

History Task Force Implementation Team Report July 2018

- An archeological field school conducted this summer at Fort Hill included a second “Clemson History in Plain Sight” event, when students and faculty were available to the public and news media to discuss their work and findings. Led by Visiting Lecturer David Markus, with support from Historic Properties and University Facilities, the field school is an effort to interpret the stories of African-Americans who were enslaved at Fort Hill by locating artifacts and remnants of facilities where they lived and worked: a kitchen, spin-house weave room, smoke house and cook’s residence. The event generated numerous local news reports, including the [Clemson Newsroom](#), [WYFF-TV](#), [WSPA-TV](#), [Greenville News](#), the S.C. Radio Network, Fox Carolina and Anderson Independent. A video about the project will be shown at the Institutional Advancement Committee meeting.



- The Implementation Team continues to work on recommendations for the administration on how to sustain the work launched by the Board's History Task Force. There is growing interest in learning about Clemson's full history on campus, as evidenced by the creation of a new student organization, the Clemson Historical Society, an ad hoc committee looking at ways to preserve the Clemson House story, and plans to add a course module using new historical building signs in the first-year composition course. Our recommendations should be ready to present after the start of the fall semester.
- Implementation Team leader Cathy Sams has been retained by University Planning & Design to manage a new project exploring the feasibility of a Discovery Center, a place where people could learn about and engage with Clemson – its history, notable achievements and plans for the future. The project will also address a recommendation from the Board of Trustees that Clemson consider developing a history museum. One-on-one interviews with 20 key stakeholders will have been completed by the July board meeting. These meetings are intended to gather ideas and identify opportunities for synergy with other projects. Ideas will be further vetted in a series of workshops this fall.