

Saturday, April 17, 2021 at 12 noon (via webinar)

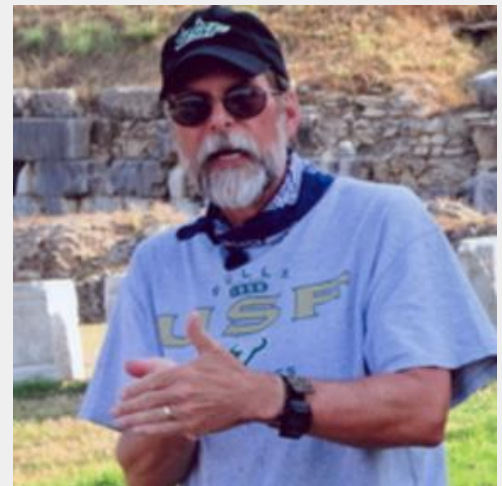
Dr. William Murray, Mary and Gus Stathis Professor of Greek History, University of South Florida

My 40 Year Search for the Battle of Actium

In 31 BC, Octavian defeated Antony and Cleopatra in a naval battle off Cape Actium in Western Greece. A few years later, the victor constructed on the site of his personal camp a grand Victory Monument to commemorate the event. I first visited this site in 1978, and since then, have been trying to explain what I found there: the ruins of a massive rostral display whose complex details preserve evidence for the sizes of Antony's and Cleopatra's largest warships.

After a brief attempt to find battle debris in the sea off Cape Actium, I was asked by Dr. Konstantinos Zachos to join his team in analyzing the results of his systematic excavations of the site. His work, conducted over a quarter century, has added much to our knowledge of this important monument—its original design, its elaborately decorated altar, its dedication text, and its period of use.

At the same time, emerging 3D technologies have allowed me to comprehend the rostral display more fully, to visualize the monstrous sizes of the ships that fought in the final naval battle, and to restore the text of the dedication inscription. In this lecture, I will summarize the main results of our research, but do so in a personal manner, in the context of my own 40-year journey of discovery in search of the Battle of Actium.



Saturday, March 20, 2021 at 12 noon (via webinar)

Lisa Duffy, Doctoral Candidate at the University of Florida

Using Residue Analysis to Explore Ancient Maya Recipes and Food-Processing Technology



Scientists are curious about what ancient people ate and drank. Archaeologists at the University of Florida are investigating the foods and beverages consumed by the ancient Maya, by analyzing organic chemical residues and starch grains in pottery vessels and on stone grinding tools. These analyses are innovative in that they help identify ancient Maya "recipes" rather than single ingredients. They provide insights into the individual's choices of ingredients and methods of combining, processing, and serving foods and drinks, using different tools and vessels.

Ms. Duffy is currently in progress for a Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of Florida. She has a M.A., Maya Archaeology, University of Central Florida and B.A., Psychology, University of South Florida. Her research interests include; Maya archaeology, environmental archaeology, organic residue analysis, starch grain analysis, ground stone analysis, zooarchaeology.

Saturday, February 20, 2021 at 12 noon (via webinar)

Dr. Sarah Clayton, Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

The End of Teotihuacan: Perspectives on Collapse and Regeneration from beyond the Metropolis



Dr. Clayton will discuss the decline of Teotihuacan from the perspective of a settlement called Chicoloapan 40 kilometers south. Research there has helped expand knowledge about the timing of the decline and the effect of that decline on surrounding communities. Chicoloapan's rapid growth during periods of regional political crisis required transformations in land use, architecture and material culture and new forms of leadership.

At Chicoloapan, Sarah Clayton and her students reconstruct daily life, community organization, and demographic change during the first millennium CE. Chicoloapan grew rapidly in association with the collapse of Teotihuacan. Employing methods including excavation, geophysical prospection, and artifact analysis, their work aims to understand why Chicoloapan prospered even as neighboring settlements were abandoned.

Saturday, January 23, 2021 at 12 noon (via webinar)

Dr. Zack Gilmore, Asst. Professor of Anthropology at Rollins College

Great Gathering Places! Pre-Columbian Ritual and Social Integration at Florida Shell Mounds

