New Insights From Genetic Studies of Ancient Dogs

Dr. Anna Linderholm, the department’s new genetic archaeologist, was a member of a team of international researchers who recently conducted a study on ancient dogs. The study, published in the leading journal Science, find that the first wave of migrants to the Americas brought dogs with them, and one of the only surviving genetic traits from these earliest dogs in the Americas is a transmissible venereal tumor.

The study, funded by the UK’s National Environmental Research Council, generated genetic evidence from seventy one ancient dog remains from the Americas demonstrate that the early dogs arrived with the same people who eventually settled the Americas.

However, the ancient dog genome also shows that little to no trace of the ancient dog genome can be found in modern dogs. These genomes almost completely disappeared after the arrival of European settlers in the Americas.

We now have more evidence that dogs may have been brought to the Americas with some of the first migrants, but the details on their sudden disappearance after European colonization is not clear. Finding a cancerous genome that still exists all over the world today was a big surprise to the team, according to Dr. Linderholm. In a weird way, the ancient dogs still live on through the cancerous genome.

HEADLINE NEWS:

-Dr. Chris Dostal joins the department as an Assistant Professor specializing in nautical archaeology and conservation.

-Dr. Heather Thakar has been reclassified as an Assistant Professor of Archaeology.

-Dr. Catharina Laporte was awarded the Richard Stadelman Faculty Senate Service Award.

-The department now offers a B.S. degree in Anthropology.

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On August 22nd, the Texas A&M University RELLIS campus hosted a special event to mark the completion of a year-long project conducted by the Conservation Research Lab. The project was to conserve and protect the Alamo’s last seven battle cannons that were used during the Battle of the Alamo.

The Corps of Cadets returned command of the cannon to Alamo living history reenactors. Texas A&M’s Chancellor John Sharp, Land Commissioner George P. Bush, and former SEAL, and “Lone Survivor”, Marcus Luttrell gave speeches at the ceremony.

The conservation project was led by the CRL’s Jim Jobling and Donny Hamilton.
In June, The CRL began a multi-year project restoring twenty-five cannons from the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, and Fort Matanzas National Monument in St. Augustine, Florida.

The Castillo de San Marcos was built in the 17th century, when Florida was still under Spanish rule. It originally served to protect the harbor from pirates, then was under the control of the British, the Spanish again, then the US. In 1924, Castillo de San Marcos became a national monument, moving under the management of the National Park Service a decade later.

The NPS wants to run this project in order to protect the cannons from further degradation. Left untreated, the salt and other corrosive minerals could turn the cannons to rubble.

The CRL’s goal is to remove all of the salts and corroding products out of the cannons, to protect the cannons from further corrosion. In order to do this, all of the layers of epoxy paint must be removed by chemical peels, electrolytic baths, and pressure washing. Once those steps are completed, the process of electrolytic reduction can begin.

The restoration of the twenty-five cannons will take several years, and is estimated to cost $458,000.
Dr. Shelley Wachsmann was involved with a special museum exhibit at the Getty Museum in California. The exhibit, entitled Beyond the Nile: Egypt and the Classical World, included the Gurob Ship-Cart model, the subject of Dr. Wachsmann’s recent book. His book, The Gurob Ship-Cart Model and Its Mediterranean Context, won the 2013 Keith Muckelroy Memorial Award, an award given biennially for published work on maritime Archaeology.

The ship was found by Egyptologist W.M Flinders Petrie in 1920, at the entrance to Egypt’s Fayum district. The ship’s hull was broken in two, and several of the model’s parts are missing. Still, there is plenty that can be deciphered from the model.

Artifacts like this small, wooden ship-cart model from an Egyptian tomb can tell us a lot about the complex interactions among ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome. The model is the only known representation of this vessel type. It helps to shed light on the identities and cultures of the Sea Peoples, the religious practices of ancient Egypt and Greece, and of the oared ships used by the Bronze Age Mycenaean Greeks.

A fully rotatable 3D virtual model was created of the Gurob model, as well as two possible reconstructions of the ship: one with the model on wheels, and the other as it might have been constructed to be carried by porters. The website can be accessed here: http://www.vizin.org/Gurob/Gurob-as-exc.html#.
PhD student (and INA Affiliate) Dave Ruff was part of a team of researchers urging Albanian authorities to protect their underwater heritage. The coastline is rich in shipwrecks and artifacts that date from the 8th century B.C. to World War II.

