

THE 2017 UMASS SUMMER FIELD SCHOOL IN HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

In 2017 Archaeological Services at the University of Massachusetts will again offer a Summer Field School in Historical Archaeology at the Emily Dickinson Museum, home of the renowned poet in Amherst, Massachusetts. The Museum features two houses: The Homestead, where Emily Dickinson lived and worked, and The Evergreens, home of Emily's brother Austin and his family. Students will learn and practice the fundamentals of archaeological field and laboratory research under the direction of both academically oriented archaeologists and experienced cultural resource management professionals.

Last year's Field School was exciting, interesting, and fun, including visits by NPR reporters and a mention in *The New York Times*. Students excavated at the site of a former conservatory addition to the Homestead (now reconstructed) and the site of the former barn. After completing the Field School, several of the students found paid employment with Archaeological Services or other cultural resource management organizations. A photo of the Field School at work was chosen for the 2016 Massachusetts Archaeology Month poster and calendar.

The upcoming Field School will continue investigation in the barn area with the goal of confirming the building's precise location and dimensions and identifying different activity areas within and around the barn. We will also begin exploring the open area to the east of the Homestead with the goal of identifying remnants of earlier landscape and garden features.

In addition to excavation and artifact processing, the schedule will include discussions of assigned readings, guest speakers, and field trips to nearby museums and other excavations. Students will also learn and practice how archaeological research is presented and communicated to the public by giving tours of the excavation site to visitors.

Through their research, students will assist the museum in reconstructing the historic landscape and the history of land use at the site from ancient times through the 20th Century, with an emphasis on the period of Emily Dickinson's residence there. More generally, the Field School contributes to ongoing research on the history and anthropology of the Connecticut River Valley as part of the University's longstanding archaeological research program begun in the 1970s.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

- ✍ Field School students earn 6 academic credits—the equivalent of two classes in five weeks.
- ✍ Cost of the Field School is \$3,000. This is a very reasonable price for a field school.
- ✍ The course runs for five weeks, from May 30 through July 1. This schedule allows students the remainder of the summer for work, travel, etc.
- ✍ Class begins at 8AM and ends at 4:00 Tuesday through Saturday. The Dickinson Museum is within easy walking distance of much of Amherst and is convenient to bus service.
- ✍ Students are responsible for their own meals and housing. Student summer housing is widely available in Amherst, and the University also offers dormitory housing to students registered for summer classes.
- ✍ The field school is open to any interested person 18 years of age or older. You do not need to be a UMass student.
- ✍ Field School Registration is through the UMass Division of Continuing and Professional Education.
- ✍ Application to the Field School is through UMass Archaeological Services. Contact Eric Johnson, Director, at ericjohnson@anthro.umass.edu.
- ✍ By completing the Field School students gain the necessary experience for entry-level employment in field archaeology at most Cultural Resource Management firms.