

# ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT NEWS



Texas A&M University

SPRING 2019

## Anthropology PhD Students Find Evidence of Early Human Eating an Entire Rattlesnake

Two former students, Crystal Dozier and Elanor Sonderman, and one current student, Morgan Smith, analyzed a human coprolite as part of a final project. This coprolite turned out to reveal more than expected. The team found the bones, scales, and fang in the coprolite. Further analysis revealed the fang may have belonged to a rattlesnake, making this coprolite the first fecal record of humans eating entire venomous snakes.

It cannot be deduced with certainty, but the snake may have been eaten as part of a ritual act. Snakes are viewed as water carriers in many cultures. This snake appears to have been consumed during a drought, making it possible the consumption of this snake was in an attempt to restore rainfall.

The presence of scales and a fang imply the snake was not prepared for consumption prior to being eaten.

We do not know what happened to the individual who consumed the venomous snake, but we can assume he lived long enough to digest and discard the fang through defecation. His feces appeared normal, and did not exhibit any signs showing adverse effects to the snake. The coprolite is from the Lower Pecos Canyonlands of southwest Texas, dated to approximately 1500 years ago.

This story was covered by multiple news media outlets, including the *National Geographic*, the *Smithsonian magazine*, and *Nature*. The publication information can be found on page 11.

### HEADLINE NEWS:

- Dr. Vaughn Bryant is awarded the Texas A&M University Regents Professorship
- Dr. Anna Linderholm was promoted to Associate Professor (with tenure)
- Dr. Catharina Laporte was promoted to Instructional Associate Professor
- Dr. Carlson retires after 38 years of service

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Before photo of the coprolite that contained snake bones, scales, and a fang. Courtesy of Morgan Smith.



# 10th Annual Anthropology Conference

Each spring, the department holds a conference where faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students can present their research in a friendly and constructive environment. The conference also offers an opportunity for members of the department to see what types of research interests and projects are being undertaken by their peers and colleagues. The conference serves as an opportunity for mingling and collaboration. This year, there was a grand total of nine paper presentations and seventeen poster presentations.

Faculty participants included Dr. Michael Alvard, Dr. Vaughn Bryant, Dr. Darryl de Ruiter, and Dr. Ted Goebel. Graduate student participants included Alex Canterbury, Josh Farrar, Rossana Paredes, Jordan Pratt, Paloma Cuello, Taryn Johnson, Angie Achorn, John White, and Michael Lewis. Undergraduate participants included Samantha Burkham, Mark Chavez, Peyton Harrison, Martee Hawthorn, Sndra Horton, Derick Juptner, Kathrine Peters, Hannah Russel, Austin Siess, Victoria Sims, Olivia Thomas, Shelby Turner, and Wyatt Taylor. The topics of the presentations included norm conformity, punishment, and the veneration of the dead at Texas A&M, *Homo naledi* burial practices, oceanic processes relating to the regional variation of shipwreck preservation, pollen analysis of Peruvian Amazon honey samples, stemmed point occupations in open-air sites in the Harney Basin, stable isotope signals as a proxy for mobility, and a genomic analysis of flora and fauna in Nevada.



