

# STAA QUARTERLY MEETING

**January 27, 2018**

**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO**

**15 Paseo Principal, San Antonio**

**1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.**

The STAA Quarterly Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 27, 2018, at the University of Texas at San Antonio located at 15 Paseo Principal, San Antonio, Texas. The meeting will be held in the Travis Room in the H-E-B University Center South Building.

Please see the last page for additional venue location and parking information.

## Meeting Schedule:

- 1:00 p.m. Registration; Meet and Greet**
- 1:15 p.m. Business Meeting**
- 1:20 p.m. Presentation by Dr. Thomas R. Hester**
- 2:10 p.m. Presentation by Dr. Michael J. O'Brien**
- 3:00 p.m. Adjourn to Social Mixer**



**Dr. Thomas R. Hester**



**Dr. Michael J. O'Brien**

# PRESENTATIONS

## **AN OVERVIEW OF A STRATIFIED PALEOINDIAN SITE IN SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS, WITH ADDITIONAL UPDATES ON THE ST. MARY'S HALL TYPE**

-Dr. Thomas R. Hester-

*Professor of Anthropology, Emeritus, University of Texas at Austin  
University Research Affiliate, Texas Archeological Research Laboratory  
Co-Founder of the STAA, December 2, 1973*

This paper provides a preliminary overview of a stratified Paleoindian deposit at a site in south central Texas. The site, in general, has been extensively dug by relic collectors in recent decades. These excavations focused on areas of artifact-rich Late Prehistoric and Archaic materials. However, in one part of the site, deposits at the base of the midden were ignored. Recent excavations have provided stratified data on Angostura, Golondrina, and St. Mary's Hall occupations. Large numbers of these points types, accompanied by extensive lithic debris, performs, manufacturing failures, unifaces and formal tools were found particularly in Golondrina and St. Mary's Hall contexts.

Finally, I will briefly review the newest data on the St. Mary's Hall type, dating to around 10,300 years ago. In October, 2017, I published a chapter on St. Mary's Hall in a book (edited by Holliday, et al., dealing with Plainview). This is available as a PDF to anyone who requests it. While the type is treated in comprehensive fashion in that book chapter, I have obtained a great deal of new data on the type's distribution and its morphology, as well as examples of additional sites with St. Mary's Hall components. Much of the new data result from excellent cooperation of collectors and avocational archaeologists.

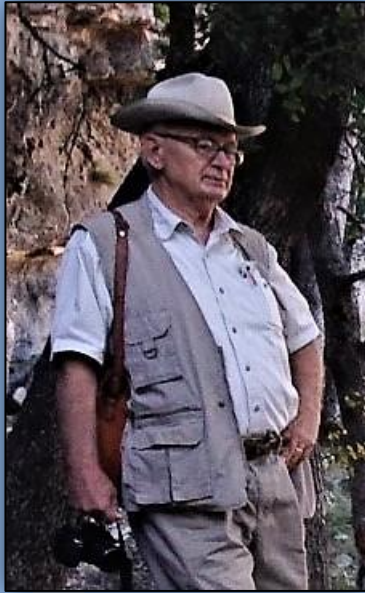
## **CULTURAL LEARNING AND THE CLOVIS COLONIZATION OF NORTH AMERICA**

-Dr. Michael J. O'Brien-

*Provost, Texas A&M University-San Antonio  
Professor of History, Texas A&M University-San Antonio*

The timing of the earliest colonization of North America is debatable, but what is not at issue is the point of origin of the early colonists: Humans entered the continent from Beringia and then made their way south along or near the Pacific Coast and/or through a corridor that ran between the Cordilleran and Laurentide ice sheets in western North America. At some point, they abandoned their Arctic-based tool complex for one more adapted to an entirely different environment. That new techno-complex is termed "Clovis," and its dispersal allows us to examine, at a fine scale, how colonization processes played out across a vast continent that at the time had at best a very small resident population. Clovis has figured prominently in American archaeology since the first Clovis points were identified in eastern New Mexico in the 1930s, but the successful marriage of learning models grounded in evolutionary theory and modern analytical methods that began roughly a decade ago has begun to pay significant dividends in terms of what we know about the rapid spread of human groups across the last sizable landmass to witness human occupation.

# PRESENTERS



## **Dr. Thomas R. Hester**

Thomas R. Hester is a co-founder of the Southern Texas Archaeological Association, was Professor of Anthropology at the University of Texas at San Antonio from 1973-1987, and created and served as Director of UTSA's Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) from 1974-1987. Hester joined the UTSA faculty in 1973 as Associate Professor in Anthropology after receiving his PhD in Anthropology from University of California, Berkeley.

