



Guest speaker Arthur B. Cohn talks about the "Spitfire," a ship that sunk in Lake Champlain, Vermont during the American Revolution.

Talks shed light on nautical archeology

Speaker discusses sunken ship during American Revolution

By Bethany Irvine

▷ Texas A&M anthropology department hosted its 16th annual "Shipwreck Weekend" this weekend to promote new developments within the field of nautical archeology.

The event included guest speakers Wendy Van Duivenvoorde and Arthur B. Cohn. In addition, Shipwreck Weekend also granted public access to laboratories and information about current research within the Texas A&M anthropology department.

Guests were provided opportunities to explore the anthropology building and gain an inside look into a field that often goes unrecognized.

The keynote speaker, Arthur B. Cohn, has worked in the field for over 35 years on the preservation of nautical archaeological sites. Cohn's discussion focused on the management of shipwrecks, specifically Benedict Arnold's gunboat "Spitfire," which sunk in Lake Champlain, Vermont, during the American Revolution.

"Here's a boat that is literally frozen in the early morning hours of October 12, 1776," Cohn said. "The guys abandoned the boats, sank it perfectly on its bottom, to the point where, on the inside where the battle stations are, there is a wooden box with all the ammunition that hasn't shifted at all, so it's a quite extraordinary architectural find."

Cohn said an issue, however, is that while the boat remains in good condition, the infiltration of mussels in the lakes surrounding the archeological site poses a threat to its preservation.

"This boat will not last where it is," Cohn said. "It is under an environmental sentence that will ultimately

turn into a pile of loose planks at the bottom."

Although there is not a system in place to prevent the mussels from causing damage, Cohn believes it is the responsibility of the next generation of archaeologists to preserve these pieces of history.

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Arthur B. Cohn,
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George Bass, professor emeritus and founder of the Institute of Nautical Archeology, attended the event and said Shipwreck Weekend has continued to gain public attention through the years.

"I've been retired for 15 years but they've been going on for a while," Bass said. "The whole idea was to bring in people, townspeople especially, and make them aware of what we are doing. Just sorta of get the word out and tell them what it's all about, and it always seems to draw and fair amount of people."

Karl Krusell, nautical archeology graduate student, said the event was a good way to shed light on the distinguished nautical archeology program at the university.

"What was cool was that we were able to advocate the management of shipwrecks to the public audience," Krusell said. "In the world of nautical archeology, we all know these things and find them important, but a lot of times the public doesn't. Texas A&M and is one of the only places in the world where you can study nautical archeology. I would argue it's the best place in the world."

Filipe Castro, associate professor in nautical archeology, said much of the general public is unaware of the advances made within the field.

"Archeologists publish only about 25 percent what they dig, so archeologist still do not publish enough, and the cost of this is that the general public still has no idea what we do," Castro said.

Castro said the anthropology department is working with the College of Architecture and the Department of Visualization to digitally reconstruct archeological sites.

"Once we make this beautiful mesh of points, then the sky's the limit," Castro said. "In the viz lab, we are experimenting with computer graphics to reconstruct the sites and show people very clearly that a archeological site is not just a jumble of rotten timber, but we can really make it speak, and bring us back to that time."

CULTURE

Hour-long slam concludes SCOLA conference

200 delegates gathered to discuss individuality

By Keeley Wirries

▷ Elizabeth Acevedo closed the 27th annual SCOLA conference with an hour-long slam poetry performance dedicated to "Unmasking Your Identity."

The conference hosted over 200 delegates from A&M and other Texas colleges, as well as multiple speakers, including Christine Stanley, and Joe Feagin. The conference focused on expressing individuality of the Latino community through writing and art.

"It really surprised me how well taken care of I was, I mean I'm completely spoiled and ruined for any other school," Acevedo said. "People were just so nice and responsive — it was great."

Selena Mares, entertainment coordinator for SCOLA, said attendees took away a better understanding of what it means to be a Latino and to be a part of the world community.

"SCOLA's dual-faceted mission is to provide a forum for students to discuss significant issues that impact the growing Latino population in our nation, and to foster exemplary leadership development among its members," Mares said.

At the conference, delegates were able to take poetry workshops, explore campus, listen to speakers, engage in networking opportunities and go to scheduled entertainment events, as well as spend one-on-one time with Acevedo.

