

From the Editor

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *River Chronicles*, a new journal presented by AECOM's Burlington, New Jersey, Cultural Resource Department. In *River Chronicles*, we will explore the deep cultural history of Philadelphia's Delaware River waterfront through the lens of archaeology. The impetus for this examination is a unique and wonderful archaeological project sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration in support of efforts to improve Interstate 95 (I-95) through the city of Philadelphia. As you will read in Stephen W. Tull's introductory essay, the archaeology project is a regulatory requirement, but the rich cultural history it is resurrecting has inspired us here at AECOM to go beyond the usual compliance documentation. *River Chronicles* is one such vehicle for this wealth of information.

AECOM's Cultural Resource Department began the I-95/GIR Improvement Corridor Project more than a decade ago, and over the years our archaeologists and researchers have developed countless artifact workshops, public lectures, professional presentations, and even museum displays. The results of the work are formally presented in *Digging I-95*, a web-based reporting platform (more on that in Tull's introduction), but we wanted a forum to publish highlights from the research and explore broader interpretations of what the data mean from an anthropological perspective. In addition, *River Chronicles* will give our young scholars the opportunity to publish their hard work in a professional-style journal under the mentorship of experienced professionals. The articles in *River Chronicles* are reviewed by experts within the department, are edited and copy edited by staff members with professional editing experience, and are formatted by graphic designers.

Our goal for *River Chronicles* is to make it visually stimulating and aesthetically engaging. In each issue, we will publish a variety of content, including feature-length articles that delve deeply into various subjects,

medium-length pieces that introduce research themes, and short articles and/or sidebars that present an individual artifact or focused topic to whet a reader's appetite for more. Our first issue is somewhat introductory in nature and includes articles by both seasoned scholars and young researchers. As mentioned above, Stephen W. Tull provides an overview of the I-95 project and the products issuing from it. One of these products, *Digging I-95*, is explained in a short piece by Mark Petrovich and Chester Cunanan. Douglas Mooney gives us an overview of the exciting Native American finds from the I-95 project, reminding us of the peoples and cultures that came before Europeans populated the Delaware River waterfront. To accompany Mooney's article, we offer a closer examination of one Native American feature—a cooking hearth—by Jeremy W. Koch. George Cress and Daniel B. Eichinger III discuss the treasure-trove of archaeological data that is the ubiquitous outdoor privy, and to accompany their article, Meta F. Janowitz gives us insights into the indoor equivalent, the chamber pot. Thomas J. Kutys and Samuel A. Pickard present their in-depth research on a token from a nineteenth-century saloon, and Rebecca L. White expounds on the most iconic-to-date I-95 artifact: our very own moon man figurine, Pierrot Lunaire. And Mary Mills discusses an artifact modern gardeners may know from their own lives—a bell-glass.

For now, *River Chronicles* documents the archaeology of three Delaware River neighborhoods (Northern Liberties, Kensington-Fishtown, and Port Richmond) on the north side of Center City as exposed through the I-95 project. As our journal matures, we hope the focus will broaden to other parts of the Delaware River waterfront and incorporate scholarship by other archaeologists working in Philadelphia. And lest we forget, Philadelphia is graced with two great rivers, and an exploration of its life and culture would not be complete without accounts of archaeology along the Schuylkill, as well. There is a lot ahead for *River Chronicles*, so stay tuned and keep reading!

- Grace H. Ziesing