



Anthropology News

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Texas A&M University

Fall 2017

Tarsier Species Named in Honor of Texas A&M Primatologist's Expertise

In May 2017, Dr. Sharon Gursky's extensive work on the spectral tarsier led to its reclassification in her honor. The naming of this new species, *Tarsius spectrumgurskyae* became official with the publication of a study in *Primate Conservation*. This new species was differentiated based on vocalization

patterns from that of *Tarsier supriatnai*, another newly declared species named in honor of conservation biologist Jatna Supriatna. Both species live in the northeastern forests on the island of Sulawesi, Indonesia. This has been announced by Texas A&M University, National Geographic Society, and West-

HEADLINE NEWS:

- *A newly identified tarsier species in Indonesia is named after Dr. Sharon Gursky*
- *Dr. Michael Waters is honored as University Distinguished Professor*
- *Dr. Kelly Graf receives promotion to Associate Professor with tenure*
- *Dr. David Carlson, Dr. Tom Green, and Dr. Cemal Pulak receive promotion to Full Professor*



Tarsius spectrumgurskyae perched in a tree
Photo Credit: Dr. Sharon Gursky

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ern Washington University.

Dr. Sharon Gursky's research studying tarsier species has been influential for their conservation, as well as the scientific community's understanding of their behavioral ecology. Historically, there has been scientific disagreement concerning both the taxonomic classification and diversity of Tarsier species. They are unusual primates for their nocturnal nature, exclusive diet of arthropods and vertebrates, and reproductive patterns. Tarsiers produce one infant large enough that its weight amounts to 25 percent of the adult female's weight at birth; consequently, mothers do not transport their offspring on their backs, but practice a caretaking strategy of "caching and carrying" infants to optimize energy conservation while traveling and foraging.

These discoveries have raised the number of tarsier species on Sulawesi to eleven. This is a significant find considering their morphological similarities. Gursky herself states in National Geographic, "I've seen fossils from 50 million years ago that look nearly identical to modern tarsiers." DNA analysis led by primatologist Myron Shekelle from Western Washington University determined that these tarsiers' chromosomal differences result in their very different calls.

This discovery lies at the forefront of critical research on the



Tarsius spectrumgurskyae perched with offspring
Photo Credit: Dr. Sharon Gursky

island of Sulawesi. Geological evidence shows that the island was once composed of several ancient landmasses that merged about one million years ago. It is likely that a different species of tarsier evolved on each of them, and pri-

matologists have yet to find them considering the challenges demonstrated by Gursky and collaborators. Given that this island increasingly has been subject to severe deforestation that threaten tarsier species, conservationists have cause for concern and advocate for the continuation of this research.





Ships that Changed History Symposium

In April, the Center for Maritime Archaeology and Conservation (CMAC) hosted a conference symposium at Reed Arena featuring lectures from world-renowned scholars on four of the most significant and celebrated shipwreck finds of the last half century. This includes the Uluburun, Vasa, Mary Rose, and *La Belle* shipwrecks. The event was organized by Donny L. Hamilton, Professor of Anthropology at Texas A&M University, and featured several guest lectures.

Dr. Cemal Pulak, Professor of Anthropology at Texas A&M, gave a presentation on his work with the Uluburun shipwreck excavated by INA from 1984 to 1994. This shipwreck holds archaeological evidence of an elite shipment of exotic and valuable gifts from the Late Bronze Age. Further, the dis-

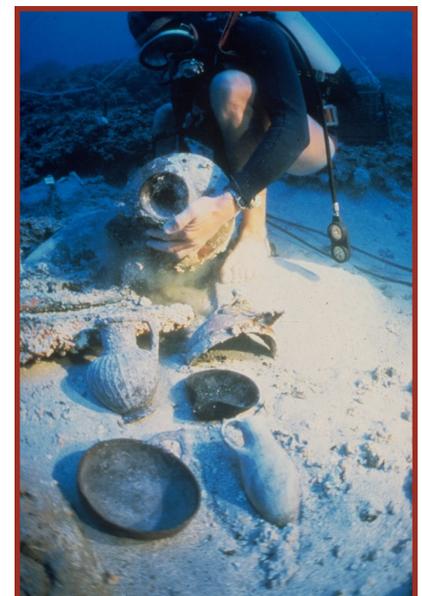
covery provides evidence for the presence of an intense maritime trade network throughout the Mediterranean during this time.

Christopher Dobbs, Head of Interpretation & Maritime Archaeology, Mary Rose Trust, gave a lecture on the Mary Rose shipwreck. The Mary Rose was the larger of two carracks commissioned by King Henry VIII and built in 1510 to function as a standing navy. The cause of the shipwreck has been attributed to several factors including human error, wind, cargo overload, or catastrophic attack. Regardless of the cause, the ship was used for 34 years before sinking in 1545; it was raised from the seabed in 1982.

Dr. Fred Hocker, Director of Research, Vasa Museet, delivered a presentation on the Vasa ship,

which was a warship commissioned by Gustav II Adolf of the Vasa dynasty in the early 17th century. The ship was completed in a navy yard in Stockholm, but never reached its full potential as a reserve squadron; it sank just hours after setting sail on its maiden voyage in 1628 due to faulty design. The ship was raised after 333 years within the seabed and remains in one of the most visited museums in Scandinavia.

