



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

## AN APPETITE FOR THE PAST

NYU scholars and faculty from the Department of Anthropology, the Department of Nutrition and Food Studies, and the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World are seeking academics and chefs to undertake collaborative research projects focused on food in the past.

This endeavor will bring scholars of the ancient world and food specialists together to create and serve the fruits of their collaborative efforts to the NYU community. Specialists will work in teams composed of a chef and an archaeologist/historian who will cooperate on a research project focusing on food to create a consumable final product. Our aim here is not simply to combine ingredients in a pot from a particular time and place. Instead, the nature of each team's project will be one in which collaboration between various specialists will provide for novel and concrete research perspectives. We aim to attract 6-8 teams comprised of 2-4 people, including chefs, academics, and students.

Examples of potential collaborations include:

- An historian working with a professional chef to interpret an ancient recipe.
- An archaeologist working with a chef to reconstruct a recipe from ingredients found at an archaeological site or derived from chemical residue analysis.
- A chef and an archaeologist or historian working to identify past uses of indigenous or wild foods in local diets.
- Scholars of the past interested in how to use an ancient tool or vessel teaming up with a chef investigating the development of processing and cooking techniques.
- A chef, archaeologist, and nutritionist exploring how limited ingredients can be combined to create a varied and balanced cuisine.
- A zooarchaeologists, lithic specialists, nutritionist, and chef teaming up to investigate whole animal utilization.
- A paleoethnobotanist, classicist, and chef working on the differing sensory perceptions of flavor.

Pending departmental support and funding, the endeavor is planned to consist of three consecutive stages:

- 1) Meet and greet – We plan to kick things off with a reception on Wednesday, November 1, 2017, for participants selected to take part in this project. Specialists will be paired with counterparts with shared interests based on their proposals to explore research interests and opportunities for collaboration.
- 2) Workshop – Once the teams and their projects are finalized, we plan to have a one-day workshop at the NYU kitchen laboratory during spring 2018. Ingredients and equipment will be provided. Teams will spend a full day working on their projects in the kitchen lab building up to their final project.
- 3) Symposium – We plan to have an event in spring 2018 during which participants will have the opportunity to present their final results.

Event organizers will consider requests from participants for travel funding on a case-by-case basis. We anticipate that funding for participant travel will be limited. Interested specialists should submit a short 300-word abstract to Yitzchak Jaffe, [yyjaffe@nyu.edu](mailto:yyjaffe@nyu.edu), detailing the proposed project and the need for a work counterpart (either chef or scholar). Deadline for submission is August 1, 2017. Decisions will be made by August 31, 2017.

We look forward to your proposals!

This project will be supported, in part, by the NYU Department of Anthropology, the Department of Nutrition and Food Studies, and the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World.