

PAST award honors archaeologist Louis Tesar

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Panhandle Archaeological Society at Tallahassee (PAST) has awarded a \$1,000 prize to Emilee McGann, winner of the Louis Tesar[PMCI] Student Essay Contest.

Ms. McGann is a recent graduate of Florida State University and an intern with the National Park Service's Southeast Archeological Center. She presented her work at PAST's monthly meeting in May.

The essay explains that as climate change and sea-level rise progress, many historic and archaeological sites in Florida are at great risk of being lost, damaged, or destroyed. She outlines what we've learned and what we've earned as a result of past preservation

efforts, and what we may lose if we do not prepare for the threat climate change presents.

The Tesar Award honors Louis D. Tesar, one of Florida's foremost archaeologists. His contributions span a career with the Florida Division of Historical Resources from 1971 until his "retirement" in 2010, and his current work as a volunteer in the field.

Marie Prentice, President of PAST, said "it is especially fitting that this award be named after Louis in recognition of the many young archaeologists he has mentored over the years."

A few of the many notable research projects to Tesar's credit are his Bicentennial survey of Leon County, the first comprehensive archaeological survey of this area, and ghost writing project reports for the Block Sterns site on

Lake Lafayette, Mount Royal, Wadell's Mill Pond, and Letchworth Mounds. His assistance and expertise continues to be sought after by archeologists throughout the state and the Southeast.

Mr. Tesar penned the professional standards and guidelines for archaeology found in various state Administrative Codes and was the principal author of the unmarked human remains statute for Florida.

He was instrumental in establishing and administering the Florida Compliance Review Section. Countless archaeological and historic sites were preserved or mitigated under his watch. For a decade, Tesar served as the editor of The Florida Anthropologist, the journal of the Florida Anthropological Society.



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