



Anthropology News

Volume 6, Issue 1

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Fall 2015

Texas A&M Paleoanthropologist on Team That Uncovers Fossils of New Hominin Ancestor: *Homo naledi*

By Darryl de Ruiter

A discovery of several ancient skeletons in a South African cave being hailed as a new species of human relative could provide important new clues of humankind's origin, says a team of researchers from 32 institutions around the world that includes a Texas A&M University anthropologist. The discovery of *Homo naledi*, a remarkable new species of human relative, in a cave outside of

Johannesburg, South Africa, was announced by the University of Witwatersrand, the National Geographic Society, and the South African National Research Foundation on September 10. The finds are described in two papers published in the prestigious and open access journal *eLife*. Darryl de Ruiter, professor of anthropology at Texas A&M, along with Lee Berger of the University of Witwatersrand, and Paul Dirks of James Cook University in Australia, was one of

HEADLINE NEWS:

- *Darryl de Ruiter co-discovers new fossil hominin species, Homo naledi*
- *Dr. Kate Clancy visits TAMU to discuss sexual harassment in the field*
- *Department welcomes Drs. Anna Linderholm and Allison Hopkins to Anthropology faculty*
- *Visiting Fulbright Yan Axel to teach short course*
- *Archaeological collections find new home*
- *Front office welcomes new faces*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

INA Recognized	6
Dr. Steve Churchill Visits TAMU	7
Josh Lynch Visits Alaska	8
GUMP Program Kickstarts	10
Awards	12
Publications and News	13
Spring 2016 Courses	15



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



At right, an articulated *Homo naledi* specimen. At left, artist's reconstruction of *Homo naledi*.

the original finders of the skeletons in 2013. The discovery was featured in the October issue of National Geographic magazine and was the focus of a PBS-Nova special titled "Dawn of Humanity." de Ruiter says there are at

least 15 individual skeletons that appear to have been intentionally placed in the cave in the remote past, ranging in age from infants to elderly adults. It may represent some form of systematic disposal of the dead, but from there the

mystery grows deeper. "The cave has only one opening that is about 18 inches wide, meaning that it has always been extremely difficult to access," de Ruiter notes. "We do not know how they died, nor exactly how old they are. We suspect there are many more skeletons down there — perhaps hundreds — and it appears the cave has different levels where many more skeletons could be. Their body size is similar to what we see in small-bodied humans, except the skulls are quite a bit smaller than humans. In addition, although their hands and feet are quite human-like, their trunk, shoulders, and hips are quite primitive in size and shape. This unique combination of characters is unlike any previously known human relative, and we have given them the name *Homo naledi*, which means 'star' after the cave, which is known as the Rising Star cave." de Ruiter says the new species is intriguing because "parts of it are like us, and parts of it are unlike us. It is human in some regards, but in other regards it is decidedly non-human.



Darryl de Ruiter, discussing excavation strategy with the excavation team.

