

*Sisters
in
Crime*™

HOTSHOTS!

HEART OF TEXAS Chapter
www.hotxsinc.org



"Flea Markets, Funky Old Stuff and Murder! Oh, my!"

WANTED: *Those who are curious about old stuff, unique places, and mysteries.*

Ever wonder how a vintage journalist with a passion for antiques, rust and lace could write a murder mystery? Come find out at the September



8, 2013, Sisters in Crime Heart of Texas Chapter meeting when author and self-proclaimed tireless junker, Lisa Love Harris, will present, "Flea Markets, Funky Old Stuff and Murder, Oh, my!"

Find out how Lisa combines her obsession for old stuff with her passion to write and turns it into a blog, antique business and mystery series. She will define what junkin' is as well as how her addiction for antiques and vintage items inspires her to create characters, plot murder and describe unique gritty locations for her Jimmie Rae Flea Market Mystery series. From "picking" in a falling down barn to "junkin'" at a desolate estate sale, the ingredients for writing a murder mystery are abundant in Lisa's 17 years of experience motoring down the blacktops. ♥✂

Pen 2 Paper: A Disability-Focused Creative Writing Contest

Writers of all ages, abilities/disabilities, and writing levels are invited to share their stories, perspectives, fears, and discoveries about disability. Entries may be fiction, nonfiction, poetry, or graphic narrative.

Deadline for submissions is September 23. Grand Prize, \$500.

For more information and to submit an entry, phone CTD at 512-478-3366 or visit <http://www.txdisabilities.org/news-events/pen-2-paper>

If writers would like some suggested guidelines for writing about people with disabilities, using People First language, respectful depictions, etc, they can visit the National Center on Disability and Journalism at <http://ncdj.org/style-guide> for a look at the style guide that journalists use. ♥✂

Sisters in Crime Heart of Texas Chapter, meets monthly on the second Sunday of the month at 2 p.m. at Mangia Pizza at 8012 Mesa Drive, Austin. Mangia is located in the Mesa Plaza Shopping Center at the northwest corner of Mesa Drive and Spicewood Springs Road, between Mopac/ Loop 1 and 360/Capital of Texas Highway.

Murder around Austin

Thurs 9/12

JOE LANSDALE & KASEY LANSDALE s

The Landsdalea will be peaking & signing THE THICKET (Joe) and Impossible Monsters (Kasey)

Tonight it's a Lansdale family affair! Edgar Award-winning author and MysteryPeople favorite Joe Lansdale is here with THE THICKET, a rip-roaring adventure set in East Texas that's equal parts

TRUE GRIT and 'Stand By Me'. His daughter, Kasey Lansdale, a talented singer-songwriter, has edited a brand new anthology of monstrously innovative stories (including one by her dad) and will be here to share it with us tonight.

Wed 9/18 7p

LAURIE KING

Join Laurie Kind for a speaking & signing BONES OF PARIS

New York Times bestselling author Laurie R. King, beloved for her acclaimed Mary Russell/Sherlock Holmes series, consistently writes richly detailed and thoroughly suspenseful novels that bring a distant time and place to brilliant life. Now, in this thrilling new book, King leads readers into the vibrant and sensual Paris of the Jazz Age—and reveals the darkest secrets of its denizens.

Fri 9/27 7p

MysteryPeople Presents DOUGLAS CORLEONE (GOOD AS GONE) and CARLOS CISNEROS (THE LAND GRANT) in conversation with MARK PRYOR

Tonight we have the great pleasure of welcoming two acclaimed authors for a conversation about the craft. Bestselling Austin author Mark Pryor will lead a conversation between Doug Corleone, acclaimed author of LAST LAWYER STANDING and ONE MAN'S PARADISE, and Carlos Cisneros, author of

THE CASE RUNNER and THE NAME PARTNER. Both authors will discuss their brand new books, Corleones' GOOD AS GONE and Cisneros' THE LAND GRANT.

The Pflugerville Public Library is hosting a local author showcase on Monday, November 4, 2013, 6:30 p.m., as part of their annual NaNoWriMo celebration. Local authors are encouraged to participate. Interested parties may contact Bette McDowell at the Pflugerville Public Library at (512) 990-6375

BookPeople
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512-472-5050 ext. 404

For more information on the Heart of Texas Chapter contact- hotxsinc@yahoo.com



NEWSLETTER DESIGN BY
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Tales from the Skeleton:

The Role of Forensic Anthropology in Medicolegal Death Investigations

By Daniel Wescott, Ph.D.

Director, Forensic Anthropology Center at Texas State University

Presented to Sisters in Crime Heart of Texas Chapter on August 11, 2013

Abstract

Daniel Wescott, Ph.D. Director of FACTS/ the Forensic Anthropology Center at Texas State, discussed how forensic anthropologists assist in the recovery and analysis of human skeletal remains and badly decomposed bodies. Within a medicolegal context forensic anthropologists help reconstruct activities occurring on the scene, recover human remains, aid in the identification of an unknown individual, and reconstruct the manner of the individual's death. He also provided case examples and discussed novel research being conducted at the Forensic Anthropology Center at Texas State.

