

**Mechelle Kerns, Ph.D., RPA** joined SEARCH in 2018 as a Principal Investigator with 22 years of experience as a historical archaeologist and 13 years of experience with cultural resource management projects. She is responsible for developing business/client relationships, supervision of fieldwork, conducting research, and the preparation of reports and papers for the clients of SEARCH. Dr. Kerns received a bachelor's degree in Ancient Studies in 1997 and a master's degree in Historical Studies and Public History in 1999, both from the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). She attended the University of St Andrews in Scotland for her doctoral program in Maritime Archaeology and History, and she wrote a dissertation titled, *The History of London Town, Maryland: A Case Study of an Eighteenth-Century Chesapeake Tobacco Port and its Role in the Colonial Maritime Economy*. Dr. Kerns' research was part of the 10-year project of Phase III data recovery excavations of the seventeenth-century tobacco port of London Town in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Dr. Kerns holds certifications in Project Management and SCUBA Diving for underwater archaeology (Scientific Diver, Dive Master, and Rescue Diver). Her research specializations include colonial town development, maritime history, historic land and probate records, and artifact data analysis.

**And:** Mechelle spent six years teaching history at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, while raising two sporty (lacrosse, soccer, and basketball) boys and two non-topiary-hair-styled, black-and-white standard poodles.