

Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc. Newsletter

www.sacarcheology.org.

September/October - 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Access calendar: <u>https://sacarcheology.org/archaeology-activities/calendar-of-events/</u> for the complete set of events in our website: <u>www.sacarcheology.org</u>.

September 2023

September 9, 2023 – Saturday, 12:00 – 2:00 PT Board Meeting and pot luck at Peake's home September 9, 2023 - Saturday, 2:00 – 3:30 PT in person and **SAS Webinar Paul K. Davis,** "Ukraine – Its Turbulent History" at Peake's home

October 2023

October 7, 2023 – October 8, Saturday and Sunday, **Fremont: Fossils, Native Americans, and Mission Tour**

October 21, 2023 – Saturday, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM PT Zoom Board meeting at Peake's home October 21, 2023 – Saturday, 1:00 – 4:00 PM PT **Flint knapping Workshop** led by Kevin Smith, PhD UCD, pot luck at Peake's home

November 2023

November 11, 2023 – Saturday, 2:00 – 3:30 PM PT - **SAS Webinar Danielle Marie Huerta**, PhD candidate at UC Santa Cruz, "Glittering and Glassy: Understanding the Intersection of Colonial Mineral Extractivism and the Production of Late Rio Grande Lead Glaze-Painted Pottery in Seventeenth-Century New Mexico" November 13, 2023 – Monday, 10:00 – 11:30 AM **Paul K. Davis** "*Timbuktu*" **Renaissance Society Webinar**

December 2023

December 2, 2023 - Saturday, 1:00 – 6:00+ PT in person - SAS Annual Meeting and SAS Webinar Patricia McNeill, PhD Candidate at UCD – "Ostrich eggshell beads: a trade item in Knersvlakte, South Africa"

See announcements: <u>https://sacarcheology.org/announcements/</u> for **webinar access information**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAS Webinar "Ukraine – Its Turbulent History" ^{by} Paul K. Davis, SAS vice president <u>Saturday September 9, 2023</u> 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. PT

Paul K. Davis will review the long and difficult history of the modern nation of Ukraine starting at its prehistory and finishing with its current conflict. Ukraine prehistory as a part of the Pontic steppe in Eastern Europe played an important role in Eurasian cultural events, including the spread of the Chalcolithic and Bronze Ages, Indo-European migrations and the domestication of the horse. The first written information is about invasion by the Persian Empire. The region supplied grain to ancient Athens, and much of it came to be ruled by the Roman Empire. In the early Middle Ages it was the center of a Jewish kingdom, which was then conquered by Vikings, who in turn were subjugated by the Mongols. In modern times it has sometimes been independent, but mostly fought over by Polish, Turkish, Austrian and Russian Empires. In the 1930s it was victim of the Holodomor, the second greatest genocide after the Nazi Holocaust of Jews. Now it again defends itself from imperial aggression.

The webinar will be conducted in person at Roger and Lydia Peake's home and broadcasted via Zoom start at 2:00 PM PT and will formally conclude at 3:30 PM.

Friends are welcome and also invited to join our organization. There is no participation fee.

See announcements: <u>https://sacarcheology.org/announcements/</u> for **webinar access information.**

Flint knapping Workshop

Led by **Kevin Smith** <u>Saturday, October 21, 2023</u> **1:00 – 4:00 p.m. PT** at

Roger and Lydia Peake's home 2951 Redwood Ave West Sacramento, CA 95691



Kevin Smith, PhD archaeologist and SAS scholarship winner will lead Society members in the use of flint knapping techniques. Kevin has been making stone tools since he was 17 years old and also replicates artifacts for local museum displays and for experimental archaeology which is a major research emphasis.

The event is scheduled for 1:00 PM PT to 4:00 PM. PT on Saturday, October 21. This will be an opportunity to enjoy hands on time with obsidian and chert. Since we'll be working with sharp objects, safety glasses, tight fitting work gloves so that they can feel the materials but protect their hands and closed-toe shoes (no sandals), and a heavy towel to protect legs arms and legs are a must. Long pants and long sleeves are also recommended for protection. If you have obsidian, chert and any flint knapping tools, please bring them. Kevin will provide antler, hammer stones tarps and some obsidian and chert.

