



Anthropology News

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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A Game of Three-Dimensional Tetris: The reconstruction of La Belle in the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum

By Peter D. Fix

Photos by Cindy Hurt

The reconstruction of the archaeological remains of *La Belle* in the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin that began on October 6 of this year is the culmination of 18 years of work conducted by the Conservation Research Laboratory (CRL). Since 1996, under Laboratory Director Dr. Hamilton, a total of 6 full-time staff, 74 students, 6 interns, and 26 volunteers have participated at varying levels of the project to see it through to this final stage.

From Wednesday through Saturday every week, three people representing a

partnership between The Texas Historical Commission, The Bob Bullock Museum and the Texas A&M University Anthropology Department through the CRL are in full view of the public as, slowly, the structure rises above the keel. The notion of rebuilding a large integrated archaeological structure "in the public eye" was daunting when first proposed, and continues to create a number of special challenges, but the initial visitor feedback and media exposure for the university, department and CRL have been very positive. Perhaps the greatest challenge encountered so far has been to manage the reassembly of nearly 600 archaeological ship timbers within an

HEADLINE NEWS:

- *Dr. Douglas Owsley visits campus, gives talk on Kennewick Man*
- *The Center for the Study of the First Americans is featured in National Geographic and Discover Magazine's Top 100 Discoveries of the Year*
- *The Nautical Archaeology Program Launches a new MS Degree in Maritime Archaeology and Conservation*
- *Four Anthropology Graduate Students Receive Liberal Arts Dissertation Enhancement Awards*



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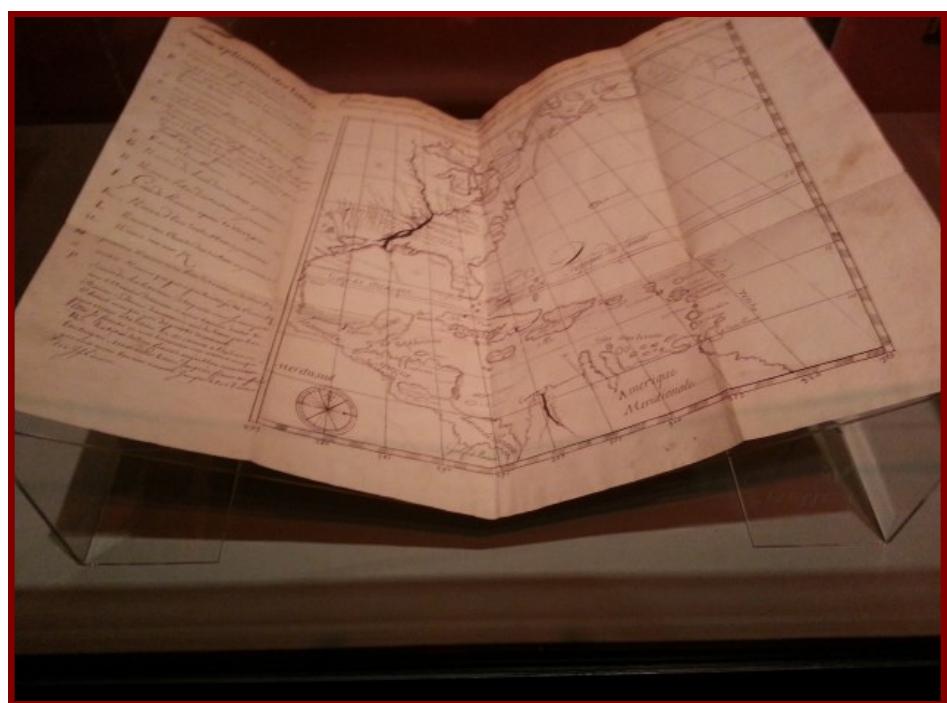
La Belle undergoing reconstruction inside the museum.

arm's length of the public in a very challenge the dominance of Spain in the constricted space. Until more of the region. The French incursion prompted timber can be inserted into the proper Spanish authorities to strengthen their position in the structure, many must remain on the floor of the exhibit gallery, resembling a gigantic game of 3-dimensional Tetris.

La Belle was one of four ships that sailed from France in the summer of 1684 under the command of the French explorer La Salle, who planned to form a colony at the mouth of the Mississippi River. Due to an unfortunate navigational error, the colonists arrived further west at the mouth of Matagorda Bay, Texas, in December 1684. By 1686 *La Belle* was the only ship of the original four to remain under La Salle's command. Privateers took one ship off the coast of Hispaniola, another ran aground and sank while trying to enter Matagorda Bay, and the third sailed back to France, leaving only *La Belle* as a life craft for the colony. When *La Belle* sank, she became "The Ship that Changed History" (the title of the museum exhibit) as it marked the final blow, dooming any chance to form a French colony along the Gulf of Mexico and

had La Salle's colony survived? Imagine the east coast of Texas with a strong Cajun presence. Since one of the methods of asserting Spanish control was to build a series of missions in Texas, where would Travis and Crocket have made their stand without the Alamo? Would there even have been a Louisiana Purchase in 1803? All of the questions are "what if's" since the reality is that *La Belle* sank, which doomed the colony.

After running aground and foundering in Matagorda Bay during a storm in February 1686, *La Belle* heeled over on her starboard side and rapidly settled into the soft sediments along the south end of Matagorda Peninsula. Over time, storms battered the hull and marine mollusks known as shipworms began to assimilate the wreck into the local ecosystem. So extensive was the shipworm activity in the Bay waters that researchers estimate that shipworms consumed approximately 60% of the wooden hull. What remains to reconstruct for the museum exhibit is approximately 35% of the underwater portion of the hull. Fortunately, the rapid movement of sediments entombed the



Map from the exhibit.

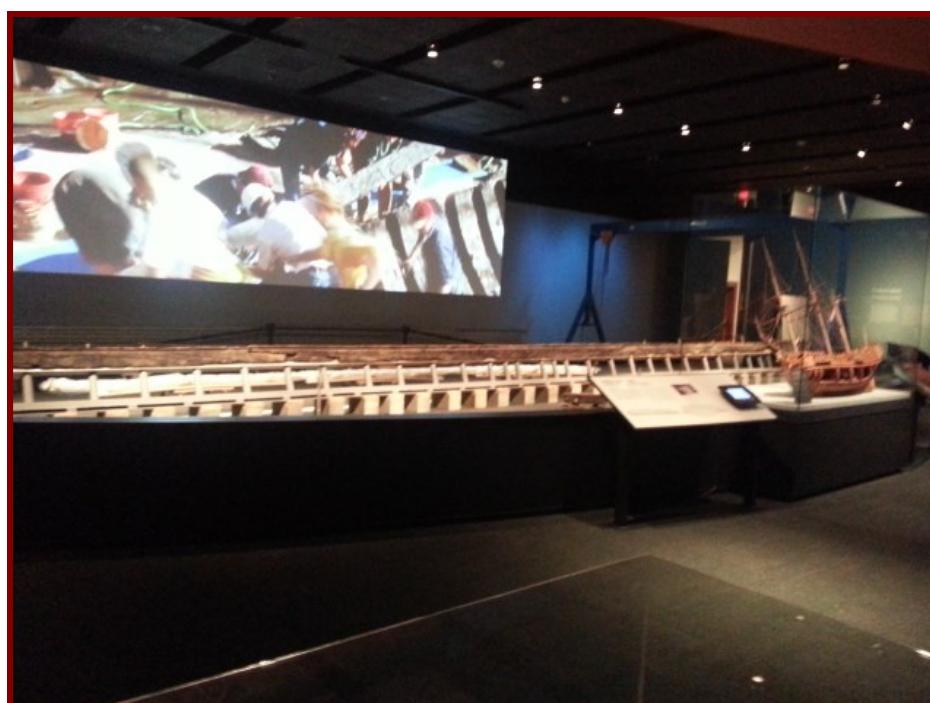
wreck, creating an anaerobic environment that halted the shipworm attack.

