



ANTHRO NEWS

THE 2024-25 UTSA DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY'S ROUND UP

UNDERGRAD NEWS

*Huge
congratulations
to all of this
year's graduates!*

OTHER ACCOLADES

Sofia Guerrero was awarded a Provost's Undergraduate Research Fellowship.

Daniela Paniagua was awarded:

- A Caesar E. Rivera Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- A Doña Agripina de Urdaneta Endowed Scholarship in Anthropology.

Ollie Valdez-Ortiz was awarded a Caesar E. Rivera Memorial Endowed Scholarship.



Members of the undergraduate Anthro Society tabling with an archaeological dig demo to promote our department and our discipline. (Photo courtesy of Thad Bartlett.)

GRAD STUDENT NEWS

MA GRADS

Micaela Bermea: MA in passing. (Faculty advisor: Devin Flaherty.)

Tara Brown: "The Effects of Parental and Group Characteristics on Birth Sex Ratio in Captive Baboons and Rhesus Macaques." (Faculty advisor: Fernando Campos.)

David Burns: Non-thesis track. Project included the excavation and analysis of materials from a Late Preclassic Maya ballcourt at the site of Arenal, Belize. (Faculty advisor: M. Kathryn Brown.)

Aaron Castle: Non-thesis track. Project included an ethnographic evaluation of employee job satisfaction at a state rehabilitation center in Florida. (Faculty advisor: Michael Cepek.)

Jeffrey DeMario: Non-thesis track. Project focused on lithic analysis from a Late Prehistoric Toyah site in central Texas. (Faculty advisor: M. Kathryn Brown.)

Joy Felix: Non-thesis track. Project title: "Starting a Community Garden in a San Antonio School District Adult Education Program Facility." (Faculty advisor: Devin Flaherty.)

Amber Hefner: "Analysis of an Early Brownware Assemblage from the Sanchez Archaeological Site, Southeastern Arizona." (Faculty advisor: Robert Hard.)



Undergraduate student Sofia Guerrero and graduate student Sydney Self, posing in front of Sofia's poster at the COLFA Research Conference and Showcase. (Photo courtesy of Sydney Self.)

Sadie Lucitante: MA in passing.
(Faculty advisor: Rebecca Bria.)

Evan Miller: MA in passing. (Faculty advisor: Luca Pozzi.)

Jenna Owens MA in passing. (Faculty advisor: Fernando Campos.)

Daisy Paredes: MA in passing. (Faculty advisor: K. Jill Fleuriet.)

David Felipe Rodríguez Mora: MA in passing. (Faculty advisor: Michael Cepek.)

Brooke Salzman: Non-thesis track. Project focused on health and movement of people on the Inka Frontier. (Faculty advisors: M. Kathryn Brown and Laura Levi.)

Peyton Schmidli: "Mapping Habitat Suitability for Three Primate Species in the Área de Conservación Guanacaste, Costa Rica." (Faculty advisor: Fernando Campos.)

Anna Tolley: Non-thesis track. Project included the excavation and analysis of recovered materials from a Late Classic ancient Maya causeway (Sacbe) at the site of Xunatunich, Belize. (Faculty advisor: M. Kathryn Brown.)



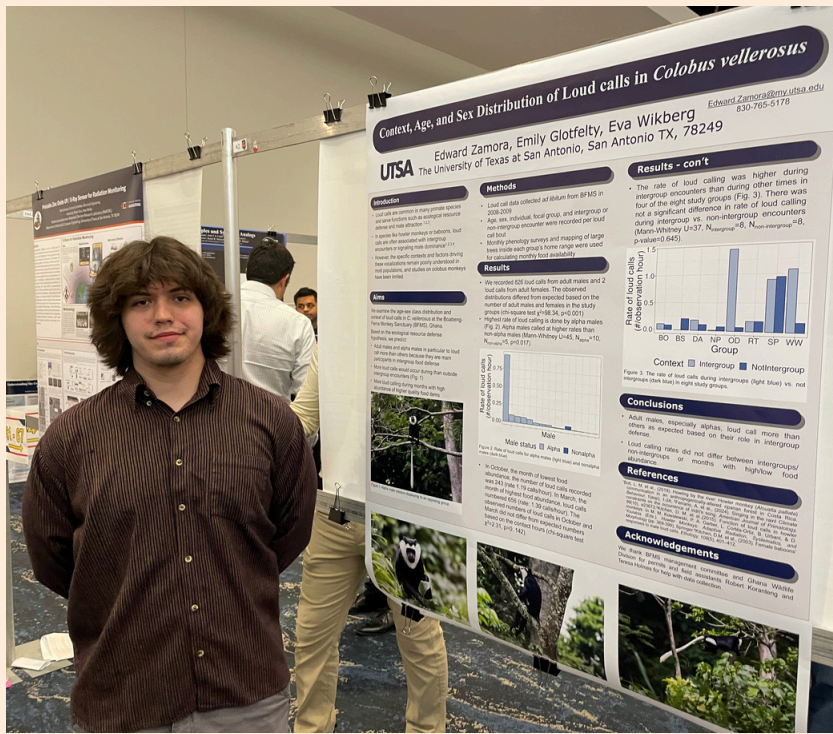
Graduate student Elly Beauchamp conducting ceramic analysis in Belize. (Photo courtesy of M. Kathryn Brown.)

