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Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Society of Black Archaeologists Newsletter. This endeavor has truly been a labor of love, personally requested by the Society’s members more than two years ago. The organization was initially conceived in 2011 when we attended the Association of Black Psychologists (ABPsi) annual conference in Tallahassee, Florida. After witnessing the manner in which Black psychologists were able to claim their own intellectual genealogies within the larger discipline and draw from related fields of Africana and Black Studies, we realized the importance of cultivating a similar space in the field of archaeology. We then turned to the closest example of such an organization within the discipline of anthropology, the Association of Black Anthropologists (ABA). At the time we both were students at the University of Florida, Justin was a first-year graduate student, and Ayana was a third-year undergraduate. During the formative stages of the organization, we sat down with Dr. Faye Harrison – a canonical figure within cultural anthropology and elder within ABA – and had deep enriching conversations about the genesis of ABA. From there we planned a path for SBA’s future.

The first meeting of the Society of Black Archaeologists was held as an ad hoc gathering at the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) Annual Conference in Baltimore, Maryland in 2012. There still maybe a grainy photo on Dr. Warren Perry’s camera from that evening. Although small in numbers, looking back on that initial meeting, there were three generations of Black archaeologists in attendance, from our elders who helped shape the field, Drs. Teresa Singleton and Warren Perry, to Dr. Whitney Battle-Baptiste, to us students in field. Since then, we’ve continued to hold annual meetings at the SHA conference and grow the organization to new heights. We are proud to announce that SBA has officially received 501(c)(3) non-profit status! What initially began as a listserv of approximately one hundred individuals, has grown to encompass more than 200 archaeologists and heritage professionals from around the world. This year marks our 8th annual meeting of the Society of Black Archaeologists at the 2019 Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology in St. Charles, Missouri.

In this issue you will find organizational updates concerning the Society, an archaeologist and field school spotlight, announcements of accomplishments from SBA members, internship opportunities, and news from our collaborators and partners. These narratives are just the tip of the iceberg in terms of our organizational capacity and the breadth of SBA’s membership.

While this is the inaugural issue, we hope future editions of the newsletter continue to showcase the great work and achievements of archaeologists of African descent and the wide range of archaeological research pertaining to African peoples globally. We hubbly welcome your input and expertise in improving upon the newsletter and the organization as a whole.

With Love
Ayana Flewellen, PhD
Justin Dunnavant, PhD
SBA OBTAINS NON-PROFIT STATUS

In January 2019 the Society of Black Archaeologists received official 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. SBA formed nearly eight years ago with the intent of building an organization that could foster the development of archaeologists of African descent, advocate for the proper treatment of the heritage of African peoples globally and highlight the contribution people of African descent have made to the discipline.

The organization’s first meeting was held at the 2012 annual conference of the Society for Historical Archaeology in Baltimore, MD. That initial gathering, attended by prominent archaeologists such as Drs. Theresa Singleton and Warren Perry, served as the first of many more meetings to come. Since then, the organization has grown exponentially. Our largest meeting was attended by 25 members and our listserve now boasts more than 200 individuals, including students, professors, professional archaeologists, and heritage professionals. Our membership is inclusive of all those who support the mission of the organization and is actively building collaborations with archaeology heritage organizations from around the globe.

Deliberations in previous SBA meetings discussed the benefits and drawbacks of establishing SBA as a separate non-profit entity or seeking committee status under a larger archaeology organization. SBA members consulted with members of similar organizations such as the Association of Black Anthropologists (ABA) and the National Association of Black Scuba Divers (NABS) before ultimately deciding that non-profit status granted the organization the autonomy and flexibility needed to fulfill the organizations’ mission statement.

As a non-profit, the organization is now capable of applying for grants and supporting individuals and organizations in unique ways. We also have the ability to establish memoranda of understanding with organizations that help to develop the mission of SBA.

The Society of Black Archaeologists is indebted to all of those who have contributed time, resources, and feedback during this foundational process. Additionally, we would like to thank everyone who has attended SBA meetings and continues to support the mission and vision of the organization. We hope to be of service to communities around the world and assist in making archaeological knowledge and practice more equitable for all communities.

