



Anthropology News

Volume 6, Issue 2

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Summer 2016

Enigmatic Site in Florida Validated as Pre-Clovis Locality by Texas A&M Team of Archaeologists

By Morgan Smith and Angelina Perrotti

On May 13th, 2016, a frenzy of media articles was released detailing the presence of archaeological material in the form of a biface, several flakes, and a butchered mastodon tusk found in the bottom of a sinkhole in Jefferson County, Florida. Reported in the journal *Science Advances* this month by Drs. Halligan, Waters, and colleagues, these unequivocal artifacts were found in a deeply stratified sediment sequence located 30 feet underwater in a sinkhole on the bottom of the Aucilla

River in north Florida. Among the 71 new radiocarbon ages obtained on the site, the ages on the Pre-Clovis artifacts clustered tightly around 14,550 years before present (B.P). This project was initiated in 2013 by former CSFA student Dr. Jessi Halligan (PhD 2012) and Dr. Michael Waters. The site, named Page-Ladson after its initial discoverer Buddy Page and landowner John Ladson, was initially investigated by the Aucilla River Prehistory Project (ARPP) in the late 1980's and early 1990's. Largely a

HEADLINE NEWS:

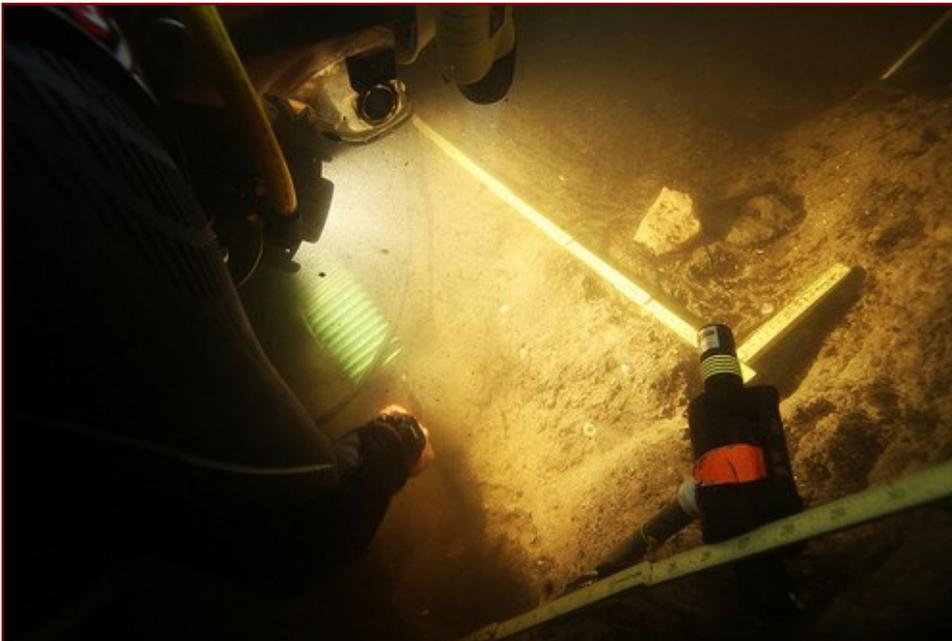
- *Dr. Vaughn Bryant received a Medal of Scientific Excellence from the American Palynology Society.*
- *Dr. Darryl de Ruiter was selected for a Texas A&M Distinguished Achievement Award in the category of Research.*
- *Dr. Jeff Winking was selected for a college-level Association of Former Students Distinguished Award in the category of Teaching.*
- *Drs. Alston Thoms and Cynthia Werner were recently promoted to the rank of Professor.*
- *The Department Welcomes Dr. Heather Thakar as Curator and Instructional Assistant Professor.*



Neil Puckett, PhD Student in the CSFA surfaces with a mastodon bone at the Page-Ladson site.

ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Faculty Research Featured in the Media	1-5
New Faculty in the Department	6-7
Completion of the La Belle Shipwreck Project	8
The Roy Schlemmon Fund	9
INA's New Research Vessel	10
Visiting Scholars	11
Other Departmental News	12



obtained, but in the “slam-dunk” nature of the site: unequivocal artifacts, in solid geological context, with precise radiocarbon ages. Described as a “chronological layer-cake” by Dr. Thomas Stafford, a renowned radiocarbon expert, the slow moving water, consistent river temperature, and slightly acidic nature of the Aucilla provided the perfect preservation environment that allows for such a strong assessment. A number of experts in First Americans archaeology have noted the site as the “best evidence yet” of a pre-Clovis occupation in the Americas. Dr. Michael Faught, an expert in submerged prehistoric archaeology, was one of the reviewers for the paper. “I don’t know what else to tell you,” he says. “It’s unassailable.”

A diver works to excavate material and record information under the “iced-tea” water of the Aucilla River.

paleontological initiative, the ARPP did discover ephemeral evidence of a pre-Clovis (>13,200 B.P) component in the sinkhole in the form of small flakes. A combination of the facts that the ages obtained from the layer yielding the flakes was far older than the current acceptable age for human occupation in the Americas and that the flakes were not found in-situ led to the findings being largely ignored. “Most archaeologists just pretended that the site didn’t exist,” says Halligan about these early results. Halligan and Waters had recently turned their interest to the rivers of Florida for the answers to questions concerning the peopling of the Americas, and the opportunity to work at Page-Ladson was too good to pass up. “So when I was given the chance to go back there, I jumped at it,” Waters says. Waters and Halligan employed a host of researchers to work at Page-Ladson,

which included around a dozen Texas A&M students. Nearly two years passed on the Aucilla, in which Halligan, Waters and colleagues tediously determined which areas to test at the site and began removing sediment from the area. The sloping topography of the sinkhole means that in some areas, the pre-Clovis layer is capped by several meters of sediment while in other areas, it was been completely eroded. In 2014, following an entire year of excavation that yielded evidence as tantalizing as that recovered by the ARPP in the 1990’s, the team struck gold. Two excavators, down for nearly 2 hours removing sediment centimeter by centimeter, uncovered the smoking-gun: a biface found in-situ amongst organic remains from which seven radiocarbon ages were obtained, all averaging 14,550 years B.P. The significance of the site however, does not solely lie in the ages

In addition to the stone tools recovered, a butchered tusk was found at the site by the original



Dr. Michael Waters and CSFA PhD Student Morgan Smith examining the biface moments after discovery.