PHD GRADS

Christina Frasier: "Placekeeping as Social Equity: Gentrification and Heritage in San Antonio, Texas." (Faculty advisor: Jamon Halvaksz.)

Clinton McKenzie: "La Situación Infeliz: A Demographic Examination of Resilience in Spanish Colonial San Antonio." (Faculty advisor: Robert J. Hard.)

Sara Lucci: "Early Life Social Adversity and its Consequences for Development in *Colobus vellerosus*." (Faculty advisor: Eva Wikberg.)



Graduate student Edward Zamora with his research poster at the Grad Student Appreciate Week Symposium. (Photo courtesy of Thad Bartlett.)

Evan Miller: "Comparing the Impacts of Global Climate Change on Two Sympatric but Ecologically Distinct East African Primates: A Past, Present, and Future Perspective." (Faculty advisor: Luca Pozzi.)

Jenna Owens: "Effects of Environmental and Intrinsic Factors on Gene Flow, Genetic Diversity, and Population Structure in Three Sympatric Neotropical Primates." (Faculty advisor: Fernando Campos.)

Daisy Paredes: "Being Well and Doing Well: First-Generation College Students in American Higher Education." (Faculty advisor: K. Jill Fleuriet.)

Mikaela Razo: "Through a Looking Glass: A comparative analysis of museum collections and the production, perpetuation, and public dissemination of 'Texan' identity." (Faculty advisor: Rebecca Bria.)

Bright Yeboah: "Social Network Analysis of Human and Non-Human Primate Interactions at the Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary in Central Ghana." (Faculty advisors: Jamon Halvaksz and Eva Wikberg.)

PHD PROPOSAL DEFENSES

Kristin Corl: "Beyond Agriculture: Archaeological Signatures of Niche Construction and Human-Environment Interactions in the Mogollon Region of the U.S. Southwest." (Faculty advisor: Marcus Hamilton.)

Angelica Docog: "How Maya Women Engage and Transform Technologies of Microfinance to Create New Modes of Social Value and Debt." (Faculty advisor: Patrick Gallagher.)

Miguel Alexandre Duarte: "'Butterfly Paths and the House at the Edge of the Sky': Essays on Siekopai Shamanism and Ontology." (Faculty advisor: Michael Cepek.)

NEW JOBS

Jeni Brett was hired as Coordinator for Student Programming at Our Lady of the Lake University.

Daniel Rodríguez Osorio was hired in a tenure-track position in the Department of History and Social Sciences at the Universidad del Norte, Barranquilla, Colombia.

Allie Sheldon was promoted to the position of Program Manager at the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards in the Honors College.

EXTERNAL RESEARCH FUNDING

Adam Birge was awarded a Dissertation Fieldwork Research Grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation.

Miguel Duarte was awarded a Research Grant for the Documentation of Oral Literature and Traditional Ecological Knowledge from the Firebird Foundation.

Averee Luhrs was awarded an NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant from the National Science Foundation. *(PI: Dr. Jamon Halvaksz)*

Daisy Paredes was awarded:

- A Dissertation Fieldwork Research Grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation.
- A Crossing Latinidades Fellowship, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Mikaela Razo was awarded an American Dissertation Fellowship from the American Association of University Women.



Graduate student Lauren Nowakowski teaching kids about ancient Maya graffiti at an Archaeology Day event. *(Photo courtesy of M. Kathryn Brown.)*

Daniel Rodríguez Osorio was awarded a Luis Duque Gómez Archaeology grant from the National Archaeological Research Foundation in Colombia *(Co-PI, Steve Kosiba)*.

Sydney Self was awarded a Grant in Aid of Research from the American Society of Mammologists.

