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The American Corner Innsbruck and the Center New Orleans invite you to a special guest presentation:

**Monday, 9 December, 17.15/5:15pm, Claudiasaal, Herzog-Friedrich-Str. 3, Old Town,**  
Followed by a light reception in the Türingsaal, one floor down

### **“Finding Captain Dickson: Partnering to Put a Tuskegee Airman to Rest”**

Since 2017, the University of New Orleans has developed a partnership with the University of Innsbruck in Austria and the U.S. Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency to investigate aircraft crash sites in central Europe, with a goal of returning the remains of U.S. soldiers lost during World War II. In this partnership, traditional excavation methods are coupled with state of the art laboratory analyses to recover and identify the missing. In this talk, Ryan Gray will address the development of this partnership, along with the forensic methods used in the emerging field of aviation archaeology, which resulted in the recovery of the remains of Captain Lawrence Dickson, the first of 27 missing Tuskegee Airmen to be recovered since World War II. He will also address new field projects undertaken in conjunction with the DPAA, and some of the challenges of excavating WW II crash sites.

**Speaker: Prof. Dr. D. Ryan Gray**

*D. Ryan Gray is the Richard Wallin Boebel Endowed Professor in Anthropology in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at the University of New Orleans. He specializes in historical archaeology, especially urban New Orleans and southeastern Louisiana. He received his BA in Archaeology from Columbia University, New York, New York, in 1996, and his MA and PhD from the University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois. Since arriving at UNO, Gray has worked to develop a number of long-term research projects based at the university and abroad. He is committed to creating new opportunities for public engagement with the archaeology and material culture of the City of New Orleans, including the development of a web-based archaeology tour of the city entitled “The City Beneath the City”, available via the New Orleans Historical app (<https://neworleanshistorical.org/tours/show/95>). Gray’s recent research spans many topics, with a particular focus on urban development, race, and segregation in the post-Emancipation South. He also helped to develop a new partnership with the U.S. Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and the University of Innsbruck in Austria to conduct forensic recoveries at World War II aircraft crash sites in Central Europe.*