Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory
Institutional CV

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory (MAC Lab)

ADDRESS: Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, 10515 Mackall Rd, St. Leonard, MD 20685

START DATE: Opened in 1998

PARENT ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust/Maryland Department of Planning

CURRENT STAFF NUMBERS: 15 permanent and contractual staff.

WEBSITE: http://www.jefpat.org/mac_lab.html

OVERVIEW OF MAC Lab: The Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory is a state-of-the-art archaeological research, conservation, and collections storage facility located at the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum in southern Maryland. Curators estimate the facility contains 7 to 10 million artifacts; this estimate is continuously refined as the inventorying of all collections proceeds. Almost all of these collections were recovered from archaeological sites in Maryland and represent a priceless part of the state's rich heritage. The MAC Lab serves as a clearinghouse for archaeological collections recovered from land-based and underwater projects conducted by state and federal agencies throughout Maryland. The MAC Lab also houses a number of major collections acquired through private donation to the Maryland Historical Trust. All of these collections are available for research, education, and exhibit purposes to students, scholars, museum curators, and educators. In our state-of-the-art conservation laboratory, the staff treats a full range of archaeological artifacts, cleaning and stabilizing them in order to preserve them for future generations.

AREA OF EXPERTISE: Treatment and curation of large collections and individual artifacts from prehistoric and historic contexts. Treatment of metal and metal/organic composite artifacts from terrestrial or submarine sites. Treatment of waterlogged organic materials. Laboratory development and design.

LABORATORY EQUIPMENT: 320kV x-radiograph, electrolytic reduction tanks w/ power supplies and heated circulators, PEG tanks w/ filtration and circulation, 2 freeze-driers, 2 air-abrasives, pneumatic cleaning tools, density meter, pH/ISE meters, Fourier-Transform Infrared Spectrophotometer, UV-Vis Spectrophotometer, darkroom & photo studio, digital cameras, networked database, climate-controlled treatment and storage space, dedicated solvent workspace.

STAFF:

Director Patricia Samford, PhD:

Patricia Samford holds a doctorate in Anthropology from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and an MA and BA in Anthropology from the College of William and Mary. Her research interests include African diaspora archaeology in the American South and in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century ceramics. She was a staff archaeologist for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation for thirteen years and has also worked in North Carolina, Maryland, and Bermuda. Samford's dissertation research was published by the University of Alabama Press and is entitled Subfloor Pits and the Archaeology of Slavery in Colonial Virginia (2007). She has also co-authored a book on archaeology for children entitled Archaeology for Young Explorers: Uncovering History at Colonial Williamsburg (1995) and Intrigue of the Past: North Carolina's First Peoples; A Teacher's Activity Guide for Fourth Through Eighth Grades (compiled and edited by Margo L. Price, Patricia Samford and Vincas P. Steponaitis; Research Laboratories of Anthropology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2001).

Deputy Director Ed Chaney:

Edward Chaney is currently the Deputy Director of the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum. He supervises the Lab's Collections and Research divisions, directs the JPPM Public Archaeology Program, assists Maryland Historical Trust staff in managing the cultural resources of Southern Maryland, and oversees the JPPM research library. He has been conducting archaeology in the Mid-Atlantic region since 1978. He received a B.A. in anthropology from the University of Maryland, and an M.A. in anthropology from the University of Florida.

Curator of State Collections Rebecca Morehouse:
Rebecca Morehouse received her B.A. in Anthropology and English from the State University of New York, College at Geneseo in 1995 and her M.A. in Anthropology with a concentration in Museum Studies from The George Washington University in 1997. She has eleven years of experience in archaeological collections curation. Prior to becoming the Curator of State Collections at the MAC Lab, she was the Curator for the State Highway Administrations Archaeological Collections (1998-2002). As part of her studies in Anthropology, she interned at the National Park Service, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Office (1997), Alexandria Archaeology (1996), the Ford's Theatre National Historic Site (1996-1997), and the New York State Museum (1994).

