Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.
Newsletter

www.sacarcheology.org. **March/April - 2024**

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Please note that the following calendar for the next few months.

March 2024

March 7, 2024 – March 10, 2024 – SCA Conference at Riverside, CA

March 9, 2024 – Saturday 2:00 – 3:30 PM PT **SAS Webinar** Scholar presentations Zoom: **Briana Ramirez**, *Blackfriary Archaeological Field School* and **Noor Sullivan**, *Gallina Field School*

March 11, 2024– Monday, 10:00 – 11:30 AM PT- Big History/Renaissance Society: **Lynette Blumhardt**, "*Heraklion, original port city of Greece"*

March 23, 2024 – Saturday, 11:00 AM PT – 12:30 PM Zoom **SAS Board Meeting**

April 2024

April 13, 2024 - Saturday 2:00 – 3:30 PM PT - **SAS Webinar** Scholar presentation Zoom: **Emily Johnson**, *Finding Evidence for Ancient Maya Canal Use at Rio Azul, Guatemala*

April 15, 2024 - Monday, 10:00 – 11:30 AM PT - Big History/Renaissance Society **Martha Lewis**, *"The Wilderness and its consequence"*

April 30, 2023 – **Scholarship Applications due**

May 2024

May 4, 2024 – Saturday 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM - **SAS Tour** "*Locke, California America's Last Remaining Rural Chinatown in America"*

May 11, 2024 – Saturday 2:00 – 3:30 PM PT - **SAS Webinar** UCD Scholar presentation: **Roxanne Lamson**, *"Isotope analysis of Artifacts from Ban Non Wat, Thailand*"

June 2024

June 9, 2024 to ~June 16, 2024 **SAS Tour** Mogollon Culture

See announcements: https://sacarcheology.org/announcements/ for **webinar access information** and calendar: https://sacarcheology.org/archaeology-activities/calendar-of-events/ for the complete set of events in our website: www.sacarcheology.org.

For all SAS Webinars friends are welcome and also invited to join our organization. There is no participation fee.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Scholar Webinar

Saturday, March 9, 2024

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 PM PT

Zoom

2:00 – 2:30 PM PT - "Gallina Field School" **by Noor Sullivan,** University of Maryland, College Park

2:45 – 3:30 PM PT – **"**Blackfriary Archaeological Field School**" by Brianna Ramirez,** New Mexico State University

The presentations will be conducted via Zoom. The webinar will start at 2:00 PM PT and formally conclude at 3:30 PM. You may join starting at 1:45 PM to say "Hello" and participate in a social time.

"*Gallia Field School*" by Noor Sullivan, University of Maryland**,** MPS in Cultural Heritage Resource Management student

Noor is among students interested in community-collaborative cultural resource management and programming, particularly among indigenous communities. To this end they are enrolled in the Cultural Heritage Resource Management program at University of Maryland. In order to move their career interests forward by experiencing archaeological methods and being introduced to indigenous communities of New Mexico, Noor chose to attend the Gallina – Puebloan Rebels of the Southwest Field School. Noor will give a presentation on the participant's experiences at this field school.

"Blackfriary Archaeological Field School" by Brianna Ramirez, New Mexico State University recent graduate

This past summer, Brianna attended the Blackfriary Archaeological Field School in Ireland. This school provided a summer course on field work for bioarchaeology and post-excavation methods. Since Brianna is interested to become a forensic anthropologist this field school was significant because of the director's commitment to ethics in the analysis and treatment of human remains and a dedication to community engagement and heritage. Brianna will discuss her experiences at the field school.

Brianna Ramirez

Emily Johnson

SAS Webinar

"Finding Evidence for Ancient Maya Canal Use at Rio Azul, Guatemala"

by

Emily Johnson, UC Santa Barbara PhD Student

Saturday, April 13, 2024

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. PST

Emily will discuss her experience looking for evidence of ancient Maya wetland systems at the site of Rio Azul, Guatemala, where she excavated within large former agricultural fields. In addition to excavation, Emily collected several kinds of soil samples for future botanical analysis. The purpose of this research is to better understand wetland agriculture within the Maya region and how practices may have changed over a period of 2000 years of dynamic environmental change. Emily received a scholarship from SAS to collect soil samples and then analyze them for microbotanical remains such as starch granules and phytoliths.

The presentations will be conducted via TEAMS. The webinar will start at 2:00 PM PT and formally conclude at 3:30 PM. You may join starting at 1:45 PM to say "Hello" and participate in a social time.

SAS Tour

Locke, California

America's Last Remaining Rural Chinatown in America

Saturday, May 4, 2024, 11 AM PT

Sacramento Archeological Society is pleased to offer a historical tour of Locke, California.

