

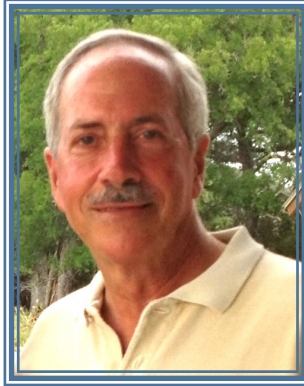


Tarrant County Archeological Society

President's Message

Welcome to 2017! I unfortunately had to miss the TCAS party last month so it seems like I didn't complete 2016 in an orderly fashion; a new year should not be occurring! From all reports, the party was a success with members and guests having lots of food, drinks, laughs and gifting. Our thanks to Paula Vastine for hosting the Christmas party again; I don't think I have ever attended the TCAS Holiday party anywhere else. Paula's hospitality is greatly appreciated.

It is going to be a busy year for our society and that starts this first week of the year with the 50th annual meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology. I know several of our members plan on attending or volunteering, so hope you too got to take advantage of this learning opportunity in downtown Fort Worth. January will also bring the chance to work at the Newberry cabin in Parker County. Watch the newsletters and emails for upcoming dates; we'll also have sign-up sheets at the monthly meetings. We currently have four excavation units set up on the north and south sides of the



Chris Meis, President

cabin that need to be finished and we will need to open other units surrounding the cabin. Survey work pin-pointing the well, out-house and out-buildings still needs to be completed, so come join us and help get this project finished by the end of 2017.

Don't forget to register for one of the upcoming TAS Academies. The Ceramics academy is going to be held at Fort Richardson in Jacksboro on February 25-26th, so let's make sure TCAS supports this event so close to home. The Technology Academy is scheduled for April 29-30th in Fredericksburg, Texas – always a fun place to visit. The TAS Academies are a great bargain and consistently taught by

top-notch instructors.

As you can see it will be a busy first quarter, and we haven't even discussed the 2017 TAS Annual Field School or the TAS Annual Meeting we are hosting!

Please take note of the contributors to TCAS listed in this newsletter. We have been very fortunate to have received these generous contributions to both the Memorial and General Funds. In the coming months we will be deciding how many and what types of scholarships to fund in 2017. Please encourage any deserving students you know to apply for one of the scholarships.

Our tradition of having great monthly speakers continues as Leah McCurdy will address our group at January's meeting. Dr. McCurdy's research has focused on the acropolis of Xunantunich, Belize, and her presentation will present 3D reconstructions of ancient Maya structures at Xunantunich. It is sure to be an interesting talk so hope to see you there on the 12th!

Thanks for being a TCAS member and supporter!

Upcoming Speakers

February 9: Larry Borne March 9: TBD April 13: Dr. Kat Brown May 11: Dr. Mary Brown

Connect with TCAS!

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/TCAS-Tarrant-County-ArcheologicalSociety>

Website: www.tarrantarch.org

Email: info@tarrantarch.org

Thanks to TCAS Memorial Scholarship Fund Donors

- Royce and Terry Baker, Shirley and Alan Garrett, Benny and Gena Roberts, Tom and Karen Bonjour, Houston Archeological Society, Mike Shannon, Dominick Cirincione, Ron and Brenda Jackson, Art Tawater, Dub Crook, Bonnie McKee, Paula Vastine, James and Susan Everett, Chris Meis, Ray and Joni Wallace, Reid Ferring, Dana Ritchie Parker, Jason Watts, Gen Freix, Ona B. Reed

Donor list provided by Dana Ritchie Parker

Thanks to all of you who donated to the TCAS Memorial Scholarship Fund! Because of your generosity, the scholarships for 2017 will be offered to support the TAS Academies, the TAS Field School, and the TAS Annual Meeting. The TCAS Application Form and the Eligibility Requirements are on the TCAS website, www.tarrantarch.org. Deadlines for submitting the Scholarship Application Form to TCAS for each event will also be on the website. Please encourage those eligible scholars to apply!