The Department of Anthropology has a long history at Texas A&M’s Riverside Campus which is currently undergoing a major transformation into the new RELLIS Campus.

For a trip down memory lane, check out this article in the B/CS Eagle about founding director J. Richard Steffy: https://www.theeagle.com/brazos_life/rellis-recollections-ship-lab-on-rellis-campus-got-its-start/article_d7e90b04-623d-5ff2bf4f4b83ec0f6513.html

Dr. Catharina Laporte has been named as a Center for Teaching Excellence Faculty Fellow for 2018-19.

Dr. Allison Hopkins was appointed as a Faculty Fellow for the Center for Health Systems and Design in the College of Architecture at Texas A&M University

Dr. Heather Thakar was reclassified as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology. As part of her transition to this new role, the department will be constructing a radiocarbon dating and isotope analysis lab.

Dr. Heather Thakar has been selected as a new member of the Faculty Senate. Two other anthropology faculty members are already on the Faculty Senate: Catharina Laporte & Anna Linderholm.

Myeshia Babers (PhD 2017) just accepted a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the College of Wooster in Ohio.

Ashley Smallwood and Tom Jennings have accepted two tenure-track positions at the University of Louisville.

Rachael Bible started a new position as an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Cumberland University in Tennessee.

Dr. Darryl de Ruiter’s work with Homo naledi was featured in Discover Magazine’s Top 100 Stories for 2017. The story was ranked number 57 on the list. https://today.tamu.edu/2018/01/09/texas-am-researcher-makes-list-of-discover-magazine-top-stories-for-2017/
Faculty Grants and Awards

◊ Six faculty in our department have been awarded funding from the university’s new T3: Triads for Transformation initiative:
  - **Mike Alvard** is part of a team investigating “Gender, Chronotypes, and a Test of the Grandparent Hypothesis of Sentinel Behavior”
  - **Filipe Castro & Anna Linderholm** are part of a team investigating “Dead Ships and Live Culture in Coastal Communities”
  - **Sharon Gursky** is part of a team studying “The Hearing Capabilities of the Fossa (Cryptoprocta ferox)”
  - **Sheela Athreya & Lori Wright** are part of a team studying “The Global History of Health Project – Oral Health in Iron Age Populations from Northern China”

◊ **Dr. Catharina Laporte** was awarded a $10,000 Innovative Pedagogy Grant from Texas A&M for her project, “Proposal to redesign ANTH370 (Cultural Diversity and Ethics) for Distance Learning and QM Certification”

◊ **Dr. Heather Thakar** was awarded a $10,000 Student Success Faculty Fellows Program from the Center for Teaching Excellence at Texas A&M. This award will be used to implement transformational learning experiences with ANTH 421 (Museums and Their Functions).

◊ **Dr. Heather Thakar** was recently awarded an NSF Grant (together with collaborators Drs. VanDerwarker and Kennett) for her research project, “Domestication, Food Production and Arboriculture during the Early to Late Holocene at El Gigante Rockshelter (11,500-2,500 cal BP).” This collections-based study of early forager-farmer continuum in the Neotropics has the potential to redefine our understanding of early agriculture and aboriculture in the New World.

◊ **Dr. Sharon Gursky** was awarded a $21,800 grant from the Leakey Foundation for her project titled, “The function of ultrasonic vocalizations in spectral tarsiers.”

◊ **Dr. Sheela Athreya** was awarded a $20K grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research for her project, “A Multidisciplinary Study of Early Homo Sapiens in India: Re-Evaluating ‘Anatomical Modernity’”. She also recently received a $290,000 grant from NSF to fund different parts of the same project.

◊ **Dr. Catharina Laporte** was elected to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate.

◊ **Dr. Catharina Laporte** was awarded the Richard Stadelmann Faculty Senate Service Award for “uncommon devotion to the mission of the senate”

Thanks to Dr. Heather Thakar, Texas A&M University has been awarded a $88,993 NAGPRA Consultation/Documentation Grant to assist with the repatriation of collections housed in the Department of Anthropology.

The project is titled “Preparation for Meaningful Consultation through Documentation and Inventory of New Discoveries and Collaboration with Tribal Partners.”
Byeibitgul Khaumyen was awarded a $20,000 2018-19 International Fellowship from the American Association for University Women. This fellowship supports her graduate studies and dissertation project, “Kazakh Women in Mongolia: Negotiating Religious and Ethnic Identity in a Post-Socialist Country.