Join the Sacramento Archeological Society on a historical walking tour of Locke, CA, the last remaining rural Chinatown in America. The town still looks very much as it did when it included restaurants, markets, brothels, an opera, speakeasies, gambling houses, mills, and canneries.

At its height, in the 1920s, Locke's population was 600. Today, it is about 70. Recognizing its historical significance, Locke was named a National historic Landmark In 1990.

Our tour leader, Alfred Yee, is a local historian and member of the Locke Foundation.

The itinerary is as follows:
Meet on Saturday, May 4, 2024, at 11 am, at the Locke Boarding House Museum, 13916 Main Street, Locke, CA. From I-5, take Twin Cities Road west, to River Road south. Turn left onto Locke Road. The tour will last approximately 1 ½ hours.
Lunch afterward will be either a bring-your-own picnic or at one of the town's restaurants..

If you plan to attend, please notify Lynette Blumhardt at yellowbean14@yahoo.com. The number of participants is limited. Make your reservations now. Members will be given priority.

Invite a friend who might be interested in becoming a member of SAS.
All participants are required to sign a Hold Harmless Agreement at the beginning of the tour.

PAST EVENTS

SAS Webinar - *"UCD Scholar Presentations"*

On Saturday, January 12, 2024 three scholars from University of California Davis presented their experiences and research to 16 in person attendees at UCD, Young Hall and several others via Zoom.

Lauren Castanda-Molin started with her presentation on "***Blue Oaks Ranch Field School***". Last summer Lauren attended the UC Davis Field School at Blue Oaks Ranch Reserve in Santa Clara. The team participated in the excavation of a house foundation and a terrace wall. An interesting observation from the talk was that the location of the house was adjacent to a fault line and there had been a mud slide in this area.

Edgar Huerta, UCD PhD candidate delivered the next presentation on "***Seasonality, Subsistence, and Population Pressure: Archaeological Insights from Two San Francisco Bay Archaeological Sites Using Stable Isotopes***". In collaboration with the Him'Ren Ohlone, Edgar Huerta has been performing carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen stable isotope analysis from two archaeological sites in the San Francisco Bay region, one in Fremont (CA-ALA-695) and one in Pleasanton (CA-ALA-554). In addition he has been collecting water sample to correlate season of birth with tooth analysis. This analysis will be used in his dissertation to suggest changes in subsistence practices under the effects of seasonal change, drought, and population pressure during the Middle (2,100-930 cal BP), Middle-Late Transition (930-685 cal BP), and Late Phase 1 (685-450 cal BP) periods.

Diane Malarchik, UCD PhD candidate ended the seminar by presenting **"*Sex estimation in Archaeology using dental Proteomics*".**
Diane's analysis of Odd Fellows Cemetery, a private cemetery located in what is now the Richmond District of San Francisco, operated from 1864 until 1902 before its exhumation and relocation to Colma in 1933 is in process. For this presentation Diane discussed the use of proteomics to analyze remains to identify the sex of the individual. When preservation has been compromised, remains are cremated or if the subject is a child, identification of sex is difficult if not impossible. Analysis of proteins through dental proteomics is much more successful. Diane as part of her dissertation will be performing archaeometric analyses of skeletal remains from ten individuals from Odd Fellows Cemetery to better understand sex demographics at a time of intensive migration in San Francisco.

SAS Outreach - "*Lost Civilizations in Peru*"

On Tuesday, January 16, Jan Johansen gave a presentation to residence of Carlton Senior Center in Sacramento. She reviewed the evidence of the first people in Peru from archaeological excavations. The sites included Piquimachay cave, Huaca Prieta, Lauricocha, Cueva del Guitarrero, and Manachaqui Cave. She then discussed archaeological evidence for culture, industry, technology and government in two Peruvian civilizations: Norte Chico and Nazca.

SAS Webinar - "*Meadowcroft Rockshelter: Archaeological Excavation Challenged Clovis-First Peopling Model*"

On Saturday, February 10, 2024 archaeologists Dr. James M. Adovasio and Phil Fitzgibbons shared information on the Meadowcroft Rockshelter Excavation to a Zoom signed in audience of 33. Dr. Adovasio was the lead investigator for the excavations at Meadowcroft Rockshelter in southwestern Pennsylvania and Phi Fitzgibbons was part of the excavation team. Dr. Adovasio began his talk with a discussion of the historical background for the Clovis "First" Theory of North American Peopling. After the Folsom Point and the Clovis Points were found, archaeologists adopted the theory that people first moved into North America from Asia after the ice age (~14000 years ago) and hunted big game with Clovis Points. Meadowcroft was the first serious challenge to the Clovis-first peopling model that had dominated American archaeological thought for decades. Dr. Adovasio detailed the stages of the excavation beginning in 1972. After years of excavation Dr. Adovasio and team identified that the site had been occupied from19,000 years ago. This timeline invalidated the Clovis "First" Theory. Other sites such as Monte Verde in Chile, Cactus hill, in Virginia, Topper in South Carolina, Paisley Cave in Oregon, Cooper's Ferry in Idaho, Page Ladson in Florida and Gault in Texas were mentioned to support the death of Clovis "First" Theory.

