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January 10, 2008

Dear Potential Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Eastern Pequot Archaeological Field School for Summer 2008, sponsored by the Division of Corporate, Continuing, and Distance Education at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and funded, in part, by the National Science Foundation. The field school, located on the Historic Eastern Pequot Reservation in North Stonington, Connecticut, will run from July 6 to August 2, 2008. Six undergraduate or graduate credit hours are available, and for the second year in a row, a \$1,000 Indigenous Archaeology Scholarship is being offered. This letter offers a basic outline of the field school, and additional details will be provided to those selected to participate.

In collaboration with the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation, the field school will undertake its sixth season of intensive study of tribal lands to identify and document archaeological sites dating from several thousand years ago to the recent colonial period. As a result, the field school has the potential to cover both historical and precontact archaeology for southern New England, but the primary focus will be archaeological sites dating to the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries in an effort to study Native American responses to European colonialism. Eastern Pequot families have occupied this historic reservation since 1683 and have strong ties to the landscape where their ancestors have lived for millennia. Alongside tribal interns, field school students will receive training in a number of archaeological techniques such as map-making, shovel testing, full-scale excavation, soil sampling, and material culture identification, and they will engage in group discussions, watch films, hear guest lectures, and visit local museums and archaeology projects. The field school also emphasizes critical perspectives on colonialism, ethics, collaborative research, indigenous rights, and the relationships between anthropological theory and practice. The experience offers students the unique opportunity to participate in a collaborative and engaged archaeology alongside Native American community members – tribal leaders, elders, adult members, and youth – in a joint effort to study indigenous history on traditional Pequot lands in southern New England.

The field school is compressed slightly in 2008 to achieve a five-week course within a four-week period. Here is the basic outline. The field school begins on Sunday, July 6, at noon. The first week runs through Friday, July 11, and students will have free time on Saturday, July 12 and Sunday, July 13. The second week of the field school runs from Monday, July 14 to Saturday, July 19 with Sunday, July 20 as a free day. The third week runs from Monday, July 21 to Friday, July 25 with Saturday, July 26 as a free day. Most of Sunday, July 27 will be a free day as well, but students are highly encouraged to attend the Eastern Pequot's annual pow-wow celebration for a couple of hours beginning at noon that day. The final week of the field school runs from Monday, July 28 to Saturday, August 2. Students should be able to depart by early evening that day. In general, the course day will run from approximately 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., unless weather intervenes. Expect fairly strenuous physical activity. Films, lectures, and discussion will take place during some of the evenings.

The field school fee of **\$2,170** (undergraduate) or **\$2,635** (graduate) covers six university credit hours, instruction, field activities housing, and food costs. The fee does not cover basic student supplies to be detailed in future letters, required health insurance, or transportation to and from the field school. Carpooling is recommended for students originating in New England, but those participants who arrive by plane, train, or bus can be picked up in New London or can likely secure a ride from Boston or Providence with a more local field school participant. Daily transportation between the field house and reservation will be handled by a project van. Living arrangements will involve shared residential housing at Connecticut College, located in New London approximately 20 minutes from the field site. A cook will likely be preparing all major meals to alleviate that burden for field school participants. The house has numerous bedrooms and bathrooms, so students will enjoy relatively private or semi-private living quarters. Students may reside in the field house for the duration of the course, although they are free to return home or visit elsewhere on days off. Students choosing to stay in New London for the weekend will find plenty of things to do nearby such as beaches, shopping, restaurants, hiking, sightseeing, museums, casinos, etc.

To offset field schools costs, I am offering one \$1,000 Indigenous Archaeology Scholarship. To be eligible, the applicant must demonstrate a connection to Native American or other indigenous communities and/or must articulate a clear vision about the role of indigenous archaeology in the contemporary world. Priority will be given to those who need this field experience, have a strong background in archaeology, and show potential to both succeed in and contribute uniquely to the field school. No additional application materials are required to apply. Simply mark the appropriate place on the form and then complete the essay accordingly. The finalist will be notified by **May 2**, at the latest.

