



# The Current

NEWSLETTER OF THE ISLAND & COASTAL ARCHAEOLOGY  
INTEREST GROUP

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Members;

The 80th SAA Meeting is just around the corner (April 15-19, 2015), making this an opportune time to remind everyone that the Island and Coastal Archaeology Interest Group will be holding its annual meeting in San Francisco in conjunction with the SAA conference. The day and time are yet to be finalized, but will be announced in the SAA program once set. Last year's meeting was a lively one, and we encourage you to get involved in 2015 by submitting proposed agenda items, attending the meeting, and engaging in the discussion. Additional information can be found on page 2 of the Newsletter.

Beyond the SAA meeting, there are a number of forthcoming workshops and conferences that will be of interest to island and coastal archaeologists. Below you will find information about the upcoming *Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology* (January 2015, Seattle, WA), the *Northwest Anthropological Conference* (March 2015, Eugene, OR), and the *Eighth Lapita Conference* (July, 2015, Port Vila, Vanuatu), along with calls for papers and details on the recent meeting of the *ICAZ Archaeomalacology Working Group*. The SAA also announces a final reminder for applications for the *Dienje Kenyon Fellowship in Zooarchaeology* (deadline December 15, 2014).

This issue of *The Current* highlights research by Caroline Funk, Nicole Misarti, and Brian Hoffman, focused on elucidating six millennia of human-ecosystem dynamics on the Rat Islands of Alaska (p. 8). On page 9, Micah Hale and Brad Comeau report on recent archaeological investigations that have identified the Kumeyaay settlement of La Punta depicted on a late 18<sup>th</sup> century Spanish map of the San Diego, California area.

On behalf of the ICA Executive and Meeting Committees, I would like take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy holiday season. I look forward to seeing many of you in San Francisco in the New Year.

Christina M. Giovas  
Editor, *The Current*



## **ICA INTEREST GROUP BUSINESS**

**The SAA Island and Coastal Archaeology Interest Group Annual Meeting - April 15-19, 2015.** San Francisco, CA, United States

The Island and Coastal Archaeology Interest Group will be hold its annual meeting at the upcoming Society for American Archaeology Meeting in San Francisco, California. All members and non-members are welcome to attend. Meeting time and location to be announced. Queries and proposals for meeting agenda items should be submitted to the Executive Committee contact, Scott Fitzpatrick: [smfitzpa@cas.uoregon.edu](mailto:smfitzpa@cas.uoregon.edu)



## **MEETINGS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND CALLS FOR PAPERS**

***The Cooper Center debuts a special exhibition in the CSUF Pollak Library's Atrium Gallery***

**“Titans: Student Research in Archaeology and Paleontology at the Cooper Center”**

The Dr. John D. Cooper Archaeological and Paleontological Center recently opened a special exhibition in the Pollak Library's Atrium Gallery titled "Titans: Student Research in Archaeology and Paleontology at the Cooper Center". See Orange County's original Titans, including mammoths, mastodons, dinosaurs, and whales, and learn about prehistoric cultures that date back 10,000 years. Also, learn about current research being conducted by CSUF students using Cooper Center collections.

California State University Fullerton  
Pollak Library – Atrium Gallery  
Fullerton, CA  
October 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014

To accompany the exhibition the Cooper Center has organized a Lecture Series featuring...

**Archaeology, History, and the Lone Woman of San Nicolas Island**

with Dr. René Vellanoweth, California State University Los Angeles

Wednesday, December 10th

Lecture: 7:00PM

Reception: 8:00 PM

Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA 92831

Since the 1960s, many have read the award-winning children's novel, *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, a story about a young Native American girl who lived alone on an island for 18 years. Now, new chapters will be written with the recent finding of a shelter recognized as the home of this fabled “Lone



Woman” of San Nicolas Island. René Vellanoweth, PhD was part of the team of archaeologists who discovered the cave and a box filled with artifacts that belonged to Juana Maria. Dr. Vellanoweth will share his discoveries and insights into this amazing find. For more information, visit <http://www.jdcoopercenter.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/JDCooperCenter>.