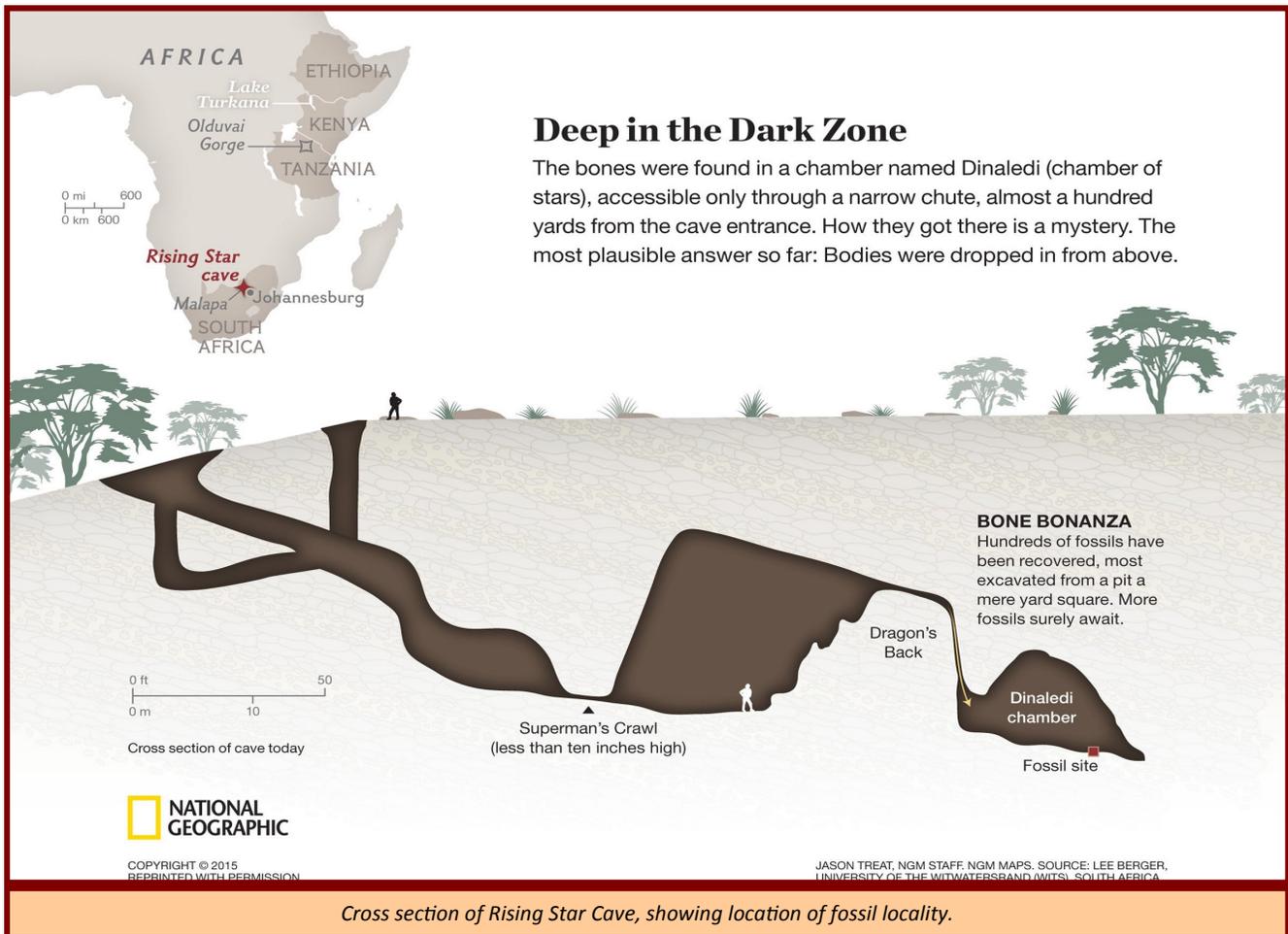




There is no question that this is a new addition to our family tree.” The brain of *H. naledi* is small, similar to that of australopiths, but the shape of the skull is most similar to specimens of *Homo*. For instance, it has distinct brow ridges, weak postorbital constriction (narrowing of the cranium behind the orbits), widely spaced temporal lines (attachments for chewing muscles), and a gracile set of jaws with small teeth, alongside a whole host of other anatomical details that make it appear most similar to specimens of *Homo*. The site of the skeletons and the manner in which they were found clearly shows that the bodies were deliberately placed in the cave soon after death, de Ruiter says. “Neanderthals and their ancestors – which date to about 400,000 years ago – and humans are the only species we know that have intentionally buried their dead,” de Ruiter adds. “This cave

served as a disposal site for these dead bodies, and adds another species to the list of relatives engaging in this most human of behaviors.” de Ruiter says the next step is to explore the cave further and to locate and retrieve additional skeletons for examination. “Given the sheer volume of material that awaits excavation, it could take years and years to complete this process,” he adds. While the specimen is currently undated, almost any age returned on the specimen will be very significant. If it turns out that *H. naledi* is old, say on the order of 2 million years, it would represent the earliest appearance of *Homo* that is based on more than just an isolated fragment. On the other hand, if it turns out that *H. naledi* is young, say on the order of less than 1 million years, it would demonstrate the coexistence of several different types of human ancestor, including an especially small-

brained form like *H. naledi*. Given its primitive skeletal adaptations, this might have profound implications for the development of the African archaeological record. It is clear that we have missed some key transitional forms in the fossil record, as *H. naledi* represents an unexpected combination of australopith-like and human-like features that, until now, was entirely unknown to science. This serves to highlight our ignorance about our own genus across the span of the African continent. However, with an increasing pace of discovery from the field and the laboratory, we can be confident that more light will be thrown on the origin of humans. Support for the expedition came from the South African National Research Foundation, Wits University, the National Geographic Society, and the TAMU Faculty of Liberal Arts Cornerstone Faculty Fellowship.





Dr. Kate Clancy Visits TAMU to Discuss Sexual Harassment in the Field

By Morgan Smith

In September, Dr. Kate Clancy visited Texas A&M University as a speaker on behalf of the ADVANCE Center for Womens Studies and the TAMU Anthropology Department. The ADVANCE Center is an NSF funded facility at Texas A&M that is focused on enhancing and sustaining gender equality and improving the overall representation of women faculty members in STEM disciplines. Dr. Clancy is a professor of Anthropology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her research interests include female reproductive biology, fetal growth and development, fertility, and endometrial function. Dr. Clancy has most recently come under the national spotlight for SAFE; the Survey of Academic Field Experiences. In this landmark study, published in PLOS ONE in 2014, 666 field scientists responded to an online survey about misconduct and sexual harassment experienced during fieldwork. The study indicated that the primary targets of the harassment were young females and the

perpetrators were most often senior males. However, the most startling finding of the survey was that the respondents were unsure of proper reporting avenues for incidents. The study examined frequency and geographic distribution of the incidents, as well as advanced several potential policies that could address the issue. For bringing this issue to light, Dr. Clancy and colleagues received national attention and numerous accolades. On her visit to Texas A&M, Dr. Clancy gave a campus wide talk on the results of SAFE that was well attended by a diverse audience. Dr. Clancy's talk was followed by an in-depth question and answer session. The next day, Dr. Clancy gave a more focused talk on female reproductive ecology for the Anthropology Department. Dr. Clancy's visit was part of a broader initiative by the Anthropology Department and Texas A&M University to address important issues in an open and direct manner.



