



Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc. Newsletter

www.sacarcheology.org

January/February - 2017

Happy New Year!
Let's make 2017 the Best Ever

UPCOMING EVENTS

(SAS-sponsored events highlighted in blue)

January 15, 2017, Sunday, 12:30-5:00 p.m. – SAS Scholar Symposium at Yolo County Library, Arthur F. Turner Branch 1212 Merkley Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691

February 25, 2017, Saturday – Board Meeting

February 26, 2017, Sunday 4:30 p.m. - “Secrets of the Ness of Brodgar: a Stone-Age Complex in the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site” by Nick Card, *Sponsored by Archaeological Institute of America*, Petaluma Campus of Santa Rosa Junior College, 680 Sonoma Mountain Pkwy, Petaluma, CA 94954 Contact Michelle Hughes-Markovics at mhughesMarkovics@santarosa.edu

March 11, 2017 - Eclectic Archeological Exchange, Paul K. Davis and Gerrit Fenenga

March 25-26, 2017 - Anza Borrego Archeological Symposium, “Celebrating 21st Birthday of CDAS” plus Rock Art Tour

May 1, 2017 - Scholarship Applications due

May 8, 2017, Monday, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. - Vasco Caves Rock Art Tour, led by Naturalist Eddie Willis

June 24, 2017 - Eclectic Archeological Exchange, Jan and Tom Johansen, “Aboriginal Dream Time Rock Art and Australian Early Homo Sapiens (Mungo Lady and Man)”

Annual Scholar Symposium

By

Scholarship Recipients

Sunday, January 15, 2017

12:30 – 5:00 p.m.

at

Yolo County Library, Arthur F. Turner Branch
1212 Merkley Avenue,
West Sacramento, CA 95691

University of California and California State University Scholars will be presenting on their involvement in recent archaeological research.

Roshanne Shirley Bakhtiary - University of California, Davis graduate student. The summer of 2016 she directed a field school where an inland midden deposit in Santa Clara County (CA-SCL-330) was excavated. She used the scholarship award to conduct stable oxygen isotopic analyses of ancient shellfish collected from the site.

Amanda Dobrov - University of California, Berkeley student. The summer of 2016 she was part of a team at the American Academy in Rome in connection with the Palatine East Pottery Project, (PEPP).

Sarah A. Hall - California State University, Chico graduate student. The summer of 2016 she studied adult skeletons from the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center Cemetery (SCVMCC) collection, housed at California State University, Chico.

Anna Khrustaleva - University of California Santa Barbara student. During the summer of 2016 she attended a six week excavation project under the direction of Dr. Grey Wilson, UCSB on Audrey-North Site, a lower Illinois Mississippian River Valley occupation site.

Jason Miszaniec - University of California, Davis, graduate student. During a two week field season in 2016 he collected organic samples for radiocarbon dating from the Difchahak (NOB-005) site at Shaktoolik, Norton Sound, Alaska. The funds that he received from Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc. were applied to the cost of radiocarbon dating of samples.

Jewell Cora Soriano - University of California Berkeley student. The summer of 2016 she worked on an archaeological project in Bolivia. The Taraco Archaeological Project has been excavating the area since 1992 and during the 2016 summer began a targeted mapping project of key archaeological sites on the Taraco Peninsula.

Symposium Program

The schedule for the event is as follows:

12:00 – Setup

12:30 – Meet and Greet

1:00 - **Roshanne Shirley Bakhtiary** - University of California, Davis graduate student “Stable Isotope Evidence of Seasonal Shellfish Harvesting and Consumption in Prehistoric Central CA”

1:30 - **Sarah A. Hall** - California State University, Chico graduate student "Re-examining Stature Estimation Methods in a US Historic Cemetery: Skeletal Analysis of Remains at Valley Medical Center"

2:00 - **Amanda Dobrov** - University of California, Berkeley student “Roman Amphoras of North Africa: Markers of A Pan-Mediterranean Economy.”

2:30 - Break

2:45 - **Anna Khrustaleva** - University of California Santa Barbara student “Excavation in Lower Illinois River Valley: Investigations at the Audrey-North Site”

3:15 – **Jason Miszaniec** - University of California, Davis graduate student “Exploratory Testing and Mapping of a Large Prehistoric Village, Shaktoolik, Alaska”

3:45 - **Jewell Cora Soriano** - University of California Berkeley student “After Reform: A Study of Land-Use Pattern Following Rapid Social Change in the Bolivian Altiplano”

4:15 - Closing

4:30 - Clean up

5:00 – Depart

Don't miss these presentations. Bring your friends.

Secrets of the Ness of Brodgar: a Stone-Age Complex in the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site

Sponsored by Archaeological Institute of America

AIA Society: North Coast

By

Nick Card

Sunday, February 26, 2017

4:30 p.m.

at

Petaluma Campus of Santa Rosa Junior College

680 Sonoma Mountain Pkwy

Petaluma, CA 94954

In 2015 several SAS members participated in an Orkney Tour that highlighted many Neolithic sites including the excavation at the Ness of Brodgar. Subsequent to the tour in 2016 Jan Johansen gave a presentation on the Orkney tour during an Eclectic Archeological Exchange. Now we are excited to have Nick Card, the director of the Ness of Brodgar excavation, speak on the results of the latest excavation of the Neolithic Orkney Stone Age complex. This is an opportunity to get first hand information on the recent remarkable finds.

