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SWP Newsletter - March 2025

2 messages

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Fri, Mar 14, 2025 at 1:59 PM

Reply-To: tmeklit1@email.gwu.edu

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SWP and Instituto AfrOrigens researchers investigating the Camargo site in Brazil (Nov 2024)

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SWP Newsletter - March 2025

"Dredging Up the Ghostly Secrets of Slave Ships"

The New Yorker recently featured the Slave Wrecks Project (SWP) and its groundbreaking work in maritime archaeology, highlighting efforts to uncover the histories of sunken slave ships. The article showcases the collaborative work of SWP co-director Steve Lubkemann and maritime archaeologist Gabrielle Miller, who, alongside partners like Diving With a Purpose and AfrOrigens, have been instrumental in excavating wrecks such as the Camargo off the coast of Brazil. Their work not only sheds light on the transatlantic slave trade but

also fosters connections between historical research and Black communities. The excavation of the Camargo is part of a larger global effort to preserve submerged histories, with implications for public memory and historical justice.

The New Yorker

Slave Wrecks Project Video



This video, produced by George Washington University, highlights the groundbreaking work of the Slave Wrecks Project (SWP), a global initiative that uses maritime archaeology to uncover the hidden histories of the transatlantic slave trade. Through the investigation of shipwrecks tied to this dark chapter, SWP recovers lost narratives and sheds light on the experiences of the enslaved. But its work goes beyond historical discovery—it actively engages with the lasting legacies of slavery in communities today, from Mozambique and Brazil to Africatown, Alabama. Featuring expert insights and powerful storytelling, the video connects the past to the present, ensuring these histories are both remembered and used to shape a more just future.

SWP Fieldwork & Updates

As we move through the first months of 2025, let's reflect on our achievements so far as we prepare for the exciting projects ahead this summer.

SWP Talk at Towson University



On February 26, Gabrielle Miller and Kate McMahon spoke to students and faculty in Towson University's College of Liberal Arts about the Slave Wrecks Project. Their in-depth presentation covered SWP's partnerships, fieldwork, and educational initiatives, sparking a dynamic discussion. The audience asked numerous questions about SWP's work, best practices, and pathways for students interested in archaeology and maritime archaeology.

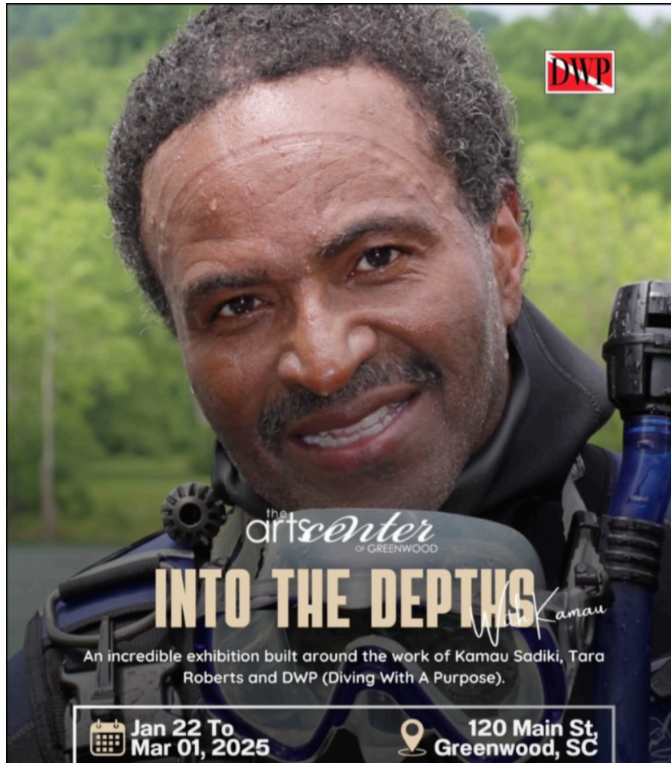
SWP-DWP Internship at Biscayne National Park



As part of its mission to advance maritime archaeology and train the next generation of divers, the Slave Wrecks Project (SWP) collaborates with partners to provide hands-on learning opportunities. Angelo Ayedoun and Camille Louis (pictured above) have been selected for our collaborative internship with Diving With a Purpose (DWP) and Biscayne National Park/NPS Submerged Resources. As past participants in SWP-Academy Senegal (2022), they have now completed their rescue diving certifications and are preparing to

become AAUS Scientific Divers. Their eight-week internship begins in late May 2025, where they will gain hands-on experience in underwater archaeology and conservation. Check our Instagram stories to learn more about them!

