

CURRICULUM VITAE

OLIVIA L. THOMAS

Department of Anthropology
Texas A&M University
E-mail: OThomas@tamu.edu
ORCID: 0000-0001-6094-5733

EDUCATION

- 2025 Ph.D., Department of Anthropology, Nautical Archaeology, Texas A&M University
Dissertation Chair: Dr. Christopher M. Dostal
Committee: Dr. Shelley Wachsmann, Dr. Heather Thakar, Dr. April Hatfield
- 2017 M.A., Department of History, Maritime Studies, East Carolina University
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Jennifer F. McKinnon
Committee: Dr. Lynn Harris, Dr. Angela Thompson
- 2013 B.A., Departments of Anthropology, Classical Studies, Kinesiology, and Medieval Studies, Indiana University
Majors: Anthropology, Classical Art & Archaeology, and Underwater Archaeology
Minor: Medieval Studies
Certificate: Underwater Resource Management

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

- 2025-Present **Visiting Lecturer**, Anthropology Department, Texas A&M University
- 2023-2025 **Instructor**, Social Sciences Division (Anthropology), Blinn College
- 2024 **Graduate Research Assistant**, Center for Maritime Archaeology & Conservation, Nautical Archaeology Program, Anthropology Department, Texas A&M University
- 2021-2025 **Instructor of Record**, Anthropology Department, Texas A&M University
- 2020-2021 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Anthropology Department, Texas A&M University
- 2019-2020 **Archivist**, Institute of Nautical Archaeology
- 2018 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Anthropology Department, Texas A&M University
- 2017 **Computer Lab Supervisor**, Y.H. Kim Lab, East Carolina University
- 2015-2017 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Department of History, East Carolina University
- 2012-2013 **Conservation and Outreach Assistant**, The Children's Museum of Indianapolis
- 2012-2013 **Research Assistant**, Office of Underwater Science, Indiana University
- 2012-2013 **Undergraduate Teaching Assistant**, Office of Underwater Science, Indiana University
- 2009-2013 **Laboratory Research Assistant**, Midwest Archaeology Laboratory, Indiana University

RESEARCH

Areas of Specialization

Maritime history, culture, and archaeology, underwater archaeology, historical archaeology, colonial archaeology, colonial Americas history, Caribbean history, cultural landscapes, foodways, food history, artifact conservation, material culture studies

Competitive Funding Awards – Research & Travel

2024	College of Arts & Sciences, TAMU, Doctoral Student Research, Travel, and Professional Development Award	\$1585
2023	College of Arts & Sciences, TAMU, Graduate Student Research Award	\$3000
2023	Department of Anthropology, Texas A&M University, Travel Grant	\$1200
2022	Department of Anthropology, Texas A&M University, Research Grant	\$5000
2021	Vernacular Architecture Forum, Orlando V. Ridout Fieldwork Grant	\$500
2021	Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, Texas A&M, Research Grant	\$1000
2020	Graduate & Professional Studies, Texas A&M University, Travel Grant	\$500
2020	Department of Anthropology, Texas A&M University, Travel Grant	\$1000
2019	Department of Anthropology, Texas A&M University, Pilot Research Grant	\$2000
2017	North American Society for Oceanic History, Travel Grant	\$250
2016	Harriot College of Arts & Sciences, East Carolina University, Travel Grant	\$500

Fellowships, Scholarships, and Awards

2023	Graduate Research Fellowship, Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, Texas A&M University	
2020	Zale Parry Scholar, Academy of Underwater Arts & Sciences	
2018	Scholarship America, East Washington School Corporation Dollars for Scholars	
2017	Best Graduate Paper- Runner Up, Phi Alpha Theta 2017 Carolinas Regional Conference, Francis Marion University	
2017	William Hamlin & Mary Quaipe Tuttle Scholarship, East Carolina University Graduate Scholarship in European History	
2016	Richard C. Todd Award, Phi Alpha Theta, Lambda Eta Chapter at East Carolina University	
2016	William Hamlin & Mary Quaipe Tuttle Scholarship, East Carolina University Graduate Scholarship in European History	
2016	Robert & Clarice Morris Award, East Washington School Corporation Dollars for Scholars	
2015	Scholarship America, East Washington School Corporation Dollars for Scholars	
2013	Indiana University Individualized Major Program, Departmental Honors	