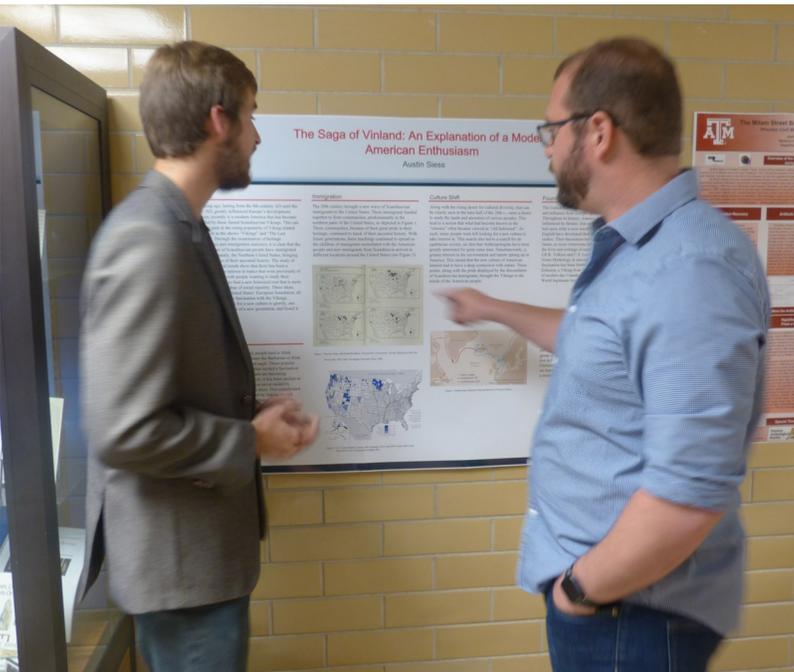
Dr. Vaughn Bryant presents "Why Cancer is like Anthropology".

During the lunch hour, the poster presentations were conducted. Posters covered topics such as intestinal parasite infections in Lemurs, the sinking of the Titanic, Houston Civil War artifacts in the Milam Street Bridge artifact assemblage, the role of facebook in the Nicaraguan crisis, phone apps versus other methods for 3D digitization of ship models, Faunal analyses from the Weed Lake Ditch site in Eastern Oregon, *in situ* preservation vs full excavation of underwater cultural heritage sites, and optimal age of weaning.

Tables at the conference included Anthropology Research Collections, Texas A&M Anthropological Society, Palynology Research Lab, and Shipwreck Weekend. The tables showcased a bake sale, featured events, and general information about their programs.

While all of the presentations were fascinating and well-received, only a few could claim a spot as “winners” in the poster competition. The poster competition included three categories: Undergraduate Research, Graduate Research, and Best Poster from the ANTH 305 Fundamentals of Anthropological Writing Course. In the Graduate Research section **Angie Achorn** claimed first prize, and second place was claimed by

**Michael Lewis**. In the Undergraduate Research section **Mark Chavez** won first place while **K. Foley Peters** and **Hannah Russell** tied for second place. The award for best poster from the ANTH 305 Fundamentals of Anthropological Writing Course was awarded to **Peyton Harrison**. Regardless of poster competition placement, all faculty, staff, and students of the Department of Anthropology are winners. Collaboration and support are the necessary drivers of success in our department.



Dr. Chris Dostal and undergraduate student at a poster presentation.



Undergraduate Derick Juptner presents his poster to a group of graduate and undergraduate students.

Thank you to Jordan and Katelyn for putting the conference together, as well as a special thank you to the Department of Anthropology and Pearson for their generous contributions. Thank you to the Palynology Research Lab, Center for the Study of the First Americans, the Institute of Nautical Archaeology, and the Biological Anthropology Program for their donations. Without the support of these individuals and organizations, the 10th Annual Anthropology Conference would not have been possible.

# Ill-Fated Expeditions: Shipwreck Weekend



Dr. Charles Dagneau with Dr. George Bass.

On April 12th and 13th, Shipwreck Weekend took place featuring ill-fated expeditions, with the Franklin Expedition taking center stage. The Nautical Archaeology Program welcomed Dr. Charles Dagneau, archaeologist for Parks Canada, to discuss it all, including finally finding the Franklin's expedition wrecks, HMS *Terror* and *Erebus*, in 2014 and 2016. According to our guest speaker, this doomed expedition is full of tales of "poisoning, starvation, death, cannibalism failed rescue missions, scattered relics, and dramatic Inuit accounts...creating one of the greatest mysteries in British and Canadian history".

A pre-Shipwreck Weekend lecture was organized on Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> titled: "*The Archaeology the Franklin Expedition: British Science and Technology, and Individuality in Shipwreck Historical Archaeology*". In addition to providing first-hand accounts of the challenges of an Arctic excavation project, Dr. Dagneau discussed the remains of the wrecks and the great potential for the discovery and/or recovery of artifacts from the wreck sites. Thanks to many written records, known spatial division on ships, and the strict British hierarchy, Parks Canada archaeologists can potentially directly associate artifacts with individuals on the expedition.

