



Mountain, Swamp, & Beach Regional Forensic Anthropology Conference

November 15th & 16th, 2025 at Mississippi State University

Friday, November 14th

6:00 pm **Happy Hour at Dave's Dark Horse Tavern**
410 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive East, Starkville, MS, 39759

Saturday, November 15th

8:30 am **Registration**
Harned Hall Auditorium Room 102; 295 Lee Blvd, Mississippi State, MS 39762

9:00 am **Welcome**
Jesse R. Goliath, Mississippi State University

PODIUM SESSION I - INVESTIGATIVE GENETIC GENEALOGY

9:15 am **Albert's Tale: A Study in Resourcefulness, Persistence, and Dedication**
Katie Thomas, Kaycee Connelly, & Traci Austin, Sam Houston State University

9:45 am **Exploring How People Become Investigative Genetic Genealogists Who Assist With Law Enforcement Investigations: A Multiple Case Study**
Matthew Hoggatt, University of Southern Mississippi

10:00 am **Discussion Session I**

PODIUM SESSION II - THEORY AND PRACTICE

10:30 am **The Bodies Politic: A Forensic Anthropology Informed Policy Proposal**
Samantha Davis, Tracing Asylum-Seekers Experience and Trajectories (TASET)

10:45 am **'Norman Rockwell-land' or 'Death Capital of Maine'?: Race, Social Status, and Parochialism as Factors in the Perceived 'Coziness' of Crime in *Murder, She Wrote***
Allysha P. Winburn & Cate E. Bird, University of West Florida

11:00 am **Use of the UTK Donated Collection for Education**
Christine Bailey & Giovanna Vidoli, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

11:15 am **Discussion Session II**

POSTER SESSION & LUNCH

11:30 am – 1:15 pm **Posters will be on display in the main lobby of Harned Hall & lunch will be provided**

PODIUM SESSION III - FORENSIC METHODOLOGIES

- 1:30 pm **Forensic Toxicology of a Nontraditional Matrix: Dental Calculus as a Potential Contribution to the Biocultural Profile**
Eric Nordstrom, *Mississippi State University*
- 1:45 pm **A Test of the CalcTalus System for Sex Estimation in a Modern American Population**
Angela Dautartas, *Western Carolina University*
- 2:00 pm **Recording Taphonomic Observations in Forensic Anthropology Casework: Utilizing the Macroscopic Osseous Taphonomy Checklist**
Jonathan D. Bethard, *University of South Florida*
- 2:15 pm **Discussion Session III**

PODIUM SESSION IV - MISSING PERSONS

- 2:45 pm **Understanding the Role of DNA in Positive Human Identification for the Louisiana Repository for Unidentified and Missing Persons**
Anthony V. Lanfranchi & Teresa V. Wilson, *Louisiana State University*
- 3:00 pm **The Mississippi Repository for Missing and Unidentified Persons**
Jesse R. Goliath, *Mississippi State University*
- 3:15 pm **Discussion Session IV**

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

- 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm **Showcase of Programs**
Conference attendees are invited to connect with one another and learn about forensic academic programs and organizations represented at the conference
- 6:00 pm **Dinner at Little Dooey's**
100 Fellowship Street, Starkville, MS, 39759

Sunday, November 16th

WORKSHOP

- 9:00 am **New Methods in Estimating Sex from Fragmentary Os Coxae**
Sarajane Smith-Escudero, *University of South Florida*
- Tour of Mississippi State University Facilities**
Following the workshop, attendees are invited to tour the Cobb Institute of Archaeology, Forensic Laboratory and Skeletal Histology (FLASH) Research Center, Etheredge Hall Laboratories, and the Biological Sciences Anatomage Tables.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Applications of Landscape Structural Violence in African American Cemeteries in Richmond, Virginia

Meaghan Bennett & Savana Jackson, *Mississippi State University*

Assessing Choice of Dermestid *Maculatus* Between Burned and Unburned Remains

Belle Bullard, Ava Brown, Deniah Brown, Lydia Dabbs, Chelsea Smith, Emilie L. Wiedenmeyer, *Troy University*

Taphonomic Processes Etch Bones: An Experimental Look at Plant Root Etching on Bovine Bones

Emily Caudill, *Middle Tennessee State University*

Mississippi's Missing Children: An Overview

Nicolette Cloutier, *Mississippi State University* & Sarajane Smith-Escudero, *University of South Florida*

Developing an Anthropology of Missingness

Rachel Coppock & Jesse R. Goliath, *Mississippi State University*, Sarajane Smith-Escudero, *University of South Florida*

X-Ray Eyes: A Preliminary Examination of Faunal Bone Alterations in Response to Heat

Morgan Elmore, *Mississippi State University*

Isotope Geochemistry in Mississippi

Carolyn Freiwald, Katelyn Smith, & Kendall Leflore, *University of Mississippi*

Numbered but Not Found: The Data Behind America's Missing Persons

Kiersten Gilmore, *Mississippi State University*

Bodies Beyond the Census: Rethinking Representation and Criminalization of MENA Populations in U.S. Databases

Yesenia Hassan & Jesse R. Goliath, *Mississippi State University*

Art or Science? Using FADAMA to Assess the "Art" of Synthesizing Skeletal Age-Interval Estimates

Sophia Henn & Phoenix Farnham, *University of West Florida*

Integrating Sex Estimation Technology into the Classroom: A MorphoPASSE Curriculum

Elauna Hicks, Shannon Hodge, & Thomas Holland, *Mississippi State University*

The Influence of Obesity and Body Mass in Forensic Anthropology: An Analysis and Validation of Age-At-Death of Features on the Auricular Surface

Dawson Lamb, *Louisiana State University*

A Preliminary Study on the Use of Geospatial Data in Search and Recovery: An Entrepreneurial Perspective

Sierra W. Malis, *National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution*, & Eric Anderson, *Advanced Research Collections Technologies*

Aging Beyond Fifty: Evaluating the Limits of Transition Analysis 2 in Skeletal Age Estimation from the John A. Williams Skeletal Collection

Katie McGrath & Jonathan D. Bethard, *University of South Florida*

Literature Review of Ossified Thyroid Cartilage

Gregory Pratt, *Mississippi State University*

Signs of Survival: Evidence of Healed Antemortem Cranial Trauma from a Medieval Ossuary in Agyagfalva, Transylvania

Lauren Renee Reinman & Jonathan D. Bethard, *University of South Florida*; Timothy J. Ainger, *University of Kentucky*; Zsolt Nyaradi, *Haáz Rezső Múzeum*

Best Practices for Dermestid *Maculatus* Experiments Involving Fleshed Remains

Haley Rucker, Ashton Chancery, Sydney Gentile, Chelsea Smith, & Emilie L. Wiedenmeyer, *Troy University*

Septic Arthritis and Subchondral Bone: A Study in Microarchitecture

Maureen White & Jesse R. Goliath, *Mississippi State University*