"We all got to have dinner together so we got to sit down and talk about our families and talk about our upbringings and so I think it was a really personal and intimate way to get to know the people who put on the conference," Acevedo said. "It was more than I thought it would be. They were all super respectful and they really just have a great working relationship and partnership and it showed that they have been working on this conference since September, and that they put a lot of thought into it."

Although some of Acevedo's poetry could be considered controversial, she still brought a new and fresh per-

spective to A&M, said Gonzalo Rodriguez, political science senior and SCOLA conference director.

"Just like with any other form of entertainment, her poetry is award winning because it makes you feel uncomfortable," Rodriguez said. "It challenges you to question conventional thoughts and conventional conceptions. It makes us analyze situations."

Mirroring Acevedo's challenging societal norms, some of the delegates took their workshops as a time to express themselves through poetry.

"I was incredibly impressed with the workshops," Acev-

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"There was a guy who even wrote about his love handles. I mean, we have these conceptions of men talking about their bodies and everything was just so vulnerable. I think that's what I found remarkable about all of the writing — it was really vulnerable and thoughtful."

Elizabeth Acevedo,
poet

edo said. "I mean, the poems that people wrote in just 30 to 40 minutes were remarkable. This one girl wrote a poem about sheep, and so often we think of sheep as being followers and she completely flipped the metaphor on its head and that was wonderful."

Acevedo said the workshops allowed students to talk about aspects of their life not commonly talked about.

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CHILIFEST CONTINUED

Luxion said.

Luxion said the final count for tickets and sales will be confirmed within the next two weeks.

Zach Houchins, junior supply chain management major and vice president of volunteer relations for Chilifest, said all proceeds from the event are donated to specific nonprofits in the community based on the charities volunteers at Chilifest are associated with.

"Everything we do goes back to the community at the end of the year," Houchins said. "Nobody benefits in it in any way except for our charities. Every dollar you spend out here and before with your ticket goes to a good cause."

Some of the nonprofits Chilifest serves include the Boys and Girls Club, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Down Syndrome Association of Brazos Valley, Children's Museum, Coach Blair Charities, Go Texan and St. Joseph EMS, Luxion said.

Luxion said the Chilifest officers calculate how much is donated to each charity based on the total hours worked at Chilifest by volunteers from each

organization.

"We reward volunteers for coming out here and helping out by donating back to their causes," Luxion said.

This year, Houchins said over 800 volunteered at Chilifest, both for set up and for the actual event.

"We have volunteers who have been coming out here for 24 years and they're the backbone of our organization," Houchins said. "The volunteers are the only thing that keep the event running at the end of the day. We have a lot of people from Burleson County, Snook, Brazos County and all over Texas with Go Texan area organizations."

While Chilifest is a huge country music festival for the Aggie community, it means so much more for the beneficiaries of the donations, Luxion said. He said the purchase of each ticket eventually ends up improving the lives of people in the community because of how the money is donated.

"A lot of people see it as a lawless, fenced-in oasis in Snook for a weekend where people just come out here and drink — granted they have a good time, but the focus really is where the money goes," Luxion said.

BATTASKS

What is your most memorable experience at Chilifest?



"Chilifest provides an opportunity to meet a diverse multitude of people within the A&M student community."

Mason Flannery, industrial distribution senior



"It's a good time to come together with friends, relieve stress and enjoy the music."

Nathan Glavy, environmental studies senior



"Building a Chilifest build with my fraternity brothers and seeing it all come together."

Corey Pursell, wildlife and fisheries senior

TIPA CONTINUED

and what our weaknesses are — and build on that."

Mark Doré, editor-in-chief for *The Battalion* and English senior, won four page design awards and an honorable mention in the sports column category. *The Battalion's* combined points across all category-



ries earned it the sweepstakes award.

"There are some categories that we don't do as much of, but it shows the strength of our publication that we had several good, strong contenders for many different categories," Doré said.

John Rangel, science and technology editor for *The Battalion* and aerospace engineering junior, won first place in the headline category and third place in news feature category. Rangel said he was pleased to see science and technology content place in three categories, as the section is new to

doing more in-depth reporting of them and the students involved in them."

Breaux said a first place award in overall excellence is testament to the work the entire staff puts into *The Battalion* on a daily basis.

"There are lots of categories that individuals win, but overall excellence reflects not just on editors, not just on a single writer, but on everyone's ability to design pages, edit them, put in legwork, interview people and think critically about the content we're producing," Breaux said.