On Saturday the 13th, the main event kicked off with the lecture "*The Archaeology of the Ill-Fated 1845 Franklin Expedition in Search of a North-West Passage*". Dr. Dagneau presented to a crowd of over 120 people detailing the fate of Franklin Expedition and how Parks Canada has been looking for the wrecks since 2008. He also addressed how Parks Canada will proceed in the upcoming excavation seasons in the Canadian Arctic and involve the local Inuit people.

An open house event followed immediately after the public lecture. From noon until four the public was invited to come explore the Nautical Archaeology Program's laboratories, and to investigate the many exciting graduate student projects that are currently underway.

A treasure hunt was organized for the kids, leading them on an exciting journey of discovery to numerous different activities throughout the department where, at the end, they could gain a certificate confirming them as Apprentice Nautical Archaeologists!

Graduate students also prepared and presented mini-lectures on other ill-fated expeditions like the history of the VOC *Batavia*, the HMS *Bounty*, and Shackleton's 22 months wandering in Antarctica. Despite the rain, storm, and tornado alarm (even the weather decided to play along with our ill-fated theme!), more than 200 people visited our event!

Dr. Dagneau was really pleased with his visit among our department. *"Thanks to all the NAP students and professors for the invitation to participate in the Shipwreck Weekend. It was a pleasure and an honor [...] I have to say I was impressed by the very diverse and dynamic projects I learned about, past and present, that are happening in so many places around the world. It was also very instructive to visit the different labs, as they are all part of what makes TAMU so famous. You should be proud!"*

The organization team would like to once more acknowledge the hard work of the graduate students who help make this event a success and the support of the Nautical Archaeology Program, the Anthropology Department, the Institute of Nautical Archaeology, and the Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research.



Learning new things about the archaeology of the new world with Dan Bishop and Mason Parody!



Charles Dagneau during his public conference on Franklin's Expedition

# Anthropology Research Collections: A Year in Review

The mission of the Anthropology Research Collections at Texas A&M University (ARC-TAMU) is to support and facilitate the Department of Anthropology's goals of education and research focused on understanding the human experience across space and through time. The ARC-TAMU serves this mission primarily through maintaining, and making available to researchers, anthropological materials collected by TAMU Anthropology faculty and students over the last 40 plus years.

The ARC-TAMU houses materials collected from archaeological projects from 74 Texas counties. This year interns with the Museum Studies Minor and volunteers have aided in on-



ARC-TAMU undergraduate interns and volunteers, from left: Isabelle Spence, Jordyn Pursell, and Nicole Deere.

Isabelle Spence and Nicole Deere both completed internships with ARC. More information is available on page 18.

going collections maintenance and organization – learning valuable collections management skills! They also have helped expand the research potential of the ARC-TAMU's Teaching and Type Collection. Materials have been loaned to other institutions for scientific analysis and exhibition. This includes coprolites loaned to Dr. Karl Reinhard (a TAMU ANTH alumni) and his graduate student Elisa Pucu of the University of Nebraska for archaeoparasitological analyses. Loan extensions were given to the Houston Museum of Natural Science and the Witte Museum in San Antonio for ongoing exhibition of materials from the ARC-TAMU.

Last fall Curator, Dr. Heather Thakar, received an \$88,993 grant from the National Park Service for ongoing NAGPRA work including documentation and consultations. Dr. Thakar also organized "Know NAGPRA November," a series of trainings for department graduate students to review case studies and learn more about the legal, ethical, and professional obligations involved in archaeological excavations.

In January ARC-TAMU Assistant Curators Jordan Pratt and Sydney O'Brien attended the Texas Historical Commission (THC) Curatorial Facilities Certification Program training in Austin Texas, as part of the ARC-TAMU's ongoing efforts to become a certified THC repository.

