

University of South Alabama

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Archaeology Museum Newsletters

Archaeology Museum

3-19-2024

USA Archaeology Museum Newsletter - March 2024

Jennifer Knutson

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In this edition of the museum's newsletter,

Upcoming Free Public Talks:

- "The Cosmos Revealed: Precontact Mississippian Rock Art at Painted Bluff" Jan Simek, Ph.D. on Thursday, March 21st at the MacQueen Alumni Center at 7 pm.
- "Documenting the Africatown Cemetery," Alexandria Jones, Ph.D., April 9 at 6 pm.
- Alliance Française, "A Thorn in Spain's Side: The Rise & Fall of 16th Century Huguenot Corsairs," Jen Knutson on Friday, March 29 at 4 pm.
- "Down the Bay: Archaeology & Oral History," Philip Carr, Ph.D., Rachel Hines, and Ryan Morini, Ph.D. on Tuesday, April 2 at 4 pm.
- "Where is the Parity: Exploring the Gap Between Health Disparities and Health Equities," Franklin Trimm, M.D. and Tiquera Hall on Wednesday, April 3 at 3:30 pm.

On Exhibit at the Archaeology Museum:

- "Unwritten: Archaeology & Oral History of Jim Crow Mobile"

Upcoming Exhibit: Now Accepting Submissions for the INTO Light Project

- National Initiative Coming to Mobile and Exhibited at the USA Archaeology Museum
 - Now accepting submissions from those who have lost a loved one to Substance Use Disorder.

Upcoming Local Archaeology Conferences

- Florida Anthropological Society 76th Annual Meeting cohosting the Alabama Archaeological Society Summer Meeting: May 10 -12, Pensacola, Florida

Teachers! Project Archaeology Investigating Rock Art Professional Development Workshop

- Discover the past through evidence from a rock art site in Alabama! \$300 stipends available.

Giving to the Archaeology Museum

- Your support is needed more than ever!

Dear Museum Supporters,

I sent out a newsletter earlier this month but with so many great (did I mention FREE) events, I missed a few. Plus, there's been almost 10 new subscribers between now and then, so welcome to all the new faces around here! This newsletter includes a few more talks and a hint about the two (yes, two) of the museum's upcoming fall exhibits. The first, in collaboration with the USA Libraries Art Galleries, the [INTO Light](#) Project, a national exhibit that has chosen the University of South Alabama as its location host for our state, will open this August at the USA Student Center. The other exhibit opening this fall at the Archaeology Museum features the fine art of [Angelica Trimble-Yanu](#) as curated by USA Department of Art and Art History faculty, [Betsy Hawley, Ph.D.](#)

On another note, [please consider giving to the Archaeology Museum](#). Your support is truly needed to fund student museum assistants, a new outdoor interpretive sign for the Native Plants Garden, and future exhibits.

I hope to see you back at the museum or at one of the upcoming talks soon! Speaking of talks, if you miss one, you can watch many of them on YouTube [@USAArchaeology](#). While you're there, you can check out all the videos from the USA Center for Archaeological Studies about Mobile's artifacts and excavations from the [I-10 Mobile River Bridge Project](#).

Finally, I'd like to thank Daphne East Elementary 6th grade for visiting the museum last week!

Kind regards,

Jen

Happy Women's History Month!

Current Events and Happenings at the USA Archaeology Museum This Spring

Free Public Talks

"The Cosmos Revealed: Precontact Mississippian Rock Art at Painted Bluff" Jan Simek, Ph.D. on Thursday, March 21st at the MacQueen Alumni Center at 7 pm.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
MCQUEEN ALUMNI CENTER

What: "The Cosmos Revealed: Precontact Mississippian Rock Art at Painted Bluff," Jan Simek, Ph.D.

