

AWARD

## J. C. Harrington Medal in Historical Archaeology: Julia A. King

Patricia M. Samford · Edward E. Chaney

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Julia Ann King is the recipient of the 2018 Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) J. C. Harrington Medal in Historical Archaeology. The award was presented to Dr. King at the SHA's annual conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, in recognition of her scholarship, commitment to mentoring students, and lifetime contributions to the field of historical archaeology.

Julie is an expert in the historical archaeology of the Chesapeake Tidewater region, where she has studied and written about domestic life, social memory, narrative, landscape, and the impacts of colonialism. Her research has changed the way archaeologists think about the Chesapeake's history, both in terms of the nuanced complexities of indigenous and colonial life, and in the ways later generations interacted with and shaped narratives of the past. Her work is multidisciplinary, drawing on multiple lines of evidence, including anthropology, history, the hard sciences, and art and literary criticism. Perhaps because of this effort to communicate across disciplines, Julie's scholarship is clear and refreshingly free of jargon. But Julie does not just draw data and ideas from other disciplines, she actively collaborates with experts from a wide variety of fields, as well as with indigenous and descendant communities, creating work that is both fresh and timely. Her friend and colleague Martha Zierden observed that

Julie's work touches every aspect of our discipline: rigorous scholarship, wide-ranging publication, public service, outreach and education, curation and collections management, and collaboration with scholars from a range of interests and

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disciplines. I cannot think of another historical archaeologist with such a wide range of meaningful contribution[s]. (Samford and Chaney 2014:4)

## Early Life and Education

Julie was born on 25 November 1956, the eldest of five daughters of Gloria S. and George M. King. She grew up on a farm near Crofton, Maryland. Julie's interest in archaeology and history was sparked at an early age by both of her parents. Her father's excavating business often uncovered artifacts and fossils that she and her sisters used in science displays when they played school. Her mother instilled in her an understanding and appreciation of American and colonial history. By the time Julie was in the 10th grade, she knew archaeology would be in her future and wrote to Ivor Noël Hume, followed by a trip to Colonial Williamsburg to meet the famous archaeologist. From that point, the die was irrevocably cast.

Julie started her undergraduate career at St. Mary's College of Maryland, where she volunteered in the archaeological laboratory at the St. Mary's City Commission (now Historic St. Mary's City) and took a class from George L. Miller. During her first year in college, she learned that a future archaeologist would need a degree in anthropology, a discipline not then offered at St. Mary's. On the recommendation of a St. Mary's professor, Julie transferred to the College of William and Mary in her sophomore year, where she was a student in the college's first archaeological field school, held in 1978 at Flowerdew Hundred Plantation and taught by Norman Barka, Mary Beaudry, and Ted Reinhart. Andrew Edwards and Charles Hodges were there as field supervisors.

After graduating from William and Mary in 1978 with a B.A. in anthropology and history, Julie began her M.A. research at Florida State University under the direction of Kathleen A. Deagan. At that time Deagan's research focused on the interactions between Indians and Spaniards in 18th-century St. Augustine and on the creolized "Hispanic-American" society that characterized colonial Florida (Deagan 1983). Julie's thesis, "An Archaeological Investigation of Seventeenth Century St. Augustine, Florida" (King 1981), the first to study this period in early Florida, examined differences among the distributions of household ceramics from

three sites and linked these differences to adaptive variability based on household status and ethnic composition (King 1984). Her experience in St. Augustine and at Florida State University provided the basis for the "Atlantic World" approach Julie would later adopt in her work in the Chesapeake Tidewater region (King 2002a).

From Florida, Julie journeyed to the doctoral program in historical archaeology at the University of Pennsylvania, where she studied with Robert Schuyler and Harold Dibble, and met Joe Joseph and Mary Beth Reed. At Penn, she researched Quakers in 17th-century Maryland and discovered Thomas Pynchon and John Barth. Her dissertation, *An Intrasite Spatial Analysis of the Van Sweringen Site, St. Mary's City, Maryland* (King 1990a, 2006), set out to affirm the value of plow-disturbed middens for examining homelots in an urban Chesapeake setting, in the process identifying the earliest-known coffeehouse in the Chesapeake and raising questions about how ethnicity, status, and gender were understood in the archaeological record (King and Miller 1987; King 1988; Gibb and King 1991).

## Professional Career and Service

From 1987 to 2006, Julie was employed by the Maryland Historical Trust's Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, a state museum focused on the history and archaeology of Maryland. She served as the museum's director of research, securing nearly one million dollars for 11 large surveys, 12 more intensive investigations, and many smaller surveys. In the course of this work, archaeological relationships were forged with two military facilities in the region, Naval Air Station Patuxent River and Indian Head Naval Surface Warfare Center, relationships continuing today and which were highlighted by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as a model case study in federal/state partnerships.

