This field school will investigate 17th and 18th-century sites on Smiths Island, ranging from a filled-in cave and early settlers’ house to a quarantine hospital and a slave family’s home. Students will participate in all aspects of fieldwork, including excavation methods, artifact identification and analysis, mapping, and documentary research. Through readings, exploration, and tours of local sites, students will also learn about Bermuda’s four-hundred-year history and the early modern Atlantic world. Our main focus in 2015 is to continue excavating the earliest house site in Bermuda (c. 1615), the cave site, and quarantine hut and survey to locate a 1610 farm. **Prior archaeological experience or knowledge of early American history is not required!**

Besides being a subtropical paradise, Bermuda boasts a rich history and tremendous natural beauty. Lying 600 miles east of the North Carolina coast, Bermuda is Great Britain’s oldest colony. Settlement began with a shipwreck in 1609. The island has some of the oldest sites in English America, contemporaneous with Jamestown and predating Plymouth and Boston. Tobacco and seafaring sustained Bermuda for 200 years, but after the American Revolution it became a British military stronghold and an important Royal Navy base. Its central Atlantic location made it an important US base during World War II and the Cold War. Today, tourism, banking, and global business are Bermuda’s mainstay.
Smiths Island is a sparsely inhabited 60-acre island in St. George’s Harbour. Its first residents were three castaway sailors who built a house, boat, and a one-acre farm there in 1610 (one of our target sites). Two houses appear on a 1617 map. In the 1750s, a commercial whaling base mostly worked by African-Bermudian slaves was established on the island’s north shore. A smallpox quarantine station for treating infected sailors and passengers appeared a few years later. In all these eras, tenants raised tobacco, cotton, and livestock. Archaeology will help us shed valuable light on poor white, Native American, and African Bermudian islanders, and on whaling, smuggling, and other maritime activities.

Fieldwork: We will spend five weeks continuing excavation of an early house begun in 2012 and testing other newly discovered sites on the eastern third of Smiths Island. Work will be physically demanding. Because the island is heavily overgrown, this field school may not be suitable for students highly allergic to poison ivy. We will work five days a week and wash and process the artifacts we recover. On rain days, we will conduct primary research in the Bermuda Archives in Hamilton (Bermuda’s capital). We will also snorkel over nearby bays and shipwreck sites to look for evidence of shipbuilding and shipwrecks. The work, in short, will be hard but intellectually rewarding.
**Housing:** We will stay in waterfront accommodations in St. George’s and commute to the dig daily by boat. Housing and food are included in the program cost, but you will be responsible for cooking your own meals. Bermuda is a very expensive place to live: most food is imported and rents are very high. There will be a certain element of “roughing it” to keep the field school affordable. That said, you will be living in the oldest town in English America, boasting dozens of 17th- and 18th-century buildings and forts.

Program Costs are $4,150, exclusive of airfare to/from Bermuda (about $450). This includes housing, food, transportation, and field trips within Bermuda.

Most students enroll in HIS 299 (**Field and Research Methods in Archaeology**) and earn 6 University of Rochester credits. Students with prior archaeological field experience can take HIS 399, **Advanced Field Methods**. This course can satisfy requirements in the UR Archaeology, Technology and Historic Structures program or be applied toward history or anthropology majors. Graduate Students can get 5 credits for taking HIS 498 Archaeology Field & Research Methods for the same program feel. For more information about living and excavating in Bermuda, see the **Field School Blog**:

http://Smithislandarchaeology.blogspot.com
Applications for the field school are due by March 1, 2015, but are accepted on a rolling basis before then until all slots are full. For those accepted, a $500 deposit is due by April 1, 2015, to secure your spot. The total program fee (including tuition) for 2015 is $4,150 plus airfare to Bermuda. Please send your application to Michael Jarvis, Dept. of History, Rush Rhees 364, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY 14627 or by email to Michael.Jarvis@rochester.edu.

2015 Smiths Island, Bermuda, Archaeology Field School

NAME:

Email address & phone #:

Address:

Date of Birth (for Bermuda Emigration):

Year, Major, and any prior archaeology/early American history courses/experience:

Do you have any physical limitations and/or dietary restrictions? If so, please list:

Do you have a valid US or other national passport good through the end of summer 2015? If so, please list your passport number and expiration.

Do you have any boat-handling, SCUBA diving or snorkeling, or computer CAD/GIS experience? Can you swim? If so, how strong a swimmer are you? Are you allergic to poison ivy? Can you cook stuff?

**Reality Check:** Archaeology has little to do with Indiana Jones or Lara Croft and is hardly the romantic action-packed enterprise that movies present. This field school will be both physically and mentally challenging and involve meticulous attention to detail in the archives, field, and lab. Please attach an academic resume and a statement (500 words) relating why you want to participate in this project and what you hope to learn.

**Letter of Recommendation:** Please list the name, department, title, and email of a professor willing to write a letter of recommendation on your behalf. Also arrange to have this person send this letter directly to MICHAEL JARVIS at the address or email above. **Recommenders:** please comment on the student’s background, intellectual aptitude, maturity and suitability for undertaking an experiential learning program. It would be especially helpful to note any previous historical or archaeological training the applicant has had and how participation in this field school will deepen the student’s intellectual development at your college or university.