Curator of Federal Collections Sara Rivers Cofield:
Sara Rivers Cofield received her Bachelor of Arts from Murray State University in 2000 and her Masters of Applied Anthropology from the University of Maryland, College Park in 2002. She has seven years of experience in prehistoric and historic archaeological fieldwork and its associated laboratory processing. Since 2002, Sara has focused on curation, collections management, and conservation assessments of archaeological collections in Maryland. Her past positions include Curation and Conservation Assistant at Historic St. Mary's City (2002-2004), Research Assistant at Monocacy National Battlefield (2001-2002), and Archaeological Laboratory Aide for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission of Prince George's County (2000-2004).

Collections Technician Erin Wingfield:
Erin Wingfield received her B.A. from the University of Maryland, focusing in Archaeology. She has one and a half years of experience working with artifacts and archaeological records. Recent projects include rehousing collections from the Buck Site (18KE292, late 17th c. rubbish pit) and the Mason Island II Site (18MO13, a Late Woodland Village Site).

Head Conservator Nichole Doub:
Nichole Doub holds an MSc in Conservation for Archaeology and Museums and a MA in Principles of Conservation from University College London in England and a BA in Classical Archaeology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her specializations include archaeometallurgy and East Mediterranean/Eastern European archaeology. She has been involved in excavations in Romania, England, Turkey, Greece, Egypt, Jordan, the United States, and Mexico. Before coming to work at the MAC Lab, Nichole was the Archaeological Objects Conservator at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter, England where she worked on a range of Roman, Anglo Saxon and Medieval material from the Princesshay excavations. Nichole has been working as the Project Conservator for the Roman/Byzantine excavations at Noviodunum, Romania and is coordinating with Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj to establish a national, centralized conservation laboratory and training program. She has also been employed on conservation projects at the Fitzwilliam Museum at the University of Cambridge, the National Trust, English Heritage and the archaeological excavations at Çatalhoyuk, Turkey.

Conservator Kenya Brown Fusciello:
Kenya Brown has a bachelor's degree in Art History and a graduate certificate in Art Conservation and Restoration from Studio Art Centers International (SACI) in Florence, Italy where she restored Renaissance and Baroque period paintings and Etruscan bronze and ceramics. Toward the end of her studies she began teaching archaeological and painting restoration at SACI and thereafter assisted restorers at the Walters Art Museum conservatory in Baltimore, Maryland. Kenya is currently treating iron and ceramic objects from the early Colonial period damaged by flooding.

Conservator Caitlin Shaffer:
Caitlin Shaffer obtained an MA in Conservation Studies from West Dean College/University of Sussex in England and a BA in Fine Arts from Bates College in Maine. In addition to the conservation of archaeological artifacts, Caitlin specializes in the conservation-restoration of ceramics, glass, and stone, including fine art objects. She has carried out conservation projects for the British Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Museum of London, and the National Trust.

Conservator Nancy Shippen:
Nancy Shippen received her BA in Art from Mercer University in Macon, GA, a post-baccalaureate certificate in Art Conservation from Studio Art Centers International (SACI) in Florence, Italy, and her MSc in Conservation for Archaeology and Museums and MA in Principles of Conservation from University College London. Nancy spent the last year of her MSc interning at the Museum of London where she gained experience working in the lab, with museum exhibitions, and in the field with the Museum of London's archaeology service. Nancy began her career as an artist, but turned to conservation after her involvement in an archaeological excavation in Israel, returning for three seasons. She has also participated as a member of the conservation teams on excavations in Çatalhoyuk, Turkey, in Yorkshire, UK and with conservation projects for the National Trust and English Heritage in the UK.

