

AnthroBytes

Anthropology Research Highlights

#4 Zooarchaeological Research at the University of Florida



Dr. Susan D. deFrance conducts zooarchaeological research primarily in Latin America and the Caribbean. She has established a **LABORATORY OF ZOOARCHAEOLOGY** within the Anthropology department and is actively augmenting a teaching collection of skeletal specimens for student use.

Her current research includes the following collaborative projects:

- The Cerro Baul Archaeological project:
This is a Wari empire administrative center, located on a mountaintop in Peru. In addition to the dietary and economic staples of camelids, the Cerro Baul finds include exotic foodstuffs such as imported coastal fishes, and ritual animals including the Andean condor, shark, mountain lion, and toads.
- The Potosí Archaeological Project:
The Porco-Potosí Archaeological Project examines social and technological aspects of prehispanic and Spanish colonial silver in the Potosí region of Bolivia. Faunal remains from Potosi and Porco indicate stark contrasts in the diets of Spaniards and indigenous inhabitants.
- The Tibes Archaeological Project:
The Tibes site, in southern Puerto Rico near Ponce, is one of the largest ceremonial sites in the Caribbean. Faunal remains suggest that elite residents had access to non-indigenous food animals, particularly guinea pigs.