The field school is sponsored by UMass Archaeological Services, the UMass Department of Anthropology, the UMass Division of Continuing and Professional Education, and the Emily Dickinson Museum.

For more information, please contact Eric Johnson: ericjohnson@anthro.umass.edu
THE 2016 UMASS SUMMER FIELD SCHOOL IN HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

In 2016 Archaeological Services at the University of Massachusetts will again offer a Summer Field School in Historical Archaeology at the Emily Dickinson Museum, home of the renowned poet in Amherst, Massachusetts. Students will learn and practice the fundamentals of archaeological field and laboratory research.

Last year our excavations focused on areas of the property where once stood structures and landscape features that the museum is interested in reconstructing:

- A conservatory built onto the house in the mid-19th century for Emily and her sister by their father.
- A large barn with attached ells for carriages, worker housing, and animals.
- An heirloom fruit orchard to be planted in an area where a tennis court was built in the early 20th century.

The upcoming Field School will continue investigation in the conservatory location where 18th-century delftware, other ceramics, and numerous clay pipes were found. This deposit is likely associated with occupants of a house that predated the 1813 Dickinson dwelling. Excavation will also continue behind the house with the goal of identifying the precise location of the former barn and sampling different activity areas within the barn. We will also continue to test a wooded area along the northern edge of the property that we began testing in 2015.

In addition to excavation and artifact processing, the schedule will include discussions of assigned readings, guest speakers, and field trips to nearby museums and other excavations. Students will also learn and practice how archaeological research is presented and communicated to the public by giving tours of the excavation site to visitors.

Through their research, students will assist the museum in reconstructing the historic landscape and the history of land use at the site from ancient times through the 20th Century, with an emphasis on the period of Emily Dickinson’s residence there. More generally, the Field School contributes to ongoing research on the history and anthropology of the Connecticut River Valley region as part of the University's longstanding archaeological research program begun in the 1970s.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

- Field School students earn 6 academic credits.
- Cost of the Field School is $3,000. This is a very reasonable price for a field school.
- The course runs for five weeks, from May 17 through June 18. This schedule allows students the remainder of the summer for work, travel, etc.
- Class begins at 8AM and ends at 4:00 Tuesday through Saturday. The Dickinson Museum is within easy walking distance of much of Amherst.
- Students are responsible for their own meals and housing. Student summer housing is widely available in Amherst, and the University also offers dormitory housing to students registered for summer classes.
- The field school is open to any interested person 18 years of age or older.
- Field School Registration is through the UMass Division of Continuing and Professional Education.
- Application to the Field School is through UMass Archaeological Services. Contact Eric Johnson, Director, at ericjohnson@anthro.umass.edu.
- For further information see upcoming posts on the UMass Amherst Anthropology Department website: www.umass.edu/anthro/fieldschool_files/maininfo.html or contact Field Director Dr. Elizabeth Harlow (eharlow@umass.edu), or Director of Archaeological Services Prof. Eric Johnson (ericjohnson@anthro.umass.edu).
- Field School students are eligible to take a follow-up independent study in the Fall Semester in which they will help to complete the artifact analysis and prepare the report on the Field School excavations.
- By completing the Field School students gain the necessary experience for entry-level employment in field archaeology at most Cultural Resource Management firms.