



Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.

Newsletter

www.sacarcheology.org

January/February - 2013

HAPPY NEW YEAR
WE HOPE THAT YOU HAD A FABULOUS HOLIDAY

Mark Your 2013 Calendars

February 10, 2013, Sunday, 1:30 to 4:30 – Scholarship Symposium, Yolo County Library, West Sacramento

March 7-10, 2013 SCA

April 3-7, 2013 SAA

April 19-21 Sonoma Coast Archeological Exploration

June 7-9 North Central California Archeological Tour

UPCOMING EVENTS

SCHOLARSHIP SYMPOSIUM

2012 Scholarship Recipients

Stephanie Chan

Alexandra Levin

Rory Ondracek

Jessica Tudor

Sunday, February 10, 2013

1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

at

Yolo County Library, Arthur F. Turner Branch

1212 Merkley Avenue,

West Sacramento, CA 95691

In 2012 five scholarships were awarded to support archeological/anthropological education. Four of the five students attended field schools. The fifth is reanalyzing artifacts from excavations twenty years ago. Four will describe their experiences resulting from the scholarship and offer current perspectives on archeological investigation.

Stephanie Chan - graduate student at Stanford University, majoring in Urban Studies (BA) and Anthropology (MA). Her interests lie in historical archaeology especially as related to Asian Americans and community collaboration. The scholarship helped her attend Denver University Amache Research Project. The school focused on the Japanese American community of Amache.

Alexandra Levin - senior at UC Berkeley, majoring in Anthropology and Integrative Biology. As a prospective archaeologist she attended a field school at Mono Mills. Mono Mills is a historical site in the Eastern Sierras of California that had a short and intense occupation during the Gold Rush era. She intended to use the information gained during the excavation at Mono Mills for her senior honors thesis. The thesis will compare the general dietary practices of the more remote mountain site to an urban site of the same era in San Francisco.

Rory Ondracek – junior at Sacramento State University, majoring in Archaeology. He attended the IFR Catalina field school. The school's focus is basics of excavation and an introduction into Cultural Resource Management.

Jessica Tudor - a senior at Sonoma State University, majoring in Cultural Resources Management. She plans a career as a Registered Professional Archaeologist in California. Jessica is using the scholarship to perform additional XRF and obsidian hydration on artifacts collected at CA-LAK-424. In 1984 DPR Archaeologist, Breck Parkman who led the excavation of LAK-424 near Clear Lake interpreted the site as a seasonal camp for prehistoric and emergent period groups. Initial obsidian hydration rim values suggested that the site was inhabited as early as 10,763 B.P. with more consistent occupation between 6800 to 1500 B.P. However, during the Middle Holocene (5000-8000 B. P.) harsh environment conditions caused substantial stratigraphic mixing and artifact erosion. As a result the standard method of measuring obsidian hydration rims has produced flawed results due to the erosional impacts. Fortunately, a technique has been recently been developed to produce more reliable rim measurement. This technique will be used to understand the time depth and prehistoric occupation of the Clear Lake Basin. Jessica will provide us a status on her project.

Erin Valadez – graduated from University of California at Santa Cruz, majoring in Anthropology. She has a passion for forensic science and a desire to use her skills in skeletal biology in collections management and curation. She attended the Zamartze field school located in northern Spain. The school featured the skeletal remains of a medieval populations resting above an earlier Roman site. *Erin is unavailable for this meeting but will present at another.*

Don't miss these presentations from budding archeologists. The public is invited. Contributions to the scholarship fund are welcome. In addition light refreshments will be served. Bring your friends.

PAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

SACRAMENTO ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.'S ANNUAL MEETING

"Effects of Global Warming on Archeological Sites" by

Michael Newland



Michael Newland, Sonoma State professor and current SCA President, spoke on his project to assess the effects of a potential rise of the ocean on archaeological sites near the California coast line as a result of global warming. Surveying of the Marin County Coast Line has begun. Michael believes that archaeologists should be leaders in the education of government and the public on the effects of global warming. Use the past to predict the future.

Thanks to Carolyn and Gordon McGregor for hosting the event. Their self-catered food was first rate and the intimate atmosphere was great for socializing.

2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the Society's Annual Meeting the 2013 Board of Directors were elected. Please support the board.

