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
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 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.”

In addition to the stone tools recovered, a butchered tusk was found at the site by the original
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 cutmarks 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 are ubiquitous. The 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).
Dr. Kevin Crisman’s Team Makes New Discoveries at Steamboat Shipwreck

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:

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!
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:

Introducing Our Newest Faculty Hire: Dr. Heather Thakar

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 socio-economic 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 paleothernal 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.
Hello, all! I am a new faculty member in the Department of 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 strategies 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 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.
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 Cavelier 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.
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. 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 Waters, 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 Shlemon 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 Florida 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.

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 which designed Virazon II and the Mengi Yay shipyard where she was built. After making her maiden voyage to the Yalıkavak Marina outside of 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

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-

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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 Department. 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. 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.

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

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 (May 2016)
“Prehistoric Landscape Use in the Central Alaska Range”
Advisors: Ted Goebel

Timothy DeSmet (August 2016)
“Advances in Archaeological Geophysics: Case Studies from Historical Archaeology”
Advisors: Bruce Dickson

Hulya Dogan (August 2016)
“Conceptions of Homeland Identity among Meskhetian Turk Refugees in the U.S. and Turkey”
Advisors: Cynthia Werner

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

Larkin Kennedy (Defended July 2016)
“Contributions of Identity, Status, and Geographic Origins on Mortuary Variability at Late Antique Corinth (6th-8th c AD)”
Advisors: Lori Wright

Sunshine Thomas (May 2016)
“Storageware and Stature in the American South: Socioeconomic Conditions of the Southern Smallholder, 1830s-1930s”
Advisors: Alston Thoms

Staci Willis (May 2016)
“Constructing Identity: The Roman-Era Northwestern Adriatic Laced Tradition of Boatbuilding”
Advisors: Deborah Carlson

Kotaro Yamafune (May 2016)
“Using Computer Vision Photogrammetry to Record and Analyze Underwater Shipwreck Sites”
Advisors: Filipe Castro
The Seventh Annual Anthropology Department Conference

By Elanor 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 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.
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.

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


Graduate Students


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).

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.

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.