Dr. James Bruseth, Guest Curator at Bullock Texas State Museum and Former Director of the Archaeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission, presented on excavations of *La Belle*, which was one of four cargo ships commissioned by King Louis XIV in 1684 to carry 400 people and resources to North America. This



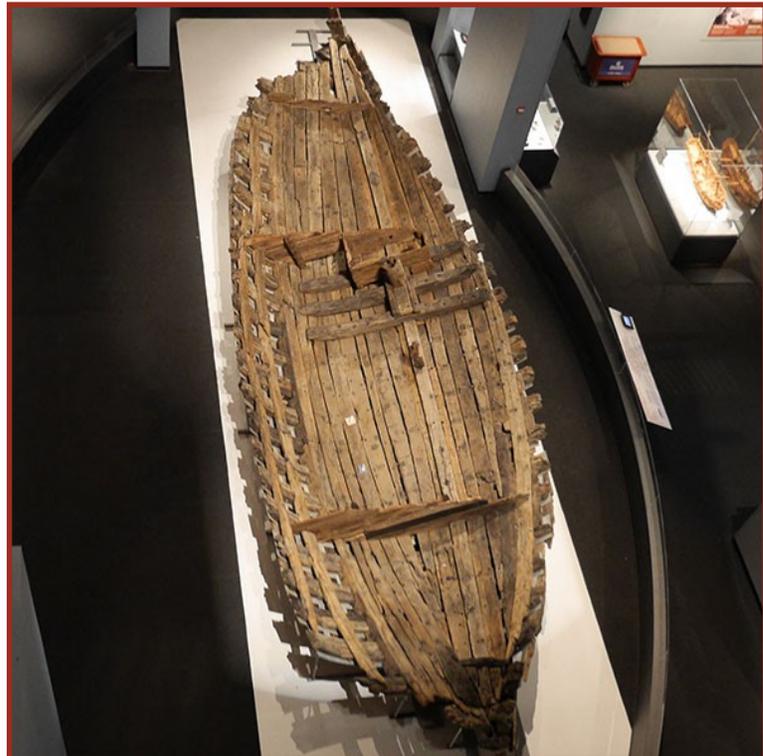
Both the image above and on the right is of excavation at the Uluburun shipwreck





expedition was led by explorer René-Robert Cavalier, Sieur de la Salle to establish a colony and trade routes at the mouth of the Mississippi River, and to find lucrative Spanish silver mines. This plan failed due to the efforts of pirates, La Salle's limited geographical knowledge of the new territory, and La Salle's unfavorable reputation in the eyes of his crewmates – who eventually murdered him. The *La Belle* ship was the last remaining expedition ship, though it sank in a storm in 1686 and remained submerged for over 300 years in the Matagorda Bay. In 1995, archaeologists found the shipwreck and began the process of excavation and recovery. Now, the ship remains can be found in the Bullock Museum in Austin, Texas as part of its 17th century maritime history.

The symposium was a great success; over 200 attended in person in addition to over 1000 in live-stream. This event coincided with the release of a Texas A&M University Press book titled, *La Belle: The Archaeology of a Seventeenth-Century Vessel of New World Colonization* by James E. Bruseh, Amy A. Borgens, Bradford M. Jones, and Eric D. Ray. To learn more about the symposium, or watch the lectures online, visit the INA website under “The Ships that Changed History!”



The hull recovered from the *La Belle* shipwreck

The Age of *Homo naledi*: New Discoveries from Texas A&M Paleoanthropologist and Collaborators

In the May 2017 issue of *National Geographic* magazine, a group of 32 researchers including Texas A&M paleoanthropologist Dr. Darryl de Ruiter announced the discovery of another chamber in the Rising Star Cave system outside Johannesburg, South Africa within which they have found additional *Homo naledi* skeletal remains. This was announced along with a long-anticipated age of the fossils, which researchers have determined to date to between 236 ka and 335 ka. Given this recent date, it is very likely that they coexisted with the earliest members of

our own species – which most likely evolved between 300,000 and 200,000 years ago in Africa.





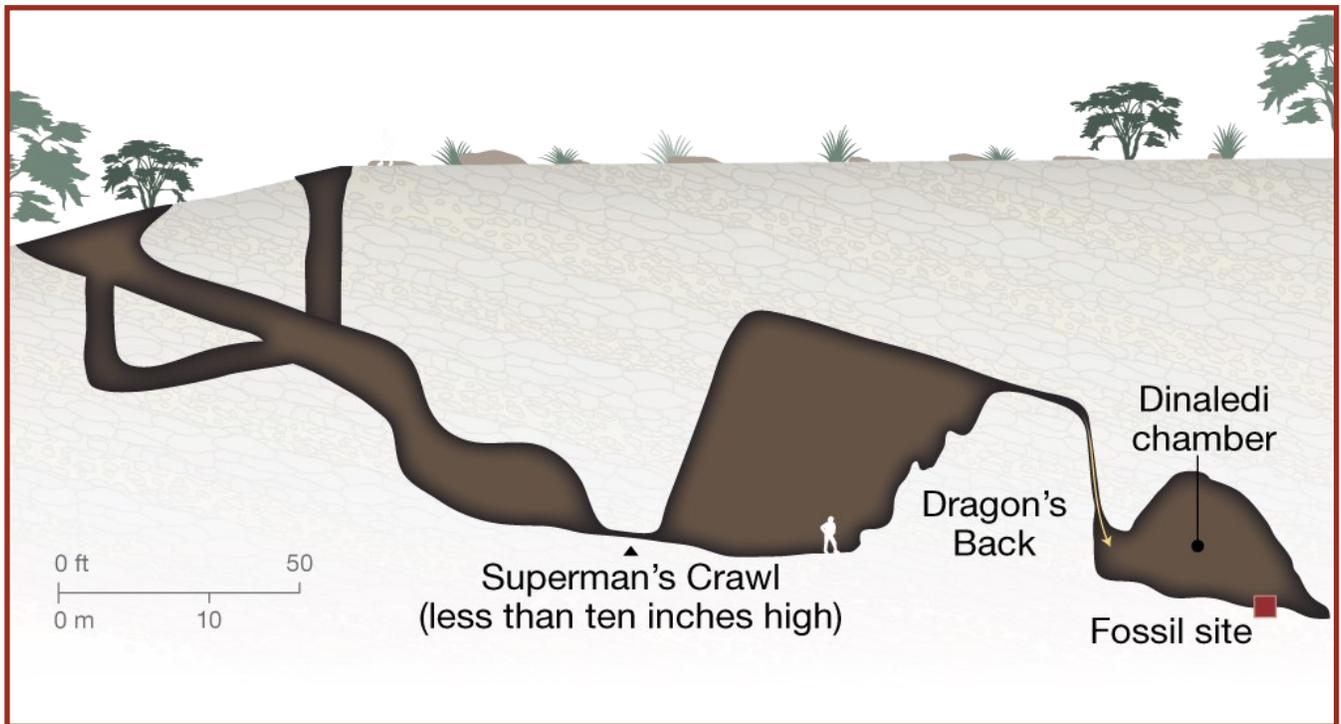
This builds on research from 2015, when this group announced the first discovery of this new species of human relative. The discovery was published in the open-access journal, *eLife*. In 2015, over 1500 fossil remains from at least fifteen individuals were found in a deep underground chamber – Dinaledi Chamber – within the Rising Star cave system outside Johannesburg, South Africa. The individuals represent all ages from infancy through late adulthood, and appear to have been placed in the cave intentionally.

