

AWIARE-USF UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

AWIARE and the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg campus have initiated an undergraduate internship program that will enable students to gain experience in archaeological, historical, and environmental research and museum studies while working with professionals in these fields. The Fall Semester interns who will be working at AWIARE are Juliana Kane and Lydia Anderson.

Juliana is a senior at USF St. Petersburg majoring in anthropology with a minor in English literature and cultural studies. Her primary interests are in museum studies and archaeology. In addition to her internship at AWIARE, Juliana also volunteers at Heritage Village as a museum collections intern, is co-creating an archaeology exhibit at USF, and works with the Commission of Anthropology and Environment and the Commission of Museums and Cultural Heritage at the IUAES.



Juliana Kane, left and Lydia Anderson, right

Lydia is a senior-year honors student at USF St. Petersburg majoring in anthropology and history. She currently is president of the USF St. Petersburg Anthropology Club and a member of Chancellor Tadlock's Leadership Council. She plans on pursuing a graduate degree in medieval archaeology following her graduation from USF.

HANDS ON WEEDON ADULT ARCHAEOLOGY CAMPS

FEBRUARY 21 - 25 & FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 4, 2021

Join AWIARE in discovering the ancient history of the Tampa Bay region. Volunteers will work with professional archaeologists to uncover the rich cultures of the past. Participants in the Hands-On Weedon Adult Archaeology Camps will help scientists investigate the early people who once were inhabitants of Weedon Island and their surrounding environment. Learn about their lifestyle and beliefs through field and lab work, lectures and tours.

We are offering two camps this summer. Each camp is limited to 8 participants per week.

Daily camp schedule: 8:30am - 4:30pm

Monday, February 21 - Friday, February 25, 2022 &
Monday, February 28 - Friday, March 4, 2022

Registration Fee: \$495 per week. A 15% discount is applied for campers who attend both weeks. Registration fee includes daily lunches, as well as snacks. All other meals and lodging are not included. Further details can be found at www.awiare.org. Deadline for registration is January 31, 2022. Payment can be made via PayPal online at www.awiare.org or mailing a check or money order to AWIARE.



AWIARE

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NEW RESEARCH ON THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF TAMPA BAY

During the past year, four recipients of the AWIARE/Levett Foundation Student grants completed their research providing important new information on the Indigenous cultures who inhabited Tampa Bay.

University of Florida Ph.D. candidate, **Trevor Duke** focused his research on the role of mortuary pottery specialization in creating, maintaining, and transforming social connections during the Safety Harbor and Weeden Island periods, ca. AD 300 to AD 1750. Trevor conducted petrographic and elemental analyses of ceramic sherds from the Tierra Verde (8PI51) and Maximo Point (8PI19) sites. He also obtained two radiocarbon dates for these previously undated sites. A date of AD 1024-1155 was obtained from soot on a Weeden Island vessel sherd from the Tierra Verde burial mound, one of several from the Lyman Warren Collection curated at AWIARE. A second date of AD 1045-1250 is from a sherd of Safety Harbor-period pottery excavated from the domestic midden at Maximo Point and curated at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville. The sherd analyses indicate that clays used to make ornate Weeden Island vessels sampled in this study were all nonlocal, indicating that the potters who made these vessels produced for demands beyond their household, consistent with the goals of ceramic specialists. In contrast, the later Safety

Harbor pots were mostly made by local potters using local clays. Furthermore, pottery from burial contexts contain crushed pottery (grog) fragments from at least two and as many as 4 separate pots, which were used as a tempering agent while pottery from domestic contexts do not. These results indicate not only that specialization may have been prevalent in nonstate societies in the past, but also that it may have occurred in different forms as historical conditions changed.



Vibracoring, left and Trevor Duke, right

Kendal Jackson, a USF doctoral student, obtained 18 radiocarbon dates from excavated test units at Ross Island South (8PI56) and Ross Island North (8PI11491) and from core sampling at Ross Island and Upper Tampa Bay Park in Hillsborough County.

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BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

DAVID BURNS

Growing up as a young boy in Ohio, I was enamored by the many different rocks that could be found in the creeks and forests. I was always bringing “pretty” rocks home to share with my parents, which fostered a desire to be a geologist. I obtained my B.S in Geology in 1969 from Kent State University in Ohio. After a stint in the Army, getting married, new job and kids, I received my M.S. in Geology in 1980, also from Kent State. After almost twenty years of working as a petroleum/environmental geologist, I wanted to explore the interest I had in the people and animals who lived during ancient times.