Field Experience

- 2023 Texas A&M University
Dissertation Research Study: Shipwrecks Survey of St. Croix, USVI
Activities: Surveys of potential historic shipwreck sites
- 2022 Texas A&M University
Dissertation Research Study: Maritime Cultural Landscape of St. Croix, USVI
Activities: Archival research; terrestrial and maritime surveys
- 2019 Texas A&M University
Dissertation Research Pilot Study: Maritime Cultural Landscape of St. Croix, USVI
Activities: Land survey; networking; archival research
- 2016 East Carolina University
P.I.: Dr. Jennifer McKinnon
Underwater Archaeology Research Project, The Pillar Dollar Wreck
Biscayne Bay National Park, Florida
Activities: Underwater excavation; artifact sorting; photography; wood sample collection; video and photography for photogrammetry; compiled and edited final report
- 2013 Indiana University Bloomington
P.I.: Charles Beeker
Underwater Archaeology Research Project, *Nuestra Senora de Begona*
Bayahibe/La Romana, Dominican Republic
Activities: Underwater excavation; artifact sorting; composed portions of final report; site maintenance including survey and buoy replacement
- 2012 Portanta
P.I.: Dr. Rui Boaventura
National Museum of Archaeology- Osteology Workshop
Lisbon, Portugal
Activities: Cleaned, identified, and documented Paleolithic era human bones
- 2012 Indiana University Bloomington
P.I.: Charles Beeker
Underwater Archaeology Research Project, *Nuestra Senora de Begona*
La Romana, Dominican Republic
Activities: Underwater excavation; artifact sorting; composed portions of final report
- 2011 University of Missouri St. Louis
P.I.: Dr. Michael Cosmopoulos
Classical Archaeology, Pylos-Iklaina
Iklaina, Greece
Activities: Terrestrial excavation; artifact cleaning, sorting, and cataloguing; faunal identification

Laboratory Experience

- 2019-2020 Conservation Research Laboratory, Texas A&M University
Dr. Donny Hamilton
Activities: Wood, iron, textile, conservation; artifact conservation from *Brother Jonathan* shipwreck
- 2017 Museum of Florida History, Tallahassee, FL. 1715 & 1733 Spanish fleets collections,
Activities: Measured, analyzed, and photographed artifacts for master's thesis
- 2016 Museum of Florida History, Tallahassee, FL. 1715 & 1733 Spanish fleets collections,
Activities: Measured, analyzed, and photographed artifacts for master's thesis
- 2016 East Carolina University, Program in Maritime Studies
Dr. Bradley Rodgers
Activities: Metal artifact conservation
- 2012-2013 The Children's Museum of Indianapolis
Activities: General conservation of material culture from a marine context; X-ray fluorescence, radiology, electrolytic reduction, and cupreous metal conservation
- 2012-2013 Office of Underwater Science, Indiana University
Charles Beeker
Activities: General conservation of material culture from a marine context; historical research, artifact illustration, and mapping
- 2009-2013 Midwest Archaeology Laboratory, Indiana University
Cheryl A. Munson
Activities: Terrestrial artifact conservation; artifact and map illustration, digitization, and editing

Publications

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

Thomas, Olivia L.

- 2024 Whaling and Wailing: Childbirth on 19th Century Whaling Ships. *International Journal of Maritime History* 36(1):107—139.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/08438714231198614>

Crutcher, Megan and **Olivia L. Thomas**

- In Prep. Lives of Women at Sea
Intended for *International Journal of Maritime History*.

Thomas, Olivia L.

In Prep. Cocoa Frothers in Eighteenth-Century Spanish Fleet Shipwreck Collections. Intended for *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology*.

Thomas, Olivia L.

In Prep. An Analysis of Depictions of Dutch Shipbuilding in Sieuwert van der Meulen's 'Navigiorum aedificatio.' Intended for *The Mariner's Mirror*.

Thomas, Olivia L.