One of the most exciting things about this discovery is that their placement suggests the systematic care and disposal of their dead. This is significant when understanding this species phylogenetic

relationship to other early human ancestors. De Ruiter adds, “Neanderthals and their ancestors – which date to about 400,000 years ago – and humans are the only species we know that intentionally buried their dead, so this cave adds another species to the list of relatives who participated in this most human of behaviors.” This exciting find was featured in the November 2015 issue of the *National Geographic* magazine. The recently announced dates of the remains are based on measuring the concentrations of radioactive elements, and the damage caused by these elements (which accumulates over time), in three fossilized teeth, as well as from surrounding rock and sediments within the cave chamber. Considering the species

represents an unexpected combination of australopithecine-like and human-like features, these dates demonstrate that a morphologically primitive hominin survived longer than previously thought at the end of the Pleistocene in Africa. This single-species collection of *H. naledi* fossils is the largest among ancient human-relatives discovered in Africa. Commenting on this astounding discovery, de Ruiter explains, “this is the first time it has been demonstrated that another species of hominin survived alongside the first humans in Africa.”

The implications of this discovery are far-reaching. This could mean that while our species was evolving from large-brained ancestors, perhaps a smaller-brained lineage persisted? Perhaps technolog-



Cross section of Rising Star Cave, showing location of fossil locality.





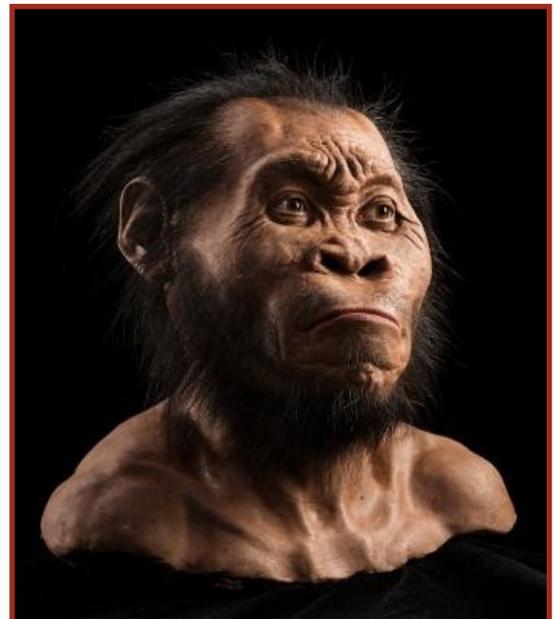
ical complexes of this period in South Africa were influenced by *H. naledi*? de Ruiter remarks, “it means we can no longer be certain about precisely who created the archaeological record of the later Middle Pleistocene of Africa, the exact time period when our *Homo sapiens* was making its first appearance.” Regardless of continued questions, the age results both confirm that a morphologically primitive hominin survived into the later parts of the Pleistocene in Africa, and indicate a younger age for *Homo naledi* fossils than previously hypothesized. As to how and why they survived? Only future research and the discovery of other *Homo naledi* remains can begin to answer these questions.



Homo naledi specimens recovered from the Dinaledi Chamber, Rising Star Cave, South Africa.



Excavated tooth of *Homo naledi*; dated using Uranium series and electron spin resonance dating



An artist's reconstruction of *Homo naledi*.





ANTH 370: Cultural Diversity and Ethics

Over the past two years, cultural anthropologist Dr. Catharina Laporte has designed a course – ANTH 370 Cultural Diversity and Ethics– to introduce students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields to the diverse nature of human culture and ethics on the global scale. The course involves interactive teaching methods such as team-building exercises and role-playing activities that apply anthropological thinking to real-world scenarios and corporate work environments relevant to the engineering field. In her ethics blog post featured on the American

Anthropological Association’s website titled, “Interdisciplinary Ethical Role-Playing,” Dr. Laporte elaborates on the connection between anthropology and STEM disciplines that she seeks to encourage in the minds of her students. She states, “ethical and critical thinking require many of the basic tenets of all anthropology: thinking holistically, the importance of building rapport and communication, recognizing ethnocentrism, and focusing on the influence that cultural diversity has in problem solving.” What began as a small pilot course of 25 students now involves multiple sections with

over 750 students per year. Additionally, her students developed a film from one of the course assignments; they interviewed industry experts about their experiences with diversity and it is now available on YouTube. The film, “Where Cultures Intersect,” was produced and edited by Anthropology PhD student Arik Bord who had been a Teaching Assistant for this class. To learn more about this course, and the success of role-playing in informing ethical discussions, check out the students’ film, and read Dr. Laporte’s blog post online at ethics.americananthro.org!

Anthropology Faculty Offer Study Abroad Options in Scotland, Mexico, India, and Kyrgyzstan

Based on the success of this course, the department is now offering it in the spring; some sections will also include a study abroad component. Listed below is information about the study abroad ANTH 370 sections offered, as well as their corresponding travel opportunities. For more information and funding opportunities regarding travel, visit the department webpage under the section titled, “Undergraduate Funding and Awards.”



