Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.
Newsletter

www.sacarcheology.org. July/August - **2025**

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Please note the webinar for Tuesday, July 1 will be via Zoom will be starting at 6:00 PM PT. Don't miss the social on July 26th. The August workshop will be in person at Pena Archaeology Facility (607 Pena Dr. Suite 600; Davis, CA). Note the events being scheduled for September and October. You will receive more direction on the June presentation that needed to being rescheduled.

July 2025

July 1, 2025 – Tuesday 6:00 – 7:30 PM PT– **"Discover Mayan Civilization in Meso America: Reflections from Mexico City, Belize and Guatemala"** by The Archeological Conservancy Tour (Belize and Guatemala) attendees: **Lynette Blumhardt, Jan, Tom and Jeremy Johansen**

July 26, 2025 - Saturday 1:00 – 6:00 PM PT Seven Annual SAS Pool-Party/Pot-Luck/Social **Dan and Victoria Foster's** home

August 2025

August 16, 2025 - Saturday 11:00 – 4:00 PM PT - **"A Workshop on Identifying Fluted Points"** Given by **Mike Rondeau**, archaeologist, at Pena Archaeology Facility (607 Pena Dr. Suite 600; Davis, CA)

September 2025

September 13, 2025 - Saturday, 2:00 – 3:30 PT - **SAS Webinar Teresa Steele,** Professor, Dept. of Anthropology - UC Davis, **"The Middle Stone Age from Varsche Rivier 003, South Africa: environmental variation, innovation, and behavioral diversity"**

October 2025

October 11, 2025 – Saturday 2:00 – 3:30 PM PT - **SAS Webinar Brenna M. Henn**, Associate Director for Human Genomics, Associate Professor - UC Davis, Human Origins

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.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Each year Sacramento Archeological Society is pleased to award scholarship to students who are pursuing a career in anthropology/archaeology. This year we received 17 applications from which seven scholarships were awarded. The scholarships in amounts varying from $525 to $1000 will be used by students for their graduate research or attendance at field schools.

These scholarships are funded by generous donations from members of the society. Without the support of these donors the scholarships would not be possible. Thank you!

The scholars who received scholarship will be giving talks on their research/archaeological experiences to SAS in 2026. The scholarship recipients are listed as follows in alphabetical order.

Allison Champ, University of California, Berkeley
Allison will be attending Monastic Midland Program in Birr, Ireland and also the Crow Canyon Field School in Cortez, Colorado. In Birr she will work on several medieval sites and learn various archaeological techniques. At Crow Canyon she will practice more methodologies. These schools will provide her with key training for a career in archaeology.

Annabella Garcia, Graduate student at University of Dundee, Scotland
Annabella will be attending the Juvenile Osteology Research laboratory Workshop in Romania. Her career goal is to become a Forensic Anthropologist. This workshop will give her the opportunity to expand her knowledge of pre-adult osteology.

Daniel Goring, University of California, Davis
Daniel is PhD student interested in early Homo Sapiens adaptation to climate change. He is researching the Middle of Upper Paleolithic transition (50,000 to 40,000 years ago). By gathering and analyzing animal teeth from Trou al'Wesse, Belgium and Tolbor, Mongolia he will reconstruct site-specific paleo-climate and understand how local environmental changes influenced hominin population during this transitional period.

Kiana Hugins, California State University, Chico
Kiana is focused on completing her MA thesis, "Culturally Modified Trees". This is a study of aspen trees carved by Basques sheepherders in Northeastern California during the 19th-20th centuries. A final aspect of the study is to visit the Jon Bilbao Library at the University of Nevada, Reno to access key ethnographic collections for the interpretation of her analysis' results.

Madison McCartin, University of California, Davis
Madison is a PhD student interested in the Middle-Upper Paleolithic transition. She will continue her research of this period by travelling to Tenerife, Spain where she will sample animal teeth from four Paleolithic sites to assess animal sex. This data will provide valuable information on the hunting preferences of hominins. Additionally she will begin working with Mousterian assemblage of Trou Al'Wesse, Belgium and participate in this year's excavations. Lastly, she will join colleagues in Mongolia to continue excavating and analyzing the faunal remains of Tolbor-17. These projects will contribute to her dissertation work.