Bright Yeboah was awarded:

- A Research Grant and Conservation through Community Involvement Award by the International Society of Primatology.
- A Research Grant from the American Society of Primatologists.

Edward Zamora was awarded a Research Grant by the International Primatological Society.

PUBLICATIONS

Current students in bold. Names with a * represent a UTSA Anthro faculty member, names with a ** represent a UTSA Anthro alum.

Wikberg, Eva C.*, **Emily Glotfelty**, **Bright Adu Yeboah**, R. Koranteng, C. Kodum, B. Owusu Antwi, A. Boahen. 2024. Predictors of population estimates in a critically endangered species (*Colobus vellerosus*). *Primate Conservation* 38: 83-94.

Luhrs, Averee. 2024. An Owl Out of Bounds: Flaco and the Changing Shape of Nature. *Anthropology Now* 16(2): 45-55.

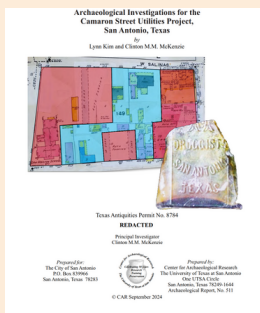
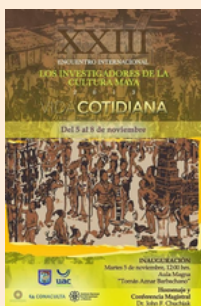
Kim, Lynn** and **Clinton M.M. McKenzie**. 2024. Archaeological Investigations for the Camaron Street Utilities Project, San Antonio, Texas. *Archaeological Report No. 511*, Center for Archaeological Research.

Paige, J., Leonard Kemp**, Cynthia Munoz**, **Clinton M.M. McKenzie**, K. Hindes and Sarah Wigley** with contributions by D. Yelacic. 2025. Archaeological Investigations within the T-238 Highland Hills to Braunig Transmission Corridor, in Southeast San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas, , *Archaeological Report No. 514*, Center for Archaeological Research.

McKenzie, Clinton M. M. with a contribution by Leonard Kemp**. 2025. Investigation of a Stone Bridge and Associated Features on the Route of the Upper Labor Acequia (41BX2043), Brackenridge Park, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas, *Archaeological Report No. 520*, Center for Archaeological Research.

Wall, Peggy** and **Clinton M.M. McKenzie**. 2025. Archaeological Monitoring for the Pajalache and Madre de Valero Acequias, South Alamo Street between South Presa and South St. Mary's Streets, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas, *Archaeological Report No. 516*, Center for Archaeological Research, the University of Texas at San Antonio

Sobрино Fernandez, Santiago A., J. Osorio Leon, and F. Perez Ruiz 2024. Análisis iconográfico y propuesta de lectura del Disco de los Jugadores de Pelota, Chichén Itzá, Yucatán, México. *Mexicon* (46.5), 105-113.



Sobrino Fernandez, Santiago A., J. Osorio Leon, and F. Perez Ruiz. 2024. Vinieron para quedarse. Nuevas interpretaciones sobre las etiquetas nominales en el Templo Inferior de los Jaguares. Chichén Itzá, México. XXXIII Encuentro Internacional "Los Investigadores de la Cultura Maya." Universidad Autónoma de Campeche, Campeche, México.

2025. Brown, M. Kathryn*, R.A. Horowitz, and **Madeline Stone Snyder.** Recent Investigations at the Site of Las Ruinas de Arenal. *Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology* 1: 169-180.



Graduate student Mikaela Razo during her internship at the Smithsonian Institute for Museum Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History. (Photo courtesy of Mikaela Razo.)

OTHER ACCOLADES

Micaela Bermea:

- Gave an invited talk at the Texas Resource Center on Minority Aging Research.
- Was awarded a Doña Agripina de Urdaneta Endowed Scholarship.

Jennifer Lopez was awarded:

- A Friends of Anthropology Endowed Scholarship in Honor of Anne Fox and Don Lewis.
- A Doña Agripina de Urdaneta Endowed Scholarship.

Art Martínez de Vara's recent book, *Beneath Sacred Ground*, won several awards:

- The Presidio La Bahia Award, given annually for the best book on colonial Texas
- First place at the Texas State Genealogical Society Book Awards
- Conservation Society Publication Citation

Lauren Nowakowski was awarded a James C. Gifford Memorial Scholarship

Kalei Oliver was awarded a Richard E.W. Adams Endowed Scholarship.

Jenna Owens conducted a seminar at the Texas Biomedical Research Institute.

