

DR. PETER THOMAS SINELLI

Department of Anthropology
University of Central Florida
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2021 to present: Senior Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, University of Central Florida
2015 to 2021: Associate Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, University of Central Florida
2006 to 2015: Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, University of Central Florida
2005 to 2006: Adjunct Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Central Florida

EDUCATION

2010 Ph.D. in Anthropology, University of Florida. Dissertation: All Islands Great and Small: Indigenous Exploitation of Small Cay Environments in the Turks & Caicos Islands. Dr. William F. Keegan, Advisor.
2001 Master of Arts in Anthropology, University of Florida. Thesis: Archaeological Investigations of Two Prehistoric Sites Representing a Hispaniolan Colonization of Middle Caicos, Turks and Caicos Islands. Dr. William F. Keegan, Advisor.
1992 Bachelor of Science in Finance, Minor in Anthropology, Indiana University, Bloomington.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Caribbean prehistory, with an emphasis on the later Indigenous prehistory of the Greater Antilles and the Bahama archipelago.
- Indigenous migration and island colonization theory.
- Indigenous settlement patterns and ecological adaptation, with an emphasis on the social and material implications of exchange networks and trade relationships.
- Archaeological ceramics and the development and diffusion of regional ceramic technologies.
- Physical anthropology, with an emphasis on human origins and the evolutionary process.
- Maritime and underwater archaeology.

EXTERNAL GRANTS

2023 NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Award: Ecological Adaptation in a Long Term Context. Awarded \$37,693 as Primary Investigator supervising the Doctoral research of Melissa Gomez.

UCF COURSES TAUGHT (F = Face to Face; M = Mixed Mode; W = Online)

ANT 2000 General Anthropology (F, M)	ANT 2511 Biological Anthropology (F, M, W)
ANT 3106 Americas Before Columbus (M)	ANT 3115 Archaeology Method and Theory (F)
ANT 3154 Historical Archaeology (M, W)	ANT 3160 Archaeology and Popular Culture (M)
ANT 3173 Archaeology of Sex (F, M)	ANT 3174 Battlefield Archaeology (M)
ANT 3177 Archaeology of Caribbean Piracy (F, M, W)	ANT 3302 Sex, Gender and Culture (F, M, W)
ANT 3943 Caribbean Archaeology Practicum (F)	ANT 4910 Professional Archaeology (M)
ANT 4932 Archaeology of Coastal Societies (M)	ANT 4943 Research in Caribbean Archaeology (F)

UCF AWARDS

2024	Learner-Centered Design Professional Development Award (\$2,000), in recognition of successful implementation of course design and delivery to create an instructional environment which supports best practices for student learning needs.
2023	Outstanding Instruction Award, College of Sciences, in recognition of successful, high-impact instructional efforts through leading the Department of Anthropology's largest and longest-running Archaeological Field School. AIM (Affordable Instructional Materials) High Impact Award, Presented to Faculty in the Department of Anthropology in recognition of exemplary efforts to reduce student book/instructional materials costs.
2019	Teaching Incentive Program (TIP) Award
2011	Teaching Incentive Program (TIP) Award

UCF IMPACT COURSE DESIGNATIONS

2025	Learner-Centered Design Badge, ANT 2000 General Anthropology.
2024	High-Impact Practice (HIP) Course Designation, Division of Student Learning and Academic Success. Earned the Research Intensive (RI) designation for ANT 4983 Research in Caribbean Archaeology to provide enhanced research opportunities to undergraduates participating in my annual Caribbean Archaeology Practicum field school offered through UCF Study Abroad. Learner-Centered Design Badge, ANT 2511 Biological Anthropology. Was the first UCF faculty member to earn the Learner-Centered Design course designation. Awarded to my Mixed-mode sections of my ANT 2511 class, which is a General Education Program course.
2020	Quality Online Course Designation: ANT 3177 <i>Archaeology of Caribbean Piracy</i>

UCF TEACHING AND LEARNING GRANTS AND ACTIVITIES

2024	<i>Helping Faculty Create Assignments to Advance Students' Critical Thinking about AI: A Case Study from Anthropology.</i> Presentation delivered to the 2 nd Teaching and Learning with AI Conference, Orlando, Florida.
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UCF Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning Summer conference. Received \$800 to develop and submit a successful application to designate ANT 4983 Research in Caribbean Archaeology as a Research Intensive, High-Impact Practice course.

2023 UCF General Education Program Award. Received \$1000 to fund attendance at the 2023 AAC&U Conference on General Education, Pedagogy, and Assessment in New Orleans.

