



NOVEMBER-2025

PRESERVE ♦ EDUCATE ♦ RESEARCH ♦ INSPIRE

Dear Member:

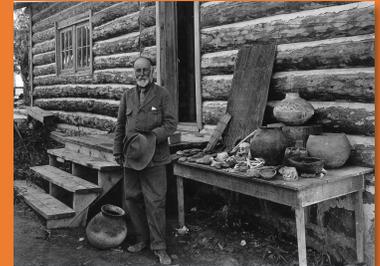
We have a very busy two months ahead ... our speaker this month is Dr. Denise Cali of USF talking about the Roman Arena; we have a volunteer opportunity on **November 8 & 9** at De Soto National Memorial; our Holiday Party on **December 20** and a new project with New College helping them document all the memorials and statues in Sarasota & Manatee Counties. Please volunteer for these events and join us for the Holiday Party

Thank You for your support.

Darwin "Smitty" Smith, President
hmsbeagle22@gmail.com

Historical Trivia

Name the famous archaeologist who excavated Mesa Verde?



Answer on page 6.

November 19th - at 5:45 PM at the Selby Library in downtown Sarasota



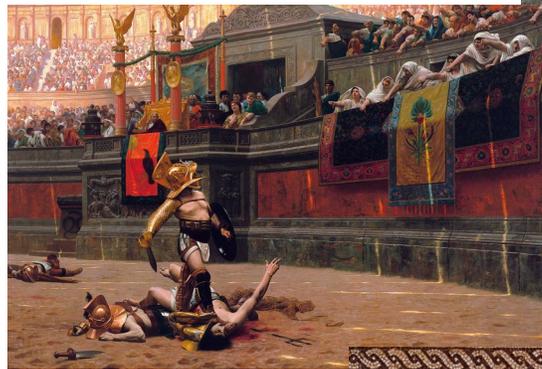
"Blood and Spectacle: Violence and entertainment in the Roman arena "

Dr. Denise Cali,
*Associate Professor of Instruction,
University of South Florida*

The world of Roman gladiators emerges from funerary ritual and evolves into one of the most iconic spectacles of the ancient world, reflecting both the entertainment and the values of Roman society. Drawing on archaeological evidence and ancient sources, this presentation examines who the gladiators were, how they lived, and what their battles symbolized in the political and cultural life of Rome.

Dr. Denise Cali is Associate Professor of Instruction in Classical Archaeology at the University of South Florida. She specializes in Roman material culture, with particular focus on imperial architecture and Late Roman pottery. Her research also engages with

the social and cultural dynamics of the Roman Empire, including public spectacles and the intersections of memory and identity in antiquity. Through her teaching and research, Dr. Cali is committed to advancing the study of the ancient Mediterranean while also engaging broader audiences through public lectures, cultural programming, and community outreach.



Photos: Pinterest & Wikipedia.

Cornelia Futor Memorial Student Research Grant Targeted Object-based Research on the Fort Brooke Collection.

By Alex Fawbush, Grant Winner, Research Support Specialist, University of South Florida.



This past year, I had the privilege of carrying out a project that combined archaeology, history, and cutting-edge digital tools to reframe one of Tampa's most

important but overlooked sites: Fort Brooke. Established in 1824 at the mouth of the Hillsborough River, Fort Brooke anchored U.S. expansion on Florida's Gulf Coast, served as a hub during the Seminole Wars, and shaped the foundations of modern Tampa. Yet today, the fort itself has vanished beneath downtown streets and buildings, leaving little more than sparse historical markers and a parking garage to tell its story.

My thesis research set out to change that by exploring how archaeology and digital heritage can reconnect communities to this site. Working with the *Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research*, the *University of South Florida's Access 3D Lab*, and the *USF Anthropology department*, I digitized a collection of artifacts excavated from Fort Brooke in the 1970s. Using structured light and laser scanning, I produced high-resolution 3D models of ceramics, glassware, military buttons, projectile points, and other items that once anchored daily life at the post. These models are now available to the public online, where they can be rotated, zoomed in on, and studied in ways impossible with fragile artifacts kept in storage (<https://skfb.ly/pCwVv>).