In 1996, Julie became the first director of the Maryland Archaeological Conservation (MAC) Laboratory. She consolidated three programs (research, conservation, and collections management) under one umbrella and oversaw the furnishing and staffing of the new 38,000 sq. ft. facility. Under her leadership, the MAC Lab gained a national reputation for being user friendly, with its collections and resources made increasingly accessible to students, educators, researchers, and the broader public. As lab director, she secured a number of federal grants funding a wide range of projects,

including three major grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). These grants funded the development of an online guide to Maryland's most important archaeological collections, creation of the collaborative Comparative Archaeological Study of Colonial Chesapeake Culture Website, and the launching of the Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland Website, an online type collection of various artifact categories, including historical period ceramics and small finds. In 2012, she established the Gloria S. King Research Fellowship in memory of her mother, for the purpose of providing support to scholars and students studying MAC Lab collections.

In 2006, Julie joined the faculty of St. Mary's College of Maryland, where she had been teaching since 1986. In 2015, she was named the Aldom-Plansoen Honors College Professor of Anthropology. From 2008 to 2013 and again from 2015 to 2017, she served as the coordinator of the newly created Museum Studies Program at St. Mary's. She was also the editor of *SlackWater*, a journal focused on oral histories of life in southern Maryland, with most contributions compiled by students from St. Mary's College.

Julie first joined the SHA in 1979. She served as a member of the board of directors from 1997 to 2000 and then, in 2003, as president. She has served the society as an associate editor of the journal, *Historical Archaeology*, and as a member of the SHA Awards, Governmental Affairs, Nominations and Elections, and Collections and Curation committees. Under her leadership, the society began its transition to a structure including an executive director and, for the first time, formalized its relationship with the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology.

In 2003, Julie was appointed to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) by President George W. Bush, becoming the first archaeologist appointed to the council since its creation in 1966. She served two four-year terms on the council under Presidents Bush and Obama. She chaired the newly formed ACHP Archaeology Task Force, producing long-overdue revised policy for federal agencies dealing with human burials, human remains, and funerary objects (ACHP 2007), and original policy on archaeology, heritage tourism, and education (ACHP 2008). Under her direction, the task force also issued Section 106 guidance, with special reference to archaeology (ACHP 2009).

## Publications and Scholarship

Julie's scholarship has been wide ranging, exploring a number of subjects, from the colonial encounter and the construction of modernity in the Chesapeake to the "curatorial turn" in the discipline. Her work reveals the power of artifacts and landscapes for generating new and different questions and insights about the past, especially when viewed through an interdisciplinary lens. Julie also takes seriously the anthropological adage to "make the familiar strange," focusing a critical eye on the everyday practices of archaeological work and the questions these practices raise about representation and the legacies of the colonial encounter.

Using theories of economic and cultural innovation applied to barn architecture, for example, Julie challenged perspectives that paint 19th-century farmers in the Chesapeake as "backwards" (King 1997). Her work on memory revealed that ruins, long thought to be absent from the early American landscape, not only existed in the 19th century, but had become important features for conveying narratives supporting, among other things, the justification of slavery, at least in the Chesapeake region (King 1990b, 1994, 1996, 1999, 2002b, 2012). In thoughtful essays coauthored with her colleagues, Julie also rejected perspectives that viewed "Contact" as a solely indigenous experience (Blanton and King 2004; King and Chaney 2004a). Her recent work with indigenous landscapes in Maryland and Virginia is bringing into question longstanding interpretations of indigenous politics understood solely through European documents (Strickland, Busby et al. 2015; Strickland, King et al. 2016).

Julie's work in museums and the stories told to the public have made her acutely aware of issues of representation and how narrative practices and other forms of memory work can reify colonial legacies. In her study of the use of Dutch art for archaeological interpretation, for example, Julie described how visual culture, whether in exhibits or technical reports, is never just "there," never simply illustrative (King 2007). Julie and her colleague, Ed Chaney, used this approach to explore representations of race and the struggle to examine histories of the construction of race in early and modern Maryland (King and Chaney 2011). She expanded the discussion of representation and other interpretive practices in her book, *Archaeology, Landscape, and the Politics of the Past: The View from Southern Maryland* (King 2012), using archaeological, documentary, architectural,

literary, and visual evidence to reveal how landscapes acquire their meaning from the stories repeatedly told about them, challenging archaeologists to think critically about the political implications of the stories they tell about their findings.

