Georgia Southern University Department of Sociology and Anthropology alumnus Lee Berger announced the discovery of a new human relative named homo naledi in South Africa.

Berger led a team of around 30 scientists who discovered a cave containing the remains of nearly 100 individuals. The scientist believe the cave was used to dispose of the deceased remains. An exact date on the species has not been determined but they could date back as far as 2.8 million years ago.

Berger graduated from Georgia Southern in 1989 with a bachelor of arts in anthropology and holds a Ph.D. in palaeo-anthropology from the University of Witwatersand in South Africa. He is currently a professor at the University of Witwatersand.

The find will be featured in the October issue of the National Geographic.

Berger and his mother are in the process of starting two endowments at Georgia Southern, the Archeological Federal Depository on the newly announced South Campus and the Lee Berger Endowed Professorship.

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