The ARC-TAMU continued outreach efforts throughout the year. In the fall the curatorial team organized two events for Texas Archaeology Month, including a public lecture given by Dr. Alston Thoms on Brazos Valley foodways, and Carving Cucurbits—our annual stone tool pumpkin carving party.

We also created an exhibit with hands on activities for Brazos Valley Worldfest, an annual Texas A&M University event that promotes diversity and global citizenship within the local community. During the spring 2019 term our interns and volunteers designed displays highlighting ongoing ARC-TAMU research for the annual Anthropology Department Conference. Throughout the year we worked to make the ARC-TAMU accessible to the public via our Facebook and Instagram pages – make sure to like us to follow along!

Interested in volunteering or interning? Contact [anth-arc@tamu.edu](mailto:anth-arc@tamu.edu)!

If you are interested in using the Teaching Collection for outreach or in the classroom, swing by the ARC-TAMU or use our online [Access Form](#) (which can be found on the ARC portion of the website).



ARC-TAMU volunteers (and past interns) Jordyn Pursell and Chesli Lobue rehousing fire-cracked rock from the Valley Branch site.



Bison skull from the ARC-TAMU Teaching and Type Collection – ready for checkout! The skull was recently conserved by Robin Galloso, a PhD student, in the Conservation Research Laboratory.

# Faculty and Staff Grants and Awards

## **Dr. Allison Hopkins** and team

The T3: Texas A&M Triads for Transformation funding program awarded \$32,000 to Dr. Allison Hopkins, and her team. The award was won during the second round for their project titled "Biodiversity Impacts And Social Dimensions Of Land Use In Tropical Montane Ecosystems".

## **Dr. Catharina Laporte**

Dr. Catharina Laporte was part of a TAMU research team awarded a \$20,000 Innovation [X] grant. The grant was awarded for a project entitled "The Boom and Bust Economics of Ebola."

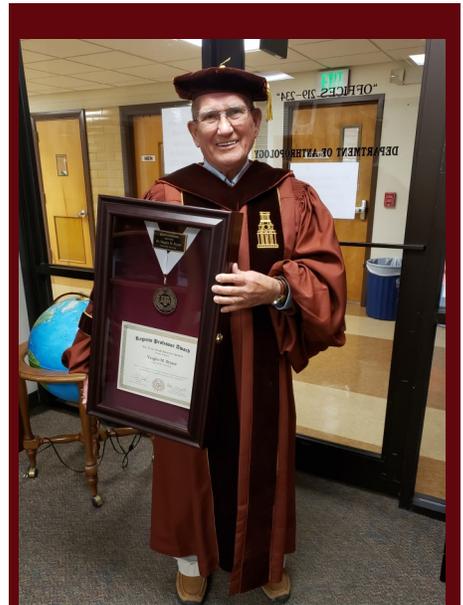
She was also presented with an award for completing the requirements of the Innovative Pedagogy Grant. Among other things, she used the grant to turn ANTH 370 into a Quality Matters certified course with the help of TA **Hyein Kim**.

## **Dr. Sheela Athreya**

The College of Liberal Arts' Achievements in Climate and Inclusion (ACI) Award was awarded to Dr. Sheela Athreya. The ACI award recognizes those faculty members who regularly engage in service activities designed to encourage and facilitate a more inclusive and welcoming climate for all.

## **Rebekah Luza**

The President's Meritorious Service Award was awarded to Rebeakah Luza for her outstanding service to the Department of Anthropology.



Dr. Vaughn Bryant was one of fifteen faculty members university-wide named Regents Professor by the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents. The Regents Professor Awards program was established to recognize employees that have made extraordinary contributions to the university and to society.

# Graduate Student Grants and Awards



Angela Achorn was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student Grant for \$19,300 to conduct her dissertation research in Indonesia. In addition, she was awarded the Critical Language Enhancement Award for three months of language training in Indonesia. She was also awarded a Primate Conservation, Inc. research grant for \$2000, and an Explorers Club research grant for \$2750.