Discovered by the Texas Historical Commission in 1995, the Texas A&M CRL was approached to conduct all of *La Belle*'s conservation, and over the next 17 years Dr. Hamilton, Jim Jobling, John Hamilton, Dr. Helen Dewolf, and myself have acted as the core team to conserve over 1,000,000 artifacts of different sizes and materials. The hull remains of *La Belle* constitute the largest single artifact of the discovery. Apart from the shipworm damage, artifacts constructed of wood undergo significant physical and chemical changes when immersed in a marine environment for over 300 years and that requires invasive action on the part of archaeological conservators if the artifact is to be displayed safely in a museum. To stabilize the ship timber, each timber has to be cleaned of debris and a fine layer of concretion that formed on the wood surface, the iron contamination must be stabilized, and the wood impregnated with polyethylene glycol, which, along with freeze-drying, allows the water to be removed from the wood without significant shrinkage or collapse of the cell



Artifacts from *La Belle* on display.

structure. All of this had to be the focal piece for the next 75 years. The accomplishment with the thought that the hard work is paying off. The timbers are 23,000 pounds of waterlogged wood fitting together and all of the original would once again fit together in a holes drilled by the French shipwrights permanent museum display that will be 330 years ago realign plank to frame.



Videos display the conservation process at Texas A&M.

Visitors to the museum are provided a unique experience of seeing many timbers that will be hidden from view once the reconstruction is complete. It is possible to follow the reconstruction progress via a web cam, Wednesday to Saturday: <http://www.thestoryoftexas.com/la-belle>.

After May, the ship will be towed *in toto* from the temporary gallery into the center of the museum for final display. A large glass case will be built over the top of the hull remains, allowing visitors to stand over *La Belle* and gaze down on artifacts from the excavation. On top of the glass a modified reconstruction of the missing hull, including the masts that will tower three-stories above the artifact, will provide context for the visitor to understand the size and shape of the ship. The effect will be dynamic and act as a doorway for discovery of Texas heritage and culture for many years to come.

Professor David Gentry Steele, Ph.D.: 2/8/1941 - 10/27/2014

By Bruce Dickson

Gentry Steele was born and raised in Beeville, Texas. He attended the University of Texas where he obtained a B.S. degree in Anthropology. Deciding his real interest lay in the field of physical anthropology and osteology, he went on to complete a Ph.D. at the University of Kansas. From there, Gentry took a faculty position at the University of Alberta.

When Gentry arrived at Texas A&M from Canada in 1979, his impact on the Department of Anthropology was immediate. Virtually from the day he stepped on campus, Gentry began reorganizing and strengthening

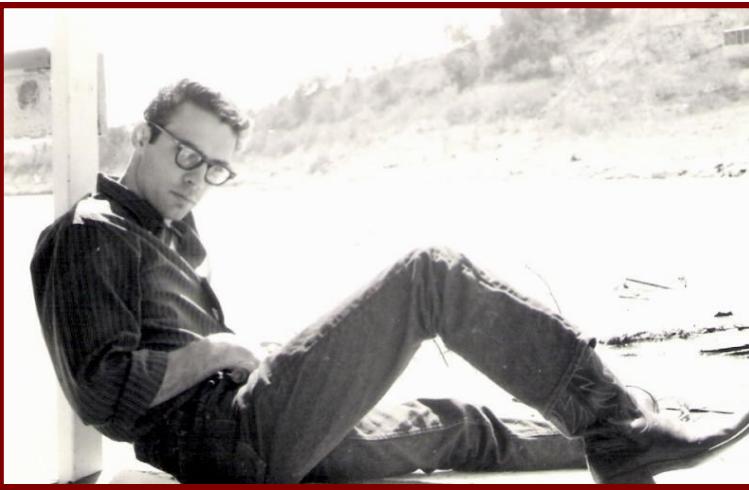


Photo courtesy of Gaye Steele Bailey

this way is a very time-consuming and messy process. However, Anthropology students proved eager to help and soon were dropping off bag after bag of dead critters they had found, hunted or run over. The supply soon outstripped Gentry's capacity to quickly render each donation. He, therefore, dutifully classified each one and placed it in a freezer to await processing. Overtime, the backlog of frozen specimens grew to fill the freezer. Then, late one night, a campus pow-

er outage turned them all into a mephitic mass of gurgling plastic bags. With the opening of the freezer next morning, student enthusiasm for comparative zooarchaeology suddenly waned. The physical labs quickly emptied and Gentry and his grad student, Jason Barrett, were left with a very lengthy and decidedly unenviable disposal task. Despite their efforts, the

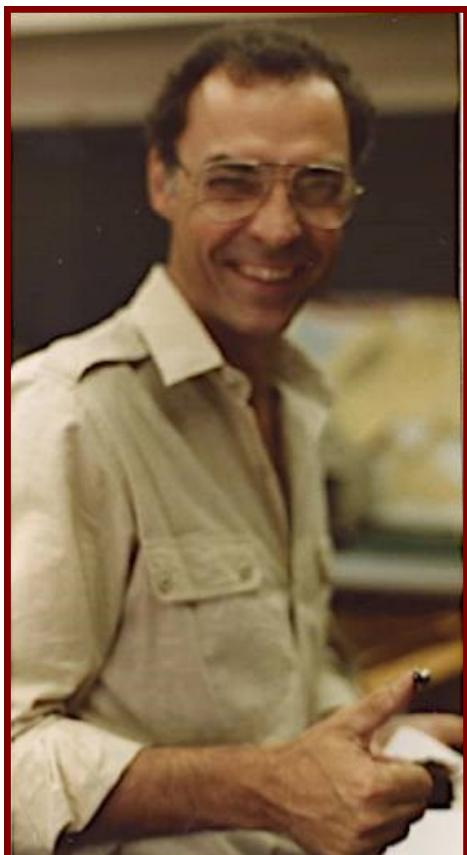


Photo courtesy of Diane Holliday

our physical anthropology curriculum. He immediately began teaching his justly celebrated graduate and undergraduate courses in human osteology and human evolution while at the same time developing offerings in zooarchaeology and related subjects.

To teach these courses adequately, Gentry found it necessary to build a comparative skeletal collection from the ground up. Human skeletal material is relatively easy to come by. Casts of major hominin fossils are readily available for purchase and Gentry's active archaeological and skeletal identification work provided the necessary modern human samples. In very short order, he assembled a remarkably complete comparative human skeletal collection.

The process of obtaining non-human specimens for comparative work is not so simple. One must collect and classify recently dead animals remove their flesh and capture their bones. Building a comparative collection in this way is a very time-consuming and messy process. However, Anthropology students proved eager to help and soon were dropping off bag after bag of dead critters they had found, hunted or run over. The supply soon outstripped Gentry's capacity to quickly render each donation. He, therefore, dutifully classified each one and placed it in a freezer to await processing. Overtime, the backlog of frozen specimens grew to fill the freezer. Then, late one night, a campus power outage turned them all into a mephitic mass of gurgling plastic bags. With the opening of the freezer next morning, student enthusiasm for comparative zooarchaeology suddenly waned. The physical labs quickly emptied and Gentry and his grad student, Jason Barrett, were left with a very lengthy and decidedly unenviable disposal task. Despite their efforts, the smell persisted for weeks afterwards leading an undergraduate student to tell me and then "render" them in various ways to that he would like to major in anthropology but, "it just smells too bad." Smells or no, Gentry eventually assembled the fin-



Photo courtesy of Gaye Steele Bailey

est zooarchaeology comparative collection in Texas. Both the non-human and the human skeletal comparative collections played critical roles in Gentry's prodigious research and publication record.

Perhaps one of the signal events in Gentry's research career began when an avocational archaeologist named Duewall reported his discovery of a number of extraordinarily large bones eroding out of a 3.5 meter cut bank where the Brazos River crosses the Newbury ranch. Gentry visited the site with David Carlson and recognized the bones to be those of an adult mammoth. Lacking funds to support a formal excavation, the two men assembled a large contingent of graduate and undergraduate volunteers. In a series of remarkably well-organized field campaigns, their team carefully removed some eight cubic meters of river sediments above the Duewall/Newbury specimen. As the campaign neared its close, the bones of the mammoth (unfortunately *sans* head and tusks) lay revealed to the light for the first time in 10,000 years. My favorite photograph of the event pictures Gentry and Dave seated next to the exquisitely exposed bones

grinning like sums. But the river was not to give up its dead so easily.