MEMBER'S CORNER

Member Renewals

We thank everyone who has renewed your membership.

Major Donors for 2023/4

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

Patron ($1000 or more)
Dennis Fenwick and Martha Lewis
Jan and Tom Johansen
Ruth McElhinney
Carolyn and Gordon McGregor

Sponsor ($100 - $999)
OSISoft a division of AVEVA
Lynette Blumhardt
Jeannie Coy
Penelope Coy
Paul K. Davis and Knuti VanHoven
George W. Foxworth
Jeremy Johansen
Tori Lyon
Roger and Lydia Peake
Diane Sangster

Annual Memberships

All memberships are renewable on **January 1** annually except for those who joined recently (after September 1 of the previous year). Please support the society by promptly paying your **2024** dues. Remember your dues help make **scholarships** possible. We keep overhead low so that the funds can be used to support students. You may now use our web site https://sacarcheology.org/society-membership/pay-dues/ to renew and make payment using a credit card or Paypal. Remember a membership benefit is email receipt of archaeological/anthropological articles and notices of related events.

The annual dues are:	
Student/Limited Member	$15
Individual Membership	$30
Family Membership	$40
Sponsor	$100 - 999 (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
We really appreciate your support.

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Annual Dues for 2024

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

_____ Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address:

_____

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

Total enclosed $_____

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REFERENCES

Recent Articles

The reviewed article(s) chronologically presented (oldest subject first) are:

- "A mammoth's life story, written in tusk"
- "Ice age jewelry show diversity"
- "In Europe, an early, cold dawn for modern humans"
- "A lost "city""
- "A thousand years of solitude"

"A mammoth's life story, written in tusk

The travels of "Elma" show she faced twin pressures—climate change and human hunting"

"Analysis of a woolly mammoth tusk found in 2009 near Fairbanks, Alaska eliminated the history of the 13,000 year old female, they named Elma. The ingested isotopes from the varies place that Elma ranged was analyzed by scientists from University of Alaska Fairbanks and compared with the life history of a male mammoth born 4000 years earlier. It seemed that both mammoths largely traveled the same trails, despite being separated by 4000 years, suggesting consistent predictable movement patterns. The regions that Elma roamed have shown signs of human presence. Artifacts at Elma's final resting place, Swan Point date back 14,000 years. The site is largely regarded as the earliest unequivocal evidence for human occupation in Beringia. At the very least, the juvenile and neonate were probably hunted by humans. Elma herself might have been felled by humans: Isotopes in the outermost layers of her tusk suggest she was healthy and well-nourished when she died. Except for a few island stragglers, woolly mammoths largely vanished about 10,000 years ago. The new work suggests human hunting pressure, in concert with shrinking habits and altering food availability, may have sealed the mammoth's' fate." (Michael Price, *Science,* V 383, 2024-01-19 p. 249)

"Ice age jewelry show diversity"

"Ice age hunters in Europe created at least nine distinct styles of jewelry, suggesting separate cultures within a group once regarded as monolithic, a study has found. The so-called Gravettian culture, which lasted from about 34,000 to 24,000 years ago, spanned what is now Portugal to Russia. A research team identified differences within this broader culture by comparing thousands of handcrafted beads and other personal adornments from 112 widely spaced burial and habitation sites. They identified 134 types of beads based on their raw materials and other design elements. The teams discovered that the adornments clustered geographically—people in northwest Europe often wore tube-shaped shells of *Dentalium* mollusks, for example. Yet based on ancient DNA from these Gravettian sites, closely related people didn't always use the same styles of adornments, and unrelated people sometimes

did—raising new questions about what the different cultural styles signified and how they spread, the study's author say in *Nature Human Behavior*. " (*Science,* V 383, 2024-02-01 p. 465)

"In Europe, an early, cold dawn for modern humans

Moderns made mysterious ice age artifacts—implying overlap with Neanderthals"

