



Department of Anthropology

35th Annual Colloquium

Friday, March 7th, 2025
9:00 am–3:00 pm
Special Events Room
McKeldin Library

Program

9:00-9:30

Meet and Greet Breakfast

9:30-9:45

Opening Remarks

Dr. Barnet Pavão-Zuckerman, Chair

Dr. George Hambrecht, Director of Undergraduate Studies

9:45-10:45

Panel 1: Contested Heritage: Toward Constructive Hope

Moderator: Dr. Matthew Palus

Emma Weikert

Fiona Steiwer

Emma Gruesbeck

Salvador Valdez-Ono

Discussion

10:45-11:00

Break

11:00-12:00

Panel 2: Community Resistance to Structural Barriers:

Bases for Institutional Change

Moderator: Dr. Cady Gonzalez

Intan Kumbayoni

Minda Polser

Reilly Becchina

Kimberly Keravuori

Discussion

12:00-12:30

Lunch

12:30-1:15

Guest Speaker: Dr. Kaelin Rapport

1:30-2:30

***Panel 3: Preservation Challenges in Anthropology and
Archaeology Across the Atlantic***

Moderator: Dr. Ampson Hagan

Ismael Gonzalez-Prieto

Haley Borowy

Caitlin Hall

Kate O'Sullivan

Discussion

2:30-2:35

Closing Remarks

Dr. George Hambrecht

2:35-3:00

Celebration!

Emma Weikert

A Legacy of Labor: A Glimpse into 18th-Century Prince George's County Plantation Life

Plantations exploiting the labor of enslaved people dominated the 18th-century Prince George's County landscape. Their legacy is still present and relevant. Archaeological investigation can reveal the daily lives of people enslaved at plantations in the County. Ceramic artifacts and faunal remains excavated from an 18th-century plantation cellar reveal many plantation activities supported by enslaved labor. Material evidence from this feature illuminates the exploitative practices at the core of plantation operations, revealing labor practices, patterns of land use, and activities; this evidence reflects the daily lives of those who lived, worked, and used this land, especially the enslaved community.

Fiona Steiwer

Spectres of the Past: The Impact of Dark Tourism on Heritage Narratives in Ireland

Current trends in heritage tourism suggest a growing interest in darker material. 'Dark Tourism', coined by Lennon and Foley, is the visiting of sites specifically for their relation to death and suffering. This paper examines the Skibbereen Heritage Centre in Ireland, exploring how these narratives are consumed and generate exploitative economies, resulting in the desensitization of visitors to real violence and suffering. This form of critical analysis is essential when deciding how to effectively display archaeologically recovered material culture that speaks to suffering and violence, while capturing the 'public's' imagination which forms much of Ireland's tourist economy.

Emma Gruesbeck

Utilizing the National Park Service's History & Hope Interpretive Toolkit for Climate Change Education Strategies in Conservative and At-Risk Populations

The National Park Service's History and Hope Toolkit is designed for climate change education using historical anecdotes. In addition to providing narratives of resilience and errors, the toolkit can introduce ways in which cultural groups have adapted to danger and change. Hyde Park, in Burkeville, Virginia, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places in connection with Jewish German immigration and agricultural efforts during WWII. This article will further articulate connections between agriculture, climate change, and migration, as well as the Toolkit's potential in politically conservative regions of America where global warming is likely to have significant impact.

Salvador Valdez-Ono

Building Steam: New Methods, Publicity, and Collaborative Community Archaeology in Action at Amache

Amache has reached a new milestone in becoming a National Historic Site. With this designation, a large uptick in interest in visitation has altered methods used in archaeological research and the ways that we engage with the public and community. In this presentation, I will discuss public and community methods and the importance of including this training in field school programs, new directions and developments in the way the Amache community engages and interacts with the field schools such as generational volunteers, and new mixed-method approaches such as satellite imagery and historic photographs to inform survey at the site.

Intan Kumbayoni

Roots of Resilience: Urban Agriculture and Fishing as Pathways to Food Security and Community Well-being in Baltimore

Baltimore's long-standing food insecurity was shaped by historical segregation and worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic. This study investigates how urban agriculture and fishing address food insecurity and promote physical and mental health in marginalized communities. Drawing from interviews, observation, and participatory mapping with 30 community members, this research identifies barriers such as economic inequality, food supply chain disruption, and cultural food preferences. The study also highlights challenges in sustaining agriculture and fishing, including resource constraints and policy hurdles. Policy recommendations include securing land tenure and supporting sustainable fishing practices to enhance food equity, support grassroots initiatives, and community-driven food networks.

