



The PROFILE

October 2006

Dirk Van Tuerenhout to Discuss Human Origins

Throughout the ages, human beings have been drawn to answer questions such as “Who are we?” and “Where do we come from?” At the October 13th, 2006 HAS meeting, Dr. Dirk Van Tuerenhout, Curator of Anthropology at the Houston Museum of Natural Science reviews how information coming from the fossil record, genetics and primate studies has helped us understand one of nature’s most enigmatic subjects: us.

As Curator of Anthropology for the HMNS, Dr. Van Tuerenhout is responsible for the museum’s collections and exhibits dealing with human culture. Ranging from prehistoric stone hand axes to modern American Indian pottery, the museum’s anthropology collection boasts over 50,000 artifacts.

Dr. Van Tuerenhout works on the museum’s permanent anthropology halls, dedicated to Egyptian funerary customs and American Indian cultures. He is also involved in any anthropology-related exhibits that come to the museum. In addition to these exhibits, Dr. Van Tuerenhout is also responsible for the maintenance and growth of the anthropology collections.

Educated at the University of Leuven in Belgium and Tulane University in New Orleans, Dr. Van Tuerenhout holds M.A. degrees in Ancient History, Art History and Archeology, and a Ph.D. in Anthropology. During the course of his career he has done fieldwork at Maya sites in Belize and Guatemala, and has taught at Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania.

As always, the October 13 meeting will be held in Anderson Hall on the quadrangle of the University of St. Thomas, at 7:30pm. For a detailed map, visit the HAS web site at www.houstonarcheology.org.



Dirk Van Tuerenhout, Ph.D.

November 10, 2006 Program: Rock Art of Hueco Tanks, presented by Ron Ralph. Anyone wishing to deliver a presentation at a future meeting should contact Michael Bailey at m Bailey@beamans.com

Lake Jackson Book Now Available

Sugar, Planters, Slaves and Convicts: The History and Archaeology of the Lake Jackson Plantation in Brazoria County Texas, by Joan Few, is now available at www.amazon.com; Price \$13.60. Book description from Amazon: “(This book)... is about the first industry in Texas, sugar; the remarkable Jackson family who built one of the largest sugar empires in Texas; the slaves, whose labor and knowledge produced the sugar; and the convicts that replaced them after the Civil War. A pod cast with lectures on each chapter and additional photographs, serves as a companion to this book.” A copy has been purchased for the library; check for availability. —*Beth Aucoin*

New, Exciting Project for 2007

Today I'm excited about the prospect of participating in a new educational adventure with the Houston Independent School District (HISD) and the Houston chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA). Now that we have had a couple of planning meetings, we know a lot more about the project.

AIA has proposed to HISD that all third-grade classes in the school district go through an "archeological awareness" unit of studies, culminating in a field trip to a "dig". AIA is developing the study materials and exercises, and HAS will develop the dig. We will start with a pilot program for third grade classes in two elementary schools in the spring of 2007. More schools will be added in succeeding years. The plan is for AIA and HAS to train HISD school teachers to conduct the program and be self-sufficient after the first two years.

We are in the preliminary stages of planning for this project, but we know we will need some hands-on experiences for the kids, in addition to digging in the dirt. We believe a mock dig will meet the requirements better than an actual archeological site excavation, and we know we will need a training session for the teachers as well. There are many other items on the "To-Do" List, and we'll report on progress as we create the detailed plan.

