

Report on ACS Interdisciplinary Mini-Grant

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Institution: Rhodes College

Title of Project: "Integrating Material Culture and Service into the Curriculum: The Ames Plantation and Zion Cemetery Projects at Rhodes College"

Date of Project: July 2006 through April 2007

Amount Awarded: \$8,500

1. Original Goals and Objectives (as stated in section 1 of the application):

The primary goal of this project is to provide opportunities for discussion and implementation of interdisciplinary studies of material culture in curricular and co-curricular settings at Rhodes College. We plan to provide a "model of interdisciplinary integration" for other ACS institutions that are similarly interested in providing students with opportunities in field schools, excavations, primary research in archaeology/material culture, and service projects both in and outside of the college classroom. This project entertains the following key objectives: (1) conduct two workshops in which faculty, students and invited experts discuss and demonstrate ways that material culture has been and could be incorporated into courses and projects at the college, (2) work with specialists in archaeology to plan new off-campus experiences for students at the Ames Plantation, (3) familiarize Rhodes faculty and staff with the service and research projects available at the Zion Cemetery, (4) lead collaborative discussions with faculty members, museum specialists and community professionals regarding the logistics and infrastructure of an interdisciplinary program with regional and service-learning objectives, and (5) investigate ways of collaborating with regional ACS institutions. In many areas (pedagogical, professional, institutional, community outreach), then, we envision considerable potential for faculty development and enrichment.

During the first workshop we will visit the two major sites related to this project and begin plans to implement service and research projects at these locations (a full description of the two sites is provided below). Because each faculty member brings specific expertise and research interests to this project, we expect that our conversation will help us develop clear goals and detailed plans for integrating archaeology and material culture studies into our courses. We will also plan collaborative efforts to develop hands-on learning opportunities, primary research projects, and service-learning experiences for our students. One of our locations, the Zion Cemetery, is a 19th and early 20th century African-American cemetery with 22,000 burials on 17 acres in the heart of Memphis. Ninety percent of the site is currently overgrown and abandoned. We will plan interdisciplinary projects for students and develop ideas for how to integrate this site into our courses in Art, Religious Studies, History, Chemistry, African-

American Studies, Anthropology, and Archaeology. The second location, the Ames Plantation complex, is an 18,000 acre land base 50 miles from Rhodes College in which dozens of former plantation sites are located. During this workshop we will continue planning for an interdisciplinary field school at this site and discuss collaborative research avenues that are available to faculty and students at this location. In a second workshop we will invite several regional and national specialists to campus to help us develop specific goals for integrating material culture into our curricular and co-curricular settings. The goal of this workshop is to initiate new conversations with colleagues and staff at the college who are interested in ways to integrate archaeology and material culture studies into their courses and student affairs activities.

We anticipate outcomes and benefits to include the following: (1) specific plans to conduct interdisciplinary projects at two off-campus locations, (2) integration of material culture studies in a variety of courses beginning in 2006-07, (3) collaborative relationships between faculty in the social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences at Rhodes and other ACS institutions, and (4) a plan of action for carrying out service-learning experiences for our students at the Zion Cemetery.

By bringing together faculty from Art History, Archaeology, Religious Studies, Chemistry, Anthropology, History, and African-American Studies we will be developing collaborative relationships that will engender a spirit of interdisciplinary learning. With clear-cut goals for practical projects in the community and primary research projects for our students, we believe our efforts will demonstrate the ability of people from diverse disciplines to join together to implement plans that will have a lasting impact on the lives of our students and the environment in which we live.

2. Changes made in goals/objectives:

No significant changes were made to our goals and objectives. We were able to add more campus events than originally planned due to additional funding from co-sponsoring departments at Rhodes.

3. Activities completed:

The mini-grant funding has been used to finance 6 major activities that have directly met the stated goals of the proposal.