In Prep. A Statistical Analysis of the Recorded Shipwrecks in the Virgin Islands. Intended for *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology*.

Dissertation and Theses

Ph.D. 2025 *The Maritime Cultural Landscape of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands*. Department of Anthropology, Texas A&M University.

M.A. 2017 *The Dish Ran Away with the Spoon: Revisiting Unprovenanced Foodways Artifacts from the Eighteenth-Century Spanish Fleet Shipwrecks*. Department of History, Program in Maritime Studies, East Carolina University.

B.A. 2013 *A report on artifacts associated with daily life on-board the 18th Century Spanish trade ship: "Nuestra Señora de Begoña"*. Individualized Major Program: Underwater Archaeology, Indiana University.

Book Reviews

2021 The Last Voyage of the Whaling Bark *Progress*. New Bedford, Chicago and the Twilight of an Industry. by Daniel Gifford. *Northern Mariner* 30(3):318-319.

2020 Setting the Table: Ceramics, Dining, and Cultural Exchange in Andalucía and La Florida. *Southeastern Archaeology* 39(2):146-147.

2018 Jutland: The Unfinished Battle. *The Nautical Research Journal* 63(1):78.

2017 Lascars and Indian Ocean Seafaring 1780-1860: Shipboard Life, Unrest and Mutiny. *The Nautical Research Journal* 62(3):240.

Conference Sessions Chaired

2020 Symposium co-chair, "The Nuts and Bolts of Shipbuilding: Current Research by the J. Richard Steffy Shipbuilding Laboratory at Texas A&M University" at Society for Historical Archaeology 53rd Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.

Published Conference Papers

- 2017 Thomas, Olivia
The Dish Ran Away with the Spoon: Revisiting Unprovenanced Food Ways Artifacts from the Spanish Fleet Wrecks of Eighteenth Century Florida. **ACUA Underwater Archaeology Proceedings 2017:39–44.**

Conference Papers (Unpublished)

- 2024 **Olivia L. Thomas**, Trevor Gittelhough
“Historic Shipwrecks as part of a Maritime Cultural Landscape Survey of St. Croix, USVI.” Society for Historical Archaeology 57th Annual Meeting, Oakland, CA.
- Trevor Gittelhough, **Olivia L. Thomas**
“The Submerged Precontact Maritime Landscape of Saint Croix, USVI.” Society for Historical Archaeology 57th Annual Meeting, Oakland, CA.
- 2021 Olivia L. Thomas
“Using Quantitative Analysis of Historical Records to Make Predictions about Shipwrecks in the Virgin Islands.” Society for Historical Archaeology 54th Annual Meeting, Virtual.
- 2020 Olivia L. Thomas
“An Introduction to the Colonial Maritime Cultural Landscape of St. Croix, USVI.” Society for Historical Archaeology 53rd Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.
- 2019 Olivia Thomas
“Mutiny! The Story of H.M.S. *Bounty*.” Center for Maritime Archaeology and Conservation’s Shipwreck Weekend, College Station, TX.
- 2018 Olivia Thomas
“Forks, Knives, and Spoons: Analyzing Unprovenanced Tablewares from Eighteenth Century Spanish Shipwrecks.” Society for Historical Archaeology 51st Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- 2017 Olivia L. Thomas
“Revisiting Unprovenanced Foodways Artifacts from the Spanish Fleet Wrecks of Eighteenth Century Florida.” North American Society for Oceanic History 43rd Annual Conference, Charleston, SC.
- 2017 Olivia L. Thomas
“Lend me Your Ears: Admiral Edward Vernon and the British Navy during the War of Jenkins’ Ear, 1739-1748.” Phi Alpha Theta 2017 Carolinas Regional Conference, Florence, SC.

