

TCAS BENCHMARK



MAY, 2007

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 5

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



When you stop and think about it, our TCAS monthly meeting is probably the staple that holds the society together. Getting together on a regular basis lets us all share in the camaraderie that helps bond a society. That bond is our membership and the friendships that we have formed due to all of our mutual interest in Archeology. These meetings are important; they give us time to visit

with each other, make plans for future events, and to learn about the ever broadening scope of Archeology; especially from our monthly TCAS guest speakers.

One of the people in our society who, for many years, have contributed so much in obtaining quality speakers is our Vice President, Bryan Jameson. I think Bryan must know everyone in the state of Texas (and elsewhere) who works in the Archeological domain. The next time you see him tell him thanks for his hard work.

Another TCAS member who also needs to be thanked for getting guest speakers is our Treasurer, Katrina Nuncio. She has lined up three speakers so far this year. As a result, we have had presentations about Paleolithic stone tools in southern Arabia, case studies in Forensic Anthropology, and the elements and mechanics involved in Forensic Art. I, for one, have greatly enjoyed the variety topics this year. Do you know anyone who you think would made a good presentation to our society? If so, please get with me or any of our board members; as we are always looking for good programs.

Speaking of programs, please make plans to attend our meeting this month on the 10th. Our speaker is Bennett Kimbell, who many of you already know. His presentation will be on military architecture of Presidio de San Saba; and as TAS is having Field School there next month this program will be most important to all of us.

Jay Hornsby

President

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Calendar of Activities

MAY

- 10 TCAS Meeting 7:30pm UNT-HSC
National Park Service 2007 Archeological
Prospection Workshop
14-18 Hammer Training Facility
Richland, Washington

JUNE

- 9-16 TAS Annual Field School ~ Presidio San
Saba, Menard
Arkansas Archeological Survey and Arkansas
Archeological Society
9-24 Training Program in Archeology
Hot Spring County, Arkansas
18-27 UTSA Center for Archeological Research Camp
~ages 7-9
29-33rd Annual American Rock Art Research
July 2 Association Meeting Billings, Montana

JULY

- 9-13 UTSA Center for Archeological Research Camp
~ages 13 and up
9-27 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer
Institute for School Teachers
Archaeology of the Upper Mississippi River Valley
University of Wisconsin La Crosse
23-27 UTSA Center for Archeological Research Camp
~ages 10-12

AUGUST

- 9-12 2007 Pecos Conference
Pecos National Historical Park, New Mexico

COMING UP

- Oct. TAS Annual Meeting ~ Menger Hotel,
26-28 San Antonio

Refreshments

Thanks to Nita Thurman and Marianne Sharp for this month's refreshments. Thanks, too, to Bill and Shirley Green who where left off of last month's thanks.

TCAS BENCHMARK

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MAY PROGRAM

BENNETT R. KIMBELL

The Military Architecture of Presidio de San Sabá ~ A Preliminary Analysis

Bennett R. Kimbell is currently chair of the Social Studies Department at Andrews High School. He is an Archaeology Graduate Student at Texas Tech University. His thesis research focuses on the military architecture of Presidio de Sand Sabá.

Presidio San Sabá, originally known as Presidio San Luis de las Amarillas, was constructed in April of 1757 by a Spanish force led by Captain Don Diego Ortiz Parilla. The presidio, which was subsidized by the Spanish crown, had a three-fold purpose: to protect the nearby Mission Santa Cruz de San Sabá, to assess the validity of rumors of rich silver deposits in the area, and to guard the Spanish frontier against the threat of Indian encroachment.

Conflicting historical sketches and an architecturally inconsistent reconstruction in the 1930s have blurred the image of what the Presidio actually looked like. Mr. Kimbell, using his knowledge of typical Spanish Military Architecture of the period will help us gain a clearer understand of the physical layout of the Presidio as we prepare to return to Menard for the 2007 TAS Field School



NAME THAT POINT

Last Month's "Name That Point" was a
Gary.

This Month's Point is another that may
be found in our own backyard.

