

Discovery could change continent's history

by Gina K. Logue

An MTSU forensic anthropologist is one of a select number of scientists to examine a skeleton that could force historians to rewrite the story of the entire North American continent.

Dr. Hugh Berryman was one of 11 U.S. experts to scrutinize the bones of Kennewick Man, a 9,300-year-old skeleton found 10 years ago along the Columbia River at Kennewick, Wash. They presented a paper on their findings at a February 2006 meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in Seattle.

"It's one of the oldest skeletons, one of the earliest individuals that populated this continent," Berryman says. "And we have a chance to look at those remains and learn from them—what they tell us about the past and who these people were."

The 380 bones are being preserved at the University of Washington's Burke Museum under an agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which controls the land on which Kennewick Man was discovered.

Berryman says the skeleton was buried two to three feet deep. The burial miraculously saved the bones from the elements, animals, machinery and man for centuries, and

ancient deposits of calcium carbonate on the bones allowed researchers to determine the positioning of the bones in the ground.

"We have evidence that the bones were still in anatomic order," Berryman says. "He was still articulated, and he appears to have been a burial. So once something is buried, that moves it at a depth that perhaps the coyotes, the wolves, scavengers could not get to it."

The research, conducted in July 2005, was very nearly derailed when the Corps initially decided to turn Kennewick over to a coalition of Native American tribes. Eight scientists filed a federal lawsuit to gain permission to study the skeleton. A federal judge, whose ruling later was upheld by the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, decided in favor of the scientists after determining that the tribes could not prove a direct cultural affiliation with Kennewick.

Berryman says the information that can be gleaned from Kennewick came close to being lost forever.

"Since 1990, we've lost most of the skeletal remains from groups," Berryman says. "It's a shame that a lot of these groups are already gone."

"We have no way of knowing what kind of movements there were in prehistoric times, where these people came from, who they were related



COMPARING NOTES—Dr. Hugh E. Berryman of MTSU, at right, and his colleagues discuss the Kennewick Man discovery. Seated from left are geochemist Thomas Stafford of the University of Wisconsin; C.Wayne Smith, curation specialist, Texas A&M; attorney Alan L. Schneider; and Smithsonian anthropologist Douglas W. Owsley.

photo courtesy Smithsonian Institution/Chip Clark

to, what other tribal groups they might be related to."

What the experts were able to ascertain from their brief encounter with Kennewick is that he did not look like a Native American. In fact, Berryman says, Kennewick's facial features are most similar to those of a Japanese group called the Ainu, who have a different physical makeup and

cultural background from the ethnic Japanese.

Some Ainus' facial features appear European. Their eyes may lack the Asian almond-shaped appearance, and their hair may be curly and light in color. However, this does not mean that Kennewick Man

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the RECORD

Tom Tozer
Director, News and Public Affairs

Editor: Gina E. Fann
gfann@mtsu.edu

Contributors: Doug Williams, Lisa L. Rollins, Randy Weiler, John Lynch, Gina Logue, Paula Morton, Leigh Harrington, Heather Taylor, Carrie Hargett, Forrest Sanders, Jasmine Woods, Tiffany Jordan, Stephanie Kirsch and Valerie Nutt.

Photos: MTSU Photographic Services, except where noted

Phone: 615-898-2919
Fax: 615-898-5714

The Record Editorial Board:
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Faculty/Staff Update

Appointments

Dr. Mark Anshel (HHP) has been appointed as an associate editor of the *Journal of the American Board of Sport Psychology*.

Dr. Vincent W. Smith (BMOM) has been selected as 2006-2007 Basic Business and Economics Section editor for the *Business Education Forum*. Smith also has been selected to serve as chair of the Legislative Committee of the Southern Business Education Association and to serve on the National Membership Committee of Delta Pi Epsilon.

Conferences

Paul F. Wells (Center for Popular Music) attended the joint conference of the Society for American Music and the Center for Black Music Research in Chicago March 15-19 and moderated a session on the CBMR program, "As Banjo Songs Became the Blues: The Blues of African-American Banjo Songster Josh Thomas," featuring a presentation by musician and folklorist Mike Seeger.