To apply, complete the enclosed application forms, provide an essay, supply a current academic transcript, and have someone submit a recommendation letter on your behalf either by email, under separate cover, or given to you in a signed and sealed envelope. Since the digital application is a form-fillable PDF document, you can type it and check the boxes before printing, or you may choose to save it and email a digital copy. The application deadline is **March 31**, but early application is highly recommended since space is limited. In previous years, the acceptance rate has been ~60%. Applications will be reviewed beginning on **February 22**, and I will begin filling the spaces with qualified and appropriate students. You will be notified of your status as soon as possible (likely within a few weeks of applying) but no later than **April 7**. You will need to provide your decision to accept or decline a position in the field school within **7 days** of notification that you have been selected. This insures that other students have the opportunity to participate in the field school should you decline. If you are accepted into the field school and you commit to joining, the program fee is due by **June 2**.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to receiving your application and having you as a potential participant.

Sincerely,



Stephen W. Silliman  
Associate Professor  
Graduate Program Director, Historical Archaeology M.A. Program



## **Essay**

In the space below, type a brief but articulate essay of 400-500 words outlining your reasons for wanting to attend the field school and the goals you hope to achieve if you are selected. Be sure to include any information that might be useful in assessing your aptitude for fieldwork, ability to work with others, experience with field or laboratory methods, interest in collaborative indigenous archaeology or other pertinent issues, relevant course work, and tolerance for outdoor working conditions. *NOTE:* If you are also applying for the Indigenous Archaeology Scholarship, please be clear in your narrative why you feel you are eligible and uniquely qualified.

**Confidential Information**

*To guarantee non-discrimination, you are not required to submit this page until after being selected. This information will not be used to discriminate between applicants. It is collected solely for the purposes of planning, liability, safety, and disclosure during the field school itself.*

Do you take any medication on a regular basis?

Yes No If yes, please describe \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any illness or physical disability that might impair your ability to participate or might be critical for field school staff to know about?

Yes No If yes, please describe \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any allergies?

Yes No If yes, please describe \_\_\_\_\_

Do have any learning disabilities?

Yes No If yes, please describe \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have special dietary needs or preferences?

Yes No If yes, please describe \_\_\_\_\_

*To assist in determining a compatible living situation for field school students, please supply the following personal information:*

Sex: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ (minimum age is 18)

Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Required Health Insurance**

Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Terms and Conditions**

Applications will be considered only when all required documents have been received. These include (1) personal information form, (2) short personal essay, (3) current transcript – an unofficial copy is acceptable, (4) signed terms and conditions sheet, and (5) recommendation letter. The confidential information form will be requested if you are selected to participate, but feel free to submit it now, if you wish. The application deadline is **March 31**, but applications will be reviewed upon receipt in batches. Space is limited, so early application is recommended.

The fee for this program is **\$2,170** for six (6) hours of undergraduate credit as Anthropology 485 or **\$2,635** for six (6) hours of graduate credit as Anthropology 685. All courses are administered through the Division of Corporate, Continuing, and Distance Education at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, but it is expected that your university, if not UMass Boston, will accept these as transfer credits. Please check with your campus registrar since this is your responsibility. Those admitted will have **7 days** to accept or decline the offer after being notified. If you accept, the full registration payment is due by **June 2** unless approved to do otherwise based on extenuating circumstances. Instructions for registration and payment will be provided following your letter of acceptance.

The field school fee covers all course credits, instruction, field activities, housing, and basic food costs. Personal food and drink not pertinent to scheduled meals will be the responsibility of the student. Students will be responsible for supplying their own food on non-work days, even if they stay in field housing. The course fee does not cover student supplies, books, insurance, or transportation to and from the field school. You will need to provide these at your own expense.

The University of Massachusetts, Boston nor its agents (including but not limited to the course instructor and teaching assistants) cannot assume responsibility for any sickness, illness, injury, or accident incurred by the student during his or her participation in the archaeological field school, including transportation to and from the field site, specifically, or to and from the field school, generally. Since the University does not provide health or casualty insurance to enrollees, students must show proof of valid health insurance coverage before they can be admitted to the program.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, HEREBY APPLY TO THE EASTERN PEQUOT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL, SPONSORED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, BOSTON, AND I AGREE TO BE BOUND TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS DESCRIBED ABOVE. IF ACCEPTED, I WILL MEET ALL FINANCIAL AND SCHEDULING REQUIREMENTS.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return the completed hard-copy or digital application to:**

Professor Stephen Silliman  
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University of Massachusetts, Boston  
100 Morrissey Blvd.  
Boston, MA 02125-3393  
[stephen.silliman@umb.edu](mailto:stephen.silliman@umb.edu)