When: Thurs., Mar. 21 at 7 pm

Where: USA McQueen Alumni Center

100 Alumni Drive

Mobile, Alabama 36688

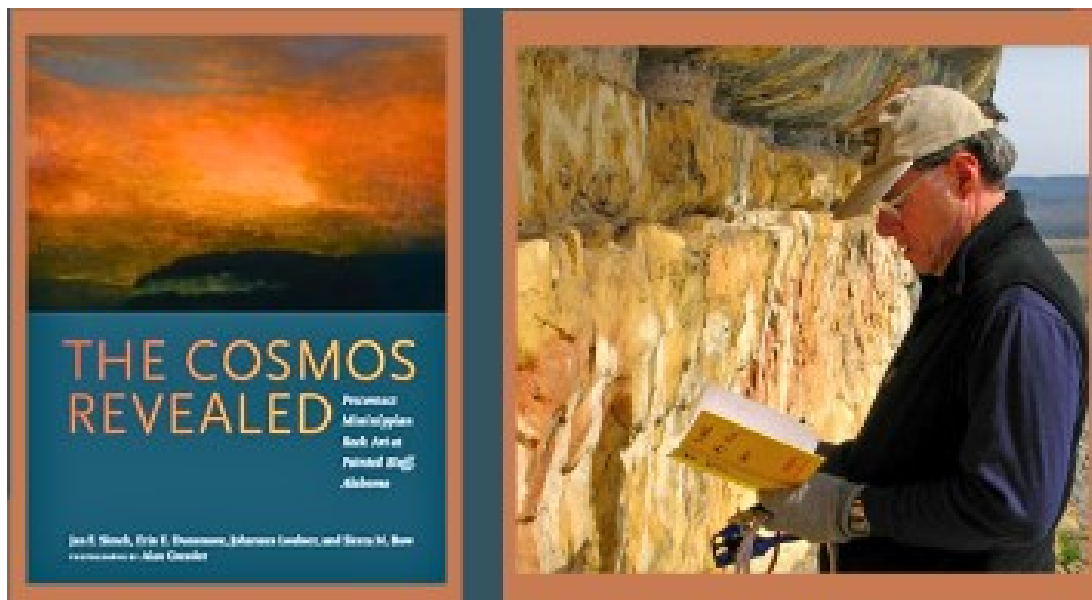
Admission: Free & open to the public!

Dr. Jan Simek will share his new book "The Cosmos Revealed: Precontact Mississippian Rock Art at Painted Bluff" on Thursday, March 21st at the MacQueen Alumni Center at 7 pm. Stick around after for light refreshments and a book signing. ***Copies of the book will be available for purchase for \$50 (sorry, cash only).***

Boasting more than 130 paintings and engravings, Painted Bluff is perhaps the most elaborate prehistoric pictograph site east of the Mississippi River. Positioned at several levels on a dramatic sandstone cliff along the Tennessee River in northern Alabama, the spectacular paintings and engravings depict mythical creatures, dancing humans, and mystical portals. The Cosmos Revealed: Precontact Mississippian Rock Art at Painted Bluff, Alabama is the first complete documentation of one of the most important archaeological sites in eastern North America. Through art, the site materializes a model or "cosmogram" of the Mississippian Native American view of the universe, offering connections between the visible and invisible worlds for Native spiritual leaders and other visitors.

Discovered by Euro-Americans in the early 1800s, the site became known as "Painted Bluff" because of its pictographs, but inexplicably it has only recently been subjected to the intensive archaeological study it deserves. Under the auspices of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), the authors of this volume have documented and assessed the site since 2005, and efforts have been made to reverse some of the vandalism that has occurred over many decades and to stabilize natural degradation of the cliff and its artwork.

Including more than one hundred remarkable prehistoric paintings on the cliff face that have been recorded, mapped, and photographed, this book synthesizes the research done on Painted Bluff to date and documents the entire site. Richly illustrated chapters cover the historical background, geology and archaeology, documentation methods, types of rock art, stratigraphy, paint recipes, TVA management, graffiti removal, and a summary that broadly synthesizes the meaning, timeframe, artistry, organization, conceptual boundaries, and the cosmos revealed. This groundbreaking study features 113 color photographs and a complete catalog of the pictographs and petroglyphs at the site.



