... Only the archaeologists are telling the story of my people. Both archaeologists and Native Americans working together is how we get the whole picture.'

*Edith Thomas*, a member of the dig team and the Gila River Indian Community in Arizona

**Students, tribe uncover past**

Archaeologists dig on Eastern Pequot reservation land

**By BRIAN WALLHEIMER**

*Norwich Bulletin*

NORTH STONINGTON — For more than 300 years, a few piles of rock have sat in a valley on the Eastern Pequot Tribe’s reservation without getting much attention.

But for the last five weeks, students from the University of Massachusetts Boston, along with tribal members, have dug through and around those rocks to chart the tribal history that once stood all around them.

“We had no idea the complexity of this site,” said lead anthropologist Stephen Silliman, an assistant professor at UMass Boston. “A lot of things were going on here.”

The dig is of historical significance to the tribe, which uses artifacts found to enhance the oral teachings to tribal youth.

“It makes it a more holistic education,” Tribal Councilor and Historic Preservation Adviser Katherine Sebastian Dring said.

It’s the second year the dozen students and Silliman have been at the site and the fifth year they’ve been excavating on the reservation. In addition to the artifacts that have been excavated, a somewhat unique friendship has formed.

Ralph Sebastian, 21, of Ledyard, an Eastern Pequot, and Kristina Larkin, 25, a UMass Boston anthropology student, work an archaeological dig Wednesday on the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation reservation.

**See PEQUOT, A2**
connection to the land

through our ancestors

in a connection to our past and<br>through our ancestors (our cultural heritages). This is the importance at heart of the work in the garden and the process of the garden. It leads to a deeper understanding of the environment and the ecosystems in which we live. This is the essence of the garden.