The workshop will take place in the shady back yard. **Please bring a dish to share for the lunch potluck lunch**. A **donation of \$5** is requested.

For more information and to confirm you attendance please contact Roger and Lydia Peake at 916/371-6391 or email to <u>rapeake@att.net</u>

SAS Tour

"Fremont: Fossils, Native Americans, and Mission" <u>Saturday, October 7, 2023 and Sunday, October 8, 2023</u>

Sacramento Archeological Society is pleased to offer a historical and pre-history tour in Fremont, CA. We will visit a Native American site with shell mounds, a historical museum for the city of Fremont, the Children's Natural History Museum, Shinn House Historical Park and Mission San Jose with its associated museum. Given clear skies we will be delighted by an illumination of the mission as the sun proceeds to set.

The target itinerary is as follows: **Saturday, October 07**

1:30 – 3:00 PM PT – Math/Science Nucleus Paleontology Museum in Children's Natural History Museum: 404 Eggers Drive, Fremont, CA

The museum features several exhibits to highlight the natural history of the local area. Tools of Early Humans show how California Native Americans used natural fibers and rocks to help them survive. The largest hall is Wes Gordon Fossil Hall that includes the Irvington Fossils, Environments through Time, Bones and the Boy Paleontologists Room. Hall of Small Wonders is full of little creatures including foraminifers, radiolarian, and diatoms. Mineral Rock Hall has

minerals classified by their chemical families and rocks from California. The Nature Hall includes specimens of different animals and shells. (Open 1:00 - 4:00 PM) Admission - \$5.00

3:30 – 4:30 PM Old Mission San Jose tour and 6701 San Jose Dr, Fremont, CA 94539 Mission San Jose was founded on June 11, 1797 by Father Fermin Francisco de Lasuen on a site which was part of a natural highway by way of the Livermore Valley to the San Joaquin Valley. It is the fourteenth of the 21 Spanish Missions in Alta California. Although Mission San Jose was founded nearly 225 years ago, we cannot forget that our story stretches back further into time. Before this was Mission San Jose, it was the Ohlone Village of Oroysom.

Guided Tour at 3:30 PM: \$10/adult, \$7/child 6-12, free for children under 6 4:45 PM After the tour join the group for a dinner at a local restaurant 6:30 PM Experience "illumination" of the mission and bring a camera

Sunday, October 08

9:00 AM – gathering/brunch in Fremont

10:30 AM - The Museum of Local History: 190 Anza St Fremont, CA 94539 (open 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM) offers interesting artifacts associated with the history of Fremont. Admission - \$2.00

12:30 PM PT - Coyote Hills Regional Park: 8000 Patterson Ranch Road, Fremont, CA 94555

The East Bay area's original inhabitants were the ancestors of the Ohlone Indians, hunters, and gatherers whose skills enabled them to live well off the land's natural bounty. In those days, tule elk roamed the land, condors soared overhead, and sea otters and fish were abundant in the Bay. At Coyote Hills Regional Park, some of this rich wetland is preserved, along with 2,000-year old Tuibun Ohlone Indian shellmound sites with fascinating archaeological resources. We will tour Coyote Hills and Chochenyo site. Multiple bird species and other life are plentiful in the park. \$5.00 for car parking.

3:00 PM Tour Shinn House Historical Park

Shinn Historical Park and Arboretum is a 4-1/2 acre hidden gem in Fremont. The Big House dates back to 1876 and it is surrounded by large trees and beautiful gardens. The grounds also include one of the few remaining Chinese bunk houses, symbol both of the differential work conditions afforded Chinese-Americans and Chinese immigrants, and of a path for circumventing the infamous Chinese Exclusion Act.

If you plan to attend, please notify Paul K. Davis at <u>paulkdavis@earthlink.net</u>. Contributions to SAS are welcome and can be collected at the beginning of the tour. All participants are required to sign a Hold Harmless Agreement at the beginning of the tour.