Minda Polser

Navigating the Pre-Health Pathway: Barriers and Strategies for Underrepresented Students at the University of Maryland

Underrepresented students at the University of Maryland pursuing careers in health face many obstacles that can prevent them from achieving their goals. However, many students have also found ways to become successful despite these obstacles. Through interviews with students and staff, I identify systemic and institutional barriers that hinder student success, as well as highlight some key factors that facilitate it, including supportive peer communities and intrinsic motivation. Their practices and recommendations can inform the creation of a pre-health pipeline program and other interventions at the School of Public Health to better support students in realizing their aspirations.

Reilly Becchina

***Urban Gardening in Baltimore: Cultivating Community
Resistance to Economic Disinvestment***

A growing urban agriculture movement addresses needs for healthy food access. In Baltimore, Maryland, over 200 urban gardens and farms serve communities. These gardens have emerged in response to economic disinvestment, converting abandoned vacant lots into productive community spaces. Urban gardens provide fresh produce, community gathering space, education for youth, intergenerational connections, and income generation. While Baltimore City has enacted food policy reform, many barriers still exist to long-term stability and maintenance of garden spaces, despite the crucial roles they serve. The city must create a secure pathway to ownership of garden spaces and support urban agriculture as an alternative, community-led mode of neighborhood revitalization.

Kimberly Keravuori

***Sharing and Protecting [Sensitive] Indigenous Knowledge (IK)
with the Federal Government***

Federal agencies, including the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), collect IK to fulfill obligations, provide benefits, manage historical sites, and more. ACHP oversees the Section 106 historic preservation process by which sites are designated. In recent years, the Federal government and international organizations have issued guidance recognizing the value of IK in different arenas. Concurrently, IK holders have been increasingly interested in recognition of its value and maintaining sovereignty over its use. The government's new 'sensitive' information protection program, CUI, provides an opportunity to identify IK needs, interests of IK holders, and possible protections. This presentation is on my work with ACHP and tribal listening sessions to begin this identification and develop common resources to aid in sharing and protecting IK.

Ismael Gonzalez-Prieto

What Fish Have to Say: How Zooarchaeology Contributes to Understandings of Human Existence on the Coast

The 15th century Gufuskálar fishing station on Iceland's Snæfellsnes Peninsula is one of the only sites in existence which offers insight into Icelandic fishing practices at a time when the nation was first experiencing the effects of the Bubonic Plague. Portions of the site are currently critically imperiled by coastal erosion, and significant amounts of archaeological information have been lost as a result. Zooarchaeology offers important toolkits for understanding historical relationships between humans, other organisms, and the environment more broadly. The discipline is central to understanding human existence at Gufuskálar, and its methods will become central to the stewardship of the world's coastal heritage as climate change becomes an increasingly dire and universal issue.

Haley Borowy

Exploring the Effects of Climate Change and Coastal Erosion on Maryland's Cultural Heritage

Multiple archaeological and historic sites in Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, Maryland are threatened by sea level rise and coastal erosion. The Emory Waters Nature Preserve and the surrounding area are of notable concern. Until now, relatively little archaeological inquiry has been done at the three sites that are found within the preserve, especially directly along the coast. The shovel test survey conducted here reveals a rich, dense material history at a high risk to both coastal erosion and sea level rise. It is hopeful that the results and research done in this project further emphasize the need to protect these sites, or at the very least, investigate them more before they are washed away.

Caitlin Hall

Preserving Precontact Maine History: A Determination of Eligibility for the Cates Farm Site

Indigenous communities have occupied Maine since time immemorial. This project focuses on the occupation of what is now known as the Cates Farm Site, located on private land at the outlet of China Lake in East Vassalboro, Maine. Cates Farm is significant because artifacts recovered from the site reflect most of Maine's precolonial history, although primary occupation occurred during the Middle Archaic period. This presentation will discuss the significance of the Cates Farm Site and why it is eligible for federal recognition, as well as the challenges of balancing stewardship of cultural resources with private property rights.

Kate O'Sullivan

Crystal Usage in 19th Century Ireland

Crystals have been used widely in the course of human history for utilitarian, ritual, and medical purposes amongst many societies and cultures. Within Ireland, quartz specifically is prominent within Irish folk practices as a healing item, which can be traced back to the druids in 400 to 600 CE in the Irish Iron Age. Crystals continued to be used through different phases of Irish history and into the 19th century within a tradition of lapidary medicine. The usage of crystals as healers became less prominent on the outside with the advancement of western biomedicine and its incursion into Ireland, but folk tradition was, and is, very much alive and woven into the very fabric of Irish heritage and culture.