Conservation Technician Gareth McNair-Lewis:
Gareth McNair-Lewis received his BA degree in Anthropology/Archaeology from Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. His previous work includes the conservation of civil war objects from CSS Alabama and USS Tulip at the Washington Navy Yard and the conservation of early 18th century historic objects on the Whydah pirate ship project in Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

MAC Lab Educator Kathy Concannon:
Kathy Concannon received her Bachelor of Arts from West Chester University in Pennsylvania. She has worked in both terrestrial and underwater archaeology for the State of Maryland and the Navy, and has been employed on conservation projects at the MAC Lab and with Alexandria Conservation Services, Ltd. in Virginia. Kathy gives public tours, teaches educational activities, and develops exhibits and other forms of outreach at the lab.

Administrative Assistant Sharon Raftery:
Sharon Raftery has been the Administrative Assistant for the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory at Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum since July 1998. She serves as the IT Liaison for all of JPPM as well as the webmaster for the JPPM website. Her past accomplishments have included creating a website for the grant project: Developing a Computerized Catalog for the State of Maryland's Archaeological Collections, titled "Archaeological Collections in Maryland", and also, preparing the same webpage into book form for production and distribution.

Archaeological Field Technician Sami Allen
Sami joins the MAC Lab after graduating from East Carolina University with a BA in Communications. Sami was previously employed as a gallery attendant at the Smithsonian. She is currently contemplating a graduate program in Anthropology.

Archaeological Field Technician Annette Cook
Annette graduated from the University of West Florida with a BA in Anthropology and worked for the school's Archaeology Institute as a field, laboratory and collections technician. Before returning to archaeology in her employment at the MAC Lab, Annette worked for the City of Virginia Beach Public Schools System.

Archaeological Field Technician Alex Glass
Alex, a native of southern Maryland, attended the University of North Carolina at Wilmington before transferring to the University of Maryland at College Park. There she received a BA in both Anthropology and History. During college, Alex took her archaeological field school at Historic St. Mary's City and interned with the MAC Lab.

Archaeological Field Technician Lucy Stortors
Lucy received a BA in Anthropology from University of North Carolina at Wilmington in December 2006. Lucy completed two archaeological field schools while at UNCW. The first in Lamanai, Belize which included Mayan, Spanish Colonial and British Colonial archaeology; her second field school was on a Native American site part of the Cahokia complex. In April 2008, Lucy started work at the MAC Lab as part of the summer-long Public Archaeology Program, excavating the Smith St. Leonard site, an early 18th-century colonial site. In December 2009, Lucy was able to rejoin the staff at the MAC Lab for continued work on the Smith St. Leonard site.

CURATION

State Curation Experience: The State of Maryland's archaeological curation program is responsible for the long term care and preservation of the State's archaeological collections and their associated documentation. These collections, an estimated 6 million artifacts, include a wide range of cultural material representing 12,000 years of human history in Maryland. The majority of these collections have been generated through professional archaeological investigation, although some of the collections have been donated by avocational archaeologists. Along with the perpetual care of the archaeological collections, it is the mission of the State of Maryland's archaeological curation program to make these collections accessible for research and exhibit.

RECENT ACCESSIONS:

Investigations at Tudor Hall, 18ST677: a late 17th-century site dating to c. 1660-1690.

Courthouse at Moore's Lodge, 18CH777: a late 17th –early 18th-century site and the location of the first courthouse in Charles County, MD.

Horn Point Collection, 18DO58: a late 17th-early 18th-century site and one of the few colonial collections that exists from the Eastern Shore.

Investigations at Crescent Lawn, 18AG227: a mid-19th- to early-20th-century site that encompasses a boatyard, two canal boats, a soap factory and the residences of German immigrants in Cumberland, MD.

CURRENT AND RECENT CURATION PROJECTS:

The following collections are currently being rehoused and organized, replacing all unstable and acidic packaging materials, identifying artifacts that may need conservation and pulling artifacts into study collection cabinets to make them more accessible to future researchers:

Mason Island, 18MO13: a Late Woodland village site from Montgomery County, MD.