Eclectic Archeological Exchange

Saturday, March 11, 2017

12:00 p.m.

at

Carolyn & Gordon McGregor's

1334 Mission Ave. Carmichael, CA 95608

Have you ever wondered how artifacts were dated? **Paul K. Davis** will shed light on current techniques and practices.

In addition **Gerrit Fenenga** will review Oregon "Older than Clovis" Archaeology as revealed in the SAS 2016 Oregon Tour.

Put March 11th on your calendar and join the society for lunch and very special presentations.

Anza-Borrego Archaeology Weekend

Colorado Desert Archaeological Society is organizing another archaeological weekend at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Borrego Springs on March 25-26, 2017. The theme of the event is "21st Year Anniversary of Colorado Desert Archaeological Society". In addition to the planned lectures and tours, SAS is planning a special add on rock art tour. Reserve the end of March for this special event.

Vasco Caves Rock Art Day Tour

Save Monday, May 8, 2017 for a private visit to Vasco Caves Rock Art in East Bay approximately 40 miles east of Berkeley. This Regional Preserve contains Indian rock art, part of a complex that reaches back nearly 10,000 years.

Ancient Pueblo and Rock Art Tour

As a follow up to the 2016 Utah Rock Art Tour SAS will be sponsoring an Ancient Pueblo and Rock Art Tour for the New Mexico area. This event is now being planned for the spring of 2018. Stay tuned for details.

PAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.'s Annual Meeting

At our annual meeting we were pleased to have four University of California Scholars who received SAS scholarships present their research, field work, and training. **Naomi Martisius**, **Susan E. Lagle** and **Samantha Dunham** discussed current Neandertals research of Middle Paleolithic stone artifact assemblages found in several sites in Europe. **Mallory Melton** addressed research at La Blanca, a settlement on the Pacific coast of Guatemala where she is analyzing plant remains to understand early urbanization in the Olmec Period. These presentations provided had a fascinating glimpse into current archaeological research.

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

MEMBER'S CORNER

Election of 2017 Board of Directors

During the Annual Meeting the 2017 Board of Directors were elected. The slate of officers and directors is as follows:

Candidate	Office	Candidate	Office
Tom Johansen	President	Paul K. Davis	Member at Large
Lydia Peake	Vice-President	Dan Foster	Member at Large
Carolyn McGregor	Secretary	Jeremy Johansen	Member at Large
Diane Sangster	Treasurer	Jan Johansen	Member at Large
John Foster	Past President	Ruth McElhinney	Member at Large
		Roger Peake	Member at Large
		Knuti VanHoven	Member at Large

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 promptly paying your **2017** 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 2017

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

_____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

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

Total enclosed \$_____

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REFERENCES

“Bringing Legends to Life”

“Geneticist Li Hui believes a DNA database can authenticate mystical figures from before the dawn of China” By examining Y chromosome sequences in their database of over 400,000 Chinese across China, he and his Fudan colleagues have built a circumstantial case for the existence of the mythical

clans. Y chromosome haplogroups—set of DNA variations that tend to be inherited together—indicate that about half of Chinese men today are descended from three lineages: the Three Sovereigns. According to legend Three Sovereigns ruled the land before the first historical dynasty, the Xia. Chinese credit the sage-kings with laying the foundations of their culture: inventing silk and medicine, for instance, and fashioning China’s written characters. Based on the luxurious relics buried with the skeleton found in the mid-1990s in Chentonushan, an early site of rice cultivation in southern China’s Hunan province, Li believes he may have found the chieftain of a clan associated with Fuxi, one of the mythical sovereigns. Li plucked a bone fragment that had chipped off the femur of the chieftain. In the lab he is comparing its DNA to sequences in the Chinese database. Li suspects the DNA will reveal that the chieftain belonged to an ethnic group linked to early rice cultivation and that the ethnic group would be the Fuxi clan. (Kathleen McLaughlin, *Science*, V. 354, 2016-12-2, pp. 1094-5)

“Easter Islanders made tools, not war”

“Sharpened stones previously viewed as spear points wielded by warring Easter Islanders actually served as general purpose tools. ... Early European visitors to Easter Island wrote in late 1700s that the islanders carried spears topped with sharp, triangular pieces of glassy lava, or obsidian. In the last 20 years, some researchers have suggested that fighting among spear-bearing groups largely destroyed Rapa Nui civilization before Europeans arrived. But instead the islanders probably used the alleged spear points for tasks such as cutting sweet potato plants, cutting bananas off trees, stripping bark for rope and cutting ritual designs into people’s skin. ... Recent research suggests that farming on the island continued long after palm forests had been cleared.” (Bruce Bower, *Science News*, 2016-3-19, p. 11)

“Early Neolithic genomes from the eastern Fertile Crescent”

“We sequenced Early Neolithic genomes from the Zagros region of Iran (eastern Fertile Crescent), where some of the earliest evidence from farming is found, and identified a previously uncharacterized population that is neither ancestral to the first European farmers nor has contributed substantially to the ancestry of modern Europeans. These people are estimated to have separated from Early Neolithic farmers in Anatolia some 46,000 to 77,000 years ago and show affinities to modern-day Pakistani and Afghan populations, but particularly to Iranian Zoroastrians. We concluded that multiple, genetically differentiated hunter-gatherer populations adopted farming in southwestern Asia, that component of pre-Neolithic population structure were preserved as farming spread into neighboring regions, and that the Zagros region was the cradle of eastward expansion.” (*Science*, V. 353, 2016-7-29, p. 458, 499-503)