Established in 2004, the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) is a Florida-wide program designed to advocate for the state’s historical and archaeological resources by increasing public awareness and expanding educational opportunities in archaeology. As cultural resources are increasingly destroyed in Florida and elsewhere around the world, FPAN hopes to protect these resources through citizen awareness, public stewardship, and voluntary preservation opportunities.

Administered by the University of West Florida, FPAN also has eight regional offices around the state hosted by other academic institutions. In each regional office, public archaeologists, anthropologists, and historians design, create, and implement programming that covers a wide variety of topics related to archaeology. FPAN seeks to reach out to individuals in every age group and at every educational level, frequently partnering with other organizations like the National Park Service and the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources.

Florida’s rich maritime culture provides a number of opportunities for FPAN’s maritime archaeologists and scientific divers to engage the diving public in the state’s submerged archaeological
Over 50 years after the raising of the Swedish warship Vasa, there is still much to be learned from the famous shipwreck. Approximately 30 people lost their lives when Vasa sank on its maiden voyage in 1628. With the raising and excavation of the ship in the 1960s, archaeologists recovered over 1,500 human bones, believed to represent 15 individuals. Since that time, some of these bones have lost their original find numbers and, therefore, their find locations. An examination and re-cataloging of these remains was the focus of my study at Stockholm’s Vasa Museum this past summer. The information I gathered while there will contribute to my master’s thesis examining the archaeological context of the ship’s human remains in order to provide a piece of these individuals’ identities.

I worked under the guidance of the museum’s Director of Research, Dr. Fred Hocker and with the assistance of many other invaluable museum employees. Research began with many hours in front of the computer, familiarizing myself with the online database. I then spent time in the storage magazine becoming familiar with the remains housed there before moving on to the remains on display in the exhibition hall. A special exhibition called “Face to Face” features the remains of ten men and women from Vasa. The exhibition highlights what researchers have learned about the individuals from osteological and isotope analysis, explores the material culture found with the remains, and includes facial reconstructions for many of the individuals.

While working with these remains, my research drew the public’s notice. With the assistance of Dr. Hocker, every day for a couple weeks we would remove one individual’s remains from the exhibition display to be studied. Our activity always attracted a crowd eager to ask questions and take photos. Inevitably, someone would always ask, “Are they real?” The reply that they were, in fact, real then drew one of two responses – a look of horror or an excited, “Can I touch them?” Children were especially keen to touch the bones, or perhaps they were just bold enough to ask.

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We would then take the remains back to the conservation workshop for a day of examination. The names of the individuals who died aboard the ship remain unknown, but they have all been assigned names from the Swedish phonetic alphabet (Adam, Beata, Cesar, etc.). The individuals are always referred to by these names, and I continue to use them in my study. When working with the bones, the names serve as a reminder that these were people rather than objects. The purpose of my thesis, after all, is to understand what these men and women were doing when the ship sank in order to provide a better understanding of who these people were and why they died in the sinking. Maritime archaeology can be much more than the study of ships and artifacts, and I hope that my work, in some small way, can highlight the human element that is tragically present in so many shipwrecks.

—Submitted by Allison N. Miller, East Carolina University M.A. Candidate
resources. For recreational divers, FPAN offers the Submerged Sites Educational and Archaeological Stewardship (SSEAS) program. SSEAS helps train divers to conduct non-disturbance archaeological recording and fulfills Part 1 of the Nautical Archaeology Society’s Training Program. The Heritage Awareness Diving Seminar (HADS) is another diving program, though aimed at SCUBA professionals (Course Directors, Instructor Trainers, and Instructors). HADS provides these individuals with the information and skills to proactively protect shipwrecks, artificial reefs, and other underwater cultural sites in hopes that they, and their students, will practice responsible diving on archaeological sites. Participants in both the SSEAS and HADS classes also have the ability to receive a “Specialty” certification through the PADI, NAUI, and SDI diver training agencies.

FPAN also encourages public access to the state’s submerged cultural resources through maritime heritage trails and underwater preserves systems. Maritime archaeologists affiliated with FPAN have helped promote programs like these both in Florida (e.g., Florida Panhandle Shipwreck Trail and Florida’s Underwater Archiological Preserves) and elsewhere.

Students play a large role in accomplishing FPAN’s mission. While each regional office offers opportunities for undergraduate and graduate archaeology students who want to get involved with public archaeology, the Coordinating Center in Pensacola, Florida, offers a graduate assistantship to an incoming University of West Florida archaeology graduate student each year. Support includes tuition during fall and spring semesters, plus a quarter-time assistantship for the first two years of graduate school and a half-time assistantship for the third year. These assistantships are available to both maritime and terrestrial archaeology students, preparing students to make a substantive contribution to public archaeology in master’s theses.

While the scope of FPAN’s mission applies to the state of Florida, FPAN’s impact on public archaeology has been recognized internationally. Many organizations have utilized FPAN’s outreach and education resources, and many more have drawn from FPAN as a model for organizational engagement with the public about archaeology. Ultimately, however, FPAN relies on support from the archaeological and educational communities to achieve its goals.

If you are interested in FPAN’s programs, want more information, or want to apply for the graduate student assistantship, visit the FPAN website or e-mail info@fpan.us.

—Submitted by Nicole Grinnan, FPAN Public Archaeology Coordinator

"Florida’s rich maritime culture provides a number of opportunities...to engage the diving public in the state’s submerged archaeological resources."
Attending the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) conference in Seattle, Washington, this January? Read on to get an idea of some of the special events geared toward students! Also, be sure to check out the conference’s preliminary program for other opportunities and events.

TRADITIONS AND ALTERNATIVES: PUBLISHING FOR STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES (PAN-9)

Join your ACUA graduate student representatives and a panel of publishing experts to learn the ins and outs of publishing. For students and recent graduates, the dissemination of research to both a professional and public audience is imperative. Though each has advantages and disadvantages, there are multiple means to publish research. Traditional journals and books endure as mainstays, but they are increasingly giving way to (and sometimes providing) open access. This panel will consider issues of traditional publishing for students and recent graduates, including alternatives to long-established academic publishing such as open access, non-academic publications, and research sharing (e.g., academia.edu).

This panel will be held on Saturday, January 10th from 8:30am-10:30am and is co-sponsored by the ACUA and the APTC Student Subcommittee.

SECOND ANNUAL STUDENT ETHICS BOWL

Are you interested in archaeological dilemmas? Do you want to prepare yourself for the challenges of your professional career? Are you looking to participate in a professional international conference? Sign up as a team or as an individual to compete in the second annual Student Ethics Bowl! This event is designed to challenge students in terrestrial and underwater archaeology with case studies relevant to ethical issues they may encounter in their careers. Undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to participate.

This year’s Student Ethics Bowl will take place on Thursday, January 8th from 9am-12pm and is sponsored by the APTC Student Subcommittee and the SHA Ethics Committee.

For additional information and to register for this event, please contact shaethicsbowl@gmail.com.

PAST PRESIDENTS’ STUDENT RECEPTION

Students registered for the 2015 conference are invited to join the Society’s distinguished past presidents for an informal reception. Take advantage of the opportunity to engage SHA and ACUA leaders in conversation and make contacts that will help your future career in historical or underwater archaeology! Complimentary soft drinks and snacks are provided; the event is free for students.

The reception will be held on Thursday, January 8th from 4:30pm-6pm in the Cirrus Ballroom of the Sheraton Seattle hotel.