David Nelson, Las Positas College
David is embarking on a second career. After years as an electrician he is redirecting to public archaeology. To gain experience in this new field he will be attending the Castles in Communities field school at Ballintober Castle, Ireland. This program will complement his coursework and provide a critical step in his academic and professional development.

Janel Pleskac, Sonoma State University
Janel is a graduate student who will serve as an unpaid Lab Assistant and Oral Historian with the Castles in Communities archaeology field school in Ballintober, Ireland. She will also attend the Oral History Network in Ireland 2025 Annual Conference. These experiences will support her master's thesis research.

UPCOMING EVENTS

"Discover Mayan Civilization in Meso America: Reflections from Mexico City, Belize and Guatemala"

by

Lynette Blumhardt, Jan Johansen, Tom Johansen, Jeremy Johansen

Tuesday, July 1 2025

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM PT

What do you know about the Mayan Civilization in Meso America? Given that it developed in the Yucatan Peninsula where else did it develop? When did it flourish? What was is known for? These were some of the many questions that were addressed in March 2025 when a group of SAS members attended The Archeological Conservancy's archaeological tour of Belize and Guatemala. The tour highlighted six Mayan sites in Belize and two in Guatemala including the very special Tikal. Some SAS members also toured sites at Mexico City including Teotihuacan. Pictures and commentary from these locations will highlight the impressive architecture, advanced understandings of astronomy, sophisticated writing system and conflict between cities.

The Zoom presentation will start at 6:00 pm PT and formally conclude at 7:30 pm.

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

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

Saturday, July 26, 2025

1:00 – 6:00 PM PT

Dan and Victoria Foster's home

Dan and Victoria Foster have again offered their home for this event. This is a chance to socialize with fellow SAS members. Friends are of course welcome.

Bring your favorite dish and swimming suit. Please **RSVP** to Dan Foster at calfirearchy@gmail.com or (279) 444-2099 to log your attendance, obtain a parking map and sign up for a dish. There will be plenty of parking close to their house. Dan can offer a map showing the best places to park (really close to their home).

SAS Workshop

Saturday, August 16, 2025

11:00 – 4:00 PM PT

"A Workshop on Identifying Fluted Points"

Led by

Michael F. Rondeau,

Archaeologist, sole proprietor of Rondeau Archeological

at

Pena Archaeology Facility (607 Pena Dr. Suite 600; Davis, CA)

Can you identify a fluted point if you saw one lying on the ground? If you are not sure, come to this workshop. You will have an opportunity for hands-on practice. Michael F. Rondeau, a noted lithics expert will provide hands-on samples (casts and replicas) of various fluted points and show pictures highlighting salient characteristics of fluted points. You will review several samples and be led to discover the nuances of fluted points.

Michael F. Rondeau is a noted lithics expert specializing in western North American fluted projectile points and their related technology. He has been Research Director of the Archaeological Study Center at the California State University, Sacramento, and an archaeologist for the Office of Historic Preservation, California State Department of Parks and Recreation, and the California State Department of Transportation. He is currently sole proprietor of Rondeau Archeological in Sacramento, specializing in technological lithic analysis and research. Current studies include the California Fluted Lanceolate Uniform Testing and

Evaluation Database (CalFLUTED) project. In 2023 he published Fluted Points of the Far West through the University of Utah Press summarizing results of CalFLUTED project.

This is a members' only event and the number of participants is limited. Please indicate your interest to attend by sending a reservation email with names of attendees to sacarcheology@gmail.com. There is no required fee but donations are welcome.

