

# The PROFILE

Texas Archeological Society-www.txarch.org

February 2005

**FEBRUARY MEETING: The Xibun Valley in Belize, Rebecca Storey, PhD, Associate Professor of Anthropology, U of H, February, 11, 2005.**

March presentation by Carol McDavid, PhD.

“Pragmatism, Politics, Descendants & Communities: Public Archeology Today.”

Anyone wishing to present should contact Muriel Walker at 281-392-7504.

**LABORATORY SCHEDULE:**

Mondays, February 14 & 28, 7:00 p.m. Rice University Archeology Lab, Sewall Hall, Room 103.

**HAS LIBRARY:** Library hours are 6:00 p.m. to 7:20 p.m., Friday, February 11.

**PRESIDENT’S COLUMN:**

This month’s column is all about membership. First, let’s give a final round of applause of all the new members who joined us in the past 12 months. The group includes Sabrina Ceballos, James Foley, Jeannine Garnett, Larry Golden, Sara Guillotte, Vasta Kumar, Jose Loredo, Jr., Stephanie Malone, Jennifer Morehead, Joanna Mundy, Irene and G. Perez, Terrell and Cat Sword, and Fanethia Cox Todd. Welcome!

Veteran members, if you haven’t met these folks yet, please seek them out at the next opportunity and get to know them.

In addition, it’s time to re-up for 2005. The Houston Archeological Society needs you, so please don’t get left off the membership rolls by neglecting to renew on time! OR just bring your renewal to our Secretary, Karen Acker, at the February meeting.

Finally, we need to continue recruiting new members in 2005. Everyone should bring friends, distant relatives, and anybody you know with an interest in archeology to our meetings. The February meeting is a good time to do this, because renowned archeologist Dr. Rebecca Storey will be sharing a fascinating glimpse of her work in Belize. See you there!

Linda Swift, President

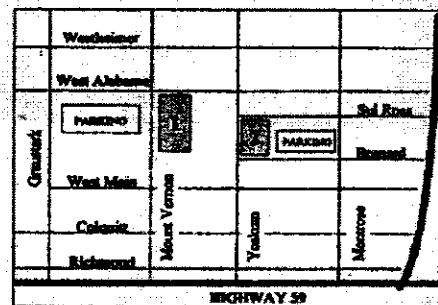
**MARK YOUR CALENDER!**

- Jesse Jones Heritage Day, Saturday, February 19, 2005, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. We need volunteers! Contact Beth Aucoin.
- San Jacinto Day Festival & Battle Reenactment, Saturday, April 23, 2005, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Volunteers needed, contact Beth Aucoin, [ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net](mailto:ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net), or 281-480-6151.

**NEED TO FIND US?** Compliments of Fred Kelly:

**LOCATION MAP**

1. **M. D. Anderson Hall**  
3900 Mount Vernon  
University of St. Thomas
2. **McAgy Archaeology Library**  
3907 Yoakum  
University of St. Thomas



**Articles Needed!** *The Profile* looks a little bare sometimes. If you’ve read a good book, seen a show, attended a lecture, or taken a trip that refers to Archeology, please consider writing a paragraph of two and submitting it to me for publication. We have enough members that surely an audience can be found for any interest.

Mary Barbara Gold, Editor, [mary.gold@humble.k12.tx.us](mailto:mary.gold@humble.k12.tx.us)

## HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING MINUTES, January 14, 2005

Linda Swift, HAS President, called the January meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., welcomed the guests and new members, then detailed the meeting's agenda.

### Announcements:

- Thanks to Bob Shelby and Wanda Carter for providing refreshments.
- Someone is needed to take over refreshment duties. No one volunteered.
- "A Chemist Wanders into Archeology", a presentation sponsored by the Friends of Archeology, is scheduled for January 17, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Thomas University.
- The Texas Historical Commission annual conference is April 16 and 17, in Austin.
- Fieldwork continues at San Felipe. Help is always needed.
- Diane Baird was introduced as the new HAS Librarian. She requested overdue books be returned.

Muriel Walker introduced the night's speaker, HAS member Fred Kelly, for his slide presentation of Greek and Roman antiquities of Libya, circa 1960.

The business meeting began after the refreshment break, with 17 members in attendance.