Alabama Archaeological Society Southwest Chapter Speaker Series

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM

"Documenting the Historic Plateau/Africatown Cemetery," Alexandra Jones, Ph.D. on Tues., April 9 at at 6 pm.**What:** "Documenting the Historic Plateau/Africatown Cemetery," by Alexandra Jones, Ph.D.**When:** Tues., April 9 at 6 pm**Where:** USA Archaeology Museum

6050 USA Drive South

Mobile, Alabama 36688

Admission: Free & open to the public!**Zoom Attendance Available:**Please email ArchaeologyMuseum@SouthAlabama.edu to register.

Dr. Jones will join us via Zoom at the Museum for a watch party. The talk will be recorded and can be watched the following week on the Museum's YouTube Channel @USAArchaeology.

The Africatown cemetery documentation program is a collaborative project with the Mobilian community to digitally document and preserve the Africatown/Plateau Cemetery for many generations to come.

Alexandra Jones, Ph.D. is an education leader focused on community outreach and service. Dr. Jones has been an educator for more than 16 years; she has taught in multiple educational environments from primary schools to museums. She obtained dual Bachelors of Arts degrees from Howard University in History and Anthropology in 2001. She obtained a Master's degree in History from Howard University in 2003 and then attending University of California, Berkeley to obtain a Ph.D. in Historical Archaeology in 2010. Dr. Jones worked for PBS's television show Time Team America as the Archaeology Field School Director, where she directed field schools for junior high and high school students at each of the sites for the 2013 season. Dr. Jones serves on Board of Directors for the Society of Black Archaeologists, the Board of Directors of the St. Croix Archaeological Society and is an Academic Trustee for the Archaeological Institute of America. She was appointed by President Biden to become the current Chair of the Cultural Property Advisory Committee.

Alabama Archaeological Society Southwest Chapter Meeting



Documenting Africatown Cemetery

Tuesday, April 9 | 6 pm

Research presentation free and open to the public.



Alexandra Jones, Ph.D.
Founder & CEO
Archaeology in the Community



Alliance Française

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM

"A Thorn in Spain's Side: The Rise & Fall of 16th Century Huguenot Corsairs," Jen Knutson on Fri., March 29 at at 4 pm.

What: "A Thorn in Spain's Side: The Rise & Fall of 16th Century Huguenot Corsairs," by Jen Knutson

When: Friday, March 29 at 4 pm

Where: USA Archaeology Museum

6050 USA Drive South

Mobile, Alabama 36688

Admission: Free & open to the public! Light refreshments thanks to Alliance Française.

Before the Age of Piracy, French Huguenot Corsairs used their wealth and influence to rise in rank to lead the French navy and advance to the French nobility, only to lose it all and be expelled from France in the next century.

Jen Knutson is the Assistant Director of the University of South Alabama Archaeology Museum in Mobile, Alabama (B.A., University of North Florida) and president of the Alabama Archaeological Society, Southwest Chapter and the Florida Anthropological Society. Jen is also a Project Archaeology certified Master Teacher and public archaeologist. Originally from north Alabama, she has excavated sites across northern Florida from St. Augustine to Pensacola, including work on her current M.A. thesis research at the University of West Florida on the French Huguenot Colony of Campbelltown in British West Florida.



A Thorn in Spain's Side:
The Rise & Fall of 16th c. French
Huguenot Corsairs
4 pm, Fri., Mar. 29


Jen Knutson
 Assistant Director
 USA Archaeology Museum


 Alliance Française
 Mobile

USA Archaeology Museum
 6050 USA South Drive (251) 460-6106
southalabama.edu/org/archaeology/museum

Research presentation free and open to the public.

Down the Bay: Archaeology & Oral History

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
 ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM

"Down the Bay: Archaeology & Oral History," Philip Carr, Ph.D., Rachel Hines, & Ryan Morini, Ph.D.