Conference Symposia/Panel Participation

2025 “Can We Co-Create an Intersectional Feminist Maritime Archaeology? Maritime Archaeology and Gender Diversity” Society for Historical Archaeology 58th Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

Chair(s): Megan C Crutcher (Texas A&M University); crutcherm@tamu.edu

Panelist(s): Ellen Hsieh (National Tsing Hua University), **Olivia Thomas** (Texas A&M University), Christin Heamagi (Maritime Archaeology Trust), Marijo Gauthier-Bérubé (Institut de Recherche en Histoire Maritime et Archéologie Subaquatique), Kelsey Rooney (University of Chicago), Elena Perez-Alvaro (Nelson Mandela University), Grace Désiree Grodji (Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny), Aminata Mbaye (Université Cheikh Anta Diop), Abhirada Pook Komoot (Maritime Asia Heritage Survey), Isabel Rivera-Collazo (UC San Diego), Hanna Steyne (Wessex Archaeology), Annaliese Dempsey (LX Hermitage/Texas A&M University)

Conference Posters

2019 Olivia Thomas

“A Maritime Cultural Landscape of St. Croix, U.S.V.I.” Texas A&M Department of Anthropology 10th Annual Conference, College Station, TX.

TEACHING

Areas of Teaching Competence

Anthropology (general)	Historic Archaeology
Archaeology (general)	Underwater Archaeology
U.S. History	Maritime History
European History and Archaeology	Caribbean History and Archaeology
Atlantic World History and Archaeology	Anthropology writing
Artifact Conservation	SCUBA Diving (recreational & scientific)

Courses Taught

Semester	Course Number	Course Name	Enrollment	GPR
<i>at Texas A&M University as Instructor of Record</i>				
Spring 2025	ANTH 415	Anthropology Writing	9	
Fall 2023	ANTH 205	Peoples & Cultures of the World	75	3.773
Spring 2023	ANTH 350	European Archaeology	15	3.667
Fall 2022	ANTH 350	European Archaeology	34	3.382
Spring 2022	ANTH 205	Peoples & Cultures of the World	42*	3.659
Fall 2021	ANTH 205	Peoples & Cultures of the World	36*	3.694
<i>at Blinn College as Instructor</i>				
Spring 2025	ANTH 2351	Cultural Anthropology	18	--
	ANTH 2351	Cultural Anthropology	20	--
Fall 2024	ANTH 2351	Cultural Anthropology	33	--
	ANTH 2351	Cultural Anthropology	20	--
	ANTH 2351	Cultural Anthropology	20	--
Spring 2024	ANTH 2351	Cultural Anthropology	28	--
	ANTH 2351	Cultural Anthropology	19	--
	ANTH 2351	Cultural Anthropology	19	--
	ANTH 2351	Cultural Anthropology	20	--
Fall 2023	ANTH 2351	Cultural Anthropology	34	--
	ANTH 2351	Cultural Anthropology	17	--
	ANTH 2351	Cultural Anthropology	16	--
<i>at Texas A&M University as Graduate Teaching Assistant</i>				
Spring 2021	ANTH 316	Nautical Archaeology	64	3.186
	ANTH 323	Nautical Archaeology of the Mediterranean	12	3.500
Fall 2020	ANTH 402	Archaeological Artifact Conservation	10	3.714
Fall 2018	ANTH 205	Peoples & Cultures of the World	124	3.132
<i>at East Carolina University as Graduate Teaching Assistant</i>				
Fall 2016	HIST 2000	Introduction to History	20	--
	HIST 2000	Introduction to History	20	--

Semester	Course Number	Course Name	Enrollment	GPR
	HIST 5135	Problems in North Carolina History	10	--
	HIST 6525	Sea Power 480 BC to the Present	10	--
Spring 2016	HIST 2000	Introduction to History	20	--
	HIST 2000	Introduction to History	20	--
	HIST 3125	The American Revolution and the Federalist Era	20	--
	HIST 5135	Problems in North Carolina History	20	--
Fall 2015	HIST 2000	Introduction to History	20	--
	HIST 2000	Introduction to History	20	--
	HIST 5135	Problems in North Carolina History	5	--
	HIST 6525	Sea Power 480 BC to the Present	10	--
<i>at Indiana University as Undergraduate Teaching Assistant</i>				
Spring 2013	HPER E270	Introduction to Scientific SCUBA	30	--
	HPER E270	Introduction to Scientific SCUBA	30	--
	HPER E370	SCUBA Certification	15	--
	HPER E471	Diving Professionalism	5	--
Fall 2012	HPER E270	Introduction to Scientific SCUBA	30	--
	HPER E270	Introduction to Scientific SCUBA	30	--
	HPER E370	SCUBA Certification	15	--
	HPER E470	Diver Safety and Rescue	10	--