Before the bones could be removed, Hurricane Elisa struck Texas and the rain swollen Brazos River collapsed the bank and reburied the entire site. Undeterred, the crew re-excavated the site and recovered the bones. Gentry's subsequent publication of his analy-

sis of the mammoth is a model of scientific rigor and osteological sophistication.

The 1996 discovery of another skeleton in the cut bank of another river, this time the Columbia, became the signal event in Gentry's later scientific career. This skeleton, the celebrated 'Kennewick Man' from Washington State, proved to be a severe test of Gentry's probity and commitment to science. When first uncov-

ered, the Corps of Engineers, who had jurisdiction over the waterway, appeared content to "repatriate" the bones to the Umatilla, a local Native American tribe. The Umatilla claimed the skeleton as ancestral remains under the terms of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Acceding to the tribe's wishes, the Corps denied all scientific requests to study this rare and invaluable specimen. The Corps preferred the Umatilla bury this unique specimen and be done with it. Gentry would have none of this denial of scientific access on the

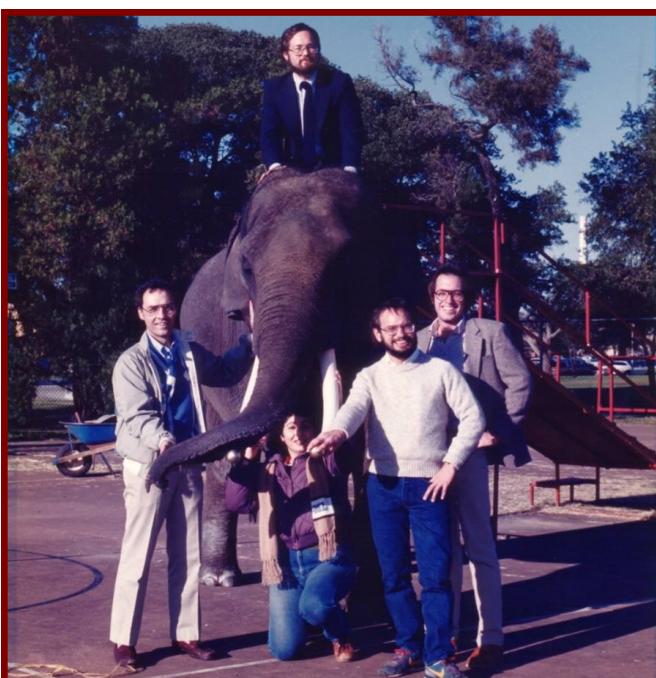


Photo courtesy of David Carlson



Photo courtesy of Marianne Marek

basis of mystical claims that native kinship to the fossil stretched over thousands of years. He quickly organized a legal challenge to the Corps and assembled a team of plaintiffs that included the late Rob Bonnichsen (also of our department) and five other leading physical anthropologists and archaeologists. Despite the justice of their claim, settling the case took nine long years. It would require a Dickens to describe the twists and turns in this costly and lengthy court fight. Nonetheless, the team persisted and, in 2004, the court found in their favor. The plaintiffs were awarded their attorney's fees and allowed a period of limited access to the skeleton. The Brazos River couldn't deter Gentry and neither could the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

As things turned out, Gentry's long service on the Texas A&M University Press Board of Directors ended up directly connected to his Kennewick campaign. While on the Press's board, Gentry was instrumental in establishing a very successful series of books on archaeology and anthropology. As part of this series, in 2014 the TAMU Press released its most successful book to date: a detailed report of the scientific investigation of the Kennewick skeleton edited by Douglas Owsley.

No account of Gentry's life and accomplishments would be complete without noting his extraordinary abilities and accomplishments as a photographer. Gentry's preferred medium was the large format 4 x 5 camera and black and white

These austere black-and-white photographs, paired with Gentry's astringent commentary and explanations, have proven a unique and invaluable guide for researchers in osteology, anatomy and related sciences.

orated closely with Gentry to insure that its depictions of some 50 species native to Texas in that era were scientifically accurate.

Why do we miss Gentry Steele so? Is it his brilliance as a scientist, or his remarkable journal article output? Is it his extraordinary teaching ability, his artistry in photography or his take-no-prisoners attitude regarding the public's right to objects of scientific importance like the Kennewick Man? Perhaps it is his unflagging dedication to the propagation of scientific knowledge to the public? Or maybe it's his certain knowledge—shared by most Texans of his generation—that he had received preternatural pool shooting and poker playing gifts? It is all those things and more.

However, in summing up, two things in particular stand out: first, his deep and abiding devotion to his loving wife, Patty, and daughter, Heather, and second, his stoic refusal to give in to an insidious and devastating neural disease.

What a guy! It has been a privilege to know him and call him friend and colleague. Adios, Gentry, vaya con Dios.

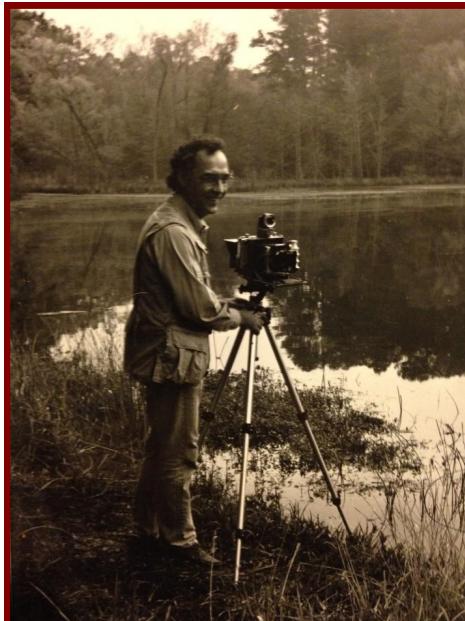


Photo courtesy of Chon Richard Moron

film. In this realm, he was peerless. His black-and-white landscape photographs taken of his beloved Big Bend are stunning evocations of that region. On a less dramatic scale, he captured the heart of the Brazos valley in a series of color photographs. Both sets of photographs have been published in large format by the Texas A&M Press, the latter with an excellent complementary text by Jimmie Killingsworth. No question, Gentry was a master of the large canvas. However, he also had a jeweler's eye for small, even tiny, detail. This talent is well expressed in a picture he gave to my wife and I shortly after his Big Bend book was published. The print shows not the geologic grandeur of the Bend but rather a barren mesquite branch brushing an adobe wall; it is a moving evocation of nature and man in that harsh region. His acuity is also evident in his remarkable book of photographs that provide a tour of the human skeleton in all its complexity and detail.

Finally, it is important to note Gentry's dedication to public outreach on behalf of science. His main vehicles for such outreach were in museum exhibits and he helped assemble many of them. For example, he arranged the exhibition of the Duewall/Newbury mammoth at the Witte Museum in San Antonio shortly after he finished its analysis. Closer to home, Gentry was a key member of the group that expanded and improved the then struggling Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History. He helped oversee the movement of the museum to its current location in the Brazos Center and later served several terms on its Board of Directors. In the course of these duties, he took a very active part in commissioning the 40 foot long mural, *Brazos Spring*, that adorns the back wall of the Museum's main gallery. The mural, by local artist Emma Stark, depicts the varied Late Pleistocene fauna of the Brazos Valley as it might have looked ca., 12,500 B.P. In the course of her painting of this work, Ms. Stark collab-



Photo courtesy of Wayne Smith

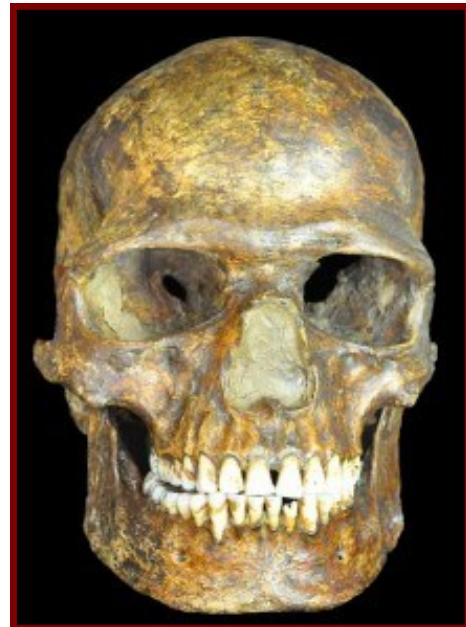
Dr. Goebel Contributes to DNA Study of Early European Skeleton

In November, Dr. Ted Goebel was part of a team of scientists who reported in the journal *Science* the ancient genomics of a 36,000-year-old modern human skeleton from European Russia. The remains were from the famous Kostenki-14 site (also called Markina Gora) located along the Don River about 500 kilometers south of Moscow and excavated in 1954 by Soviet archaeologist A. N. Rogachev. It represents the earliest genome yet recovered from a modern European skeleton.

