September 5, 2018 (Houston, Texas) — Archaeology Now begins its first season under its new name with a series of events that explores identity. How does one define their identity? Do we define identity by our skin color, our gender, our belief, or our country of origin? Do those definitions really capture the complexity that makes us human?

To open its 2018-2019 series of events, Archaeology Now focuses on the subject of identity at its most basic – the story of diversity written in our genes. The Family Tree Discovery Series Lecture *DNA and our Ancestors: The Story of Us* takes place on Thursday, September 20, 6:30 p.m. at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, 5555 Hermann Park Drive, 77030. Dr. Michael Hammer, Director of the University of Arizona Genetics Core, Research Scientist, Division of Biotechnology, one of the world’s foremost human geneticists in a fast-moving field, continues to make new discoveries daily about our human past. Dr. Hammer is using advanced DNA techniques to investigate human diversity and our origins as a species. The audience will learn about the recent discovery of an ancient girl that is a hybrid of Neanderthal and Denisovan species as well as how members of her archaic human group later went extinct. His presentation will also question the concept of race. As Dr. Hammer stated, “The changes from one person to another are tiny compared to the genomic evidence that we are alike.”

The lecture is co-sponsored by Family Tree DNA and HMNS. Tickets are $10.00 to $20.00 and are available at the HMNS Box Office or by calling (713) 639-4629.

To trace your own family history using DNA as well as historic records, join Archaeology Now at the *Discover Your Ancestry* event on Saturday, September 22, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at
the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, 5200 Caroline Street, 77006. A representative from Family Tree DNA will share how DNA is used in genealogy research. Susan Kauffman, Clayton Library Manager will share how to research your own family tree. The program is free and space is limited to 50 participants.

**About Archaeology Now**

Archaeology Now promotes awareness and appreciation of world cultures though archaeology. Fifty-one years ago, the organization was founded by Dominique de Menil, Philip Oliver-Smith, and Walter Widrig. Today, through our programming, we seek to find common links to those who have come before us, to acknowledge the basic dignity of all humankind, and ultimately to advance mutual understanding among Houston’s diverse community.

Additional programs sponsored by Archaeology Now include Family Events; Ancient Encounters; and area tours. Please visit Archaeology Now website at [http://www.archaeologynow.org](http://www.archaeologynow.org).

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