UCF STUDENT MENTORSHIP ACTIVITY AND AWARDS

2023-present ANT 4912 Directed Research Advisor. Mentor, advise, and supervise 6 UCF undergraduates in individualized archaeological laboratory research projects involving the artifact assemblage for the Palmetto Junction site, Turks & Caicos Islands.

2023-2024 ANT 3905 Independent Study Advisor. Mentor, advise, and supervise 6 additional UCF undergraduates in customized archaeological research projects involving the the Palmetto Junction site, Turks & Caicos Islands.

2024 Honors Undergraduate Thesis advisor for Ms. Hailey Boyd

2017-2018 Honors in the Major Thesis advisor Ms. Melissa Kays.

2017 UCF Research and Mentoring Program (RAMP) Mentor for Ms. Melissa Gomez. Her research project “*Analysis of Collagen Extraction from Bahamian Hutia to Determine Domestication Patterns*” won First Place in the 2017 Showcase of Undergraduate Research (SURE).

2016 UCF Research and Mentoring Program (RAMP) Mentor for Ms. Melissa Gomez. Her research project “*Stable Isotope Analysis of the Extracted Collagen from the Bahamian Hutia; Determining Role in Indigenous Agricultural Development*” won First Place in the 2016 Showcase of Undergraduate Research (SURE).

2014-2016 Honors in the Major Thesis Advisor for Ms. Megan Alexander

UCF SERVICE (2018-present)

2024-2025 University Service:
Faculty Senate Representative, Department of Anthropology
Vice Chair, UCF Faculty Senate Budget and Administrative Committee
UCF Faculty Senate Parking and Transportation Committee

Department Committee Service:
Chair Emeritus, Trevor Colburn Anthropology Endowment Fund Committee
AESP / Workload Equity Committee

2023-2024 University Service:
Judge, UCF Student Scholar Symposium

College Committee Service:
Anthropology Chair’s Five Year Review Committee (John Schultz)

Department Committee Service:

Chair, Trevor Colburn Anthropology Endowment Fund Committee

Chair, Department Instructor/Lecturer Promotion Committee (Lana Williams)

AESP / Workload Equity Committee

2022-2023

College Committee Service

Department of Biology Instructor/Lecturer Promotion Committee

Department Committee Service:

Chair, Trevor Colburn Anthropology Endowment Fund Committee

Department Instructor/Lecturer Hiring Committee

Department Instructor/Lecturer Promotion Committee (Sandra Wheeler)

AESP / Workload Equity Committee

Service to the Discipline:

Invited Journal Reviewer: Archaeology of the Abaco Islands (The Bahamas) and possible pre-Columbian contacts with Florida by William Keegan et al. *Journal of Field Archaeology*.

2021-2022

Department Committee Service:

AESP / Workload Equity Committee

Trevor Colburn Anthropology Endowment Fund Committee

2020-2021

University Committee Service:

“Think 30” Committee

RSO Faculty Advisor, Young Americans for Liberty

Department Committee Service:

Doctoral Program Committee

Chair, Department Instructor/Lecturer Promotion Guidelines Committee

Policies and Procedures Committee

Trevor Colburn Anthropology Endowment Fund Committee

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

2019-2020

University Committee Service:

GEP Refresh Assessment Leadership Cohort

GEP Adaptive Learning Leadership Cohort

Instructor/Lecturer Professional Development Leave Committee

“Think 30” Committee

GEP Teaching Squares

RSO Faculty Advisor, Young Americans for Liberty

College Committee Service:

Program Assessment Review Committee

Department Committee Service:

Doctoral Program Committee

Chair, Department Instructor/Lecturer Promotion Guidelines Committee

Policies and Procedures Committee

Trevor Colburn Fund Committee

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Service to the Discipline:

Invited Journal Reviewer: Cooking with Corals: The Bahamas Experiments by

William Keegan et al. *Journal of Archaeological Science*

Invited Book Reviewer: Pre-Columbian Art of the Caribbean by Lawrence Waldron.