Dr. Kate Clancy.



Dr. Kate Clancy, lecturing on SAFE.





New Assistant Professor Dr. Anna Linderholm Offers Course on Ancient Genetics

By Morgan Smith and Anna Linderholm

The brand new graduate course Ancient Genetics will explain the basics of DNA and what makes it ancient (a hint is temperature and not time!), and how it can be used to help answer anthropological and archaeological questions. In bioarchaeology, ancient DNA has become one of the most rapidly growing fields. This is largely due to the introduction of Next Generation Sequencing, which has made the possibilities almost endless by allowing for immense amounts of data to be derived from small samples. Indeed, the process has moved from looking at a single DNA sequence to looking at whole genomes!

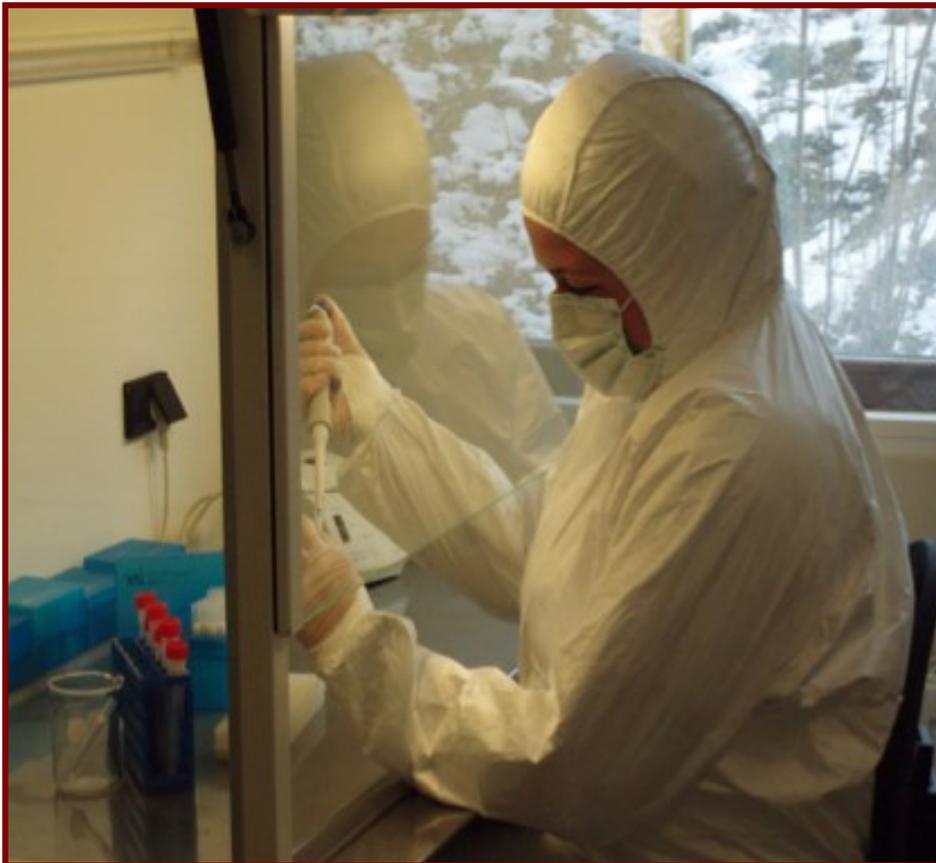
Dr. Linderholm's course will shine a light

on both the advantages and the pitfalls of ancient DNA research. It will explore all the nuances of this exciting and expanding field using different themes. Discussions concerning domestication, kinship, conservation, extinctions and disease are just a few of the themes that will be addressed. During the course, students will also dive into the more technical issues such as ancient DNA contamination and survival, and will become familiar with the methods used to extract and analyze the data.

A more practical part is also involved, as the students will complete a small laboratory experiment. Here the students will learn how to extract DNA as well as understand and analyze the results of the sequencing. This entirely new course will

give students better knowledge and a greater understanding of ancient DNA, particularly how it can be used and/or misused.

In the near future, two laboratories, an ancient and modern DNA lab, will be constructed in the Anthropology building. This will allow for extraction and analysis of ancient DNA to occur right here in the Anthropology department. Our graduate student body is very excited about this new course and lab, and the Anthropology Department is happy to welcome Dr. Linderholm!



Dr. Anna Linderholm, new Assistant Professor in the Anthropology Department.





Nautical Archaeology Program Recognized by National Endowment of the Humanities

By Morgan Smith

In 1972, George Bass founded the Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA) at Texas A&M University. Over 40 years later, INA is world renowned as the leader in shipwreck archaeology. This expertise was recently recognized by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). For their 50th anniversary, NEH recognized 50 outstanding past recipients of NEH funding. Amid other outstanding research institutions and projects, INA was recognized for its research and educational focus. The article mentioned several highlights of INA's illustrious tenure, including excavations of War of 1812 Shipwrecks

in the Great Lakes, Phoenician vessels in Spain, and the recent investigations of early shipwrecks uncovered in Sri Lanka. Much attention is paid to the results of the Uluburun Project, for which NEH provided almost 1 million dollars of funding in the 1980's. The article also addresses INA's role in the development of underwater archaeology as a respected scientific discipline. Discussion is given to the graduate program at Texas A&M, as well as the scientific and popular publications that INA both produces and contributes to. George Bass and Deborah Carlson were interviewed for the piece and are

quoted in the story. For the full article, visit: <http://50.neh.gov/projects/underwater-archaeology>



An INA archaeologist at work on the Kizilburun Shipwreck in Turkey.