The Role of the Forensic Anthropologist

Forensic Anthropology is the application of anthropological methods and theory, especially those relating to the recovery and analysis of human remains, to resolve legal matters. Forensic Anthropologists can aid in the recovery, analysis, and identification of unidentified human remains. Archaeological techniques are used to help locate, recover, and document clandestine burials and surface scatters. Forensic anthropologists also use expertise in bone anatomy and human variation to determine if the bones are human or non-human and to develop a biological profile (age, sex, ancestry, stature, unique characteristics, and ante-mortem disease and trauma). The biological profile allows law enforcement to narrow down their search of possible missing people. Forensic anthropologists also assist, working in collaboration with other scientists, to determine the time-since-death, the manner of death, and postmortem treatment of the body. Finally, Forensic Anthropologists conduct research to develop and test methods used by forensic scientists and provide expert testimony

when necessary. Below are three case examples that help clarify the role of the Forensic Anthropologist in medicolegal investigation.

Case Examples

In 2006, Dr. Wescott assisted the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office in Missouri in locating, recovering, and identifying the remains of a woman who had been missing for more than 20 years. Based on evidence that the skull of the missing woman was in a pond in the Mark Twain National Forest, a team of students and forensic scientists from the University of Missouri and Columbia College used heavy equipment to excavate the pond. Students screened the mud from the pond and discovered seven fragments of the skull. While the skull was incomplete, the presence of some of the upper teeth allowed Dr. Wescott to positively determine the skull was from the missing woman.

Another example involved establishing the forensic context of human remains captured in photographs. During a routine traffic stop, a Kansas Highway Patrol officer discovered six photographs that showed a decapitated body floating in water. Upon initial examination of the photographs

Dr. Wescott determined that there were incongruities with the way the body was decomposing. After more careful examination of the photographs, Dr. Wescott discovered evidence that the body in the picture was fabricated. Running through the spinal canal was a rectangular-shaped rod and in the knee joint were eyebolts indicating this was an anatomical skeleton that had been reconstructed with soft tissue to look like a decomposing body.



Law enforcement training to learn how to properly document surface remains at FACTS

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The final example shows how biological characteristics associated with ambulatory impairment helped identify a woman found in a shallow grave near the Missouri River in Callaway County, Missouri. Dr. Wescott was asked by the Boone-Callaway Medical Examiner to assist with the identification of a decomposing and headless body that had been found by mushroom hunters. Upon examination of the thigh bones, Wescott realized that the unidentified woman probably had ambulatory impairment. He compared the biomechanical properties of the bones of the unidentified woman with those of individuals with known ambulatory impairment (use of wheelchair, walker, etc.) and individuals with normal mobility. The analysis showed that the woman had most likely been wheelchair bound for at least a period of time. The identity of the woman was finally determined after a tip from a wheelchair salesman who saw the description of the woman in a local paper.



Law enforcement training at FACTS to learn proper methods for excavating human skeletal remains.

The Forensic Anthropology Center at Texas State University (FACTS)

The mission of FACTS is to advance forensic science and anthropology through world-class education, research, and outreach. To fulfill our mission, our faculty 1) conduct forensic anthropological research in human decomposition, human skeletal variation, and forensic osteological methods, 2) work with outside researchers to facilitate studies in forensic science, 3) instruct graduate students, 4) offer workshops and training for law enforcement and the medicolegal community, 5) provide complete anthropological case service and 6) offer high quality osteological consulting.

Located in the scenic Texas Hill Country (San Marcos, TX), the large outdoor decomposition facility associated with FACTS provides a unique environment that stimulates innovative, creative, and interdisciplinary research that advances forensic science knowledge, theory, and methods. Bodies are received through the Texas State Willed Body Donation Program. We accept only known individuals that have either self-donated or who have been donated by the legal next-of-kin. Bodies received at FACTS are used in a number of research projects by students and researchers from all over

the world. The donated bodies are first used in research on human decomposition. In most cases the bodies are either placed on the ground in a cage to protect them from animal scavengers, on the ground uncovered to allow us to examine the effects of scavengers on the rate of decomposition, or buried at various depths. Once decomposition is completed, the donated bodies are processed and the skeletons are retained in perpetuity for a wide

range of studies involving human skeletal biology and variation.

FACTS provides anthropological services and training to law enforcement. Our faculty is comprised of four experts with specialized training in forensic anthropology, including a

Board Certified Forensic Anthropologist. Our faculty and students assist law enforcement in the search and recovery, identifying human from non-human bone, developing a biological profile, conducting analyses of bone trauma, estimating the time-since-death in decomposing human remains, and providing expert legal reports and courtroom testimony. FACTS faculty also provide workshops on many aspects of forensic anthropological methods. A complete list of the FACTS workshops can be found at <http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/workshops.html>.

FACTS operating budget is funded primarily from private donations. We humbly encourage you to provide a financial contribution to support the education, research, and outreach goals of our mission. Your financial support helps us provide no or low-cost body donation pickups for individuals and families, support student research, purchase essential equipment, and provide high quality training to students and law enforcement. You can support the missions and goals of FACTS by making a general gift or a gift in memoriam using a credit card at <http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts> or making a check payable to "FACTS" and sending it to: Forensic Anthropology Center at Texas State, Texas State University, 601 University Drive, San Marcos, TX 78666. ❤️