The publication's research team is led by Dr. Eske Willerslev, an evolutionary biologist and the director of the Centre for GeoGenetics at the University of Copenhagen. Dr. Goebel contributed to the study as a Paleolithic archaeologist. He assisted with the interpretation of the new genomic data based on his extensive knowledge of the archaeological record of Siberia, central Asia, and eastern Europe. Goebel, along with anthropologists Marta

Lahr, Robert Foley, and Philip Nigst, also provided the team with important background information on the Markina Gora skeleton and site.

The Kostenki study relates to a major chapter in the origins and dispersal of modern humans: the spread of moderns into Europe and northern Asia. Results indicate that modern European and East Asian populations had split by 36,000 years ago, and by that time a European "metapopulation" had become established that stretched all the way from Europe to Siberia. The study also helps pinpoint the time of Neanderthal and modern human interbreeding at about 54,000 years ago, "perhaps as moderns were dispersing from Africa into southwestern Asia," according to Goebel.



CSFA Launches a New Scientific Journal: PaleoAmerica!

Starting in January 2015, the Center for the Study of the First Americans will be producing *PaleoAmerica*, a new scientific journal published in cooperation with W. S. Maney & Sons, an international journal-publishing company.

Editor Ted Goebel says that the goal of *PaleoAmerica* "is to provide a scientific marketplace for the exchange of new information and ideas about the prehistoric colonization of empty lands by early modern humans." The journal is interdisciplinary, highlighting content from genetics, paleoanthropology, linguistics, and paleoenvironmental sciences. "*PaleoAmerica* will also be multi-vocal, offering a voice to the numerous stakeholders involved in the investigation of the Ice Age peopling of the Western hemisphere," says Goebel.

PaleoAmerica replaces the Center's earlier peer-reviewed journal, *Current Research in the Pleistocene*, which was produced annually from 1984 to 2011. Goebel says that the new journal will be produced quarterly, both electronically and in hard-copy format, and will take advantage of being packaged to libraries along with Maney's long list of anthropological journals, including *Journal of Field Archaeology*, *Plains Anthropologist*, and *The Kiva*. What Goebel likes best is the journal's new electronic submission system, which should save him, authors, and reviewers countless hours in managing submitted manuscripts.

To subscribe to the new journal, please visit the Center for the Study of the First Americans' web site at www.csfa.tamu.edu.

PALEOAMERICA
A Journal of Early Human Migration and Dispersal

The Center for the Study of the First Americans
Texas A&M University

Maney Publishing

Two Anthropology Majors Are Inducted Into Phi Beta Kappa



Emily Mason is a double major in Anthropology and Psychology, graduating in December. She is from Carthage, Texas and is a proud second generation Aggie. Her post-graduation plans include a three month internship in Uganda conducting psychological evaluations for a non-profit. Her research interests lies in the cross-cultural context of self-worth and empowerment. Upon her return, Emily has accepted an analytics position with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.



Hannah Welch is from Seguin, Texas, and graduated from Seguin High School. She studies both Anthropology and Classics here at Texas A&M. She is especially interested in culture, especially that of the Romans and Ancient Greeks. Outside of school, she describes herself as an “introverted nerd” who spends the majority of her time working full-time at a hotel. Her goals for the immediate future are to “survive graduation,” then work to pay back loans. Eventually, she hopes to go to graduate school for Classical Archaeology and possibly find work at the British Museum or teach as a professor.

Dr. Thomas Green, Kung Fu Scholar

By Jared Miracle

On November 11th, Dr. Thomas Green gave a presentation of his fieldwork in rural China entitled *Boxers, Blossoms, and Brotherhood: Folklore in a Chinese Martial Art*. The talk was sponsored by the Confucius Institute at Texas A&M, which has also supported his work with the project at large.

Dr. Green has been collaborating with Chinese researchers (most notably Dr. Guodong Zhang, a visiting scholar in the Department of Anthropology) to document the practice of Plum Blossom Boxing—a vernacular or “folk” Chinese martial art—among members of a rural cooperative community in Hebei, Henan, and Shandong Provinces. Green’s activities have primarily centered around the Liangquan Festival, an event performed and attended by Plum Blossom practitioners during the annual Spring Festival and that involves acrobatic and comedic performances highlighting various aspects of the Plum Blossom community.

Plum Blossom Boxing has a number of historical ties to the Boxer Uprising and the Cultural Revolution, the former having been carried out by many practitioners while the latter nearly erased the folk practice altogether. Drs. Green and Zhang



have brought to light some interesting characters in their fieldwork, as well, such as 80-some-year-old Master Xiujiang Zheng, who preserved her boxing skills during the Cultural Revolution by clandestinely practicing in fields at night.

She also buried weapons and other artifacts of Plum Blossom practice in those same fields, later retrieving them for the next generation.



New Developments in the Department of Anthropology

By Cynthia Werner

The dust has finally settled from our big move last year, and the department continues to grow in new directions.

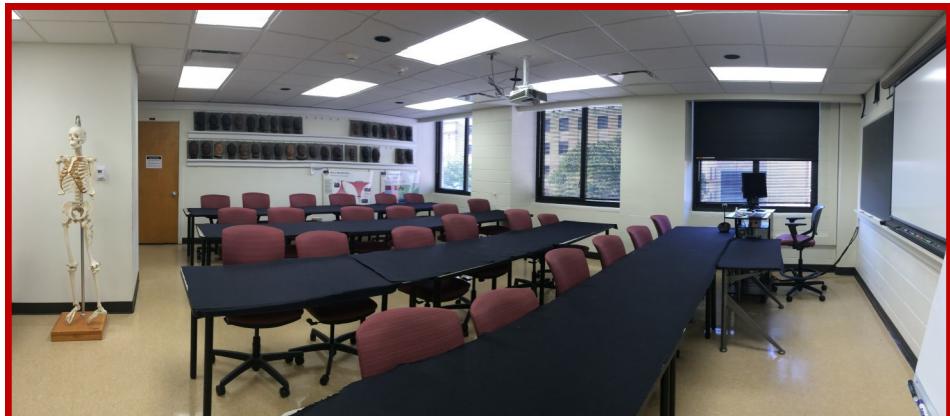
This is a brief summary of some of the recent developments in the department:

New Faculty Job Searches Underway in Anthropology

The department is in the process of hiring two new faculty members. In January and February, the department will conduct campus interviews for a new faculty hire in Medical Anthropology and a new faculty hire in Ancient Genomics. We had a strong applicant pool for both searches, and we look forward to having these new faculty on board starting with the Fall 2015 semester.

Graduate Admissions

The department is also in the process of admitting a new cohort of graduate students for the 2015-16 academic year. This year's admissions process will involve two big changes: we will be offering a multi-year funding package to all of the PhD students accepted into the program, and we will be recruiting our first cohort of students into the new MS in Maritime Archaeology and Conservation program. We are excited to see how these changes will affect the future of the department.



Anthropology Research Collections

The department has always housed a number of collections associated with historic and prehistoric sites excavated by faculty and students at Texas A&M over the past few decades. This includes collections associated with the Hinds Cave, Granado Cave, Richard Beene, Camp Ford, and Camp Brown sites. We are pleased to announce that the department's collections moved this fall into a newly renovated space in the Reed McDonald Building with improved conditions for students who use the collections, as well as researchers who visit the collections from other institutions. **Tim DeSmet**, the newly appointed Acting Curator, together with graduate student **Elanor Sonderman** and

undergraduate student **Danielle Huerta** are updating the collection database.

In Memory of Gentry Steele

Gentry Steele (1941-2014) will be greatly missed by the members of the anthropology department. We look forward to honoring his legacy by dedicating the biological classroom lab space in his name. In the near future, we also look forward to supporting students in anthropology through funds provided to the D. Gentry Steele Memorial Fund. Contributions to this fund can be sent to the Texas A&M University Foundation.