For years, Julie has had a working relationship with the Piscataway Indians of Maryland, using archaeology to chart a long-hidden landscape and to center native people in modern tellings of the region's past. The project has captured the public's imagination by discovering a number of historically significant sites that had long been considered "lost," including the location of Charles County's first courthouse, a 17th-century fortified Piscataway Indian settlement and satellite settlements, and the quarters of tenants and enslaved laborers. Describing this effort, Maryland colleague Dennis Curry noted that Julie

assembled and led the team [mostly her students] that discovered Maryland's archeological needle in the haystack—the circa 1680 Piscataway Indian fort at Zekiah. She accomplished this using exquisite research and, perhaps more, sheer determination. Few archeologists could have found this long-lost site (and many have tried). (Samford and Chaney 2014:2)

Discovering long-lost archaeological sites can fire the public imagination, but Julie takes seriously the criticism concerning the artificial divide between historical and prehistoric archaeology (Lightfoot 1995). Working with the Piscataway and, recently, the Rappahannock Tribe of Virginia, she and her colleague Scott Strickland have used documentary, archaeological, and oral-history evidence to articulate a story of native history that begins, not at "Contact," but, in the centuries preceding before coming into the present. Native colleagues who once wanted little to do with archaeologists recognize Julie's collaborative approach to the past, and she readily acknowledges that these collaborations have made her a better archaeologist. This work has revealed the robust indigenous world that the colonists found and to which they had to adapt; strategies of resistance, adjustment, and survivance as the colonial encounter unfolded; and the right of native people to have and to tell their story (King and Chaney 1999, 2004b; Flick et al. 2012; King, Trussell et al. 2014; King, Flick et al. 2015; King, Mansius et al. 2016). So impactful is this research that, in 2017, Julie and her colleagues

received another NEH grant and a National Park Service award to trace the history of the Rappahannock Indians from A.D. 200 to 1950.

Back in the lab, Julie's experience in curating Maryland's archaeological collections has sensitized her to concerns of collections management and curation in archaeology (King 2014, 2016). As director of the MAC Lab, she advocated for strategies for the long-term preservation of digital records, coupled with increased access to digital archaeological collections, writing about the factors that can operate to affect digital access. Julie has also explored the social and cultural factors shaping the curatorial turn in the field, concluding that, while archaeological collections are first and foremost described as a form of "scientific data," their collection and curation are also driven by issues grounded in the humanities: nostalgia, loss, and the anxieties often provoked about modernity (King 2009a, 2009b, 2010, 2016).

To increase digital access to archaeological collections, Julie and her colleagues received NEH funding in 2002 to support the collaborative project, "A Comparative Study of Colonial Chesapeake Archaeology" (<<http://www.chesapeakearchaeology.org/index.aspx>>). This project revealed the need to focus on regions within the Chesapeake (rather than the Chesapeake as a totality), mostly river valleys, so, in 2013, Julie secured additional NEH support to assemble and compare collections from 33 archaeological sites in the Potomac River valley (<<http://colonialencounters.org/index.aspx>>). Both projects focus on the colonial encounter, exploring the nature of social and economic change, domestic life, intercultural interaction, the role of conflict and violence in the competition for resources, and how material culture was used to maintain or create new identities grounded in race, ethnicity, status, and gender. Her work and that of her colleagues on this project was recognized with yet another NEH grant to support an edited volume describing the project's results. That volume is in preparation.

Julie has published on Chesapeake material culture (King and Pogue 1987; King 1991; Powell and King 1991; King, Bevan et al. 1993; King, Miller et al. 1995; Phung et al. 2009), the significance and the value of historical archaeology (King 1993; Lees and King 2007), and local history (King, Arnold-Lourie et al. 2008).

Julie's devotion to her students is legendary. She provides opportunities to her exclusively undergraduate students, encouraging them to present their research at

professional conferences and noting that they never fail to impress. Julie's students leave the program at St. Mary's with the skills necessary to begin a career in archaeology or "related field." Skylar Bauer, who went on to graduate study in Michigan and now works for the National Park Service, says her "admiration for [Julie] has only grown over the years," and that she is

still amazed how Dr. King, ... goes out of her way to support her students. She actively seeks out and creates new opportunities ... [to] hone their skills. ... Dr. King's passion for the field and devotion to her students has had a profound and lasting impact upon many, including former students like myself. (Samford and Chaney 2014:4)

Julie's research has been recognized by fellowships and stipends from Dumbarton Oaks, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the Virginia Historical Society, Winterthur Museum, and the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture. Her publications have received awards from the American Association for State and Local History and the Maryland Historical Trust.

Julie's contributions to historical archaeology through her careful and insightful research, her institutional and academic leadership, her financial support, and her general commitment to and unabashed love for the discipline make her the perfect recipient of the 2018 J. C. Harrington Award. Bill Kelso perhaps said it most succinctly: "I knew Pinky Harrington and I know that he would be pleased that she was given this honor in his name" (Samford and Chaney 2014:5).

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