



Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc. Newsletter

www.sacarcheology.org

Jan/Feb - 2016

***HAPPY NEW YEAR
2016***

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 15-16, 2016 – Maya Meetings, “Archaeology and History of Lower Rio Pasion Region”

<http://utmesoamerica.org/maya/>

January 17, 2016, Sunday, 1:00-5:00 p.m. – SAS Scholar Symposium at Yolo County Library, Arthur F. Turner Branch 1212 Merkley Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691

Annual Scholar Symposium

By

Scholarship Recipients

Sunday, January 17, 2016

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

at

Yolo County Library, Arthur F. Turner Branch

1212 Merkley Avenue,

West Sacramento, CA 95691

In 2015 Sacramento Archeological Society awarded five scholarships to support archeological/anthropological education. Four of these individuals will be speaking on the experiences made possible by the scholarships at the Scholar Symposium on January 17, 2016. Naomi Martisius will delay her presentation since she will be out of the country continuing her dissertation work on bone tools made by Neandertals. Julia Prince-Buitenhuys received a scholarship from Sacramento Archeological Society in 2014 to be applied to her thesis research but was not able to complete the analysis before the last scholar symposium. She will be presenting at this symposium.

Agenda

1:00 **Allison Blair** – “Imprisoned in Ireland”

1:40 **Leah Hansard** - "The Poggio Civitate Archaeological Project 2015 Field Season”

2:20 **Rachel Davies** – “Rimrock Draw Rockshelter in Oregon - Older than Clovis Excavation”

3:00 Break

3:10 **Derek A. Boyd** – “Anthropology Abroad: Osteological Investigations of Two Historic Cemeteries Housed at the Museum of London, Centre for Human Bioarchaeology”

3:50 **Julia Prince-Buitenhuys** - "Insights into Dietary Ethnogenesis at the Santa Clara County Medical Center Potter's Field"

4:30 Wrap up and preparation for a 5:00 close of facility

- **Allison Blair** is a senior at University of Nevada, Reno majoring in Anthropology and English. Her career goal is to become a National Park Ranger. To expand her experience she attended the Spike Island Field School in Cobh, Ireland during the 2015 summer. The island housed a prison from the 1800's. The school continued to search for missing convict burial grounds excavate of a walled cemetery and the site of the Wooden Prison, a temporary prison building. This project was intended to provide insights into Ireland's prison system.
- **Derek A. Boyd** is a graduate student at California State University, Chico majoring in Anthropology. During the summer of 2015 Derek spent a month in London collecting data for his master's theses. He analyzed patterns of trauma on human skeletal remains from two socio-economically disparate post-Medieval communities. At the Royal College of Surgeons in London he searched through historical documentation of pathology reports, patient records, and other miscellaneous items to gain an understanding of how trauma was treated in the post-Medieval period. In this presentation he plans to share with the Sacramento Archaeological Society his experiences as an independent researcher in London, as well as the preliminary results of his Master's thesis research.
- **Rachel Davies** graduated from California State University Sacramento. Her interest is in great basin Zooarchaeology. During 2015 summer she participated in the Rimrock Draw Rockshelter field school. Excavations from this site have produced findings that suggest Western North America may have been occupied by pre-Clovis people as early as 16,000 B.P. This last summer excavation began in the 7,600 old Mazama volcanic ash layer and worked down. We will be excited to hear of the findings.
- **Leah Hansard** completed a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Classics at the University of California, Davis in the spring of 2015 and is now a first year graduate student in Art History at the University of Texas, Austin. She would like to become a curator of classical art and archaeology and lead excavations in the Mediterranean. As a second year participant at the Poggio Civitate Archaeological Project in Italy, she worked as a Trench Master-in-Training and deepened her archaeological skills. We will be interested to hear about the excavation.
- **Julia Prince-Buitenhuys** is a graduate student at California State University Chico majoring in anthropology. She was studying the migration and acculturation that occurred in Santa Clara Valley between 1870 and 1935 by performing stable isotope analysis on a sample population from the Santa Clara County Valley Medical Center Potter's Field. This analysis provides insights into dietary practices and the general immigration status of those interred at the cemetery. We are very interested to hear her assessment of the ethnogenesis process for this region in this period of time.

