The 2016 Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology is slated to take place in Washington, D.C., a fitting location for a landmark year. In 2016, the National Park Service celebrates its 100th anniversary and the National Historic Preservation Act ushers in its 50th year. For historical and archaeological resources in the United States, these anniversaries represent cornerstones of resource protection. The theme of this year’s conference thus focuses on preservation and interpretation!

Although the call for papers has ended, students and recent graduates who are not presenting should still consider attending the SHA conference. A number of opportunities throughout the weekend provide students with the chance to network with professionals and other students. Additionally, a number of events during the conference are targeted specifically toward students. These events include the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology (ACUA)/ Academic and Professional Training Committee Student Subcommittee’s annual panel, the Past President’s Student Reception, and the Third Annual Ethics Bowl (see page 4 of this newsletter for more details on each). Students are also offered discounted prices for various professional development workshops on the Wednesday before the conference. Of particular interest to students in underwater archaeology is the ACUA’s annual “Underwater Cultural Heritage Resources Awareness Workshop.”

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There is a world of possibilities when it comes to archaeological research. In the case of study abroad projects, this is especially true. Projects and research outside home institutions and home countries provide students with excellent opportunities to expand academic inquiry, develop partnerships and collaborations, and gain a better understanding of the various cultural contexts within which our global maritime heritage exists. Applying and gaining different perspectives allows archaeologists and cultural resource managers to better manage and protect these unique resources.

Several years in length. These experiences can provide general and specialized training in methods, diving, research, public engagement, law and policy, and digital applications for archaeological heritage and management. Attaining any of these skills and growing your network of contacts can open doors for internships and employment internationally, as well as enriching your personal and professional lives.

Current international projects focus on a variety of subjects, from harbors and coastal sites, to deep water wrecks and paleo-landscapes. Additionally, projects take place in a variety of settings from North America and Europe, to Southeast Asia and Africa. If you are interested in gaining experience in study abroad or international projects, visit the ACUA’s project page (http://www.acuaonline.org/projects-worldwide/) or contact the ACUA graduate student representatives. If you have projects or study abroad opportunities that can accommodate graduate students or recent graduates, let us know at grad-rep@acuaonline.org.

Help the ACUA!

The Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology is running a survey for graduate-level maritime archaeology students to determine what YOU think is necessary for a career in underwater/maritime archaeology. If you have five minutes and want to help us out, visit: https://uwf.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_eDKT5TpxzEqs03r.
Nestled in College Station, Texas, Texas A&M University is home to one of only a few higher education institutions in the United States that offers a dedicated program in nautical archaeology for Master's and Doctoral-level students. Distinct from maritime and underwater archaeology, nautical archaeology relates specifically to the remains of boats and ships and the cultures that created and used them. Texas A&M University’s program thus focuses on the history of wooden ship construction; seafaring through the ages; maritime commerce, cargoes, and ports; and the techniques used to record, analyze and conserve the remains of these activities.

Established in 1976, Texas A&M University’s Nautical Archaeology Program is a part of the the University’s Department of Anthropology, which includes 26 full-time faculty members and offers three other programs in Archaeology, Biological Anthropology, and Cultural Anthropology. Since its inception, Nautical Archaeology Program faculty and students have conducted research around the globe. Of significant benefit to nautical archaeology students, however, are the number of resources available on campus. The program boasts a number of laboratories, including those in Conservation Research, Archaeological Preservation Research, Shipwreck Construction, New World Nautical Archaeology, Old World Nautical Archaeology, Ship Models, 3D Imaging, and Archaeo-Genomics. Each of these unique learning environments provides students with hands on experiences in a number of different specializations. The Center for Maritime Archaeology and Conservation (CMAC) provides additional opportunities for students through its multi-disciplinary research approach.

The Nautical Archaeology Program at Texas A&M University also works closely with the Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA), a non-profit international research organization founded by Dr. George Bass in the 1960s. INA is based at the University in College Station and works around the globe on shipwrecks and submerged sites. INA also operates the Bodrum Research Center in Bodrum, Turkey, which houses a library, an archaeological laboratory, and collections from INA’s previous investigations.

For students at Texas A&M University, there are a variety of opportunities to undertake original research in nautical archaeology. If you are interested in what the Nautical Archaeology Program has to offer, visit http://nautarch.tamu.edu/academic/.

Attending the conference is also a great opportunity to explore some of Washington, D.C.’s amazing museums and cultural heritage sites. The Smithsonian Institution hosts some of the area’s most impressive sites, including the American History Museum, the American Indian Museum, the Air and Space Museum, and the American Art Museum (just to name a few). Visiting Smithsonian museums and galleries is also cost effective for students looking to tour the city inexpensively: admission is free! Getting to these museums on Washington, D.C.’s Metro subway system is also relatively easy and cost effective.

If want to explore the city with fellow archaeologists in a more structured program, SHA is also offering a number of day trips on Wednesday, January 6th. Special “behind the scenes” tours are offered at no cost for the Mount Vernon (George Washington’s home) and National Geographic’s headquarters tours. Additional tours are offered for a small fee, including those to Annapolis and Frederick County, Maryland. SHA’s Gender and Minority Affairs Committee is also sponsoring a fascinating tour featuring African American heritage sites in Washington, D.C. and Virginia. If you’re interested in any of these tours, be sure to sign up soon as spots fill up quickly!

One of the best things about SHA is that it encourages student attendance by offering free conference registration to student volunteers. For more information on volunteering (and on the SHA conference in general) visit http://sha.org/conferences/ and click the “Registration” section. Advanced registration for the conference officially closes on Friday, December 18, 2015.
Attending the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) conference in Washington, D.C. this January? Read on to get an idea of some of the special events geared toward students! Also be sure to check out the conference's preliminary program (http://sha.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/sha2016-prelim-program_new.pdf) for other opportunities and events.

Navigating the Cultural Resource “Law-Scape” for Students and Recent Graduates

Join the ACUA Graduate Student Representatives and the Academic and Professional Training Committee’s (APTC) Student Subcommittee for this year’s student panel! In honor of the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, we will feature panelists discussing both American and international cultural resource laws, including recent developments in heritage protection. Panelists will provide insight into how students and recent graduates can take part in the discussion about legal protections for cultural resources and serve as ambassadors for heritage preservation.

This panel will take place during the conference on Saturday, January 9th from 9:00am-12:00pm. Mark your calendars!

Third Annual Ethics Bowl

Sponsored by the APTC Student Subcommittee and aided by the Ethics Committee, the Ethics Bowl is designed to challenge students in terrestrial and underwater archaeology with case studies relevant to ethical issues that they may encounter in their careers. Teams will be scored on clarity, depth, focus, and judgment in their responses. The bowl is intended to foster both good-natured competition and camaraderie between students from many different backgrounds and universities. Though registration has closed for SHA 2016, attend this public event to cheer on the teams and fellow student representatives. If you’d like to participate in the 2017 SHA bowl, e-mail SHAethicsbowl@gmail.com for information!

ACUA Annual Photo Competition

SHA members, students, and conference attendees are invited to participate in the annual Archaeological Photo Festival Competition and People’s Choice Awards. Images will be displayed at the SHA conference and winning entries will be posted to the ACUA web and social media sites. Deadline for entries is December 15. Results will be announced at the annual SHA Business meeting and sent to all entrants by January 31! For more information, visit http://www.acuaonline.org/archaeological-photo-festival-competition/.

Compiled by the ACUA Board Graduate Student Representatives
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