October 22nd is National Archaeology Day!

Join us in celebrating the Archaeological Institute of America’s (AIA) National Archaeology Day on October 22. On this day everyone who visits the Destination Archaeology! Resource Center (DARC) museum exhibit will receive a prize. Additionally, FPAN’s Archaeology Lab will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and visitors are welcome to get hands-on experience in rough sorting artifacts discovered at local archaeological sites. An archaeologist will be available to answer questions at both the museum and lab.

National Archaeology Day is a celebration of archaeology and the thrill of discovery. Throughout the month of October, and on October 22 in particular, the AIA and its societies throughout the United States and Canada will present archaeological programs and activities in over 100 cities for people of all ages and interests. Whether it is a family-friendly archaeology fair, a guided tour of a local archaeological site, a lecture or a classroom visit from an archaeologist, the interactive, hands-on programs presented by the Institute and its societies will provide the public a chance to experience the past.

For more information on FPAN’s National Archaeology Day celebrations please contact Irina Sorset, isorset@uwf.edu or 850.595.0050 x103.
FPAN’s Newest Intern, Tristan Harrenstein

The NW Region is happy to introduce its newest intern, Tristan Harrenstein. Tristan received the Florida Public Archaeology Network’s 2011 assistantship and is an incoming Historical Archaeology graduate student at UWF. He joins Tara Giuliano and Nicole Buchinno this year as a Public Archaeology Intern.

Tristan received his B.A. in anthropology from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln in 2006 and has worked on Cultural Resource Management projects in the Midwest and Western regions of the United States involving both prehistoric and historic sites. He has experience excavating in a number of homesteads, as well as recording sections of the Transcontinental Railroad and mapping the route of the Old Spanish Trail through Colorado and Utah.

Tristan is currently involved in a FPAN project identifying and reassessing Civil War sites in the Pensacola area. He is looking forward to learning about the rich history of West Florida and to engaging the public in archaeology of the region.

Please help us welcome Tristan to the FPAN family!

Geocaching with FPAN

Geocaching is a worldwide scavenger hunt game. Players try to locate hidden containers, called caches, using GPS-enabled devices and then share their experiences online. Caches are often hidden very well, but are never buried or placed in areas in need of protection. To learn more about geocaching go to this official brochure or visit this website. You can also view this video. Please follow all guidelines and rules when geocaching.

A “geotrail” is a series of caches tied together by a common topic or theme. Discover your Florida history through museums and archaeological sites open to the public in the DARC Geo-Trail. DARC stands for Destination Archaeology! Resource Center.

Here’s how it works:

- Log onto www.geocaching.com to retrieve coordinates and location information for the geocaches. Basic membership for site is free.
- Search for the geocache online by GC code number or use advanced search by user name “DARC Geotrail.”
- Locate at least 12 DARC Geo-Trail geocaches and record the code word from each geocache in your passport. Take a picture of yourself with the geocache at the site and post it to the corresponding Geocaching.com page.
- Bring in your completed passport to the address below or mail it in for validation. The first 300 people to complete the challenge will receive a FPAN Geo-Coin.

A special presentation about geocaching with FPAN is coming soon, so be sure to check our Facebook page for updates! Contact Mike Thomin, DARC Manager, with any questions about the DARC Geo-Trail: mthomin@uwf.edu or 850.595.0050 x107.
Viva Florida 500

Viva Florida is a project sponsored by the State of Florida to promote Florida’s rich history and culture to visitors and residents. The multi-year, multi-city public awareness campaign is intended to educate audiences and to promote cultural and heritage travel and tourism throughout the state. With the approach of 2013, the 500th anniversary of Spanish colonization of Florida in 1513, our state is ramping up events to celebrate not only our Spanish heritage, but the contributions and legacies of all of Florida’s settlers and inhabitants.

Heritage and cultural events, including lectures, festivals, fairs, open houses, and educational experiences, offered over the next few years will tie into Viva Florida’s theme. The Florida Public Archaeology Network is excited to participate in this important commemoration of Florida’s past and present! Watch for FPAN-sponsored and partnered events with the logo shown above and join us in celebrating our state’s unique and fascinating heritage!

Gulf South Conference

The 29th Annual Gulf South History and Humanities Conference, hosted by UWF, is an annual event sponsored by the Gulf South Historical Association, a consortium of Gulf South colleges and universities from the states of Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. The conference welcomes all researchers and scholars to propose papers, panels, roundtables, performances, and workshops exploring all aspects of the history and cultures of the Gulf South.

The registration fee ($40, $25 for students) includes a Thursday evening reception at the Hilton Pensacola Beach Gulf Front Hotel, all conference sessions, and a free one-year membership in the association. Tickets for the banquet, annual keynote address, and a courtesy cocktail reception are all included in the additional banquet fee.

For more information contact Jennifer Adkins, jadkins1@uwf.edu, or visit the conference website.
Anthropology in Florida’s State Universities?

William B. Lees, PhD, RPA, Executive Director Florida Public Archaeology Network

Florida Governor Rick Scott has recently been in the news for proposing that some liberal arts programs should not be supported at state universities because of the need to focus on jobs related to programs in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). He has used Anthropology as an example of one of these programs that should no longer be offered within the State University System. As a career professional with three degrees in Anthropology, and as executive director of the Florida Public Archaeology Network, I am greatly concerned by this proposal.

Archaeology is in fact one of the major sub-disciplines of Anthropology. Scientifically trained archaeologists are employed in universities, museums, cultural resource management firms, and governmental agencies to manage historic places, educate our children, engage tourists and residents, work with land managers and developers, and carry out new and original interdisciplinary research about our collective heritage. FPAN’s eight Regional Centers are staffed with Anthropologists who work to engage and educate Florida’s residents, visitors, and school-aged children about our archaeological heritage. We work with local governments to find creative ways to preserve archaeological sites and to develop local archaeological heritage into tourist destinations.

Florida universities have a long history of conducting significant and far-reaching studies into the state’s prehistoric and historic past. Archaeology tells us everything that we know of the history of the people of Florida during 10,000+ years of prehistory, and has helped tell and retell the story of Florida after the Spanish came ashore almost 500 years ago. These studies have not only written Florida history, they provide authentic content to a very important and sustainable heritage tourism and historic preservation industry that brings in over $4 billion per year to Florida’s economy (http://www.flheritage.com/preservation/economic-impact.cfm).

In addition to training future generations of professional archaeologists, Florida universities train Anthropology students with career tracks in the health sciences, in forensics, and in many other areas that touch our daily lives (see http://prezi.com/vmvoht3j3f6d/this-is-anthropology). In addition, many students choose the BA in Anthropology, or coursework in Anthropology, not as a career track but as the basis for careers in fields such as Medicine, Law, Political Science, International Relations, and Business.

Florida universities have a very long and distinguished legacy of excellence in the field of Anthropology. Archaeology faculty in Florida universities have been and continue to be leaders in the archaeological profession nationally and internationally, and students trained in archaeology programs in Florida are consistently considered to be among the best prepared in the nation. The quality of these programs, and the demand for trained archaeologists, has caused increased enrollments in Florida Anthropology programs in recent years. Departments of Anthropology in Florida attract not only residents interested in careers in archaeology but also some of the best students from other states and nations.

Anthropology at Florida universities is a sustained success story because it is relevant to the needs of today’s college students. If you would like Governor Rick Scott to know your opinion on the teaching of Anthropology in state supported universities in Florida, you may contact him via email: http://www.flgov.com/contact-gov-scott/email-the-governor ...or you may send a letter to Governor Rick Scott, Office of Governor Rick Scott, The Capitol, 400 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399.

Your opinion matters!