a challenging, illuminating, and fun experience for all.



### **The Great Dismal Swamp Landscape Study**

The Great Dismal Swamp is a remote and historically marginalized landscape to which thousands of marooning African Americans and Indigenous Americans fled and formed permanent communities as a means of eliminating the strangleholds of colonialism and chattel slavery between ca. 1600 and 1860. Since 2002, the Great Dismal Swamp Landscape Study (GDSLS) has sought to explore the political economic and social histories of these swamp dwellers across the historical era centuries.

A main research focus for the GDSLS Field School in 2010 will be on further developing our understanding of the impacts of historical processes of colonialism (1600s), slavery (1700s), and development (1800s) on the swamp, and, on the internal dynamics of resistant and generally self-reliant maroon communities in the swamp interior. Because so little is known about Indigenous American settlement and lifeways in the Great Dismal Swamp prior to 1600, some focus may be on excavation and recordation of precontact (pre-1600) deposits.



### Areas of Student Learning and Experience

Students will have ample opportunities to gain solid experiences and training in a variety of aspects of archaeological fieldwork including, but not limited to, the following:

- Archaeological Pedestrian Survey and Excavation Methods
- Research Design Development
- Research Photography, Mapping, and Data Recordation
- Global Positioning System (GPS)
- Laboratory Dating and Soil Sampling Techniques
- Total Station and Precision Survey
- Remote Sensing and Geophysics Training (tentative)
- Precontact- and Postcontact-era Artifact Identification
- Interdisciplinary research methods
- Remote landscape navigation
- Methods of cultural resources conservation and stewarding
- Being a contributing part of a research team
- Public interaction and interpretation

### Contacts and Registration

Generally, students should register through American University for ANTH 630 for 3 or 6 credit hours. Costs will include tuition as well as a Field School fee that is not to exceed \$600. More details regarding costs and the logistics of accommodations, transportation, and food are provided in field school documents (<http://www.american.edu/cas/anthropology/courses/summer.cfm>)

Admission into the 2010 Field School is by permission of the Project Director and a completed Field School Application should be submitted to the Project Director by mail **no later than** May 7, 2010. Please contact Project Director for applications, more information, and answers to any questions.



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