Welcome to new TCAS Members!

Welcome to our newest TCAS members, Jose R. Garcia and Estevan Gutierrez.

We're so glad that you have joined us!

Spread the word: THC offers Paid Diversity Internship

From the Friends of the THC: The Texas Historical Commission is now accepting applications for the 2017 Diversity Internship Program! We hope that you will inform any students, and/or student organizations you may be affiliated with, about the paid internship opportunity at the Texas Historical Commission (THC) for the summer of 2017. The deadline for applications and supporting documents is March 17, 2017. If selected, in-person or online interviews will be held April 17-21, 2017.

The THC created the Diversity Internship in Historic Preservation to build interest in, and awareness of, careers in historic preservation, specifically among students from underrepresented cultural, ethnic, and socio-economic groups. This initiative strives to encourage students' interests in the fields of history, preservation, architecture, archeology, downtown revitalization, and heritage tourism.

Working with THC staff, interns will learn about the impact that historic preservation programs can have on a community's economic development, and will gain exposure to various exciting vocational opportunities in the fields of historic preservation. The goal of the program is to increase the number of historic and cultural resources associated with the state's diverse cultural history, as well as to increase communication with diverse organizations and communities involved in the historic preservation field served by public and private preservation programs.

Complete information, including eligibility requirements and forms, is available at the following website: http://www.thcfriends.org/thc-diversity-internship.

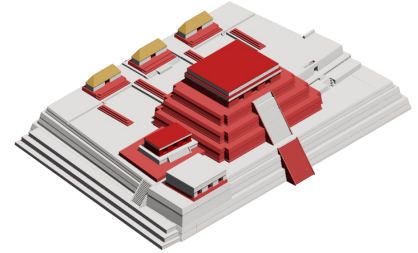
January Speaker: Dr. Leah M. McCurdy

The **TARRANT COUNTY ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (TCAS)** will welcome Dr. Leah M. McCurdy as the featured speaker for the January 12th meeting. Meetings are free and visitors are always welcome.

Leah received her PhD in Anthropology from The University of Texas at San Antonio in 2016. Leah has been conducting archaeological survey and excavations at the site of Xunantunich, Belize, since 2008. Her research has focused on the monumental acropolis of Xunantunich, known as El Castillo. Leah will be teaching archaeology at TCU and art history at UTA this spring.

Abstract: Reconstructing Ancient Maya Monumental Buildings for Archaeology and Community

Monumental buildings are the most prominent things that help us better understand ancient cultures. Such buildings never survive completely and often suffer a good deal of loss. We can use a variety of modern technologies, including CAD and 3D virtual reality, to reconstruct ancient buildings according to our best interpretations of appearance and function. These reconstructions can lead to insights about political organization or social relationships and serve as a springboard for new excavations to “fill in the gaps.” This presentation focuses on 3D virtual reconstructions of ancient Maya monumental structures at the site of Xunantunich, Belize. In addition, this presentation explores a community outreach project that developed out of creating virtual reconstructions of ancient Maya buildings.



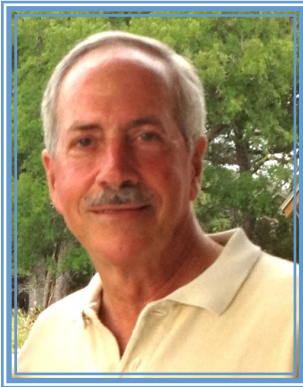
You will also get a sneak peek of a trilingual (English, Spanish, and Yucatec Maya) archaeologically-inspired children's book called *To the Mountain!* that incorporates visions of ancient buildings to help young Belizean kids better understand their cultural heritage.

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, Lewis Library Building, Room 101, in Fort Worth. The location is centrally located in Tarrant County near the intersection of Camp Bowie and Montgomery Street; about two miles west of downtown.