Edinburgh, Scotland (Dr. Darryl de Ruiter)

Students who enroll in this section will be traveling to scenic Scotland from May 10-28. Students will reside in the birthplace of the European Enlightenment: Edinburgh. Site vis-

its include historic Edinburgh Castle, Holyroodhouse Palace, and Real Mary King’s Close.



Kyrgyzstan (Dr. Cynthia Werner)

Students who enroll will travel throughout the small, mountainous country of Kyrgyzstan from May 13-28. Students will learn





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firsthand about real-world ethical dilemmas that one might experience while working in a developing country. In addition to learning about Kyrgyz cultural practices. Students will visit the Kumtor gold mine and a massive hydroelectric dam along the Naryn River. Students may opt to participate in a 5-6 day horseback trek at the end of the course where they can learn more about rural life and encounter Kyrgyz herders on their way to summer pastures.



Mumbai, India (Dr. Sheela Athreya)

Students enrolled in this section will travel to Mumbai, India from June 1-17. Students will be exposed firsthand to Indian cultural practices and ways of life through visits to major religious sites, a sustainable farm, and a leather goods production center within one of Asia's largest slums. Students will meet with industry figures in petroleum engineering and trademark law as they learn about how ethical principles are applied to real-world problem solving. Mumbai is one of the major cultural centers in India with excellent bazaars, shops, restaurants and museums, making it a popular backpacker and tourist destination. Students will live downtown near Churchgate with easy access to Colaba Market, Fashion Street, the scenic Marine Drive, and the historic Gateway of India.

Anthropology

Merida, Mexico (Drs. Heather Thakar, Allison Hopkins, and Jeff Winking)

Students will join peers from the local Anahuac University in the ancient city of Mérida, known for its colonial streets lined with pastel-colored buildings. From this central base, students will explore the Yucatan's deep cultural roots. Site visits include the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Chichén Itzá, modern Mayan communities, and the Ría Celestún Biosphere Reserve.



Perishables and Pumpkins: Fall Outreach Programs Draw Students to Anthropology Research Collections





The Anthropology Research Collections (ARC) is responsible for the curation of anthropological materials collected by Department of Anthropology faculty and students. One of the ARC's ongoing goals is providing education and research access to the collections housed on campus. With this goal in mind the ARC sponsored several events this semester that aimed to get students involved in collections at Texas A&M University.

The ARC has a large collection of perishable artifacts, including basketry, matting, sandals, and cordage recovered from archaeological sites located across Texas and the southeastern United States. One of the largest collections of perishable artifacts comes from Hinds Cave, a dry rockshelter site located in the Lower Pecos region that was excavated by Dr. Vaughn M. Bryant and Harry J.

Shafer in the 1970s. Elanor Sonderman (ARC Lead Assistant Curator, PhD Candidate) and Crystal Dozier (PhD Candidate) led the Texas A&M Anthropological Society in an early October workshop entitled "Ancient Lifeways: Basketry and Woven Technology." Undergraduate students learned about different techniques used to create perishable technologies in the ARC laboratory, and observed a variety of artifacts from Hinds Cave and Conejo Rockshelter (site curated at Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory, University of Texas). They then put their knowledge to the test creating their own reed baskets!

The ARC is also responsible for the curation of multiple experimental archaeological assemblages, which are incorporated into our Teaching Collections, an educational resource accessible to both facul-

ty and graduate student instructors at TAMU.

In late October, the ARC hosted "Carving Cucurbits: The Ultimate Pumpkin Carving Challenge," a celebration of harvest fun incorporating experimental lithics. Visitors carved pumpkins using a variety of experimentally made stone tools provided by the ARC. An information table including several different species of *Cucurbitaceae* (gourd family) allowed visitors to visualize the different varieties and species of cucurbit used by humans today. The ARC also provided fun facts about the domestication and use of cucurbits in North America, as well as the history of Halloween and harvest festivals around the world.





Faculty:

Grants and Awards



Dr. Winking and collaborators received funding to explore the intersection between science and political involvement. In March, they traveled to Washington, D.C. to collect data at the March for Science; between three different cities, they conducted over 200 surveys from its participants. They are currently collecting comparable data from a nation-wide sample to examine what factors shape our views on the role of science in policy making and politics.

Dr. David Carlson has been awarded \$4600 from Summerlee Foundation for his work entitled, "Radiocarbon Analysis of Conejo Shelter, Texas."

Dr. Kelly Graf received a College of Liberal Arts Ray A. Rothrock '77 Fellowship. This three-year fellowship provides a bursary of \$5,000 per year to outstanding newly promoted associate professors.

Dr. Sharon Gursky received a \$3200 grant from the Primate Conservation Inc. to study the function of ultrasonic vocalization in spectral tarsiers.

Dr. Allison Hopkins was awarded a CLA Seed Grant for a project titled, "Transitioning to Sustainability: Agro-Ecosystems as Catalysts for Change."

Dr. Catharina Laporte received the 2016-17 Student Government Association Open Education Champion Award for her positive impact in making use of free educational resources, including Texas A&M's OAKTrust institutional repository. She was awarded a plaque of recognition for her work.

Dr. Anna Linderholm and her brother, Dr. Hans Linderholm, received a \$360,000 grant from Formas, the Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development, together with colleagues Anders Gotherstrom (Stockholm University) and Mattias Jakobsson (Uppsala University).

Dr. Jeff Winking was awarded a \$14,650 CLA Seed Grant for a project titled, "Scientists as Activists: Exploring Science as a Public Good at the Marches for Science."



Dr. Hopkins received funding in frontier climate change research to test a strategy for transitioning to sustainability informed by anthropology and agro-ecosystems. Next summer, she will begin her research, which will be focused on implementing research objectives in a Yucatec Maya community in Yucatan, Mexico to benefit the local community and help future researchers build a model for how to measure sustainability.