## **Joshua Lynch**

NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant for his dissertation research "Exploring the Function and Adaptive Context of Paleo-Arctic Projectile Points." His project is under the supervision of Dr. Ted Goebel.

## **Katelyn McDonough**

Katelyn McDonough won the Joint NAA/Am-Arcs 2019 Student Research Grant Competition, winning \$3000. She also won the PLAYA Arts and Sciences Residency Program, Oregon, and the Sven and Astrid Liljebblad Grant in Great Basin Studies, University of Nevada, Reno for \$4950.

## **Jordan Pratt**

Jordan Pratt was awarded the Texas A&M University Phi Kappa Phi (Chapter 053) Travel Grant of \$500, the Oregon Archaeological Society Roy F. Jones Memorial Scholarship for \$1,500, and the Phi Kappa Phi National Graduate Research Award of \$1,500.

## **Morgan Smith**

Morgan Smith was awarded the Fasken Graduate Student Teaching Award from Texas A&M University with a bursary of \$300. He and Dr. Mike Waters received a \$50,000 grant from the Florida Department of State to conduct research on the impact of climate change and looting on underwater prehistoric sites in Florida. Morgan Smith also received a tenure track appointment at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga as an Assistant Professor of Southeastern Archaeology.

# New Publications

## **Athreya, Sheela**

2019. "But You're Not a Real Minority": The Marginalization of Asian Voices in Paleoanthropology. *American Anthropologist*. 121(2): 472-474.

## **Bryant, Vaughn**

2019 Cryptocurrency. *Dig into History* 21(2):18.

## **Bryant, Vaughn**

2019 Paper Money. *Dig into History* 21(2):19.

**Castro, Felipe**, Bendig, C., Bérubé, M., Borrero, R., Budsberg, N., **Dostal, C.**, Monteiro, A., Smith, C., Torres, R., and K. Yamafune.

2018 Recording, Publishing, and Reconstructing Wooden Shipwrecks. *Journal of Maritime Archaeology*. 13.1: 55-66.

## **Dostal, Chris**

2018 Photogrammetric Texture Mapping: A Method for Increasing the Fidelity of 3D Models of Cultural Heritage Materials, with Kotaro Yamafune. *Journal of Archaeological Science*: 18: 430-436.

**de Ruiter, D.J., Carlson, K.B., Brophy, J.K.**, Carlson, K.J., **Campbell, T.**, Berger, L.R.

2018 The skull of *Australopithecus sediba*. *PaleoAnthropology* 2018: 56-155.

Elliot, M.C., Quam, R., Nalla, S., **de Ruiter, D.J.**, Hawks, J., Berger, L.R.

2018 Description and analysis of three *Homo naledi* incusdes from the Dinaledi Chamber, Rising Star cave (South Africa). *Journal of Human Evolution* 122: 146-155.

Krasinski, K., **K. E. Graf**, and C. Burke

2018 From Taphonomy to Human Ecology: Interdisciplinary Contributions by Gary Haynes and His Colleagues, Former Students, and Friends. *Quaternary International* 644(B):107-112.

## **Beck, Chase, Vaughn Bryant, and Katelyn McDonough**

2019 Evidence for Non-Random Distribution of Pollen in Human Coprolites. *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences*.



## **McDonough, Katelyn**

2019 Middle Holocene Menus: Dietary Reconstruction from Coprolites at the Connley Caves, Oregon, USA. *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences*.

## **McDonough, Katelyn**, and Dennis L. Jenkins

2018 University of Oregon's Northern Great Basin Field School Excavation Update for the Connley Caves, Fort Rock Basin, Lake County. *CAHO* 43(1):12-16.

**Paredes, Rossana and Vaughn M. Bryant**

2019 Pollen Analysis of Honey Samples from the Peruvian Amazon. *Palynology*.

**Perrotti, Angelina G., Siskind, Taylor, Bryant, Mary Katherine, and Vaughn M. Bryant**

2018 Efficacy of Sonication-assisted sieving on Quaternary pollen samples. *Palynology* 42(4): 466–474.

Lau, Pierre , **Bryant, Vaughn**, and Juliana Rangel

2018 Determining the minimum number of pollen grains needed for accurate honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) colony pollen pellet analysis. *Palynology* 42 (1): 36–42.

