

April Speaker: Dr. Kathryn Brown

The **TARRANT COUNTY ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (TCAS)** will welcome Dr. Kathryn Brown as the featured speaker for the April 13th meeting. Meetings are free and visitors are always welcome.

Dr. Brown is currently an Associate Professor in the Anthropology Department at the University of Texas in San Antonio. She obtained her Ph.D. from Southern Methodist University in 2003.

From Dr. Brown: My principal research focus is one of anthropology's fundamental topics, the origins of complex societies. Because I am interested in the rise of complexity as a general phenomenon, I value cross-cultural comparisons. As my primary case study and focus of fieldwork, however, I examine the Maya Civilization of Central America. I have conducted research for over a katun in the Maya Lowlands, especially in the Belize River Valley and Northern Belize.



Most of my research has focused on the Preclassic Maya, but I have a strong interest in Texas archaeology as well. I have directed eleven seasons of fieldwork in Texas, conducted as archaeological field schools. These projects investigated both historic and prehistoric sites, and the data collected have been relevant to several important topics in Texas prehistory and history, including prehistoric mobility patterns and the establishment of pioneer settlements in Texas.. *(Photo and text from <http://anthropology.utsa.edu/faculty/kathryn-brown>)*

Title: The Chamber of Secrets at Xunantunich, Belize

Abstract: Investigations at El Castillo, a 39 meter tall acropolis at the ancient Maya site of Xunantunich, uncovered a series of rooms on the east side of the complex. A secret staircase provided access to these rooms suggesting a special function. Our excavations of the easternmost room revealed that it was carefully filled with clay and stacked stones. The walls were covered with incised images and designs, ranging from simple sketches (graffiti) to more formal renderings. These images included depictions of shamans, bloodletting activities, warriors, ritual scenes, and a variety of sacred animals. The room appears to have been a special place where an ancient Maya Sage trained apprentices in the arts and sacred knowledge. Lending support to this interpretation, the walls were partitioned into sections and several images were repeated as if the designs were being practiced. This new discovery at Xunantunich suggests that plastered walls in elite rooms may have been used for multiple purposes including as canvases for sketching and artistic training. This newly discovered chamber provides a glimpse into learned scribal expression and how the ancient Maya may have passed on sacred knowledge.



(Photo of El Castillo by Katrina Nuncio)

President's Message

Continued from Page 1

Our TCAS membership continues to grow as the public learns about our society and a large part of this growth is attributable to the instructors in our group who encourage their students to get involved. The last few meetings have had record crowds and although the increased membership obviously impacts the attendance, it is also a testament to our Board that year-after-year recruits fantastic speakers on a wide range of subjects.

Hope to see you at our next meeting on April 13th.

Thanks for being a TCAS member and supporter!



Welcome to new TCAS members!



Welcome to our newest TCAS members: Luci Bernard, Murray Cohen, Johnathan Reed Cooley, Roger Fry, Scott Johnson, Sharon Johnson, Karen Jordan, Leah McCurdy, Colleen Petosa, Elizabeth St. Marie, Terry Telligman and Teresa Thornton.

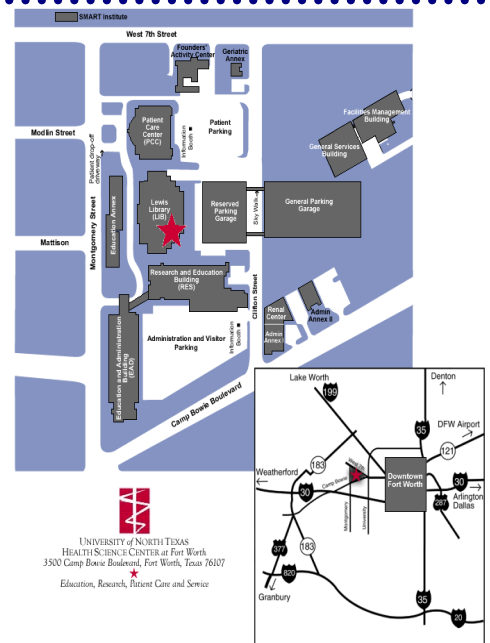
We're so glad that you have joined us!

Maya Talk

Katun, a period of time spanning 20 tuns or 7,200 days in the pre-Columbian Maya calendar

Learn more: <http://www.webexhibits.org/calendars/calendar-mayan.html>

TCAS meets at 7:30 pm on the second Thursday of each month (except June and December) at the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC), 3500 Camp Bowie Boulevard, Fort Worth, in the Lewis Library Building, Room 110, near the intersection of Camp Bowie and Montgomery Street. Traveling west on I30 from downtown, take the Montgomery Street exit. Turn right on Montgomery and continue to the five-way intersection at Camp Bowie. Turn right onto Camp Bowie, followed by an immediate left onto Clifton Street. Continue on Clifton to Parking Lot "1" on your left (past the Parking Garage and Sky bridge). Park in the patient spaces (after 5 PM) and go past the information booth into the underground parking garage. Turn left down the corridor at the double doors in the center. Proceed down the hallway until you come to Room 110 in the Lewis Library building.