The roles and responsibilities of the Board as well as the various other officer positions are outlined in the by-laws of the organization which can be found on the organization’s website.

As we transition into 501(c)(3) status, one of the first orders of business is preparing for elections and filling the needed institutional positions. Additionally, we need to standardize best practices across the organization and begin to think about the long-term vision of the organization in a way that addresses community needs and leverages the full capacity of our membership. Over the next year, we will be solidifying existing partnerships and establishing memoranda of understanding with organizations that help to develop the mission of SBA.

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN MEMORIAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Driving With a Purpose (DWP) is a national award winning, community-focused nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation and protection of submerged heritage resources by providing education, training, certification and field experience to adults and youth in the fields of maritime archaeology and ocean conservation.

A special focus of DWP is the protection, documentation, and interpretation of African slave trade shipwrecks and the maritime history and culture of African-Americans who formed a core of labor and expertise for America’s maritime enterprises.

During the middle years of World War II, Michigan was home to several African American air combat units including many graduates of the Tuskegee pilot training program and the All-African American 332nd fighter group.

Two Tuskegee Airmen P-39 Airacobra aircraft wreckage have been discovered in the Michigan area. One wreck was located in Lake Huron. The Lake Huron wreck, flown by 2nd Lt. Frank H. Moody and the other in St. Clair River was flown by Flight Officer Nathaniel P. Rayburg.

In August of 2015, a dive team consisting of volunteers from the Diving with a Purpose (DWP) Maritime Archaeology Program and maritime archaeologists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary mapped the site and wreckage of 2nd Lt. Moody’s accident, identifying his plane from pieces still intact from his instrument panel.

DWP is raising funds for the design and installation of the memorial. The site of the memorial is located in the City of Port Huron, Michigan at the Flag Plaza along the St. Clair River. DWP will host an unveiling ceremony in August of 2019.

Please join us in raising money to recognize the heroic Tuskegee Airmen no amount is too small. This is great way to honor our American Heroes on this Veteran’s Day.

Your tax-deductible contribution can be made by clicking the link below: https://www.crowdrise.com/o/en/campaign/tuskegee-airmen-memorial

DWP Lead Instructors Erik Denson (left) and Jay Haigler (right) displaying the wreath to be laid at the wreckage of 2nd Lt. Frank H. Moody.

Underwater archaeologist maps the wreckage of Tuskegee Airman 2nd Lt. Frank H. Moody.

Your tax-deductible contribution can be made by clicking the link below: https://www.crowdrise.com/o/en/campaign/tuskegee-airmen-memorial

DWP Lead Instructors Erik Denson (left) and Jay Haigler (right) displaying the wreath to be laid at the wreckage of 2nd Lt. Frank H. Moody.
Kamau Sadiki currently serves as the President of the National Association of Black Scuba Divers (NABS) and an Instructor for Diving With a Purpose’s (DWP) Underwater Archaeological Survey program. As a member of DWP, he has been collaborating with the Slave Wrecks Project (SWP) to assist with documenting and excavating slave shipwrecks around the world.

In the following interview, Sadiki describes his work with underwater archaeology and experiences as an engineer-turned-archaeological advocate.
Mr. Sadiki, you have been involved in several underwater archaeology projects related to Africa and the African diaspora. Could you tell us a bit about your background and your former employment?

I am a 1980 graduate of the Howard University School of Engineering, completing a Bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering with a focus in Water Resources and Wastewater Treatment. After a 41-year career, I retired in April 2017 from the US Army Corps of Engineers as the National Hydropower Business Line Manager. I was the executive manager of the nation’s 21,000 megawatts of hydropower assets, the largest renewable energy portfolio in the country.

How did you get into diving?