Dr. Michael Waters with President Michael Young and Provost Karan Watson at the University Distinguished Professor Ceremony

Dr. Michael Waters has been appointed as a 2017 University Distinguished Professor. This is one of the highest honors given to Texas A&M faculty members for their pre-eminent work, seminal contributions, and redirection of scholarship in the field. The prestigious title is held in perpetuity. Honorees were recognized at a reception hosted by Texas A&M President Michael K. Young and the Texas A&M Foundation.



Neil Puckett received a \$25,000 NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant for his project, "Underwater Remote Sensing of Walker Lake, Nevada."

Morgan Smith received a \$2000 PaleoWest Foundation scholarship grant in support of his project on underwater prehistoric sites in Florida.

Angie Achorn with Dr. Sharon Gursky a received a \$2800 grant to study endoparasites in the crested macaque (*Macaca nigra*) in Indonesia, and \$2000 L.T. Jordan Fellowship Award to support her dissertation research in Indonesia.

Crystal Dozier has been awarded one of five university-level Association for Former Students (AFS) Distinguished Teaching Awards for Graduate Students, a \$15,000 P.E.O. Scholar Award for her dissertation research in 2017-18, the Fasken Distinguished Graduate Student Teaching Award, and the Adam Smith Research Fellow Award.

Angela Gore received a \$5,000 Lewis and Clark Research Award for her project, "Raw Material Pro-

Graduate Students

curement and Selection in the Nenana Valley, Alaska: A Geochemical and Behavioral Approach."

Megan Lickliter-Mundon has been awarded the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Award for Superior Public Service for her work on *The Tulsamerican*, which led to the recovery of three servicemen who died in the crash.

Katelyn McDonough received a \$3,000 Student Research Grant from the AASP—The Palynological Society—to support her dissertation research on diet and paleoenvironment from coprolites in Oregon.



Ph.D. Candidate Angela Gore sampling at Fish Creek on the Stampede Road in the Nenana Valley





Neil Puckett and his crew in Walker Lake, NV, completing test excavation for geomorphic landforms and archaeology under the waters of a desert lake.



Ph.D. Candidate Crystal Dozier teaching high school students archaeology as part of Dr. Winking's Youth Adventure Program course in anthropology

Bryant, V. (April 2017) "Caveat Emptor: Let the Buyer Beward" *Bee Culture*.

Pierre, L., **Bryant, V.**, and Rangel, J. (2017) Determining the Minimum Number of Pollen Grains Needed

New Publications

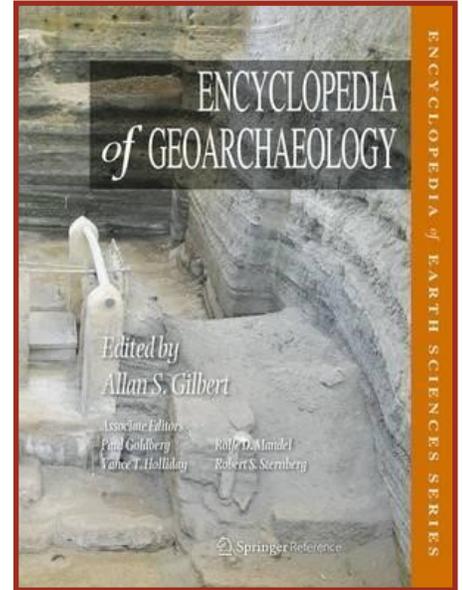
for Accurate Honey Bee Colony Pollen Pellet Analysis. *Palynology* 9: 1-7.

Castor, N.F. (2017) *Spiritual Citizenship: Transnational Pathways from Black Power to Ifá in Trinidad*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Castro, F. (2017) "Book Review – Archaeology of East Asian Shipbuilding." *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology*.

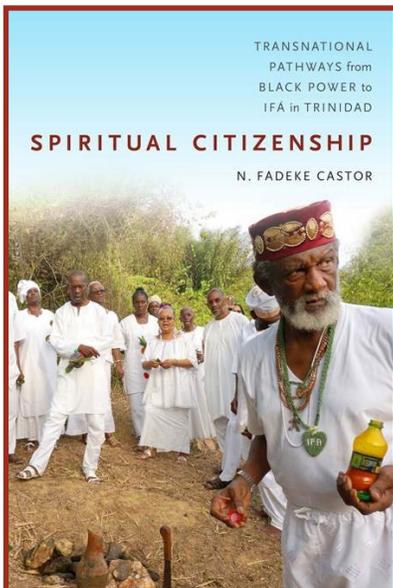
Carlson, D.L. (2017) *Quantitative Approaches to Archaeological Data Using R*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

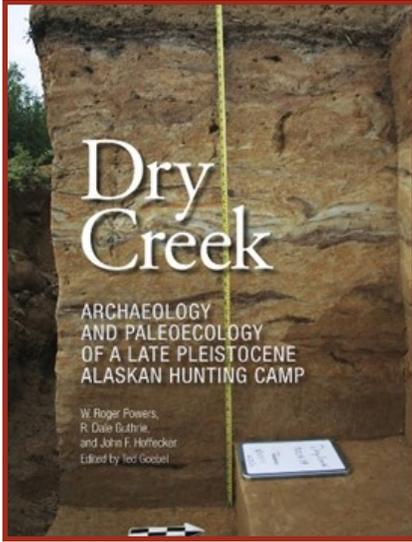
Laird, M.F., Schroeder, L., Garvin, H.M., Scott, J.E., Dembo, M., Ra-



dovčić, D., Musiba, C.M., Ackermann, R.R., Schmid, P., Hawks, J., Berger, L.R., **de Ruiter, D.J.** (2017) The skull of *Homo naledi*. *Journal of Human Evolution* 104: 100-123.