Dr. Steve Churchill Gives Bridging Theme Lecture at TAMU

By Morgan Smith

This semester, the Ecology and Evolution Bridging theme group of the TAMU Anthropology Department invited Dr. Steve Churchill for a visit to campus, during which he gave two lectures in addition to meeting with numerous faculty and graduate students to discuss research. Dr. Churchill is a Professor of Biological Anthropology at Duke University and is a close colleague of Dr. Darryl De Ruiter, both of whom are currently working on further understanding the recent *Homo naledi* species they helped discover in South Africa. Dr. Churchill first presented a focused brown bag to the Anthropology

Department on the origins of the genus *Homo*. The talk paid particular attention to the role *Homo naledi* will undoubtedly play in this controversial topic. The brown bag was the most well attended lecture of the fall semester, with over 50 eager listeners. The following day, Dr. Churchill addressed a much larger and more diverse audience on the role Neandertals played in ice age Europe. In this standing room only lecture, Dr. Churchill broke down why Neandertals, commonly painted as apex predators in their time, were actually more likely the prey themselves, based on density and distribution data. In

his meeting with the graduate students, Dr. Churchill discussed his ongoing work on early weapons technology. As this research interest is held by numerous graduate students in the Anthropology Department, this discussion was lively and well attended. An evening reception rounded out Dr. Churchill's visit.

In the coming semesters, more bridging theme lectures are planned, so stay tuned! The other department's bridging themes are Food, Nutrition and Culture, Dispersals, Diasporas, and Migrations, and Technology and Material Culture.



Dr. Steven Churchill of Duke University gave a talk to a crowd of over 100 at this public lecture.



PhD Student Visits Alaska for Public Outreach Event

By Josh Lynch



Josh Lynch, instructing on use of an atlatl at the Bering Sea Days, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

During October, Joshua Lynch, a PhD candidate working with Dr. Ted Goebel and the Center for the Study of the First Americans, traveled to St. Paul Island, Alaska, for St. Paul School's Bering Sea Days event. This is the 8th year of Bering Sea Days, a program developed by the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island and the St. Paul School's science, math, and technology teachers. The event brings scientists to the Pribilof Islands to give students an opportunity to learn about marine, climatological, and archaeological sciences related to the Bering Sea, as well as exposure to various careers in the sciences. The event also gives scientists a chance to interact with K-12 students and disseminate their data to an eager, young audience that is directly impacted by the results of regional research efforts.

This is Joshua's second year attending Bering Sea Days, and he has used the opportunity to introduce local students to the basics of field-based archaeological methodologies, experimental research design in archaeology, and simple geomorphological concepts, as well as engaging the community (students and tribal members) in discussions of cultural heritage, subsistence practices, and the role of native tribes in on-going archaeological research.

At the 2014 Bering Sea Days event, Joshua

lead a series of demonstrations and hands-on sessions detailing the mechanics of flint knapping and the use of the atlatl technology around the Bering Sea. The students really enjoyed the chance to throw darts from atlatls! Joshua was also able to participate in the harvesting of a caribou by the older students (with an adult Native hunter as a guide), and assisted in the traditional processing and preparation of the caribou meat that was then distributed to students in the school.

During this year's Bering Sea Days, Joshua delivered a series of

presentations discussing the importance of precision and accuracy in archaeology, culminating in the mapping of mock "surface site" set up on the school grounds. The students explored artifact identification, interpreting topographic and geological maps of the island, and mapping with a coordinate grid system. Joshua also helped supervise the excavation of a caribou skeleton, using archaeological tools and methods, which had been placed in processing boxes for defleshing a year ago. The students will articulate the skeleton during the next Bering Sea Days for display in the St. Paul School Library. A similar project was completed during the 2015 Bering Sea Days using the skeleton of an infant orca recovered on the island.

Bering Sea Days is a unique opportunity for scientists to reach out to local native communities who are major stakeholders in the research that is happening across the Bering Sea. The interest and enthusiasm for archaeology that the students of St. Paul Island School have displayed has been incredible, and Joshua is looking forward to returning in 2016!



Josh Lynch demonstrating hafting techniques to students.