- (1) In August of 2006 five faculty representing 6 different departments and programs at Rhodes met to discuss the integration of material culture into the curriculum and made site visits to the Zion Cemetery and the Ames Plantation. The workshop was planned and facilitated by Drs. Byrne and Moreland. Dr. Jon Russ (Chair of Chemistry) discussed his plans for a new course, "The Chemistry of Archaeology." During the workshop he discussed various ways that the natural sciences would be able to participate in the work and research at the Zion Cemetery and the Ames Plantation. We also made plans to invite a special guest speaker from an Archaeology lab who could help us think about the goals of this initiative (see below: lecture by Dr. Michael Glascock). Dr. Glenda Swan (Art Dept.) discussed a variety of projects that she was planning to use in her Archaeological Methods class. While making the site visits we were able to think about new ways of using these locations to facilitate hands on learning

opportunities for the Methods course as well as other history, art, and religious studies courses. Dr. Charles McKinney (History Dept. and African-American Studies) discussed practical ways to use material culture from these sites in his courses on Slavery and the Civil Rights Movement. Drs. Byrne and Moreland (Religious Studies Dept. and Archaeology Program) discussed plans for future research, service projects, and a field school at the sites. They also led the group in discussions of ways to make this material accessible to a wider audience. The workshop group also made plans for future presentations at Rhodes and brainstormed about ways to include faculty from other ACS schools in these activities.

- (2) In the fall semester Dr. Theresa Singleton (Prof. of Anthropology, Syracuse University) came to Rhodes to lead a workshop on African-American archaeology at the Ames Plantation and to present a public lecture on her research in Plantation Archaeology at Rhodes. Dr. Singleton is a leading scholar of African-American studies and a highly respected field archaeologist. Faculty from Rhodes and several other local institutions were able to participate in her discussions of the potential work that can be done at the Ames Plantation land base. She presented a lecture to 150 students and faculty, and she met with students and faculty to discuss her archaeological research in Cuba. In order to stretch our mini-grant funds, we asked several departments to co-sponsor various parts of her visit. The African-American Studies Program, Latin American Studies Program, and the Anthropology Department assisted in planning and sponsoring her visit. Although invitations were sent to several faculty members at other ACS schools, their schedules prohibited their participation in this workshops and lecture. Nevertheless, several faculty voiced interest in visiting the Ames Plantation in the near future and we are making plans for future site visits with faculty from regional ACS institutions.
- (3) In the fall semester Dr. Michael Glascock (Senior Research Scientist and leader of the Archaeometry Lab at the University of Missouri Research Reactor) visited Rhodes to present a lecture on his research and meet with students and faculty to discuss current opportunities in the chemistry of archaeology. This lecture was co-sponsored by funding from the mini-grant and the Chemistry Department.
- (4) A series of classes in the fall and spring semesters have successfully integrated material culture into the curriculum at Rhodes. The Chemistry Dept. has offered two very popular courses on the Chemistry of Archaeology and/or Art. The Art Department offered a course on Archaeological Methods. The History Department has integrated material from Zion and Ames into courses on 19th century history and African-American studies. The Religious Studies Department is currently offering a course on "Death and the Afterlife" that is using cemeteries at Ames and the Zion Cemetery throughout the course. Material from these sites was also integrated into the Archaeology Program's offerings of a series of tutorials in the fall semester and a spring semester course called "Material Culture Studies."
- (5) Since receiving the mini-grant, we have met regularly to plan the upcoming field school at the Ames Plantation. Additional grant funding was proposed and received to help support the field school and plan opportunities for collaborative research with undergraduate students. The field school will be held from May

20-June 9, 2007. We have also applied for funding to help with research and service projects at the Zion Cemetery. To date we have received \$9,000 from the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis, and a second grant for research at Zion is pending.