Schroeder, L., Scott, J.E., Garvin, H.M., Laird, M.F., Dembo, M., Ra-





dovčić, D., **de Ruiter, D.J.**, Ackermann, R.R. (2017) Skull diversity in the *Homo* lineage and the relative position of *Homo naledi*. *Journal of Human Evolution* 104: 124-135.

Goebel, T., and Hoffecker, J.F. (2017) A Dry Creek retrospective. In *Dry Creek: Archaeology and Paleoeology of a Late Pleistocene Hunting Camp*, by W. R. Powers, W.R., Guthrie, R.D., and Hoffecker, J.F., compiled and edited by **Goebel, T.** pp. 261-288. Texas A&M University Press, College Station.

Powers, W.R., Guthrie, R.D., Hoffecker, J.F. 2017. (2017) *Dry Creek: Archaeology and Paleoeology of a Late Pleistocene Hunting Camp*, compiled and edited by **Goebel, T.** pp. 261-288. Texas A&M University Press, College Station.

Graf, K.E. (2017) Arctic Geoarchaeology. In *Encyclopedia of Ge-*

oarchaeology, edited by A. Gilbert, pp. 57-58. Springer Press, Netherlands.

Graf, K.E., DiPietro, L.M., Krasinski, K.E., Culleton, B.J., Kennett, D., Gore, A.K., Smith, H.L. (2017) Chapter 8: New Geoarchaeology and Geochronology at Dry Creek. In *Dry Creek: Archaeology and Paleoeology of a Late Pleistocene Alaskan Hunting Camp*, by Powers, W.R., Guthrie, R.D., Hoffecker, J.F. edited by Goebel, T. 65 pgs, Texas A&M University Press, College Station.

Gore, A.K., **Graf, K.E.** (2017) Technology and Human Response to Environmental Change at the Pleistocene-Holocene Boundary in Central Alaska: A View from the Owl Ridge Site. In *Lithic Technological Organisation and Paleoenvironmental Change*, ed. by E. Robinson and F. Sellet, Springer, London.

Gursky, S., Salibay, C., Grow, N., Fields, L. (2017) Effect of Typhoon Haiyan on Population Density of Philippine Tarsiers. Submitted to: *Folia Primatologica* 88:323-332.

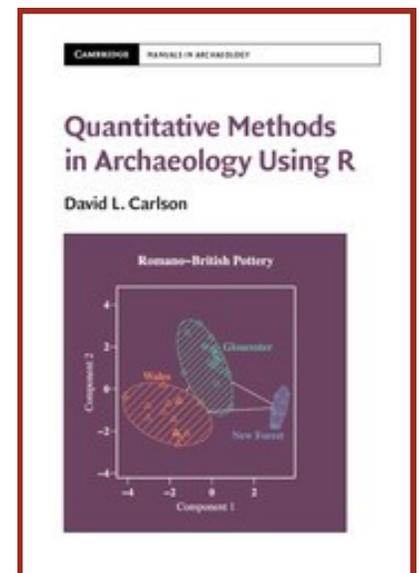
Kappeler, P., Fitchel, C., **Gursky, S.**, Irwin, M., Ichino, S., Nekaris, A., Radespiel, U., Richard, A., Wright, P. (2017) Long Term Field Studies of Lemurs, Lorises and Tarsiers. *Journal of Mammalogy* 98(3):661-669.

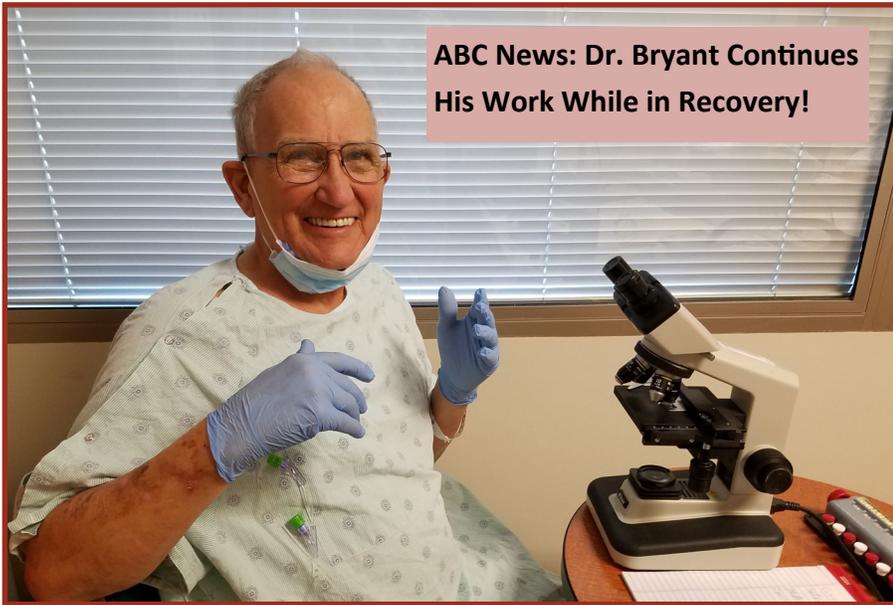
Perrotti, A.G. Pollen and Sporormiella evidence for Terminal Pleistocene vegetation change and megafaunal extinction at Page-Ladson, Florida. *Quaternary International*.

Mandel, R., **Thoms, A.**, and Nord, L. (2017) Geoarchaeology and Paleoeology of the Deeply Stratified Richard Beene Site, Medina River Valley, South-Central Texas, USA. *Quaternary International*.

Barcus, H., and **Werner, C.** (2017) Choosing to Stay: (Im)Mobility Decisions Among Mongolia's Ethnic Kazakhs. *Globalizations*, 14(1): 32-50.

Wright, L.E., and M.A., Vásquez (2017) Stature at Tikal, Revisited. In H. Klaus, A. Harvey, and M.N. Cohen, editors, *Bones of Complexity: Global Perspectives on the Bioarchaeology of Social Organization*. University Press of Florida. Pp. 52-81.