Presentations

Dr. William Badley (assistant vice provost and director of general education) presented "Administrative Problem-Solving for New General Education Administrators" with William Jenkins, coordinator of general education at Youngstown State

University, Emily Johnson, director of general education at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse and Jake Jakaitis of Indiana State University at the Association of American Colleges and University General Education Conference March 11 in Phoenix, Ariz.

Drs. Tom Cheatham (dean, College of Basic and Applied Sciences) and **Barbara Knox** (director, Tennessee Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation) presented "A Mentor's Stake in Retention: Tennessee Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Program" at the 19th annual International Mentoring Association Conference March 16-18 in Chicago.

Joe Hawkins (aerospace) presented two development sessions, "Aging Aircraft Wiring" and "Aircraft Accident First Responder," during the 17th Annual International Women in Aviation Conference on March 23 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville.

Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross (chemistry) organized and presided over a presidential symposium, "Women Leaders in Chemistry: Stories of Challenges Met" at the March 28 national meeting of the American Chemical Society in Atlanta. She also presented "June S. Anderson: A Woman Chemist Who Made a Difference for Women on Campus, In the Community and Throughout Tennessee."

Dr. Nancy Kelker (art) presented "The Influence of the Codex Zouche-Nuttall on the Sculpture of Manuel Vilar" at the 13th International Mixtec Gateway Conference in Las Vegas March 19.

Paul F. Wells (Center for Popular Music) gave a presentation on the Center for Popular Music March 6 for the Western Kentucky University Libraries in their "Kentucky Live!" series at the Barnes & Noble bookstore in Bowling Green. A podcast of his lecture is available at <http://blog.wku.edu/library/?p=104>.

Publications

Dr. Wendy Koenig (art) published exhibition reviews in the March 2006 editions of *Number: An Independent Journal of the Arts* and *Artpapers* and acted as respondent at the "ArtistSpeak" panel March 30 at Watkins College of Art and Design in conjunction with the exhibition "100 Artists See God" at Cheekwood in Nashville.

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Groups working to promote campus safety

by Heather Taylor

The Safety and Health Subcommittee for the President's Commission on the Status of Women and MTSU's Department of Public Safety have teamed up to help promote health and safety on campus, intending to make students and faculty aware of available safety services.

"We want to do everything we can to make students and faculty aware of these services and to increase safety on our campus," said Dr. Cathy Crooks, chair of the subcommittee.

"Primarily our focus is on women, because we feel many of them are just not aware of the safety services available on campus."

The group has explored a number of different avenues for improvement, from lighting on campus to repairing emergency call boxes. However, Crooks said, the subcommittee's primary concern is making students aware of the student patrol division, also known as Raider Escort.

Raider Escort is a group of 10 trained, uniformed student officers who typically serve the campus from 5:30 p.m. until midnight daily. They patrol campus, lock doors and watch buildings, but their main duty is to escort students and faculty.

Public Safety officials and members of the PCSW subcommittee have discussed changing the service's name to "Safety Escort Services" to help raise awareness.

"Women should not feel they are intruding on anyone's time by calling Raider Escort, because that is what student patrols are here for," said Crooks. "They do not get called often, so we really want people to be aware they can use this service."

The groups noted that there has been some criticism about the response times for Raider Escort.

"Typically, the response time is not more than five minutes," noted Maj. Roy Brewer, associate chief of police. "People need to give themselves enough time [to call] and plan ahead if they are going to need an escort."

"Having a personal safety plan is essential, because that is what bad guys look for—a person who is in a rush and not paying attention to [her] surroundings."

Decals with information and phone numbers for the Raider Escort program are a possibility, officials said. The decals could be placed on the outside doors of buildings around campus and on Raider Xpress bus routes. Similar information also could be posted on MTSU's home page and the PCSW and Public Safety Web sites.

The department also offers an ongoing Rape Aggression Defense program, which allows a trained full-time officer to work with groups, specifically females, to prepare them to deal with dangerous situations. The six-week class is offered several times of year—a new class began meeting on Thursday, April 20—but Public Safety will teach a class anytime a group is interested.

"Since I have been here 19 years, I can only think of three or four of these unknown perpetrator assaults, like the tragic situation we had earlier this year," said Brewer, referring to a Feb. 19 on-campus attack that is still under investigation.

