

## Hollins Heritage Committee

### Archaeology & USS Conference Subcommittee Meeting – Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017

Present: Jon Bohland, Beth Harris, Nick Miller, Bill Krause, Robin Lee, Grishma Bhattarai, Paris Williams, Maryke Barber, Idella Glenn, Jeri Suarez.

From Jon: The Fall conference for Universities Studying Slavery (USS) is Oct. 18-21 at UVA; it is part of a symposium which will include academic papers. The conference is free; Hollins is providing (limited) funding for rooms. Interested committee members should let Idella Glenn know ASAP.

Conference at Hollins, potential events and considerations:

- Thursday night keynote speaker, sessions on Friday and on Saturday morning.
- Panels will include representation from other USS institutions; we will work on representing Hollins' unique experience.
- One organizing topic could be post-reconstruction memory, which so far has not been a part of USS conferences. The involvement of universities with those who were enslaved on campus did not end in 1865; Hollins is an example of this (see below: inviting the Hollins Community).
- Bill suggested a workshop for small schools just getting started. What we've done at Hollins, lessons learned, etc.
- Could the archaeology J-Term class provide an opportunity for student research projects?
- Nick suggested focusing on student activism, and looking at the relationship between activism and research. Paris mentioned our students had conversations with students at Virginia Tech, Roanoke College, Lynchburg, and other schools after the protests at the University of Missouri; those connections could lead to a conversation at the conference. Nick mentioned there's a documentary about the protests.
- Inviting the Hollins Community is important: we'd like to invite them to attend and share their experiences if they wish to do so.

Archaeology Field School:

- The field school will focus on finding material evidence in spaces where enslaved persons may have lived on campus (*see August 31 minutes for more detail*).
- Paris noted that follow-up needs to be organized: those involved in the field school need to be aware of and sensitive to the potential trauma for students of color. It needs to be organized as an environment of allies (as opposed to tourists). Jon noted that this is one important point of discussion for the J-Term class. Discussion ensued on how to ensure this both during J-Term, and with students who may not take the class but still wish to be involved in the Field School. Maryke suggested that the J-Term class approach this as "training the trainer"; students in January could help develop guidelines that they can then work on with students when they join the Field School.
- Jeri noted that it's very important the Hollins Community be kept apprised of the archaeological work. Jon suggested the dig should be open to members of the Community at all times, and

there could be a day that members are invited to hear more about the project. Maryke suggested that it might be good to offer to do this by going to the community, rather than expecting members to come to Hollins. The discussion concluded with a proposal for an event this October to update the Hollins Community on the committee's activities and plans for this year.

If anyone has additional ideas for the conference or the J-Term class, please send those to Jon.