I got involved in scuba diving somewhat serendipitously. I traveled frequently while I was employed with the Corps of Engineers. So, back in February 2006, I was connecting to a flight back to Washington, DC in the Dallas-Ft. Worth airport. I had just completed reading a book about the slave ship Henrietta Marie entitled, “Spirit Dive: An African-American’s Journey to Uncover a Sunken Slave Ship” by Michael Cottman. When I arrived at the departure gate, I notice a gentleman in the waiting area sitting a few seats away from me, snoozing a bit! He was wearing a jacket covered with what appeared to be scuba diving patches. I notice that one of the patches read “Henrietta Marie.” So, I waited until he came out of his slumber and struck up a conversation. The gentleman was none other than the renowned marine biologist Dr. Albert Jose Jones! To my knowledge, he is the only African-American inducted in the International Scuba Divers Hall of Fame and the co-founder of the National Association of Black Scuba Divers. He gave me the back story on the Henrietta Maria along with several magazines on scuba diving and invited me to come to their dive club’s annual open water scuba training session, which coincidently had just started in DC. I went, got hooked, and the rest is history, as the saying goes!

How did you get involved in the Slave Wrecks Project and maritime archaeology?

I am a Lead Instructor in an underwater archaeology program called Diving With a Purpose (DWP). DWP was founded by this incredible organizer, Mr. Ken Stewart, back in 2004. DWP provides basic underwater archaeology survey training to proficient scuba divers in an immersive one-week program. I took the 2007 course and have been involved in DWP ever since. DWP became a Global Partner with the Slave Wrecks Project (SWP) back in 2012, providing underwater archaeology support to maritime archaeologists in investigating shipwreck sites. You can find more on SWP at www.slavewrecksproject.org. I began working with SWP as a DWP representative in February 2013 on a shipwreck off the coast of Cape Town, South Africa called the Sao Jose Paquette d’Africa.

Could you describe the Sao Jose and your experience working on the wreck?

Sure. The Sao Jose Paquette d’Africa was a Portuguese slave ship that wrecked off the coast of Cape Town, South Africa on December 27, 1794. It had set sail from Mozambique Island with over 500 Africans shackled in its holds, intent on sailing on to Brazil and selling the captured Africans into slavery. It wrecked doing high winds just a few hundred yards off Cape Town’s Clifton Beach; 212 Africans drowned in the wrecking event. As mentioned earlier, I worked on the project as a representative of DWP, supporting the Principal Investigator, Jaco Boshoff, with the Iziko Museums of South Africa. I first dove on the wreck site in February 2013 as part of a field mission team to map and dredge the site in search of wreckage material, most of which is thought to be buried under years of accumulated sand. The dive conditions were very challenging... 47°F water temperature, 5 to 10-foot underwater surges, poor visibility due to kelp debris and floating sediment, changing surface conditions, etc. We were working as rotating teams of two divers. I was operating the dredge head on my team with a support diver. Our second dive, we were distracted by the iridescence of an albacore shell near some rocks. I relocated the dredge to those rocks and uncovered what appeared to be - a shackle! That experience was extremely moving for me. Actually discovering, in situ, a shackle that was likely worn by one of the captured African victims of the shipwreck, it caused an emotional response that caused me to weep momentarily underwater. I feel a presence now as I speak!

Are there any specific maritime sites that you are interested in researching?

Actually, there are several of them! My interest is primarily in the underwater archaeological story of shipwrecks that were involved in the African Slave Trade. Although there were over 10,000 ships making over 40,000 voyages involved in the Trade, less than ten slave shipwrecks that have been located, surveyed, and documented. Why have these shipwrecks - considered floating concentration camps - been lost from...
our collective memory? These shipwrecks have some incredible stories to tell! Two shipwrecks of particular interest to me are The Wanderer and The Leusden. Without going into a lot of detail here, I think the story of these two vessels epitomizes the terror and horrific nature of the Trade as well as the structural framework of this idea of white supremacy, consequences of which we are still confronted with today. Maybe to round out the “top 3” I would add The Clotilda to the list as well.

Earlier this year, there was a lot of media attention around the Clotilda slave ship off the coast of Mobile, Alabama. What was your role in that project?