The second part of the project involved building a virtual exhibit using *ArcGIS StoryMaps*. This platform allowed me to place

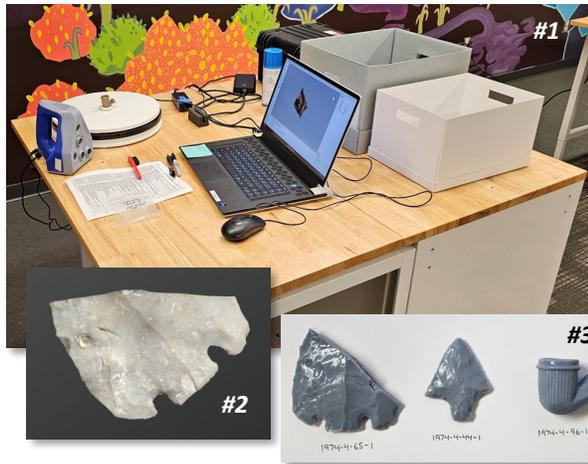


Photo 1: Using an Artec Spider to 3D scan an artifact from the Baker Collection. **#2:** 3D scan of a Possible Culbreath point (1974.4.65.1) with a broken point possibly caused by voids within the chert. **#3:** Resin 3D prints of artifacts from the Baker Collection. **#4:** Preview of Fort Brooke StoryMap visualized on a mobile phone. **Photos:** Alex Fawbush, University of South Florida.

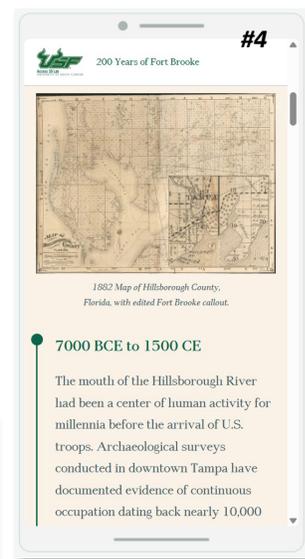
those 3D artifacts into a chronological timeline of Fort Brooke's history (<https://arcg.is/1qKL500>).

Like many archaeological collections, the assemblage I worked with has its limits. The artifacts lean heavily toward garrison life and Euro-American material culture, with fewer direct ties to Seminole, African American, or Spanish communities who were equally vital to Tampa's origins. That limitation was an important lesson: the material record is always partial, and inclusive storytelling requires us to engage not just with artifacts, but also with oral histories, descendant voices, and intangible heritage. Even so, the project showed me how powerful digital tools can be in making the past accessible. For students and researchers, the 3D models provide precise documentation of legacy collections. For the public, they create an interactive bridge to a site that is otherwise invisible beneath modern development. For descendant

communities, digital surrogates open doors to collaboration and reinterpretation.

Looking ahead, I see this experience shaping my career in several ways. First, it has given me a deeper technical foundation in 3D scanning, digital curation, and online exhibit building. These are skills I intend to keep applying at the USF Access 3D Lab and beyond. Second, it has reinforced my commitment to public archaeology and heritage. The more we can democratize access to the past, the more meaningful archaeology becomes to the communities we serve. Finally, this work has taught me that even modest collections can have an impact when combined with thoughtful interpretation and innovative technology.

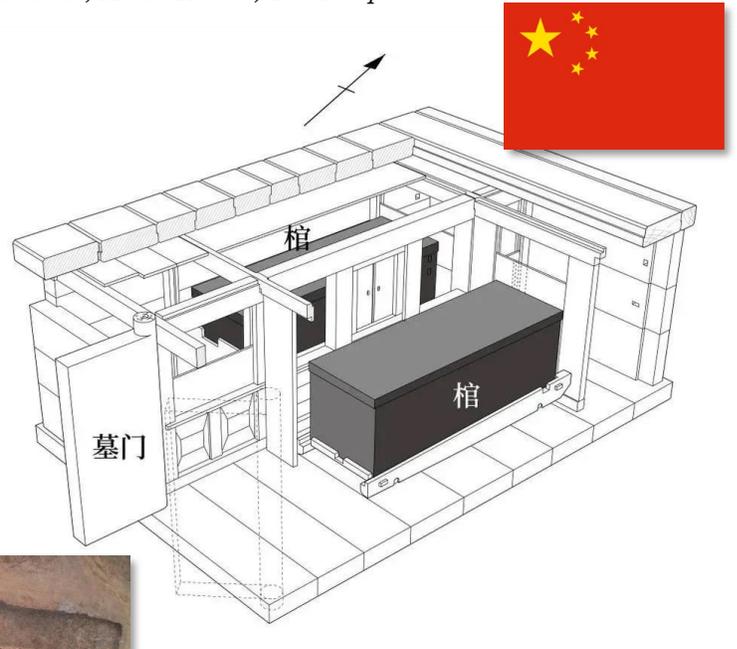
200 years after Fort Brooke's establishment, its story continues to matter. By bringing artifacts into the digital realm, we can ensure that Tampa's origins, and the diverse peoples who shaped them, remain part of our shared memory.



