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Eastern Pequot Archaeological Field School, 2003 - 2013

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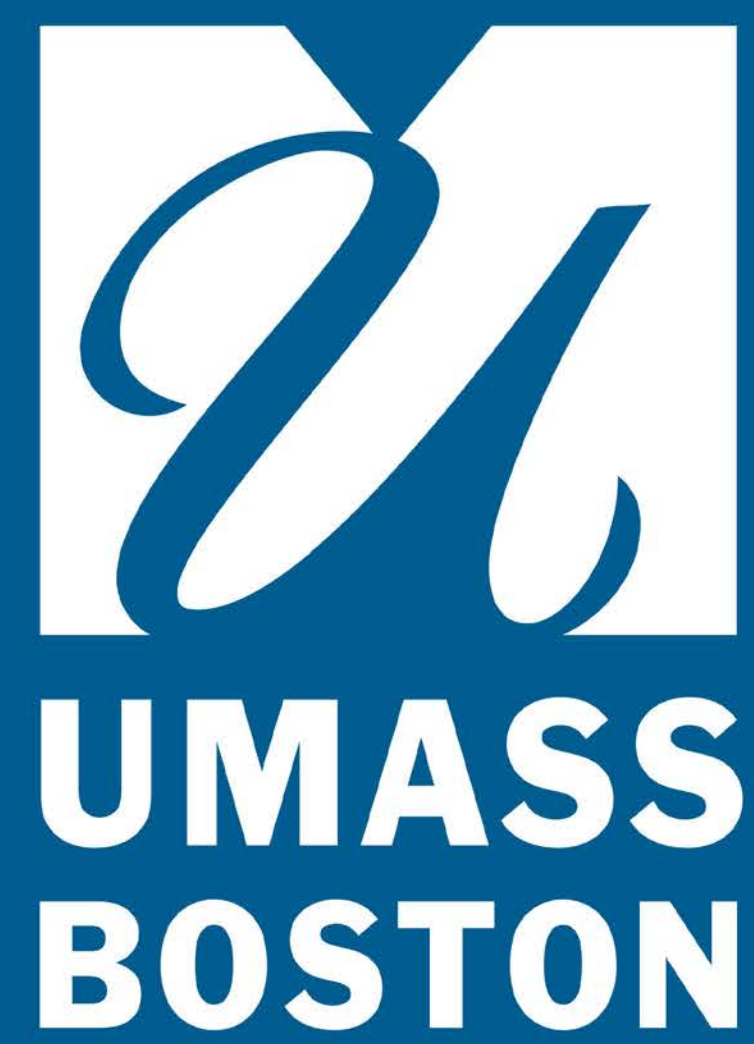
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Eastern Pequot Archaeological Field School

2003 - 2013

Department of Anthropology and M.A. Program in Historical Archaeology
Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation, North Stonington, Connecticut

Project Summary & Goals

The Eastern Pequot Archaeological Field School began in 2003 as a cooperative effort between Anthropology Professor Stephen Silliman and the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation, a Native American community in southeastern Connecticut. It uses a six-credit summer archaeological field course to achieve four objectives set within a model of community-engaged scholarship:



Eastern Pequot Reservation

1. Assist with locating historical cultural sites on the Eastern Pequot reservation, established in A.D. 1683, and provide historic preservation and archaeological services at low to no cost to this Native American community.
2. Train undergraduate and graduate students from UMass Boston and other institutions and tribal community interns in archaeological techniques, heritage preservation, Native American history, and collaborative research methods.
3. Improve archaeological fieldwork and interpretations with the addition of indigenous perspectives and participation as part of a deeply collaborative relationship.
4. Study Eastern Pequot house sites – using artifacts, animal bones, plant remains, architecture, landscape, historical documents, and oral history – to understand the persistence of this Native American community in the colonial world of southern New England.