### **Second Foundation Course on Underwater Archaeology for the Caribbean to take place in St. Eustatius**

The Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands, the Nexus 1492-Heritage research project in the Caribbean and the UNESCO Regional Office for Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean, in cooperation with the UNESCO Kingston Cluster Office for the Caribbean and the UNESCO office in Haiti, are pleased to announce the UNESCO Foundation course on the Protection and Management of Underwater Cultural Heritage for the Caribbean States to be held from 17 November to December 13, 2014 in St Eustatius. For more information visit:

[http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/underwater-cultural-heritage/dynamic-content-single-view/news/second\\_foundation\\_course\\_on\\_underwater\\_archaeology\\_for\\_the\\_caribbean\\_to\\_take\\_place\\_in\\_st\\_eustatius/#.VDaT9NGKDGg](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/underwater-cultural-heritage/dynamic-content-single-view/news/second_foundation_course_on_underwater_archaeology_for_the_caribbean_to_take_place_in_st_eustatius/#.VDaT9NGKDGg)

### **The 48th Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology - January 6-11, 2015.** Seattle, WA United States

The SHA 2015 Conference will take place at the Sheraton Hotel in the heart of the city of Seattle. The conference venue is five blocks from the Pike Place Market and the rejuvenated piers of the Seattle waterfront with ships, waterfront dining, the Seattle Aquarium, and a new enclosed Ferris wheel. The conference theme, “Peripheries and Boundaries”, reflects the unique circumstances of the region and addresses some of the issues that frame historical archaeology scholarship in the West. In some ways the theme echoes the historical circumstances of Seattle, a community that was geographically bounded and economically marginal, but whose history transcends those boundaries in the process of becoming one of the 21st century’s economic and cultural centers of the world. The SHA expects that the theme will foster many papers and symposia that explore the many manifestations of boundaries and peripheries in the past – and in the present.

Conference website: [http://www.sha.org/index.php/view/page/annual\\_meetings](http://www.sha.org/index.php/view/page/annual_meetings)

### **Northwest Anthropological Conference - March 26-28, 2015.** Eugene, OR, United States

The 2015 Northwest Anthropological Conference (NWAC) will be held in Eugene, Oregon at the Valley River Inn from March 26-28. The meetings are co-sponsored by the Department of Anthropology and Museum of Natural and Cultural History at the University of Oregon. For more information, please contact Scott M. Fitzpatrick ([smfitzpa@uoregon.edu](mailto:smfitzpa@uoregon.edu)) or Dennis Jenkins ([djenkins@uoregon.edu](mailto:djenkins@uoregon.edu)).



**Society for American Archaeology 80th Annual Meeting - April 15-19, 2015.** San Francisco, CA, United States

**Session no. 961 "Resilience, Sustainability and Collapse in the North Atlantic"**

Chair: Konrad Smiarowski and Ramona Harrison

Contact: [Konrad.smiarowski@gmail.com](mailto:Konrad.smiarowski@gmail.com)

The North Atlantic has become recognized as a key research area in the circumpolar north. Long term Human Ecodynamics in North Atlantic islands affected by human settlement impact, climate change, early globalization and culture contact have become classic (and controversial) cases of "resilience and collapse" in the archaeology of global change literature.

This session presents new research from the Faroes, Orkney, Iceland and Greenland. New understanding of processes of Viking Age settlement, cases of both sustainable and ultimately unsustainable management of natural resources, impact of sudden climate change after the Lombok eruption of 1257CE and onset of summer sea ice 1275-1300CE, and the effects of growing trade and proto-world system impacts on local communities are discussed here. The integration of archaeology and zooarchaeology with use of heritage for place based sustainability education is also a fundamental part of the multidisciplinary research projects of this session.

**Long-term Seabird Exploitation in the Faroe Islands**

*Seth Brewington*

**A Cross-Disciplinary Approach to the History of Human Ecodynamics in High Medieval Iceland**

*Ramona Harrison and Arni Daniel Juliusson*

**Climate Change and Resource Management in Eastern Settlement Norse Greenland**

*Konrad Smiarowski*

**Landscape Stability, Environmental Resilience and Anthropocene Transformations in Iceland**

*Andy Dugmore and Richard Streeter*

**The Orkney Islands: Long-Term Human Ecodynamics and Enduring Culture**

*Ruth Maher, Julie Bond, Steven Dockrill,*

**Hierarchy and Human Securities in Norse Vatnahverfi, South Greenland - A Case Study**

*Christian Koch Madsen*

**Hard times at Hofstadir Iceland: Medieval Climate Impact and Cultural Responses**

*Thomas McGovern*

**Soil Nutrient Management in Norse Greenland**

*Ian Simpson, Konrad Smiarowski, Christian Koch Madsen, Michael Nielsen*

**Cod, Sand & Stone: Proto-Industrial Scale, Medieval, Commercial Fishing at Gufuskalar in Western Iceland**

*Frank Feeley*



**Missing Bodies and Cat Skeletons: New Perspectives on Ritual in Viking Age Iceland**

*Brenda Prehal*

**Vulnerabilities and Failure of Building Resilience in Norse Greenland**

*Jette Arneborg*

**Conference on the Environmental Archaeology of European Cities – May 27-29, 2015.** Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium

