

Jamestown Rediscovery

HISTORIC JAMESTOWNE

Media Contact: Kelly Beckley
757-856-1259
kbeckley@preservationvirginia.org

Merry Outlaw Curatorial Conservation Fund Established



Above: Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation trustees Pam and Jim Penny pose for a photo with Senior Curator Merry Abbitt Outlaw (*middle*) at Jamestown.

JAMESTOWN, Va. – November 15, 2019

To support Jamestown’s curatorial and conservation efforts, Williamsburg residents and Foundation trustees, Pam and Jim Penny, established a new fund in honor of Senior Curator Merry Abbitt Outlaw. In 2011, Ms. Outlaw joined the Jamestown family full-time and has been an invaluable member of the team ever since. One of the foremost experts on 17th-century material culture, Ms. Outlaw worked as an editor for the acclaimed publication *Ceramics in America* for ten years and often serves as a cultural resource consultant for various historical organizations. “I am deeply humbled by the generous gift from the Pennys,” shared Ms. Outlaw. “It is our ethical responsibility to care for the millions of priceless artifacts in our collection, and wonderful support like this helps make that possible.”

The Pennys and Ms. Outlaw first met at an antique store in Yorktown, Virginia. Sharing a love for history and ceramics, they are all active members of The Antique Collectors’ Guild based in Williamsburg. “During a visit to Jamestown, we toured the archaeology lab and conservation facilities with Merry and were extremely impressed with her depth of knowledge and expertise in preserving the Jamestown artifacts,” shared Jim Penny. Recognizing her extraordinary contributions

and value to the organization, the Pennys named the new fund for Ms. Outlaw. “We hope that others who share our appreciation for Jamestown’s vital curatorial and conservation efforts will be inspired to contribute toward this fund that honors Ms. Outlaw’s exceptional work at Jamestown.”

If you too would like to support Jamestown’s curatorial, conservation, and research efforts, contributions can be made to the Merry Outlaw Curatorial Conservation Fund on the Historic Jamestowne website. Visit historicjamestowne.org/support and note the fund name in the “special purpose” field. For a paper donation form or additional information, please contact us at (757) 229-4997 ext. 100 or email hjadmin@preservationvirginia.org.

“We cannot express how grateful we are to the Pennys for this generous gift and for launching this funding effort,” said Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation President, Dr. James Horn. “This fund will help support conservation interns to work with Ms. Outlaw, purchase much-needed equipment and tools for use in the lab, and provide important training opportunities and resources for our staff.”

Historic Jamestowne (HJ) preserves the original site of the first permanent English settlement in America and is jointly administered by Jamestown Rediscovery and the National Park Service. Entrance tickets are available at the HJ Visitor Center from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., and the grounds remain open until dusk. General admission is \$20.00 per adult (which includes both Historic Jamestowne and Yorktown Battlefield for seven consecutive days). Children 15 & under are free. National Park Passes and Preservation Virginia Memberships are accepted; however a \$5 per person fee may apply. Entrance tickets and passes include admission to the archaeological site, the Memorial Church, the Voorhees Archaearium Archaeological Museum, as well as scheduled daily walking tours and public programs. For opening hours of the Dale House Café and information about special events, please visit www.historicjamestowne.org or call (757) 856-1250.