The Anthropology Research Collections in their new home in the Reed-McDonald Building.

2015 Women's Week Lecture To Focus on Sexual Assault in the Field

By Lori Wright

The Department of Anthropology, together with the Texas A&M ADVANCE Center, will be bringing Dr. Kate Clancy to campus on March 2 and 3. Dr. Clancy is a biological anthropologist with a specialty in human reproductive ecology. She carries out research in rural women's health, endometrial function and evolutionary medicine. She is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. She received her Ph.D. in 2007 from Yale University, and completed her undergraduate degree at Harvard in 2001 in Anthropology and Women's Studies.

In July 2014 Dr. Clancy published a landmark study in the journal *PLOS-One* which showed that sexual harassment and sexual assault are alarmingly common in academic field research settings. The paper is based on an internet survey of 666 students and professionals in 32 disciplines regarding their experiences of sexual assault and harassment during field research. Anthropologists comprise the bulk of this sample. Some 64% of respondents indicated that they had experienced sexual harassment in the field,

while 21.7% indicated that they were subject to sexual assault. Women trainees experienced disproportionately higher rates of both than did males or more senior women. The paper highlights inadequate protection for junior researchers in field contexts, obscure reporting mechanisms for assault and harassment, and widespread belief that reporting will be ineffective or result in backlash. Her ongoing analyses of the data show that these experiences shape the careers of female scientists.

Not surprisingly, the paper received considerable media attention. Following a preliminary presentation of the findings at the American Association for Physical Anthropology meetings, Dr. Clancy was named as one of "*Nature's* 10 people who mattered" in 2013.

During her visit to Texas A&M, Dr. Clancy will give two presentations. On Monday March 2, at 3 pm, she will report on the fieldwork harassment survey in a presentation tentatively titled "I've always



thought about leaving: supporting the women already in science." This presentation will be followed by a reception. The second talk on Tuesday March 3, at 9:30 am, tailored to an anthropological audience, is titled "Ecological contexts in the study of women's reproductive functioning: insights from the US and rural Poland." Students and faculty will have several opportunities to meet Dr. Clancy and are encouraged to attend both events. Please see announcements on the Department web site in the spring semester for more details.

Dr. Debbie Carlson Selected to Teach Glasscock Scholars Summer Seminar

Dr. Debbie Carlson was recently selected as an instructor for Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research Undergraduate Scholars Summer Program.

She will serve as the instructor for a special seminar entitled "Death at Sea in Ancient Greece and Rome." The seminar will examine the topic through a variety of media. Beginning with an evaluation of the literary and historical accounts of seafaring, shipwrecks, and death at sea, students will then use those sources as a catalyst for evaluating the archaeological evidence for ancient

seafarers, including epitaphs and several so-called "sailor cemeteries."

Assigned readings will be in translation, but those students with classical language training may choose to delve deeper into questions of linguistic symbolism and etymology. Participants will become familiar with the research methods, scholarly resources, conventions, and methodologies that classical philologists and classical archaeologists use as they develop their own research, writing, and oral presentation skills.

The purpose of the Undergraduate Scholars program is to expand undergraduate research in the humanities by providing an intensive experience. The seminar is two weeks long and part of the ten-week summer session. During the seminar, students will develop a research question, which they will then investigate under the guidance of the faculty mentor during the 2015-16 academic year.

More information can be found at <http://honors.tamu.edu/research/Scholars&Fellows.html>

Department Welcomes New Scholars: Darrell Lynch and Guodong Zhang



Dr. Darrell Lynch recently joined the department as a Lecturer in Anthropology. He received his PhD in Anthropology from the University of Tennessee. His primary areas of interest include medical anthropology, anthropology and religion, cultural change, and Brazilian studies. The majority of his fieldwork has focused on ethnomedical practices associated with the alternative religions of Spiritism and Umbanda in northeast Brazil. Within Spiritism, he has examined and written about the patient-perceived outcomes of spirit surgeries. More recently, his work has focused on treatment modalities associated with spirit obsession at middle and upper class Spiritist centers. His work with Umbanda has examined popular

beliefs and treatments associated with the folk illness of *encosto* in impoverished, urban favelas.

Before coming to A&M, Dr. Lynch held teaching positions at the University of North Carolina - Asheville, and Missouri State University. During the fall semester, Dr. Lynch gave a lively brown bag lecture of his research in Brazil (complete with a video of spiritist healing sessions) and he became popular with the undergraduate community through his teaching. In Fall 2014 he taught ANTH 205—Peoples and Cultures of the World. In the Spring, he will be offering two sections of Peoples and Cultures of the World, as well as a course on Medical Anthropology.



Asian Branch of the International Association of Culture and Sports, and an Evaluation Expert for Chongqing Intangible Cultural Heritage Items.

Dr. Zhang was brought to the department at the invitation of Dr. Thomas Green, with whom he has been collaborating for several years on research about folk practices in a Chinese martial art. He has already published one book on the topic, *Modern Inheritance Dilemma of Chinese Martial Arts: Based on an Investigation of Meihua Boxing* (2013), and co-edited another with his colleague Li Yun, entitled *Taijiquan* (2013).

In his time at Texas A&M, Dr. Zhang has also partnered with the Confucius Institute to present an exciting workshop on the Chinese martial art of *bajiquan*. Dr. Zhang plans to continue collaborating with his

American and other international colleagues to spread the study of martial arts and culture across the globe. Next year he will return to Southwest University with his young daughter and looks forward to some much-missed family time.



Dr. Guodong Zhang has joined the Department of Anthropology as a Visiting Scholar for the 2014-15 school year. He comes to us from Southwest University, a comprehensive national university in Chongqing, China, where he serves as an Associate Professor in the College of Physical Education. A scholar of martial arts and vernacular culture, Dr. Zhang is a member of Scientific Committee for the *Journal of Asian Martial Arts*, a member of the



Dr. Douglas Owsley Presents a Lecture on the Kennewick Man

By Michael Waters

Photos by Wayne Smith



Dr. Owsley lecturing on Kennewick Man.

Dr. Douglas Owsley, Division Head of Physical Anthropology at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History and lead investigator in the study of Kennewick Man, presented a Community of Scholars lecture on the scientific investigation of this 8,500 year old skeleton. The event, co-sponsored by the Texas A&M University Press and the Center for the Study of the first Americans, was presented at Rudder Theatre to a packed hall.

This lecture was to celebrate the publication of his new book, co-edited with Richard Jantz — *Kennewick Man: The Scientific Investigation of an Ancient Skeleton*. This book is part of the Center for the Study of the First Americans *Peopling of the Americas* book series published by the Texas A&M University Press. Before the lecture, Dr. Owsley had a morning reception with faculty and students in the CFSA conference room.

Kennewick Man is one of the most complete early human skeletons from North America and was found in 1996 along the Columbia River in Washington. The skeleton is about 8,500 years old and yielded much information about the earliest inhabitants of the Pacific Northwest. Kennewick Man is also one of the most controversial early skeletons to be studied. After its discovery, the U.S. Department of the Interior planned to repatriate the skeleton to Native American groups in the area without scientific study. Doug Owsley and several other scientists, including D. Gentry Steele and Rob Bonnichsen (both Texas A&M faculty) filed a lawsuit against the U.S. government seeking the right to study the skeleton. After eight years of legal wrangling they won the right to study the remains, but were given 16 days to do their work.

The lecture and new book reveal much about the life of an early hunter-gatherer. Kennewick Man was between 35 and 40 years old when he died and

was intentionally buried along the banks of the Columbia River. His bones revealed that he stood about five feet, seven inches tall and weighed about 160 pounds. They also show that he was a robust right-handed individual with a right arm that was significantly more developed than his left. This asymmetry suggests to Owsley that Kennewick Man was engaged in throwing a spear with a spear thrower, flintknapping, poling a boat, and netting fish. Owsley and his team found that Kennewick Man's teeth were heavily worn as a result of the use of his teeth as tools when working hides and cordage, as well as eating food containing an abrasive substance. Kennewick Man had also sustained many injuries over the course of his life. When studying the bones, a stone spear point was found embedded in his pelvic bone. He received this wound as a young adult and the wound was fully healed. However, the Kennewick man had five unhealed broken ribs at the time of his death. These are just a few of the book's findings.