In the last decades there has been a significant increase in the use of environmental studies within urban archaeological contexts. Today, it can be stated that the full potential of the existing environmental archaeological approaches is not yet always reached. Therefore, the aim of the present conference is to assemble researchers (archaeologists, historians, geoarchaeologists, physical anthropologists, archaeozoologists and archaeobotanists) working on urban archaeology to share their experiences, to explore the development of their disciplines and to discuss how results from different approaches can be more fully integrated. The themes that will be discussed include urban site formation, urban environment, economic activities within towns, and the personal life of the town inhabitants.

The meeting will take place at the Natural History Museum in Brussels and is a co-organisation of that institute, the Archaeological Heritage Service of the Brussels Capital Region, the Université Libre de Bruxelles and the University of Leuven. Information about the conference can be found at: <https://www.naturalsciences.be/en/museum/agenda/item-view/607>

**Eighth Lapita Conference - July 5-10, 2015.** Port Vila, Vanuatu

Organized jointly by the Australian National University and the Vanuatu Cultural Centre, the Eighth Lapita Conference promises to be an exciting and informative event. The theme for the conference will be "back to basics"; that is, a focus on Lapita itself, as well as what came immediately before and immediately after it in the Western Pacific. A poster session will also be included for research not directly related to the Lapita culture. As part of the conference there will be a major Lapita exhibition at the National Museum, and a visit to Teouma and other significant archaeological sites and collections on Efate. For additional information about the conference and registration visit: <http://chl.anu.edu.au/departments/archaeology/lapita8/>

**Call for Papers: Complex Issues in Dating Coastal and Island Settlements, Session of the European Association of Archaeologists Annual Meeting – September 2-5, 2015.** Glasgow, Scotland.

The following session has been submitted for consideration to the 21st Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) in Glasgow, Scotland, and the organizers are keen to solicit contributions from interested parties in the event that the session is accepted. The meeting is



from 2–5 September, 2015. Abstract submission begins on 19 December and closes 16 February (<http://eaaglasgow2015.com>). The session abstract is below:

*Complex Issues in Dating Coastal and Island Settlements*

Organizers: Dr. Tony Krus (Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre) and Dr. Victor Thompson (University of Georgia)

Numerous issues often hinder archaeological interpretation of the temporality of human activity on coasts and islands. Local radiocarbon offsets brought about by marine and/or freshwater reservoir effects can result in radiocarbon ages being erroneously old by up to several hundred years. The drift of marine animals and debris, as well as diets mixing terrestrial, marine, and/or freshwater resources, can further complicate dating. In addition to these concerns, uncertainty of deposition and post-depositional processes can add to the confusion of exactly what kind of events are being dated. This session will concentrate on individual cases of complex problems encountered in dating archaeological activity on coasts and islands. Already invited case studies will cover the processes undertaken to estimate and correct for local offsets, and other issues encountered in the creation of chronologies and dating of events. Contributions for both papers and posters are invited from colleagues, in line with the aim of presenting and discussing the complex problems involved in the creation of coastal chronologies.

**ICAZ Fish Remains Working Group 18th Biennial Meeting - September 28 – October 3, 2015.** Lisbon, Portugal

The 18th biennial meeting of the International Council for Archaeozoology - Fish Remains Working Group (ICAZ-FRWG) will be hosted in Lisbon by the Directorate-General for Cultural Heritage - Archaeosciences Laboratory (DGPC - LARC) and the Research Center in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources – Environmental Archaeology Research Group (CIBIO - EnvArch).

The meeting is aimed primarily at those with a professional interest in the systematic analysis of fish bones retrieved from archaeological sites around the world. Besides archaeozoologists, we also hope to attract archaeologists, ichthyologists, historians, ethnographers, fishery biologists, and others for whom this field is of serious but perhaps more marginal interest.

