



Interns and staff having fun in the mystery room (left) and working "hard" in the field.

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The Summer of Interns

One of the most rewarding elements of our time at the Fairfield Foundation is working alongside the many high school and college interns that join us each summer (and fall, spring, and winter) to learn about archaeology, history, and preservation. Despite the intense heat and humidity, our ever changing mix of interns consistently impresses us with their energy and motivation to learn about archaeology and history. This year's group has helped us complete unfinished tasks, undertake new excavations, answered questions about the evolution of the plantation, and researched families and properties connected with Fairfield and others throughout Gloucester. Spending anywhere from one week to five weeks here, sixteen interns enjoyed a unique and memorable experience, and in the process taught us a lot as well. They came from all across the country, including California, Michigan, New Jersey, and all over Virginia, including Lexington, Herndon, and Williamsburg. For some, it was a return trip, having worked with us in previous summers. Whether or not they pursue a career in archaeology, history, or something completely different, they create memories and acquire skills that will always be useful. Inside this issue (and the next) you'll find stories about the experiences of current and former interns, host families, and the personal effects these experiences have had. With over 100 interns during our first 12 years, this is the Fairfield Foundation's most successful educational outreach program. If you'd like to learn more, contact us at Fairfield@inna.net or at 804-815-4467. Also, see our blog on internships at www.fairfieldfoundation.org and sign up for updates!

Why I Chose Fairfield for My Summer Internship

At the start of my internship this summer, I was struck by how often I heard the term "Fairfield Family." Last summer, when I was first introduced to the Fairfield Foundation, I was a pre-collegiate student at The College of William and Mary. One thing that immediately drew me to Fairfield was the way David Brown and Thane Harpole welcome all people to not only learn about the archaeology they do, but to also give them the opportunity of a hands-on experience. Going into my internship I expected to do much of the same field work I did in the NIAHD pre-collegiate program. I was excited just to have the chance to participate in Fairfield's archaeology work. However, Fairfield quickly became so much more to me. I didn't feel like just another intern, but rather a true member of one supportive team. Fairfield gave me the ability to explore different aspects of archaeology by not only working in the field, but also by working in the archives with original documents, analyzing artifacts in the lab, and doing research. The people involved in the Fairfield Foundation are what make it so special. The archaeologists truly want their interns to learn from them. But I realized how valued I really was as an intern by how much they also wanted to learn from me and my own unique input. Everywhere I went with the Foundation I felt at home, and with everything I did for them I grew more confident because I knew everyone there wanted me to learn and succeed. By the end of my internship I understood why everyone calls it the "Fairfield Family," and realized that I had made my own place in it.



Contributed by Kimberley Givant

Archaeology Kids Camp at Abingdon Glebe

In June the Fairfield Foundation partnered with St. James Anglican Church to hold a three day archaeology camp for kids on the historic grounds of Abingdon Glebe. These wonderful kids spent their time learning the archaeology basics, including the excavation of test units, screening soil, and washing artifacts. Despite intense heat, this was an enjoyable educational experience for all, and we hope to do a similar program in the future.

Highlights of the camp included the discovery of a rich layer of artifacts in the front yard (as we told the kids, this is the information that allows us to learn more about the past, and write new chapters of history), a Native American spear point, and our trip to Jamestown on the third day where we were treated to a wonderful tour of the archaeological excavations. We appreciate the help of Kevin Sweeney of St. James Anglican Church for getting this partnership going, Forrest Morgan and David Givens for their informative tour of Jamestown, and Ken Houtz Chevrolet for sponsoring the camp.

Abingdon Glebe is an early 18th-century brick dwelling that served as the minister's residence for Abingdon and Ware parish for much of the 1700s. It is a rare survival of an ecclesiastical plantation, and this camp allowed us to investigate a small portion of the front yard to look for evidence of how the property was used over its history.



Life after interning...

The Fairfield Foundation has been a part of my life for such a long time now that I can barely remember what I did with my free time before I became involved with them. It certainly didn't include anything related to archaeology, so it's probably best not to dwell on those times! But how to sum up my experiences with Fairfield since then? Volunteer, intern, summer employee, intern coordinator, staff member... I've got it all covered!

