Greetings from your ACUA Graduate Student Liaisons!

To our fellow students: we hope you were able to attend SHA 2018 in New Orleans a few months ago. There were a multitude of presentations, networking opportunities and culture surrounding the conference! Everyone else: thank you for checking out our Student Newsletter!

We are always looking to highlight student research and projects! Simply email grad-rep@acuaonline.org. We will be more than happy to share your photos and stories on the ACUA Facebook and Instagram. Hope to hear from you soon!

This year’s ACUA Student Panel “Underwater Archaeology Skills, Training, and Opportunities in U.S. Colleges: The 2017 ACUA University Benchmarking Survey” was a successful discussion with the participating universities and colleges with maritime/underwater archaeology programs. The questions asked in this open forum focused on the different training styles and opportunities that universities and colleges had to offer to students—ranging from thesis/dissertation help, field school supervisory experience, diving certifications, lengths of programs, internship opportunities, and networking. There was also discussion of reaching out to other students and professors in specialty fields at other colleges if no one at your specific university had the same research interests. With such an intimate career field, networking with students, colleagues, and professors is important and allows for the opportunity to share research and data, so as to keep everyone on the cutting edge of research. —Keilani Jordan, ACUA Grad Rep
During the summer of 2017, the Fort Saint-Jean Museum appointed the archaeologists of the Institut de Recherche en Histoire Maritime et Archéologie Subaquatique (IRHMAS) to continue an underwater survey that started in 2016. The survey zone was located in the Richelieu River, Canada near the historical Fort Saint-Jean, now the site of the Royal Military College of Saint-Jean.

The Fort Saint-Jean has a long history related to the development of the European colonization of the Richelieu River in Quebec, and Canada. After their first fort, built in 1666, was destroyed in 1672, the French established a second fort in 1756 with a shipyard to build schooners and chebecs. A third fort was established in 1775 by English forces during the American Revolutionary War. They subsequently built a second shipyard to provide warships designed specifically for inland waterways, which were used in battle the following year. In addition to the shipyards, archival research has shown that multiple wharves were built in the area to assure the connection between the river and the land installations, providing the means to supply and move troops.

IRHMAS archaeologists have known about the great archeological potential of the Richelieu River near the historical site of the Fort Saint-Jean for years, but the multiple variations and alterations of the natural shoreline by human activity have led archaeologists to question if it was possible that these historic structures were still present underwater. The first survey of 2016 led to the discovery of two wharves whose dates are tentatively associated with the late 18th century to the first half of the 19th century. They are currently labelled BhFh-13 and BhFh-14, according to the Borden code used in the province of Quebec. A wharf previously excavated in the 1980s was also rediscovered (BhFh-9) during the 2016 survey. In the summer of 2017, archaeologists returned to investigate and explore the three structures. The 2017 goals included mapping of the sites, attempted photogrammetry, and sampling of timbers to identify the wood species.

The diving conditions in the Richelieu River typically do not provide archaeologists with great visibility, and in 2017 unfortunately the poor visibility prohibited photogrammetric recording. However, archaeologists were able to complete the sketches of the three structures begun in 2016 by providing exact measurements and their location relatively to a concrete wall that now formed the shoreline of the Fort Saint-Jean site. It was also possible to collect wood samples from the three different sites, which were analyzed by the Groupe de Recherche en Dendrochronologie Historique located in Montreal. The results of the wood analysis showed that two of the structures were made entirely of eastern hemlock (Tsuga canadiensis) and the last was heterogeneous with maple (Acer sp.) and elm (Ulmus sp.). These preliminary results will help us to understand the different structures and their time periods, as well as shed light on wood exploitation and importation to the region.

A third and last phase of this ongoing project is planned for the summer of 2018. Archaeologists plan to return to the river to take samples for dendrochronology analysis and to further investigate the site BhFh-14. Indeed, the orientation of the series of posts, as well as the presence of a massive timber at the site, have led the archaeologists to think that more than one site or structure is present in this location.

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In summer 2017 students and researchers from East Caroline University, Texas A&M University, and University of West Florida researched prehistoric lake and fluvial deposits in Walker Lake, Nevada. This high-desert lake in western Nevada represents one of the few natural perennial lakes that still exist in the western Great Basin. The region is known for the relationship between late Pleistocene and early Holocene archaeological sites and pluvial lake features dating to the same period. However, since most archaeology in the Great Basin is at the surface, sites associated with these features are rarely found in a buried, datable context. Walker Lake provides researchers the opportunity to address this issue. The lake has undergone multiple regression and transgression events between its highstand 15,000 years ago and the modern lake level. Research by the USGS demonstrated that multiple regressions resulted in lake levels below the modern water level. Further, previous field seasons identified multiple sites preserved in situ above the modern lake level but below the historic highstand dating to 1883. These data show Walker Lake to be an ideal candidate for looking for buried lake features, stream channels, and associated archaeological materials below the modern water line.

