



Forensic Artist Amanda Danning to Speak at November Meeting

Forensic artist Amanda Danning will present a program on her 3-D facial reconstruction projects and the science and art of facial reconstruction, on Thursday, Nov. 18 at 7:00 pm in Anderson Hall at the University of St. Thomas. She will particularly concentrate on a face created from a mold cast from skeletal remains believed to be 10,000 years old that were found in Bosque County, Texas.

The back story on this project is as follows: The 10,000-year-old remains of a man and juvenile girl were found in an alluvium-filled cave along the Brazos River near Clifton, Texas, in July of 1970 by Albert Redder and Frank Watt. The amateur archeologists meticulously recorded the discovery, which contributed significantly to the current theories on the earliest habitation of the Americas. The burial was elaborate, with numerous ceremonial artifacts found in the grave.

Amanda Danning was commissioned to do a facial reconstruction of the man's skull. As the reconstruction progressed, Ms. Danning conferred with Dr. Doug Owsley, who is head of the physical anthropology department of the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum. It became readily apparent that



the face did not resemble the face of a Native American, a fact that has caused considerable speculation.

With over 20 years of professional experience and an advanced degree in sculpture, Amanda Danning (left) has extensive experience in the museum industry. Besides serving as a director of exhibits, she has individually contributed over 100 pieces of artwork (including paintings, drawings and sculptures) to over 30 museums across the country. For the past several years, Amanda has gained national recognition as a forensic sculptor. She has been commissioned by and worked with the Smithsonian Institute. Her facial reconstructions of two members of the original Jamestown settlement are currently on display at the Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. She has also recently completed two reconstructions of Buffalo Soldiers recovered from looted graves at Fort Craig Cemetery in New Mexico. Among her other notable works are reconstructions of two "Paleo-Americans" dated at over 10,000 years old. She lives with her husband in Columbus, Texas.

Minutes of the HAS Meeting October 21, 2010

The October 21 meeting of the Houston Archeological Society was held at the Doherty Library at University of St. Thomas. President Charlie Gordy opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and reminding all of the sign-in sheet. He brought attention to the publication table for copies of the Calendar of Events for TAM programs for October given throughout the state. Charlie thanked those providing refreshments for this meeting (Roy Whitney, Lucia Bonno and Charlie Gordy).

Charlie introduced the speaker, Mr. Flem Rogers, a nationally recognized gun historian, who presented a program on "How the Confederacy Armed Itself." Mr. Rogers brought a large display of the weapons, including bayonets, for members to review.

Minutes were approved as read. The November 18 meeting will be in Anderson Hall, Building 20, Room 103, at 7:00 pm. Motion made to adjourn by Beth Aucoin, seconded by Diane Baird.

--Phyllis Bradley, Secretary



President's Message

REMINDER: THIS MONTHS MEETING will be *Thursday, November 18, 2010; 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm. We will be back in UST's Anderson Hall, Bldg. 20, Room 103.*

TO ALL OUR HAS MEMBERS: Our annual dues are due December 31, 2010. Once again near membership renewal time, on behalf of the HAS Board of Directors, I thank you for your membership and participation in The Houston Archeological Society. We have had an active and successful past year, and the new 2011 year looks to be

even more so. Our members have been active participants in the Bernardo Plantation Archaeological Project (41WL28), and we are fortunate to have a project of this importance conveniently located just a few miles northwest of Houston. Bernardo promises to be a long-lasting project, and as a member of HAS, you are practically guaranteed the opportunity to satisfy your desire for field experience. We have also completed the report on the Elizabeth Powell site (41FB269), and it is currently being edited for publication. Still ongoing is the search for the elusive French fort, Champs d'Asile, in Liberty County led by member and T.H.C. steward, Sheldon Kendall, as field director. Not only have we been busy with archeology in the field, but we have had some outstanding programs arranged by our Vice President, Michael Bailey, who is curator of the Brazoria County Museum.

On the business side, about two months ago we introduced our H.A.S. Facebook page. Our page is gradually growing with member and "friends" participation. It is already adding a new dimension to our ability to reach the public as well as give our members more current breaking HAS news, a forum for discussions and the latest photographs of field work. We are also anxious to see the potential donation income H.A.S. will receive through the We-Care on-line shopping mall program which we implemented in September.

The year has not been without problems, however. The Society had to find a new meeting home for the second time in a year. This problem arose with very little warning but was quickly handled by our Board of Directors with minimum disruption to our society. We are now happy to say that we have relocated on the campus of St. Thomas University here in Houston, although our meeting room may change from time-to-time. Our lab still remains at Rice University.

Included in this newsletter is a membership renewal form. If you decide to renew (and we hope you do), please complete the membership application, sign the Ethics Pledge, remit it with your dues amount, and forward to The Houston Archeological Society at the address indicated on the form before December 31, 2010. Right above the signature line is the opportunity to authorize HAS to invite you to join our Facebook page. Just check the box indicating your wishes and we will do the rest.

Once again, your membership and participation in HAS is appreciated.