- (6) In the fall semester we sponsored the South Central Historical Archaeology Conference at Rhodes. Shortly after receiving this mini-grant we contacted the conference directors and made arrangements to host this annual conference on our campus. The list of participants includes over 17 local archaeologists who presented reports on their research. This was an ideal opportunity to fulfill one of the stated goals of this grant. The list of presentations includes topics directly related to our goals of integrating material from the Zion Cemetery and Ames Plantation at Rhodes:

Elizabeth L. Davoli, "DOTD's Cultural Resources Projects: 2004/2006"
Guy G. Weaver, "Cyclones and Casinos: Site Construction and Destruction at the Tullis-Toledano Manor, Biloxi, Mississippi"
Leslie "Skip" Steward-Abernathy, "Ghost Boats in Arkansas, Searching for Our Riverine Heritage"
Jamie C. Brandon and Jerry Hillard, "Remembering Frontier Fort Smith: The President or the Prioress"
William E. McAlexander Jr., "Ebert's Field: Things Are Not What They Seem"
Eric Proebsting, "The Lewis Farmstead and Its Place in Ozark History"
Thurston Hahn, "Artifacts of Your Childhood, Yes You are That Old"
Mary Farmer, "Marbles, Gizzard Stones, & Water Glass: or How did that get into the Archeological Record?"
Jack R. Berestresse, "The Brierfield Archaeology Project: Landscape Studies as Teaching Tools"
Juliet E. Morrow and Debbie Sterbinsky, "Snakes on a Grave: Recent Work at Cemeteries in Northeast Arkansas"
Samuel D. Smith, "A Retrospective on 30 Years of Historic Period Archaeological Site Survey"
Jamie Evans, "The Ames Plantation: A Uniquely Preserved Repository of 19th Century West Tennessee History"
Dan Sumner Allen IV, "'Yea, Though I Walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death': Early Nineteenth Century African-American Mortuary and Material Culture Patterning at the Hermitage Springs Site (40DV551), Davidson County, Tennessee"
Michael A. Pfeiffer, Richard T. Gartley, and J. Byron Sudbury, "President Pipes: Origin and Distribution"
DAY-LONG WORKSHOP: Tobacco Related Artifacts, Michael A. Pfeiffer, Archaeologist with Ozark - St. Francis National Forests
SEE: <http://www.uark.edu/campus-resources/archinfo/SCHAC8Schedule.pdf>

4. Assessment

Assessment of the project is based on four factors: planning and hosting interdisciplinary workshops and lectures from nationally recognized experts; developing interest in the projects from Rhodes faculty and students; disseminating information about the projects on campus, in the local community, and to other ACS schools; and having clear plans for future interdisciplinary work related to the settings of Ames and Zion. Our primary way to measure our results stems from the feedback we

have received from the campus community about our workshops, lectures, and service projects. With over 350 participants in the public lectures and workshops, we think that this part of our project was highly successful. We have received very positive feedback from the administration at Rhodes. Based on this response, we are in the process of developing plans that include more institutional funding for this interdisciplinary work. We also have successfully used the mini-grant funding to plan future programs and events. This is indicative of the long-term impact that these projects will have at Rhodes and in the region. Because we were able to host the regional historical archaeology conference at Rhodes with the grant funding, we were able to make contact with more than 20 local experts in material culture. This group of scholars and professionals was very supportive of our plans with Zion and Ames. We expect that their positive interactions with our program will lead to many new collaborative efforts in the next few years. Finally, our assessment of the project can be summarized by this list of accomplishments:

