



PEABODY MUSEUM
of ARCHAEOLOGY & ETHNOLOGY

PRESS RELEASE

Archaeologists to Dig in Harvard Yard This Summer and Fall

(Cambridge, June 12, 2009) This summer and fall, Harvard Yard will be dotted with holes and strung with orange snow fencing. Student archaeologists from *Archaeology of Harvard Yard*, a Harvard University course, will be excavating the Yard, searching for 17th-century structures and artifacts. The excavation, part of the Harvard Yard Archaeology Project, is directed by the Peabody Museum of



In 2007, *Archaeology of Harvard Yard*, a Harvard course, excavated the Yard. This summer and fall, the students will dig down to discover 17th century artifacts in the Yard. Previous discoveries from the Yard are currently on exhibit at the Peabody Museum in *Digging Veritas: The Archaeology and History of the Indian College and Student Life at Colonial Harvard* through January 2010. Photo by Christina Hodge.

Archaeology and Ethnology in collaboration with the Harvard University Native American Program, and the Harvard University's Department of Anthropology. This summer, excavation will be led by Dr. Diana Loren and Dr. Christina J. Hodge from the Peabody Museum. This fall, the excavation will be led by Drs. Loren and Hodge, with Dr. Patricia Capone, and Dr. William L. Fash, William and Muriel Seabury Howells Director of the Peabody Museum.

Harvard Yard Discoveries

Previous excavations in the Yard by the students and others have yielded clues about early Harvard, its students, and the Indian College, which was once part of the College. (See **Related Exhibition** below.)

In 2005, *Archaeology of Harvard Yard* students excavated behind Matthews and Massachusetts Halls. They found

17th-century artifacts, an 18th-century trash scatter and walkway, a 19th- and 20th-century coal ash dump, and a time capsule that student excavators deposited in 1985! A ground-penetrating radar survey in 2007 helped identify and locate concentrations of 17th-, 18th-, 19th-, and 20th-century remains in this area.

In 2007, students excavated in front of Matthews Hall. They found 17th–19th-century artifacts including 17th-century printing type from the first printing press in the nation.



Students at a sieve in Harvard Yard, 2007. Left to right: Brennan Bilberry, Alyssa Wolff, Devon Sherman. Photo by Christina Hodge.

Special Dates: Archaeology of Harvard Yard

June 25, 2009 Harvard Yard Summer Excavation Opening Day 10:30–11:30 AM

Speakers include:

Bruce Corliss, Nipmuc Nation

Jim Peters, Executive Director, Massachusetts Commission on Indian Affairs

Cheryl Andrews-Maltais, Chairman, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)

Bettina Washington, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)

August 4, 2009 Harvard Yard Summer Excavation Results Day 8:30–11:30 AM

See what the excavation found. Staff and students will be available to answer questions. (Rain date: August 6, 2009.)

October 24, 2009 Harvard Yard Archaeology Family Program 9:00–Noon

[Related Harvard Yard Archaeology Exhibition](#)

Who knew small buried fragments could reveal so much? The exhibition *Digging Veritas: The Archaeology and History of the Indian College and Student Life at Colonial Harvard* shows how today's Harvard students make sense of archaeological finds and historical documents. Student archaeologists unearthed evidence of colonial Harvard as a landscape shaped by social and religious tensions that affected everything from Native American and English settler relationships to the everyday routines of student life. As the students searched for meaning in the material remains of Harvard students of the past, three themes emerged: literacy and the Indian College; rule-breaking and religion; and negotiations of social status. The exhibition remains on view through January 2010.

About the Peabody Museum

The Peabody Museum is among the oldest archaeological and ethnographic museums in the world with one of the finest collections of human cultural history found anywhere. It is home to superb materials from Africa, ancient Europe, North America, Mesoamerica, Oceania, and South America in particular. In addition to its archaeological and ethnographic holdings, the Museum's photographic archives, one of the largest of its kind, hold more than 500,000 historical photographs, dating from the mid-nineteenth century to the present and chronicling anthropology, archaeology, and world culture.

Location: The Peabody Museum is located at 11 Divinity Avenue in Cambridge. The Museum is a short walk from the Harvard Square MBTA station.

Peabody Museum Hours: 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., seven days a week. The Museum is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Admission is \$9 for adults, \$7 for students and seniors, \$6 for children, 3–18. Free with Harvard ID or Museum membership. The Museum is free to Massachusetts residents Sundays, 9 A.M. to noon, year round, and Wednesdays from 3 P.M. to 5 P.M. (September to May). Admission includes admission to the Harvard Museum of Natural History. For more information call 617-496-1027 or go online to: www.peabody.harvard.edu.

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