

A DAY: PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, THE DISSERTATION, AND HAPPY HOUR

July 29, 2011 Terry Brock Day of Archaeology, Day of Archaeology 2011, Education and work on my dissertation, Anthropology, Archaeological sub-disciplines, archaeologist, Archaeology, Baltimore, Beer, beverage, chair, Colonial Williamsburg Digital History Center, CRM, Cultural heritage, Dissertation, Facebook, Grad School, Happy Hour, historical archaeology, James River Institute, James River Institute for Archaeology, Local Archaeologist, Michigan State University, online introduction, PhD, Professional Service, Social Media, Society for Historical Archaeology, Twitter, Virginia, Williamsburg



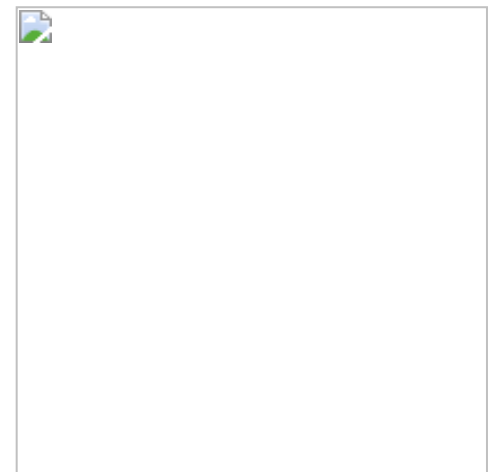
What this archaeologist will not be doing today: digging.

A day in my life, as a PhD Candidate in Anthropology at Michigan State University (but residing in the historical archaeology mecca of [Williamsburg, Virginia](#)), is often a struggle between writing my dissertation and taking care of other archaeologically related business that seems to pop up throughout the day. For example, my morning today started with taking care of some professional service responsibilities. As a graduate student, I have been doing my part to make sure I can weasel my way into making an impact on how my discipline works professionally. Often, this is a difficult task for a grad student, but, I consider it important. This morning (after a bit of sleeping in because I was up late grading for my online introduction to archaeology course) I sat down to a number of emails and tasks

relating to professional organizational business. I have managed to find a niche within my organization, the [Society for Historical Archaeology](#): social media. Part of my responsibilities has been running the [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages for the upcoming [conference in Baltimore](#). Additionally, I have been working closely with other members to develop an action plan to get the entire organization to use social media in a comprehensive and effective way. We are making solid progress.

My afternoon, however, will be much different. This afternoon, I write. I swear. I will write and write and write. And not just any writing: dissertation writing. At 1 pm ET, I will sit in my chair, and work on my dissertation. This is probably the hardest part of being a graduate student, archaeology or otherwise, is writing every day. Today's subject will be outlining a theory section, which makes it even more painful to think about. The subject of my dissertation are two slave quarters in Southern Maryland, one of which was occupied until the 1950s. The theory is a look at communities, agency, and social relations. It will be loads of fun...

Fortunately, my day ends with every archaeologist's favorite past time: Happy Hour (I am convinced that Day of Archaeology was scheduled on a Friday to ensure that there would be blog posts about beer). This evening is a special happy hour, in fact. Not only will I visit the local bar to share a beverage with my friends from the [Colonial Williamsburg Digital History Center](#) (the majority of whom are archaeologists, in fact), but this evening I will be saying goodbye to a fellow field tech from the [James River Institute for Archaeology](#), a local CRM firm that I have been working part time for over the past few months (grad students need to pay the bills). He is heading off to graduate school, himself, and there is no better send-off than some beers with archaeologists at the [GreenLeafe](#).



Happy Day of Archaeology everybody!

*The GreenLeaf: Local
Archaeologist watering hole
since....well, forever.*