Fullbright Fellow Dr. Yan Axel Gomez Coutouly Teaches Lithic Technology Course

By Morgan Smith

We offer a warm greeting to Dr. Gomez Coutouly as he becomes a part of the Department of Anthropology community this year. Yan Axel is visiting Texas A&M as a Fulbright Fellow, and is being hosted by Dr. Kelly Graf in the Center for the Study of the First Americans. He is currently a researcher with the Prehistory and Technology Laboratory at the Institute for Archaeology and Ethnology in Nanterre, France. For six weeks, Yan Axel will be teaching a 1-credit hour short course, ANTH 685: Technological Approaches to Stone Tools. This course will introduce students to the French school of prehistoric lithic analysis. The course consists of 5 weeks of coursework, readings, and discussion on topics such as analytical tools for lithic analysis, bifacial tool technologies, blade industries, toolstone acquisition, and relevant case studies on prehistoric lithic analysis. The course will pay close attention to contemporary issues in Paleoindian and Beringian archaeology, particularly research questions that can be examined through lithic analysis. On the 6th and final week of the course, students



Dr. Gomez Coutouly in his lab.

will bring their own collections in the class to discuss with the group. The course will undoubtedly serve as an excellent knowledge base from which students can begin to address research questions concerning lithic analysis in their theses or dissertations.

Dr. Gomez Coutouly will be in the CFSA until late February, so be sure to stop by and welcome him to Texas A&M!

Rosie the Roach Shrine Receives International Attention

By Morgan Smith

People travelling through the Anthropology Department last semester were treated to a very strange site if they climbed the east stairwell to the second floor. What began as a small memorial to a recently expired cockroach exploded into an elaborate shrine to the insect, complete with over \$20 in foreign currency, t-shirts, a narrative of Rosie's life by an unknown author, votive candles, notes from admirers, and even a funeral pyre, built of matchsticks by Professor Donny Hamilton. Building custodian Myrna graciously allowed the antics to

continue for two weeks until Rosie was cremated and a celebration of her life was held in her honor in the main office, complete with a custom baked Roach effigy cake. The Rosie story permeated social media, and could be found in both print and social media, both locally and even internationally as an example of a "spontaneous shrine". A memorial fund was even established for Rosie. This light-hearted prank was appreciated by all who wandered through the building, and it was entertaining to see the shrine grow day by day. RIP, Rosie.



Rosie's shrine at its height.





Michael Waters and Morgan Smith Speak at First Floridians, First Americans Conference

By Morgan Smith

In October, Dr. Michael Waters and CSFA PhD Student Morgan Smith (Advisor Michael Waters) travelled to Monticello, Florida to give talks at the second annual First Floridians, First Americans Conference. This outstanding conference takes place at a historic opera house and is free to the public. Over 200 registered guests attended the event, put on by the local group Main Street Monticello, who organized and put on the conference. In addition to Waters and Smith, Jessi Halligan (TAMU PhD Graduate, 2012), David Anderson, Dennis Stanford, and James Adovasio were just a few of the 22 speakers who travelled to Florida to discuss the Sunshine State's place in the peopling of the Americas. Dr. Waters delivered the keynote talk of the conference, discussing the state of pre-Clovis evidence in North America, combining archaeological and genetic evidence to demonstrate the antiquity of North American cultures and their Northeast Asian origin. Morgan discussed the Guest Mammoth site, a proposed mammoth kill locality in central Florida that is the center of much uncer-



A large crowd listens to Dr. Michael Waters, one of the conference keynote speakers.

tainty and which will be a component of his dissertation. Jessi Halligan discussed her ongoing research on underwater sites in Florida, detailing a largescale survey of Florida Rivers in 2014 and recent discoveries at the Page-Ladson site where Waters and Halligan have conducted extensive geoaarchaeological analysis re-

sulting in the affirmation of the locality as pre-Clovis in age. The full details of the conference, including summaries and audio of the talks, can be found at: <https://seacundeground.wordpress.com/2015/10/29/first-floridians-first-americans-conference-review/>.

GUMP Program Off to Strong Start Under New Leadership

By Morgan Smith

The graduate-undergraduate mentorship program (GUMP) recently shifted leadership. PhD students Lauren Cook and Crystal Dozier have taken the reigns as the new coordinators of the program. The GUMP program matches motivated, ambitious undergraduates with active graduate students to form a mutually beneficial working relationship. Students are paired based on shared research interests. Graduate students take on undergraduates to assist with their research projects, which allows for hands-on learning for undergraduates and the

ability for graduate students to ease a bit of their research workload. Graduate students also assist undergraduates with graduate school applications and work with their undergraduates to produce co-authored conference presentations. Past GUMP participants, both graduates and undergraduates, have lauded the program as very successful and as a catalyst for high impact learning. To get involved with the GUMP program, contact Lauren Cook (lcook@tamu.edu) or Crystal Dozier (cdozier@tamu.edu).



Lauren Cook (left) and Crystal Dozier (right), the new coordinators of the GUMP program.





Anthropology Research Collections Move... Again!

By *Elanor Sonderman*

In the summer of 2015, plans were put in motion to move the department's Anthropology Research Collections out of the Reed McDonald building, where the collections had been housed for the past few years. Several potential locations were explored before selecting a space in an off campus facility on University Dr., east of Highway 6. With the help of Little Guys Movers, faculty and graduate students, the majority of the collections were moved to the off-campus facility, that primarily serves as a large scale engineering laboratory but also curation facility for TAMU's horticulture collection. This new space, while a bit of a trek off campus, is quite a bit bigger than the space the collections had been occupying in Reed McDonald. The increase in space will allow us to spread the collections out a bit more, making them more accessible and increasing the safety and security of curatorial space.