SAS Webinar to be rescheduled

"Artifactor Scanning System"

By

Tara Johnson

at

A simple, convenient, fast, and durable system for unidirectionally scanning three-dimensional objects has many applications in archaeological fieldwork and cataloging collections. Please join us for a presentation on and demonstration of the Artifactor Scan System, a fossil and artifact scanning platform created by Tara Johnson and manufactured at Maker Nexus in Sunnyvale, CA. Using the Widar software (subscription required), scans take approximately 3-5 minutes to collect and 15-20 minutes to process. Please feel free to bring your iPhone and a non-fragile artifact, roughly 1 cubic foot in size, to try scanning for yourself. The Artifactor Scan System is still a prototype, with new types of clamping supports under active development, so feedback on possible new use cases would be greatly appreciated.

Tara Johnson is a junior at Irvington High School in Fremont, CA. She has eight years of experience applying computer modeling, programming, and rapid prototyping technologies in the digital humanities. She is the creator of the Artifactor scanning system, which was prototyped at Maker Nexus and is being tested in collaboration with the Children's Natural History of Fremont. She is also a contributor to Pyhiero, a Python-based computational linguistics processor that translates *Manual de Codage* (MdC) notation to Unicode Egyptian hieroglyphs.

PAST EVENTS

SAS Webinar "The Clearlake Archaeology Project: Kelsey Creek Schoolhouse" and "Crow Canyon Field School - Haynie Site"

On May 10 Katilin Jones, a senior at California State University, Sacramento, California gave a Zoom presentation on the field school she attended, "The Clearlake Archaeology Project: Kelsey Creek Schoolhouse field school". The field school was offered by Foothill College's Department of Anthropology. Katilin received her scholarship in 2023 to attend this field school.

This school house is the last standing one-room school house in the county. Katilin relayed the history of this school house, including its rebuilding and movement to the current site. The location of the 1882 bronze marker is still elusive but the site of the privy was determined.

Also on May 10 Brandon Yam, a senior at Hamilton College, Clinton, NY relayed his perceptions related to archaeological training and the benefits of field schools. He received a scholarship in 2024 to attend the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center's College Field School. The field school focused on excavation at the Haynie site, a Chaco Outlier.

MEMBER'S CORNER

Memberships

We welcome Jennifer Harmon and Elizabeth Adkins as new members. We hope to see you at our social on July 26th.

Major Donors

We are pleased to acknowledge our major contributors for 2024/2025. These donations support our scholarship program.

Patron (**$1000** or more, listed in alphabetical order)
Paul K. Davis and Knuti VanHoven
Jan and Tom Johansen
Dennis Fenwick and Martha Lewis
Ruth McElhinney
Carolyn and Gordon McGregor
Sponsor ($100 - $999)
OSISoft a division of AVEVA
Lynette Blumhardt
Larry Boerio
Jean Coy
George W. Foxworth
Jeremy Johansen
Tori Lyon
Roger and Lydia Peake
Teresa Steele

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 **2025** 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 2025

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:

- Uniquely human' language capacity found in bonobos"
- "Recurrent humid phases in Arabia over the past 8 million years"
- "Cat domestication tied to ancient Egyptian cult"
- "A geographic history of human genetic ancestry"
- "From North Asia to South America: Tracing the longest human migration through genomic sequencing"

- “Ancient genomic and the origin, dispersal, and development of domestic sheep”
- “Genetic architecture in Greenland is shaped by demography, structure and selection”
- “Archaeological evidence of intensive indigenous farming in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, USA”

“Uniquely human’ language capacity found in bonobos

Study is the first to show an animal combining different calls to make new meanings”