- We identified 11 specific current courses that could easily integrate material from the Zion Cemetery and the Ames Plantation into their activities, and we encouraged the appropriate faculty to become familiar with the resources and opportunities at Zion and Ames.
- We hosted 3 major events at Rhodes that directly related to our project goals. All three events generated large audiences (over 350 people in combined attendance). These events also brought a significant amount of attention to our projects, which has generated considerable interest in Zion and Ames among students, administrators, and faculty.
- We have met with 14 faculty from Rhodes and held workshops with 5 specific faculty members who are planning to integrate these sites into their teaching experiences. These faculty members met with our guest speakers and local experts in order to think about new ways to integrate material culture from the 2 sites into their educational practices.
- We helped develop new courses in Chemistry and Art, and further explored how the collaborating faculty can introduce interdisciplinary off-campus experiences into existing courses.
- We publicized and implemented a series of service projects at the Zion Cemetery that combine community outreach and scholarly goals. We also made plans for a series of additional service projects beginning in March.
- We met with the directors from the African-American Studies program and Anthropology Department in order to discuss how their programs can benefit from the projects at the Ames Plantation and Zion Cemetery.
- We are working with faculty from six departments at Rhodes to develop strategies for integrating this material into future courses.
- We have successfully established and cultivated relationships with local experts who have clear interests in these projects.
- We have planned a 3 week field school at the Ames Plantation. This planning was positively impacted by our ability to host Prof. Theresa Singleton at the Ames land base for a day-long workshop and discussion. As the leading expert in plantation archaeology, her positive feedback provided us with a great deal of motivation to proceed with our plans to conduct detailed research at the site.

5. Lessons Learned

We have learned a great deal about interdisciplinary work from this project. One of the first lessons learned was that colleagues from the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences have many common interests related to the material culture of historical sites in our regional area. For example, our colleagues in Chemistry have become key conversation partners in this project, and we expect to learn a great deal from them about the physical aspects of our research. As a result of discussions between these divisions of the college, the Art, Archaeology, and History faculty have become much more interested in the Natural Sciences. Similarly, these interdisciplinary conversations and workshops have led several faculty members from the Natural Sciences to think more about the historical and social aspects of their research. For example, provenance studies of ceramic and stone artifacts are often based on chemical analyses of the materials. For this we are dependent on the Chemists. But as our Chemistry faculty became interested in ways to conduct this type of research at Rhodes, they also wanted to learn more about the cultures that produced these artifacts. They became partners in our conversations about how these materials were distributed (historical trade patterns), and what this implied about social, economic, and political features of our region. Thus, funding from this mini-grant has stimulated numerous interdisciplinary conversations, many of which will eventually result in new interdisciplinary projects and collaborative efforts.

6. Sharing Results with ACS colleagues and beyond ACS

The long-term goal of establishing an archaeological field school at the Ames Plantation is a project that will open up research opportunities for interested faculty and students from all ACS schools and other regional institutions. In the coming years we plan to illustrate the types of research that can be done at this huge land base and local cemetery by having faculty and students present results at local and regional conferences. Through these presentations it is hoped that other faculty will take advantage of the archaeological and historical material, and that students will see opportunities for original research in one of the many disciplines related to archaeological field work. By hosting nationally respected scholars at Rhodes in the fall of 2006, we were able to bring faculty from other local institutions to Rhodes. Our primary collaboration has been with faculty from the Earth Science and Anthropology Departments at the University of Memphis. Several of these local colleagues are now planning to join our collaborative team in the Ames field school in May 2007. A graduate student from UM is also interested in conducting research at the Zion Cemetery. We have also invited faculty from local ACS schools to participate in future site visits to Ames and Zion. We anticipate that during the next year we will host several colleagues from Hendrix College and Millsaps College who have shown interest in these projects. We plan to continue to build interest in these sites by demonstrating how material from these sites may be used in courses in Anthropology, Archaeology, Art, GIS, African-American Studies, Chemistry, and Religious Studies.

7. Next Steps

Our immediate plan is to continue the work of this project during the spring and summer.