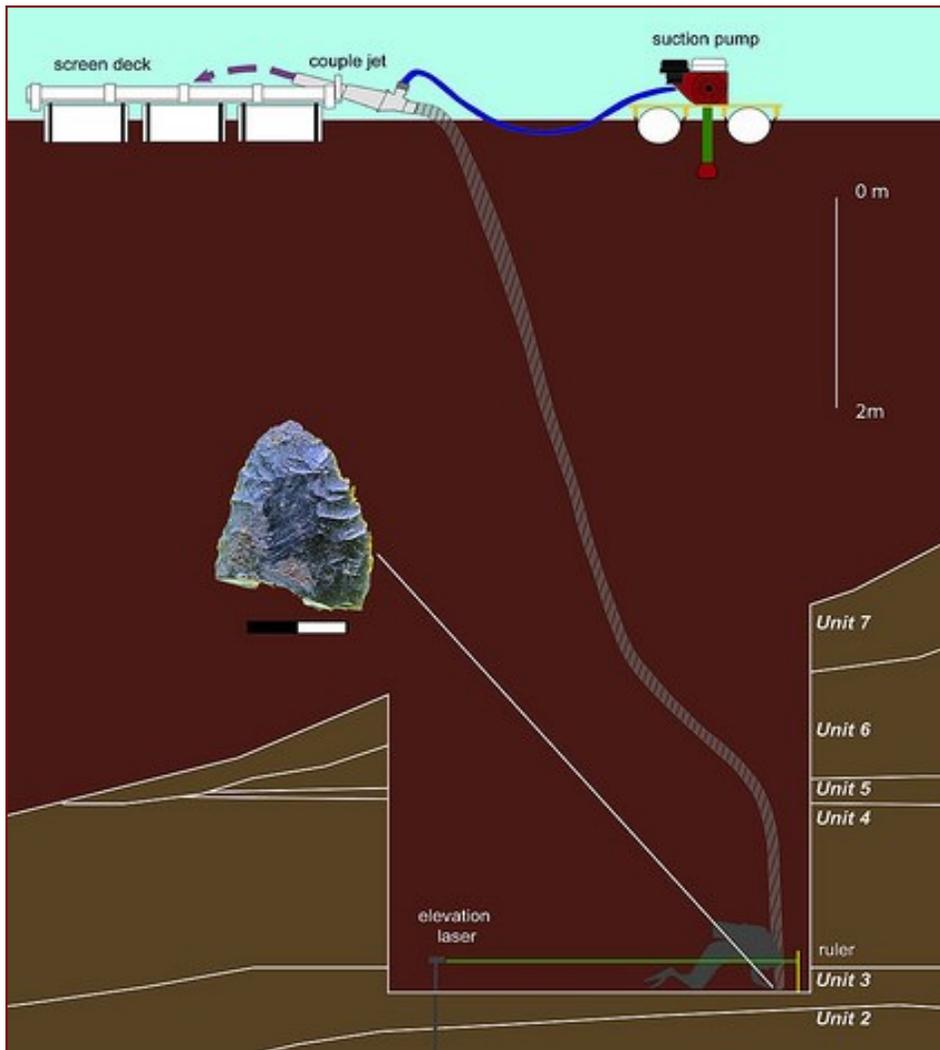


excavators in the 1990's. Thought to have been fragmented and lost over the years, Drs. Halligan and Waters combed the archives at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, Florida hoping to find remnants of the tusk. Their search paid off, and the fragments of the tusk were found, refit, and the cut-marks analyzed by Dr. Daniel Fisher, a paleontologist at the University of Michigan, who called the cut marks "clearly the result of human activity." Perhaps the most nuanced clue however, came from analysis

performed by TAMU PhD student Angelina Perrotti. The Page-Ladson site is determined to have been a shallow pond at the time of occupation. This pond would have served as a valuable watering hole in a water-scarce, arid climate. In Unit 3, the pre-Clovis component where the artifacts were recovered, remnants of mastodon dung harbors a unique fungus known as *Sporormiella*. Perrotti used the presence of the fungal spores in the different sediment layers at the site

to track the presence of megafauna at the Page-Ladson site. Her findings? The presence of the fungus plummeted around 12,600 years B.P., providing the most precise age for megafauna extinctions yet in the Southeast United States, and proving that Page-Ladson inhabitants shared the sinkhole with megafauna.

But wait, didn't people first enter the Americas from the Bering Strait? As James Adovasio of Meadowcroft Rock Shelter fame states, "Florida is about as far from the Bering Strait as you can get in North America. If you've got people in Florida 14,500 years ago, at the same time they are in so many other parts of the Americas, the simplistic notion of a colonization by a rapidly moving, late-arriving population is simply false." The early presence of people in Florida will certainly shake things up with regards to our understanding of the peopling of the Americas. "It's pretty exciting" says Halligan. "We thought we knew the answers to how and when we got here, but now the story is changing."



This research was supported by funding from the Elfrieda Frank Foundation, the North Star Archaeological Research Program, Texas A&M University, the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse; National Geographic Society, National Science Foundation, Geological Society of America (GSA), and the Society for American Archaeology (SAA).

Diagram showing underwater excavation methods, stratigraphy, and the biface recovered from Page-Ladson.





Dr. Kevin Crisman’s Team Makes New Discoveries at Steamboat Shipwreck



Carolyn Kennedy shows off an important discovery from the site—a broken chisel that identifies the ship’s name.

For the past three years, **Dr. Kevin Crisman** and PhD Student **Carolyn Kennedy** have been supervising archaeological fieldwork on the steamboat graveyard associated with a former shipyard on Lake Champlain. Their research project, focusing on four 19th century steamboats located in Shelburne Bay, seeks to understand how the ships were constructed in the early decades of the Industrial Revolution.

The team recently discovered an old broken chisel that identifies one of

the four ships as the Phoenix II, a steamboat that was in operation from 1820 through the late 1830s. The ship carried Marquis de Lafayette, and helped bring cholera to America.

The story of this discovery was featured on a local TV station in Vermont:

<http://www.wcax.com/story/32221159/breakthrough-discovery-at-shelburne-bay-shipwreck>

Dr. Sheela Athreya Re-Evaluates Bhimbetka Hominid Specimens in India

Dr. Sheela Athreya and PhD student **Bonny Christy** recently paid a visit to Ujjain, Indian, where they analyzed specimens from the renowned Bhimbetka Rock Shelters. These shelters were named a UNESCO World Heritage site due to the presence of rock art of great antiquity, and burials dating back to the oldest known Homo sapiens in India. Athreya and Christy were welcomed by the Vikram University Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture & Archaeology to clean, catalog and study the specimens. They were excavated in the 1970s, but never fully studied. An earlier description suggested that this population exhibits archaic traits, despite being fully modern Homo sapiens. Athreya and Christy are working on analyzing the data, with plans to disseminate a full report, including dates, to the public. Their work at the Vikram University Media was featured in the local news!

