

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Heather Lapham
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University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Friday March, 16th
7:30pm
Chesapeake Room

***From Sacrifice to Survival: What Animal Use Reveals about the Lives
of Zapotec Priests and Spanish Soldiers***

Tiny fragments of animal bones and teeth once overlooked as insignificant artifacts can reveal a wealth of information about past human lifeways. How did people view the cosmos and their place in it? How did they navigate their traditional religious observances in a new and unknown land? What relationship did they have with their neighbors? These questions and many others can be answered in part by looking closely at human-animal interactions. Sacrificial offerings of puppies, poult, and toads by Zapotec priests living more than a thousand years at Lambityeco in the Valley of Oaxaca in southern Mexico give us a window into religious beliefs and associated rituals of an ancient civilization whose predecessors still reside in the valley today. Closer to home, the remnants of meaty meals eaten by sixteenth century Spanish soldiers at Fort San Juan in western North Carolina tell tales of survival, deteriorating relations with the native Joarans, and religious observances during what became Spain's last attempt to colonize the interior Southeast.