- The minutes of the December meeting were approved.
- The Treasurer will now report on the HAS finances quarterly. The Treasurer reported an ending balance for all accounts at \$13,157.56.
- Fieldwork has no sites to investigate; work with Marianne at San Felipe continues. A mini-field school is scheduled for April.
- The lab is cataloging Galveston artifacts on the usual schedule.
- Linda asked for someone to organize a calling tree. Diane Baird volunteered.
- Fred Kelly reported no changes in the publicity campaign.
- Librarian Diane Baird will organize a semi-annual book sale.
- Linda Swift and Karen Acker reviewed the FY 2005 budget, and previous years expenses and incomes. The 2005 budget showed a net loss, emphasizing the need for new members.

Submitted by Richard Carter for Tom Nuckols

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### Notes on the Xibun Valley Lecture:

The Xibun valley is not likely to be very well known by anyone. It is in Central Belize and the Xibun is a major river. The archaeological project is run by Patricia McAnay of Boston University and is a multi-year effort to understand this area during the Late Classic Period (c.600 – 900 AD). Much of the area was pretty well abandoned after the Late Classic until Colonial times. Of interest is that this was a prime cacao growing area. One of the sites is called the Hershey site after the company which grew chocolate there until 10 – 15 years ago; it is believed that the Maya were growing cacao as a "cash crop" here as well. The lecture will focus on evidence of a very elaborate mortuary ritual present at the site of Pakal Na, further evidence of the area's probable chocolate wealth.

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### Lifespan of Civilizations Diminishing:

Michael Shermer, writing in *Scientific American* magazine as "Skeptic", compiled the life span of 60 past civilizations, including Sumeria, Mesopotamia, Babylonia, the eight dynasties of Egypt, the six civilizations of Greece, the Roman Republic and Empire, and others of the ancient world, plus various civilizations since the fall of Rome, such as nine dynasties (and two republics) of China, four in Africa, six in Central and South America, and six modern states of Europe and America. These civilizations endured a total of 25,234 years, according to Shermer, which averages out to 420.6 years per civilization. However, the 28 civilizations since the fall of Rome only average 304.5 years each. Schermer wonders if our species is not equipped to survive for long periods in large populations.

Fred Kelly, [fwkelly@aol.com](mailto:fwkelly@aol.com)

**ATTENTION ALL HAS MEMBERS: The annual membership drive is underway. Please fill out the form and send it with your dues.**

**2005 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL**

Houston Archeological Society, P O Box 6751, Houston, TX 77265-6751

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership (please circle one)      Individual - \$20.00      Contributing - \$30.00 +  
Family - \$25.00      Student - \$10.00

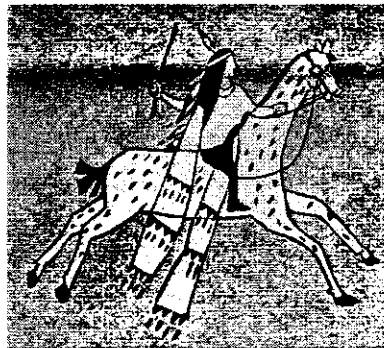
**ALL MEMBERS MUST SIGN THE FOLLOWING PLEDGE:**

**I pledge that I will not intentionally violate the terms and conditions of any present or future federal, state, or local statute concerning cultural resources, or engage in the practice 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.**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Texas Heritage Day Celebration:**

Saturday, February 19, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Jesse H Jones Park & Nature Center, 20634 Kenswick Dr, Humble. Members will participate in flintknapping demonstrations, assist with a mock dig, and staff archeological displays while visitors make their way to the Redbud Hill Homestead and the Akokisa Indian Village. This is a very popular annual event. If you can help, contact Beth Aucoin, [ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net](mailto:ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net), or 281-4870-6151. For additional park information call 281-446-8588 or [www.cp4.hctx.net/jones](http://www.cp4.hctx.net/jones).



To submit articles to The Profile, contact Mary Barbara Gold, 3303 Big Spruce, Kingwood, TX 77339, 281-360-5226, or [mary.gold@humble.k12.tx.us](mailto:mary.gold@humble.k12.tx.us).

**Submit articles no later than February 28, 2005, for the March edition.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON H.A.S., CONTACT THE FOLLOWING:**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Linda Swift, President, [linda.swift@centerpointenergy.com](mailto:linda.swift@centerpointenergy.com) Fred Kelly, Director-at-Large, [fwkelly@aol.com](mailto:fwkelly@aol.com)  
Muriel Walker, Vice President, [murielwalk@earthlink.net](mailto:murielwalk@earthlink.net) Beth Aucoin, Director-at-Large, [ekpi.aucoin@prodigy.net](mailto:ekpi.aucoin@prodigy.net)  
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**TAS**

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The Profile

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