चालीस हजार साल पुराने कंकाल का होगा डीएनए

स्वीडन और अमेरिका की पुरातत्व वैज्ञानिक पहुंचे विक्रम पुरातत्व संग्रहालय रहे मौजूद

उज्जैन @ पत्रिका
mp.patrika.com

विक्रम कीर्ति मंदिर स्थित पुरातत्व संग्रहालय में शनिवार को स्वीडन और अमेरिका के वैज्ञानिकों की टीम पहुंची। टीम ने यहां रखे चालीस हजार साल से ज़्यादा पुराने नर कंकालों का डीएनए सेपल किया। भारत में मानव विकास प्रोजेक्ट के तहत एक टीम तीन साल से देशभर के विभिन्न पुरातत्व संग्रहालयों में रिसर्च कर रही है।

कर्नाटक के पुरातत्व वैज्ञानिक डॉ. रवि कोरीसेटर इन दिनों भोपाल स्थित वाकणकर शोध संस्थान से रीसर्च फेलोशिप कर रहे हैं। डॉ. रवि के नेतृत्व में पांच सदस्यीय टीम सरलाहार से उज्जैन में डेरा जग्राह हुए हैं। टीम में स्वीडन के पुरातत्व वैज्ञानिक डॉ. मरियम और डॉ. रवि हेलेना, जबकि अमेरिका स्थित मैक्सिको यूनिवर्सिटी की डॉ. सीला अथ्रेया और डॉ. बॉनी क्रिस्टी शामिल हैं। डॉ. रवि ने बताया देशभर के पुरातत्व संग्रहालयों में विक्रम विश्वविद्यालय का संग्रहालय बेहद महत्वपूर्ण है। यहां रखे पुरातत्व पर रिसर्च की आवश्यकता है। भारत में मानव विकास में यहां रखे शकधान अर्थात् नरकंकाल काफी महत्वपूर्ण कदम साबित होंगे। सरलाहार में संग्रहालय में रखे पुरातत्वों के सेपल लिए गए हैं। शनिवार को नरकंकाल का एंटीसिप्ट डीएनए के लिए सेपल लिया गया है। इससे पूर्व शकधान की अल्ट्रावायलेट रेज के जरिए क्लिनिंग की गई है। एक डीएनए से कंकाल की वास्तविक उम्र का पता लगाया जाएगा।

भीमबेटका हुए खाना

प्राचीन भारतीय एवं पुरातत्व इतिहास विभागध्यक्ष डॉ. रामकुमार अहिरवार ने बताया 60 साल पहले विक्रम विश्व विद्यालय के पुरातत्व वैज्ञानिक डॉ. विष्णुधर वाकणकर ने इन शकधानों की भोपाल स्थित भीमबेटका से खोज की थी। खुदाई के दौरान ये अन्न दर्जन शकधान मिले थे, जो भोपाल के वाकणकर शोध संस्थान और विक्रम पुरातत्व संग्रहालय में हैं। शनिवार दोपहर टीम भोपाल के भीमबेटका के लिए खाना ले गई। टीम नरकंकाल मिलने की खबर का अध्ययन करेगी।

संग्रहालय में है। शनिवार दोपहर टीम भोपाल के भीमबेटका के लिए खाना ले गई। टीम नरकंकाल मिलने की खबर का अध्ययन करेगी।

Athreya and Christy’s work was featured in the local news.



Dr. Vaughn Bryant Works Tirelessly to Fight Crime

Although studies of pollen have applications in archaeological studies, **Dr. Vaughn Bryant's** extensive knowledge of pollen has also been used to help identify counterfeit honey, combat drug trafficking, find terrorists, solve crimes, and identify victims' bodies. **Dr. Vaughn Bryant's** research in forensic palynology has been featured in the media multiple times in the past few months.

Here's a sample of the outlets that have recently featured his work:

Houston Press

<http://today.tamu.edu/2016/05/17/terrorism-murder-drug-trafficking-and-pollen/>

U.S. Customs & Border Protection Frontline Magazine

<https://www.cbp.gov/frontline/frontline-june-2016-forensics>

Texas A&M Today

<http://today.tamu.edu/2016/05/17/terrorism-murder-drug-trafficking-and-pollen/>

Dr. Anna Linderholm Co-Authors Article on Dog Domestication in *Science*



In June, **Dr. Anna Linderholm** co-authored an article in *Science* that finds that the domestication of dogs took place as early as 15,000 years ago (which is earlier than once believed). The study also finds that dogs were domesticated at least twice from separate wolf populations in East Asia and Europe.

Dr. Linderholm contributed to the study by extracting and analyzing the ancient DNA from a sample of 60 dogs that lived between 3,000 and 14,000 years ago.

Dr. Linderholm is the Director of the department's new Bioarchaeology and Genomics Lab.

Dr. Kevin Crisman Playfully Analyzes the Accuracy of Scenes in *The Little Mermaid*

Dr. Kevin Crisman provides an amusing commentary on the historical accuracy of shipwreck artifacts depicted in the animated film, *The Little Mermaid*. See the interview with Dr. Crisman in an article published in the *Atlas Obscura*:

<http://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/i-made-a-shipwreck-expert-watch-the-little-mermaid-and-judge-its-nautical-merits>





Introducing Our Newest Faculty Hire: Dr. Heather Thakar

The Department of Anthropology recently hired Dr. Heather Thakar as an Instructional Assistant Professor. In this position, Dr. Thakar will serve as the department's curator and will offer courses for the new Museum Studies minor. Prior to coming to Texas A&M, Dr. Thakar received her PhD in Anthropology from University of California-Santa Barbara in 2014, and worked as an Assistant Professor of Instruction and Director of the Anthropology Laboratory and Museum at Temple University. Below she describes her research and teaching interests.

I am thrilled to be joining the faculty at Texas A&M and I look forward to developing productive collaborations, both within the department and across disciplines. My research broadly bridges the land and sea, or more correctly, examines how humans in the past adapted to coastal environments.

My research is data-intensive and draws on my technical expertise in paleoethnobotany, zooarchaeology, and multi-isotope geochemistry, as well as quantitative evaluation of the diverse data derived from such analyses. Relying on these methods, I emphasize the study of prehistoric foodways as a critical window into the past, allowing us to evaluate all manner of human and environmental interactions within an explicitly ecological framework. My archaeological scholarship encompasses themes of the intersection between humans and food in the New World.

From that base, I am eager to collaborate with faculty and graduate students at Texas A&M on the study of hunter-gatherer socioeconomic variation, complexity and behavioral adaptations, as well as human responses to climate change, warfare, risk management and niche construction, and food insecurity.

