Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the latest installment of the Digital Antiquity e-newsletter. We have several new developments to share with you:

1. We report on our successful workshops and forums at the 84th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

2. With the SAA Meeting still on our minds, we’d like to remind and encourage you to take advantage of your tDAR/SAA partnership benefits!

3. We are pleased to announce recent tDAR Staffing Changes

4. We announce the June 2019 retirement of tDAR Founding Director Dr. Francis Pierce-McManamon

5. In light of Dr. McManamon’s departure, we are now searching for the next Executive Director to lead tDAR into its second decade

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tDAR on the Road: Another Successful SAA Conference

Digital Antiquity staff and Board of Directors members were out in force at the 84th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Albuquerque, New Mexico. With the highest attendance the SAA has ever seen, over 5,300 people, the 4-day conference was filled with innovative paper sessions, workshops, posters and discussion.

The tDAR Booth was busy every day, staffed by Founding Director Frank McManamon, Associate Director Leigh Anne Ellison, and Senior Digital Curator Rachel Fernandez.

In addition to Booth-duty, Rachel, Leigh Anne and Frank each presented papers, participated in four sessions, sat on two committee meetings, and spent lots of enjoyable time discussing the benefits and uses of tDAR. Rachel and Leigh Anne led a standing-room-only workshop on Saturday focused on "Using tDAR: A Workshop for SAA Members Benefitting
Congratulations to Ph.D. student Megan Dennison (University of Tennessee) who won the SAA Student Paper prize for her "innovative and impactful multi-disciplinary study of the changing diet and role of dogs among communities of the Tennessee River Valley." tDAR is a co-sponsor of the prize and Megan met with Rachel to pick up her voucher for 50 free file uploads to tDAR.

A special meeting highlight was the tribute session for Arizona State University Professor Keith Kintigh, **ATTENTION TO DETAIL: A PRAGMATIC CAREER OF RESEARCH, MENTORING, AND SERVICE. PAPERS IN HONOR OF KEITH KINTIGH.** Nearly 20 years ago, Keith began working on the ideas for tDAR, and he has worked tirelessly since then to help develop the software and grow the brand. He is a current tDAR Board member and long-time leader in the field of digital and quantitative archaeology. Frank McManamon presented one of the papers in the session and tDAR Board members Jeff Altschul, Fred Limp, Julian Richards, and Sarah Schlanger were prominent audience members.
Don't forget to take advantage of your tDAR/SAA Benefits

The Society for American Archaeology and Digital Antiquity share a commitment to the preservation of digital records and to making these records broadly discoverable and accessible. SAA and Digital Antiquity have a long-standing agreement to curate the Abstracts from the SAA annual meeting in tDAR. Previous years’ abstracts (2013-2018) are already in tDAR, and we are in the process of uploading the 2019 abstracts. As an SAA member be sure to take advantage of your free benefits from our partnership: AS THE AUTHOR of a presentation, you can upload your slides or paper to tDAR for free. In addition to the abstracts, SAA also supports up to 10 free uploads for retired members, student members, members from countries with discounted membership rates, and members from Tribal Historic Preservation Offices. You can find your abstract and more information here: https://www.tdar.org/saa

Recent tDAR Staffing News

Digital Antiquity is pleased to announce some recent staffing changes. In November 2018, our long serving Director of Technology, Adam Brin, accepted a new position at the Getty Museum in Los Angeles, CA. Digital Antiquity is a small team of highly skilled people who, together, have built an amazing online repository. None of that would have been possible without Adam’s work over the years. We will miss him, and wish him great success in his exciting new career with the Getty.

When one door closes, another opens, as the saying goes. So it is with tDAR, as we now welcome (back) Digital Software Engineer Jim deVos. Starting in 2010, Jim worked at tDAR for 8 years, and has now rejoined our team to help us move forward into our second decade. It’s an exciting time with several new projects in the offing. Jim’s background – from Qwest, to Honeywell, to the ASU Library and back to Digital Antiquity – brings a wonderful mixture of skills and experience that will enable us to continue to deliver the highest quality technical services.

Also joining the tDAR team is Administrative Specialist Charlene Collazzi. Charlene has a strong background in archaeology, participating in fieldwork projects in Chile, Panama, and Egypt on the way to earning her Bachelor’s degree in Anthropology at UCLA. Before joining Digital Antiquity in December, she held various Administrative positions at the UCLA Medical Center and most recently at the Boulder County Land Use Department in Colorado. Charlene is in charge of our business processes, manages the office, and heads up tDAR communications duties including website and social media posts.
Also returning to the tDAR team is Mary Whelan. Mary worked as a partner with Digital Antiquity from 2008-2018 but recently joined the team as Interim Executive Director to smooth the transition as Founding Director Frank McManamon prepares for retirement (see below).

Dr. Francis Pierce-McManamon, Founding Director of tDAR, to retire in June

After a successful 10 year career as the Executive Director (now Founding Director) of tDAR Frank McManamon is set to retire on June 30, 2019. Well, retire again. Frank joined tDAR in November, 2009, fresh off his retirement as Chief Archaeologist for the National Park Service and Departmental Consulting Archaeologist for the US Department of the Interior. His long tenure in Washington was in part what made him the perfect fit for the newly launched tDAR. His experience encompassed archaeology globally, and yet he could appreciate the value of a single data set for opening up new avenues of research. He championed the notion that these new avenues were possible only if the data were properly preserved and readily accessible to everyone.

Looking back on the digital landscape of 2009, it is remarkable how far tDAR has come under Frank’s steady hand. Ten years ago, Digital Antiquity wasn’t yet a Center; Frank was the only employee; and the tDAR software was more aspirational than functional. At that time, few were talking about digital preservation or open access to research data. Create and finance a sophisticated repository that could serve user communities as diverse as professional archaeologists and amateur genealogists? A daunting prospect to be sure! tDAR statistics help tell the tale: increases from 281 users and 36 contributors (2010) to over 17,000 users and 400 contributors so far in 2019.

Growth in the size of the repository from 4,000 MB to just under 1 Terabyte by the end of our first decade.
Frank would be the first to tell you he didn’t do it alone. Much of the success of tDAR in our first 10 years was due to the hard work of Adam Brin, Director of Technology. Over the years tDAR has also had substantial help from Professor Keith Kintigh and others at the School of Human Evolution and Social Change (SHESC). Frank and Keith worked together to obtain major funding from the Mellon Foundation, NSF, and NEH.

It has been a successful decade, to be sure. A brief glance through Frank’s CV, testifies to the many scholarly contributions he has made while directing Digital Antiquity. We thank him for his years of service and leadership. And so, as tDAR begins its second decade, we are searching for a new Director to again survey the landscape and chart our path forward. That person inherits a well-organized Center and a team of highly skilled staff members who, under Frank’s guidance, have established tDAR as a responsible digital repository backed by sophisticated data management services. A solid foundation for future achievement.

Search for the next Director of tDAR

Arizona State University invites nominations and applications for an Assistant or Associate Research Professor to serve as Director of ASU’s Center for Digital Antiquity (Job #12872). We seek an entrepreneurial researcher and an intellectual leader in digital data management who is able to lead a small, dedicated staff in advancing the Center’s mission and strategic objectives. Digital Antiquity’s mission is to extend knowledge of the human past and improve the management of cultural heritage by permanently preserving digital archaeological data and supporting their discovery, access, and reuse. Digital Antiquity fulfills this charge through the development and operation of tDAR (the Digital Archaeological Record), an international digital repository holding the digital records of archaeological investigations and organizations, and related research. Initial deadline for complete applications is June 9, 2019. Further information can be found https://shesc.asu.edu/about/employment