Lab Visitor:

Dr. Abdelmageed Elmustafa, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Old Dominion University, brought samples of copper to stainless steel stir-welds to the lab for analysis. Brandt provided assistance with the Hirox so Dr. Elmustafa could examine grain boundaries in the weld area.

Student Highlight:

Erik Siedow, a graduate student in William and Mary’s Department of Anthropology, is pictured here analyzing pottery samples using the Phenom microscope. Erik traveled to Barbados this past summer to collect the samples of red earthenware from several locations. Analysis of the samples will help determine if the redware was manufactured in Barbados or imported to the island.

Specifically, Erik is looking for holoplanktonic protozoa fossils known as radiolarian in the samples. The radiolaria fossils have been identified in the clay from the island used to manufacture the redware. The research Erik is performing in our lab will support his master’s thesis in Historical Anthropology. Ultimately, Erik’s work will contribute to understanding political, economic, and social trends in Barbados during the early colonial period.

We would also like to congratulate Erik for receiving the Market Access International, Inc. Award for Excellence in Scholarship in the Humanities and...
Social Sciences for his paper “An Archaeometric Examination of Barbadian Redware During the Early Colonial Era”. Erik received this award, which included $1000, at the 10th Annual Graduate Research Symposium held at the Sadler Center in March.

The following sample images of different types of radiolaria fossils were taken by Erik using the Phenom microscope in our lab.