

ANTHROPOLOGY

Friday March 11, 2022 *1:30pm * Zoom

RSVP by March 1 to anthrorsvp@uwo.ca

SPENCE LECTURE

Professor Jeffrey McKee

Professor, Dept. of Anthropology, The Ohio State University

Taung – The Nexus of African Paleoanthropology

The fossil site of Taung, South Africa, is famous for the 1924 discovery of an early hominin, the first such find of an early human ancestor on the African continent. The fossil skull of a juvenile *Australopithecus africanus* initially stirred much controversy, as did the nature of the fossil site. Not much was known about the site until the 1988 to 1993 excavations at Taung, conducted by the University of the Witwatersrand, under the field direction of Jeffrey K. McKee. This presentation, will give an overview of the historical importance of Taung in shaping scientific understandings of our evolutionary past, and will recount the adventurous excavations led at that key fossil site.



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Supported by the Social Science Student Donation Fund