Yes, there was a media report in January about the possible finding of the Clotilda shipwreck. The Clotilda is the last slave ship to arrive on the shores of the US in 1860, illegally I might add, assuming that the Trade was “legal” at some point. The historical record shows that the owner of the Clotilda attempted to scuttle the vessel on a reach of the Mobile River so that it couldn’t be used as evidence against him. At worse, the vessel probably burned to the waterline and sunk into the river. Due to a unique meteorological wind condition along the river back in January, the water level dropped several feet exposing old shipwrecks along its banks. A 19th-century wooden frame wreck was exposed but it turned out not to be the Clotilda, mainly due to its size. In March of this year, I was part of a field team that did the investigation proving that the report shipwreck was not the Clotilda.

There is a current fundraiser for a Tuskegee Airmen Memorial in Lake Huron. Could you elaborate a bit about the project and what the goals of the memorialization include?

A team of DWP divers, myself included, was involved in a field mission back in August 2015 to survey and document the P-39 Aerocobra wreckage of Tuskegee Airmen Lt. Frank Moody that crashed in Lake Huron near Port Huron on April 11, 1944. We knew right away that the crash site is a sacred site and the story of Lt. Moody should be brought back into memory and required special recognition. So, mainly through the efforts of my colleague and DWP partner, Erik Denson, a NASA Kennedy Space Center Electrical Engineer, a flower reef was dropped on the site and, upon returning home, Erik continued efforts for a permanent memorial. His efforts came to fruition when the Port Huron City Council approved a permanent memorial earlier this year, which will be installed in August 2019 along the banks of Lake Huron during a remembrance ceremony.

Is there anything I haven’t asked you that you wish I had?

Thanks to SBA for this interview and, more importantly, the work that you all are doing. A strong knowledge base and understanding of our cultural heritage is critical in order for us to be a whole people. I’m currently the President of the National Association of Black Scuba Divers (http://www.nabsdivers.org/) and I would like to get more divers, particularly African-American divers involved in this work. I would also like to stay connected with SBA members and work collaboratively on future projects, even if it means training them to become scuba divers if need be. The invitation is there for it to happen! Thanks again!

You can contact Kamau Sadiki at president@nabsdiver.org.

This year, Archaeology in the Community (AITC) turns 10-years-old. AITC was founded by SBA board member, Dr. Alexandra Jones in 2009. The non-profit organization promotes and facilitates the study and public understanding of archaeological heritage. Through informal educational programs, they provide hands-on learning, professional development and community events.

Under the direction of Dr. Jones, AITC has developed archaeology curriculum for K-12 students and provided thousands of youth across the United States, Caribbean, and Central America with hands-on archaeology training. Educators can download curriculum content from the website.

You can help continue the mission of AITC and make archaeology education available to all. Consider donating to Archaeology in the Community online at https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/aitc.

You can also help support the organization by representing the “LOVE Archaeology” apparel at http://www.archaeologyincommunity.com/aitc-apparel/.
EXCAVATION SPOTLIGHT
ESTATE LITTLE PRINCESS
ST. CROIX, USVI

The Estate Little Princess Archaeology Project (ELPAP) is an award-winning, collaborative, interdisciplinary archaeological research program that explores Afro-Crucian identity formations from slavery into emancipation (1738-1917) through material culture, documentary, and oral history analysis. The project began in earnest when SBA co-founders Ayana Flewellen and Justin Dunnavant travelled to St. Croix with members of Diving With a Purpose (DWP), the National Association of Black Scuba Divers (NABS) and the Slave Wrecks Project (SWP) with the intention of establishing a terrestrial and underwater archaeology training program. After several reconnaissance trips to the island, the Estate Little Princess, an eighteenth-century Danish sugar plantation, was selected as the terrestrial archaeology field site and a team of archaeologists was developed to spearhead excavations and education.

The first field school ran in 2017 and ELPAP was developed as a multi-year archaeology research program in St. Croix, USVI in collaboration with the Caribbean Center for Boys and Girls, Junior Scientists in the Sea (JSIS), Diving With a Purpose (DWP), the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI), and the Slave Wrecks Project – a long-term collaboration between the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), the U.S. National Park Service (NPS), and George Washington University Capitol Archaeological Institute (GWU CAI). ELPAP was initially developed with two intended functions: 1.) to develop a long-term research agenda that studies the life and history of Afro-Crucians from slavery through freedom, and 2.) to train students from the University of the Virgin Islands and Crucian youth in terrestrial archaeological methods.