"Most reported sexual assaults on campus are acquaintance or date-rape assaults," the associate chief continued. "I would love to see a mandatory freshman class that prepares students for what they are going to face in the social and dating scenes on campus."

To contact Raider Escort anytime, call 615-898-2424 or go to any blue emergency call box on campus for a direct connection to an emergency dispatcher.

For more information on Raider Escort and RAD classes, visit Public Safety's Web site at <http://police.mtsu.edu>.

Gearing up



FOCUS ON AVIATION—Outdoorsman Tom Gresham, center left, interviews Aerospace Department Chairman Paul Craig outside the MTSU hangar for Gresham's weekly TV show on The Outdoor Channel, "Wings to Adventure," with the help of cameraman Scott Guyette and crew member Meredith Gresham, an MTSU mass communication alumna and the TV host's daughter. "Wings to Adventure" is shot entirely in high-definition format and will provide what Gresham calls a "full-throttle, gear-up" look at aviation. The show, which also filmed aviation-related scenes in Tullahoma and Lebanon, is scheduled to air in the third quarter of 2006; visit www.wingstotheadventure.com for air times.

photo by News & Public Affairs/John Lynch

Deadline nears for Discovery Institute

by Tom Tozer

A rare chance to pilot a plane or star in a theater production is available to African-American high school students—those who will be rising junior and seniors—at MTSU's Summer Discovery Institute. But students need to act fast to participate in this unique opportunity.

The award-winning Summer Discovery Institute program provides two potentially life-changing learning opportunities called "In Flight!" and "On Stage!" MTSU Academic Support Services developed the program.

Both programs feature faculty from two of MTSU's signature departments—aerospace and speech and theatre. Participants will attend classes and daily demonstrations and live on campus for one week.

In Flight! will be held June 4-10; On Stage! will take place July 16-22.

The program is free, but students must register soon because the deadline is May 1, Dr. Debra Sells, associate vice president of Academic Support Services, emphasized.

"This program is a combination of campus projects, experiments and off-campus field trips," Sells said. "Students will have time to visit and learn from top-notch faculty at our university. It is also meant to be a lot of fun. But spaces are limited and our deadline is almost on us."

Participants in the On Stage! program will join local theater professionals and MTSU faculty to explore the full range of skills related to theatrical production.

The In Flight! program will give students a deeper understanding of flight and aerospace technology. Students will get hands-on experience in MTSU's flight simulators and inside university aircraft.

To enroll, call 615-898-5342 or visit www.mtsu.edu/~gmtsdi.

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necessarily was European in origin. His features more closely resemble those of the natives of the Pacific Rim than those of Native Americans.

Berryman, a fracture expert who was trained in the fine art of picking dead people apart at the University of Tennessee's "Body Farm," also documented three types of bone breaks in Kennewick—fractures suffered in his lifetime that healed, fractures that happened after his burial and fractures that occurred when the skeleton was eroded from the riverbank.

The cause of Kennewick Man's demise remains a mystery. What is known is that this athletic, rugged hunter suffered many physical traumas before finally expiring in his mid-to-late 30s.

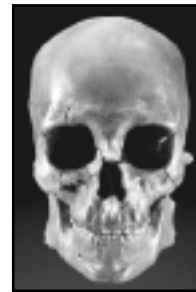
Berryman says Kennewick has only begun to reveal the story of his life and times, and it would be

tremendous to have other scientists examine his bones.

"It was a lot slower process than we thought," Berryman says. "The first day, all day, we looked at one bone, one femur. And then we realized at the end of the day that we were going to be lucky to be able to cover this the way that it should be in a week and a half."

Age, ancestry, sex, height, pathologies, types of trauma, even whether a woman has given birth—all can be determined just from examining a skeleton, says Berryman, who often is called upon to give expert testimony on bones in criminal trials.

"Bone is great at recording its own history," he says. "Throughout your life, there are different things that you do, and they may leave little signs in the bone. If you can read those signs, it's almost like interviewing a person."



Kennewick Man's skull is shown in the photo above. photo courtesy Smithsonian/Chip Clark