Newberry Cabin Project: 3 Units Now Open

By Katrina Nuncio

TCAS members and my Weatherford College students have really been working hard at the Newberry Cabin site. We returned for excavation days on Friday, March, 3 and on Saturday, March 25. Both days were very productive. Unfortunately we still have the continued intrusion of the young calves through the temporary fencing into our units. Seems their curiosity gets the best of them when we aren't around.

If you are interested in working at this site, please put your name on the signup sheet at the April meeting or email me at www.tarrantarch.org. I will email directions to you when you let me know you are coming to the site. Unless we get extensive rain right before the excavation date, the current list of excavation days are as follows:

Saturday, April 8

Friday, April 21

On March 3 we had sixteen participants. From TCAS we had Art Tawater, Mike Shannon, Bret Williamson, Dana Parker, Glynn Osburn, Leah McCurdy, Lori Gouge, Chris Meis, and me. We also had one guest who is an instructor at Weatherford College. My four students from this semester were there along with two of my students from my fall archeology class. Looks like my indoctrination into the world of archeology was successful with these two!

This day Glynn and Leah worked with the total station and secured some more elevations for our units. We now have three open units.

Saturday, March 25, we had 14 participants. My two Weatherford students from the fall semester came back out again and one of them brought his two teenage daughters who seemed to really enjoy learning to excavate. Our TCAS participants were Hannah Keller, Bret Williamson, Art Tawater, Lori Gouge, Glynn Osburn, Mike Shannon, Daniel and Miranda Davenport, and me. We again had one guest, Karen Jordan.

We continued working in the three open units with one of the units becoming very productive between 10 and 20 cm. We will continue to excavate in this unit and because it is so productive, we will open an adjoining unit in the coming days.

Dean Hungate who is with the Doss Heritage and Culture Center, brought out some different temporary orange plastic construction fencing which we placed around our units. The little new calves shouldn't be able to sneak in this fencing. We are hoping the adult cows don't find the orange plastic as tasty as they did our blue tarps. Who would have thought cows would include blue plastic in their diet! If this doesn't work to keep the cows out of our units we will have to come up with still another plan.

Dig

Talk

Overburden: Soil and rock overlying a bed of clay or other base to be dug, excavated, mined, or quarried.

From: <http://www.archaeologywordsmith.com/lookup.php>

Newberry Cabin Project Photos



Everybody's busy!



Lori Gouge and Billy (returning fall archeology student)



Students experiencing the joys of removing overburden!



Glynn and Mike



Hannah



Move that dirt! (with our latest addition, Papaw's Potty in the background)

Photos by Katrina Nuncio

TCAS Event: Tour the Maya Exhibit at the Perot

By **Catrina Banks Whitley**



Join us for a tour on May 13th of the Maya Exhibit at the Perot Museum in Dallas. The tour will be led by Dr. Leah McCurdy. The tour starts at 1:30 p.m.

The cost is \$17.00 per person, **due in advance by April 30th** so reserve your spot now! You may pay via our new PayPal option at the TCAS website, www.tarrantarch.org. Payment by check will also be accepted at the April 13th TCAS meeting. If you prefer to mail your payment, **please mail early (now)** to **Tarrant County Arch Society, PO Box 24679, Fort Worth, TX 76124. Please make your check payable to Tarrant County Archeological Society.** The tour size is limited to a maximum of 20 people and you must be a TCAS member to attend. We will meet at the Perot at 1:00 p.m. The parking fee is \$10.00.

Volunteer for the TAS Annual Meeting

TCAS is hosting the 88th Annual Meeting of the Texas Archeological Society in Grapevine, Texas on October 20-22, 2017. Thanks to all of you who have offered your time and talents to help the TCAS Local Arrangements Committee make this year's meeting the best ever! But there is still much to do and more volunteers are needed! Volunteer forms are available from Lloyd Erwin at the monthly meetings. Also, please consider donating items from your own personal library or archeological tool kit or jewelry box for the Silent Auction. The Silent Auction, being chaired by Gen Freix, benefits TAS, which in turn benefits the TAS membership. See Gen to coordinate delivery of your donation.

