Drexel and Boyer Medals Presented at LES Dinner

On May 11, the Penn Museum awarded the Lucy Wharton Drexel Medal, recognizing achievement in excavation or publication of archaeological work, to Jane Buikstra, Ph.D., of Arizona State University. John J. Medveckis was awarded the Marion Angell Godfrey Boyer Medal, which honors distinguished service by a Museum supporter. Dr. Buikstra, who is recognized as the founder of bioarchaeology, delivered the lecture “Ancient Tuberculosis and Leprosy: Pre-Columbian Presence in the New World,” after which Loren Eiseley Society members met for their annual dinner.

1. Williams Director Julian Siggers; Drexel Medal awardee Jane Buikstra; and Penn Provost Wendell Pritchett, GR97.
2. Boyer Medal awardee John Medveckis, PAR, and Julian Siggers.
3. Mary Ann Meyers, GR76, PAR; Anne Iskrant; and Brian Salzberg.
4. Gregory Maslow, C68, M72, GM77; Laurie Maslow, CW69, PAR; Judith B. Freedman; and Janet Monge, Ph.D.
5. Sandy Portnoy, CW67, and Donna Mackay.
MEET OUR MEMBERS

The Newcombs

The Newcomb family—Andy, Jenn, and their daughters Elle and Simone—are Museum members and descendants of Linton Satterthwaite, who was Curator of the American Section from 1955–1969 and a leader on some of the Museum’s most significant expeditions, including Piedras Negras (Guatemala), Tikal (Guatemala), and Caracol (Belize). Jenn and Simone, age 7, spoke with Expedition about what it means to them to be involved at the Museum.

Jenn: We’ve been telling stories about Andrew’s Great Uncle Linton to Simone and Elle, my two daughters, for as long as they can remember. I believe there was a symposium on him that my husband and his mother attended at the Museum a few years back. Because we were so busy with children and life, we hadn’t really spent much time at the Penn Museum. But more recently, our daughters were finally at an age when we could bring them there and have them really experience and appreciate it. At the same time, my daughter Simone developed a fascination with ancient Egypt. So we became members at the Museum.

Because Simone and Andy have very close birthdays, as a surprise for them I brought them to the Museum’s Archives, where we met the archivist and joined the weekly Unearthed in the Archives presentation. We spent an hour looking at all the photos of a dig, and the stele Uncle Linton brought back, and learning about his work in detail. The archivist had so much history on Linton and his wife, and the people who worked with him. There was a Russian woman on the team, Tatiana Proskouriakoff, who did beautiful drawings of the objects they found. She’s credited as being instrumental in unlocking the Maya language. For a 7-year-old girl, it was very inspiring to hear that story about what women can do and accomplish.

Simone: Archaeology is really cool because you can find these great things and be proud of yourself. And you can get outside and have fun, without people telling you not to. It was so amazing that my uncle did this stuff. He discovered Maya temples, and the part that was so cool is that the Maya built pyramids to the sky, and the archaeologists had to dig to see all the staircases.

I’m excited to attend summer camp at the Museum because I’m going to meet new people, and the theme is ancient engineering, and I love buildings.

Jenn: I’m an alum of Penn and did not spend much time at the Museum while I was there, but always found it to be a very special place. I think the Museum does a particularly good job at looking at cultures in a way that lets you understand the people, and the place and time in which they lived: their clothing, what they ate, how they lived, what they discovered, how they played games, how they entertained themselves. It’s an interactive and engaging way to experience those cultures and societies in a setting that is unlike many that you have in this town or even across the country. I think the Museum does a good job of bringing technology and history together to tell those ancient stories.

Simone: You know that room in the Museum where there’s the big glass window and you can watch [conservators] work on the mummies? I wish I could go in there. I like the mummies because they’re bodies that were preserved millions* of years ago, and they’re still here today. I think the mummies are my favorite part. And the gift shop. I like the Asian room too.

Jenn: Simone, would you like to be an archaeologist someday?

Simone: Y-E-S.

* Our mummies are actually thousands of years old!
An Evening in the Fertile Crescent

On April 14, the *Golden Gala: An Evening in the Fertile Crescent* celebrated the opening of the Penn Museum’s new Middle East Galleries. Guests began the evening with cocktails in a lush, tented oasis in the Warden Garden, followed by the very first preview of the new Galleries. A resplendent feast featuring regional dishes in the Chinese Rotunda and a late-night reception in the garden tent continued the evening. Proceeds from Golden Galas support the Museum’s ongoing excavations and research, educational and public programming, and stewardship of its world-renowned collections.

For more information, please visit www.penn.museum/gala.

1. The Chinese Rotunda before the *Golden Gala*.
2. Gala and Campaign Co-Chair Peter Ferry, C79, PAR; and Board Chair Mike Kowalski, W74, PAR.
3. Gala Co-Chairs Isabella de la Houssaye and David Crane, with their son David H. Crane.
4. LES members Matthew Storm, C94, WG00 and Natalia Storm.
5. President Amy Gutmann and Coordinating Curator of the Middle East Galleries Steve Tinney.