These will be diversely interesting presentations. Invite a friend to the symposium. No entry fee is charged but donations to the scholarship fund are welcome.

CALENDAR PLANNING

SAS is planning very exciting activities for 2016. The following lists our preliminary plan. The details will be forthcoming.

- Human Evolution – Our Neandertal Heritage – Lectures by Teresa Steele, PhD Anthropology at University of California, Davis and Tim Weaver, PhD Anthropology at University of California, Davis to be scheduled
- Clear Lake, California Area Tour to be scheduled
- Older than Clovis in Southern California Tour to be scheduled
- Eclectic Archaeological Exchange in June 2016
- Native American Rock Art & Pueblo Tour in Utah probably in early October, 2016
- Celebrate Archaeology at Maidu Museum and Historical Center on October 15, 2016
- Annual Meeting on December 3, 2016

PAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.'s Annual Meeting

At our annual meeting we were pleased to have Cory Wilkins, Western Regional Director of The Archaeological Conservancy (TAC) and Deanna Commons, Archaeologist for TAC speak on properties TAC currently owns in California and Nevada and TAC's most recent purchase, the **Siemer Preserve** on the edge of Big Valley and near Bieber. It was of great interest to hear about their process for acquiring and preserving archaeological sites.

We also thank Carolyn and Gordon McGregor for opening their home for the event and providing a delicious meal.

MEMBER'S CORNER

Renewal of Annual Memberships

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 **2016** dues. **Remember your dues make scholarships possible.** We keep overhead low so that the funds can be used to support students. You may now use our web site <http://sacarcheology.org/society-membership/> to renew and make payment using a **credit card or Paypal.**

The annual dues are:

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

Alternatively, 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 2016

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

_____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

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

Total enclosed \$ _____

ELECTION OF 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

During the Annual Meeting the 2016 Board of Directors were elected. Welcome our new Treasurer, Diane Sangster and new Directors: Paul K. Davis, Dan Foster, Jan Johansen, and Knuti VanHoven. We are so pleased to have such a committed board of directors. The 2016 board of directors is:

Officers	Office	Directors	Position
John Foster	President	Dennis T. Fenwick	Member at Large
Lydia Peake	Vice-President	Paul K. Davis	Member at Large
Carolyn McGregor	Secretary	Dan Foster	Member at Large
Diane Sangster	Treasurer	Jeremy Johansen	Member at Large
		Jan Johansen	Member at Large
		Tom Johansen	Member at Large
		Ruth McElhinney	Member at Large
		Roger Peake	Member at Large
		Knuti VanHoven	Member at Large

Member Tidbits

Dennis and Martie Fenwick traveled with The Leakey Foundation in May 2015. On May 11, 2015, on the campus of the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa they had the good fortune of having Lee Berger (refer to first reference below) sit between them during lunch, after which Lee showed them all of his fossils contained in the University’s Fossil Vault. The fossils included

the **real fossils** (not replicas) of: *Australopithecus africanus* **Taung child**, 2 *Australopithecus sediba* skeletons that Lee and his son found, and *Homo naledi* skull fragments, hand, leg, feet, and other bones, none of which were mineralized. They were able to take photos of all the fossils they saw, except *Homo naledi*, since Lee had not as yet released their publications for homo naledi.

If you are interested in learning more, you can purchase “NOVA: Dawn of Humanity” for under \$20 at PBS’ following web site:

<http://www.shoppbs.org/product/index.jsp?productId=61808036&cp=2729315.2951542&parentPage=family>

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REFERENCES

“MYSTERY MAN - A trove of fossils found deep in a South African cave adds a baffling new branch to the human family tree.”

