

SLAVE WRECKS PROJECT



ANNUAL REPORT

October 1, 2022-September 30, 2023

Slave Wrecks Project

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THEATER SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

I. Africatown, Alabama

Main Partners: Diving with a Purpose (DWP); Archeology in the Community (AITC)

No reported activities or developments in this theater during this time period.

II. Biscayne Bay, Florida

Main Partners: National Park Service (NPS), Youth Diving with A Purpose (YDWP)



PC: Brooks and Freitas measure the St. Lucie anchor. PC: Gabrielle Miller

NPS/DWP Summer Internship:

During the summer months, students Bria Brooks and Analisa Freitas participated in the internship program administered by NPS and YDWP in Homestead, Florida. During the internship, the students learned to understand marine field operations, improve scientific diving skills, history interpretation, and engage with partners providing community science opportunities.

III. Brazil

Main Partners: AfrOrigens, University of Serigipe



The Camargo Project:

SWP worked closely with archaeologists from the University of Sergipe this year to develop in-site conservation and documentation of conserved resources and associate artifacts from the 19th century slaver shipwreck of the Brigue Camargo. The Camargo is the last known ship to bring enslaved Africans to Brazil, uniquely testifying to the deep and troubling entanglements between Brazil and the United States which prolonged the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

SWP, archaeologists from the University of Sergipe, and partner AfrOrigens dove in Ilha Grande Bay in southern Brazil to survey and conduct research on the area to attempt to locate the Camargo. The project will foster further community engagement and peer-to-peer learning between SWP and the local Quilombo community, the descendants of those carried on the Camargo.

SWP and AfrOrigens detailed their findings with Quilombo leadership at the Brazilian National Archives, in a seminar on the Camargo. You can watch the seminar here (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LViGARTCzs4>).

IV. Mozambique

Main Partners: ARQMOZ, Marc-Andre Bernier, Diving with A Purpose (DWP)



Cezar Mahumane, Julio Cesar da Silva Marins and Madicke Gueye in Mozambique

L'Aurore Site & Rescue Diver Training:

SWP and partners at the Eduardo Mondlane University completed a fieldwork trip to Mozambique in July and August to work on the conservation of submerged resources and the L'Aurore, a French slave ship. The trip brought together partners from CARIM, SWP, NPS, DWP, and participants from Brazil, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin and Haiti, the first field campaign since 2020 due to COVID-19 related disruptions.

The project in Mozambique is not just built to be an underwater archaeology project; the overarching objective is to develop capacity for conserved resource preservation, to train younger archaeologists and to develop a community monitors program that includes local divers, law enforcement, and community leaders. Throughout the field season, partners scheduled sessions to dedicate to developing institutional and policy development for community stewardship.

V. Portugal

Main Partners: National Museum of Natural History and Science of the University of Lisbon, Museum of Lisbon



Sec. Lonnie Bunch, Paula Cardoso and Sofia Lovegrove

Society for Historical Archeology Conference & SWP Activities:

- Feature Public Event – A Public Conversation with Smithsonian Secretary Lonnie Bunch III: “Race in the Public Square: The Role of Museums in Difficult but Necessary Conversations” – 1/7/2023
- Tour of Afro-Lisbon & Roundtable Discussion – 1/8/2023
- Reckoning with Racism: The Social Memory of the Slave Trade, A Public Symposium – 1/9/2023

SWP hosted Secretary of the Smithsonian Lonnie G. Bunch III for an event “Race in the Public Square: The Role of Museums in Difficult but Necessary Conversations.” The conversation was moderated by Paula Cardoso and Sofia Lovegrove - founder of the Afrolink digital community, and assistant coordinator of the International Heritage Cooperation program at the Netherlands Cultural Heritage Agency, respectively.

An Afro-Lisbon tour was held for staff members and partners, highlighting various invisible places of slavery around the city. Afterwards SWP CO members convened a conversation to discuss ongoing, developing, and prospective initiatives that are challenging public institutions in Portugal and across Lusophone world to engage with race, slavery and colonialism. They also hosted groups of representatives from UNESCO, the US Department of State, and other NGOs and Foundations including the Gulbenkian Foundation.

