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News Release



NORTH CAROLINA
MUSEUM OF HISTORY

A Smithsonian Affiliate

The Dead Give Up Secrets from Ancient Jordan!



RALEIGH, N.C. – **It's all about connecting the dots from Jordan's ancient past, and Dr. Megan Perry will do so when she speaks at the N.C. Museum of History's *Ancient and Modern World Lecture Series*, Thursday, September 21, 2017, at 7 p.m. (Free)**

Dr. Perry has worked on archaeological projects in Jordan for 25 years. She has been a Professor of Biological Anthropology at East Carolina University since 2003 and is a member of the Classical Studies Program. Most of her research focuses on 100 BC to AD 700 Jordan.

Perry's concentrations have been in two areas of research:

- to understand **ancient health and disease patterns** through bone analysis
- to figure out **mobility and migration patterns by testing human dental enamel**

She has pursued these objectives as a co-director of the Petra North Ridge Project with Dr. S. Thomas Parker of North Carolina State University, in which they lead teams of faculty and students to uncover the stories of the "ordinary people" in Petra, Jordan. The two have been leading summer digs for the past three years focusing on the excavation of first-century tombs and first- through fourth-century domestic structures.

To this point, the two universities **have found an abundance of artifacts that shed a light on Nabatean daily life**, including installations for cooking and storage, three rock-cut tombs, occupational remains such as pottery and animal bones, an iron sword, ceramic oil lamps and human bones intermixed with personal adornments and jewelry.

But the most surprising find came in 2016's dig: the remains of the first-to-second-century complex that was a heated room typical of a Roman-styled public bath. In addition to this complex, they **uncovered their most stunning find — two almost-complete marble statues of the goddess Aphrodite, along with her companion Eros**, that could date to the first to third centuries.

Today's CSI units could learn from Perry and her ECU students who have been coming to Jordan trying to unlock the untold stories of Petra's citizens.

Come hear Dr. Perry discuss the Petra North Ridge Project at the Museum of History. It will be an evening well worth your attendance!

This program is FREE, as is parking on Thursday evening.

IMAGES Dropbox link, caption and credit – Petra North Ridge Project

Image – Group shot

ECU students who participated in archaeological fieldwork at the Petra North Ridge Project between 2012 and 2014. Courtesy of ECU News Service.

Image – Perry with Camel

Dr. Megan Perry, Professor of Biological Anthropology, ECU. Courtesy of Megan Perry.

Image – Tomb

Eva Falls and Courtney Canipe at the tomb. Courtesy of Laurel Appleton.

Image – Statues

The statues depict the goddess Aphrodite and her companion Eros. Courtesy of ECU News Service.

Access images [here](#).

For information about the N.C. Museum of History, call [919-807-7900](tel:919-807-7900) or access ncmuseumofhistory.org or follow on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#).

About the N.C. Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate

The N.C. Museum of History is located at 5 E. Edenton Street in downtown Raleigh. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The museum collects and preserves artifacts of North Carolina history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. Each year more than 400,000 people visit the museum to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

About the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

The N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational and economic future of North Carolina. NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries and nature in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums and Jennette's Pier, 39 state parks and recreation areas, the N.C. Zoo, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the State Archives, the N.C. Arts Council, State Preservation Office and the Office of State Archaeology, along with the Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, please call 919-807-7300 or visit www.ncdcr.gov.

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