The first year focused on training local high school students in archaeological methods and scuba diving. After Les Burke of JSIS organization and certified 12 youth in scuba diving, Dr. Alexandra Jones of Archaeology in the Community (AITC) developed the curriculum and led the instruction in terrestrial archaeology. Over five days, students learned the basics of survey, archaeological excavations, and artifact analysis. Scientific excavations continued over the three weeks with visitors from University of the Virgin Islands and the local community. Excavations focused on understanding housing construction in the enslaved cabin area and use of domestic space in and around the cabins. Due to the success of the first year, the ELPAP was award first place in the Society for Historical Archaeologies Mark E. Mack Community Engagement Award. This project is truly an SBA endeavor with SBA members, Drs. Alexandra Jones, William White III, Justin Dunnavant, Ayana Flewellen, Alicia Odewale, and Antoinette Jackson serving as valuable members of the research and training team.
UC-HBCU INTERNSHIP IN AFRICAN DIASPORA ARCHAEOLOGY

With the success of the first year of the field school, and continued funding from the Slave Wrecks Project, the scope of the field school expanded in 2018. An additional 14 Crucian youth underwent the week-long terrestrial archaeology training and excavations explored the full extent of the enslaved cabin area and artifact concentrations across the site. Furthermore, the devastation from Hurricanes Irma and Maria placed a renewed emphasis on the conservation and preservation of historic structures on island. Towards this end, the ELPAP took steps to record the current state of preservation of the enslaved cabins for future comparative research.

The 2018 field season also included extended training for four Howard University students from a grant from the University of California’s Historically Black Colleges and University (UC-HBCU) Initiative. The UC-HBCU grant funded the Internship in African Diaspora Archaeology which provided full funding for four HBCU students to participate in five weeks of archaeological excavations. Initially two students came to St. Croix’s ELPAP and two went to Haiti to participate in Dr. J. Cameron Monroe’s Milot Archaeological Project (MAP). Due to political unrest in Haiti in the middle of the field season, the two students in Haiti relocated to St. Croix for the remainder of the program. During the five weeks, students received training in archaeological survey, excavation and artifact analysis supplemented with local cultural events and lectures. At the end of the program, each student presented a preliminary research project based on the skills they learned during the field season.

The UC-HBCU grant was renewed for an additional three years with additional partners from UC Berkeley signing on, allowing four new students to participate each year. All students who participate in the program receive application fee waivers for graduate school at any University of California school and funding for a degree program if they are accepted. The ELPAP is thankful for all of those who continue to make this program a success.

The Internship offers HBCU students five weeks of training in archaeological methods in Milot, Haiti or St. Croix, USVI. Students will spend one week in-residence at UCSC exploring archaeological field and lab methods followed by four weeks of excavations, survey, and artifact analysis in the Caribbean.

Students will also receive:

- $3000 summer stipend
- Fully funded travel, room, and board
- Competitive financial incentives to attend graduate school in the University of California system

Applications and additional information are available at: https://arc.ucsc.edu/research/uchbcu.html

Applications Due: February 1, 2019

For questions contact: Dr. J. Cameron Monroe (jcmonroe@ucsc.edu) or Dr. Justin Dunnavant (jdunnav@ucsc.edu)
The NSF REU Site is an international 8-week summer program on the Caribbean island of Sint Eustatius (Statia – a special municipality within The Netherlands) designed for students to acquire research skills in the fields of anthropological and forensic archaeology and geophysics, and to prepare students for graduate study or employment following graduation. Students will be involved in the scientific study, analysis, and interpretation of landscapes, architecture, material culture, and human skeletal biology leading to a broader understanding of the range of human responses to globalization. In 2019, students will focus on the archaeological investigations of a plantation, forensic archaeological recovery and analysis of a nearby cemetery, and geophysical survey of a slave village.