Katelyn McDonough:
-awarded by the National Environmental Research Council ($18,656 grant-in-kind) to be trained, and conduct research at the Life Science Mass Spectrometry Facility, Bristol Node, United Kingdom. This project will characterize faecal biomarkers of coprolites from the Connelly Caves, allowing her to examine lipid components to determine coprolite origin.
-awarded a $5,000 Jonathon O. Davis Scholarship from the Desert Research Institute for her dissertation project, “Paleoenvironmental Reconstruction of Terminal Pleistocene/Early Holocene Transition in the Fort Rock Basin, Oregon.”
-awarded the Claude C. Albritton, Jr. Scholarship from the Geological Society of America, Geoarchaeological Division. This award will support her project on paleoenvironmental reconstruction in the Fort Rock Basin of central Oregon.

Rosanna Paredes recently received the 2018 Barbara Lawrence Award from the Society of Ethnobiology. Her research is featured on their website: https://ethnobiology.org/forage/blog/fishing-ancient-plant-knowledge-coastal-peru

Paloma Cuello Del Pozo (Archaeology PhD Student) received a $2,000 award for having the best PhD Project at the Texas Academy of Sciences.

Paloma Cuello Del Pozo was also awarded Sigma XI Grants-in-Aid of Research for $1000.

Morgan Smith was awarded a $1200 Explorers’ Club Student Grant for his project “Exploring Florida’s Rivers for Ice Age Archaeology.

Angela Gore received the NSF-DDRIG award of $8,833 for her research using X-ray fluorescence to detect stone sources of lithic artifacts from the Nenana Valley, central Alaska. “Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Award: Long Term Human Adaptation in Beringia.”

Crystal Dozier was awarded an AFS Distinguished Graduate Student Award in the category of Research.

Angela Achorn was inducted into Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Honor Society.
New Publications

Dr. Anna Linderholm:


Summer Research Around the World

This past summer, Texas A&M anthropology faculty and students conducted research in multiple states including Alaska, Florida, Oregon, Texas, and Vermont, and multiple countries including Albania, Canada, and Poland...

(Right): Hall’s Cave excavation in Kerr County: **Dr. Michael Waters** (PI) and **Dr. Joshua Keene** (Field Director), along with a crew of graduate and undergraduate students from Texas A&M University, Florida State University, and Baylor University, uncovered evidence of regular human occupation of the cave dating back as far as ~11-12,000 years ago. Evidence included extensive hearths, processed animal bone, and stone tools. The Summer 2018 excavation took place for 8 weeks during the months of June and July.

(Below): Nautical Archaeology PhD Student **Ben Ioset** participated in the Institute of Nautical Archaeology survey expedition to Albania this summer. This was the first-ever international deployment of underwater archaeological survey ship Virazon II, which visited multiple wreck sites along the Albanian coast. Among several sites visited, Ben took photographs of a first century BC wreck near Sazan Island, Albania. The results of the survey demonstrate the rich maritime history of this section of coastline of the Adriatic and Ionian Seas.

(Above): **Angela Achorn**, PhD student, compared intestinal parasite infections and activity budgets of forest-dwelling vs. enclosure-housed lemurs from three species (*Lemur catta, Eulemur mongoz, and Varecia rubra*), at the Lemur Conservation Foundation’s Reserve in Myakka City, Florida.
Paloma Cuello, PhD student, is depicted analyzing adult long bones, exhumed from a 13th-14th century cemetery. The project was part of the Medieval Forensic Anthropology Field School, sponsored by the Slavia Foundation in Bezlwaki, Poland.

Angie Robayo, undergraduate student, shown excavating a sub-adult individual from the same 13th-14th century cemetery in Bezlwaki, Poland.

A sub-adult skull was recovered from a 17th/18th century Christian burial ground located at the top of a Bronze age cemetery. Elyssa Stebbins, undergraduate student, attended the Mortuary Archaeology Field School, hosted by the Slavia Foundation in Drawsko, Poland. A green disk is visible in the bottom left-hand corner; in Polish burial practices, it is common for a bronze, or copper, coin to be placed in a grave, as a way to protect the body from being inhabited by evil spirits.
Julia Herbst and Robin Galloso carefully scrape away sediment from the ceiling plank in preparation for their full documentation of the 1820's schooner, found during condominium excavations at the 'City Place' neighborhood in Toronto, Canada. The City Place Schooner Project took place in June 2018, where Masters student Julia Herbst, was the Project PI, and the project supervisor was PhD candidate Carolyn Kennedy. The schooner was recovered and placed in front of the Fort York National Historic Site. The schooner remains were documented as part of Julia Herbst's Masters thesis project.