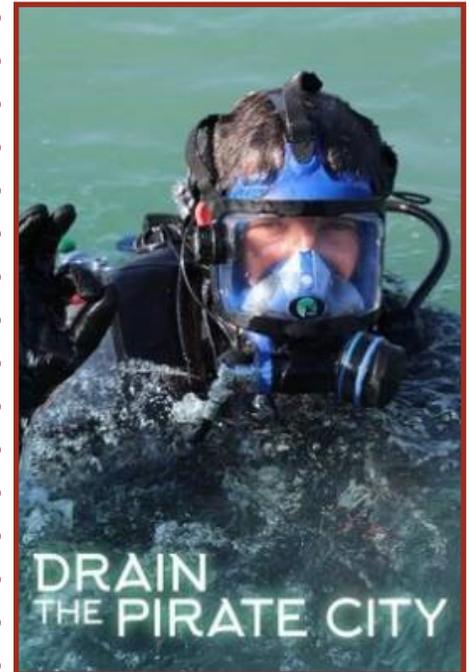




Dr. Vaughn Bryant (photo above) was featured and recognized on ABC news channel 13 for his persistent dedication and passion for both his students and research. He has been battling cancer; recently he spent thirty days in isolation after being diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia. According to Dr. Bryant, these challenges are just minor setbacks. In isolation, he requested a microscope and computer from which he continued to teach over 400 students and conduct his pollen research analyzing honey samples from around the world. Dr. Vaughn Bryant founded the Anthropology Department in 1970, and he built the palynology lab, which contains a reference collection of over 20,000 pollen specimens. In a skype interview

with Dr. Bryant, he states, “there is a lot of research to do and that’s why I told them here they have to fix me!” His research applications are far-reaching, including paleoenvironmental reconstructions and forensic crime-solving. In large part, he has helped bring together the vibrant academic community it comprises today. The Anthropology Department and Texas A&M University are fortunate to have such an inspirational figure. To watch this in the news, visit abc13.com!

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC aired a new documentary back in May titled, “Drain the Pirate City” featuring **Dr. Donny Hamilton’s** Port Royal excavation and work done at the Conservation Research Laboratory. Check it out!



Downtown San Antonio Renovations Sparks Anthropological Discussion

Texas A&M anthropologist Dr. Alston Thoms was interviewed by *San Antonio Express News* regarding his perspective on downtown renovations in San Antonio. As a consultant on the Reimagine the Alamo Project, he has extensive knowledge of the area’s history and concentrations of burial grounds in the area. He weighs in on the controversial handling of human remains found next to the Children’s Hospital of San Antonio. Visit expressnews.com to read the full article.



Dr. Bryant's former graduate student, **Dr. Andy Lawrence**, was interviewed on the National Weather Channel in a feature called, "Can Pollen Help Solve Crimes?" He answered some questions about how weather may affect the analysis on pollen and how pollen can provide some evidence to solve crimes. Check out the full feature on YouTube or the National Weather Channel website!



Conservation Research Laboratory's Alexandria Ship Project



The City of Alexandria, Virginia has awarded Texas A&M University's Conservation Research Laboratory within the Center for Maritime Archaeology and Conservation the contract to conserve the 18th century ship discovered by archaeologists during construction of the Hotel Indigo on the City's historic waterfront.

Texas Highways Features Glen Grieco's Work in Ship Modeling



PhD Candidate Angela Gore (image below) was featured in the most recent issue of Brazos Valley 360! The article is a Q&A over Angela's research into the earliest occupants of Alaska.



This article details the work of Dr. Grieco in building miniature historical replicas of ships excavated by Texas A&M University's nautical archaeologists. Several are on display in the Anthropology department; others are on exhibit in Texas Museums including the Bullock State Museum in Austin and the Maritime Museum in Rockport. Currently, he is working on ship models that will be sent to museums in Oklahoma and New York.





Study Finds Texas A&M Anthropology Ranks High in Placing PhD Graduates in Tenure-Track Jobs

In the current job market, anthropologists seeking academic faculty positions are concerned with their employment opportunities. The number of US doctoral graduates in anthropology has increased exponentially without an associated increase in the number of open faculty positions. Consequently, competition for jobs is overwhelming. As of August, Speakman et al.

(2017) published a study evaluating and ranking doctoral programs whose graduates in archaeology have been most successful in obtaining academic jobs. Texas A&M University’s Anthropology Program has been ranked in the first tier; in other words, our archaeology graduates represent one of the institutions through which this job market is dominated.

The department is proud of the excellence demonstrated by its students, faculty, and alumni. We look forward to their future success! Read the full article titled, “Choosing a Path to the Ancient World in a Modern Market: The Reality of Faculty Jobs in Archaeology,” in *American Antiquity*.



Congratulations to our Graduates on Their New Positions!



Heather Smith (former CSFA PhD student) has accepted a tenure-track job in the Department of Anthropology at Eastern New Mexico State University.

John Blong (former CSFA PhD student) has accepted a three-year post-doctoral fellowship at Newcastle University in the United Kingdom.

Matthew Harpster (former NAP PhD student) has accepted a senior faculty position in Maritime Archaeology at Koç University.



Dr. Heather Smith teaching students about the Blackwater Draw site.

Kroum Batchvarov (former NAP PhD student) was recently promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at the University of Connecticut.

Michael Jones (former NAP PhD student) recently accepted a junior faculty position in Maritime Archaeology at Koc University in Istanbul. The hiring committee was pleased to see that he had a lot of experience in archaeological conservation.





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Other Appointments:

Anthropology

Hao-Yu Cho (PhD Candidate) received a pre-doctoral fellowship from the Institute of Ethnology at Academia Sinica in Taiwan.



