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### East Central Region

Quarterly Report – October/November/December 2014

Sarah Miller, Director; Kevin Gidusko, Public Archaeology Coordinator II

Emily Jane Murray—Public Archaeology Coordinator I

Robbie Boggs--Administrative Assistant

### Highlight of the Quarter: Archaeologists for Autism



The inaugural Archaeologists for Autism Day was held on November 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Sams House at Pine Island Sanctuary on Merritt Island. FPAN staff from three regions converged to host an activity booth covering different archaeological concepts for the event. The idea for this event began with archaeologist Thomas Penders, the Cultural Resources Manager for the 45<sup>th</sup> Space Wing, whose daughter is on the autism spectrum. Wanting to provide an all-inclusive opportunity for autistic children to learn more about

archaeology, Tom began raising support in the professional community for the event. FPAN was an early supporter of the endeavor and assisted with planning and promotion of the event, seeing this as an invaluable opportunity to engage with a traditionally underrepresented group in our past outreach activities. 35 families were able to attend the event free of charge thanks to the donation of time by groups like FPAN such as the Scott Center for Autism, UCF Anthropology graduate students, the Alliance for Integrated Spatial Technologies lab at USF who scanned and 3D printed busts of the children, the Seminole Tribe of Florida's THPO, and many more. Plans are underway for the event to take place next year on October 24<sup>th</sup>, which FPAN will participate in again.

### Progress on Work Plan Objectives

#### Education and Outreach

- Provided community programs for libraries, civic organizations and heritage festivals (G2)
- Promote Timucuan Technology curriculum (G2, G5)
- Facilitated CRPT workshop in Orlando, Orange County (G4, G5O4)

#### Assisting Local Governments

- Met with Historic Preservation staff in Sanford and Brevard (G5)

#### Professional Development

- Staff attended Southeastern Archaeological Conference annual meeting, presented papers, served on panels and Public Archaeology Committee

#### Administrative

- Acquired office space for Public Outreach Coordinator on Merritt Island