Mikaela Razo:

- Was awarded Richard E.W. Adams Endowed Scholarship.
- Completed an internship for the Smithsonian Institute's Summer Institute for Museum Anthropology.
- Was Awarded a Friends of Anthropology Endowed Scholarship in Honor of Anne Fox and Don Lewis.

David Felipe Rodríguez-Mora was awarded a Whisenhunt Excellence in Anthropology Fellowship.

Sydney Self received:

- The Outstanding Graduate Student award - COLFA at the University Life Awards.
- 2nd Place in the PhD Poster Presentation Category at the Texas Association of Biological Anthropologists Conference.
- The Outstanding New Senator award from the Student Government Association.

Santiago Sobrino Fernandez was awarded a James C. Gifford Memorial Scholarship.

Madeline Snyder:

- Received a Student Membership Award from the Archaeology Division of the American Anthropological Association.
- Was appointed as the Graduate Student Representative on Academic, Student, and Faculty Affairs Task Force for the UTSA - UT Health Integration.
- Was elected Speaker of the Senate for the Student Government Association.

Edward Zamora was awarded 2nd Place in the MA Student Poster Presentation Category at the Texas Association for Biological Anthropologists Conference.

FACULTY NEWS

HIRING, PROMOTIONS, NEW APPOINTMENTS

Patrick Gallagher was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure.

Jamon Halvaksz was promoted to the rank of Professor.

Laura Levi received Professor Emeritus status.

Emily Moes was hired as Postdoctoral Scholar in Bioarchaeology and NAGPRA Fellow as part of the UTSA Bridge-to-Faculty Program. *Welcome, Emily!*



Graduate student Madeline Snyder presenting her research to the San Antonio community at Archaeology on Tap. (Photo courtesy of Madeline Snyder.)



Anthro graduate students and faculty at the Maya site of Altun Ha, in Belize. (Photo courtesy of Madeline Snyder.)

EXTERNAL RESEARCH FUNDING

Rebecca Bria was awarded a Digital Projects for the Public Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

K. Jill Fleuriet was awarded the Society for Applied Anthropology's Lambros Comitas Award for Significant Applications of Anthropology. (Co-awardee, William Robertson, University of Memphis, [and UTSA alum!])



Dr. Emily Moes, new hire in the Department of Anthropology

OTHER ACCOLADES

M. Kathryn Brown was awarded a COLFA Grant Development Course Release.

Fernando Campos received a High-Impact Research Paper Award from the UTSA Academy of Distinguished Researchers.

Michael Cepek was inducted into the UTSA Academy of Distinguished Researchers.

Devin Flaherty was awarded a COLFA Grant Development Course Release.

Jamon Halvaksz:

- Received the Graduate School's Outstanding Graduate Advisor of Record award.
- Was awarded a COLFA Grant Development Course Release.

Robert J. Hard was recognized at the University Excellence Awards for 35 years of service to UTSA.

ALUM NEWS

Zoë Rawski (UTSA Anthro PhD, 2020) was hired as Senior Repatriation Specialist at the American Museum of Natural History.

Farewell, Jamon!

After 17 years at UTSA, Professor and beloved PhD Graduate Advisor of Record **Jamon Halvaksz** moved on to a new position this year. Thank you for everything you have done for our department, Jamon! The place won't be the same without you.



*Congratulations,
Laura!*



This year, longtime faculty member **Laura Levi** retired. Laura was a highly valued member of our departmental community and we were thrilled when she was granted Professor Emeritus status. Laura, you will be missed as a colleague, mentor and teacher. We wish you all the best in your retirement!

IN THE NEWS...

Faculty member **Marcus Hamilton**'s research garnered a headline at Phys.org and UTSA News.

UTSA Anthro alums **Kat Jenkins**, **Tiffany Lindley** and **Gabriella Zaragosa** were profiled in Sombrilla magazine for their archaeological work at the Alamo.

IN OTHER NEWS...

Faculty member **Michael Ceppek** served as Academic Advisor, A'ingae Translator, and Provider of Archival Footage for the film Gringo Cofan, by Verónica Mosoco.

Faculty member **K. Jill Fleuriet** was featured in Episode 104f the podcast *Big City Small Town*, "[Inside UTSA Honors College: A Different Kind of Higher Education.](#)"

Faculty member **Steve Kosiba** co-organized and sponsored a conference, "Camaq, samiyuq, y el flujo de la vida en el mundo andino" in Cusco, Peru.