The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology

2018-2019

University Committee Service:

GEP Refresh Cohort

GEP Refresh Leadership Cohort

RSO Faculty Advisor, Young Americans for Liberty

College Committee Service:

Program Assessment Review Committee

Department Committee Service:

Doctoral Program Committee

Policies and Procedures Committee

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Instructor/Lecturer Promotion Committee

Instructor/Lecturer Hiring Committee

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles (peer reviewed):

2020 Ciofalo, Andrew J., Peter T. Sinelli and Corinne L. Hofman. Starchy shells: Residue analysis of precolonial northern Caribbean culinary practices. *Archaeometry* 62:2

2019 Ciofalo, Andrew J., Peter T. Sinelli and Corinne L. Hofman. Late Precolonial Culinary Practices: Starch Analysis on Griddles from the Northern Caribbean. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 26:1632–1664.

2008 Keegan, William F., Scott M. Fitzpatrick, Kathleen Sullivan Sealey, Michelle LeFebvre, and Peter T. Sinelli. The Role of Small Islands in Marine Subsistence Strategies: Case Studies from the Caribbean. *Human Ecology* 36:635-654.

Book Reviews:

2020 Sinelli, Peter T. Pre-Columbian Art of the Caribbean by Lawrence Waldron. *The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* 25:1

Book Chapters (refereed):

2013 Sinelli, Peter T. *Meillacoid and the Origins of Classic Taino Society*. In The Oxford Handbook of Caribbean Archaeology, Edited by William F. Keegan, Corinne L. Hofman, and Reniel Rodriquez Ramos. Oxford University Press, New York

Popular Media:

2012 *The People Who Discovered Columbus Version 2.0*. Article published in Times of the Islands, the leading popular magazine in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Summer 2012, No. 96, pp. 18-24.

- 2011 *The People Who Discovered Columbus Version 1.0*. Article published in Times of the Islands, the leading popular magazine in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Fall 2011, No. 96, pp. 16-22.
- 2005 *Archaeology in the Turks and Caicos Islands: New Approaches, New Discoveries*. Article published in Times of the Islands, the leading popular magazine in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Winter 2004-2005, No. 69, pp. 47-51.

Technical Reports:

- 2013 *Seasonal Report of 2012 Archaeological Investigations in Cape Eleuthera, Bahamas and Northwest Point, Great Inagua, Bahamas*. Submitted to the Antiquities, Monuments, and Museums Corporation, Nassau, Bahamas.
- 2012 *Seasonal Report of Archaeological Investigations in Cape Eleuthera, Bahamas*. Submitted to the Antiquities, Monuments, and Museums Corporation, Nassau, Bahamas.

PUBLIC LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

Scholarly Presentations to Professional Associations:

- 2019 *Ceramic Production at Palmetto Junction*. Presentation delivered at the 84th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Albuquerque, NM.
- 2015 *Migrating Meillacoid: Or, how I learned to quit worrying and love the Bahamas*. Presentation delivered at the 26th International Conference for Caribbean Archaeology, Sint Maarten.
- 2012 *Lucayan Exploitation of Small Cay Environments in Rock Sound, Eleuthera*. Presentation delivered at the 77th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Memphis, TN
- 2011 *Meillacoid Origins of Classic Taino Society*. Presentation delivered at the 24th International Conference for Caribbean Archaeology, Martinique.
- 2008 *Indigenous Exploitation of Small Cay Environments in the Turks & Caicos Islands*. Presentation delivered at the 73rd Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Vancouver, British Columbia.
- 2003 *New Data Concerning the Colonization of the Bahama Archipelago*. Presentation delivered at the 19th International Conference for Caribbean Archaeology, Aruba.

Invited Public Lectures:

- 2021 *Charles Darwin: How a Theology Major Discovered Natural Selection*. Public lecture at the University Unitarian Universalist Society.
- 2020 “Ask a Science Expert” interactive interview and Q&A with the Mad Cow Theatre, Orlando Florida.
- 2019 *Island Colonization and the Lucayans of the Bahamas*. Public lecture at the Florida Historical Society Archaeological Institute.

- 2014 *Salt: The Only Rock We Eat*. Presentation delivered at the East End Market in conjunction with the Orlando Science Center's public lecture series.

Preliminary Report of the Archaeology of the Palmetto Junction Site. Presentation delivered at the Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs headquarters, Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands

- 2013 *Taino vs. Spaniard: The First Act of European 'Discovery' in the Americas*. Presentation delivered at the Orlando Museum of Art as part of their "Uncovering the Secrets of Ancient America" series.
- 2013 *The Archaeology of Sex*. Presentation delivered at the Orlando Science Center as part of their "Science Night Live" series.
- 2012 *New Insights into the Colonization and Settlement of the Bahama Archipelago*. Presentation delivered at the Florida Historical Society as part of their "In the Dirt" series.