SAS Webinar

"Glittering and Glassy: Understanding the Intersection of Colonial Mineral Extractivism and the Production of Late Rio Grande Lead Glaze-Painted Pottery in Seventeenth-Century New Mexico"

by

Danielle Marie Huerta, PhD Candidate U.C. Santa Cruz Saturday, November 11, 2023 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM PT

What happens to Indigenous technologies when the dissemination of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) is forced to occur within a historical context characterized by colonial regimes of labor exploitation and religious/ideological subjugation? In order to understand how Colonialism affects the very systems of knowledge it appropriates, it is necessary to understand how that knowledge is situated within Indigenous ways of interacting with and viewing the world around them.

Danielle Marie Huerta will be presenting initial results from her multi-sited and methodologically diverse dissertation project that aims to understand how Spanish colonial mining practices in New Mexico may have impacted the ability of Pueblo potters to create and maintain communities of practice, cultural perceptions of place, and the ability to pass down sociotechnical knowledge from one generation to the next, ultimately leading to the decision by said potters to stop producing glaze-painted pottery in the early eighteenth-century. Using a combination of methods such as lead isotope sourcing, chemical characterization of lead glaze paints using LA-ICP-MS, and ceramic petrography, late Rio Grande Glaze Ware pottery was analyzed from four sites, San Marcos Pueblo (LA 98), Paa'ko (LA 162), Patokwa (LA 96), and the Sanchez Site (LA 20000). These seventeenth-century sites all represent different but interconnected temporal windows and settlement contexts during the Colonial period that have archaeological evidence for the intersection between late Glaze Ware use and/or production and colonial metallurgical activities and/or exploitation of Pueblo labor and Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

Danielle Marie Huerta is a PhD Candidate at University of California, Santa Cruz and 2022 SAS Scholarship recipient. She received her B.A. in Anthropology from Texas A & M University, College Station in 2015 and M.A. from University of California, Santa Cruz in 2017. She is currently a Graduate Student Researcher and Archaeological Technician at Los Alamos National Laboratory where she supports their Environmental Protection and Compliance group with managing cultural resources. She has served as an Archaeological Technician with the Cibola National Forest, SEARCH, Inc., Aspen CRM Solutions, and Bureau of Land Management – New Mexico State Office. She has participated in multiple survey and excavation projects in the state of New Mexico since her first field school in Abiquiu in 2014.

Friends are welcome and also invited to join our organization. There is no participation fee.

The webinar will start at 2:00 PM PT and formally conclude at 3:30 PM. You may join starting at 2:40 PM to say "Hello" and enjoy a social time.

See announcements: <u>https://sacarcheology.org/announcements/</u> for **webinar access information.**

PAST EVENTS

SAS Webinar - "Sir Francis Drake Landed in California?" by Melissa Darby, historian, anthropologist and affiliated research faculty at Portland State University

On Monday, June 12, 2023 Melissa discussed the evidence that suggests that English Navigator and sometime pirate Francis Drake and his crew of eighty men, and one Black woman named Maria, in the early summer of 1579 found refuge in Oregon instead of California. Melissa provided an overview of Drake's secret voyage and offered references that supported her thesis. The zoom meeting was well attended by ~30 members and friends.

Fifth Annual SAS Pool-Party/Pot-Luck/Social

On Saturday, July 29, 2023 Dan and Victoria Foster hosted a pool-Party/Pot-Luck/Social. Twenty-six members and friends enjoyed the social interchange. We thank Dan and Victoria for opening their home for this event.

SAS Webinar - "X Marks the Spot: Mapping as the Key to Unlocking the Crosspatch Site's Past" by Jessica Weinmeister, M.S. New Mexico State University

On Monday, August 14, 2023 Jessica described her research of The Crosspatch Site (5DL858, formerly Carvell Site and Berry Ruin) a large Ancestral Pueblo community center with Basketmaker through Pueblo II components located between the Central Mesa Verde region and southeast Utah. Jessica's research explored trade goods, sourcing of materials and the use of color in chip stone over time. Her research highly suggested that the Crosspatch Site was a Chaco outlier.