**Sonderman, Elanor, Jordan Pratt, and Heather Thakar**

2018 Curate It! In *Active Archaeology Notebook*, edited by Leah McCurdy. Thames and Hudson, London.

**Sonderman, Elanor, Crystal Dozier, and Morgan Smith.**

2019 Analysis of a coprolite from Conejo Shelter, Texas: Potential ritualistic Viperous snake consumption. *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 25, pp. 85-93

**Smith, Morgan**

2019 Hunting an Underwater Mammoth: A Re-Evaluation of the First Submerged Prehistoric Site Excavated in the Americas. In *First Floridians, First Americans* ed. Dave Thulman and Ervan Garrison. University of Florida Press.

**Smith, Morgan**

2019 Emerging Remote Sensing Methods in Underwater Archaeology.” Tim DeSmet and Morgan Smith. In *First Floridians, First Americans* ed. Dave Thulman and Ervan Garrison. University of Florida.

**Michael R. Waters, Joshua L. Keene, Steven L. Forman, Elton R. Prewitt, David L. Carlson, and James E. Wiederhold.**

2018 Pre-Clovis projectile points at the Debra L. Friedkin site, Texas— Implications for the Late Pleistocene peopling of the Americas. *Science Advances* 4.



**Winking, J., Allison Hopkins, Michelle. Yeoman, C.**

2019 Arcak. M-AAA-nsplaining: gender bias in questions asked at the American Anthropological Association’s Annual Meetings. *PLOS ONE*. 14(1): e0207691.

**Winking, J., P. Eastwick, L., Smith, J. Koster.**

2018 Applicability of the Investment Model Scale in a natural-fertility population. *Personal Relationships*. 25(4): 497-516.

# Graduate Student Summer Field Work Plans



**Angela Achorn:** The goal of my dissertation research is to assess the efficacy of using scrotal coloration to test the Hamilton-Zuk Hypothesis and its proximate mechanism, the Immunocompetence Handicap Hypothesis in primates. I will do so using Sulawesi crested macaques, a Critically Endangered species in which adult scrota range from bright red to pale pink. To test these hypotheses, I will assess relationships between coloration, parasite infections, testosterone, and mating success. This study will take place in Tangkoko Nature Reserve, North Sulawesi, Indonesia, from September 2020 to May 2021.



**Katelyn McDonough:** My summer activities will begin with archaeological work with the Paleoindian Research Unit of University of Nevada, Reno in Hawksy Walksy, Oregon. Then I co-direct the six-week University of Oregon (UO) Archaeology Field School at the Connley Caves in central Oregon. During this time, I will so continue my sediment coring project at a nearby marsh. Following field school, I will teach a two-week course on museum studies and

lab methods at the UO. I will spend the fall semester in Eugene, Oregon, conducting paleoethnobotanical analysis on archaeological collections housed at the UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History.



**Jordan Pratt:** Archaeological excavation at the Weed Lake Ditch (35HA341/342), a late-Pleistocene-early Holocene open-air site in southeastern Oregon. The excavation will include six TAMU undergraduate Anthropology students, as well as CSFA graduate students. The photo shows the excavation of the site in process during the 2018 field season, with ANTH Undergraduate students working.



**John White:** This season Dr. Ted Goebel and I will take the first few sediment cores from locations around Prince William Sound in southcentral Alaska. These will be analyzed for environmental proxies, primarily diatom species and varve sequences, to help me reconstruct the dynamics of sea-level change in the area since the late Pleistocene. We will then conduct test excavations with a crew of undergraduate students at a newly discovered site (NAB-533) in the northern Copper River basin. This site contains two identified components, the older of which has been dated to approximately 12,100 cal years BP. It is located within Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park and Preserve. This season we will seek to confirm the age estimate of the lower component and determine its association with the paleo delta of Glacial Lake Atna, as well as trying to elucidate the technological organization strategies represented at the site. Ideally we would like to recover artifacts diagnostic of one of the known technocomplexes in Alaska so that we can begin to determine how the Copper River basin relates to early habitations to the north, in the Nenana and Tanana River Valleys.