The first ever complete Mesa Complex projectile point recovered from Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, Alaska. Located during pedestrian survey by John T. White of the CSFA and Lee Reininghaus and Marley McLaughlin of the NPS in the Windy Ridge area west of Mount Sanford.

Cave testing on northern Vancouver Island. Crew from Dr. Duncan McLaren's team investigate paleoenvironmental proxies at Hot Dignity Cave. From left to right: Alisha Gauvreau, PhD student University of Victoria; Darrell Fedje, UVic/Hakai Institute; John Maxwell, Ethos Archaeology; and John T. White, PhD student, CSFA.
(Above): PhD student, Adam Burke, takes chert samples from the Wacissa Quarry Cluster, for his dissertation research on tool-stone sources of Paleoindian and Early Archaic peoples.

(Below): Adam Burke’s project: Suwannee chert from a submerged quarry site in the Wacissa River, in northwest Florida. Eleven unrecorded sources of chert were located during the survey of the Wacissa river.

(Left): Katelyn McDonough, PhD student, worked as a field director at the Connley Caves in the Fort Rock Basin, Oregon. Here, she, and a crew from the University of Oregon, extract sediment cores from Paulina Marsh, Oregon for palynological analysis and paleoenvironmental reconstruction in the Fort Rock basin.
During the months of June and July, Drs. Kelly Graf, Angie Perrotti, and Ted Goebel, PhD candidates Angela Gore and Josh Lynch, PhD students Caitlin Doherty and John Blong, undergraduate student Brooke Hagood and seven additional graduate students from various universities (University of Victoria, BC, University of Alaska Fairbanks, SMU, Michigan, University of New Mexico, and Colorado State University) excavated at the McDonald Creek site. They spent 6 weeks uncovering a nearly 14,000-year-old living floor, finding thousands of lithic artifacts and faunal remains.

(Above): The group excavates at the McDonald Creek Site.
(Right): a close up of Brooke Hagood and a couple of her finds (large mammal long bone fragment and a flake core).

(Left and Above): Nautical Archaeology Program MS student Eden Boric and MA alumni Karl Krusell working with the transport amphorae from a 5th-century BC Greek shipwreck during an internship this summer at the Museum of Underwater Archaeology in Bodrum, Turkey.
Welcome
New Graduate
Students!

PhD
Brooks, Catherine
Close, Olivia
Jain, Harshita
Izzo, Victoria
Jones, Lauren
O’Brien, Sydney
Palomino, Raul
Pryor, Mackenzie
Sarkar, Debraj
Seralinova, Aigula
Thomas, Olivia
Zak, Claire

Masters
Frizzell, Timothy
Henneberry, Jonathan
Lewis, Michael
Kapahnke, Sheri
Oswald, Chase
Tisdale, Dillon

Undergraduate News

The following undergrad majors have received undergraduate research and study abroad awards:

**Lauren Hammond**: granted travel support to attend the Association of Physical Anthropologist conference.

**Amelia Hammond**: granted travel support to attend the Maritime Communities: Maritime heritage/Tall ships America/National Maritime Historical Society/Steamship Historical Society of America Conference.

**Charlotte (Nicole) Deere** – received travel support to conduct research in Toronto, Canada.

**Emma Moore**: received travel support to attend bioarchaeology field school in Ireland.

**Garrett Estes**: Attended a study abroad field school in Mexico.
Congratulations Recent Graduates!

PhD Graduates

Crystal Ann Dozier
Chair: Alston Thoms
Current Position: tenure-track Assistant Professor at the Department of Anthropology at Wichita State University. May 2018

Angelina Giovanna Perrotti
Dissertation: “Palynological Evidence for Terminal Pleistocene Paleo-environmental Change at Two Sites in the Southeastern United States”
Chair: Vaughn Bryant
Co-Chair: Michael Waters
Current Position: received a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. May 2018

Jessica Raterman
Dissertation: “Methodological Development for Identifying Foraging Behaviors from GPS Data Among Artisanal Fishers in the Caribbean”
Chair: Michael Alvard
May 2018

Bonny Marie Ford
Dissertation: “Genetic Variation in Central Asia: An Examination of Population History and Structure”
Chair: Sheela Athreya
Current Position: Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology at New Mexico State University. August 2018