In the News

Three Unique Han Dynasty Tombs Excavated

By Smitty, Time Sifters Board Member. Sources: Popular Mechanics, Miami Herald, The Independent UK, and Archaeology News online



Archaeologists from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Rizhao, a city on China's east coast, about 400 miles from Beijing, have located three ancient tombs in a partially damaged mound. The tombs were stumbled upon while preparing for a local park expansion. They are estimated to be around 1,800 years old, dating back to the Han Dynasty, which spanned from 206 BCE to CE 220, and is often celebrated as a golden age in Chinese history.

Inscriptions in two of the tombs had the same surname, Huan, indicating the complex likely belonged to a family. The tombs are unique, not only because of the 70 artifacts recovered from the third tomb but their design. The tombs are built to resemble a residence, with doors and windows. Looters have stripped two of the tombs bare, leaving the wooden coffins in the graves but very few artifacts. The third chamber was mostly untouched and yielded over 70 artifacts. This chamber had two interconnected rooms with **wooden windows and doors**. It also featured double-layered cover planks, an upper layer of 11 transverse wooden beams, and a lower layer of longitudinal planks. It is suggested that the residential style indicated that it belonged to a married couple.



The excavation has unearthed 70 artifacts, including bronze mirrors, pottery, a turtle button, bronze seal, lacquered cases, wooden barrels, ear cups, and **glazed pottery**. Also recovered were mirror brushes, bamboo hairpins, copper seals, copper hooks, **an iron sword**, and other burial goods. An unearthed seal suggests the owner of one of the tombs is "Huan Jia".

Archaeologists also found the "exquisitely crafted and uncommon" traces of a coffin carriage with "two round wooden wheels" likely used to transport the deceased to the grave site. "It

was an important discovery of tombs in the Han Dynasty in recent years along the southeast coast of Shandong," archaeologists said. Scientists hope further analysis of the "exquisite" coffin structure and cart fragments could reveal valuable insights into burial customs of the Han Dynasty. The excavation took place from December 2023 to January 2024.

Photos: Institute of Archaeology at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences



November 8th & 9th, 10:00am - 4:00 pm
Rain or Shine!



RSVP Sherry Svekis at srobs@me.com



Speakers for 2025/2026

All are at 5:45 PM live at the Selby Library
1331 First St., Sarasota

Time Sifters Archaeology Society is pleased to announce our 2025 - 2026 Spring schedule of presentations. All lectures will start at 5:45 PM and are free. Each presentation will be about one hour with time for questions and answers. Please come and join us.

January 21, 2026

Year in Review: What's been Discovered & What's being Talked About
Dr. David Miano

February 18

"Overview of Tampa's Heritage: 3D imaging of Five Historical Sites"
Dr. Laura Harrison

March 18

"The Military Orders of the Crusades: Knights Templar, Knights Hospitaller, & the Teutonic Knights"
Dr. Matt King

April 15

"Mithras Sanctuary in Ostia"
Dr. Frederick Pirone

May 20

"Royal Heads are Hunted: A Calusa Story"
Will Granger



Photos: Roman parts.com, Will Granger, Pinterest

Holiday Party



December 20 - at 6:00 PM

1353 Cottonwood Trail, Sarasota, FL
34232 (The Lakes subdivision)
941 915 4916

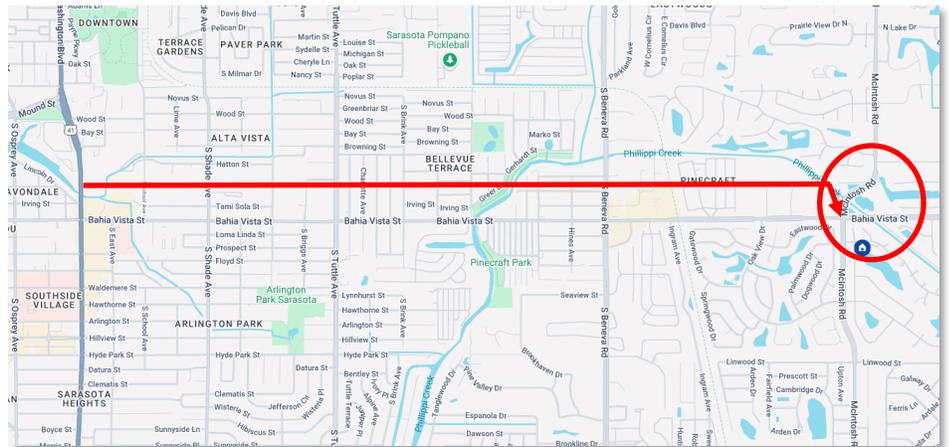
***Come celebrate good friends, yummy food,
and archaeology-themed fun.***

What to bring: \$6 per person and a dish to share. Members are welcome to bring guests.