Dr. Gentry Steele, one of the plaintiffs in the Kennewick case, poses for a picture with Dr. Owsley, Dr. Bruce Dickson, and Dr. John McDermott.

Reflections on Fourteen Months of Dissertation Fieldwork in China

By Ali Krzton

I recently returned to the U.S. after having families in the group, spent over fourteen months in China as a Fulbright student scholar. Although I've been home for some time, I still feel as though a part of myself is back across the water, over five thousand miles away. Within the China has gotten under my skin, and I sincerely believe it is there to stay. Right now, the story of China is the story of the world. I consider myself fortunate to have gotten a taste of the country's rich history, and its turbulent modern era; doubly so to have achieved a measure of real understanding.

My research goal is to investigate the social and political behavior of the golden snub-nosed monkey, a rare and beautiful primate found only in Chinese alpine forests. I arrived at Baihe Nature Reserve, a remote, pristine valley in northern Sichuan province, with the aim of learning all I could about how and why they behave as they do. What I discovered is that the fate of the monkey is inextricably wrapped up in the fate of the landscape, both as uncertain as that of the people who live there and struggle to cope with the countryside's rapid change.

Golden snub-nosed monkeys live together in large, multi-family groups for reasons we do not yet fully understand. While maintaining its own integrity, each family negotiates relationships with the other

including when to stay together and when to go their separate ways. Within the family there can also be conflict, as adult males vie for the attention of the resident male (or abandoned him, in some cases) and maturing youngsters move on to find opportunity elsewhere.

The drama unfolding in snub-nosed monkey

society has proven difficult to observe due to their shy nature and the rugged, punishing terrain they call home, but these tensions are all too easy to observe in our own human societies. Chinese people are focused overwhelmingly on relationships, nurturing those they find advantageous and negotiating those they cannot easily escape. As a foreign researcher working in China, I was forced to contend with the challenges inherent in this system, having to deal with and through others to accomplish even straightforward tasks I would have preferred to handle on my own. This can be jarring to an independent and often stubborn individual such as myself, but I know that my way of doing things was just as awkward for friends and associates steeped in China's pervasive politics; cultivating *guanxi* (connection) is often more important than achieving concrete results.

The *guanxi* that I developed with the people I lived and worked next to for so long is both real and enduring. Every day we went up the mountain I entrusted not only my success in monkey-spotting but my very safety to a man named Tang Yulin. Mr. Tang, an un-



suming but quick-witted local expert, was as dependable a right hand as I could have ever wanted. I became close not only with him, but his entire family, from his wife and two children to his good-natured father. He is the last, best advocate for the monkeys – when he retires, there is sadly no one to take his place. My other constant companion was Li Yiwei, my graduate field assistant, who proved to be the Chinese equivalent of a good Texas country boy. He taught me about the special challenges rural young men encounter as they negotiate the Chinese educational system in an attempt to achieve practical success. Finally, there is a special place in my heart for all the highly educated young women I got to know through my lab group in Beijing; these hyper-competent professionals struggle daily to be taken seriously, to be respected for any contributions outside of fulfilling familial duties. I count myself particularly lucky to have found a friend in Dr. Cheng "Big Dawg" Chen, who helped me cope with the challenges of living and working in China at every step. Meeting young scientists such as her gives me hope that, despite the long odds, this beautiful country's natural heritage may yet be preserved.



A golden snub-nosed monkey.

Anthropology Majors Receive Undergraduate Research Awards



Meghan Watt (left) and Josh Lynch (right) taking notes at the Blair Lakes site.

Six anthropology majors were selected for Undergraduate Research Awards this fall:

Student: Aislinn Adolph

Advisors: Ted Goebel and Kelly Graf

Project: The Blair Lakes Dating Project: Stratigraphy and Radiocarbon Analysis

-Aislinn is using sediment and charcoal samples to describe the site's stratigraphic profiles. Her results will be reported to the *Alaska Journal of Anthropology* in the spring.

Student: Astrid Corpus

Advisors: Ted Goebel and Kelly Graf

Project: The Blair Lakes Occupational Project

-Astrid's main goals are to date the cultural components of the Blair Lake site and to recreate the human activities. Her findings will be reported to the *Alaska Journal of Anthropology*.

Student: Jacob Frisbee

Advisors: Ted Goebel and Kelly Graf

Project: Blair Lakes Spatial Analysis

-Jacob is using GIS to create maps of artifact distribution at the Blair Lake site. His results will be reported to the *Alaska Journal of Anthropology* and presented during Student Research Week.

Student: Meghan Watt

Advisors: Ted Goebel and Kelly Graf

Project: Spatial Analysis of Materials from Blair Lakes

-Meghan is analyzing the spatial data of materials at Blair Lakes. Her results will be presented at Student Research Week and reported to the *Alaska Journal of Anthropology*.

Student: Renee Costello

Advisors: April Hatfield (Department of History) and Kevin Crisman

Project: Vessel of Culture: A Biography of an 18th Century Merchant Ship

-Renee travelled to Glasgow, Scotland, to examine the ships of an 18th century tobacco merchant.

Student: Judith Anne Melton

Advisor: Kelly Graf

Project: Artifact Refit Study of the Owl Ridge Site; Biface Analysis of Magnolia Valley and Fernvale, TN

-Judith is conducting a lithic refit analysis of materials from the Owl Ridge site. She is also comparing hafted bifaces from two different sites in Tennessee.

Congratulations to all our hard-working undergraduate students! Best of luck in your research!



Aislinn Adolph (left) and Astrid Corpus (right) excavating at Blair Lakes South.



Congratulations to our New Graduates!

BA Graduates

Toni Boehn	Juliana Noriega
Katherine Darilek	Krista Osborne
Varvara Marmarinou	Alan Pack
Emily Mason	Molly Strehl
Lauren McPherson	Fanny Turcios
James Mowry	Hannah Welch

MA Graduates

Myeshia Babers
Katie Bailey
Jenna Kurten
Kaeleigh MacDonald

PhD Graduates



Brandie Massengale



Jared Miracle

"The Performance of Sawney Beane at the Texas Renaissance Festival"

Advisor: Thomas Green

"Western Bushido: The American Invention of Asian Martial Arts"

Advisor: Thomas Green



Recent Grants and Awards

Tim Campbell, Lori Fields, Willa Trask, and Laura White each received a \$5,000 College of Liberal Arts Dissertation Enhancement Award.

Rebekah Luza received the Individual Best in Business Award for Spring 2014 from the Committee of Senior Business Administrators at Texas A&M.

Willa Trask received a \$15,000 Dissertation Fellowship from Texas A&M's Office of Graduate and Professional Studies.

Dr. Jeff Winking and **Nick Mizer** won the 2014 Margo Wilson Award for their paper "Natural-field Dictator Game Shows No Altruistic Giving." The distinction is awarded by the editors of the journal *Evolution and Human Behavior* to the best paper published in the journal each year.

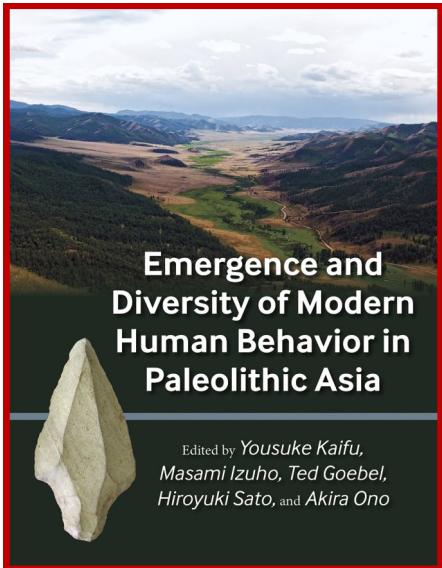


Rebekah Luza at the Senior Business Administrators' Award Ceremony.



New Publications

Ted Goebel recently published a book entitled *Emergence and Diversity of Modern Human Behavior in Paleolithic Asia*. This co-edited volume was published by Texas A&M University Press's Peopling of the Americas Series.