“Human language can combine words to create an infinite number of meanings—an ability that gives language its expressive power and sets it apart from the communication of other animals. Now, researchers (Berthet) have found a more modest version of this ability in bonobos, our closest living relative. The apes can combine different calls to create new meanings (reported in Science 2025-04-04 p. 104). Over a period of eight months Berthet recorded 700 different vocalization, many of which were a combination of two distinct calls, like “whistle and peep” or “high hot and low hoot”. To see whether the animals were creating new means from these combinations, the team borrowed an approach from human language studies, statically analyzing how much context the vocalization shared with each other. Three combinations stood out: Their means appeared different enough from those of their constituent calls that they seemed to count as nontrivial combinations. For example “Low hoot” is often used in situations of high excitement. “High hoot” is used when bonobos want to alert others to their presence. But the combination of the two calls doesn’t simply mean “I am excited, pay attention to me”; instead it conveys a more nuanced message. It is used specifically when another individual is putting on an aggressive display and this call might be trying to stop this behavior.” (Cathleen O’Grady, *Science*, 2025-04-04 p. 19)

“Recurrent humid phases in Arabia over the past 8 million years”

“The Sahara-Arabian Desert is one of the largest biogeographical barriers on Earth, impeding dispersals between Africa and Eurasia, including movements of past hominins. Recent research suggests that this barrier has been in place since at least 11 million years ago. In contrast, fossil evidence from the late Miocene epoch and Pleistocene epoch suggests the episodic presence within the Sahara-Arabian Desert interior of water-dependent fauna (for example, crocodiles, equids, hippopotamids, and proboscideans), sustained by rivers and lakes that are largely absent from today’s arid landscape. Although numerous humid phases occurred in southern Arabia during the past 1.1 million years, little is known about Arabia’s palaeoclimate before this time. In this article, based on a climatic record from desert speleothems, the researchers show recurrent humid intervals in the central Arabian interior over the past 8 million years. Precipitation during humid intervals decreased and became more variable over time, as the monsoon’s influence weakened, coinciding with enhance Northern Hemisphere polar ice cover during the Pleistocene. Wetter conditions likely facilitated mammalian dispersals between

Africa and Eurasia, with Arabia acting as a key crossroads for continental-scale biogeographic exchanges." (Monika Markowska *et al*., *Nature*, V640, 2025-04-24 pp. 954-960)

"Cat domestication tied to ancient Egyptian cult

Mass sacrifice of wild cats may have given rise to pet felines"

"In 2001, archaeologists made a discovery that promised to rewrite the history of cat domestication. Scientists had long believed cats became our friends in ancient Egypt, where they've been immortalized in mummies and art. But when researchers dug beneath a 9500-year-old home in a farming village on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus, they discovered what appeared to be a pet cat buried with a human—more than 4000 years before ancient Egypt existed. From this discovery it was suggested that European wildcats were tamed to take care of rat-plagued villages of early Mediterranean farmers. Further investigation of these cats showed that the domestic felines across Europe and Mediterranean were not related to the European wildcats. Hence; Egypt still is a contender for the source of cat domestication. The bones of what may be tame cats in predynastic Egypt date back to the early fourth millennium BCE and the oldest genetically confirmed domestic cats are now mummified Egyptian kitties dated to between 500 and 0 BCE." (David Grimm, *Science*, 2025-04-18 p. 239)

"A geographic history of human genetic ancestry"

"Describing the distribution of genetic variation across individuals is a fundamental goal of population genetics. The researchers present a method that capitalizes on the rich genealogical information encoded in genomic tree sequences to infer the geographic location of the shared ancestors of a sample of sequenced individuals. This method is called GAIA (geographic ancestor inference algorithm). They used this method to infer the geographic history of genetic ancestry of a set of human genomes samples from Europe, Asia and Africa, accurately recovering major population movements on those continents. Their findings demonstrate the importance of defining the spatiotemporal context of genetic ancestry when describing human genetic variation and caution against the oversimplified interpretations of genetic data prevalent in contemporary discussion of race and ancestry." (Michael C. Grundler, *Science*, 2025-03-28 pp. 1391-1397)

"From North Asia to South America: Tracing the longest human migration through genomic sequencing"

