



## **John Kinard Scholarship Empowers AAAM Members**

By Marion McGee  
AAAM Board Member

The Jekyll Island Management Institute (JIMI) is coordinated annually by the Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC), and for many years lacked the diversity reflected in the rich mosaic of museums and cultural institutions throughout the nation. But thanks to the generosity of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), each year, two staff members of AAAM institutional museums or individual AAAM members are afforded an opportunity to receive the John Kinard Scholarship Fund to learn management skills through presentations, small group discussions, projects and participatory exercises.

Earlier this year, two very fortunate AAAM members, Chieko Phillips and Dr. Ruth Jackson, were awarded the John Kinard Scholarship and enjoyed an eight-day training off the coast of Georgia's beautiful Jekyll Island. The JIMI provided an immersive environment for participants to learn more about general administration and operations, while giving administrators the tools necessary to achieve greater efficiency, staff morale, and overall organizational improvement.

The training is designed to expose participants to cutting-edge approaches in the museum field, and to build networks with other museum professionals. Highly qualified JIMI faculty members provide subject area expertise and practical approaches to administrative challenges.



According to Dr. Ruth M. Jackson (JIMI, Class 2015), “It was a very rewarding experience with an outstanding cadre of faculty and an extraordinary mixture of classmates representing curators or directors of museums of various sizes and types, ranging from house, military, science, and other types of museums, large and small. As cultural institutions, the JIMI experience re-enforced my belief that libraries and museums have much in common in terms of challenges, issues, best practices, and future directions. I also concluded that we could learn much from each other in a number of areas.” Dr. Jackson is an active Museum Board Member and the Emeritus University Librarian for the University of California Riverside, which will be the host city for the 2016 AAAM Conference.

Next year, two more AAAM members will be selected to receive annual scholarships of \$1,500 each to cover the cost of tuition for the JIMI training and related travel expenses. The next JIMI training will be held January 19-26, 2016, and applications are now being accepted through October 31, 2015. Interested applicants should have at least two years of full-time museum experience. For more information, it can be found at [www.semcdirect.net](http://www.semcdirect.net) (just follow the application instructions under “JEKYLL ISLAND MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE). The John Kinard Scholarship Fund was established in collaboration with the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC). Those interested in pursuing the John Kinard scholarship should indicate their interest in writing when applying for JIMI 2016.