In hindsight, it's almost unbelievable how many aspects of my current set of skills and knowledge about archaeology originate from my initial internship with Fairfield, more than four years ago. Not only did I have the opportunity to gain valuable, practical, first-hand experience in the field and in the lab, but I also was able to reinforce everything I'd learned by subsequently transitioning smoothly into a summer employee. Better still, had I harbored any inclination to develop sudden amnesia and forget everything I had been taught over the previous two years, it was forestalled by the next summer's task: to replicate the entire experience with a new crop of minions (I mean, interns), this time with me in the teaching position. Seriously, if you ever find yourself doubting your ability to do something competently, try sharing your knowledge with those who are experiencing things for the first time, and see how quickly your own skills are enduringly reinforced!

I don't want to give the impression that it's all about what teaching others can do for your own confidence. It's also an amazing experience in countless other ways – bonding with others over shared interests, experiencing the kind of camaraderie that can only be formed by hours spent sweating together, getting the thrill of watching newcomers not only succeed but excel (with only the gentlest of nudges from you!). Each of these is an unforgettable feeling on its own, and each only became more incredible when similar doors were opened to me during grad school in Boston, and not only did I get to respond with “Yes, I'm comfortable with those tasks and responsibilities,” but also with “Yes, I LOVE working with students, PLEASE let me experience it again!”

The moral: I've never stopped learning while working with Fairfield, regardless of my role, and I think that's a rare environment to encounter. Every summer (fall, winter, and spring!) in Gloucester County brings new adventures that are strangely addictive, and I find myself wanting to be a part of everything. How could I miss out on meeting the new interns, remembering what it was like to be in their position? How could I let volunteers exist who I don't know and who don't know me, when Fairfield is such a huge part of everything I am? It's impossible for me to do archaeology anywhere and not be reminded of things I first learned at Fairfield, people I worked with at Fairfield, or places I dug while with Fairfield. For some reason, despite moving to Boston in between my first internship in 2008 and my stint as intern coordinator in 2010, here we are in 2012, and I still revert to my old habits of attempting to do archaeology with the Fairfield crew in whatever capacity possible. Fairfield, I just can't quit you!

Contributed by Anna Hayden



Anna (right) and fellow intern Danielle Cathcart.

Give the Gift of Membership

The summer field season is the perfect time to give the gift of membership in the Fairfield Foundation. Do you know a kid who has always wanted to be an archaeologist? Or an adult who never had the chance to get their hands dirty? Membership opens up a world of opportunities for them to experience archaeology and figure out what they've been missing all these years. Consider a gift membership today!

Adventures in Preservation: Plaster at the Pumps

If you're like us, you think one of the best ways to get involved is to get your hands dirty—and boy do we have an opportunity for you. We are hosting a plaster workshop at the Edge Hill Service Station the last week of August (starting the 27th) where you can join us in learning how to repair concrete plaster. Our workshop is unique because it focuses on an early 20th-century building. There are many contemporary buildings across southeastern Virginia—in fact, you may own one or know of a neighbor or friend who owns one. Knowing how to fix this particular kind of plaster can help you determine how best to keep the historic fabric of your building intact, find sensitive alternatives to concrete plaster (drywall with a scratch coat that mimics the look), and hire qualified professionals since you've done this yourself and know what it takes to fix things right! You can also help us restore the Edge Hill Service Station - a great cause and an endeavor that will benefit our community for years to come.



Last year's workshop crew, reglazing the iron frame windows.

Interested? You can visit to see what we're doing during the week - or enroll in the workshop. Go to the project website: <http://adventuresinpreservation.org/upcoming-adventures/plastering-at-the-pumps/> or contact us for more information. There is a workshop fee if you are coming for the week. If you want us to take care of where you stay and other sundry needs, the workshop is \$1200. If you're local or have your own accommodations, the workshop is *only* \$300. The week's events include tours of local historic sites, on-site instruction by plaster professionals, and fun activities throughout the week. Also, there is scholarship support available. Consider joining us for another great Adventure in Preservation!



Third Annual Gloucester Fall History Crawl: Reserve your Tickets Now!