**Claire Zak:** This summer, I am going to Marzamemi, Sicily to excavate a 6th century Byzantine shipwreck with the Marzamemi Maritime Heritage Project. Also, I'll work on my master's thesis to photogrammetrically document two derelict mattanza fishing boats from the early 20th century.

# PhD Graduates



## Kathryn Elizabeth Bailey

**Dissertation:** Locomotion of the Red-Shanked Douc Langur (*Pygathrix nemaeus*) in the Son Tra Nature Reserve, Vietnam

**Chair:** Sharon Gursky

December 2018



## Casey Wayne Riggs

**Dissertation:** Terminal Late Prehistoric Botanical Food ways and Foraging Catchments of the Eastern Trans-Pecos Archaeological Region of Texas

**Chair:** Vaughn Bryant

December 2018



## Chase Beck

**Dissertation:** Developing New Techniques in Coprolite Analysis: Packrat Feces from Paisley Caves and Human Coprolites from Hinds Cave

**Chair:** Vaughn Bryant

May 2019



## Jeffrey Kampf

**Dissertation:** The Historical and Archaeological Analysis of the Swords of *La Belle*

**Chair:** Donny Hamilton

May 2019



## Carolyn Kennedy

**Dissertation:** The History and Archaeology of the Lake Champlain Steamboat *Phoenix II* (1829-1837)

**Chair:** Kevin Crisman

May 2019



## Rossana Paredes Salcedo

**Dissertation:** People and Plants in Northern Peru: An Ethnoarchaeological Study of the Use of Plants in the Fishing Community of Huanchaco

**Chair:** Vaughn Bryant

May 2019

# MA Graduates

Angela M. Achorn December 2018

Arik Bord May 2019

Patricia H. Schwindinger December 2018

Ralf Singh-Bischofberger May 2019

Joshua R. Farrar December 2018

# MS Graduates

## Maritime Archaeology and Conservation

Rebecca E. Mattson December 2018

Dorothy A. Rowland December 2018

# BA Graduates

## Dec 2018

Brooke E. Berner

Kaela M. Clark

Andrew S. Duncan

Kathryn B. Dunn

Macy A. Gilbert

Marisol Luna

Cecilia Parra

Hinanshi J. Patel

Ashley V. Roach

Bradley R. Schuldt II

Emma D. Schwartz

Madalyn E. Skinner

Hallie J. Steele

Jordan P. Stewart

Aaron A. Tucker

Jordynn M. Varano

Leah M. Vettters

Hallie E. Wilson

## May 2019

Osbaldo Alvarez

Lily Buenavista

Yannelyz Covarrubias

Adrienne DeMoss

Claire Fisher

Isabel Gonzalez

Amelia Hammond

Lauren Hammond

James Harvey

Skylar Huddleston

Kolton Kellum

Noelle Lane

Lindi Lawson

Savannah Maier

Marla Maya

Catherine Pool

Angie Robayo

Austin Siess

Will Smith

Aaron Tucker

Taryn Williames

Hannah Russell

# BS Graduates

## May 2019

Fatimah Bouderdaben

Dajae Fryer

Jacob Harry

Lacy Hazelwood

Michael Pawlus

Salvador Villarreal

# 1981 David L. Carlson 2019



Dr. David L. Carlson received his Ph.D. in Anthropology from Northwestern University in 1979. Dr. Carlson joined the Anthropology Department at Texas A&M University as an Assistant Professor in 1981. At this time, he was also hired to direct the Conservation Resources Management Program. Since his entry to the department, Dr. Carlson has mentored dozens of masters and PhD students. He has acted as Chair, Co-Chair, and committee member to over 40 graduate students. Dr. Carlson has taught courses in anthropology, archaeology, and

quantitative methods for undergraduate and graduate students.