The answer is on page 7

Average size:	20mm-65mm
Morphology:	Stemmed
Description:	Concave to Recurved lateral edges that may be serrated Wide, usually barbed Shoulders Parallel or slightly expanding stem, sometimes bulbous
Distribution:	Central and East Texas
Age:	Late Prehistoric (800AD—1200AD)

Another reason to participate in field archaeology, if you needed one. My banking mentor Betty Stout used to tell me, when my kids were little, that the best thing in the world for a toddler was to sit in the back yard and eat handfuls of dirt. As usual, Betty knew what she was talking about. None of my kids have significant allergies, a problem with depression, or get sick much
Ker Than, *LiveScience*

Depressed? Go play in the dirt

Exposure to friendly soil bacteria could improve mood by boosting the immune system just as effectively as antidepressant drugs, a new study suggests.

Researchers exposed mice to a harmless soil microbe called *Mycobacterium vaccae* and had the rodents perform a behavioral task commonly used to test the efficacy of antidepressant drugs. The mice were placed in a large beaker of water for five minutes and watched to see how long they continued swimming and searching for an exit before giving up.

The researchers found that the bacteria-exposed mice continued paddling around much longer than the control mice. "At the risk of anthropomorphizing, you could say the [bacteria-exposed] mice had a more active coping style," said study leader Chris Lowry of the University of Bristol in England. Mice given antidepressant drugs also appear more determined to escape, Lowry added. The finding is detailed online by the journal *Neuroscience*.

Results from the new study are similar to those from a medical trial a few years ago in which human cancer patients treated with the bacteria reported significant increases in their quality of life. "*M. vaccae* is no longer being pursued as a treatment for cancer, because it didn't prolong life, but patients did report increases in things like vitality and cognitive function and decreases in pain," Lowry told *LiveScience*.

Scientists still don't know how *M. vaccae* improves mood. "We don't know the mechanism. That's something that we would desperately like to know," Lowry said. The researchers suspect, however, that the microbes are affecting the brain indirectly by causing immune cells to release chemicals called cytokines. "We know that some of these cytokines can activate the nerves that relay signals from the body to the brain," Lowry said in a telephone interview.

The stimulated nerves cause certain neurons in the brain to release a chemical called serotonin into the prefrontal cortex, an area of the brain known to be involved in mood regulation, among other things. "Only a very small number of neurons in the brain make serotonin, but they have massive branching projections to every part of the brain," Lowry said. Scientists think the lack of serotonin in the brain is thought to cause depression in people.

Previous studies have linked early childhood exposure to bacteria to protection against allergies and asthma in adulthood. The new finding takes this idea, called the [Hygiene Hypothesis](#), a step further, and suggests bacteria-exposure not only boosts our immune systems, but alters our vulnerability to conditions such as depression as well. "These studies help us understand how the body communicates with the brain and why a healthy immune system is important for maintaining mental health," Lowry said. "They also leave us wondering if we shouldn't all be spending more time playing in the dirt."

http://www.livescience.com/humanbiology/070411_happy_bacteria.html

THANKS TO KATRINA NUNCIO FOR THIS ARTICLE

IF YOU'VE GOT AN ARTICLE SEND IT TO DAVID.OPPER@TCCD.EDU FOR INCLUSION IN

ONE OF THE UPCOMING NEWSLETTERS

GLYNN OSBORN ~ TCAS Past President

Understanding Archeological Classifications

As avocational archeologists, we often read or hear terms such as Antelope Creek **focus**, Austin **phase**, Plains Village **tradition**, Clovis **culture**, Archaic **component**, Toyah **horizon** and so forth. Sometimes these terms seem to be interchangeable and indeed, we may see terms such as Antelope Creek focus and Antelope Creek culture in the same article. Do they have the same meaning? What are the differences? Are we confused when we see in the Texas Beyond History Website the term "Austin Phase Culture?" Most of the terms were developed by W.C. McKern in the 1930s and became known as the McKern Taxonomic System. Part of the system McKern developed was **pattern>phase>aspect>focus** which grouped from the broadest to the narrowest. Considerable modifications have taken place since and the McKern system is now considered out of date, however, most of the terms are still in use along with others that have entered since. Following are some definitions that generally are in use today.

Component: an association of all artifacts and features believed to be roughly contemporaneous within a single level of a site; may be "single component" (only one distinct tradition: multi-component) (2 or more cultural units). They can be mixed (multi-component) or, as in the Sprague Site where there is a likely Toyah component, and underneath it but, spatially separated, an Archaic component.

