Eric Ray, RPA

Museum of the Coastal Bend, Victoria College
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Education

2010 M.A., History (Maritime Archaeology), East Carolina University, Greenville, NC. Thesis topic: "Fire in the Hold: Galley Use and Construction, 1628 Swedish Warship *Vasa*"

2007 B.A., Liberal Arts, St. John's College, Santa Fe, NM. Senior Thesis: "Reeternalizing the Temporal: Resurrection in Kierkegaard's Philosophical Fragments"

Professional Appointments/Employment

2012-present Curator/Archaeologist, Museum of the Coastal Bend at Victoria College, Victoria, TX
Duties: Curate the Museum's history and archaeology collections. Design temporary exhibits. Work with designers and scholars on permanent exhibits. Extend Museum's community outreach programs. Manage avocational archaeologists. Direct Museum's archaeological investigations. Promote knowledge and understanding of archaeology to the community. Organize community events.

2010-12 *La Belle* Researcher, Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History, Corpus Christi, TX
Duties: Cataloged and researched the 1.7 million item *La Belle* shipwreck collection. Edited analytic and report documents from archaeologists, laboratories, and historians. Prepared final reports and maps. Worked closely with the Texas Historical Commission to edit a large (~40 chapter) technical report on the La Belle project. Created research partnerships with public universities and private-sector firms to conduct cultural research into the La Belle artifacts. Supervised research into the chemical makeup of La Belle's pigments. Conducted experimental investigations of La Belle's explosive weaponry in conjunction with law enforcement. Developed artifact storage and cataloging systems.

2007-9 Research Assistant, Program in Maritime Studies, East Carolina University
Duties: Research assistance on archaeological and historical projects connected with the program. Designing and carrying out research into historic cultures and technologies. Creation of new program web site, fundraising assistance and identification of new monetary resources.

2007 Educator/First Mate, Tall Ship *Royaliste*
Duties: Responsible for carrying out Captain's orders, supervising watches at sea, assisting with maintenance and sailing of wooden sailing ship along the east coast of US and Canada. Conducted tours and gave lessons to public regarding maritime heritage, traditional sailing.

2006-7 Laboratory Assistant, St. John's College, Santa Fe, NM
Duties: Supervising experiments in physics and biology, teaching experimental technique, designing and modifying experiments for teaching purposes, maintaining clean and sterile laboratory and equipment, maintaining healthy D. melanogaster and bacterial stocks.

Research Interests

American and Caribbean colonization; community archaeology; maritime archaeology; historical archaeology; Western expansion; river transport; food and drinkways; sailor culture and life at sea; folklore; archaeometry; land-water interface; rigging and sailing; development of explosive weaponry; archaeological theory; modern maritime culture.

Scholarships, Grants, and Awards

2013 VC Foundation grant, Victoria College. Grant provides support to attend SHA conference.
2011 In-kind grant, Vision Research, Inc. Grant provided high-speed camera services.
2008 Swedish Women's Educational Association Scholarship
2008 Vasa Lodge Scholarship, Carl Larsson Lodge, Raleigh, NC
2008 First Place, RENCI@ECU Data Visualization Challenge
2007 Paul Murray Graduate Scholarship, East Carolina University

Publications

"La Belle's galley". In *La Belle*: The Archeology of a 17th Century Ship of New World Colonization. Texas A&M University Press, College Station, TX. In press.

"Explosive and Incendiary Weaponry Aboard *La Belle*: The Firepots". In *La Belle*: The Archeology of a 17th Century Ship of New World Colonization. Texas A&M University Press, College Station, TX. In press.

(with Megan Mekoli, Cameron Sheya) "Vermilion and related pigments". In *La Belle*: The Archeology of a 17th Century Ship of New World Colonization. Texas A&M University Press, College Station, TX. In press.

(with Donald Keith) "Siege Weaponry Aboard La Belle: The Petards". In *La Belle*: The Archeology of a 17th Century Ship of New World Colonization. Texas A&M University Press, College Station, TX. In press.

(with Jim Bruseth, Brad Jones, and Amy Borgens) "Conclusion". In *La Belle*: The Archeology of a 17th Century Ship of New World Colonization. Texas A&M University Press, College Station, TX. In press.

Co-editor (with Jim Bruseth, Brad Jones, and Amy Borgens) of *La Belle*: The Archeology of a 17th Century Ship of New World Colonization. Texas A&M University Press, College Station, TX. In press.

"*Vasa's* galley". In forthcoming *Vasa* volume. Statens Maritima Museer, Stockholm, Sweden.

Presentations and Lectures

2013 "What do Napoleon, Thomas Jefferson, and Indiana Jones have in common?" Lecture, Museum of the Coastal Bend.

2012 "*La Belle*'s Secret Mission and Explosive Cargo." Lecture, Corpus Christi Museum.