Finally, a day-long symposium was held at the Museum of Natural history and Science of the University of Lisbon for partners and global researchers and archaeologists. Scholars and museum professionals from Portugal, Angola, Brazil, Mozambique, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States were able to catalyze conversations, and address questions about diversity in participation, research, and representation of the study of the African slave trade and discuss its presence in local, national, and global contexts.

VI. Senegal

Main Partners: WARC, URICA, Marc-Andre Bernier, Madicke Gueye

SWP-A Senegal Postponed:

Due to unexpected circumstances and the threat of the government shutdown, SWP postponed Senegal fieldwork activities for FY2024.

VII. South Africa

Main Partners: IZIKO Museums of South Africa

No reported activities or developments in this theater during this time period.

VIII. St. Croix

Main Partners: TimeLooper

No reported activities or developments in this theater during this time period.

COORDINATING OFFICE ACTIVITIES

- **ILT Meetings**

SWP held one ILT meeting during the fiscal year (April 25, 2023). Some of the key issues discussed include:

- *New Forms – MOU Status*
- *SWP Website Development*
- *Theater Updates and Planning*
- *Solicitations for FY2024*
- **Development**

Development Meetings – SWP held 6 meetings throughout the year with the office of Development and Alumni Relations in GW to discuss ways to make use of available resources, reach private donors, and diversify the overall stream of funding for the project. These meetings are ongoing in FY2024.

Donor Palm Card – SWP developed a Donor Palm Card with the help of GW; the card is focused on how to support the project and ways to give.

- **Communications/Media/Website**
 1. **Website Development:** SWP selected and contracted with a vendor to create and launch a standalone SWP website. Since then SWP staff have met regularly with the vendor to finalize the structure and content of the website with input from partners. The website will tentatively launch in early 2024.
 2. **Social Media:** SWP created an Instagram account to share and provide fieldwork updates. Currently the account has 446 followers and provides fieldwork activity updates through posts and/or stories.
 3. **Newsletter:** SWP sent out 4 newsletters during the fiscal year (December 2022, March 2023, June 2023, and September 2023).
 4. **Media Database** – SWP continues to kept track of any media articles from fieldwork activities
- **Administrative Updates:**

SWP worked with the following interns during the fiscal year.

- *Mulanga Banza (SWP-CO) – September 2022 – June 2023*
 - Mulanga Banza (she/her) is our student research assistant for SWP. She is a senior studying international affairs with a double concentration in Africa and Comparative Political, Social, and Economic systems and a minor in French. Mulanga has recently authored a 40-page research paper on "Self-love among Cameroonian women" in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Mulanga is excited to utilize her past experience to contribute to the project and expand her knowledge on the subject. Her fun fact is that she can speak 4 languages: French, Lingala, English, and Spanish!
- *Annie McDonnell (SWP-CO) – September 2022 – (currently employed)*
 - Annie McDonnell (she/her) is SWP's new student administrative assistant. She is a sophomore at GWU studying sociology with minors in gender studies and public policy. She brings previous experience working with international nonprofits, and former research in intimate partner violence. She's excited to assist with SWP's development efforts and work with new communities.
- *Bria Brooks (Summer Internship) – June 2023 – September 2023*
 - Bria Brooks is a current anthropology graduate student at the University of West Florida and an Archaeology Assistant with the Florida Public Archaeology Network. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in anthropology at the University of Memphis. Her interests include African diaspora studies, slavery in the western hemisphere, and underwater archaeology. In her current capacity as an archaeologist she has assisted in underwater and terrestrial surveying, mapping, artifact analysis and excavations and is a certified scientific diver.
- *Analisa Freitas (Summer Internship) – June 2023 – September 2023*
 - Analisa Freitas is a recent Master of Advanced Studies graduate in the Marine Biodiversity & Conservation program at Scripps Institution of Oceanography (MAS MBC @ SIO). She was born in Peru, adopted and raised in the Central Valley of California, and spent her young adult life in Westchester County & the Bronx. Analisa's interests and skills run the gamut from singing and dancing, to bike riding and acrobatics, to local, state, and national environmental campaigns, and marine mammal necropsy. Only recently certified in open water and science diving in 2022, she hopes to spend this period of her life furthering her studies and experience in underwater archaeology.

Office Move- the SWP office was moved to 2110 G. St. NW #201-A, Washington DC 20052. Currently the project shares office space with Archeological Quarterly at GWU.