Hester has written extensively on stone tools in South Texas and has conducted research in Texas, Nevada, Montana, California, Egypt, Mexico, and Belize. During his tenure at UTSA, he conducted field schools in South Texas and Belize, and as Director of CAR he oversaw many excavations, including the 1977-1982 investigations of over 400 sites in the Choke Canyon region in McMullen and Live Oak Counties,

the largest-ever dig conducted in South Texas. Among over 400 publications of which he authored or co-authored are the books *Field Methods in Archaeology* with Harry J. Shafer and Kenneth L. Feder (Routledge, 2009) and *Stone Artifacts of Texas Indians* (Taylor Trade Publishing, 2011) with Ellen Sue Turner, as well as articles, monographs, conference papers, and other books. Hester has received grants through agencies such as the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Geographic Society, as well as contracts through the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service. In addition to his publications, Hester was an active member of the faculty at UTSA, serving as chair or member of numerous university-wide committees; he also received many awards for his teaching and research through UTSA.

In 1987, Hester joined the faculty at The University of Texas at Austin, where he continued teaching, writing, and conducting field schools. From 1987-2000, he served as the Director for the Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory (TARL) at the Balcones Research Center, which was renamed the J.J. Pickle Research Campus in 1994.

Dr. Hester is currently a professor emeritus. Along with co-founder Dr. Harry J. Shafer, he currently (2017) works performing Phase I surveys and project monitoring in South and West Texas for the cultural resources management firm Abasolo Archaeological Consultants.

## **Dr. Michael J. O'Brien**

Michael J. O'Brien was born in Houston in 1950 and graduated from St. Thomas High School in Houston in 1968. His undergraduate degree is from Rice University (1972) and his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin (1977). After graduation he served as a research associate at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln until 1980, when he joined the University of Missouri as an assistant professor of anthropology and director of the American Archaeology Division, the research arm of the anthropology department. He became director of the Museum of Anthropology several years later and joined the College of Arts and Science dean's office as associate dean for research. He was promoted to the rank of professor in 1989 and became dean of arts and science in 2006 following a national search.



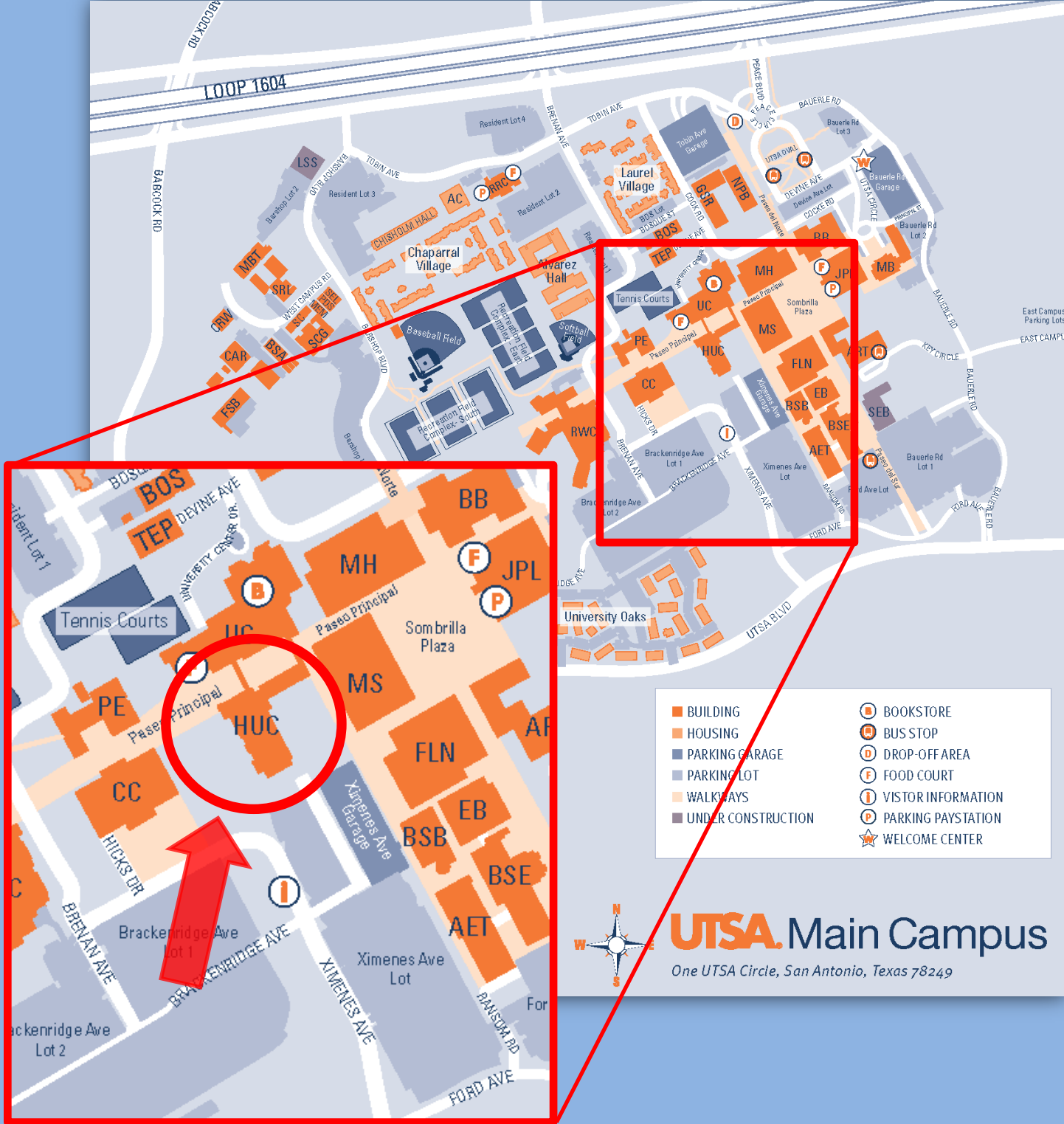
O'Brien is best known for his work in evolutionary archaeology and biology and has authored or edited 26 books and written over 150 articles, which have appeared in journals such as *Science*, *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, *Journal of Human Evolution*, and *Journal of Theoretical Biology*. O'Brien and his wife, Gloria, have five grown children and a rather lazy cat, Marley.

