Top 100 Science Stories of 2015

Margaret E. Lewis and Matthew Bonnan Honored for Paleontology Research

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Galloway, NJ Two Stockton University faculty members were Top 100 Science Stories of 2015 this week. The January/February 2016 issue of Discover highlights the best in science in every field, including space exploration, medicine, technology, paleontology and the environment.

Paleontology research done by Margaret E. Lewis, professor of Biology, and Matthew Bonnan, associate professor of Biology, both of Stockton University, were ranked #28 and #61 respectively on the Top 100 list.

Lewis served as co-author on papers describing the oldest fossil representative of our genus, Homo, and its environmental and geological context, which pushed back the age of humankind by 400,000 years to 2.8 million years ago.

She has been working as a carnivore expert with a team from Arizona State University on a variety of sites since 1997. The team discovered the jaw fossil in Ledi-Gararu, Ehtiopia. The fossil is one of the few hominin fossils, a group including human and chimpanzee fossils, dating between 2.5 million and 3 million years ago.

s role in the research in Ethiopia was to identify, describe and analyze the fossilized postcranial remains of the carnivorous mammals found at Ledi Geraru.

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sites, along with material from other sites in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa, has been critical in helping me understand the changing ecological structure surrounding our evolving ancestors and cousins and changes in dietary behavior over the last seven million years .

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postcrania and the evolution of body size. His primary research is on the evolution of the monkey, ape and human elbow joint. Wood, although retired, is a world-renowned expert on turtle evolution and conservation.

discovery of Pulanesaura eocollum can be found here, as well as on his blog, The Evolving Paleontologist.

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