



# DAACS expands into Caribbean

Now operating with the security of a \$2 million endowment, the Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery is widening its scope to include the Caribbean.

This winter, DAACS will begin its investigation of Caribbean slavery with a five-month project based at the Department of History and Archaeology at the University of West Indies, Mona, located outside of Kingston, Jamaica. From January to May, a team of archaeological analysts led by DAACS Project Manager Jillian Galle will reanalyze artifacts, field records, and maps from four 18th-century slave sites located on two sugar plantations on Jamaica's north coast.

Inclusion of these sites in the online archive ([www.daacs.org](http://www.daacs.org)) will provide the first opportunity to systematically compare archaeological data on slave life under different agricultural regimes in the Atlantic region.

While in Jamaica, DAACS staffers will work collaboratively with archaeologists at UWI and the Jamaica National Heritage Trust. Outreach will include teaching UWI students about archaeological data structures and early American and European material culture.

DAACS work also will continue at Monticello, with the reanalysis of collections from three sites in Maryland, South Carolina, and Virginia.

DAACS is a Web-based archive that provides researchers free access to artifactual, contextual, and spatial data from a variety of slave sites. In addition to offering an unparalleled opportunity for comparative archaeological research into the social and economic dynamics that shaped slavery throughout the



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Monticello



## DAACS

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Atlantic world, DAACS is pioneering strategies that enlarge networks for data sharing and scholarly collaboration in the discipline of archaeology.

DAACS currently provides online access to excavated slave-quarter collections from the greater Chesapeake region, including five sites at Monticello. In October 2004, the Mellon Foundation awarded DAACS \$570,000 for the addition of 22 sites from Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Jamaica within the next three years.

A \$500,000 challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities served as the base for DAACS' endowment. Under the terms of the December 2001 grant, the Thomas Jefferson Foundation had to raise \$1.5 million in non-government funds to receive the full \$500,000 from NEH. The Foundation attained that total in July, thus establishing the endowment and securing DAACS' continuing operation.

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