The Lucayans. Presentation delivered to the Central Florida Anthropological Society.

Media Interviews:

- 2019 *Archaeology of the Bahama Islands*. Radio interview on Florida Public Radio program "Florida Frontiers".
- 2015 *Archaeology of Sex*. Radio interview on the Voicamerica.com program "Indiana Jones: Myth, Reality and 21st Century Archaeology".

FIELD RESEARCH

- 2024 Caribbean Archaeology Practicum, Turks & Caicos Islands, British West Indies. Designed and led a three-week archaeological field school through UCF Study Abroad and UCF Global for 1 Graduate student, 2 returning undergraduate students / graduate student candidates and 14 UCF undergraduates.
- 2023 Caribbean Archaeology Practicum, Turks & Caicos Islands, British West Indies. Designed and led a three-week archaeological field school through UCF Study Abroad and UCF Global for 1 Graduate student and 16 UCF undergraduates.
- 2022 Caribbean Archaeology Practicum, Turks & Caicos Islands, British West Indies. Designed and led a three-week archaeological field school through UCF Study Abroad and UCF Global for 1 Graduate student and 16 UCF undergraduates.
- 2019 Caribbean Archaeology Practicum, Turks & Caicos Islands, British West Indies. Designed and led a three-week archaeological field school through UCF Study Abroad and the Office of International Studies for 3 Graduate students and 18 UCF undergraduates.
- 2018 Caribbean Archaeology Practicum, Turks & Caicos Islands, British West Indies. Designed and led a three-week archaeological field school through UCF Study Abroad and the Office of International Studies for 3 Graduate students and 10 UCF undergraduates.

- 2017 Underwater Archaeology at Tios (Filyos, Turkey). Assisted in underwater archaeology at Roman era shipwreck sites in Filyos Harbor as a member of a joint team of researchers from UCF and Bartin University.
- Archaeology of the Palmetto Junction site, Turks & Caicos Islands, British West Indies. Designed and led a ten day archaeological excavation in coordination with colleagues from Leiden University, Leiden, The Netherlands.
- 2016 Caribbean Archaeology Practicum, Turks & Caicos Islands, British West Indies. Designed and led a three-week archaeological field school through UCF Study Abroad and the Office of International Studies for 3 Graduate students and 16 UCF undergraduates.
- 2015 Caribbean Archaeology Practicum, Turks & Caicos Islands, British West Indies. Designed and led a three-week archaeological field school through UCF Study Abroad and the Office of International Studies for 3 Graduate students and 16 UCF undergraduates.
- 2014 Caribbean Archaeology Practicum, Turks & Caicos Islands, British West Indies. Designed and led a three-week archaeological field school through UCF Study Abroad and the Office of International Studies for 15 UCF undergraduates.
- 2013 Caribbean Archaeology Practicum, Eleuthera and Great Inagua, Bahamas. Designed and led a three-week archaeological field school through UCF Study Abroad and the Office of International Studies for 16 UCF undergraduates.
- 2012 Caribbean Archaeology Practicum, Great Inagua, Bahamas. Designed and led a three-week archaeological field school through UCF Study Abroad and the Office of International Studies for 16 UCF undergraduates.
- Caribbean Archaeology Practicum, Eleuthera, Bahamas. Designed and led a three-week archaeological field school through UCF Study Abroad and the Office of International Studies for 16 UCF undergraduates.
- 2011 Caribbean Archaeology Practicum, Eleuthera, Bahamas. Designed and led a four-week archaeological field school through UCF Study Abroad and the Office of International Studies for 16 UCF undergraduates.
- 2004 Caribbean Archaeology Field School, Turks and Caicos Islands, British West Indies. Coordinated and led a six week, six credit archaeological field school for University of Florida undergraduate anthropology students. Research related to pursuit of Ph.D. degree.
- 2001 Island Biogeography research, Middle Caicos, Turks & Caicos Islands, BWI. Assisted in excavations of faunal remains from pre-anthropogenic cave deposits in Conch Bar Cave, Middle Caicos to assess impact of human arrival on species extirpation and the local ecology.
- 2000 Independent research in the collections of the Turks and Caicos National Museum, Grand Turk, Turks and Caicos Islands, BWI. Analysis of ceramic collection conducted as part of M.A. thesis research.
- “Before Columbus: Caonabo’s Homeland,” archaeological excavations at five prehistoric sites on Middle Caicos, Turks and Caicos Islands, BWI. Directed excavations and volunteers at two of the sties to build the foundation for M.A. thesis research.