What: "Down the Bay: Archaeology & Oral History"

When: Tuesday, April 2 at 4 pm

Where: USA Archaeology Museum
 6050 USA Drive South
 Mobile, Alabama 36688

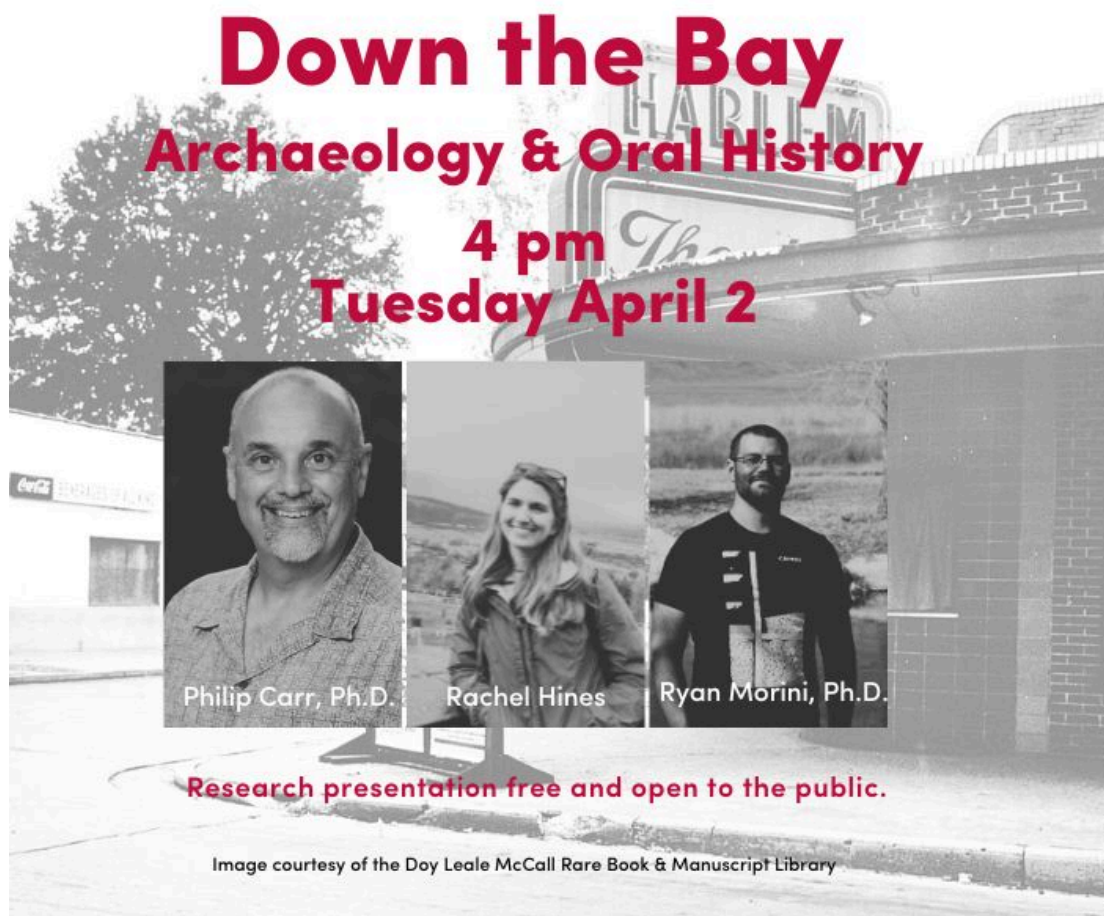
Admission: Free & open to the public!

The USA Archaeology Museum's exhibit, "Unwritten: Archaeology & Oral History of Jim Crow Mobile" demonstrates the best of archaeology and oral history, and that the sum is greater than its parts. Revealing the impact of what it means to be left out of the commonly told history, and showing the resilience of community members during and after Jim Crow, this exhibit and ongoing projects allow us to understand our present as a product of the past, and consider how we can make a better future. The Owens Family, one of the three families highlighted in "Unwritten" lived at 906 S. Franklin Street for six decades and through three generations. When archaeologists excavated their property during the I-10 Mobile River Bridge Archaeology Project, it provided a rare opportunity to learn about one family through historic documents and the things they left behind.