My continuing Channel Islands research investigates demographic and social-political shifts in light of complex, human-plant-animal interactions and climate-induced environmental change. I am expanding this project by initiating field investigations designed to explore the emergence of hunter-gatherer complexity within an integrative theory of adaptive change and resilience. Combined with the development of a GIS model simulating the multi-scalar spatial and temporal extents of ecological and social contexts, this research will facilitate greater understanding of hunter-gatherer socioeconomic variation.

I believe in the capacity of archaeology to engage with issues relevant to the modern world and I strive to develop research that contributes to broad discussions superseding traditional disciplinary boundaries. One forthcoming publication illustrates my efforts to reconstruct Late Holocene nearshore marine paleothermal patterning and upwelling and the adaptive responses of hunter-gatherer-fishers dependent on vulnerable marine resources. In the future, I hope to continue to collaborate on interdisciplinary climate-related research that addresses a wide array of anthropological and environmental questions.

All of my ongoing research, both on the Northern Channel Islands and in Mesoamerica, incorporates opportunities for student participation, including fieldwork and specialized laboratory training at Texas A&M.



Dr. Thakar and her daughter visiting the mummies of Guanajuato in Mexico.



New Professor Spotlight: Dr. Allison Hopkins



Dr. Allison Hopkins was recently hired as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology. She will teach courses in cultural anthropology and medical anthropology. Dr. Hopkins received her PhD from the University of Florida. Prior to coming to Texas A&M, she had a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Arizona.

Hello, all! I am a new faculty member in the Department in Anthropology with expertise in medical and ecological anthropology. I use diverse theoretical approaches and mixed-methodologies to investigate the relationship between globalization and human health.

Since arriving at Texas A&M University in January I have established two new research collaborations. Dr. Cerian Gibbes of the Department Geography at University of Colorado, Colorado Springs and I are developing a project in the State of Yucatan, Mexico on sustainable livelihood strate-

gies and the impacts on health and wellbeing. I'm also involved in developing an umbrella program on agrobiodiversity and food security with faculty in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at TAMU and counterparts at various research institutions in the Yucatan. This research program is part of the Yucatan Initiative, a collaborative research effort between the State of Yucatan and TAMU, with the goal of supporting research that will inform sustainable development efforts in the Yucatan. Once we have developed the program, we will be applying for funding for specific research projects under the umbrella program.

In addition to my research efforts, I am also active in teaching and developing new courses based on my expertise. In my first semester at TAMU I taught Social and Cultural Anthropology (ANTH 210). I will be teaching ANTH 210 again next year. I'm also

developing courses in Medical Anthropology (ANTH 435), Anthropology of Food and Nutrition (ANTH 426), and Ethnobotany (ANTH 437) that will likely be offered in the Fall of 2016, Spring of 2017, and Fall of 2017, respectively.

I strive to make my courses engaging and broadly appealing to students interested in health and wellness from a social science perspective. I welcome students from anthropology and a wide range of other disciplines, including the health, nutritional, and environmental sciences, to enroll in my courses.

For more information on my research projects, visit my profile page at <http://anthropology.tamu.edu/html/profile--allisonhopkins.html>. If you have any questions about my courses or are interested in participating in my research projects please contact me at hopkins@tamu.edu.





Restoration of the La Belle Shipwreck is Complete After 17 Years

By Chris Dostal

In 1996 while surveying Matagorda Bay, Texas Historical Commission (THC) archaeologists discovered the long-lost 17th-century shipwreck of *La Belle*, one of the ships famed French explorer Robert Cavalier Sieur de La Salle used in his attempt to set up a French colony on the mouth of the Mississippi River. After a massive undertaking to excavate the ship and its associated artifacts, the remains of *La Belle* were shipped to the Texas A&M's Conservation Research Laboratory (CRL) for what would become one of the most technologically advanced submerged artifact conservation efforts ever undertaken.

Conservation efforts continued for nearly two decades. Smaller artifacts ranging from cannon to cookware were finished rather quickly and were displayed in museum exhibits around the state. However, it was not until the fall of 2014 that the timbers of the hull were complete, due to the complexity of chemically stabilizing and drying the timbers in a way that

would not warp or damage them. Between October 2014 and May 2015, Texas A&M alum Dr. Peter Fix, along with Dr. Jim Bruseth of the THC and Kate de Gennaro of the Bullock Museum in Austin painstakingly reassembled the ship piece by piece as part of a living display open to the public. The final touches of the exhibit were completed in May 2016.

A testament to the hard work and expertise of scores of A&M anthropology students, faculty, and staff, the exhibit, La Belle: The Ship that Changed History is open to the public at the Bullock Museum, 1800 Congress Ave. in Austin. Admission is \$10 for students and \$12 for adults.



Above: Dr. Peter Fix and colleagues work to reconstruct timbers of the La Belle at the Conservation Research Facility at Texas A&M.



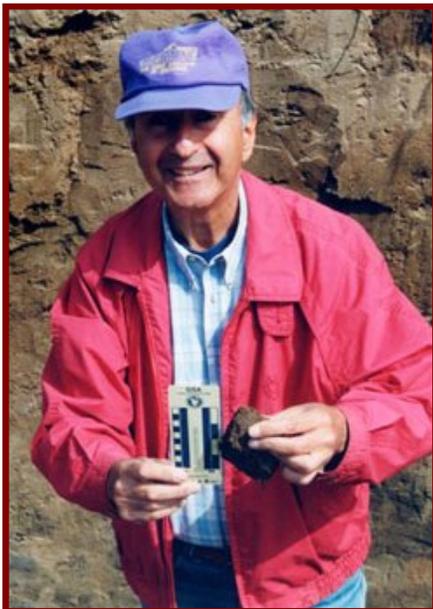
Left: The complete reconstruction of the La Belle, on display at the Bob Bullock Museum in Austin, Texas.



The Roy J. Shlemon Fund for Geoarchaeological Research

By Morgan Smith

Beginning in 2007, over a dozen graduate students in the Department of Anthropology have received financial support from the Roy J. Shlemon Fund for Geoarchaeological Research. The fund was established within the TAMU Anthropology Department in 2007 by a generous donation from Dr. Roy J. Shlemon. Each year, the fund provides 1-2 graduate student fellowships, ranging from \$2,500-5,000.



Dr. Roy J. Shlemon in the field.