“On September 13, 2013, two recreational cavers named Steven Tucker and Rick Hunter entered a dolomite cave system called Rising Star, some 30 miles northwest of Johannesburg. Rising Star has been a popular draw for cavers since the 1960s, and its filigree of channels and caverns is well mapped. They were hoping to find some less trodden passage.”(p. 36) They found new a new passage and much more. Within a Dinaledi chamber, accessible only through a narrow chute, almost a hundred yards from the cave entrance they discovered the largest trove of fossils of a hominin ever found in Africa. Some 1550 human bone specimens representing at least 15 individuals were excavated under the leadership of paleo-anthropologist, **Lee Berger**. The most plausible answer to how they got there was that the bodies were dropped in from above. When they lived is still under investigation.

While primitive in some respects, the face, skull and teeth show enough modern features to justify placement in the genus *Homo*. “In some ways the new hominin from Rising Star was even closer to modern humans than *Homo erectus* is. To Berger and his team, it clearly belonged in the *Homo* genus, but it was unlike any other member. They had no choice but to name a new species. They called it *Homo naledi*, tipping a hat to the cave where the bones had been found: in the local Sotho language, *naledi* means ‘star’” (p.45)

(Jamie Shreeve with photographs by Robert Clark “Almost Human-A New Ancestor Shakes up our Family Tree”, *National Geographic*, October 2015, p. 30-57)

Downloaded copy from National Geographic’s web site is available free for subscribers to the magazine.

“New human species discovered- bizarre skeletons emerge from South African cave”

Ann Gibbons reports on the *Homo naledi* South African find. (*Science*, V. 349, 2015-9-11, p. 1149-1150)

“Defining the genus Homo –Early hominin species were as diverse as other mammals”

The authors, Jeffrey H. Schwartz and Ian Tattersall review attempts to classify early hominin species. The morphological feature distinctions of the fossils blur a crisp categorization of members of *Homo*. “If we want to be objective, we shall almost certainly have to scrap the iconic list of names in which hominin fossil specimens have historically been trapped, and start from the beginning hypothesizing

morphs, building testable theories of relatedness, and rethinking genera and species.” (*Science*, V. 349, 2015-8-28, p. 931-932)

“First modern humans in China – Contemporary-looking teeth found in cave suggest that *Homo sapiens* left Africa much earlier than expected”

A Chinese team led by **Wu Liu** and **Xiu-Jie Wu** of the Chinese Academy of Sciences report finds of 47 teeth of *Homo sapiens* from Fuyan Cave in Daoxian in southern China. These have been dated to 80,000 to 120,000 years ago. If the dating is accurate, the discovery pushes back the appearance of our species in Asia by at least 30,000 years, wiping out a long-standing picture in which modern humans swept out of Africa in a single wave 50,000 to 70,000 years ago. (Ann Gibbons, *Science*, V. 350, 2015-10-16, p. 264)

“Humans may have reached Chile by 18,500 years ago”

Archaeologist **Tom Dillehay** returned to Monte Verde Chile site to survey the “full extent of Monte Verde”. He began his work in the 1970s and found traces of huts, hearths, human footprints and artifacts that were thousands of years older than the Clovis people. In 2013 he returned to dig up “39 stone artifacts, including flakes, a ‘chopper’ and cores, embedded near plants or animal bones that had been burned in small fires at 12 areas”. His team radiocarbon dated the plants and animal bone to between 14,500 and 18,500 years ago. (Ann Gibbons, *Science*, V. 350, 2015-11-20, p. 898)

“Ancient Ethiopian genome reveals extensive Eurasian admixture throughout the African continent”

“Characterizing genetic diversity in Africa is a crucial step for most analyses reconstructing the evolutionary history of anatomically modern humans. However, historic migrations from Eurasia into Africa have affected many contemporary populations, confounding inferences. Here, we present a 12.5× coverage ancient genome of an Ethiopian male (“Mota”) who lived approximately 4500 years ago. We use this genome to demonstrate that the Eurasian backflow into Africa came from a population closely related to Early Neolithic farmers, who had colonized Europe 4000 years earlier. The extent of this backflow was much greater than previously reported, reaching all the way to Central, West, and Southern Africa, affecting even populations such as Yoruba and Mbuti, previously thought to be relatively unadmixed, who harbor 6 to 7% Eurasian ancestry.” (M. Gallego Llorente, *Science*, V. 349, 2015-11-13, p. 820+)