Fortunately, now that we understand the goals and requirements, we can see that much of the expertise Beth Aucoin's Outreach group has acquired in creating our Festival booth can be drawn upon for the HISD program. Also fortunately, AIA has budgeted funds for our part of this effort, so there should be no expense to HAS. What we need more than anything is HAS members' participation in planning, building, and conducting our part of the program. I hope this brief description will stir up interest in helping with this project. Just talk with Diane Baird, Beth Aucoin, or me, and we'll be glad to give you more details and sign you up! -- *Linda Swift*

HOUSTON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 8, 2006

Linda Swift, HAS President, called the September meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., with 35 people in attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Annual business meeting tonight, with the election of officers and Board members for the upcoming year.
 - Lab on Monday, September 11 and Monday, September 25.
 - The 77th Annual TAS meeting will be October 20-22, 2006 at the San Angelo Inn and Convention Center.
 - The Father of Texas Celebration at San Felipe will be held November 3rd and 4th. Volunteers are needed.
 - November is awards month. A special friend of the HAS will be honored.
 - Volunteers are needed in October to help teach a Boy Scout Troop at an archaeological dig. One volunteer is needed for every two boys. The San Felipe de Austin site is a possibility. Contact Diane Baird if interested.
- After the program, there was a refreshment break followed by the business meeting with 23 people in attendance.

BUSINESS MEETING

- The following HAS Officer Candidates were voted on and unanimously approved by the membership.

President	Linda Swift		
Vice President	Michael Bailey	Director-at-Large	Diane Baird
Treasurer	Karen Acker	Director-at-Large	Richard Carter
Secretary	Tom Nuckols	Director-at-Large	Kathleen Barry
- Lenore Psencik and Kathleen Barry were thanked for providing refreshments.
- Treasurer Karen Acker reported that HAS has 16 new members. 19 members have not renewed.
- Editor Sara Guillote stated that September 30th is the deadline for submitting articles for the Profile.
- Editor Dick Gregg said that the 2005 issue of the Journal is completed. The 2006 issue is in progress.
- A long time member of the HAS has offered to donate a large collection of books about the Maya to the library. Diane Baird said that HAS will need to make a decision on the collection.
- Mary LeBlanc thanked Wilson Crook for teaching a course in archaeology at N. Harris Community College.
- Beth Aucoin reported the Sycamore Grove artifacts are being processed and the Powell Site report is in progress.
- Field Director Sheldon Kindall stated the search for Champ d'Asile will continue when the weather cools. Possible upcoming projects are the Hardin Site or the Fort Teran survey.
- There is a meeting scheduled in October with the AIA on the status of a joint Archeology Awareness project.
- The HAS needs an Education Liaison committee to handle requests coming in (Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, etc) to teach classes and field techniques in archeology. Diane Baird volunteered to serve on the committee.

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Submitted by Tom Nuckols, Secretary

The Month of October

October gets its name from the Latin word “octo,” meaning it was the “eighth” month of the Roman calendar, until a month less winter period was later divided into January and February, making October the tenth month. For the ancient Romans, October was the time to complete the harvesting of the grapes and olives and the making of the wine. October was also the month that ended Roman military campaigns as the soldiers returned to their homes and farms to get ready for winter. This month was also considered a magical time, when the two worlds



The Goddess Isis, wall painting, ca. 1360

of the living and the dead overlapped. It was a time of emptiness, when dark spirits roamed the earth. [Our modern equivalent is the month of Halloween and the Day of the Dead.] October was the time to examine your faith and spirituality as October leads to the darkest months. However, for the ancient Romans, their divine feminine goddess, known variously as Venus, Diana, Juno and Queen Isis, always gave them assurance that life and the crops would be reborn in the coming year.

—Fred Kelly

Upcoming Events

Mark Your Calendars! Father of Texas Celebration at San Felipe: Friday & Saturday, November 3-4, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.: Volunteers needed for both days, 4 hour shifts; sign-up sheet at the meeting. Contact Beth Aucoin (281) 480-6151 or ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net. **GOT ACORNS?** Acorns needed for an activity at the Father of Texas Celebration. Please bring them to the meeting. Thanks. —Beth Aucoin

HAS Merit Award: An HAS Merit Award will be presented at the October 13th HAS meeting. —Lee Patterson

“Sea of Mud (Mar de Lodo)” artifacts from Wharton County are currently on exhibit at the Alamo Museum Book Store in San Antonio. Other artifacts on display are from excavations at the Alamo.