IT WAS SOMETHING NOT TO MISS: If you missed our Texas Archeology Month program last month, "How the Confederacy Armed Itself," presented by Flem Rogers, then "shame on you". Flem gave an excellent presentation of historical Civil War (or the War of Northern Aggression---if you prefer) events with historical fact and some added humor. An exhibit of authentic rifles, pistols, and swords were the best you will ever see outside of a museum. The exhibit also included a collection of belts, buckles, and buttons. Of special interest were two of the only three pistols known to exist made by the Dance Brothers. During the war, the Dance Brothers began making guns in East Columbia, Texas. Flem Rogers now owns the site of the Dance Brothers Gun Factory (41BO174). Another interesting item was a sword that was captured at Gettysburg during Pickett's Charge. It was engraved to the fact shortly after its capture. We also wish to thank Chief Bissett, Sgt. Dear, and the other fine officers of the University of St. Thomas security force for their cooperation and assistance in helping us with the display of weapons. --Charlie Gordy, President

November-December Lab Nights

Lab will be held on Nov. 15 & 29, and Dec. 13 (only date in December). All labs meet from 7:00-9:00 pm in Room 103, Sewell Hall, Rice University. Our current project is documenting two collections from a pre-historic coastal-margin shell midden site. **Reminder:** A credit card is necessary to access the parking lot near Sewall Hall. For a map, check www.houstonarcheology.org. --Beth Aucoin

Bernardo Project: Field Report for October 30 & 31, 2010

According to Charlie Gordy, "Archeology field work on the Bernardo Plantation project for October was complemented by terrific weather, a great team of volunteers, and a wonderful professional staff...Currently there is no more field work scheduled. Just stay tuned." In addition, Charlie sent out the latest progress report by Robert Marcom, Principal Investigator. Robert's report is too lengthy to reprint in its entirety, but here is an edited version:

"The project hosted an open house on Saturday with approximately 40 people from the general public; the Legacy Lend Trust board; and faculty, staff and students from the Cy-Fair Campus of the Lone Star College system. Later in the day Greg Brown, land owner and General Manager of Channel 55 in Houston, had a crew film interviews with Jim Bruseth, Scotty Moore and me (Robert Marcom).

"We opened a series of 1 ft. x 1 ft. test units across the area behind the main house. We located two 3 ft. x 3 ft. units over anomalous magnetometer signals. The results produced in the two units were mixed. We excavated down to the clay and did not find a feature. Metal, including nails and two cartridges were recovered in Level 2, 0.5 ft. to 1 ft. below ground surface. Either we missed the location of the signal, or the nails and other metal produced the signal. We did recover a .45 cal rim fire cartridge and a .22 cal hornet cartridge, along with the neck and rim of a small medicine-type bottle.

"The units behind the hospitality tent were more productive. We found a feature which I currently interpret as a partial foundation for a structure.

Sandstone rubble was apparent in Level 1 of the central unit. Levels 1 & 2 produced a high density of artifacts including square nails, early ceramics, bottle fragments and a large volume of sandstone rubble of the type seen in the main house chimney foundation. Several large, flat (apparently dressed) pieces of sandstone were found on the northern third of the unit exactly oriented to the grid running east/west across the unit at the base of level three. We then excavated the unit to the north. That unit produced large and small animal bone, including a massive mandible that is thought to be from a bear. We also recovered a chert blade about 3 inches long, well formed but with cortex along one margin. It was unearthed in a vertical orientation indicating that it was not in primary deposition.

"We certainly have evidence for some sort of structure. The artifacts will tell us more about which way the building was oriented, but at the moment I think the inside is south of the sandstone, and the outside is to the north of it. I'll try to get artifact counts, classes and types sorted out soon.

"We had some interesting results from the 1 ft. x 1 ft. subunits we excavated behind the main house. Exactly opposite the clay pad found in the 3 x 3 ft. unit and 6 feet to the west, we found that clay again at the same level. Three feet to the south of that 1 x 1 we encountered river sand that extended at least 2 feet deep, similar to the sand which suggested a wall trench. There is clearly something there that needs to be uncovered.

"It was a great weekend of fieldwork that brought many more questions than it answered."

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Houston Archeological Society, P. O. Box 130631, Houston, TX 77219-0631

Please complete this form and mail it, with your check for the correct amount, to the above address.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ (home) _____ (work) e-mail: _____

Type of membership: ___New ___Renewal Please circle one: Student (\$10/year) Single (\$20/year)
Family (\$25/year) Contributing (\$30+/year)

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.

I DO I DO NOT authorize HAS to invite me by e-mail to join the HAS Facebook page as a "friend".

Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

Upcoming Archeology Events

Wednesday, Nov. 17, 4:00 pm: The Friends of Archaeology will gather at the Houston Museum of Natural Science for a tour of the Exhibit, "Real Pirates: The Untold Story of the Whydah from Slave Ship to Pirate Ship," followed by Dutch treat dinner at Good Company Seafood. Please arrive by 3:30 to purchase your ticket: Adults \$25, Seniors \$18, Children \$18. Reservations requested. Contact Jeanette Siciliano at JnetteB@aol.com (preferred) or 713-898-0960. For info + menu and directions to Goode Company Seafood located at 2621 Westpark Dr., 713-523-7154, or go to: www.goodecompany.com.

Houston chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America presents a free series of lectures titled "Voyages of the Middle Passage - Africa, the Americas, and Slavery," at the Houston Museum of African-American Culture, 4807 Caroline, with presentations on three dates:

- **Wednesday, November 17, 7:00 pm** – "The Door of No Return," by Dr. Christopher DeCorse of Syracuse University. The story of the first European slave castle in Ghana, where 30,000 slaves passed through the door of no return on their way to life in the Americas.
- **Thursday, November 18, 7:00 pm** – "A Slave Ship Speaks: The Henrietta Marie," by Professor David Moore, North Carolina Museum of Nautical Archaeology. The oldest slave ship ever excavated has yielded a multitude of artifacts that tell a haunting story of the trans-Atlantic slave trade.
- **Sunday, November 21, 3:00 pm** – "Looking Back, a Legacy of Belief," by Dr Ken Brown, University of Houston. This lecture will focus on transformations in religious and spiritual practices from Africa to America over more than 200 years, based on archaeological investigations into slave quarters at 4 plantation sites.

Please submit articles for publication to *Profile* Editor Linda Swift at swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net.
Submit articles no later than November 26 for the December 2010 issue.

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

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