Dr. Shlemon, a professional geologist, has a strong passion for helping students who are interested in the geological sciences. He has set up endowments at several universities, including Texas A&M, as well as within the Geological Society of America, to fund student research. Texas A&M was a natural fit for an endowment due to Shlemon's close ties with the Center for the Study of the First Americans. The center's director, Dr. Michael Wa-

ters, remembers meeting Roy in the early 1980's while working on Quaternary geology studies in southern California.

Dr. Shlemon has had an illustrious career in geological sciences. He received his doctorate degree in physical geography from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1967. Prior to this, Dr. Shlemon received a Masters in Geology from the University of Wyoming in 1958 and a B.A. from Fresno State College in 1957. He has held a number of academic positions at eight institutions, including Louisiana State University, Stanford University, and UCLA.

Dr. Shlemon currently serves as the president of R.J. Shlemon and Associates Inc., a geologic and environmental sciences consulting agency based in Newport Beach, California. R.J. Shlemon and Associates serves as consultant on projects concerning Quaternary geology, geomorphology, soil stratigraphy, and geoarchaeology. These projects often involve practical applications of Dr. Shlemon's geological expertise to engineering projects. He has consulted on everything from seismic investigations for hydrologic dams to the construction of nuclear power plants.

This year, the Schlemon Fund has provided support for two graduate students: Angelina Perrotti and Angela Gore. Perrotti has been using the award to collect field samples for her dissertation project. Specifically, she is collecting sediment cores from the Cypress Hole and Sloth Hole archaeological sites in the Aucilla River of Flor-

ida to analyze for pollen and spores. Gore has been using the award to support her dissertation research in Alaska on the peopling of the Americas. Gore is analyzing the lithic assemblage from the Owl Ridge site in order to understand changes in technological organization and behavioral adaptations in prehistoric central Alaska.

Recipients of Roy J. Shlemon Student Field Geoarchaeology Fellowships

- 2008 - Joshua Keene
- 2009 - Jessi Halligan
- 2010 - John Blong
- 2011- Heather Smith
- 2012 - Joshua Keene & Kayla Schmalle
- 2013 - Lauren Cook & Jesse Tune
- 2014 - Angela Gore & Neil Puckett
- 2015 - Marion Coe & Neil Puckett

The Center for the Study of the First Americans and Texas A&M Anthropology extend heartfelt thanks to Dr. Shlemon for his consistent support of graduate and undergraduate students within archaeology and the geosciences. We are fortunate to have this fund and look forward to using it to support many more students in the years to come!





The Institute for Nautical Archaeology Christens a New Research Vessel!

May 4 marked the arrival of a spectacular new tool for shipwreck archaeology. The Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA) welcomed the arrival of Virazon II – a custom-designed 80 foot long research ship that is the first in Turkey to be built as an archaeological research vessel. Virazon II was christened by Mrs. Barbara Duthuit, who traveled from the U.S. to Istanbul to christen the vessel built in honor of her husband the late Claude Duthuit, INA Director and pioneer of underwater archaeology. The Christening of Virazon II took place in conjunction with the opening of the 2016 Eurasia Yacht Show in the Via Port Marina outside of Istanbul. In attendance were INA officers and members of INA’s Board of Directors, staff of INA’s Bodrum Research Center, numerous friends and supporters of INA, as well as staff of



NAVTEK naval architecture firm age to the Yalıkavak Marina outside of which designed Virazon II and the Bodrum, INA archaeologists will work from Virazon II to survey for shipwrecks around Bodrum and Antalya..

Glasscock Center Colloquium on the Temple of the Apollo at Claros, Turkey



Nicholas Bresch, Jessica Fertinel, Robin Faideau, Jean-Jacques Malmay and Jean-Claude Moretti during a tour of the Conservation Research Laboratory.

In April, Dr. Deborah Carlson and three visiting scholars from France, participated in a colloquium, entitled The Archaeology of the Temple of Apollo at Claros, Turkey. The event was hosted by Texas A&M University’s Glasscock Center for Humanities Research and made possible by a Partner University Fund grant from the French American Cultural Exchange. Cultural attaches Jessica Fertinel and Robin Faideau from the French Consulate in Houston also attended the event.

The April colloquium was the most recent in a series of scholarly presentations (in Lyon, France and New Or-

(Continued on p. 12)



CSFA Hosted Two Visiting Scholars During the Spring Semester

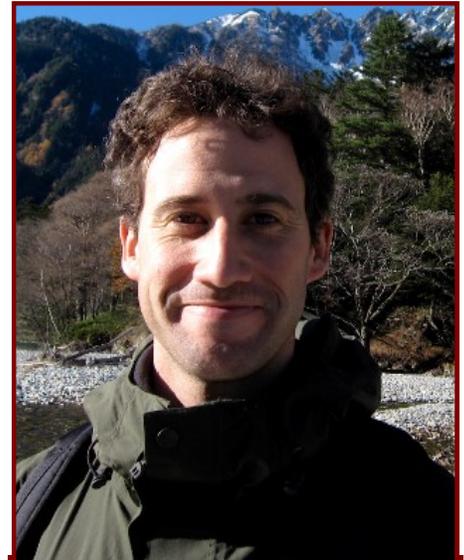
This spring, Dr. Yan Axel Gómez Coutouly, an associate of the Institute for Archaeology and Ethnology in Nanterre France, spent time as a visiting scholar with the Center for the Study of the First Americans (CSFA).

Dr. Gómez Coutouly taught a short course to seven students aimed at introducing students to the French school of thought on stone tool technology. This six week course was very interactive and engaging. Dr. Gómez Coutouly discussed how stone tool technology studies could be applied to individual dissertation projects. A series of lectures and discussions on contemporary lithic analysis was followed by a practical session in which students brought lithic assemblages in from their sites and discussed them with the rest of the class.

While Dr. Gómez Coutouly has left Texas A&M, he will continue to work closely with Dr. Kelly Graf and PhD student Angela Gore this summer in Alaska. The three of them will be directing an archaeological field school at Little Panguingue Creek in interior Alaska.

The Center for the Study of the First Americans at Texas A&M University also hosted Dr. Joshua Feinberg in early February. Dr. Feinberg is the Associate Director of the Institute for Rock Magnetism at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Feinberg was visiting to discuss ongoing paleo-magnetism research with professors in the CSFA, but was more than happy to reach out to other faculty and students within the Anthropology Depart

ment. Dr. Feinberg gave a well attended Brown Bag lecture entitled “New Magnetic Tools for Archaeology and Anthropology.” In this lecture, he discussed how the magnetic community has moved far beyond standard site surveys to develop decadal-scale archaeomagnetic dating, material provenance studies, paleoprecipitation proxies, paleoenvironmental magnetic analyses, and more. Following this, Dr. Feinberg met with a group of enthusiastic students to discuss paleomagnetic studies in greater detail, and also met with numerous students individually to discuss whether paleomagnetic research could assist them in their research and how it could be implemented. We greatly enjoyed hosting Dr. Feinberg and look forward to future visits.