Buck Site, 18KE292: mid-17th- to early 18th-century site from Maryland's Eastern Shore.

The Federal Reserve Collection, 18BC27: several late 18th- and 19th-century features in a three block area in Baltimore City, MD.

CURRENT LOANS TO INSTITUTIONS FOR EXHIBIT OR RESEARCH:

RFL Museum of African American History, Baltimore MD
Fort McHenry, Baltimore, MD
American Indian Heritage Society, Waldorf, MD
Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, MD
University of Delaware Center for Archaeological Research, Newark, DE
Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Charlottesville ,VA
National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian, Washington, DC
Havre de Grace Maritime Museum. Havre de Grace, MD
Virginia Museum of Natural History, Martinsville, VA
American University, Washington, DC

Federal Curation Experience: Curation of 1,172 cubic feet of artifacts, 51.5 linear feet of records, and 6.5 GB of digital data for 27 Federally-owned facilities or military installations. The MAC Lab ensures that these collections are stored and inventoried in accordance with Federal regulation 36CFR§79. In addition to maintaining the artifacts according to professional museum standards, the Federal curator administers loans, creates educational materials for clients, and generates web pages that make the collections accessible for research.

CURRENT AND RECENT FEDERAL CURATION PROJECTS:

U.S. Army Garrison at Aberdeen Proving Ground: Creating a power point presentation about the partnership with the MAC Lab and the importance of curation and conservation; digitizing records from the Old Baltimore site.

Fort George G. Meade: Assembling portable display boxes featuring prehistoric and historic artifacts from the fort, and creating a power point about Fort Meade archaeology and curation to accompany the boxes.

Naval Air Station, Patuxent River: Creating study cabinets for important 17th-century sites from the installation, and administering a loan of the NAVAIR collection to enable its inclusion in the Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery (DAACS).

All Clients: Expanding the Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland webpage to include small finds and incorporating Federal collections to make them accessible via the web.

CONSERVATION

CURRENT AND RECENT CONSERVATION PROJECTS:

National Park Service: Jamestown Archaeological Collections Retreatment: Retreatment of a collection of 42,500 objects from Historic Jamestown damaged in a flood caused by Hurricane Isabel in 2005. Materials included iron, ceramic and structural wood.

Naval Historical Center: Treatment of Artifacts from the CSS Alabama: Objects recovered from the wreck off the coast of Cherbourg, France include lead scuppers and a copper-alloy and glass composite deadlight that required cleaning and stabilization, and 11 ceramic dinner plates that underwent desalinization and stain removal treatments to restore their original appearance.

Everglades National Park: Treatment of Shot Furnace Components from the Dry Tortugas: Stabilization of 12 iron architectural components from a hot shot furnace at Fort Jefferson. Objects were degraded due to exposure in a harsh marine environment. Iron was stabilized and later used in the furnace's reconstruction.

Alexandria Archaeology Museum: Alexandria Archaeology Firewell Pump: A 9ft long wood pipe and associated iron fixtures from a water pump found in a 19th century firewell a the corner of S. Pitt and Gibbon Streets, Alexandria, VA. The objects required disinfectant from microbiological agents, freeze-drying of the wood components and stabilization of the iron components.

University of Colorado: Treatment of Caribou Hides: Seven sections of caribou hide recovered from the ice at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park underwent reshaping and freeze-drying.

Other projects include electrolytic reduction of iron cannon from HMS Nimrod, a cast iron stove from Sukeek's Cabin Site, and Bibb Flue. PEG / Freeze-dry treatment and reconstruction of pine dug-out canoe, ship timbers from 1812 Barney's Flotilla, dogshore from Steward Colonial Shipyard Site. Wood species identification by thin-section microscopy. Re-coating iron and bronze cannon (property US Navy) for display. Stabilization of architectural dome finial (metal-sheathed wood) for research and long-term storage. Assessment of ca. 250,000 prehistoric and historic artifacts (31 collections) for cataloging project.