Tradition: a continuum of culture change through time representing the unbroken development of a single cultural technology or several materials of related form (e.g., Caddo Pottery Tradition).

Horizon: mostly has spatial continuity, represented by traits and assemblages whose distribution signals a probably broad spread. The term **Toyah Horizon** is used to call attention to the perception that the Toyah culture were part of a cultural phenomenon that quickly spread across a very broad geographic expanse. So, horizon has a "space" meaning rather than a "temporal" meaning as in tradition.

Phase: a group of site components limited in space to a locality or region, and chronologically limited to a relatively brief period of time. There is a local culture sequence, characterized by sufficient diagnostic traits to set it apart from others. A phase is generally represented by 2 or more components in several sites and is the basic classificatory unit of archaeological "cultures."

Focus: archaeological category roughly equivalent to a phase. Sources indicate the term is falling into disuse, although still common here in Texas (e.g., Henrietta Focus).

Culture: a set of learned behaviors that help shape human responses to different situations; our primary means of adapting to our environment. In archaeological terms, it includes similar artifact assemblages and feature associations found in a multitude of sites within a defined context of time and space.

Fagan, Brian M.

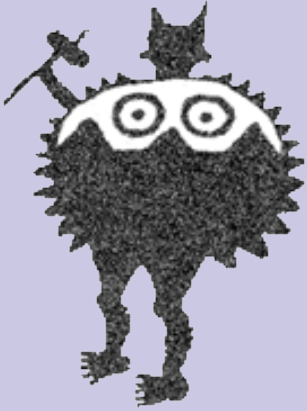
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<http://www.anthro.wayne.edu/ANT2100/GlossaryArch.htm> <http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net>

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1996 The McKern Taxonomic System. *Bulletin of the History of Archaeology*, Vol. 6, No. 1,

TCAS BENCHMARK



2007 Pecos Conference

The purpose of the Pecos Conference, as [Alfred Vincent Kidder](#) put it in summing up the first such gathering, is to...

"...bring about contact between workers in the Southwest field to discuss fundamental problems of Southwestern prehistory; and to formulate problems of Southwest prehistory; to pool knowledge of facts and techniques, and to lay a foundation for a unified system of nomenclature."

Deliberately informal, the Pecos Conference affords Southwestern archaeologists a superlative opportunity to talk with one another, both by presenting field reports and by casual discussions. It is a chance to see old friends, meet new ones, pick up fresh information, organize future conferences, and have a great time.

In recent years, Native Americans, avocational archaeologists, the general public and media organizations have come to play an increasingly important role, serving as participants and as audience, to celebrate archaeological research and to mark cultural continuity.

About The 2007 Pecos Conference

The tradition of research collaboration and sharing that began in 1927 at Pecos Pueblo returns to its home at Pecos National Historical Park, under the guidance of dedicated archaeologists, Federal, state and local agency sponsors, and tribal representatives...

This year, 2007, marks the 80th anniversary of the Pecos Conference, first convened by Alfred V. Kidder at Pecos Pueblo, New Mexico, in 1927. Because the Conference was not held during certain years (due to World War II and other circumstances [cf. * Woodbury 1993]), this year's meeting will not be the 80th annual gathering. This year is, in fact, the 70th annual meeting of the Pecos Conference. In the early 1990s, the numbering of the Pecos Conference became confused, when the anniversary year was substituted for the actual count of prior conferences. Clearly, we cannot mend past problems with the numbering of the Pecos Conference. Our solution is to indicate that this year's conference will be the 70th occurrence and refer formally to this year's event simply as the Pecos Conference 2007.