Megan Elaine Lickliter-Mundon
Dissertation: “Aviation Archaeology: History, Theory, Practice and Direction”
Chair: Shelley Wachsmann
August 2018
Savannah Shenise Hicks François

Dissertation: “Collectivity, Participation, and Solidarity Within the Afro-Ecuadorian Communities of Guayaquil, Ecuador”
Chair: Sara B. Busdiecker
Co Chair: Cynthia Werner
August 2018

Laura Marie Short

Dissertation: “Using Raman Spectroscopy to Analyze Fire-Cracked Rock From Earth Ovens in South-Central North America”
Chair: Alston Thoms
August 2018

Elanor Marie Sonderman

Dissertation: “Re-Analysis of Conejo Shelter: A Legacy Archaeological Collection from the Amistad Reservoir Area, Texas”
Chair: David L. Carlson
August 2018

Willa Rachel Trask

Dissertation: “Missionization and Shifting Mobility on the Southeastern Maya-Spanish Frontier: Identifying Immigration to the Maya Site of Tipu, Belize Through the Use of Strontium and Oxygen Isotopes”
Chair: Lori E. Wright
August 2018

Shuru Zhong

Chair: Norbert Dannhaeuser
Co-Chair: Cynthia Werner
August 2018
MA Graduates
Jacob A. Canterbury  May 2018  Holly Danielle Perdue  August 2018
Carla Elene Pereira  August 2018

MS Graduates
Maritime Archaeology and Conservation
Carrigan Rose Miller  August 2018  Meredith Alayne Stoops  August 2018

BA Graduates
May 2018
John William Alger
Sarah Elyse Biemer
Madilene Kate Byerly
Madeline Renee Camp
Karalyssa Ariana Canales
Joseph Edward Castillo
Rhiannon Athena Coffey
Jessica Anne Conklin
Meagan Andrea Coon
Kevin Andrew Crossman
Katherine Elaine Daiy
Amy Leigh Davis
Stephanie Angela De La Rosa
Anna Ruth Dean
Kelley Anne Finkel
Helen Claire Galbraith
Amber Allyson Garcia
Rachel Garza
Cameron Perry Hall
Catherine Ruth Honors
Lauren Natalia Iozzio
Emma Victoria Krieg
Virginia Kuroda
Kelly Melisa Nelson
Alexandra Mai Nguyen
Christopher Donald Olguin
Julia Elizabeth Peters
Laura Elain Popp
Patricia Katherine Porter
Blake Patrick Ross
Taylor Michelle Siskind
Robert Edward Stenman
Ally Margaret Tankersley
Jessi Renea Trejo
Lily T. Tun
Christopher Ben Villarreal
Hannah Beth Wanegar
Lauren Nicole Wilganowski
Nadia M. Woods

August 2018
Raquel Elise Davis
John Marshall Dolan
Garrett Lee Estes
Alma Cristina Galvan
Raven Nichole Glenn
Simone Danielle Gonyaw
Genevieve Jeneen Hicks
Danielle Pulido Kayser
Lauren Michelle McPherson
Jacob Thomas Miller
Mitchell Franklin Roberts
Robert Thomas Sirks, Jr.
Taylor Jaye Sobey
Celeste Christine Swanson
The Department of Anthropology at Texas A&M University offers BA, BS, MA, and PhD degrees in Anthropology, and an MS in Maritime Archaeology and Conservation. The department has 26 faculty members in four different programs—Archaeology, Biological Anthropology, Cultural Anthropology, and Nautical Archaeology. The department has over 200 undergraduate students and 90 graduate students.

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

If you have information for upcoming issues of our newsletter, please contact Missy Gandarilla at missygandarilla@tamu.edu.

The Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit research organization founded in 1972 by Dr. George F. Bass, the father of underwater archaeology. In 1976, INA moved to Texas A&M University (TAMU), and the graduate Nautical Archaeology Program (NAP) was established as an independent academic unit.

INA has two new funding opportunities for 2018-19: the George and Ann Bass Endowment for Nautical Archaeology Publications (1-2 awards every year totaling $25,000) and the INA Discovery Fund (one or more awards every year totaling $25,000).

Details can be found on the INA website (www.nauticalarch.org)

https://nauticalarch.org/announcing-the-ina-discovery-fund/

https://nauticalarch.org/george-and-ann-bass-endowment/