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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **THREE USI ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN NEW HARMONY**

*University of Southern Indiana students will search for a Harmonist Kiln and 1840's kitchen, and document findings from last year's field school*

NEW HARMONY, IN (May 4, 2009) – Archaeological excavations will be conducted jointly by the University of Southern Indiana's archaeological field school and the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites at three locations in New Harmony, May 12 – June 12. Excavations will be conducted under the direction of Dr. Michael Strezewski, assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Southern Indiana, and Bill Wepler, Curator of Historical Archaeology for the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites.

Historic New Harmony will include the archaeological digs on their daily tours which begin at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily at the Atheneum/Visitors Center, located at 401 N. Arthur Street. Wepler and Strezewski will provide on-site interpretation when a visitor is taken to either excavation site. Historic New Harmony plans to discuss and show the finding on the tours and in exhibits, in the future. There will also be an open house at one or more of the sites, available to the public on Saturday, June 6 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

During the field school, students will be digging at the site of the former Harmonist kiln, at the corner of North and West streets. The Harmonist potter, Christoph Weber lived at this spot from 1815 to 1824 and had his shop and kiln next to his house. Weber made redware pottery for the entire Harmonist community (cups, plates, storage jars, pitchers, colanders).

None of the structures related to pottery manufacture is still standing. Dr. Strezewski conducted a magnetometry survey in the dig-site area this past summer to see if the locations of these structures could be determined. Based on the results of the survey, he and the students will test some of these spots for potential findings. The field school is particularly interested in finding the kiln. It will provide useful information on how Harmonist redware was made.

Excavations initiated in 2008 will continue at Community House No. 2 to document any archaeological resources that might be destroyed or disturbed by ongoing renovations to the building. If time allows, fieldwork will begin at the Fauntleroy Home, located at 411 West Street, where students will try to locate and answer questions about the house's 1840s kitchen.

For more information about the archeological dig or to arrange an interview with either on-site director, please contact Dr. Michael Strezewski at [mstrezewsk@usi.edu](mailto:mstrezewsk@usi.edu) or 812.464.1931 or Bill Wepler at [bwepler@dnr.in.gov](mailto:bwepler@dnr.in.gov) or 317.232.8178.

### **About Historic New Harmony:**

Historic New Harmony's mission is to preserve New Harmony's utopian legacy by inspiring renewal and fellowship between people and communities through its programs and collections. Historic New Harmony is a unified program of the University of Southern Indiana and the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites. For more information on Historic New Harmony, please visit [www.newharmony.org](http://www.newharmony.org).

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