**A social will be held following the event. Additional information will be provided at the meeting.**

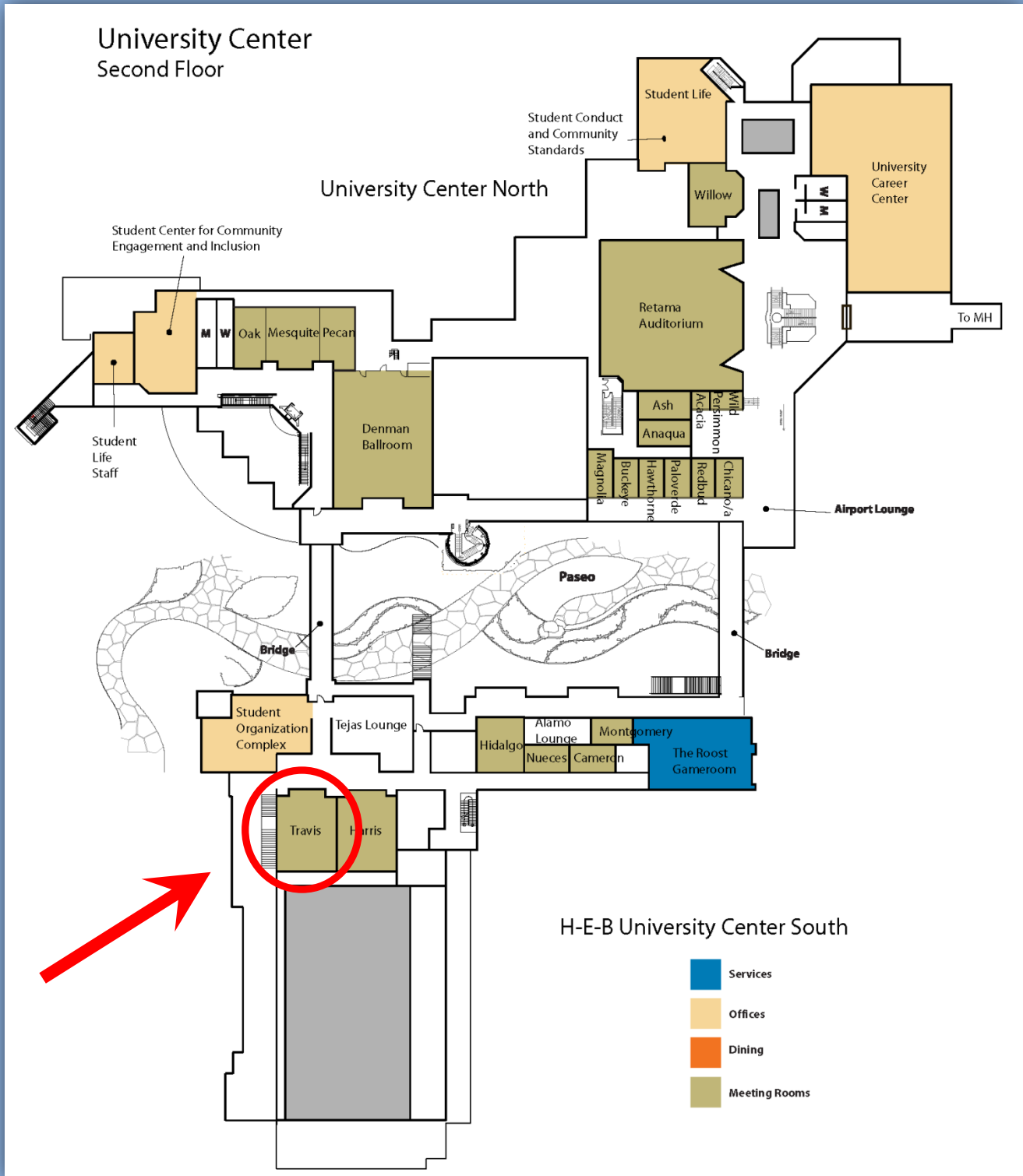
**Please join us for food and fun!**



# Venue Building Location: H-E-B University Center (HUC)



# Venue Room Location: H-E-B University Center (HUC) Travis Room, Second Floor, #2.202



# Nearby Parking Options:

**\*Venue in Red Circle\***



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