

# SOUTHEAST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

November 2019

Saturday, November 16

10:15 A.M.

Elliott Museum Theatre

## ***"Under our Feet, Under Water,"***

***How Archaeology is Addressing Climate Change***

*Presented By*

*April Watson*



April Watson Ph.D  
Lynn University

Archaeology is unique in the ability to consider not only past culture's responses to significant climatic changes, but also informing modern communities on how to be stewards of the land for the future. As of 2013 the state of Florida identified 16,015 historical resources to be impacted by a 1 meter rise in sea level. Additionally, 630 historic cemeteries are estimated to be at risk from storm surge (FPAN, 2017). We will examine how understanding past resilience to anthropogenic and natural climate change informs current communities' ability to respond to climate change and sea level rise.

## Biography

April Watson completed both her undergraduate degree and her Master's degree in anthropology with a focus in archaeology. Watson's undergraduate research centered on south Florida prehistoric mound sites, particularly looking at the use of ceramics and shell tools. Her graduate studies focused on the coast of Cuba, where she created a predictive model of prehistoric archaeological sites. This involved extensive use of geographic information systems tools, including ArcMap and remote sensing applications. She also conducted analysis of artifacts recovered from the Guantanamo Bay area, including pottery shards and lithic artifacts. After graduating, Dr. Watson worked throughout the Southeastern United States in cultural resources management as a Staff Archaeologist for an environmental engineering firm.

Watson finished her graduate education with a PhD in Geosciences from Florida Atlantic University. She continued her experiences with mapping and landscape analysis as well as her focus on the relationship between humans and their environment. She utilized trend analysis to explore landscape usage, as well as explored economic trends via social network analysis. Throughout her graduate studies, she worked as a teaching assistant, then as an Adjunct Professor at Florida Atlantic University and Broward College. She currently serves as the secretary for the Florida Archaeological Council, and works in conjunction with federal agencies in the area of archaeological and historical preservation.

Watson's current research interest include prehistoric ceramics' usage, landscape utilization by past and present peoples of the Southeastern United States, environmental sustainability, GIS based map inquires, and mathematical modeling of human/environmental spatial relationships.

## 2019-2020 SEFAS Speakers

January 18th  
Andrew Schneider , FAU

February 15th  
Josh Liller, Jupiter Inlet Light-  
house and Museum

March  
Emma Dietrich, FPAN

April 19th  
Ryan Harke, USF and Sally  
McKeige Research Award  
Recipient

## Coming Events

### Paddle Through History Tour

Nov 15 presented by FPAN  
8:30-10:30 a.m.

Contact Katie Higgins for more  
information  
katieh407@gmail.com

### Cemetery Cleanup

Dec 7 Hobe Sound Allen Temple  
Cemetery Winter Cleanup  
9 a.m. -12 p.m.

## Board Members

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## Mission

The Southeast Florida Archaeological Society "SEFAS" is dedicated to: the greater understanding of archaeology, the protection and preservation of Florida's archaeological resources and the information they contain, and the encouragement and support of archaeological research, publication and education. One very important part of the SEFAS mission to raise public awareness of archaeological resources and to disseminate information to the public on archaeology and anthropology through lectures, special events and other related activities.

SEFAS works with professional and amateur archaeologists and participates in the rescue of cultural materials from sites being disturbed or destroyed, assisting in the identification, documentation and preservation of archaeological sites in Southeast Florida.



Website [www.sefas.org](http://www.sefas.org)

Email [info@sefas.org](mailto:info@sefas.org)

## Reminder SEFAS Membership Dues

The dues we receive help underwrite lectures, brochures, educational materials, special events and other related activities.

### ***Not a Member?***

Please consider joining.  
We look forward  
to seeing you  
at the next meeting!