Dr. Josh Feinberg, associate director of the Institute for Rock Magnetism at the University of Minnesota



Dr. Gomez Coutouly and CSFA students examine lithic assemblages from student dissertation sites.





Congratulations to our Recent Graduates!

BA Graduates

MA Graduates

May 2016

Aislinn Adolph	Megan Martinez
Emily Bennett	Megan McSwain
Dane Billman	Marie Meizis
Amani Bourji	Judith Anne Melton
Joshua Bowser	Carrigan Miller
Cassandra Castillo	Sarah Miller
Luis Rene Cervantes	Meagan Moorman
Jacqueline Coronado	Amber Passen
Astrid Corpus	Guadalupe Reyes
Taylor Ehlers	Cheyenne Rodriguez
Roxana Gutierrez	Juan Sanchez
William Heck	Rowan Sharp
Victoria Hodges	Jaklyn Soler
Denesha Horn	Marysa Torres
Brooke Kaiser	Courtney Van Gemert
Lauren Martinez	Kristen White

August 2016

Danyel Clutter
Cody Guinn
Vanessa Li
Marysa Torres



May 2016

Crystal Dozier
Thesis: "Archaeological Methods for Assessing Prehistoric Fermentation"
Advisor: Alston Thoms

August 2016

Shannon Hodges (non-thesis MA)
Advisor: Sharon Gursky

Stephanie Koenig
Thesis: "Common Men in Uncommon Times: Analyzing the Daily Lives of American Civil War Sailors Using Personal Narratives"
Advisor: Kevin Crisman

Other Departmental News

Dr. Vaughn Bryant published an article concerning the history of calculating longitude in the popular kids magazine *Dig* entitled "Help! I'm Lost Without My Watch."

Haile Norman (BA 2016) was accepted into the MA program in Anthropology at San Francisco State University.

Karen Martindale (MA 2014) and **Arianna Dimucci** (MA 2015) recently started new positions with the Queen Anne's Revenge Shipwreck Project sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The Queen Anne's Revenge was the flagship of the famous pirate

Blackbeard.

Annie Melton (BA 2016) was accepted into the Anthropology PhD program at the University of Minnesota.

Heather Smith (PhD 2015) accepted a job as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales.

(Continued from p. 10)

leans, LA) featuring ongoing collaborations between Carlson, French archaeologist Jean-Charles Moretti, and French architects Nicholas Breisch and Jean-Jacques Malmay.

Between 2005 and 2011, Carlson co-directed the excavation of a ship that was wrecked off the coast of Turkey while transporting 9 pieces of a newly quarried monumental

marble Doric columns. Careful analysis of the column's dimensions, the source of the marble, and the ship's final itinerary indicates that the column cargo was destined for the Temple of Apollo at Claros when the ship sank, probably in the early first century B.C. The Claros Temple, which has been excavated by the French for almost a century, was one of the ancient world's few oracular temples and still retains a

nearly intact subterranean oracular crypt; construction of the temple began in the late fourth century B.C. but was still incomplete during the reign of the emperor Hadrian (AD 117-138).

While in town, our French colleagues also paid a visit to the Bob Bullock Museum in Austin to see the remains of LaBelle, the flagship of their countryman Robert de la Salle, conserved by Texas A&M's Center for Maritime Archaeology and Conservation.



Recent and Forthcoming PhD Graduates!



John Blong

John Blong (May 2016)

"Prehistoric Landscape Use in the Central Alaska Range"

Advisor: Ted Goebel

Timothy DeSmet (August 2016)

*"Advances in Archaeological Geophysics:
Case Studies from Historical Archaeology"*

Advisor: Bruce Dickson



Tim DeSmet

Hulya Dogan (August 2016)

*"Conceptions of Homeland Identity among Meskhetian
Turk Refugees in the U.S. and Turkey"*

Advisor: Cynthia Werner

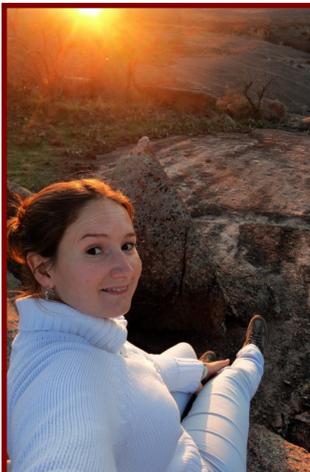


Hulya Dogan

Samilia Ferreira (August 2016)

*"Policies of Memory, Politics of Forgetting:
A Comparative Study of Social Memory and
Cultural Heritage in Brazil and the United States"*

Advisors: Filipe Castro and Tom Green



Samilia Ferreira

Larkin Kennedy (Defended July 2016)

*"Contributions of Identity, Status, and
Geographic Origins on Mortuary Variability
at Late Antique Corinth (6th-8th c AD)"*

Advisor: Lori Wright



Sunshine Thomas

Sunshine Thomas (May 2016)

*"Storage and Stature in the American South:
Socioeconomic Conditions of the Southern Smallholder,
1830s-1930s"*

Advisor: Alston Thoms



Staci Willis

Staci Willis (May 2016)

"Constructing Identity: The Roman-Era Northwestern Adriatic Laced Tradition of Boatbuilding"

Advisor: Deborah Carlson



Kotaro Yamafune (May 2016)

*"Using Computer Vision Photogrammetry to Record and
Analyze Underwater Shipwreck Sites"*

