

Troy University Archeological Students Assist NRCS

By Teresa Paglione, Cultural Resources Specialist, NRCS, Auburn, AL

Beginning Fall 2011, the Troy University Archaeological Research Center has conducted archaeological surveys for USDA NRCS's Wetland Reserve Program easements across Alabama. The principal investigator, Jason Mann, the director of the Troy University Archaeological Research Center, directed the Troy University archaeology students in an apprentice-style fashion to perform the survey work, thus achieving work experience and focusing on (future) professional goals. In addition to completing the archaeological survey work and fulfilling the reporting requirements, NRCS WRP archaeological surveys provided students interested in archaeology as a profession with active employment in a real-world archaeological practice - which bolsters their overall educational experience and future employment marketability.

Since 2011, several students have used these experiences conducting WRP archaeological surveys and have moved forward with their careers:



Rachel in the field.



Jared Aguayo was a survey field technician on several WRP surveys.

Jared Aguayo was a survey field technician on several WRP surveys. His experience on the WRP projects greatly aided in finding employment soon after his graduation. He is presently employed with New South Associates, a privately owned cultural resource management service in Georgia. In addition, Jared has been accepted and enrolled in the anthropology graduate program at Georgia State University.

Benjamin Conner was a field technician and also served as a primary report writer. His experience conducting the WRP archaeological surveys and writing reports provided him with the archaeological experience to be hired by Terra Explorations, a privately owned cultural resource

management company. Benjamin is currently employed full-time and is scheduled to graduate from Troy University in May 2014 (with a 4.0 average). He has been accepted to several graduate programs in anthropology but has not yet decided which university he will attend.

Amanda (Rachel) Trammell only recently began working on the WRP projects as an archaeology technician and report editor in the Troy University Archaeological Research Center. Her relatively new experience editing archaeology reports and assisting with the WRP archaeological surveys helped her earn a merit based scholarship from the Alabama Archaeological Society.