The Context of Southwest Archaeological Research

The focus of this year's Pecos Conference is the Galisteo Basin of northern New Mexico. The Galisteo is a large, arid basin located west of the Pecos Valley, south of Santa Fe and northeast of Albuquerque. Sliced by rugged volcanic dikes and ridges and surrounded by mesas and mountains, the Basin drains to the Rio Grande through the intermittent Galisteo River. The Basin was occupied by Puebloan farmers from the early 13th to late 17th centuries, and it contains some of the largest Puebloan villages in the Southwest. Their zenith occurred in the mid-15th century, but a few northern basin villages persisted through the early Spanish Colonial period. The rich cultural heritage of the Basin remained largely ignored until the early 20th century when Nels Nelson of the American Museum of Natural History conducted extensive excavations at a number of the pueblos. Research has been conducted intermittently in subsequent decades, but the Galisteo is still archeological terra incognita. Once off the beaten track, the Basin's isolated ranches are being replaced by high-end homes and subdivisions. Recognizing the threats posed by development, erosion, and vandalism, Congress passed the Galisteo Basin Archeological Sites Protection Act in 2004 to preserve and protect the Basin's significant archeological sites.

In 2007, the state of New Mexico followed with a similar act providing funds for initial assessment of 24 sites. A resurgence of archeological research is underway that promises to illuminate the Galisteo Basin's important role in northern Rio Grande prehistory.

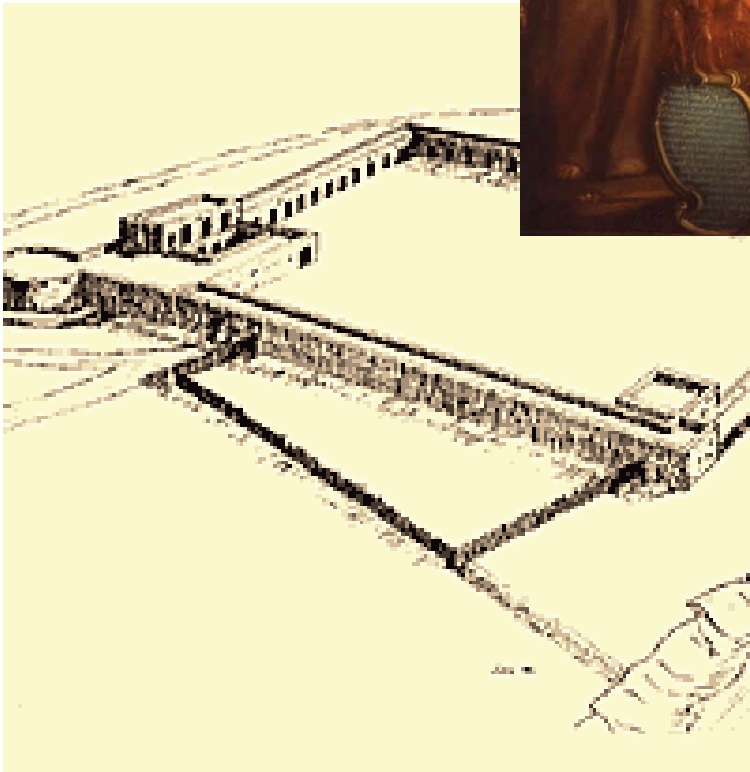
The Conference meets August 9-12 at the Pecos National Historical Park. For more information go to www.swanet.org/2007_pecos_conference

WHAT DID THE PRESIDIO DE SAN SABA REALLY LOOK LIKE?

