



April 3, 2011

Staten Island archaeology buffs hold fair for kids

By KAREN KALRIESS

On April 3, 2011, young guests were welcomed to the first annual Staten Island Archaeological Fair on the campus of Wagner College. Kid-friendly exhibits gave visitors hands-on experience with local history.

Produced by the Archaeological Society of Staten Island, the event featured local history enthusiasts and educators. The groups provided over 400 youths with the opportunity to try their hand at artifact digging, hieroglyphic drawing, cave painting, fossil rubbing, and other archaeological fun.

Staten Island History Hunters, Hispanic Society of America, The Staten Island Geological Society, and Richmond Research and Recovery were among the many local clubs that joined in with the hopes of sparking interest in a new generation of investigators. Representatives from The Jacques Marchais Museum of Tibetan Art, The National Lighthouse Museum and Alice Austen House Museum also showcased artifacts and photographs.

Students from Wagner College fashioned small antiquity sites from sand boxes where children could dig for their own archaeological treasures. The dig participants were awarded certificates, indicating their first steps towards being real archaeologists. Other Wagner student exhibits gave sight into the world of human remains excavation, the wonders of ancient Greek theatre, and findings from a recent dig on the college campus.

The history of Staten Island was highlighted by The Staten Island Museum, who showed artifacts excavated from Lenape Indian sites. Early African American culture was represented by the Sandy Ground Museum's sample of life of the first community of freed slaves in North America.

The Staten Island chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America holds monthly meetings and lectures on the campus of Wagner College. For schedule and membership information, visit <http://www.assi-aia.org/>.