**indicates the supervision of an independent honors student in the class*

SERVICE

Texas A&M University

- 2023 Poster Session Judge, Vaughn M. Bryant Memorial Anthropology Conference
2021-2022 Co-Coordinator, Vaughn M. Bryant Memorial Anthropology Conference
Committee (AAGS)
2018-Present Member, Association of Anthropology Graduate Students (AAGS)

East Carolina University

- 2022 Run-off Judge, Regional History Day
2017 Judge, Regional History Day
2016-2017 Member, Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Women
2016 President, Phi Alpha Theta-Lambda Eta Chapter
2015-2018 Member, Phi Alpha Theta-Lambda Eta Chapter
2015-2017 Member, Maritime Studies Association

Mentoring

- 2020-2021 Graduate Undergraduate Mentorship Program, Department of Anthropology,
Texas A&M University

Professional Development

Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum, "Gender at Sea" Webinar, 8 June 2023

Texas A&M University Office of Graduate and Professional Studies, G.R.A.D. Aggies
Intermediate Level Professional Development Certificate, April 2023

--Seminars included: "Introduction to Zotero," "Writing Abstracts," "Creative
Commons Licensing for OER," "Letters of Recommendation," "Stress Management," and
"Overcoming Perfectionism."

Brown University, Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World, the Center for
Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and the Program in Early Cultures, "New Directions in
Caribbean Archaeology" Webinar, Dr. Alicia Odewale *Developing an Antiracist Archaeology
for the Next Generation*, 15 April 2022

Texas A&M University, Graduate Professional Development Series, "Creating a Grant Proposal
from Start to Finish" Workshop, 29 March 2021

Texas A&M University, Center for Teaching Excellence, "Graduate Teaching Assistants:
Balancing Research, Writing, & Teaching" Workshop, 17 March 2021

Texas A&M University Aggie Allies Training, 26 October 2020

Texas A&M University Green Dot Bystander Training, 10 February 2020

Texas A&M University Office of Graduate and Professional Studies, G.R.A.D. Aggies Day, 26 September 2019

--Seminars included: "Creating an Individual Development Plan," "Copyright Basics," "Creating a Life of Balance and Wellness," "Financial Preparation for Graduate School," and "Managing Graduate Writing Projects"

Organization Memberships

Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA)
Diver's Alert Network (DAN)
Indiana University Alumni Association
Maritime Studies Association of East Carolina University (MSA)
The Nature Conservancy
North American Society for Oceanic History (NASOH)
Phi Alpha Theta, Lambda Eta Chapter, History Honors Society
Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI)
Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA)
Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC)
SCUBA Diving International (SDI)
Technical Diving International (TDI)

SKILLS

Languages

English (native speaker), Spanish (working proficiency), Danish (elementary), French (elementary)

Technological Proficiency

Microsoft Office Suite, Keyboarding (81 WPM)

Educational Learning Management Systems: Canvas, Brightspace, eCampus, Blackboard

Geographic Information Systems: ESRI ArcGIS Pro

Graphic Design Software: Adobe Creative Cloud Suite, Corel DRAW

Statistical Analysis Software: IBM SPSS 24, R

Collections Management Software: PastPerfect, CollectionSpace, CatalogIt

Other software: Zotero, Zoom, Notion, Quickbooks

SCUBA: PADI Open Water SCUBA Instructor (certified 2013; 220 students certified); EFR/AED Instructor (certified 2013; 21 students certified); PADI AWARE and AWARE Coral Reef Conservation Instructor; Deep Diving Instructor

Technical SCUBA: TDI Trimix, Extended Range, Closed-Circuit Rebreather (ISC Pathfinder); PADI Tech/Rec Gas Blender

Research Proficiency

Database and catalog research, creation, and management

Archival document handling, digitization, and preservation

Archaeological artifact conservation and analysis

Underwater excavation, mapping, photography, and recording for photogrammetry