***RSVP Smitty at hmsbeagle22@gmail.com
by December 15.***

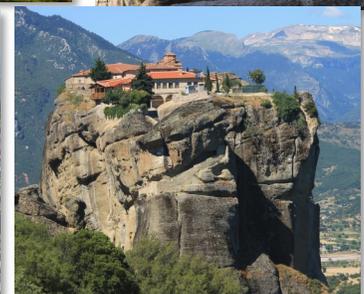
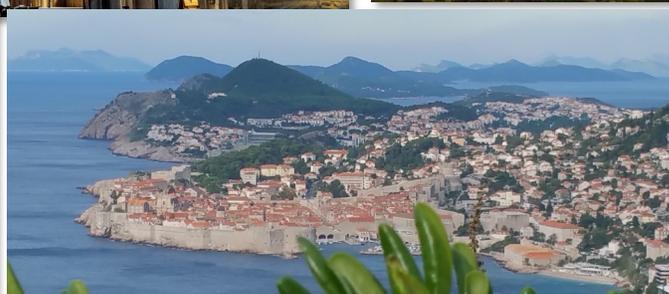
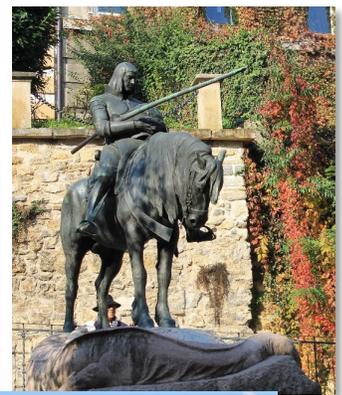
Directions to Party

- US 41/Tamiami Trail to Bahia or Fruitville
- Turn south on MacIntosh to the entrance of The Lakes
- 1353 Cottonwood Trail which is the first cross street



Send us some pictures for the party!

Something a little different this year - we are going to showcase places that our members have visited. Please send us a photo or two. Here are some examples of pictures already sent in.





Landscape Character Assessment

Monuments of Sarasota/Manatee



New College
Public
Archaeology
Laboratory

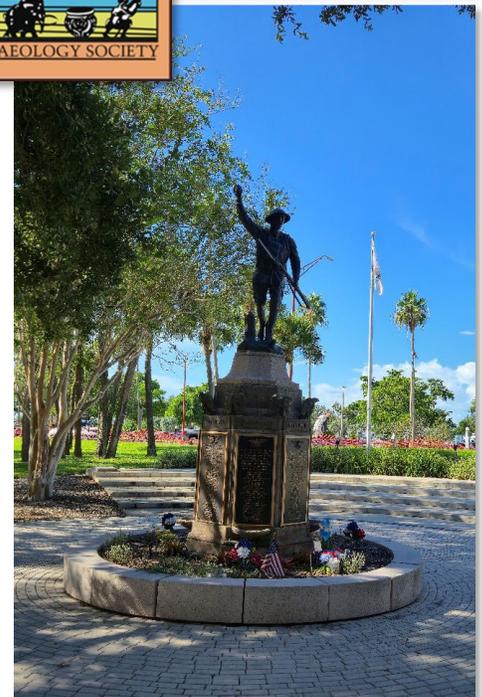


A robust, dynamic history is found across Florida but few of its residents and visitors are aware of the breadth and depth of the history even though the past is marked on the landscape. There are monuments and memorials nearly everywhere, noticing them and appreciating the history they represent is a challenge.

Members of Time Sifters are invited to join a new initiative to collect observations of historic landmarks in their landscape setting. Co-directed by *Professor Emeritus Uzi Baram; Associate Professor of History, William Hustwits; and Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Director of the New College Public Archaeology Lab, Frederick Pirone.*

Landscape Character Assessment of Historical Memory: Commemorative Landscapes across Florida is creating an inventory for identifying the combination of elements and features surrounding monuments, memorials, markers, public art, statues and other landmarks dedicated to the Florida past.

Why this initiative? The observations will aid in conservation to ensure the memorials are maintained and offer insights into the contemporary meaning of the monuments.



If you want to contribute, please contact Professor Uzi Baram at Baram@ncf.edu

For more information, see *Commemorative Landscapes across Florida* <https://sites.google.com/ncf.edu/baram/commemorative-landscapes-across-florida>

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- Lifetime: \$350
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Historical Trivia: Jesse Walter Fewkes.