Dr. Carlson's personal research has focused on the application of quantitative methods to archaeological problems, including looking at the spatial distribution of artifacts within archaeological sites. His book, *Quantitative Approaches to Archaeological Data Using R*, showcases his pursuit to show how quantitative methods can raise and answer questions about patterns in the archaeological record.

Dr. Carlson received a Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award in Teaching in 1992. He served as Department Head of the Anthropology Department from 1999-2007. He has been awarded over \$4 million in state and federal external research funding to recover artifacts from sites that would otherwise be destroyed by construction activities. Dr. Carlson has also written 20 peer-reviewed journal articles, 5 chapters, written 2 books, edited 2 other books and written or edited 35 reports of investigations.

The department offers our congratulations on Dr. Carlson's retirement. We appreciate his service to the department, and will greatly miss his presence and dedication to the department.

# 2011 Cynthia Werner 2019

Dr. Cynthia Werner earned her PhD at Indiana University in 1997. Her career at Texas A&M began in 2001, as an Assistant Professor. Since then, Dr. Werner has been an affiliate faculty to the International Studies Program and an affiliate to the Women's and Gender Studies Program. In 2006, She was promoted to Associate Professor, and promoted to full professor in 2016. In 2011, Dr. Werner became Interim Department head, then became Department Head in September of 2012.

During her time as Department Head, Dr. Werner hired a number of new faculty and staff, and has worked to increase funding totals, and opportunities for funding, for all graduate students. The graduate student placement rate for jobs has also increased drastically under Dr. Werner's term as Department Head. An MS in Maritime Archaeology and Conservation, as well as an option for a Bachelors of Science degree, were added while Dr. Werner was Department Head.

In addition to maintaining her Department Head duties, Dr. Werner has participated in numerous conferences, workshops, and invited lectures. She also currently serves as a member of the College Executive Council for the College of Liberal Arts.

Her current research interests include Cultural Anthropology, Economic Anthropology, Anthropology of Gender, Anthropology of the State, and Anthropology of risk. Dr. Werner currently serves as Chair and Co-Chair to seven graduate students, and committee member to nine committees. She currently serves as advisor to two PhD graduate students.



The department expresses our gratitude to Dr. Werner for her commitment and hard work over the years.

# Undergraduate Student Awards

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, we celebrated our undergraduate students for their hard work in our department this past year. Many students, graduate student mentors, and faculty were in attendance to honor the accomplishments of our undergraduate research assistants, travel/research award recipients, graduating seniors, and those who completed a thesis to support their degrees. With the comfort of food and good company, it was an all-around fun afternoon spent celebrating the end of the semester! Without our undergraduate students, especially those who volunteer to assist with research in the department, we could not possibly function as well as we do. The department would like to wish all of our graduating seniors the best of luck in their future endeavors in Anthropology and in life, and we hope that our continuing students enjoy a restful, fun, and productive summer. Congratulations on another year in the books!



Fatimah Bouderdaben at the Launch Recognition Ceremony.



Undergraduate students at the department Undergraduate appreciation lunch.

Undergraduate Students who completed an internship this semester:

**Nicole Deere** worked in ARC and completed a teaching collection that helps people identify and type ceramics found at archaeological sites.

**Isabel Gonzales** worked at the Arts Council of the Brazos Valley, and completed the first complete inventory of all of their collections, including sculptures, trains, and benches around the BCS area.

**Isabelle Spence** worked in ARC, and helped to put together a teaching collection and worked on social media.

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 under-graduate students and 90 graduate students.

For questions about the department, please contact our Department Head, **Dr. Darryl de Ruiter** at [deruiter@tamu.edu](mailto:deruiter@tamu.edu).

If you have information for upcoming issues of our newsletter, please contact

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[Facebook.com/Texas-AM-Department-of-Anthropology](https://www.facebook.com/Texas-AM-Department-of-Anthropology)

## Gifts to the Department of 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.