MEMBER'S CORNER

Members

We are saddened to report the passing of Diane Sangster. Diane was a long time member of SAS. She was on the Board of Directors as an active member up to the end, held positions as Treasurer and Secretary and was co-leader of archaeological tours to the Southwest. She had a deep love for the Southwest and was keenly interested in archaeology. She participated in excavations there. She will be deeply missed.

Major Donors for 2023

We are pleased to acknowledge our major contributors for 2023. These donations support our scholarship program.

Patron (\$1000 or more) Dennis and Martha Fenwick Carolyn and Gordon McGregor

Sponsor (\$100 - \$999)

OSISoft a division of AVEVA Paul K. Davis and Knuti VanHoven Jan and Tom Johansen Roger and Lydia Peake Diane Sangster

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REFERENCES

Recent Articles

The reviewed article(s) are:

- "Reappraising the palaeobiology of Australopithecus"
- "Human adaptation to diverse biomes over the past 3 million years"
- "Criticism of Controversial Ancient-Human Claims Test *Elife's* Peer-Review Model"
- "DNA Maps Seven Generations of Prehistoric Family"
- "Demographic history and genetic structure in pre-Hispanic Central Mexico"
- "Old Spice: Traces Speak of Curry's Enduring Appeal"
- "Cracking the code"

"Reappraising the palaeobiology of Australopithecus"

"The naming Australopithecus africanus in 1925, based on the Taung Child, heralded a new era in human evolutionary studies and turned the attention of the then Eurasian-centric palaeoanthropologists to Africa, albeit with reluctance. Almost one hundred years later, Africa is recognized as the cradle of humanity, where the entire evolutionary history of our linage prior to two million years ago took place—after the Homo-Pan split. This review examines data from diverse sources and offers a revised depiction of the genus and characterizes its role in human evolution. For a long time, our knowledge of Australopithecus came from both A. africanus and Australopithecus afarenis, and the members of this genus were portrayed a bipedal creatures that did not use stone tools, with a largely chimpanzee-like cranium, a prognathic face and a brain slightly larger than that of chimpanzees. Subsequent field and laboratory discoveries, however, have altered this portrayal, showing that Australopithecus species were habitual bipeds but also practiced aboreality; that they occasionally used stone tools to supplement their diet with animal resources; and that their infants probably depended on adults to a greater extent than what is seen in apes. The genus gave rise to several taxa, including Homo, but its direct ancestor remains elusive. In summary Australopithecus had a pivotal bridging role in our evolutionary history owing to its morphological, behavioral and temporal placement between the earliest archaic putative hominin and later homininsincluding the genus Homo." (Zeresenay Alemseged et al, Nature, V 620, 2023-5-4 pp. 45-53)

"Human adaptation to diverse biomes over the past 3 million years"

"To investigate the role of vegetation and ecosystem diversity on hominin adaptation and migration the authors identified past human habitat preferences over time using a transient 3-million-year earth system-biome model simulation and an extensive hominin fossil and archaeological database. Their analysis showed that early African hominins predominantly lived in open environments such as grassland and dry shrub land. Migrating into Eurasia, hominins adapted to a broader range of biomes over time. By linking the location and age of hominin sites with corresponding simulated regional biomes, they also found that our ancestors actively selected for spatially diverse environments. The quantitative results led to new diversity hypotheses: Homo species, in particular *Homo sapiens* were specially equipped to adapt to landscape mosaics." (Elke Zeller *et al., Science,* V 380, 2023-5-12 pp. 604-608)

"Natural products from reconstructed bacterial genomes of the Middle and Upper Paleolithic"

"Major advances over the past decade in the field of ancient DNA are proving access to past paleogenomic diversity, but the diverse functions and biosynthetic capabilities of this growing paleome remain largely elusive. The researcher's investigated the dental calculus of 12 Neanderthals and 52 anatomically modern humans ranging from 100,000 years ago to the present and reconstructed 459 bacterial metagenome-assembled genomes. They identified a biosynthetic gene cluster shared by seven Middle and Upper Paleolithic individuals that allows for the heterologous production of a class of previously unknown metabolites that are named "paleofurans". This paleobiotechnolgical approach demonstrates that viable biosynthetic machinery can be produced from the preserved genetic material of ancient organism, allowing access to natural products from the Pleistocene and providing a promising area for natural product exploration." (Martin Kapper *et al., Science,* V 380, 2023-5-12 pp. 616-624)