Graduate student **Madeline Snyder** presented her research to the San Antonio community at Archaeology on Tap.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Everyone in the Department of Anthropology would like to give a **huge thanks** to the following for their past support of the department, students, and faculty:

- **Jasmine M. Juanes**
- **The Elizabeth Louis Smith Foundation**
- **Paul Sorensen**
- **Ben and Trudy Termini**
- **Mary and John Whisenhunt**
- **Harry B. Iceland**
- **Kurt W. Bost**
- **Kathleen Ellis**
- **Donna Edmondson**



Graduate student Mikaela Razo and faculty member Rebecca Bria, co-directors of the Society for American Archaeology's Student Diversity Networking Program, hosting a networking event at the SAA's Annual Meeting. Can you spot all the UTSA Anthro faces? (Photo courtesy of Mikaela Razo.)



Faculty and graduate students across subfields gather together for an Anthropology Lunch Talk in the Anthro Library. *(Photo courtesy of Thad Bartlett.)*

Graduate students Sydney Self, Jenna Owens, Allie Sheldon and Emily Glotfelty gathering for a very different kind of event. Birds up! (And congratulations, Jenna!) *(Photo courtesy of Allie Sheldon.)*



CENTER FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH (CAR) REPORT

*By Raymond Maudlin
Interim CAR Director*

Throughout much of 2025, **Cynthia Munoz** served as the CAR Director. With the support of Assistant Director **Sarah Wigley**, Administrative Service Officer **Ann Reid**, and the rest of the amazing Center staff, interns, and volunteers, she has done an incredible job. After two years at the helm, she has returned to her roles as Lead Curator and Principal Investigator for the Center. Thank you, Cynthia, for your leadership, insights, organizational skills, and kindness.

During 2025, and heading into 2026, CAR has continued our long association with several organizations, conducting a variety of field and lab projects for the City of San Antonio, Habitat for Humanity, Joint Base San Antonio, the Brackenridge Park Conservancy, the Bureau of Reclamation, the National Parks Service, City Public Service, and several private firms. Multiple individuals led lab or field projects this year, including **Amber Hefner, Leonard Kemp, Jose Zapata, Dr. Clinton McKenzie, Heather O'Neal, Peggy Wall, and Sarah Wigley. Michelle Carpenter, Lucas Castro, Kristin Corl, Matthew Degraffenried, Brandon Finn, Gabrielle Garcia, Dakota Maas, Jason Madden, Jason Perez, Brooke Salzman, and Robert Walmsley** assisted in the field and lab. All are current or former students in Anthropology at UTSA. CAR also provided equipment, a vehicle, and staff in support of Dr. **Robert J. Hard's** recent archaeological field school conducted at Cherry Springs Ranch in nearby Medina and Bandera counties. The field school, which instructed students in archaeological survey, shovel testing, and data collection procedures, will continue in 2026.

Over the last year, the Center has completed 16 reports summarizing our survey, testing, and archival investigations. These join over 650 Center publications presented in several publication series, including Archaeological Reports, Technical Reports, Special Reports, Our Choke Canyon Series, Guidebooks in Archaeology, Regional Studies, San Juan Bautista Studies, and the Colha Series, most of which are available, free of charge, in pdf format at <https://colfa.utsa.edu/car/research/pblications>, or by scanning the QR code.



CENTER FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH (CAR) REPORT

CAR continues curatorial work under the guidance of Lead Curator, Cynthia Munoz, including rehabilitation efforts on collections from several downtown projects, as well as a donated collection from Milam County in Central Texas. Doctoral Fellow Dr. **Emily Moes** has recently joined the Center staff to facilitate CAR's Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) compliance. CAR remains a trusted facility for curation of artifacts and project records for Cultural Resource projects across Texas. Additionally, Joint Base San Antonio, the Texas Military Department, Bureau of Reclamation, and National Park Service rely on CAR facilities to manage and safeguard their collections. Cynthia Munoz manages these collections and projects with assistance from lab staff, community and student volunteers, and UTSA interns.



Gabrielle Garcia overseeing the Legacy table at the Brackenridge Bash last November. *(Photo courtesy of Raymond Maudlin.)*

Legacy Outreach Program successfully ran four summer camps under the guidance of **Amber Hefner**, supported by UTSA graduate student and Center intern Anna Surovic. Under Amber's guidance, Legacy conducted a variety of career day events, as well as tours of the Center facilities on West Campus. Amber and staff members **Gabrielle Garcia** and **Matthew Degraffenried** recently participated in the Brackenridge Bash at Brackenridge Park near downtown San Antonio. The Bash, an annual event sponsored by the Brackenridge Park Conservancy, celebrates the Park's history and the unique spirit of San Antonio.