**Destruction of Mission
San Saba 1765**



**1981 Artist Conception
of the Presidio in 1760**

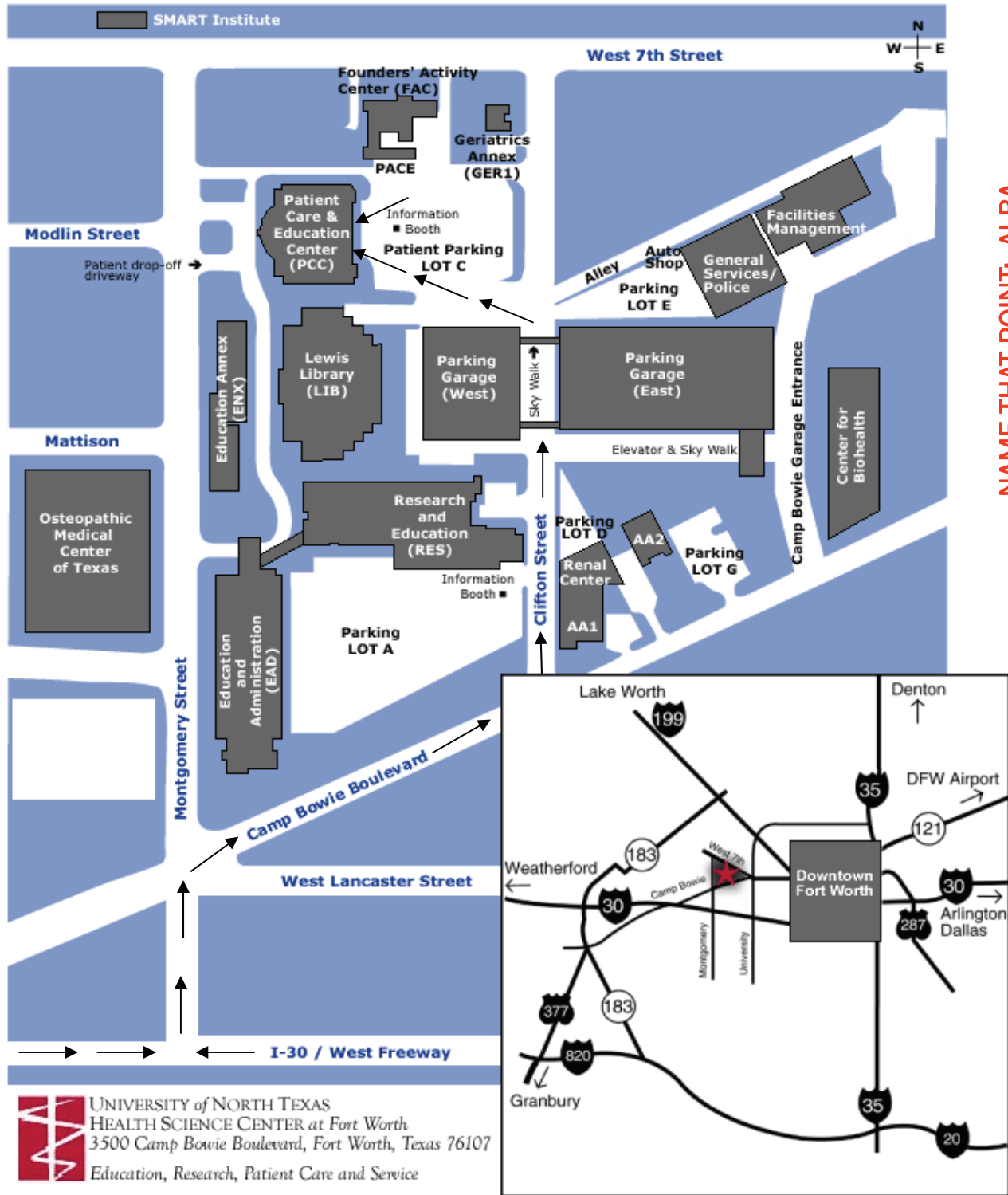


**Aerial View of 1930s
reconstruction**



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TCAS meets at 7:30PM, the 2nd Thursday of each month at the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC), 3500 Camp Bowie Blvd., in Fort Worth. The location is centrally located in Tarrant County near the intersection of Camp Bowie and Montgomery Street about two miles west of downtown. Take Clifton Street off of Camp Bowie (one block east of the Montgomery intersection) to Parking Lot "C" on your left (west). Park in the patient spaces (after 5PM) and go past the information booth into the underground parking garage. Turn left down the corridor at the double doors in the center. Proceed down the hallway until you come to room 110.



TARRANT COUNTY ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Membership / Renewal Form

Name(s) _____

Type of Membership:

Renewal ___ New Member ___

Address _____

___ Individual ___ \$20.00

City/State/Zip _____

___ Family ___ \$25.00

Home Phone _____

___ Student (H.S., active univ. degree candidate through age 25)

Employer _____

___ \$10.00

___ Contributing ___ \$30.00+

Email _____

___ Lifetime ___ \$250.00

CODE OF ETHICS (Signature required)

I pledge that I will not intentionally violate the terms and conditions of any federal, state, or local antiquities statutes concerning cultural resources, or engage in the practice of buying or selling artifacts for commercial purposes, or engage in the willful destruction or distortion of archeological data, or disregard proper archeological field techniques. I understand that failure to follow these guidelines will provide ground for expulsion from the Society.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

TARRANT COUNTY ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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