The 2017 field season systematically investigated potential locations for drowned and buried features within Walker Lake. Initially, sub-bottom remote sensing was performed along a series of 1-2 km transects at the northern end of the lake. These data revealed a buried channel to the east and a gradual rise in buried sediments to the west that suggested a buried shoreline. Once these features were identified, three locations were selected as having high potential for archaeological remains: one at the buried shoreline’s high point and two on either side of the buried channel. Divers excavated a 2x1-meter test pit at each of these locations. Using a water dredge to transport material to a floating screen at the surface, the soft overburden was removed until a compact deposit of lake sediment was found. From the top of the compact sediments, divers excavated each pit to a depth of ~2 meters in 10-centimeter increments. Excavators used trowels and the water dredge to remove all materials. All of the sediment excavated was screened and all faunal and floral material from the screens was collected for later analysis. No artifacts were identified during excavations, but multiple samples of fish and possible mammal bones were found. Lastly, 2-3 cores were placed in each test pit prior to excavation. These recorded a full profile of the excavated sediments and extended below the bottom of each pit. Currently, laboratory research for the 2017 field season, including core and recovered material analyses, is ongoing. Publication of the results is planned for 2018-2019. The project was managed and directed by Ph.D. Candidate Neil N. Puckett from Texas A&M and funded by a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant and a Shlemon Geoarchaeological Student Research Award.

—Neil Puckett, Texas A&M, Ph.D. Candidate
**2018 Photo Contest and People’s Choice Award**

**Competition Winners**

**Category G: Diversity**
1st Alexandra Jones – Each One Should Teach One: The future of archaeology lies in the generations to come. Educating children about archaeology and its impact on the development of history gives our children a better understanding of how their histories are created. This youth program was developed to educate youth about the fundamentals of archaeological methods with the goal of promoting the development of archaeological literate citizens. This is citizens who understand basic archaeological terminology and process, citizens who have a general understanding of the importance of heritage (their heritage) preservation, and citizens who understand their stake in their histories. (People’s Choice)
2nd Thierry Boyer – Slush Fun: Gjoa Haven team members working in concert with Parks Canada underwater archaeologists to prep the ROV dive hole.
3rd Francisco Rivera – Shhh!: We are in the ‘Quebrada del Inca’ ravine, in Ollagüe, a Quechua community of northern Chile. During the “Mineros del Alto Cielo Archaeological Project”, while we investigate the local sulphur mining industry of the 20th century, we are accompanied by M. Eugenio González, a former worker. Our project is also about listening. It is about unhurried conversations and shared silences. We take a little pause from the survey. Muted volcanoes and abandoned terrace fields surround us, while we listen to the personal experiences of M. González. Shhh! Close your eyes, and perhaps you too will hear what he is saying.

**Category D: Color Artifact**
1st Terry Brock - Behind the Glass
2nd Kerry Gonzalez – History Well Preserved (People’s Choice)
3rd Karen Price - Charlotte in the Canyon: 2016 UNM field school at the Wetherill Trading Post in Chaco Culture National Historical Park

**Category E: Black & White Image**
1st Mark Kostro - T.Leiven 1752 Wine Bottle Seal (People’s Choice)
2nd Sierra Medellin - Unfinished Business- Scored Spanish Real
3rd John Cardinal – Trade Ring

**Category F: Color Archaeological Portrait**
1st John Cardinal - Alexandra Conell Photographing a Unit (People's Choice)
2nd Jason Boroughs - "Juxtaposition": Portrait in Pearlware at Pocomoke Plantation, Virginia’s Eastern Shore
3rd Thierry Boyer - Sharpen Your Ice Trowel

**Category H: Artist's Perspective (Illustration)**
1st John Cardinal – End of Season Map (People’s Choice)
2nd Larry Bouterie – Wine Bottle of Many Colors

**Category I: Archaeological Video** (visit [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCs529nVR4jxotLHWatqLd5A/featured](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCs529nVR4jxotLHWatqLd5A/featured))
1st William Donaruma – St Coleman’s Abby (People's Choice)
2nd Michael Nassaney – Get Ready to Get Dirty!
3rd Michael Thomin - HMS Florida: A Citizen Science Program

Thank you to all of the participants and we look forward to even more photos and videos next year!
This presentation dealt with the State of Florida’s current program for managing the commercial salvage of historic shipwrecks in state waters, Florida Rule 1A-31, providing an overview of research currently being conducted as part of a University of West Florida historical archaeology masters thesis.

Through this rather unique program, individuals and companies can apply to the state for what is called an exploration permit. With this, permit holders can conduct non-intrusive surveys in a permitted area. If any evidence of a shipwreck bearing “treasure” is found, then the permit holders can apply for a recovery permit to begin salvaging the wreck.

This research includes an extensive historical overview of the various events that led over time to the development of this current state program. These historical events include: the wrecking of the 1715 and 1733 Spanish Plate Fleets, the age of the Florida Wreckers, the history of diving and the development of SCUBA, SCUBA’s cultural impact, the history of treasure hunting in Florida, and the development of related legislation and state programs. All of these things are related to 1A-31 in some way and played some role in its development.

This research proposes two specific questions: what is the state’s benefit to having this unique program, and are the companies working under this program being compliant with it? To elaborate, for the first question, this research will examine if any new historic shipwreck sites have been discovered or if any new information of existing sites has been learned through the 1A-31 program. For the second research question, this research will examine 1A-31 permit holders to determine their compliance with the program by successfully turning in reports of required information when expected, and by employing the proper personal such as a project archaeologist.

To address these questions, the reports turned in by 1A-31 permit holders and kept in state offices in Tallahassee will be examined. With these reports, we can see if any new sites or information have been provided by 1A-31, how often these reports have been turned in, the extent of information provided and who was on site at what time.

To summarize, this presentation provided a brief overview of current research being conducted. This research addresses questions concerning commercial shipwreck salvage in Florida and looks at the state’s current program for managing it. The findings produced from this research will be presented at future professional conferences.

—Michael Dillon Roy, University of West Florida, M.A. Candidate