Philip J. Carr, Ph.D. serves as the Chief Calvin McGhee Professor of Native American Studies, Professor of Anthropology, and Director for the Center for Archaeological Studies. He grew up enjoying finding things and finding things out, and with a passion for learning about the Indigenous People of the United States. Becoming an archaeologist, investigating the human past, working with Native Peoples of the Southeast U.S., people who live on the Gulf Coast, students, and colleagues bring him great joy.

Rachel Hines is the Public Outreach Coordinator for the Center for Archaeological Studies at the University of South Alabama. She earned a masters in Historical Archaeology from the University of West Florida. She has a decade of experience as an archaeologist in different parts of the country and is most passionate about connecting communities with local cultural resources.

Ryan S. Morini, Ph.D. is the Director of Community Oral History Collections at the Doy Leale McCall Rare Book & Manuscript Library.



Down the Bay
Archaeology & Oral History
4 pm
Tuesday April 2

Philip Carr, Ph.D. Rachel Hines Ryan Morini, Ph.D.

Research presentation free and open to the public.

Image courtesy of the Doy Leale McCall Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Unwritten: Archaeology & Oral History of Jim Crow Mobile Speaker Series

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM

Save the dates for upcoming talks for the last month of the Unwritten Exhibit!

Unwritten:

Archaeology and Oral History of Jim Crow Mobile

Speaker Series

April 2: "Archaeology & Oral History of Down The Bay" by Philip Carr, Ph.D., Rachel Hines, & Ryan Morini, Ph.D., USA Center for Archaeological Studies and McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library at 3:30 p.m.

April 3: "Where is the parity: Exploring the gap between health disparities and health equities" by Franklin Trimm, M.D. & Tiquera Hall, USA Whiddon College of Medicine at 3:30 p.m.

April 9: "Documenting the Historic Africatown Cemetery" by Alexandra Jones, Ph.D., Archaeology in the Community at 6 p.m.

April 10: "Memory of the Civil Rights Movement in Mobile" by David Messenger, Ph.D., USA Department of History at 3:30 p.m.

April 30: "Black History Under Ground" by Tracy Neely, Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance at 3:30 p.m.



USA Archaeology Museum | 6050 USA South Drive | (251) 460-6106

FREE Public Events!

Now On Exhibit

Unwritten: Archaeology & Oral History of Jim Crow Mobile

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM

[USA Hosting Special Exhibit on Archaeology and Oral History.](#)

A new special exhibit, "Unwritten: Archaeology and Oral History of Jim Crow Mobile," highlighting the lives of the Lewis, Owens, and Griffin families is open at the University of South Alabama [Archaeology Museum](#). The exhibit can be viewed now, during Black History Month, and until the end of April. The museum is open Tuesday-Friday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at 6050 USA

South Drive. Admission is free and open to the public.

The exhibit will be on view exclusively at the USA Archaeology Museum, where people can view the amazing and inspiring stories and artifacts of these African-American families during segregation. “We are excited to offer a broader audience to these stories. The exhibit introduces three families who lived in different parts of Mobile but who shared much in common. As Black families, they endured Jim Crow segregation,” said Jennifer Knutson, assistant director of the USA Archaeology Museum. “They all owned homes at a time when many African Americans did not. And, archaeologists have excavated their homes. In the mid-20th century, development transformed their neighborhood, erasing homes, schools, and shops from the landscape. Although their homes are no longer standing, we can learn about their stories through Archaeology and Oral History in this exhibit.”

This exhibit is built on decades of past and current work by South scholars. USA Professor of Anthropology and the Chief Calvin McGhee Professor of Native American Studies, Dr. Philip Carr, also director of the USA Center for Archaeological Studies which also uncovered the home of the Owens Family, as part of the Down the Bay excavations during the Mobile I-10 River Bridge Project. The USA McCall Archives [Down the Bay Oral History Project](#) continues to record the stories of the community.