PhD Candidate Hao-Yu Cho

Tori Gochmour (December BA graduate) will be starting a new position with Kenyon International shortly after graduating this December. She will be working as a field anthropologist helping to identify human remains from mass graves, such as those in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Neil Puckett (PhD candidate) accepted a job as an Underwater Archaeologist in the Bureau of Archaeological Research for the State of Florida.



PhD Candidate Neil Puckett

Congratulations to Our Recent Graduates!



BA Graduates

Undergraduate Research Scholars:

May 2017

Annalise Marie Hollingshead

Steven Ramos

“Geoarchaeological Investigation at the Buffalo Ranch Site (41BU119), Texas”

“Sea Monsters in Ancient Greece: An Etiological and Iconographic Analysis”

May 2017

McKenzie Jo Alford
Katelyn C. Balkum
Kristianne Kelli Baugh
Nicholas Elton Bibb
Sabine Victoria Burrer
Suzanna Kathleen Chambers
Aubrey Nichole Clemens
Ashleigh Brooke Colby
Liam Davies
Darrian LeAnn Decuir
Lacey Nicole Faulkner
Weston Lane Hagan
Darsie Faith Harper
Corey Andrew Harrison
Cierra Christine Harvey

Christine Marie Heath
Nadine Hernandez
Dominique Dawn Howard
Martin Joseph Kallus
Kyle Aaron Kozelsky
Brooke Kendra Littlefield
Kassandra Lyzzette Lopez
Heather Nicole Lyon
Brittany Lynne Macedo
Eric Josue Magana
Eric Nicholas Mangin
Meagan Marie Marwitz
Caralyn Diane May
Cade Patrick McGovern
Amanda Christine Merrifield
Christopher John Moranha, Jr.

Elisa Maria Santiago
Sara Anne Seale
Brendan Richard Sloan
Paige Victoria Smith
Brandy Caitlin Thomason
Ryan Michael Vandrey
Ruby Jean Perez Velasquez
Janet D’Lynne Warren
Marissa Josephine Werchan

August 2017

Brandi Jordyn Brown
Alexander Houston Burford
Joe Isaac Lainez
Christina Nicole Mylar
Brianna Alexandria Teague





Congratulations to Our Recent Graduates!



MA Graduates

Master of Arts

May 2017

Landon Bell

Master of Science

Maritime Archaeology and

Conservation

May 2017

Philip L. Watson-Starting PhD Program in Anthropology at the University of Chicago. Fully Funded!

“The Intrusive Ceramics from the Late Hellenistic Column Wreck at Kizilburun, Turkey”

August 2017

Chelsea Marin Cohen

“Raising Port Royal: A Geospatial Reconstruction of the 1692 City Through Integrated GIS and 3D Modeling”

Raphael Franca

“A Geospatial Analysis of Pre-Columbian Florida Log Boats”

Miguel Gutierrez, Jr.

“Historically Accurate: The Naval Gun Sights and Percussion Locks Recovered from the Confederate Ironclad CSS Georgia”

Kelsey Ann Rooney-Starting PhD Program in Anthropology at the University of Chicago. Fully Funded!

“The Power of Location: Predictive Modeling and GIS”



PhD Graduates

Kristen Marie Vogel

August 2017

“It Wasn’t the Money Boat’: The Myth and Reality of Treasure Hunting for Western River Steamboats in the United States”

Chair: Bruce Dickson



Christopher Matthew Dostal

May 2017

“Laser Scanning as a Methodology for the 3-D Digitization of Archaeological Ship Timbers: A Case Study Using the World Trade Center Shipwreck”

Chair: Donny Hamilton





Archaeology Roadshow: Ice Age Human in the Southern Rocky Mountains



In August 2017 Drs. Kelly Graf and Ted Goebel took 16 undergraduate students (mostly Anthropology majors and minors) to visit several Ice Age sites in the southern Plains and Rocky Mountains region. This included the Lubbock Lake site, Blackwater Draw, Alibates Flint Quarries, Capulin volcanic geology location, Folsom site, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, Chance Gulch site, Mountaineer site, Twin Lakes glacial geology locations, Barger Gulch site, and Rocky Mountain National Park. The course is a 2-week course that gives students a high impact, hands on experience learning about the archaeology and paleoecology of this region from about 15,000-10,000 years ago. Drs. Graf and Goebel plan to offer this course again in 2018. If you like camping, hiking, archaeology, plants, and geology, then this is the class for you!



Photo credit: Dani Manley





Department of Anthropology
Texas A&M University
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College Station, TX 77843-4352

The Department of Anthropology at Texas A&M University offers BA, MA, MS, and PhD degrees in Anthropology. The department has 26 faculty members in four different programs—Archaeology, Biological Anthropology, Cultural Anthropology, and Nautical Archaeology. The department has over 200 undergraduate students and 90 graduate students.

Phone: (979) 845-5242

*For questions about the department, please contact our Department Head, **Dr. Cynthia Werner** (werner@tamu.edu).*



WE'RE ON THE WEB AT:

ANTHROPOLOGY.TAMU.EDU

AND CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK

*The department would like to thank **Kelly Walsh** for her hard work on this edition of the newsletter. Thanks also to **Cynthia Werner, Darryl de Ruiter, Jeff Winking, Kelly Graf, Eleanor Sonderman, and Jordan Pratt** for contributing to parts of this newsletter issue. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.*

*If you have information for upcoming issues of our newsletter, please contact **Kelly Walsh** (kelly.walsh@tamu.edu).*



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The Department of Anthropology benefits from the generosity of friends, alumni, and patrons who share in our commitment to excellence in educating the next generation of anthropologists. Please consider a gift to the Department of Anthropology today. With your support, we will continue to transform the lives of our students. Donations can be made [online](#).

Tax-deductible contributions to the “Department of Anthropology Excellence Fund” are used to support recurrent research-related experiences, including undergraduate research, graduate student research and conference travel, the department’s lecture series, faculty conference travel, and other things that contribute to the scholarly mission of the department.

