

# Lecture series promotes conversation

Hana Frenette, hfrenette@pnj.com 6:12 a.m. CDT July 15, 2016



(Photo: Special to the News Journal)

ArchaeoCafé is taking history and archaeology out of the classroom and bringing it to the pub.

On July 21, the Florida Public Archaeology Network will host an installment of their ArchaeoCafé at Ozone Pizza Pub on North 12th Avenue in East Hill.

Janene Johnston, a graduate assistant at the [University of West Florida \(/search/UWF/\)](#), will deliver a short presentation on her archaeological investigations at the Battle of Natural Bridge before opening up the floor to a question, answer and discussion session.

Mike Thomin, a representative from FPAN, said the event is all about talking with one another and raising questions.



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(<http://www.pnj.com/story/news/2016/07/09/uwf-students-dive-into-lunas-history/86820556/>)

"There are a lot of people who are conducting exciting research but it's not totally accessible to the public, except through academic journals and those aren't always totally readable," he said. "The ArchaeoCafé is all about taking the information out of an academic format or a lecture hall and bringing it into a place where everyone feels comfortable."

ArchaeoCafé is loosely based off the popular "Science Café" model, which brings scientific discussions and scientists to community gatherings.

The event typically starts with a 15- to 20-minute lecture from a professor or graduate assistant, and then the crowd will raise questions and spur off into their own conversations about the topic.

Ramie Gougeon, an anthropology professor at the University of West Florida, has given two lectures at the ArchaeoCafé and has also attended as a participant. He said the discussions are always enjoyable because of the unique dynamics of the crowd.

"In general, there's an interest in learning about the world around us, and with the ArchaeoCafé, there's definitely a ready audience," Gougeon said.

Gougeon's first topic surrounded a popular Mexican dish that many know and love — tacos.

"I talked a little bit about archaeology and history, and then about ethno-history, which related into food waves from the Mediterranean to Mexico to the Southwest United States," he said.

Gougeon said the questions come from a diverse audience, with some professors and students raising points, as well as history and archaeology enthusiasts from the community.

The program can last anywhere from 35 minutes to an hour and a half, but Thomin noted the discussions last long after the presenter has left the building.

"Sometimes when I'm getting ready to leave, I'll take a look around the room and see people sitting at a table with someone they just met, engaging in a conversation about history," he said. "It's the perfect place to come and meet new people who are interested in the same kind of things, or to just sit back and listen to a great presentation outside of the classroom setting."

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**Want to go?**

**What:** ArchaeoCafe

**When:** 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. July 21

**Where:** Ozone Pizza Pub, 1010 N. 12th Ave., Pensacola

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