"More than 45,000 years ago, small bands of hunters chased horses, reindeer, and mammoth over a vast expanse of tundra that stretched across most of northern Europe. For more than a century, archaeologists debated whether the artifacts found scattered across the area were left by some of the last Neanderthals to roam Europe –or the first modern humans to brave the northern reaches of the continent. A trio of papers in *Nature* and *Nature Ecology & Evolution* may help settle the question. Between 2016 and 2022 archaeologists recovered fragments of hominin bone from a cave in the central German village of Tanis. The bones were at least 45,000 years old, and their DNA has now identified them as the remains of our species; hence, we have evidence of a *Homo sapiens* population in northern Europe long before Neanderthals disappeared. The bones were found with a type of stone blade known from other sites across northern Europe, from the British Isles to modern day Poland. Archaeologists once assumed they were the handiwork of Neanderthals, but the Ranis bones hint that the tools—a style called Lincombian-Ranisian-Jerzmanowician (LRJ)—are modern humans' calling card. This suggests that early humans were far more wide spread, much earlier than was thought. Rather than a single wave of modern humans moving from Africa to Europe, small groups moved piecemeal starting about 48,000 years ago." (Andrew Curry, *Science,* V 383, 2024-02-02 pp. 468-469)

"A lost "city""

"When intact, the Amazonian forest is dense and difficult to penetrate, both on foot and with scanning technologies. Over the past several years, however, improved light detection and ranging scans have begun to penetrate the forest canopy, revealing previously unknown evidence of past Amazonian cultures. Rostain *et al.* describe evidence of such an agrarian Amazonian culture that began more than 2000 years ago. They describe more than 6000 earthen platforms distributed in a geometric pattern connected by roads and intertwined with agricultural landscapes and river drainages in the Upan Valley. Previous efforts have described mounds and large monuments in Amazonia, but the complexity and extent of this development far surpasses these previous sites." (*Science,* V 383, 2024-01-12 p. 160)

"Ancient DNA ties modern diseases to ancestry

Among Europeans, risk of multiple sclerosis rises with genes from Bronze Age Yamanya herders"

"Like many disease, multiple sclerosis hits some populations harder than others. For example, Scandinavians are an estimated 17 times more likely than people form sub-Saharan Africa to develop the devastating chronic disease, in which the body's immune system attacks nerves.

New data from ancient skeletons show part of the source arose in the Bronze Age. About 5000 years ago, people from the steppes near the Black Sea, whom archaeologists call the Yamanya moved west across central and Northern Europe. In Scandinavia and parts of Northern Europe, these mobile cattle herders took just a few centuries to largely replace the sedentary farmers who had tilled the soil with stone tools for millennia. The Yamanya brought with them not just a different way of life, but also genes linked to a higher risk of multiple sclerosis (MS), DNA from the bones shows." (Andrew Curry, *Science,* V 383, 2024-01-24 pp. 138-139)

"A Thousand Years of Solitude

How did the first human settlers of the Canary Islands survive a millennium of isolation"

"The first Canarians of the Canary Islands, who arrived from North Africa roughly 1800 years ago, survived and even thrived on this arid windswept archipelago for 1000 years. They numbered in the tens of thousands when Europeans arrived at the start of the 14th century. Not long after, conquest and genocide had largely erased them as a people. But their DNA lives on in many islanders today, and traces of their lives remain in granaries, cliff dwellings, ceramic figurines, and hundreds of human remains—all remarkably well preserved by the dry climate.

By analyzing ancient DNA from radiocarbon-dated bones archaeologists in the past 15 to 20 years have found that the first islanders had the strongest genetic ties to the Amazigh cultures of northern Africa, also known as Berbers. Rock inscriptions on the islands also echo Amazigh alphabets.

The people of all the islands do exhibit some similar signs of hardship. Many skull bear small dents, some the size of nickels, others of silver dollars—the marks of blows. The rate of interpersonal violence is very, very high. On Gran Cararia, one of the seven islands 27% of the 347 adult skulls collected from burial caves show signs of trauma, usually long before the person died. Roughly 1/3 of male skulls were damaged and nearly 20% of the female skulls. Most of the injuries were from something like a club or stone on the left side of the front of the skull, consistent with face-to-face fighting. The injury rate is far higher than in other ancient burial sites.

The early Canarian societies showed remarkable adaptability. The first settlers almost certainly came from places with metallurgy, yet, faced with a world without metal ore, they reinvented tools of stone, wood and bone. And they enjoyed culturally rich lives, as shown by intricately woven tapestries, clay figurines, and stone etchings and—on the wall of at least one Gran Canaria cave—elaborate geometric paintings that may represent a calendar system.

Then, the Europeans arrived. The first known contact happened in the early 1300s, when Italian navigator Lancelotto Malecell settled on the island now known as Lanzarote. In 1402 solders of Spain's Castilian monarch landed on Lanzarote beginning a century of conquest that ended in 1496 with Spanish victory over Indigenous warriors on Tenerife. The Indigenous people were killed, enslaved, forcibly assimilated or deported, save a scattered few. On Gran Canaria, an Indigenous population estimated at between 10,000 and 60,000 was slashed to as few as 2000." (Warren Cornwall, *Science,* V 383, 2024-02-09 pp. 580-584)

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