Officer	Office	Officer	Office
John Foster	President	Dennis T. Fenwick	Member at Large
Lydia Peake	Vice-President	Tom Johansen	Member at Large
Carolyn McGregor	Secretary	Jeremy Johansen	Member at Large
Jan Johansen	Treasurer	Ruth McElhinney	Member at Large
		Diane Rosales	Member at Large
		Roger Peake	Member at Large

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REFERENCES

“Evidence for Early Hafted hunting Technology”

“Hafting, which allowed projectile points to be attached to a staff, was an important technological advance that greatly increased the functionality of weapons of early humans. This technology was used by both Neanderthal and early *Homo sapiens* and is readily seen after about 200,000 to 300,000 years ago, but whether it was used by a common ancestor or was separately acquired by each species is unclear. Supporting use by a common ancestor, *Wilkins et al.* (p. 942) report that stone points in a site in central South Africa were hafted to form spears around 500,000 years AGO. The evidence includes damaged edges consistent with the use and marks at the base that are suggestive of hafting.” (“Evidence for Early Hafted Hunting Technology”, *Wilkins et al.*, Science, 2012-11-16 pages 861 and 942 -945)

“Mediterranean Island Voyages”

“Archaeological studies show that humans reached Mediterranean islands much earlier than previously thought. . . Discoveries on Cyprus, Crete and some Ionian Island suggest seafaring abilities by pre-Neolithic peoples, perhaps extending back to Neanderthals or even earlier hominins,” (“Mediterranean Island Voyages”, *Alan Simmon*, Science, 2012-11-16 pages 895- 897)

“Maya and Climate”

Climate has affected the vitality of many different societies in the past, as shown by numerous records across the globe and throughout human history. One of the most obvious and spectacular examples of this is from the Classic Maya civilization, whose advanced culture left highly detailed records of all aspects of their existence between 300 and 1000 CE. *Kennett et al.* (p. 788;) present a detailed climate record derived from a stalagmite collected from a cave in Belize, in the midst of the Classic Maya settlement. The fine resolution and precise dating of the record allows changes in precipitation to be related to the politics, war, and population fluctuations of the Mayans.”

The discussion regarding the Science cover photograph on page 717 follows:

“Masks on the facade of the **Codz Poop Palace (Kabah site, Yucatan, Mexico)**. Kabah and other Maya sites in the Puuc region flourished during the Terminal Classic Period (800 to 1000 C.E.), while cities to the south collapsed as the climate became drier. Political collapse was part of a complex two-stage societal response to global climate change. See: page 788.”

The “News & Analysis” by Heather Pringle at pages 730-731 is entitled “**Did Pulses of Climate Change Drive The Rise and Fall of the Maya?**” It has a photo of stalagmite in a cave in Belize that “links a rise in Maya warfare . . . to a drying trend in the 7th century C.E.”

The executive summary of the Report entitled “**Development and Disintegration of Maya Political Systems in Response to Climate Change**” at page 788 follows:

“The role of climate change in the development and demise of Classic Maya civilization (300 to 1000 CE.) remains controversial because of the absence of well-dated climate and archaeological sequences. We present a precisely dated subannual climate record for the past 2000 years from Yok Balum Cave, Belize. From comparison of this record with historical events compiled from well-dated stone monuments, we propose that anomalously high rainfall favored unprecedented population expansion and the proliferation of political centers between 440 and 660 CE. This was followed by a drying trend between 660 and 1000 CE. that triggered the balkanization of polities, increased warfare, and the asynchronous disintegration of polities, followed by population collapse in the context of an extended drought between 1020 and 1100 CE.”

Science, 2012-11-09

MEMBERSHIP

Renewal of Annual Memberships

If you haven't renewed your membership, now is the time. All memberships are renewable on January 1 annually except for those who join recently (after September of the previous year). Please support the society by paying your 2013 dues. **Remember your dues make scholarships possible.** We keep overhead low so that the funds can be used to support students.

The annual dues are:

Student/Limited Member	\$15
Individual Membership	\$30
Family Membership	\$40
Sponsor	\$100 - 499 (individual)
	\$500 - 999 (business)
Patron	\$1000

Please make out your check to "**Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.**" and mail it to:
Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 163287
Sacramento, CA 95816-9287

Thank you in advance for your prompt payment. We really appreciate your support.

Annual Dues for 2013

Name(s): _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____
 _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____

Student/Limited Member	\$15	_____	\$_____
Individual Membership	\$30	_____	\$_____
Family Membership	\$40	_____	\$_____
Sponsor	\$100	_____	\$_____
Scholarship Donation		_____	\$_____

Total enclosed \$_____