2012 "La Salle's French Colony and the New Mexico Connection." Lecture, Museum of the Coastal Bend.

2012 "Experimental Explosive Testing of 1686 Colonial Ship *La Belle*'s Grenades". Society for Historical Archaeology conference, Baltimore, MD.

2011 "Explosives and X-Rays: Current Research on *La Belle*." Lecture, Corpus Christi Museum.

2011 "Spatial Arrangement of *La Belle* Artifacts". Society for Historical Archaeology conference, Austin, TX.

2010 "Navio Quebrado: The Wreck of *La Belle* and the Failed French Colony in the Southwest". Invited Lecture at the New Mexico State History Museum, Santa Fe, NM.

2010 "Shipwrecks, Insanity, Plots, and Murder: The 17th Century French Colony in South Texas". Lecture at the Corpus Christi Museum.

2010 Session chair, "Future Directions in Opportunities Researching the Maritime Environment," North American Society for Oceanic History conference, Mystic, CT

2010 Fire in the Hold, North American Society for Oceanic History conference, Mystic, CT

2009 *Lady Washington*: A Case Study in Digital Reconstruction. Computer Applications in Archaeology conference, Williamsburg, VA

2009 Session Chair/Peer Reviewer, "Computer Methods in Maritime Archaeology", Computer Applications in Archaeology conference, Williamsburg, VA

2009 "The Galley Space aboard Swedish warship *Vasa*: Construction and Use". Society for Historical Archaeology conference, Toronto, ON

2008 "The *Vasa* Galley". Invited Presentation, Swedish Women's Educational Association of North Carolina

2008 "The *Vasa* Galley". Invited Presentation, Vasa Order, Carl Larsson Lodge, Raleigh, NC

2008 Reconstruction of American Colonial Sloop *Lady Washington*, ECU Research Week, Greenville, NC

Major Field Work (minor one-day surveys not included)

2013 Co-director, "De Leon Plaza Archaeological and Oral History Project", with Dr. Mark Robbins and Dr. Christine Reiser-Robbins.

2012 Co-director, "Engaging the Community with Corpus Christi's Urban Past: The Artesian Park Archaeological and Oral History Project", with Dr. Mark Robbins and Dr. Christine Reiser-Robbins.

2011 Experimental explosive testing of *La Belle* grenades. Corpus Christi, TX.

2009 Great Dismal Swamp abandoned watercraft site mapping. Elizabeth City, NC.

2009 Research assistant, WWII warship museum evaluation project. Charleston, SC/Wilmington, NC.

2009 Archives researcher, Battle of the Atlantic Expedition. NOAA/ECU joint project. Washington, DC.

2009 Primary investigator: Mapping of aft cabin, schooner *Wawona*, Northwest Seaport, Seattle, WA.

2008 Archaeological investigation: Wrecks and Wrecking in St. George's Harbour, Bermuda.

2008-9 Primary investigator: Investigation of construction and use of the galley structure aboard 1628 Swedish warship *Vasa*, Stockholm, Sweden.

2008 Survey and recording, Black Bay ships (presumed *Norrkoping*, *Emily A. Davies*), Bermuda.

2008 Pungo River Abandoned Watercraft Site Mapping, Pungo River, NC.

2007 Investigation and recording of beakhead construction, 1628 Swedish warship *Vasa*, Stockholm, Sweden.

Teaching/Outreach Experience

2013 to Present HIST 1301 (US History to 1877), Victoria College, Victoria, TX.
2012 Organized public archaeology weekend, Corpus Christi, TX.
2012 Senior-level judge, Texas State Science Fair
2010-12 Moderator and educator for a large (~650,000 member) online science education community.
2007-8 Outreach Program, Program in Maritime Studies, East Carolina University
2007 Educator/First Mate, square-rigged ketch *Royaliste*
2006-7 Laboratory Assistant, St. John's College, Santa Fe, NM
2005 Educator/Deckhand, brig *Lady Washington*

Additional Skills

Computer:

Microsoft Access
SQL
Microsoft Office
Adobe Creative Suite
Rhinoceros
SonarWizMap
PastPerfect

Laboratory:

Artifact recording
Hand and digital drafting/inking
Ship and rig reconstruction
Collection curation
Sterile technique

Field:

Archaeological survey and excavation methods
Remote sensing methods
Intact ship recording with traditional and electronic methods
Underwater and above-water maritime survey and recording
Boat handling, ship handling, navigation and RADAR experience

Professional Service/Memberships:

Membership Committee, Register of Professional Archaeologists
Registered Professional Archaeologist
Member, Archaeological Institute of America

Miscellaneous:

CPR/First Aid/AED/O2 delivery certified
AAUS Scientific Diver Training, Advanced Open Water c-card

Additional Languages

Basic reading knowledge:
French
Swedish
Spanish