Nick Mizer (ABD) published a manuscript entitled "The Paladin Ethic and the Spirit of Dungeoneering" in the *Journal of Popular Culture*.

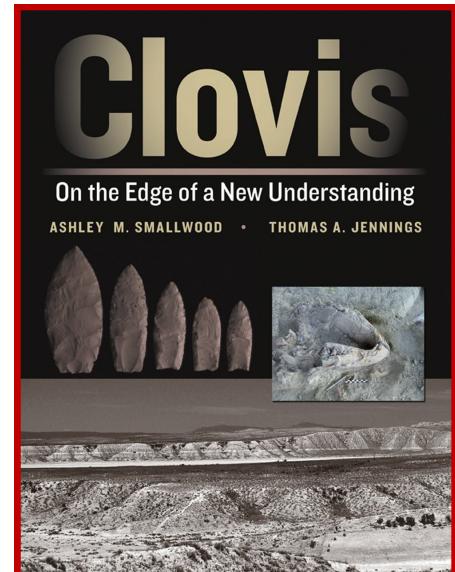
Ashley Smallwood (PhD 2011) and **Tom Jennings** (PhD 2012) recently published a book entitled *Clovis: On the Edge of a New Understanding*. This edited volume

was published by the Texas A&M University Press's Peopling of the Americas Series. Ashley and Tom are currently employed by the University of West Georgia.

Peter Warnock's (MA 1991) recently had his thesis published as an abbreviated appendix in "*Excavations at the Early Bronze IV Sites of Jebel Qa'aqir and Be'er Resisim*" by William G. Dever, (*Appendix 2 D: Analysis of Wood Charcoal*), *Studies in the Archaeology and History of the Levant - SAHL 6*, published by Eisenbrauns.

Dr. Cynthia Werner published an article entitled "Immobility and the Reimaginings of Ethnic Identity among Mongolian Kazakhs in the 21st Century" in the journal *Geoforum* and a book chapter entitled "Cold War Politics and Post-Cold War Realities: The Politics of Memory and Identity in the Everyday Life of Kazakhstan's Radiation Victims" in an edited volume published by Indiana University Press.

Dr. Cemal Pulak published an article entitled "Eight Byzantine Shipwrecks from the Theodosian Harbour Excavations at Yenikapi in Istanbul, Turkey: An Introduction" in the International Journal of Nautical Archaeology, December 2014 issue



Dr. Filipe Castro published an article entitled "Moulds, Graminhos and Ribbands: a pilot study of the construction of saveiros in Valença and the Baía de Todos os Santos area, Brazil" in the International Journal of Nautical Archaeology, December 2014 issue.

Dr. Kevin Crisman published an article titled "Western River Steamboat Heroine, 1832–1838, Oklahoma, USA: propulsion machinery" in the International Journal of Nautical Archaeology, December

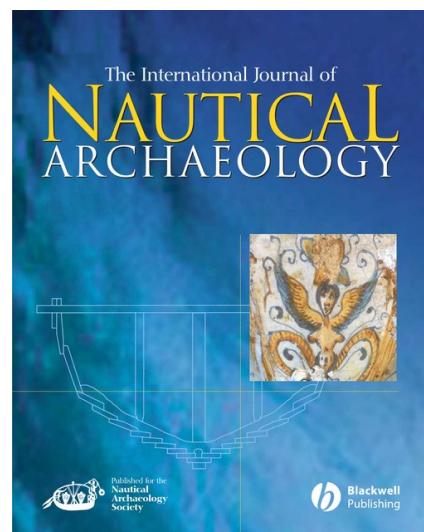
Other Departmental News

Jude Magaro (BA 2014) started the PhD program in anthropology at CUNY-Hunter College.

Sarah Baburi (BA 2012) is working as the Development Assistant at The Heritage Society, a Houston history museum with ten historic structures and a museum gallery.

Lauren Butaric (PhD 2013) started a new position as Assistant Professor of Anatomy at Des Moines University, a health sciences university in the state of Iowa.

Dr. Cemal Pulak's work on Byzantine Shipwrecks in Turkey was featured in a recent article in the Huffington Post.



Other Departmental News, Continued

Dr. Michael Waters and the CSFA were named on Discover Magazine's list of the Top 100 Science Stories of 2014 for their work with DNA sequencing of 12,600-year-old human remains. Dr. Waters, and several CSFA projects, were also featured in an article about the peopling of the Americas the January 2015 issue of *National Geographic*.



Dr. Lori Wright presented an invited paper "The mobility of bodies and burials at Tikal, Guatemala" at The 2015 Maya Meetings Symposium at the University of Texas (Body and Sacrifice: New Interpretations in Maya Archaeology and Religion) on January 16, 2015.

Dr. Suzanne Eckert accepted a new position as the Head of Collections and Associate Curator at the Arizona State Museum, housed at the University of Arizona. She will be dearly missed by faculty, staff, and students at Texas A&M.

Dr. Sharon Gursky presented a paper entitled "Pelage Coloration as an Adaptive Trait" at the bi-annual International Primatological Society Congress in Hanoi, Vietnam, concerning the function of coat color in tarsiers.



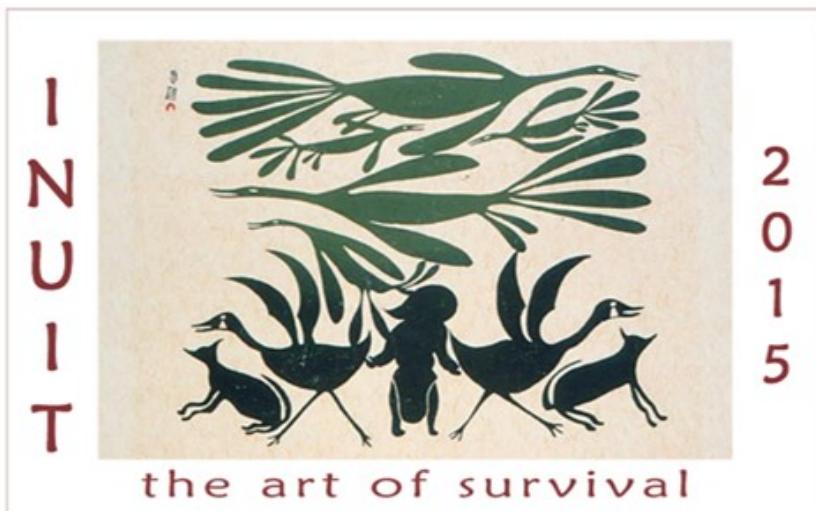
Kerri Allred, senior Anthropology major, wrote and published a mythology and fantasy novel entitled "The Grimsah Forest" under the pseudonym K. L. Beckman. The book was inspired by information Kerri obtained from Anthropology classes here at TAMU. The book is available from Kobo, iTunes, Amazon, and Barnes and Noble.

THE BRAZOS VALLEY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

ANNOUNCES THE OPENING OF

Inuit: The Art of Survival

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 6 PM



The Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History will be opening a new exhibit entitled "Inuit: The Art of Survival." The exhibit will officially open at 6 pm on February 12th with a lecture from TAMU Emeritus Professor Dr. Peter Witt concerning his collection of Inuit cultural material and the challenges Inuit people must deal with to survive, past and present. An open reception with refreshments will follow the lecture. The exhibit is intended to highlight the art and persistence of the Inuit people, and will remain on display until April 29th.



