

Bullets and Bones: Battlefield Archaeology from the Historic to the Modern

Lecture by **Melissa Connor, Ph.D**
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Tuesday, March 21st, 2017 | 10 AM - 12 PM
FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | GL 220

The Little Bighorn Battlefield is iconic in American history and when a range fire swept through the sagebrush-covered battlefield in 1983, the resulting archaeological project was featured in press around the county. The project was also the start of the maturing of the study of archeological military sites and an increasing sophistication in the methods and theory used in their interpretation. Archaeology at the battlefield is still ongoing today, using techniques like firearms identification and view shed analysis in addition to more typical anthropological analysis of the human remains. These techniques enhanced both the understanding of the battle and the public interpretation.



In 1993, two of the principals in the archaeological project at the Little Bighorn were asked to use the same techniques in the study of modern battlefields and execution sites in the former Yugoslavia and, later, Rwanda in the investigation of war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. The techniques used in the study of the Little Bighorn are equally useful in the interpretation of modern battlefields and areas of conflict.

Melissa Connor, Ph.D. presently directs Colorado Mesa University's Forensic Investigation Research Station, one of seven "body farms" in the world. She teaches forensic science, specializing in forensic archaeology and forensic anthropology. She has 30 years of archaeological experience, and has worked in forensic science for the last 15 years. Connor is the author of *Forensic Methods: Excavation for the Archaeologist and Investigator*, published by AltMira Press in 2007. Connor specialized in mass grave sites, working in post-conflict area throughout the former Yugoslavia, and in Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Cyprus, and Nigeria. She gained her initial experience in battlefields working on archaeological sites such as the Little Bighorn Battlefield in Montana. She is co-author of *Archaeological Perspectives on the Little Bighorn* and *They Died with Custer: Soldiers' Bones from the Battle of the Little Bighorn*, both published by the University of Oklahoma Press.

Light refreshments will be served.

This event is free and open to all FIU students.
For more information, please call 305-348-2328.
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