- In order to help facilitate more activities related to our project goals, we are applying for a supplemental grant from the ACS, and we are preparing additional grant application with other foundations for work to be conducted in future years.
- We will have a field school at the Ames Plantation from May 20-June 9, 2007. We expect to have 25 students and approximately 10 local faculty and archaeological experts participating in the project. Planning for this field school will continue throughout the spring semester. During the summer we will be working with a collaborative team to process the results of the excavation and write reports on the field school.
- The archaeology field school will provide many artifacts for our newly established Archaeology Lab at Rhodes. We plan to use these artifacts in numerous classes, and we expect that a variety of students and faculty will be involved in the analysis of this material culture. These artifacts will provide new opportunities for interdisciplinary research, bringing together historians, archaeologists, chemists, botanists, and social scientists to discuss the historical and natural features of our local environment.
- Beginning in March, 2007, we have planned a series of projects related to the Zion Cemetery. Rhodes students will be joined by local and regional community volunteer groups in an effort to clear and restore this historical African-American cemetery. Funding for tools has already been received. We anticipate additional funding from a regional foundation that will allow us to develop resources for historical research on the cemetery's inhabitants. With this additional funding we will create a searchable web based database for the Zion cemetery and provide a wide variety of digital mapping tools that will make the cemetery accessible to the world.
- Pending additional funding, we plan to host more regional specialists at Rhodes who can help us integrate material from these sites into our curriculum. These specialists include Prof. Andrew Mickelson (Archaeologist at the University of Memphis) who can demonstrate how we can employ recent advances in GIS technology, and Prof. Jamie Brandon (Archaeologist at Southern Arkansas University) who can discuss recent plantation and cemetery archaeology in our region.

8. Original/Approved budget:

First Workshop: August 9-11, 2006

Travel expenses for site visits:	\$200
Meals:	\$300
Faculty Stipends: (\$450 per member)	\$2250
Books and Supplies for Workshop and Collaborative Research (\$250 per member)	\$1250
<u>Faculty Stipends for first workshop coordinators/facilitators:</u>	<u>\$600 (\$300 x 2 faculty)</u>
Total for summer workshop	\$4600

Second Workshop: November, 2006

Travel expenses (flight/hotel) for Guest Lecturer	\$900
Stipend for Guest Lecturer	\$1000
Travel expenses for ACS faculty from Hendrix and Millsaps	\$800
Stipends for regional experts (Weaver, Edwards, Bond, Evans)	\$400
Reception and Meals	\$550
<u>Publicity and Mailing</u>	<u>\$250</u>
Total for campus-wide workshop	\$3900

TOTAL for 2 Workshops and Public Lecture \$8500.00

9. Financial Accounting from receipt of funds:

Faculty Workshop: August 9-11, 2006

Travel expenses for site visits:	\$90
Meals:	\$100
Faculty Stipends:	\$2250
(\$450 per member)	
Books and Supplies for Workshop and Collaborative Research	\$1550
<u>Faculty Stipends for first workshop coordinators/facilitators:</u>	<u>\$600 (\$300 x 2 faculty)</u>
Total for summer workshop	\$4,590

Workshop and Presentation by Dr. Theresa Singleton: October 2006

Travel expenses (flight/hotel) for Guest Lecturer	\$400
Stipend for Guest Lecturer	\$1000
Reception and Meals	\$650
<u>Publicity and Mailing</u>	<u>\$50</u>
Total	\$2,100

Presentation by Dr. Michael Glascock: October 2006

Stipend for Guest Lecturer	\$200
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Conference and Workshop, South-central Historical Archaeology: October 2006

Reception and Meals	\$550
<u>Publicity and Mailing</u>	<u>\$100</u>
Total for campus-wide workshop	\$650

Planning Meetings and Supplies for Developing Ames Field School and Zion Cemetery Project

Travel to sites (Ames and Zion)	\$270
Food at planning meetings	\$180
Photocopying & Purchase of Books	\$100
<u>Photo processing & Advertising</u>	<u>\$410</u>
Total	\$960

TOTAL Workshops, Public Lectures, Conference \$8500.00

10. Permission Statement:

Dr. Ryan Byrne and Dr. Milton Moreland of Rhodes College give ACS permission to post our original proposal and a summary of our work on the ACS Interdisciplinary website <http://www.colleges.org/newmodels/interdisciplinary/index.html>.