TCAS 2017-2018 Board Members

Who's who and what do they do? As a way to welcome our newer members, and because the Tarrant County Archeological Society (TCAS) has completed its election of officers to serve for the next two years, *it is time to introduce the TCAS members who serve as officers and comprise the Board of Directors.* This feature begins with this newsletter and will conclude in the next couple of newsletters.

Chris Meis, President



I graduated from Oklahoma State University but have been a Texan since 1973. A life-long interest in rock collecting led me to fossil collecting which led me to an interest in Archeology.

It was that first arrowhead I found in a river bed that motivated me to learn about prehistoric civilizations and to get involved with the Texas Archeological Society (TAS). I have been a member of TAS for 18 years and have been on the Field School Committee for the last several years, responsible for developing work crews. Through my involvement with TAS, I learned about the Tarrant County Archeological Society (TCAS), joining that regional society in 2009. I am entering my third year as the President of TCAS

and honored to serve such an active, involved society with many incredible professional and avocational archeologists. In 2014, I became an Archeology Steward for the Texas Historical Commission, representing the Central Texas area from our ranch near Evant, Texas.

Genevieve Friex, Internet Chair

Let me give you the condensed version on how I came to be in TCAS.

Going back many, many decades, I grew up on a dairy farm in northern Illinois and spent time walking the fields and creeks finding "arrowheads." In middle school I discovered Egyptology and was fascinated with mummies and pyramids.

Now fast forward thru college, many years of teaching special education, three wonderful daughters, and graduate school. I heard about Texas Archeological Society Field School at a teacher inservice.

That spring, I signed up for the Lubbock Lake Landmark Field School. It was hot, windy, dry, and my tent was next to a prairie dog town. After the first day orientation with E. Mott Davis and the second day in the Lab, I volunteered to join the transit survey team lead by Jerry Grubis, but that is another story.

I was clueless in so many ways, but I survived, joined TCAS and have worked with and learned from some incredible people over the last twenty-plus years.



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TCAS 2017-2018 Board Members

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James Everett, Historian



James Everett has been the TCAS Historian since January 2016. He first joined TCAS, The Texas Archeological Society and the Dallas Archeological Society in 1970. He has served as TCAS President and Vice-President. James has also served on the TAS Board, has been a TAS Regional Vice-President and Secretary of the Field School Committee, and is currently the Region 3 Director for TAS.

James received his Bachelor's Degree in Spanish from UTA and a Master's Degree in Spanish from Indiana University. After teaching Spanish at Dalhart and Dallas Highland Park, he had a 32-year career with the Social Security Administration.

In 2016, James completed a project in which he scanned all available TCAS newsletters into a digital format. He gave a digital copy of the newsletters, plus a paper copy of over 100 TCAS newsletters, to the Tarrant County Archivist and will update and add to that material every year in the future. For 2017, James has the following Historian projects:

- Collect the few newsletters that are still missing from the archives and make digital copies of them
Scan several TCAS Special Publications for which he has paper copies
Continue to assemble digital photos of TCAS members and projects to be added to the TCAS archives
Produce additional slide loops for informal showings at TCAS meetings.

Lloyd Erwin, Secretary

I was born and raised in Dallas. I attended the University of Texas at Arlington and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management. My wife, Charlene, and I met when we were both students and will celebrate our 48th wedding anniversary later this month. I retired from Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control in Grand Prairie after 28 years.

My father helped me develop an interest in archeology at a very young age. As a boy during the 1920's and '30's he acquired a diverse collection of tools and points from Gray County, Texas, where he grew up. He majored in paleontology, archeology, and geology at UT Austin. I was always fascinated with his explanations of the functionality of the artifacts.

I joined TAS in 2003 and attended my first Field School in Menard. There I met Bryan Jameson and Jay Hornsby, who both encouraged me to join the Tarrant County chapter of TAS. Each field school is always a new learning experience for me. I enjoy the comradery of the TCAS monthly meetings and find the speakers to be very interesting. I like the mutual learning experience. The past two years I have been privileged to serve as secretary on the TCAS board. I look forward to serving as secretary the next two years.