The department's teaching collections are housed in the new collections lab space on the third floor of the Anthropology Building. The new lab will serve as office space for graduate assistants and workspace for students or researchers using the collections.

Of course, the Anthropology Research Collections have moved several times in the last few years. We are hoping that this one will be permanent. While there is still much to do in terms of reorganizing after the move, accessibility to the collections is the top priority. Teaching materials in particular are available for course instruction or activity (email Elanor at anth-arc@tamu.edu or ems.4@tamu.edu to find out what types of materials are available).

It took little more than three days to move well over 2000 boxes of archaeological materials, books, and supplies. This feat would not have been possible

without considerable help from faculty and fellow graduate students. Special thanks must be given to Drs. David Carlson, Ted Goebel, and Kelly Graf, as well as Katie Bailey, Crystal Dozier, Lacey Faulkner, Raphael Franca, Angela Gore, Katelyn McDonough, Angelina Perotti, Jordan Pratt, Morgan Smith, and Willa Trask.



The new curations room on the 3rd floor of the ANTH building.

Department Front Office Welcomes New Faces

By *Morgan Smith*

During Fall 2015, two new faces joined the Anthropology Department staff! Nicole Ellis and Amber Warner are now working in the front office, keeping things running smoothly. Nicole is the Assistant to Department Head, a position recently vacated by Cynthia Hurt. Nicole is in charge of human resources for the department, processing monthly payroll for faculty and students, paperwork for international visitors, preparing tenure and promotion files, distributing office keys, and conducting the annual property inventory, among other duties. Amber joins us as an administrative assistant following the departure of Rickie Fletcher. In addition to providing general support to faculty, staff and students, Amber is also in charge of purchasing and maintaining office supplies, coordinating semester book adoptions and the proctoring schedule, and managing biweekly pay-



Amber Warner (left) and Nicole Ellis (right); new front office staff.

roll. Nicole and Amber have made an immediate impact on the day to day operations of the Anthropology Department, and their great, positive attitudes are appreciated by all! If

you haven't yet, stop in and say hello to them and thank them for the great jobs they've been doing for all of us!





Congratulations to our New December Graduates!

BA Graduates

Ryan Allen	Althea Han
Catherine Ball	Katherine Hogaboom
Bryant Bowyer	Jami Moore
Katherine Brooks	Elizabeth Pospisil
Leah Brown	Joseph Rousseau
Kari Dickson	Felicia Sigman
Samantha Friedman	Jean Snider

PhD Graduates



Nicholas Mizer

"The Greatest Unreality: Story, Play, and Imagination in Dungeons and Dragons"

Advisor: Thomas Green



Angela Younie

"Microblades, Bifaces, and the Chindadn Complex: Reinvestigating the Healy Lake Archaeological Record, Alaska"

Advisor: Ted Goebel

MA Graduates

<p>Arianna DiMucci Christopher Dostal Christine Hagseth</p>



Recent Grants and Awards

Tim Cambell received a Leakey Foundation Grant, NSF Dissertation Improvement Grant, and L.T. Jordan Fellowship.

Annie Melton has been recognized as a finalist for the Rhodes and Marshall scholarships to pursue graduate studies in the UK.



(above) Tim Campbell, recipient of a Leakey Foundation Award in 2015.



(left) Annie Melton, Rhodes and Marshall Scholarship finalist





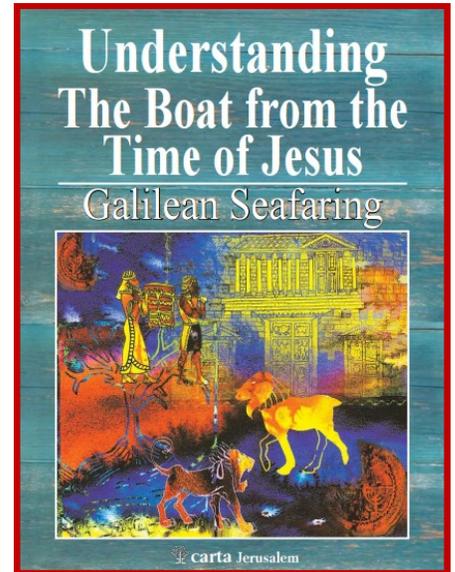
New Publications

John Littlefield recently published information from his dissertation in *Mariner's Mirror* entitled "Reconstructing the Design of the American Civil War Semi-submersible CSS David."

standing *The Boat from the Time of Jesus*.

Tim DeSmet has published on four occasions. Twice he has served as co-author for papers in *FastTIMES* concerning geophysical studies in Brenham, Texas, and the instruction of geophysics. In the journal *Sedimentary Geology*, he co-authored a paper on barrier island development. Tim was also lead author on a book chapter with Dr. Bruce Dickson in *American Conflict, American Revolution: The Archaeology of Engagement*, a book published by Texas A&M Press.