Advisor: Filipe Castro

Kotaro Yamafune





The Seventh Annual Anthropology Department Conference

By Eleanor Sonderman

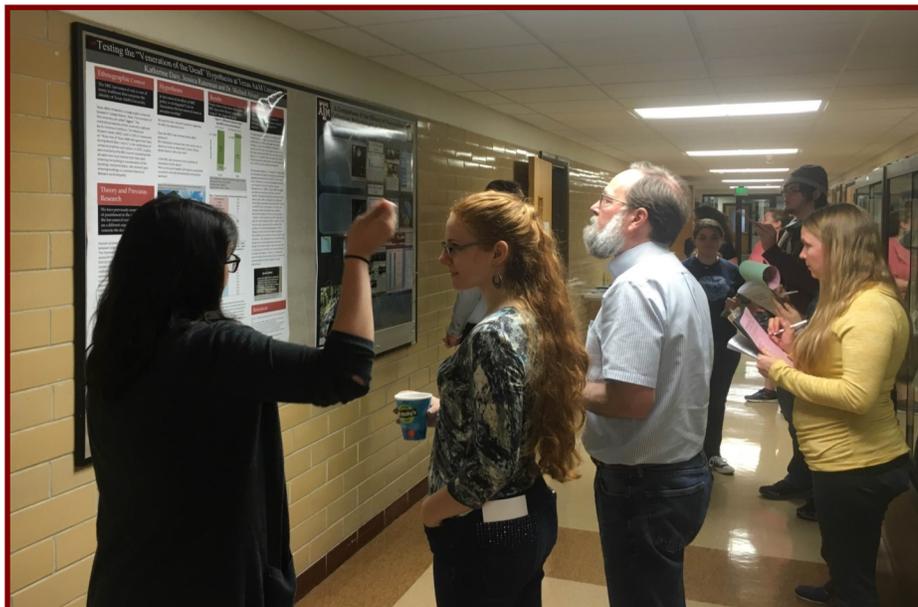
The Seventh Annual Department of Anthropology Conference, held on April 1, was a huge success. The conference was designed to provide a safe and nurturing environment for students and faculty to present and share their research-in-progress. The conference featured nearly 20 poster and paper presentations from undergraduates, graduate students and faculty. Approximately 50 people attended the conference, including students, faculty, friends and family.

The conference kicked off with a graduate student poster session. Presentations during this session included an analysis of supernumerary molars in orangutans by Kersten Bergstrom, applications for ecological niche modeling to models of Neanderthal extinction by Rachael Bible, and a stable isotopic study from Alex Canterbury. Poster presentations from terrestrial archaeology included a reevaluation of

chronology and subsistence at Connley Caves, Oregon by Katelyn McDonough, a paleoenvironmental reconstruction of an Early Initial Period site in Peru by Rossana Paredes, and a geospatial analysis of northern side-notched points from the Great Basin by Jordan Pratt.

This year, we added a new component – a second poster session specifically for participants in the Graduate Undergraduate Mentorship Program. Undergraduate participants in this session were: Katherine Daiy, Analise Hollingshead, Martin Kallus, Jordan Pierce, Taylor Siskind, Daniel Welch, and Nadia Woods. First, second, and third prize winners were selected and announced at the end of the day. The posters were evaluated by Dr. David Carlson, Willa Trask, and Jordan Pratt. The winners received a certificate and cash prize provided by the Anthropology Department.

Dr. Darryl de Ruiter started the final session with a fantastic presentation on the newly named hominin species, *Homo naledi*. Other presentations included: the effects of habitat destruction on parental care among Titi monkeys in Peru from Shannon Hodges; a study of racialism and teaching strategies at Texas A&M by Crystal Dozier; tracking illegal drugs through pollen analysis by Dr. Vaughn Bryant; an exploration of Indianola, Texas from Sam Cuellar, results of a study by Kristin Hoffmeister of skeletal remains from the Colha Skull Pit; and the environmental effects of late-Pleistocene Megafaunal Extinction at Page-Ladson, FL by Angie Perrotti.



Huge thanks to everybody who made this conference possible: Conference co-organizers Angie Perrotti and Katie Bailey; GUMP organizers, Lauren Cook and Crystal Dozier; Poster session judges, Dr. Carlson, Willa Trask, and Jordan Pratt; Conference sponsors (who provided food and raffle items) Pearson Publishing, 1 on 1 Design, TAMU Press, the Palynology Research Lab, the Institute of Nautical Archaeology, and the Center for the Study of the First Americans; and finally special thanks to Ted Goebel, Nicole Ellis, and Rebekah Luza for their assistance.

Katherine Daiy explaining her poster to contest judges.



Graduate-Undergraduate Mentoring Program (GUMP) Remains Successful

Beginning in 2011, graduate students in the Department of Anthropology formed the Graduate-Undergraduate Mentoring Program (GUMP). The aim of the program is to provide advanced undergraduates with opportunities to learn about research and graduate studies in anthropology by working closely with a graduate student mentor. GUMP participants are strongly encouraged to present their research at local conferences. This year, several GUMP participants received awards for their conference presentations.

Congratulations to all of the students who received awards this year!

Department of Anthropology Conference Poster Competition

1st place - Taylor Siskind (mentor Angelina Perrotti)

2nd place - Jordan Pierce (mentor Morgan Smith)

3rd place - Katherine Daiy (mentor Jessica Raterman)

Texas A&M Student Research Week

1st place in History, Literature, Fine Arts, Communication, Languages, and Philosophy Division AND Glasscock Humanities Award for “best research poster that seeks to better understand the human experience”
- Daniel Welch (mentor Lauren Cook)

2nd place in History, Literature, Fine Arts, Communication, Languages, and Philosophy Division
- Jordan Pierce (mentor Morgan Smith)

Texas A&M Society for Underwater Technology (SUT) Conference

1st place - Analise Hollingshead (mentor Lauren Cook)

3rd place - Jordan Pierce (mentor Morgan Smith)



GUMP Participants at the Annual Anthropology Conference (from left to right): Katherine Daiy, Analise Hollingshead, Daniel Welch, Taylor Siskind, Martin Kallus, Nadia Woods, and Jordan Pierce.



Grants and Awards

Faculty

Dr. Vaughn Bryant received the American Association of Scientific Palynology's 2016 Medal for Scientific Excellence. This award recognizes years of service in teaching, scientific research, and service to AASP.

Dr. Darryl de Ruiter was awarded a Texas A&M Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement Award in the Category of Research.

Dr. Kelly Graf was awarded a \$332,568 grant from the Archaeology Program of the National Science Foundation for her project entitled, "Excavations at the McDonald Creek Site: Late Pleistocene." **Dr. Kelly Graf** also received \$25,000 grant

from the Elfrieda Frank Foundation to support her research.

Dr. Allison Hopkins is the co-PI on a National Institute of Health grant transferred to Texas A&M. The project is entitled "Effect of Helpers Program On-line Training on Smoking Relapse and Social Networks."

Dr. Michael Waters received a \$25,000 award from the Felburn Foundation and \$25,000 from the Elfrieda Frank Foundation to support excavation work at the Debra Friedkin site in Texas.

Dr. Jeffrey Winking was awarded a college-level Texas A&M University Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement Award in the Category of Teaching.



Dr. Kelly Graf recently received an NSF grant to support her research on early human settlements in Alaska.

Graduate Students

Crystal Dozier received a special award from the Division of Student Affairs for her Student Research Week project entitled, "Student Preconceptions, Changing Minds, and Teaching Efficacy: Racialism at Texas A&M University."