Looking back: Goodbye to 2016

Hubris, rumors, lies and finally, “post-truth”. No matter where we stand on the issues of the day, our words do define us. But finding an exact, precise definition for any word today sometimes takes one in pursuit of the mythological shapeshifters. Thanks to Mr. Dickens, who, although not technically an archeologist, preserved the past for future generations of readers, we remember that societies, both large and small, may have been here before.

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair... , we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way...”

Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities, Para.1, Line, 1)

Take comfort. Pet the dog. Head up, shoulders back. But as we leave, let’s celebrate the many pleasant, enjoyable and true moments for TCAS members in 2016 with a few of our favorite photos.



TCAS working the nitty-gritty, Smith Site, April 8th



Mike Shannon, the TAS Lithics Academy, Texas Panhandle April 30th -May 1st



Lloyd Erwin and Nick Cirincione, Mayborn Museum, Waco, August 27th

Ona B. Reed and Patti Hamilton, TAS Field School, Columbus, June 11th-18th



Glynn Osburn, Catrina Whitley and Tiffani Osburn with GSR equipment, Johnson Plantation Cemetery, Arlington, Nov. 13th

Thanks to all of the TCAS photographers for sharing these photos.



Dianne Tawater at the TCAS Christmas Party, Dec. 10th

Looking ahead: Register, go, discover, enjoy TOMFRA

The Texas Old Missions and Forts Restoration Association

"That their relics shall not be lost or their memories vanish in the mists of time"

Thanks to TCAS member Phil Williams for sharing this info about TOMFRA. TOMFRA is a statewide organization of historians and early architecture enthusiasts joined in preserving the mission and fort heritage of Texas. Its purpose is to encourage continued study of Texas missions and forts as well as to support the restoration of sites significant to the Texas frontier heritage. TOMFRA's emphasis on appropriating funds for education and preservation projects extends to its support of other organizations, agencies and individuals with similar aims.



The program for the Winter Meeting\luncheon on January 21st in Dallas will be presented by Peter Fix from the Texas A&M Center for Maritime Archaeology and Conservation. He was directly involved in the 18 year conservation effort on the La Belle hull and artifacts that are currently on display at the Bullock State History Museum. Luncheon registration is required and the cost is \$35 per person. All the details are available on the TOMFRA website at <http://www.tomfra.com/future-meetings.htm>

The registration and luncheon reservation deadline is January 9th.

Texas Archeology Academies 2017

Ceramics Academy, Fort Richardson, Jacksboro, Date: February 25-26, 2017

Registration Deadline: February 10, 2017

Technology in Archeology Academy, Fredricksburg, Date: April 29-30, 2017

Registration Deadline: April 14, 2017

Registration form and more info at:

<http://txarch.org/Activities/academy/aa2017/index.php>

Check out the TAS Student Scholarships at

<http://www.txarch.org/scholarships/diversity.php>



Mark your calendar: Visit the Perot Museum, Dallas

Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed **February 11–September 4**

<https://www.perotmuseum.org/explore-the-museum/traveling-exhibits/2017-maya/index.html>

Explore the social, natural, and spiritual realms of the Maya – past and present – known for their monumental architecture, distinctive art, and intricate knowledge of astronomy and time.

Behold secrets that lay hidden for centuries as you journey through an underworld cave, excavate an ancient burial site, and encounter the richness of Maya culture through hands-on explorations such as building arches, deciphering hieroglyphs, translating the Maya calendar, and more!

TCAS: Preserving the Past for the Future

TCAS BOARD

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

Cash: Give your cash and completed application to Lloyd Erwin at the monthly meetings.

January, 2017

TARRANT COUNTY ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (TCAS) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name(s) _____

Type of Membership and Fee

Address _____

New _____ Renewal _____

City\State\Zip _____

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

Preferred Phone _____

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

Email Address _____

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

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 _____