Site 41TR113 Publication Order Date Extended

Congratulations to Bryan Jameson, TCAS Vice President, who has recently published "An Archeological Evaluation of The Fort Worth Nature Center Gravel Quarry Site 41TR113." This publication is the result of many hours of precise and dedicated research documentation. In celebration of the conclusion of this tremendous effort by Bryan, and in recognition of the many TCAS members who also worked on this site, TCAS is making this publication available to our members at a price of \$35.

Due to the response from our members, the order date has now been extended to April 13th. If you wish to order a copy, please bring your check, payable to Tarrant County Archeological Society, or cash, in the amount of \$35 to the April 13th meeting. The publications will be delivered at the May 11th meeting. If you prefer, delivery via USPS to your home is available for an additional \$5.

Of course, if you prefer to mail your check to TCAS, mail it to **Tarrant County Arch Society, PO Box 24679, Fort Worth, TX 76124. Please make your check payable to Tarrant County Archeological Society. It must be received by April 13th so please be sure to mail early (now) to insure that you receive your copy.**

Earth Day April 22: Celebrate Earth Day Every Day

- Take a walk.
- Plant a tree.
- Wear cotton.
- Reuse.
- Recycle.
- Restore.

Make Every Day Earth Day.
 Plant flower seeds in spring.
 Catch water in your rain barrel.
 Water seeds and watch your flowers bloom.
 Cherish each butterfly that flutters by.
 Every Day is Earth Day.



Archeologists treasure the Earth by practicing conservation every day.

- Shop locally.
- Compost.
- Turn off the lights.
- Reuse.
- Recycle.
- Restore.

Photo by C. Erwin

TAS Technology in Archeology Academy

Technology in Archeology Academy, Fredricksburg,

Date: April 29-30, 2017

Registration Deadline: April 14,2017



2017 TAS Field School Camp Wood, June 10-17



Complete info and registration at: <https://txarch.org/civicrm-event/180>

Registration deadlines: REGISTRATION DUE ON OR BEFORE MAY 26

LATE REGISTRATION FEE IS \$50 IF POSTMARKED AFTER MAY 26

T-SHIRT DEADLINE: RESERVE BY MAY 25th

MEAL DEADLINE: POSTMARKED BY JUNE 2. DO NOT MAIL AFTER JUNE 3.

FEE REFUND DEADLINE: CANCELLATION IF POSTMARKED BY JUNE 1

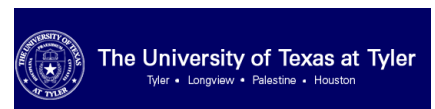
24th East Texas Archeological Conference

University of Texas at Tyler Saturday, April 29th, 2017

Registration: \$10 for lunch Complete info: <http://easttexasarcheologicalconference.org>

Speaker: Justin Parkoff Topic: TAMU's work with the Civil War ship, U.S.S. Westfield

Conference organizers: Dr. Thomas H. Guderjan, Dr. Cory Sills, Colleen Hanratty & Dr. Tim Perttula



TCAS: Preserving the Past for the Future

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Paying your dues is easier than ever this year!



By PayPal: Register and pay online using your PayPal account at the TCAS website,
www.tarrantarch.org

By mail: Complete the application below and mail it with your check to:
Tarrant County Arch Society, PO Box 24679, Fort Worth, TX 76124

In person: Give your dues and completed application to Lloyd Erwin at the monthly meetings.



April, 2017

TARRANT COUNTY ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (TCAS) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name(s) _____

Type of Membership and Fee

New _____ Renewal _____

Address _____

_____ Individual \$20 _____ \$10 USPS Mail Fee

City\State\Zip _____

_____ Family \$25 _____ \$10 USPS Mail Fee

Preferred Phone _____

_____ Student \$10 (enrolled in grade school through college/university whose coursework is considered to be half time or more)

Email Address _____

I want my newsletter delivered by _____ email or _____

_____ Contributing \$30 _____ \$10 USPS Mail Fee

by USPS mail. Thank you for choosing delivery by email.

_____ Optional Memorial Fund Contribution

Membership Term: January to December

Code of Ethics (signature required): I PLEDGE THAT I WILL NOT INTENTIONALLY VIOLATE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ANY FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL ANTIQUITIES STATUTES CONCERNING CULTURAL RESOURCES OR ENGAGE IN THE PRACTICES OF BUYING OR SELLING ARTIFACTS FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES OR ENGAGE IN THE WILLFUL DESTRUCTION OR DISTORTION OF ARCHEOLOGICAL DATA OR DISREGARD PROPER ARCHEOLOGICAL FIELD TECHNIQUES. I UNDERSTAND THAT FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES WILL PROVIDE GROUNDS FOR EXPULSION FROM THE SOCIETY.

Signature _____

Date _____