Natasha Leullier Snedeker (UMass Boston) with tribal elders Norma Parrish and Bobby Sebastian



Veronica Russi (UMass Boston undergraduate) and tribal intern Shianne

Tribal interns Natasha Gambrell and Ashbow Sebastian screening for artifacts



Smoking pipe fragments (Photo by Heather Law)

Results & Impacts

Discovery of numerous archaeological sites on the reservation, dating between 1740 and 1860

Extensive mapping of above- and below-ground features for academic study and land management needs of the community

Development of archaeological methods and publication protocols that are sensitive to community needs and cultural preferences

Ten UMass Boston M.A. theses in Historical Archaeology

Major publications in archaeological journals

Participation of many Eastern Pequot tribal interns and volunteers, ranging in age from 16 to 85

One Eastern Pequot recipient of Society for American Archaeology Native American Scholarship

College credit opportunity for community members



Ryan Hunter (UMass Boston graduate student) and Eastern Pequot community members

Tribal elder Bobby Sebastian blessing excavation with tobacco

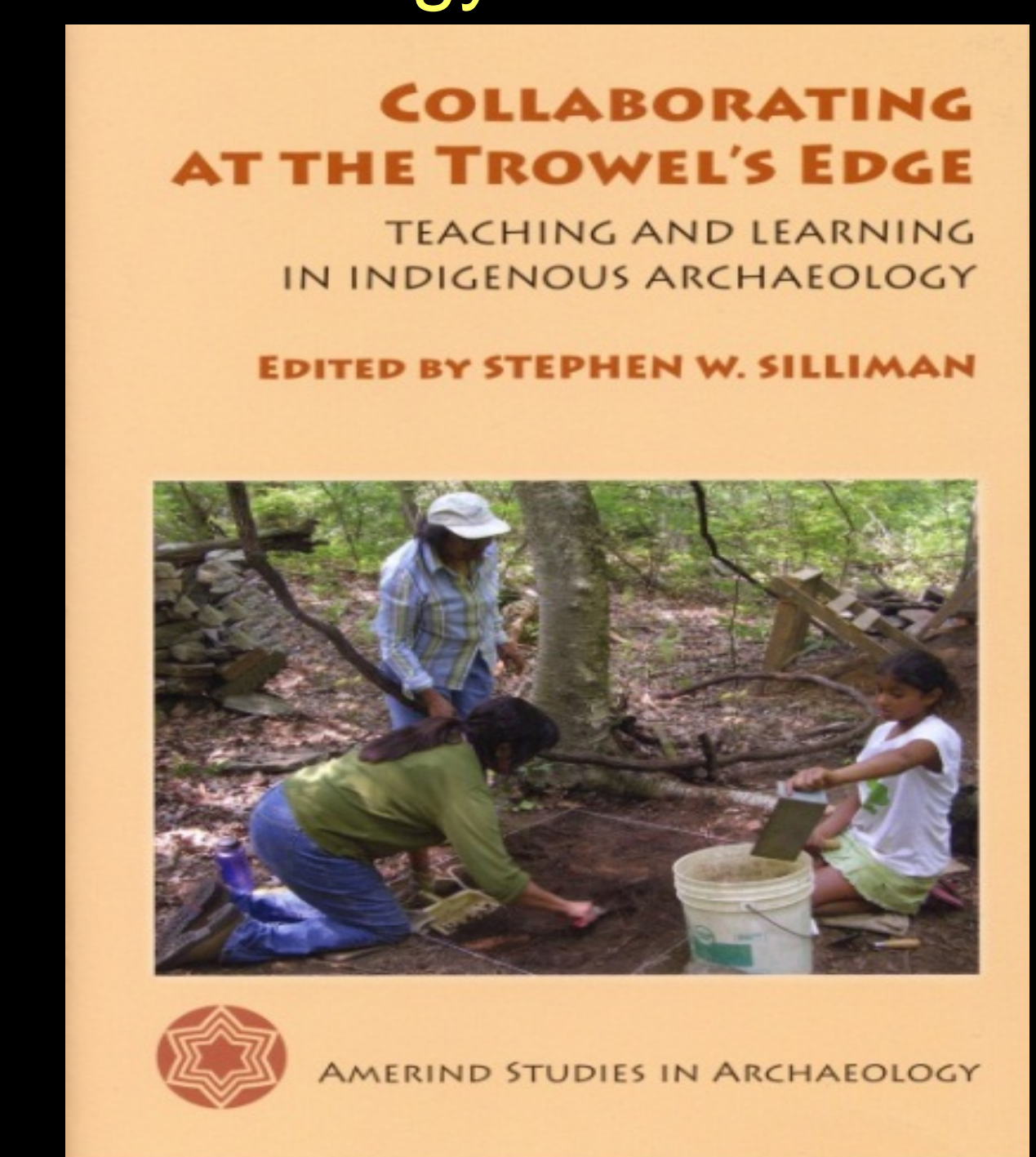


References & Resources

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