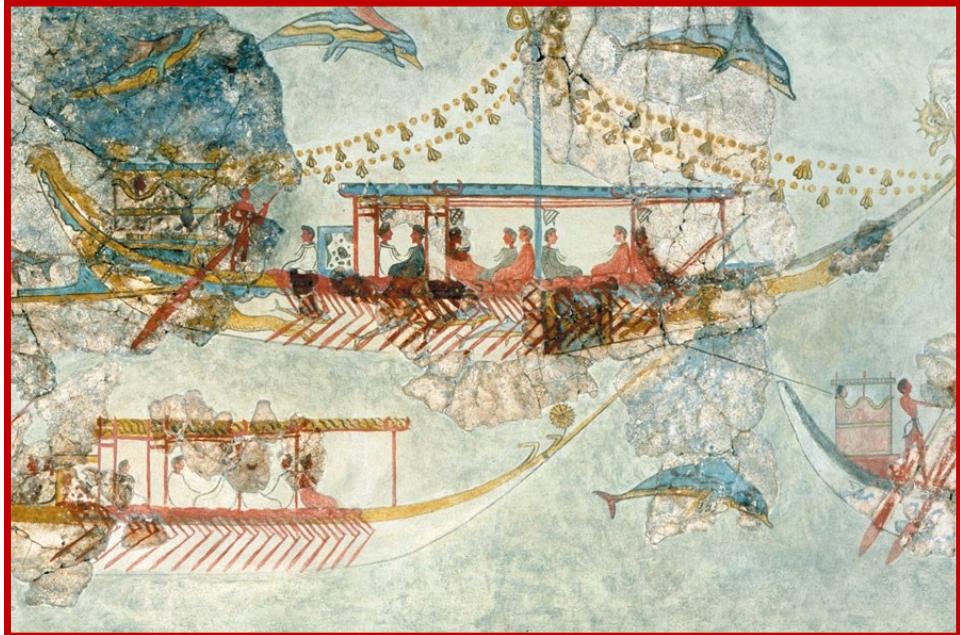
Featured Anthropology Courses in Spring 2015

ANTH 323 Nautical Archaeology of the Ancient Mediterranean (Cemal Pulak)

This course covers the archaeology of ancient seafaring in the Mediterranean from the Stone Age through the Roman Empire. The course examines a vast and engaging array of topics, including the earliest evidence for seafaring and boats, Egyptian navigation on the Nile and in the Red Sea, the elusive Etruscans, the Phoenician and Greek colonization of the Western Mediterranean, the Romans who dominated the Mediterranean for centuries, as well as shipwreck discoveries in the Mediterranean. It is an extensive survey drawing upon many different kinds of archaeological evidence and a wide array of terminology, both modern and ancient.

ANTH 489-500 Visual and Material Culture of the Mediterranean, 1300-1700 (Lilia Campana)

Visual and Material Culture of the Mediterranean, 1300-1700 is a lecture-format course that explores the maritime art and archaeology of the Mediterranean during the Renaissance. “Mediterranean” is a powerful concept, elaborated by Fernand Braudel in his seminal study *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II*. It encompasses economic, social, cultural, and political dimensions. Visual and material culture of the Mediterranean world changed rapidly from the 14th to the 18th century, thanks to dramatic social and economic upheaval, radical technological advances, the expansion of global trade networks, contacts with other people, and significant shifts in political thinking. Social, political, cultural, and economic conditions shaped seeing and the production of objects for visual consumption. The course focuses on anthropology’s distinctive contribution to understanding social and cultural form and process, and the role of human creativity within them, with particular reference to artifacts of material and visual culture. The course offers students the chance to explore some of the most exciting issues in socio-cultural anthropology of the Mediterranean maritime culture.



ANTH 489/689 Quantitative Ethnographic Methods (Jeff Winking)

In this course, we will cover some of the quantitative ethnographic field methods that are commonly employed to formally test anthropological hypotheses. The final for the class will consist of an in-depth ethnographic exploration of Aggie culture and spirit that will involve various data collection techniques conducted by the entire class. Students will leave the class with an understanding of the process of research development and the quantitative methods used to carry out formal hypothesis testing in anthropological research. Furthermore, they will gain the experience of actually executing a small research agenda, including the obtaining of IRB certification, the creation of a research grant proposal, the collection and analysis of data, and the presentation of the results and conclusions. The course is open to undergraduate and graduate students. Honors students can enroll in 689 or establish an honors contract to earn honors credit.

ANTH 489-505 Medical Anthropology (Darrell Lynch)

This is an introductory course in Medical Anthropology. There are no prerequisites, but experience with Anthropology 205 or 210 is recommended for students. This course is intended to enhance student awareness of the tremendous role culture plays in both the expression and patterning of disease, as well as in the ways people explain and treat illness. The course will provide an overview of the subject of medical anthropology, while giving students the opportunity to research and discuss those particular issues within the field which most interest them. Finally, the course will give students an overall picture of current world health patterns and problems, and to discuss the role of anthropologists in helping to understand and deal with these problems.





Spring 2015 Undergraduate and Graduate Courses

<i>Course Number (ANTH)</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Bldg/Room</i>	<i>Days/Time</i>	<i>Instructor</i>
201	Introduction to Anthropology	Multiple sections	Multiple sections	Multiple sections
202	Introduction to Archaeology	Multiple sections	Multiple sections	Multiple sections
204	Peoples and Cultures of the Ancient World	ENPH 216	TR 2:20-3:35	Kelly Graf
205	Peoples and Cultures of the World	Multiple sections	Multiple sections	Multiple Sections
225	Introduction to Biological Anthropology	Multiple sections	Multiple sections	Multiple sections
229	Introduction to Folklore	ANTH 237	TR 9:35-10:50	Thomas Green
301	Indians of North America	ANTH 130	MWF 9:10-10:00	Alston Thoms
312	Fossil Evidence of Human Evolution	ANTH 300A	TR 11:10-12:25	Keely Carlson
316	Nautical Archaeology	Multiple sections	Multiple sections	Multiple sections
318	Nautical Archaeology of the Americas	ANTH 237	TR 3:55-5:10	Kevin Crisman
323	Nautical Archaeology of the Mediterranean	ANTH 130	TR 2:20-3:35	Cemal Pulak
324	Music in World Cultures	Multiple sections	Multiple sections	Multiple sections
340	Folklore and the Supernatural	ANTH 237	TR 8:00-9:15	Thomas Green
354	Archaeology of Ancient Italy	PETR 106	TR 2:20-3:35	Deborah Carlson
360	Ancient Civilizations	ANTH 237	TR 12:45-2:00	David Carlson
402	Archaeological Artifact Conservation	ANTH 101	TR 9:35-10:50	Donny Hamilton
409	Science, Pseudoscience, and Critical Thinking	ANTH 237	TR 11:10-12:25	Darryl De Ruiter
410	Anthropological Theory	FRAN 112	TR 11:10-12:25	Catharina Laporte
415	Anthropological Writing	ARCC 305	TR 2:20-3:35	Catharina Laporte
425	Human Osteology	ANTH 300A	MW 3:45-5:00	Lori Wright
440	Studies in Globalization	HELD 119	TR 9:35-10:50	Nicole Castor
689/489	Dental Anthropology	ANTH 300B	W 10:30-1:30	Lori Wright
489	Material Culture of the Mediterranean	ANTH 130	TR 3:55-5:10	Lilia Campana
689/489	Quantitative Ethnographic Methods	ANTH 130	TR 12:45-2:00	Jeffrey Winking
489	Medical Anthropology	ANTH 130	MWF 11:30-12:20	Darrell Lynch
602	Archaeological Methods and Theory	ANTH 236	MW 4:10-5:25	Alston Thoms
606	Conservation of Archaeological Resources II	ANTH 101	TR 2:00-5:00	Donny Hamilton
629	Post Medieval Seafaring	ANTH 236	R 9:00-12:00	Kevin Crisman
636	Computer Graphics in Archaeology	ANTH 108	W 9:00-12:00	Charles Smith
637	Paeloethnobotany	ANTH 236	T 2:00-5:00	Vaughn Bryant
689	Teaching Anthropology	ANTH 105	W 3:00-3:50	Filipe Castro
689	Pleistocene Peopling of the Old World	ANTH 300B	M 9:00-12:00	Sheela Athreya



Department of Anthropology

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Fax: 979-845-4070

The Department of Anthropology at Texas A&M University offers BA, MA, MS, and PhD degrees in Anthropology. The department has 27 faculty members in four different programs—Archaeology, Biological Anthropology, Cultural Anthropology, and Nautical Archaeology. The department has over 200 undergraduate majors and 90 graduate students.

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

The department would like to thank **Jared Miracle** for his hard work as the editor of this edition of the newsletter. Thanks also to **Cynthia Werner, Cindy Hurt, Rebekah Luza, Peter Fix, Bruce Dickson, Ted Goebel, Wayne Smith, Lori Wright, Michael Waters, and Ali Krzton** 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 **Morgan Smith** (mfsmith1964@tamu.edu).



Gifts to the Department of Anthropology



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.

