



Physical Anthropology Section – 2007

H3 Pedagogy of Practicing Forensic Anthropologists: A Collection of Our History

Joseph T. Hefner, MA, University of Tennessee, Department of Anthropology, 250 South Stadium Hall, Knoxville, TN 37996; Natalie M. Uhl, BS, University of Indianapolis, 1400 East Hanna Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46227; Stanley Rhine, PhD, University of New Mexico, Department of Anthropology, MSC01-1040 Anthropology, Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001; and William M. Bass, PhD, University of Tennessee, Department of Anthropology, 250 South Stadium Hall, Knoxville, TN 37996*

After attending this presentation, attendees will have an historical view of the Physical Anthropology Section of the American Academy of Forensic Science as well as understand the need to facilitate the collection, preservation, and documentation of the pedagogical history of the section.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by demonstrating that the academic history of modern practitioners represents the foundation upon which the profession has grown. Collecting, preserving, and documenting this lineage is of great importance to the understanding of modern forensic anthropology.

The History Committee within the Physical Anthropology section of the American Academy of Forensic Science was established at the 2005 AAFS meetings in New Orleans, LA. The committee is chaired by Dr. John Williams and includes Dr. Douglas Ubelaker, Dr. Eugene Giles, Mr. Greg Berg, Ms. Anne Marie Mires, and Mr. Joe Hefner. Charged with the collection, preservation, and documentation of the history of the Physical Anthropology section, the committee is actively seeking to document all levels of activity, including the academic histories for Physical Anthropology section members.

The pedagogical nature of anthropology is a fundamental characteristic of the entire field. Historical figures like Earnest Hooton and Franz Boas are recognized for their contributions to a stable crop of students, many of whom are now recognized as some of the most influential members in the field. These very 'students' are now ogled at meetings, the victims of drive by "name tag sightings" and murmurs concerning a recent journal article or book. The academic lineage of forensic anthropology is essential for understanding current philosophies.

In a 1992 volume of *The Connective Tissue*, Dr. Stanley Rhine documented the academic lineages of nearly 130 MAs and PhDs within the field, gathering information on degree date, advisors, and location. Originally proposed by Dr. Madeline Hinkes, the information in Rhine's list derived from the AAFS membership list, AAA guides, and informants, most notably Dr. Walter Birkby and Dr. Ted Rathbun. His dataset, which has acted as a catalyst for the current study, has unfortunately drifted into relative obscurity. Most of the recent PhD recipients recorded by Rhine in 1992 are now professors themselves, producing MAs and PhDs. Collecting up-to-date information will prevent any large gaps in the knowledge base of academic history.

In order to explore both traditional and nontraditional paths that have led current practitioners to the field, this poster seeks to document the academic lineage of the Physical Anthropology section of the American Academy of Forensic Science, by drawing on Dr. Rhine's previous work and by adding those individuals not included in the original compilation. Anthropologists are encouraged to provide information on their advisors, schools attended, and individual academic lineages. The purpose of this presentation is to explore these inter-relationships and provide the Section insight into its origins.

Preparatory analysis suggests the North American School of forensic anthropology can be traced almost entirely to the British School under the direct influence of Sir Author Keith. Keith is directly linked through historical figures such as Hooton, McCown, and others. The legacy of figures not traditionally associated with forensic anthropology provides insight into current methodologies and suggests the likely origins of some of the current practices. Academicians like Dr. William Bass and Dr. Alfred Hulse are noteworthy for their scientific contributions, but the large number of students that they produced is most significant for the current research. Likewise, researchers and non-academicians are noteworthy for their scientific contributions, but the student mentoring they have provided is also of great importance. The academic history of modern practitioners represents the foundation upon which the professional has grown. Collecting, preserving, and documenting this lineage is of great importance to the understanding of modern forensic anthropology.

Pedagogy, History, Physical Anthropology