In the 1990s, South archaeologists excavated the Griffin Family's home before the Calloway-Smith Middle School construction near historic Davis Avenue. Their story is also featured in the “Unwritten” exhibit. The Lewis Family in Africatown is another family whose story is also highlighted. The College of William & Mary excavated the Africatown home site of Peter Lee as well as Lewis Quarters in 2010. Artifacts from these excavations can be seen by the public for the first time after their transfer to USA in 2021. South's Director of the African American Studies Program Dr. Kern Jackson, whose work documenting the stories of the Africatown community for decades also made this exhibit possible.

“[Part of a larger project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities](#) includes the in-person exhibit at the museum and an online one for virtual visitors,” noted Knutson. “People will be able to see the exhibit in their local communities as a traveling exhibit in addition to the virtual one, which will be available later this spring.” “Unwritten: Archaeology and Oral History of Jim Crow in Mobile” will be on exhibit until the end of April at the USA Archaeology Museum.



Unwritten:

Archaeology and Oral History of Jim Crow Mobile

Free Admission

On Exhibit Now

Until April 2024

Meet the Lewis, Owens, and Griffin families from Africatown, Down the Bay, and Davis Avenue in Mobile, Alabama.

In the mid-20th century, development transformed their neighborhoods, erasing homes, schools, and shops from the landscape. Though their houses are no longer standing, we can learn their stories through **Archaeology & Oral History**.

USA Archaeology Museum
 6050 USA South Drive (251) 460-6106
southalabama.edu/org/archaeology/museum

Ernest Horton Collection: The Day Lewis McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of South Alabama

Upcoming Exhibit, Fall 2024: INTO Light Project

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
 STUDENT CENTER, FALL 2024
 ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM, SPRING 2025

The [INTO LIGHT](#) Project, a national non-profit organization, dedicated to educating the public about drug addiction and erasing stigma, is looking for the personal stories of individuals from the state who have passed away from a drug overdose/drug poisoning.

The USA Archaeology Museum, in coordination with the [USA Libraries Art Galleries](#) and the [University of South Alabama Biomedical Library](#), is helping to bring the INTO Light Project exhibit to [The University of South Alabama](#) campus and Mobile, Alabama. The INTO Light Project will be exhibited at the USA Student Center Fall 2024 & the USA Archaeology Museum

Spring 2025.

A poster for the 'Alabama INTO LIGHT' exhibition. The background is a blurred image of a gallery with many small rock art panels hanging on a wall. The word 'Alabama' is written in large, bold, black letters at the top left. Below it is a white silhouette of the state of Alabama. Inside the silhouette, there is a black and white photograph of a rock art panel showing a large animal, possibly a bison or mammoth, with the words 'INTO LIGHT' written below it. A red star is positioned at the bottom left of the Alabama silhouette. To the right of the silhouette, the text 'University of South Alabama' and 'August 29, 2024 - June 27, 2025' is displayed. Below this, the phrase 'submit your loved one' is written in a cursive font. A QR code is located to the right of the text. At the bottom left, the application period '11/1/2023-2/29/24*' is listed, followed by '*or until filled'. At the bottom, the University of South Alabama logo is on the left and the INDIVIOR logo is on the right, preceded by the text 'sponsored by'.

Local Archaeology Conferences

Alabama Archaeological Society Summer Meeting
Florida Anthropological Society 76th Annual Meeting

CALL FOR PAPERS IS NOW OPEN!

Student Submissions welcome!