In 1993, I was invited to participate in an excavation at the future home of the Pequot Museum in Connecticut. Shortly after this, I visited the Yat Kitischee site in St. Petersburg. It was there that I was introduced to Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society (CGCAS). I joined in 1994 just before they began excavation at the Narvaez/Anderson site (8Pi54). This was the beginning of a great journey of learning archaeological methods and techniques from many supportive archaeologists throughout the years.



I have been privileged to serve as President of CGCAS and the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS), as well as being on their boards and newsletter editor over the years. In 2008, AWIARE was formed and I am proud to have been a founding member of this prestigious group. I appreciate the tutelage of many people during my journey including Dr. Bob Austin, Phyllis Kolianos, Sheila Stewart and too many others to list here.

The journey continues...

BECOMING AWIARE

The Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that has as its goals to promote and facilitate long-term archaeological research, scientific exploration and public education at the Weedon Island Preserve and the adjacent gulf coast regions. Our Officers and Advisory Board include professional archaeologists and interested lay persons.

If you are interested in making a donation, please visit us at: www.awiare.org or click [HERE](#). Email: awiare1@gmail.com
1500 Weedon Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33702

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1:

NEW RESEARCH ON THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF TAMPA BAY

The data are being used in his dissertation research of relict estuarine flooding surfaces to determine how human-environmental interaction shaped the establishment and development of late-Holocene (ca. 6500 BP-present) estuarine ecosystems in Tampa Bay. Samples of charcoal and mammal bone from Ross Island South yielded calibrated ages spanning ca. 500 BC to AD 500 while charcoal and carbonized hickory nut from Ross Island North yielded calibrated ages concentrated between ca. AD 1200 and 1400. Estuarine vibracore samples taken in the intertidal zone seaward (east) of Ross Island recorded a highly stratified sedimentary sequence that likely spans the Holocene epoch. The upper portion of this record contains remnants of tidal habitats, such as bivalve reef, salt-pond, salt marsh, and seagrass meadow. A radiocarbon date on preserved salt marsh macrobotanical remains from one of cores suggests that salt marsh habitats were established seaward of Ross Island by approximately 4500 years ago (cal. 2575 – 2469 BC). Landward (west) of Ross Island there is no evidence of fossil reefs, but tidal marshes set up in this more protected location by ca. 4800 years ago (2920 – 2880 BC). A carbon date on the uppermost extent of the marsh deposit in a second core suggests that salt marsh was flooded out and replaced by seagrass meadows around 4200 years ago (cal. 2461 – 2210 BC). Finally a percussion core (PC 1) taken on the eastern beach-berm of Ross Island also intersected a buried salt marsh deposit lying 65 cm below the surface. The basal portion of this marsh stratum was dated to cal. AD 710 – 830, and the uppermost marsh surface dated to the historic era (cal. AD 1660 – 1950) with a median date AD 1767.

Lindsey Parsons, MS student at the University of Georgia, used her grant funds to obtain stable isotope data on scallops in support of her study comparing the scallop assemblages from Bayshore Homes (8PI41) on Boca Ciega Bay with those from the Pineland site (8LL33) near Charlotte Harbor during the Medieval Warm Period (MWP; AD 850-1200) and the Little Ice Age (LIA; AD 1200-1850) of the Late Holocene. The ratios indicate temperature and marine conditions, with more negative values indicating summer seasons and more positive values indicating winter. The ratios indicate seasonality (difference in relative temperature between summer and winter), season of capture, age (counting the number of peaks and valleys along the curve), and overall relative temperature change between the LIA and the MWP. The isotope data are used to interpret metabolic activity. As scallops age, their growth rate slows. The data indicate that scallops from both sites were likely only living through one annual cycle beginning in late summer and reaching mortality in early fall the following year. Morphological and taphonomic analyses indicate that scallops deposited during the MWP at Pineland were significantly larger than those deposited at Bayshore Homes during the same period. However, Bayshore Homes had more than double the number of scallops in deposition than at Pineland. Traces of bioeroders and bioencrusters were present in MWP samples from both sites, while those dating to the LIA had none. No interior borings were present (no dead shells) in the LIA sample from Pineland while both MWP assemblages had around 6 – 8 % of dead shells in deposition.



Lindsey Parsons

Finally, USF MA student, McKenna Douglas, analyzed 500 ceramic sherds from Weedon Island (8PI11), Bayshore Homes (8PI41), Yat Kitischee (8PI1753), and Maximo Point (8PI19) using pXRF to identify the elemental composition of the clays. The time periods sampled covered the Weedon Island and Safety Harbor periods. Her study attempted to determine whether domestic ceramics were produced using local clays, non-local clays, or both. Her analysis determined that the majority of the domestic ceramics from these sites were produced using nearby clay sources, supporting Trevor Dukes results mentioned above. A small number of sherds were identified as non-local in origin and may have been acquired through trade with neighboring societies.



McKenna Douglas