The Third Annual Gloucester Fall History Crawl will undoubtedly be our best yet! We have our historic sites and delicious treats scheduled for your enjoyment and interactive activities at each site. Whether you're having Portuguese Custard Cupcakes from **The Wild Rabbit** or delicious peanut soup from **Olivia's**, you'll know that great food and great history go hand-in-hand. We'll have excavations to see at Fairfield Plantation, Revolutionary War firearms demonstrations, the *Voices of Freedom*, and much more to entertain you and your family. The event will be held on Saturday, October 27th, from noon till five, starting at Abingdon Church and continuing to Fairfield Plantation, Walter Reed's Birthplace, and ending at historic Rosewell Plantation. Tasty samples of food at each location will culminate with a broad selection of dishes to try at the newly reopened Rosewell Visitor Center. Tickets are available now! Reserve yours today by emailing us at Fairfield@inna.net or calling 804-694-4775.

A Full House of Interns: A Decade as a Host Family

One of the most enjoyable aspects of hosting these students is watching them learn about the history of the area, both in digging in the dirt as well as researching the internet for historical information on the families from long past. It is fun to see so many young people get excited and absorb so much about the history of Virginia.

The fun starts when the interns arrive - usually the Sunday before their scheduled first week. We open the front door, after we get control of the dogs, and are greeted by a teenager, with their mom and dad, weary from a long ride on I-64, I-95, or Highway 17. They say "Hi, I'm Kimberly (or Colleen, Ben, or Kathy) and this is my mom and dad." So it begins, hosting young people eager for the archaeology and American history experience. Our role is to be the rest spot, providing a safe place, a temporary home, working Internet access and a listening ear when needed. There are survival skills to teach, like counter-mosquito warfare, skin protection, hydration, ant defense, as well as reminders to carry lunch and water to the field. Hosting an intern is a two-way street, welcoming them into our family's daily routine and letting them tell us about their family experience. At our home, that means TV time with a DVR full of food channel, Bones, and Suits or some other drama—but only if all agree. Sharing favorite foods at home and at restaurants on Main Street is always fun since we personally know many of the restaurant cooks and staff, who warmly greet our interns and give them top service. On occasion we host all the interns for a backyard BBQ and pool party so we can visit with the whole crew.

The schedule gets so full, that by the time the internship is complete we wonder where the time went. A great part of hosting interns is that they stay in touch, if just by Facebook, and there is at least a promise of meeting again (as so many return the following summer).

Contributed by Janet and Tim Brown



Interns at a once-in-a-lifetime tour inside the Monitor turret at the Mariner's Museum.

Mark Your Calendars! Upcoming Lectures & Workshops

- Plaster at the Pumps Workshop **Register Now!** August 26-September 1 [see page 4]

- Rappahannock Institute for Life Long Learning (RILL) Course: "Civil War Home Front in Gloucester County: Landscapes of Struggle and Deprivation" on October 16th, 23rd, and 30th. Including period tours of Warner Hall, Glen Roy, and the Civil War fortifications at Gloucester Point.

For more information visit:

<http://www.rappahannock.edu/foundation/rill-rappahannock-institute-for-lifelong-learning/>

- Gloucester Fall History Crawl: Saturday, Oct. 27th [see page 4]



Volunteers enjoy a lecture on prehistoric lithics by Dr. Michael Barber, Virginia's State Archaeologist



Fairfield Membership

Become a supporter of Fairfield today! Gifts of any size are welcome, and are fully tax deductible. We are happy to discuss specific bequests and funding opportunities with you. Renew online at our website with Paypal or send payments to:

Fairfield Foundation, P.O. Box 157, White Marsh VA 23183

Do you want updates on all of the most recent Fairfield activities - including new artifact discoveries, lectures, and events at the Edge Hill Service Station? Then join "The Fairfield Foundation" Facebook page. Over 300 fans currently receive updates with links to newly posted videos, and announcements of recent research on our future home (including rediscovered photos of the station from the 1930s, 40s, and 50s). Stay connected with our exciting work at this remarkable building.

Annual Giving Levels

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Visit us today at: www.fairfieldfoundation.org



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