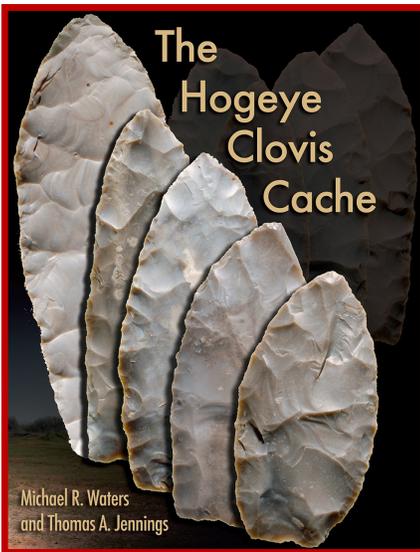
Andrew K. Scherer (PhD 2004) recently published a book with the University of



Texas Press entitled *Mortuary Landscapes of the Classic Maya*.

Katie Bailey's paper, "Intragenetic shape variation of the douc langur (*Pygathri spp.*) scapula" was accepted for publication by the *Vietnamese Journal of Primatology*.

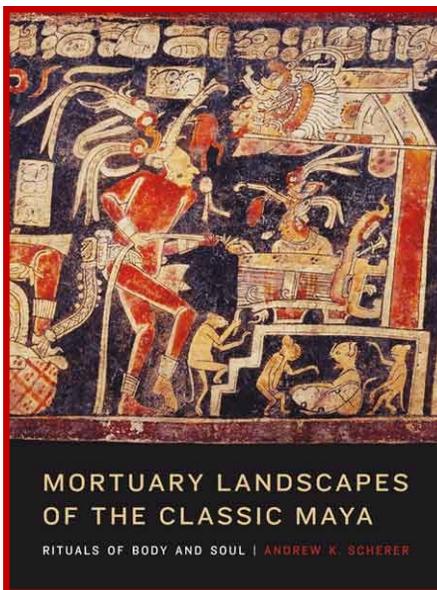
Jeff Winking published an article titled "The fitness effects of men's family investments: a test of three pathways in a single population" in *Human Nature*. He also co-authored an article in *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* titled "Inclusive fitness and differential productivity across the life course determine intergenerational transfers in a small scale human society."



Michael Waters and Tom Jennings (PhD 2012) published a book with Texas A&M University Press entitled, *The Hogeve Clovis Cache*.

Josh Keene's paper, "Geochronology and Geomorphology of the Pioneer Archaeological Site (10BT676), Upper Snake River Plain, Idaho" was accepted for publication in *Geoarchaeology*.

Dr. Shelley Wachsmann published a book on Galilean seafaring titled *Under-*



Other Departmental News

Jessi Halligan (PhD 2012) started a new position as Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida.

Dr. Wayne Smith retired from teaching after more than 20 years of service to the TAMU Anthropology Department.

Cynthia Hurt took a new staff position as administrator in the Hispanic Studies Department.

Claire Casey (BA 2014) published an article on Chinese Folklore in *Explorations*, the Texas A&M Undergraduate journal.

Dr. Tom Green gave the keynote address at the International Conference on the Development of Ethnic Culture at Chongqing University, China. While there, he also conducted research on martial arts in the Guizhou Province of China.

Nicholas Budsberg and **Shannon Hodges** were recognized as LT Jordan Fellows.





Featured Anthropology Courses for Spring 2016

ANTH 461/661- Environmental Archaeology (Kelly Graf)

This course gives an in-depth examination of the paleoecological context in which past humans interacted with the natural environment. Oftentimes, the environment governs human activity and this course offers a review of advanced principles, method and theory, and practical applications used in paleoenvironmental reconstruction. These tools will be covered in-depth through readings and discussions, and the course will culminate in a research paper in which students apply the theories and techniques learned during the course to a Paleoenvironmental reconstruction of an area of their choosing.

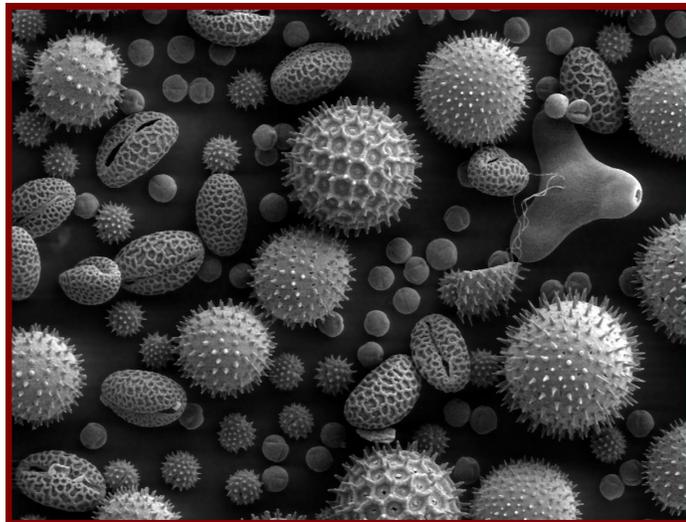
ANTH 689- Ancient Genetics (Anna Linderholm)

The course will shine a light on both the advantages as well as the pitfalls of ancient DNA; we will explore all the nuances of this exciting and expanding field using different themes. We will talk about Domestication, Kinship, Conservation, Extinction and Disease just to mention a few themes. During the course we will also dive into the more technical issues such as ancient DNA contamination and survival, and familiarize us with the methods used to extract and analyze the data. A more practical part is also involved, as the students will complete a short laboratory experiment. Here the students will learn how to extract DNA as well as understand and analyze the result of the sequencing. This entire new course should give the students a better knowledge and understanding of ancient DNA, how it can be used and/or misused.