RESEARCH

Southern Maryland Regional Center: The Southern Maryland Regional Center (SMRC) is a satellite office of the Maryland Historical Trust, and is currently administered by the MAC Lab. Since its creation in the early 1980s, the SMRC has conducted archaeological fieldwork throughout Southern Maryland, and has provided local citizens, non-profit institutions, and government agencies with advice and guidance on numerous issues related to archaeology and historic preservation. Hundreds of newly-found sites have been recorded by SMRC archaeologists over the years. Excavations have been conducted on sites as diverse as a Late Woodland palisaded village, a Contact Period Native American house site, the 17th c. home of the third Lord Baltimore, and a 19th c. lighthouse and Civil War hospital.

JPPM Public Archaeology Program: This project, administered by MAC Lab staff, has been ongoing since 1996. It is designed specifically to allow members of the public, of all ages, to join professional archaeologists in the excavation of an actual site. Field work takes place for about 2 months a year, with lab work the rest of the year. Hundreds of volunteers from across North America have gotten to help excavate a 17th c. quarters site, a post-bellum African-American house site, and an 18th c. plantation complex.

CURRENT AND RECENT RESEARCH PROJECTS:

Developing a Computerized Catalog for the State of Maryland's Archaeological Collections (NEH I): This project was designed to make some of Maryland's most important archaeological collections more easily accessible by researchers, educators, and institutions. More than 30 collections, representing a wide range of time periods and geographical locations in the state, were selected for inclusion in the project. Using funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Maryland Historical Trust, the Maryland State Highway Administration, and the Academy of Natural Science's Estuarine Research Center, approximately 3,000,000 artifacts from these 30+ collections were cataloged, and the information entered into a database. Finding aids summarizing the discoveries at each of the sites were written and posted on the JPPM webpage.

Developing a Records Catalog Database for the State of Maryland's Archaeological Collections (NEH III): This was a follow-up to the NEH I project. The field and lab records and photos from each of the 30+ NEH I sites were organized, scanned, and re-housed in archival storage containers. Nearly 100,000 pages and images were scanned during this project. The scanned records were entered into a database that allowed .pdfs of the records to be viewed. The NEH I project finding aids posted on the JPPM webpage were modified to reflect the addition of the records data.

A Comparative Archaeological Study of Colonial Chesapeake Culture (NEH II): This project was designed to synthesize the field and artifact data from 18 colonial sites from Maryland and Virginia. It was conducted by a consortium of institutions, including the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the Anne Arundel County Lost Towns Project, George Washington's Fredericksburg Foundation, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, and the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities Jamestown Rediscovery Project. The Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory served as the lead institution. Funding was provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) (RZ-20896-02) and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. As a result of the project, a

database was developed (www.chesapeakearchaeology.org) that included summaries of each of the sites, a downloadable artifact database and selected artifact distribution maps, a gallery of artifact photos, copies of reports and papers about the sites, and other analytical data.

Diagnostic Artifacts of Maryland: This project, initially funded by the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, was designed to create an on-line identification guide to the artifacts typically found on archaeological sites in Maryland. It started with prehistoric and colonial ceramics, and has since been expanded to include various types of small metal objects and 19th century ceramics (2009). Projectile points and other artifact classes will be added in the future. It is intended for use by both professionals and non-professionals, and has been very well received by both audiences.

20,000 Years of Environmental Change in Maryland: This project, funded by an anonymous donor, examined all known paleobotanical data from archaeological sites in Maryland. More than 80 sites were found to have good paleobotanical data. This information was entered into a database, and summaries of each of the sites were prepared. This information will all be made available on-line, along with a synthesis of environmental change in Maryland since the arrival of humans, which will be written for a popular audience. The paleobotanical database will hopefully be combined with similar data from Virginia and elsewhere.