The [Pensacola Archaeological Society](https://us8.campaign-archive.com/?u=618dda9a39fe089bd7f5d0da7&id=a8ec8be6a5) invites the submission of abstracts for paper and poster presentations at the FAS 76th Annual Meeting in Pensacola. We encourage submissions on a broad range of topics pertaining to Florida and Alabama anthropology, archaeology, history, and other related disciplines. Presentations will occur on **Saturday, May 11, 2024**. You must agree to the FAS code of ethics to present at the conference. An abstract of no more than 100 words is required from each

presenter. Individuals may submit only one paper or poster as first author for consideration. All presenters must register and pay the appropriate registration fee at the time they submit their abstract. A 20-minute time limit for each paper presentation will be strictly enforced.

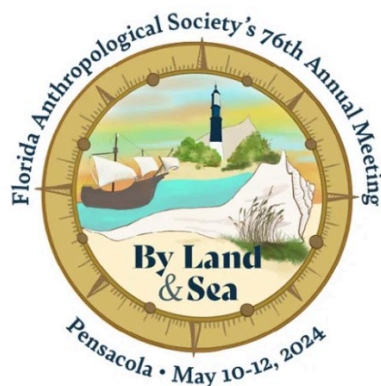
Conference registration and abstract submission is available through the FAS website. Abstracts submission deadline is **Monday, April 1, 2024**. The deadline for proposing an organized session, panel discussion, or other special programs associated with the conference is **Monday, March 18, 2024**.

Email questions and organized session submissions to Maranda Kles at 1vp@fasweb.org.

Register: <https://fasweb.org/annual-meeting/>

THE 76th ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

Pensacola, Florida – May 10-12, 2024



By Land & Sea

This year's conference will be held at the University of West Florida's Downtown Campus in historic Pensacola. Participants can enjoy a free Friday reception and Saturday night's award banquet at Apple Annie's, in the Seville Quarter entertainment complex, which includes historic structures and architectural features from across the Gulf coast. Sunday morning tours will highlight the unique archaeology of Pensacola.

The FAS 76th Annual Meeting will have special co-hosts, the Pensacola Archaeological Society, Florida Public Archaeology Network, University of West Florida, and Alabama Archaeological Society (AAS). This year AAS will combine their summer meeting with the FAS annual meeting.



Project Archaeology Investigating Rock Art Professional Development Workshop

Discover the past through evidence from a rock art site in Alabama!

Join us for a FREE three-day teacher workshop to explore the intersections of art, culture, and the past. The *Project Archaeology: Investigating Rock Art* curriculum engages upper-elementary teachers and their students. The curriculum guides students through a complete archaeological investigation of Painted Bluff, a Native American rock art site that overlooks Lake Guntersville near Huntsville, Alabama. The course and curriculum will teach integrative, inquiry-based methods for social studies and art instruction. Teachers working in upper elementary settings are especially encouraged to apply.

Only 16 spots available! The application deadline is April 10, 2024. [APPLY HERE](#)