Students will spend approximately 4 weeks (June 10-July 4) on Statia conducting data collection (field work) and 4 weeks (July 7-August 3) on the Texas State University campus in San Marcos conducting laboratory analysis and developing of a poster to be presented at an on-campus event. On Statia students will stay in dormitory-style housing and meals will be provided. At Texas State, students will stay in on-campus dormitories and have access to on-campus meal options. Students will be given a $500 per week stipend ($4,000 total).

For more information and to apply, visit the project’s website: https://reu.cas.anthropology.txstate.edu/

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To apply, visit http://montpelier.org/fieldschools or email dig@montpelier.org

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About this photo: A Montpelier student excavates a piece of ceramic amidst the chimney fall of the South Kitchen in the enclosed South Yard.
Dr. Brittany Brown successfully defended her dissertation on September 21, 2018 at the College of William and Mary under the advisiorship of Dr. Michael Blakey. Her dissertation was entitled, *Ancestral Landscapes: A Study of Historical Black Cemeteries and Contemporary Practices of Commemoration among African Americans in Duval County, Jacksonville, FL.* Dr. Brown is currently employed at Bard College teaching Cultural Anthropology to dual enrollment students (Bard High School Early College).

Dr. Ayana Omilade Flewellen completed her Ph.D at UT-Austin in May and is currently serving as a UC President’s Postdoctoral Fellow at UC Berkeley’s Archaeological Research Facility. In November 2018, she was awarded the Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery’s (DAACS) Short-term Fellowship. She will spend April 2019 in residence at Monticello, analyzing clothing adornment artifacts as part of her forthcoming monograph. In Fall 2019 she will begin her new position as an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Queens College (CUNY).

Dr. Khadene Harris recently completed her Ph.D at Northwestern University and joined Monticello's Department of Archaeology as the inaugural Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery Archive (DAACS) postdoctoral fellow.

Dr. Justin Dunnavan is completing his second year as a UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow at UC Santa Cruz’s Archaeological Research Center. In Fall 2019 he will begin a two-year fellowship as an Academic Pathways Postdoctoral Fellow at Vanderbilt University.

Dr. Lisa Randle recently completed her Ph.D at the University of South Carolina with an emphasis in historical archaeology.

Dr. Heba Abd Elsalam, graduated with her Ph.D in Public History from Middle Tennessee State University. She received "Best Student Paper" from the Archaeological Institute of America and now serves as the U.S. Program Advisor for the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE).

Nubia Wardford Polk, M.A. recently completed her graduate degree from Union Institute and University of Cincinnati with an emphasis in historical archaeology.

Danielle Schneider, M.A. graduated from Boise State with her M.A. in Applied Anthropology.

Craig Stevens was awarded the prestigious Marshall Scholarship and will begin his M.A. in Archaeology at the University College of London (UCL) this year.

Dr. J. Cameron Monroe, Justin Dunnavan, William White III, and Ayana Flewellen received a UC-HBCU Summer Research and Graduate Admission Pathways Grant. The fellowship offers 4 HBCU students (each year for 3 years) a $3000 summer stipend, all expenses paid travel, room and board to participate in our archaeological dig, and one week in California at UC Santa Cruz. The intention is to get more HBCU students into PhD programs throughout the University of California system. Students who complete the program will also receive waived application fees for graduate school programs at a UC and, if they are accepted to a PhD program, they will receive at least 4 years of funding.

Dr. Whitney Battle-Baptiste, director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Center at University of Massachusetts-Amherst, was appointed by Gov. Charlie Baker to serve on the board of directors of Mass Humanities. Additionally Dr. Battle-Baptiste and Dr. Britt Ruser published their co-edited volume W. E. B. Du Bois’s Data Portraits: Visualizing Black America this year.

Dr. Chapurukha "Chap" Kusimba has been elected as a fellow to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS).

Dr. Akin Ogundiran has been named the new editor-in-chief of African Archaeological Review.

Dr. Alexandra Jones' non-profit Archaeology in the Community turns 10-years-old this year!

For more information about the SBA visit our website at: www.societyofblackarchaeologists.com

We're also on Facebook (www.facebook.com/sbarchaeologists) and Twitter (@SBAarch)

All inquiries for advertisements in future newsletters and on the website can be sent to sbarchaeologists@gmail.com