Morgan Smith received a \$20,000 grant from the Felburn Foundation to support excavation and analysis at the Ryan Harley site in Florida.

Four students in the Department of Anthropology received STAR Dissertation Awards from the College of Liberal Arts: **Nick Budsberg** and **Angelina Perrotti** in the category of Research, and **Bonny Christy** and **Willa Trask** for Dissertation Writing. These awards provide three months of summer salary for dissertation work.

Undergraduate Students

Six students in the department received Undergraduate Research Awards to support independent research and/or fieldwork: **Annie Melton**, **Analise Hollingshead**, **Danny Welch**, **Megan Martinez**, and **Sara Seale**.

Analise Hollingshead was accepted into the university's Undergraduate Research Fellow Program for 2016-17.





New Publications

Faculty

Deborah N. Carlson, J. Leidwanger, and S. Kampbell, editors (2015) *Maritime Studies in the Wake of Byzantine Shipwrecks at Yassiada, Turkey*. Texas A&M University Press.

Filipe Castro and Massimo Capulli (2016) "A Preliminary Report of Recording the Stella 1 Roman River Barge, Italy" *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology* 45(1):29-41.

Craig Lee and **Ted Goebel** (2016) "The Slotted Antler Points from Trail Creek Caves, Alaska: New Information on Their Age and Technology" *Paleoamerica* 2(1):40-47.

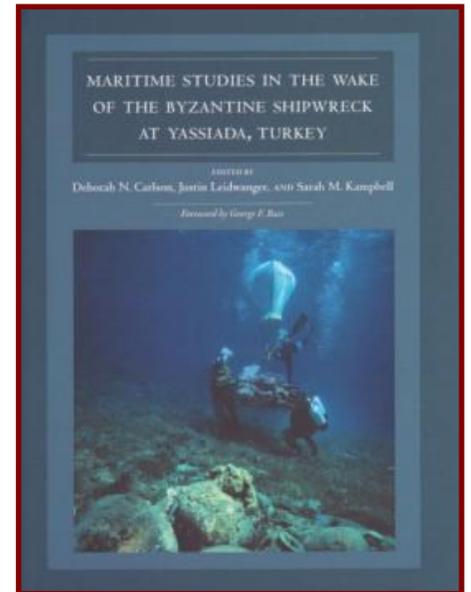
Zhang Guodong, **Thomas A. Green**, Carlos Guitierrez. "Rural Community, Group Identity, and Martial

Arts: Social Foundation of Meihuaquan." *IDO MOVEMENT FOR CULTURE: Journal of Martial Arts Anthropology*. 16: 18-29.

Tom Green (2016) "The Fifty-Two Hand Blocks Re-reframed: Rehabilitation of a Vernacular Martial Art," *Martial Arts Studies* 2: 23-33, (Cardiff University Press, Wales).

Jessi Halligan (PhD 2012), **Michael R. Waters**, **Angelina Perrotti**, Ivy J. Owens, Joshua M. Feinberg, Mark D. Bourne, Brendan Fenerty, Barbara Winsborough, **David Carlson**, Daniel C. Fisher, Thomas W. Stafford Jr., and James S. Dunbar (2016) "Pre-Clovis occupation 14,550 years ago at the Page-Ladson site, Florida, and the peopling of the Americas" *Science Advances* 2(5). DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.1600375.

Holly Barcus and **Cynthia Werner** (2016) "Choosing to Stay: (Im) Mobility Decisions Amongst Mongolia's Ethnic Kazakhs." *Globalizations*. DOI: 10.1080/14747731.2016.1161038.



Graduate Students

Nicholas Budsberg, **Jim Jobling**, and **Filipe Castro** (2016) "Rio Grande do Norte Astrolabe" *International Journal of Historical Archaeology*. DOI: 10.1007/s10761-016-0332-y.

Jose Casaban (2016) "The Wreck of the San Bartolme (1597)" *Mariner's Mirror* 102(2): 206-210.

Crystal A. Dozier (2016) "Finding Children Without Toys: The Archaeology of Children at Shabbona Grove, Illinois" *Childhood in the Past: An International Journal* 9 (1):58-74.

Crystal A. Dozier (2016) "Saccharomyces cerevisiae Fermentation Effects on Pollen: Archaeolog-

ical Implications" *Ethnobiology Letters* 7(1): 32-37.

Crystal A. Dozier (2016) "Airborne Starch Dispersal from Stone Grinding: Experimental Results and Implications" *Journal of Archaeological Sciences: Reports* 8:112-115.

Joshua Keene (2016) "Geochronology and Geomorphology of the Pioneer Archaeological Site, Upper Snake River Plain, Idaho, USA" *Geoarchaeology*. 31(4) 282-303.

Joshua Keene (2016) "A diachronic perspective on Great Basin projectile point morphology from Veratic Rockshelter, Idaho" *Quaternary International*. DOI: 10.1016/

j.quaint.2016.01.047.

Megan Lickliter-Mundon, Michael L. Brennan, Clara Smart, Bruce G. Terrell, Robert V. Schwemmer, and **Alexis Catsambis** (PhD 2012) (2016) "High-Resolution Imaging and Characterization of the USS Macon Airship Wreck Site" *Oceanography*: 44-45.

Kotaro Yamafune (PhD 2016), **Rodrigo Torres** (PhD 2015) and **Filipe Castro** (2016) "Multi-Image Photogrammetry to Record and Reconstruct Underwater Shipwreck Sites" *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory*. DOI: 10.1007/s10816-016-9283-1.



Department of Anthropology
Texas A&M University
Primary Business Address
Address Line 2
Phone: 979-845-5242

.....
The Department of Anthropology at Texas A&M University offers BA, MA, MS, and PhD degrees in Anthropology. The department has 26 faculty members in four different programs—Archaeology, Biological Anthropology, Cultural Anthropology, and Nautical Archaeology. The department has over 200 undergraduate majors and 80 graduate students.

*For questions about the department or information for future issues of the newsletter please contact the Department Head, **Dr. Cynthia Werner** (werner@tamu.edu).*

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT:

ANTHROPOLOGY.TAMU.EDU

*The department would like to thank **Morgan Smith** for his work as the editor of this edition of the newsletter. Thanks also to **Ted Goebel, Allison Hopkins, Angelina Perrotti, Chris Dostal, Eleanor Sonderman, and Heather Thakar** for contributing to parts of this newsletter issue! Your assistance is greatly appreciated.*



A Celebration of
45 Years of Anthropology
at Texas A&M

SAVE-THE-DATE
for Friday, October 21st, 2016

*A Schedule of Events will be
available in September.*



LIBERAL ARTS
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
ANTHROPOLOGY

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.