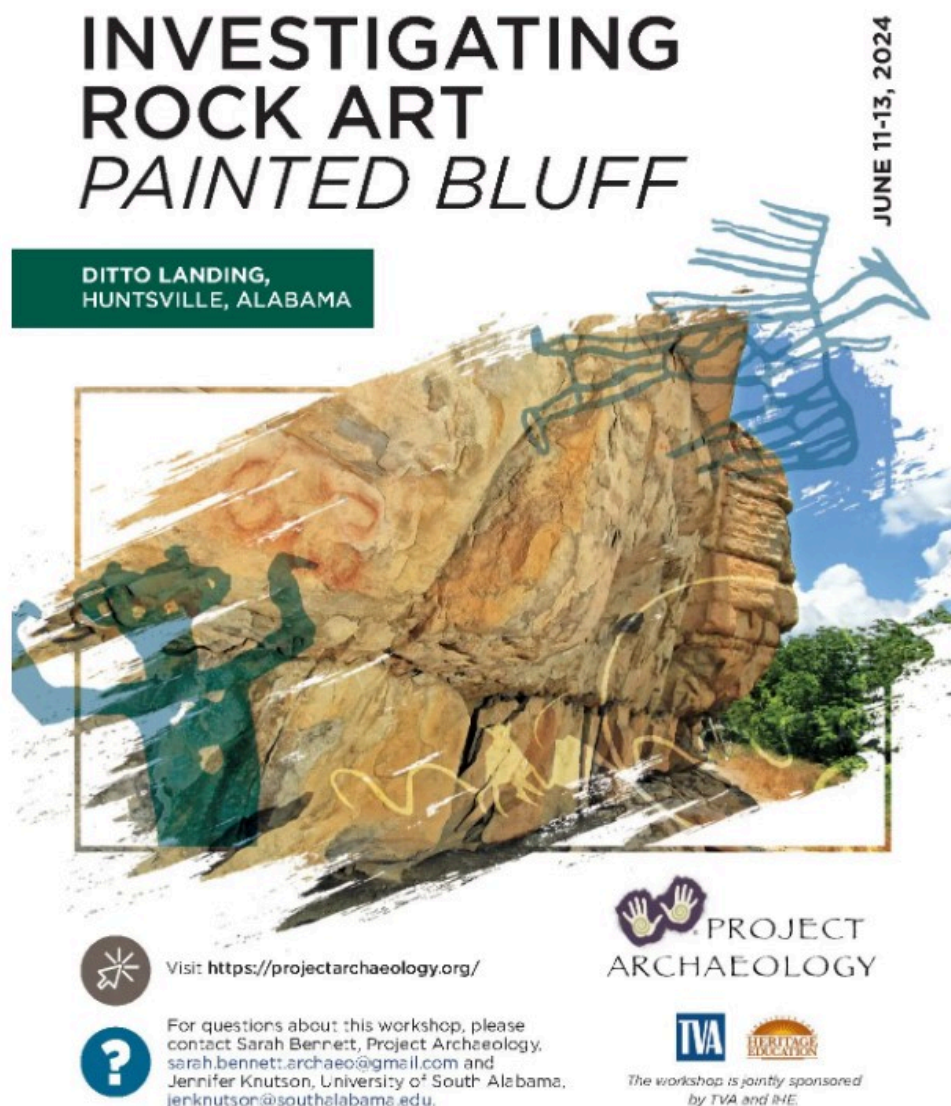
- Receive a stipend -- up to \$300 -- for attending
- Curriculum guide that aligns to state standards
- Lunches, snacks, water, and field trip transportation from Ditto Landing to Painted Bluff via boat
- Cultural presentation by LaDonna Brown, a member of the Chickasaw Tribe
- Guest speakers: TBA
- One graduate university credit for \$23 (optional)

Applicants will choose between two workshop tracks: the traditional two-day teacher workshop (June 11-12) or the two-day teacher workshop as well as an additional day of facilitator training (June 11-13). Workshop participants will learn to use the curriculum and how to teach archaeological inquiry to other teachers during the two-day workshop. Facilitator training participants will also learn how to lead Project Archaeology workshops, institutes, and other forms of professional development.

[PRINT AND SHARE THE FLYER WITH YOUR FRIENDS](#) (PDF opens in new tab)

Instructors: Sarah Bennett, sarah.bennett@projectarchaeology.org | Jen Knutson, jenknutson@southalabama.edu

The workshop is jointly sponsored through a cooperative agreement between the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the Institute for Heritage Education (IHE). The TVA is the main financial sponsor of the event.



Giving to the Archaeology Museum

Your help is needed more than ever to support the USA Archaeology Museum's free public programs and giving to the museum is now possible online! Please visit <https://giving.southalabama.edu/archaeology> to make a secure, online donation to the museum. Every dollar counts! Some of our ongoing funding needs include K-12 supplies, paying student assistants (each student is about \$3k a semester), exhibit maintenance, and bringing new exhibits to campus.

Admission is Free!

Museum Hours: Tuesdays - Fridays, 10 am - 4 pm.

Phone: (251) 460-6106

Email: archaeologymuseum@southalabama.edu

Facebook: [@TheArchaeologyMuseum](#)

Instagram: @SouthArchaeology

YouTube: [@USAArchaeology](#)

Where To Find Us