Diving with a Purpose's Exhibit in Greenwood, SC



From the segregated swimming pools of Greenwood, South Carolina to the depths of the ocean, Kamau Sadiki has spent decades uncovering lost histories beneath the waves. A veteran diver, explorer, and quiet warrior, Kamau has dedicated his life to honoring the untold stories of the transatlantic slave trade and now, he's coming home!!!

Join us at the DWP Exhibition and Into the Depths exhibition at the Art Center in Greenwood, SC, where Kamau will share his incredible journey—from Greenwood to the ocean's depths, where shipwrecks whisper stories of resilience and remembrance.



Upcoming Teachers' Training at Gulbenkian



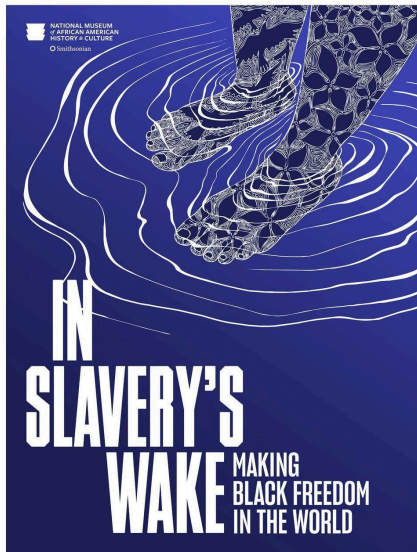
In June 2025, the Teachers' Training at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation returns for its second edition, equipping educators and museum professionals with the tools to engage with difficult histories—particularly Portugal's role in the transatlantic trade of enslaved

people. Led by the Slave Wrecks Project, in collaboration with the Gulbenkian Foundation, this immersive course blends historical context, museum visits, and practical workshops to rethink how these narratives are taught and remembered. Designed for history teachers but open to educators from various fields, the two week-long sessions will take place June 30 – July 4 and July 7 – 11, with a public talk concluding each session. Courses will be primarily in Portuguese, with select sessions in English and simultaneous translation.

These images from the first session offer a glimpse into last year's discussions and workshops. More details coming soon!

[Register Here](#)

In Slavery's Wake Exhibition



Opened on December 13, 2024, at the National Museum of African American History & Culture, *In Slavery's Wake: Making Black Freedom in the World* immerses visitors in the freedom-making practices of Black communities navigating both the histories and legacies of racial slavery and colonialism. The exhibition is currently on view at the Concourse Level (C) in the Bank of America Special Exhibitions Gallery and will run until **June 8, 2025**.

Learn more about the exhibition below.

[In Slavery's Wake at the NMAAHC](#)

[The New York Times](#)

New Website!

Have you explored our newly designed website yet? It's live and ready for you—visit today and keep up our latest projects, research, and updates!

slavewreckproject.org

SWP in the Spotlight

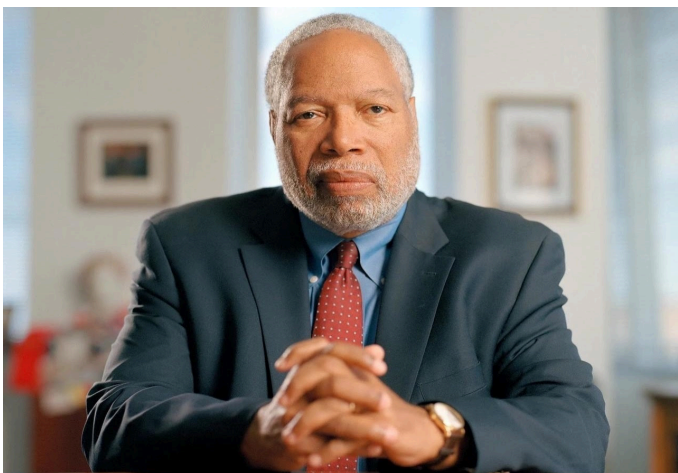


Dr. Steve Lubkemann, co-director of the Slave Wrecks Project, joined Piece of History podcast (Episode 6) with host Colum McGrath to discuss the origins of the project, the cutting-edge methodologies used to locate and analyze shipwrecks, and the profound insights these discoveries provide into the millions of lives affected by the transatlantic slave trade. From underwater surveys to the challenges of conducting research in politically and environmentally complex regions, Dr. Lubkemann explores how archaeology is reshaping our understanding of one of history's darkest chapters.

Listen to the full conversation on [Spotify](#) or [iTunes](#).

[Spotify](#)

[iTunes](#)



How Lonnie G. Bunch III Is Renovating the "Nation's Attic"

The New Yorker



"In Slavery's Wake" is a Groundbreaking
New Exhibit at the Smithsonian NMAAHC

Who Owns Underwater Heritage?

Artnet



Rare portraits reveal the humanity of the
slaves who revolted on the Amistad

WETA

The Conversation

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