



## *Gambia Archaeology Field Program 2012*

### *St. Mary's College of Maryland*

**May 19 – July 9, 2012**



The St. Mary's College of Maryland Department of Anthropology announces its 2012 Field Program in The Gambia. Enrolled students will work together with Gambian students, citizens, and professionals to pursue collaborative research activities of mutual scholarly and community interest. This includes the second field season of archaeological investigations at Berefet on the Gambia River's south bank, over a seven week period from May 19 to July 9, 2012.

#### **The History of Berefet Village, Foni**

The village of Berefet in the province of Foni is located across the river from the World Heritage Sites of Fort James on James Island, and the villages of Albreda and Juffure on the "Ceded Mile" of Niimi district in the North Bank Region. Residents of Berefet assert that the village was founded nearly 800 years ago. Over time the village has moved steadily away from the river to the pre-sent upland site off the main road which is Berefet's fourth location. Documentary sources from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century describe Berefet as a trading village that played

a key role in the southern rivers trade prior to European contact. Its position led to The Royal African Company establishment of an outpost there in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century that was maintained into the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The 1807 outlawing of the Slave Trade by the British and eventual creation of the Gambia Colony, repositioned Berefet as the primary port on the south bank and capital of the Foni district.

#### **Archaeology at Berefet**

Archaeological investigations at Berefet began in 2010 in collaboration with the Gambia's National Centre for Arts and Culture (NCAC) Division of Museums and Monuments (DMM) and Berefet community, when field school students surveying the site identified a former British outpost and associated cemetery, a 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century Mandinka village, and a 19<sup>th</sup> century port town. The 2012 archaeological investigations will again be at Berefet. The aim of this summer's research is to identify the

the extent of the former 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century Mandinka village which hosted the British outpost.

Students will be taught a range of field and laboratory methods that will prepare them for careers in academia and CRM including:

- Mapping and survey using transit and GPS
- Surface Collection and Shovel testing
- Intensive excavation
- European artifact, local ceramic, and faunal analysis

#### **The Program Fee of \$3,300 covers the following expenditures:**

- Room and board (3 meals per day) for the duration of the trip
- All travel in The Gambia and Senegal
- Health and emergency evacuation insurance
- Gambian visa fee
- 8 upper-level credits

Participants will be responsible for their own personal expenditures in country and airfare.

*For further information including application forms, contact Dr. Liza Gijanto ([lgijanto@smcm.edu](mailto:lgijanto@smcm.edu)). Applications are due by January 27, 2012*