Native Peoples of the South Texas Plains, is a new online exhibit set on *Texas Beyond History*. The new educational exhibits summarize and exemplify the archeological and ethno historical record of the native

peoples of the region, from over 13,300 years ago in Paleo-Indian times to Early Historic times. Visit the site at www.texasbeyondhistory.net/st-plains.

Leisure Learning Unlimited is offering two archeology courses in December, taught by **Robert Marcom**, author of *Digging Up Texas*. For information see www.llu.com

“A Resonating Past: Archaeology and Today’s Yemen” lecture by Dr. Thomas B. Stevenson of the University of Ohio-Zanesville will be held on Thursday, November 16, at 7:00PM. Archeological Institute of America, Sewell Hall, Rice University.

HAS LIBRARY: Open on Friday, October 13, from 6:30pm to 7:20pm, 3907 Yoakum Blvd.

LABORATORY SCHEDULE: Monday, October 16 & 30 at 7:00 p.m.; Sewall Hall, Room 103, Rice University.

New HAS Board Takes Office



Members of the 2006-07 HAS Board of Directors were elected at the September meeting.

Pictured here on election night are members of the incoming Board. Left to Right: Richard Carter, Director; Linda Swift, President; Kathleen Barry, Director; Diane Baird, Director; Karen Acker, Treasurer, Tom Nuckols, Secretary; Michael Bailey, Vice President.

Kudos and many thanks to outgoing Director Fred Kelly for his three years of service on the Board.

HAS Begins Excavations for 2006-07

The HAS is starting an exploratory excavation on the edge of the Trinity River at a spot which might be the location of a lost French Fort known as Champ d'Asile. This is a fortification that was, and still is, a major item in French history. A lot of research has gone



into finding this location and there is evidence of a significant fire – the Spanish completely burned the fort. We will excavate on Saturdays only. The plan is to meet at the

McDonalds in Liberty in time to leave for the site by 9:00 AM. HAS members and friends are invited to participate. We will work from shortly after 9:00 AM until about 1:00 PM on most Saturdays, but because of the unusually large number of projects starting this fall, there will be some Saturdays that we will not work. So, unless you were there the previous Saturday, call Sheldon Kindall at 281-326-2160 to see if we will be working that weekend.

Liberty has only one McDonalds. It is on the left side of highway 90 going east, at a traffic light. -
Sheldon Kindall

**Please submit articles for publication to Sara Guillote, sguillote@hotmail.com
Submit articles no later than October 30th for the November issue.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ARCHEOLOGY IN THIS AREA, CONTACT THE FOLLOWING:

HAS BOARD MEMBERS

Linda Swift, President, swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net

Michael Bailey, Vice President, mbailey@beamans.com

Karen Acker, Treasurer, tkacker@aol.com

Tom Nuckols, Secretary, annesullivan@andrewskurth.com

Fred Kelly, Director-at-Large, fwkelly@aol.com

Diane Baird, Director-at-Large, diba1952@yahoo.com

Richard Carter, Director-at-Large,

richardandwanda@sbcglobal.net

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION STEWARDS

Elizabeth & Pat Aucoin, ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net

Sheldon Kindall, kindall1@peoplepc.com

Bev Mendenhall, bmend2@yahoo.com

R. L. Gregg, rlgregg@worldnet.att.net

Marilyn & Walter Horton, wmh@houston.rr.com

Bob Crosser, 281-341-5251

Don Keyes, keyes_don@hotmail.com

J. D. Hudgins, manso@jdhudgins.com

Sandra & Johnny Pollan, pollanone@sbcglobal.net

Sandra Rogers, sojourne@consolidated.net

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Pat Mercado-Allinger, pat.Mercado-allinger@thc.state.tx.us

Jeff Durst, jeff.durst@thc.state.tx.us

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Beth Aucoin, Region V Director, ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net

Pam Wheat, Executive Director, pwheat@vmlplus.com

Glynn Osburn, President, gosburn@comcast.net

Web Site: www.txarch.org

The Profile

Houston Archeological Society

P O Box 6751

Houston, TX 77265-6751

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