"DNA Maps Seven Generations of a Prehistoric Family

Unprecedented genealogical tree reveals detail of Neolithic social relationships"

"In the mid-200s, archaeologists excavating a burial site in France uncovered a 6,500-year-old mystery. Among the remains of more than 120 individuals, one grave stood out. It contained a nearly complete female skeleton alongside a few assorted bones that looked like they had been dug up and moved from another grave.

Ancient DNA from the enigmatic relocated remains now shows that they belonged to the male ancestor of dozens of people buried nearby. This insight comes from a study that used ancient genomics to build the larges-ever genealogy of a prehistoric family, providing a snapshot of life in an early farming community (M. Revollat et.al. Nature https://doi.orgkk9w:2023)." (Ewen Callaway, *Nature*, V 620, 2023-8-3 p. 19)

"Demographic history and genetic structure in pre-Hispanic Central Mexico"

"Between 1100 and 900 years ago, a global warning episode affected numerous civilizations worldwide. In the Americas, severe droughts reconfigured the demography of pre-Hispanic civilizations as well as the ecological landscape. This research analyzed ancient genomic data from 12 pre-Hispanic individuals from before and after this climate change episode to investigate the population dynamics at the limit between the two bicultural regions of Aridamerica in the north and Mesoamerica in central and south Mexico

The ancient genomes revealed a conservation of the genetic structure in Mexico in the past 1400 years and population continuity in the northern frontier of Meso-america despite the severe droughts 1100 years ago. It is likely that the mining-based economy allowed the population to subsist in their homeland during this climate change period when the border between Aridamerica and Mesoamerica shifted southward. The identification of a new ghost genetic ancestry (UPopA2), along with that observed in ancient Sierra Tarhumara and present-day Mixe(UPopA), reveals a complex population history in the late Pleistocene in the Americas." (Viridiana Villa-Islas *et al.*, *Science*, V 380, 2023-5-12 p. 598)

"Old Spice: Traces Speak of Curry's Enduring Appeal"

"Curry, one of the world's favorite foods, was introduced into southeast Asia at least 1,700 years ago.

Weiwei Wang at the Australian National University in Canberra and her colleagues analyzed 717 starch grains, along with pollen granules and other particles found on ancient grinding slabs, mortars and pestles. The tools had been recovered from an archaeological site in southern Vietnam that was a major trading center between the first and seventh centuries AD.

Residues on the tools included the remains of rice and eight spices, among them cinnamon, nutmeg and clove, which might have been imported from distant locations in South Asia and Indonesia. One nutmeg seed, dated to AD 120-248, still yield an aroma. Many starch grains showed brown edges and other features that are consistent with damage caused by grinding. All of the spices identified can be used as ingredients in curry- a hint that curry recipes arrived in the region during the early centuries AD, Some of the spices are common in curry pastes eaten today in Southeast Asia." (*Nature*, V 620, 2023-8-3 p. 11)

"Cracking the code

Much of the world's first writing, carved into clay tablets, is undeciphered. Now, Al is helping us piece together this strange script, revealing incredible stories of

civilization at the dawn of history, finds Alison George"

"Although the cuneiform system of writing was deciphered 165 years ago, the majority of texts that use it have never been translated into modern languages - a fiendishly complicated task that relies on experts such as Irving Finkel. Now, thanks to developments in artificial intelligence, computers are being trained to read and translate cuneiform, to put fragmented tablets back together to recreate ancient libraries and even predict bits of missing text. These tools are enabling the earliest works of literature to be read in full for the first time since antiquity, giving insight into stories that later appeared in the Bible and shedding light on civilizations at the dawn of history." (Alison George, *New Scientist, pp.* 36-40)

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