



Biographies for Partner Presentations

Annual Consultation with TxDOT and Federally Recognized Tribes

Virtual Meeting, Sept. 15-17, 2020

Dirk Van Tuerenhout

Dr. Dirk Van Tuerenhout is curator of anthropology at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. He has participated in several archaeological research projects in Belize and Guatemala. His research emphasis is on Maya culture, settlement patterns, population history, architecture and art. He holds a Master's degree in Ancient History and another in Art History and Archaeology, both from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, as well as a Master's degree and a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Tulane University. He has published a monograph on Aztec culture. Dr. Van Tuerenhout has taught anthropology at Tulane University, Shippensburg University, the University of New Orleans and the University of Houston, Clear Lake. Among the exhibits he curated at the Houston Museum of Natural Science was Lucy's Legacy.

Dr. John Young

Dr. John Young is recognized by the Wildlife Society as a Certified Wildlife Biologist and has over 20 years in natural resources field. John has been with TxDOT for 6 years as an Environmental Specialist. Prior to coming to TxDOT he was the non-game mammologist at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for 11 years. John also spent 9 years working with private corporations to develop wildlife management plans for corporate sites including Superfund sites, landfills, utility line rights of way, and mining properties. John received his PhD from Texas A&M University Kingsville in 2009, Masters from Texas A&I University in 1992, and Bachelors from West Virginia University in 1988.

Jennifer Anderson

Jen Anderson is a staff archeologist with TxDOT. Prior to joining the team in 2019, Ms. Anderson worked in the private sector for nearly a decade, where her background includes experience with survey, testing and data recovery for prehistoric hunting and camping sites across Texas. In her time with TxDOT, Ms. Anderson has become interested in non-invasive archeological methods; and, she has been working with Dr. Ben Alexander to develop appropriate training and methodology for the detection of prehistoric burials by search and rescue dogs.

Dr. Ben Alexander

Ben is the K9 training coordinator at the Forensic Anthropology Center at Texas State. Ben established the program in 2013 under the guidance and oversight of Dr. Daniel Wescott and has successfully coordinated all the seminars since the start. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in animal science then returned to school 14 years later to obtain a Master of Science degree in animal science: ethology. His master's thesis was on Search Dog Performance and he has one published paper from his research. He obtained his PhD in Dec 2014 in Soil Science, forensic focus and has published two papers on HRD dog capabilities in regards to forensic soils. Ben has over 40 years of various K9 training experience having also taught obedience classes for over 20 years,

assisting with service dog training and testing and training therapy dogs. He also founded F.I.R.S.T. Detection K9, a non-profit organization that provides dogs for a variety of scent detection projects.

Melissa J. Huber

Melissa J. Huber is Director of Programs and Communication at Humanities Texas. She joined Humanities Texas in December 2007. She holds a BA in art history from Arizona State University and an MS in historic preservation from The University of Texas at Austin. Prior to joining Humanities Texas, she worked at the Blanton Museum of Art and in UT's Architectural Conservation Lab. Her combined focus on collections, exhibitions, and historic buildings developed in her previous role as conservation assistant for the Arizona State Museum Preservation Division at The University of Arizona in Tucson. At Humanities Texas, she oversees public programs including traveling exhibitions, community history harvests, and the *Veterans' Voices* reading and discussion series. She also coordinates communications for Humanities Texas including the council's website and monthly e-newsletter. She curates the Byrne-Reed House collections, Humanities Texas's headquarters in downtown Austin, and served as staff point-person for the building's extensive restoration in 2010.

Jenny Peterson

Jenny Peterson is the Exhibitions Curator at Humanities Texas. She joined Humanities Texas in June 2020. Born and raised in The Woodlands, Texas, she graduated from Texas State University in San Marcos with her BA in political science and history and her MA in public history. Prior to joining Humanities Texas, she worked as the associate curator of exhibitions for the Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin and as an independent museum and interpretation specialist based in Midland. Jenny supports the traveling exhibitions program and serves as the curator of the Byrne-Reed House collections.

Mary Jo Galindo

Mary Jo Galindo has extensive knowledge of the important historic and archaeological resources of Texas and the border region of southern Texas and northeastern Mexico. She has more than 20 years of experience conducting archaeological surveys, testing, data recovery, and traditional cultural property studies to assure compliance with federal, state, and local laws. She earned her doctorate from The University of Texas at Austin, focusing on the Spanish colony of Nuevo Santander. Dr. Galindo has served in leadership roles for the City of Austin Historic Landmark Commission, Texas Archeological Society, and the Council of Texas Archeologists.