"During the late Pleistocene, humans expanded across Eurasia and eventually migrated to the Americas. The extent of basal divergences, admixture and degrees of isolation among Indigenous North Eurasian and Native South American populations remain debated, with most insights derived from genomic-wide genotyping data. This study used large-scale whole-genome sequencing of 1537 individuals from 139 ethnic groups in North Eurasia and the Americas to deepen the understanding of population structures, prehistoric migrations and factors diversifying the populations. The researchers found that all contemporary Siberians, as well as some Northeast Europeans and Central Asians, share ancestry with the West Siberian

groups, represented by the Kets and Nenets. Their ancestors were widespread across Siberia 10,000 years ago but now these groups face population decline by 73.6%. The populations of west Beringia, including the Koryaks, Inuit and Luoravetlans, are the most genetically distinct from other Siberians. The researchers were not able to identify a specific Siberian group as the direct ancestors of Native Americans owing to deep divergence and limited genetic continuity. However, west Beringian populations remain closely related to Native Americans. Koryaks and Inuit show 5% and 28% Native American ancestry, respectively, owing to gene flow between 700 and 5100 years ago. They estimated the split time of Native South Americans into Amazonian, Andeans, Chaco Amerindians, and Patagonians to have occurred 13,900 to 10,000 years ago. Migration and settlement across the continent led to population isolations due to geographic boundaries and a reduction in their genetic diversity. Over the past 10,000 years, all four Native South American lineages have experienced population declines ranging from 38 to 80%." (Elena S. Gusareva *et al.*, *Science*, 2025-05-15 p. 719)

"Ancient genomic and the origin, dispersal, and development of domestic sheep"

"The origins and prehistory of domestic sheep are incompletely understood; to address this, the researchers generated data from 118 ancient genomes spanning 12,000 years sampled from across Eurasia Genomes from Central Turkey ~8000 BCE are genetically proximal to the domestic origins of sheep but do not fully explain the ancestry of later populations, suggesting a mosaic of wild ancestries. Genomic signatures indicate selection by ancient herders for pigmentation patterns, hornedness, and growth rate. Although the first European sheep flocks derive from Turkey, in a notable parallel with ancient human genome discoveries, they detected a major influx of Western steep-related ancestry in the Bronze Age." (Kevin G Daly *et al.*, *Science*, 2025-01-31 pp. 492-497)

"Genetic architecture in Greenland is shaped by demography, structure and selection"

"The Greenlandic population has been historically small and isolated. The intuit ancestors entered northwestern Greenland from Arctic Canada less than 1,000 years ago, and migrated south following the west coast and then north following the east coast. In the past few generations, a large amount of admixture with Europeans has occurred, so the present-day Greenlandic population has an average 75% Inuit genetic ancestry and 25% European but with large regional differences. The ancestral Inuit population went through a more severe population bottleneck than any European population. They are genetically distant from other populations and should be considered unique especially related to genomic-based healthcare." (Frederik Filip Stæger *et al.*, *Nature*, V639, 2025-03-13 pp. 404-410)

"Archaeological evidence of intensive indigenous farming in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, USA"

"Recent LIDAR (light detection and ranging) and excavation data have uncovered densely clustered ancient agricultural raised garden bed ridges covering an expanse far greater than previously realized. These raised agricultural fields are deeply enmeshed in the broader cultural landscape, as ceremonial and other features were also found. Their results demonstrate a rich anthropogenic landscape created by small-scale ancestral Menominee communities, located near the northern limits of maize agricultures. Radiocarbon dates from ridged fields at Sixty Islands (the area investigated) place them within the Late Woodland period, showing that the ridges were likely in use from 1000 to 1600 CE. The nearby Backlund Village site (1000 to 1300 CE) is the only documented settlement within the survey area that was occupied when the beds were in use, but it is interpreted as a relatively small village with limited, likely seasonal occupation. It is possible that other larger sites have yet to be located. The excellent preservation of this site is exceptional in eastern North America and suggests that the pre-colonial landscape was more anthropogenically influenced than currently recognized." (Madeleine McLeester *et al*., *Science*, 2025-06-06 pp. 1082-1085)

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