ANTH 401- Ice Age Humans in North America (Mike Waters)

Who were the first Americans? When did the first Americans colonize the Americas? Where did they come from? How did they get here? How did they colonize a continent empty of people and how did they settle into this new land? The questions surrounding the peopling of the Americas during the last Ice Age is one of the most important and controversial topics in American archaeology. This course provides students with a review of the important Paleoindian sites in the Americas and an understanding of the different interpretations about when and from where the first Americans arrived. We discuss all aspects of the colonization of the Americas at the end of the last Ice Age.



ANTH 634 Palynology (Vaughn Bryant)

This course revolves around the identification of fossil pollen. Split into a laboratory and lecture section, students will learn principles and techniques used in palynology, how to describe pollen morphology, how to recognize fossil pollen, and the role of palynology as a research tool in plant taxonomy agriculture, medicine, paleobotany and anthropology. In addition, students will conduct an independent research project in which they choose an archaeological sample from which pollen can be obtained, process the sample, identify and count the pollen, and make environmental interpretations based on their analysis.





<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	Multiple sections	Multiple sections	Multiple sections
205	Peoples and Cultures of the World	Multiple sections	Multiple sections	Multiple Sections
210	Social and Cultural Anthropology	ANTH 237	TR 9:35-10:50	Allison Hopkins
225	Introduction to Biological Anthropology	Multiple sections	Multiple sections	Multiple sections
226	Introduction to Biological Anthropology Lab	Multiple sections	Multiple sections	Multiple sections
229	Introduction to Folklore	HELD 120	TR 11:10-12:25	Thomas Green
301	Indians of North America	ANTH 130	MWF 9:10-10:00	Alston Thoms
305	Fundamentals of Anthropological Writing	ANTH130	W 3:00-3:50	Shannon Hodges
312	Fossil Evidence of Human Evolution	ANTH 300A	TR 11:10-12:25	Keely Carlson
316	Nautical Archaeology	Multiple sections	Multiple sections	Multiple sections
317	Intro to Biblical Archaeology	Multiple sections	Multiple sections	Multiple sections
323	Nautical Archaeology of the Mediterranean	ANTH 130	TR 3:55-5:10	Cemal Pulak
324	Music in World Cultures	Multiple sections	Multiple sections	Multiple sections
340	Folklore and the Supernatural	CHEN 120	TR 2:20-3:35	Thomas Green
401	Ice Age Humans in North America	ANTH 237	TR 12:45-2:00	Michael Waters
402	Archaeological Artifact Conservation	ANTH 101	TR 2:20-5:20	Donny Hamilton
403	Anthropology of Religion	ANTH 130	MW 4:10-5:25	Darryl Lynch
410	Anthropological Theory	ANTH 237	TR 11:10-12:25	Catharina Laporte
415	Anthropological Writing	ANTH 130	MWF 10:20-11:10	Brittany Moody
419	Indians of Texas	ANTH 300B	MW 4:10-5:25	Alston Thoms
423	Bioarchaeology	ANTH 300B	MW 10:20-11:35	Lori Wright
425	Human Osteology	ANTH 300	MW 3:45-5:00	Lori Wright
440	Studies in Globalization	LAAH 463	TR 12:45-2:00	Nicole Castor
447	Lithic Artifact Analysis	ANTH 130	MWF 11:30-12:20	Heather Smith
461/661	Environmental Archaeology	ANTH 130	TR 11:10-12:25	Kelly Graf
489	Analytical Archaeological Methods	ANTH 108	TR 9:35-10:50	Chris Dostal
489	Ancient Egypt	ANTH 237	TR 2:20-3:35	Shelley Wachsmann
602	Archaeological Methods and Theory	ANTH 300B	TR 12:45-2:00	David Carlson
608	Skills in Maritime Archaeology	ANTH 236	W 9:00-12:00	Shelley Wachsmann
616	Research and Reconstruction of Ships	ANTH 105	W 1:00- 4:00	Filipe Castro
619	Indians of Texas	ANTH 300B	MW 4:10-5:25	Alston Thoms
634	Palynology	ANTH 236	TR 2:00-5:00	Vaughn Bryant
689	Ancient Genetics	ANTH 236	F 9:00-12:00	Anna Linderholm

Department of Anthropology
Texas A&M University
340 Spence St. College Station Tx
Phone: 979-85-5242

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 Acting Department Head, **Dr. Ted Goebel** (goebel@tamu.edu).

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT:

ANTHROPOLOGY.TAMU.EDU

The department would like to thank **Morgan Smith** for his hard work as the editor of this edition of the newsletter. Thanks also to **Ted Goebel, Josh Lynch, Darryl De Ruiter, Elanor Sonderman, and Anna Linderholm** 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.