Our objective is to encourage rich, productive, formal and informal dialogues among participants and across disciplines, generating ideas, promoting future research, and encouraging new collaborations. To this end the conference is structured to encompass a multiplicity of approaches to the study of fish remains, and their contribution to our understanding of how fishing, fish trade, fish consumption, biodiversity, ecology and human impact on aquatic environments have changed through time.

Colleagues who would like to present a paper and/or a poster should send submit an abstract following the instructions in the [Abstract Form](#) by email to [18frwg@gmail.com](mailto:18frwg@gmail.com) no later than February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015.



## **Report on the Recent Meeting of the Archaeomalacology Working Group of the International Council for Archaeozoology**

Submitted by Daniella Bar-Yosef and Christina M. Giovas

The most recent meeting of the Archaeomalacology Working Group (AMWG) was held at the International Council for Archaeozoology Meeting in San Rafael, Argentina in September 2014. Two sessions reflected the growing interest in archaeomalacology and the need to integrate our research with other aspects of archaeozoology. The first theme, "Molluscs as a Record of Human-Environment Relationships: Environmental Reconstructions, Impacts, and Management", was co-organized by Christina M. Giovas, Zhanna Antipushina and Catherine F. West. It included 13 oral presentations and two posters. Presentations addressed a diverse topics including paleoenvironmental reconstruction, isotopic analysis, PXRF applications, amino acid racemization, sclerochronology, anthropogenic impacts, ecosystem resilience, sustainable exploitation, and conservation biology applications.

Another theme on shell artifacts "Global Patterns in the Exploitation of Animal-Based Raw Materials: Technological and Socio-Cultural Issues" was a collaboration between the AMWG and the WBWG and was coordinated by Natacha Buc, Annalisa Christie, Alice Choyke, and Vivian Scheinsohn. It included 17 oral presentations and two posters. Contributions to this session examined technological and social aspects of the production and use of bone and shell as raw material, including manufacturing processes, morphological and functional variability, personal adornment, and symbolic expression.

The next ICAZ Archaeomalacology Working Group meeting will be organised by Annalisa Christie and is scheduled to take place in Orkney, United Kingdom in 2016. For more information visit: <http://www.archaeomalacology.com/index.html>



## ***AWARD AND FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS***

### **The Society for American Archaeology Dienje Kenyon Fellowship in Zooarchaeology**

The deadline for applications for the Dienje Kenyon Fellowship in zooarchaeology is December 15, 2014 for the 2015 award. The award was endowed by the family of the late Dienje Kenyon and is administered by the Society for American Archaeology. This cash grant is for women in the early stages of the graduate work in zooarchaeology. We hope that it will help support travel, analysis costs, or other research-related expenses in any part of zooarchaeology.

For more information see:

<http://saa.org/AbouttheSociety/Awards/DienjeKenyonFellowship/tabid/175/Default.aspx>



## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

### Multidisciplinary Human/Environment Research in the Rat Islands, Western Aleutians

Caroline Funk  
University at Buffalo  
Email: [cfunk@buffalo.edu](mailto:cfunk@buffalo.edu)

Nicole Misarti  
University of Alaska, Fairbanks  
Brian Hoffman  
Hamline University

A team of bio-, geo-, and social scientists are cooperating to define human and environmental histories and to identify points of interaction between them in the Rat Islands, Alaska. The subarctic Rat Islands include active volcanoes and larger, sedimentary islands surrounded by the confluence of the Bering Sea and Pacific Ocean. Aleuts occupied these islands for about 6,000 years, living as maritime gatherer-hunter-fishers in large coastal villages until their displacement during the Russian contact era.



Figure 1: Archaeological survey along Vega Bay on southern Kiska Island resulted in the identification of 16 prehistoric Aleut occupation sites, dozens of small cultural mounds and 10 Japanese WW II occupation features. Photo by B. Hoffman, 2014.



Figure 2: Newly identified prehistoric Aleut village midden site KIS-057 is rapidly eroding from the bluff edge. The site is 100m x 16m with 28 housepit and storage features remaining. Photo by C. Funk, 2014

The multidisciplinary research is testing the hypotheses that people in small-scale economies caused ecosystem change. The aim is to develop a comparative, regional history of volcanic and seismic events, terrestrial ecology, marine food web models, and human use of the Rat Islands. This past summer the team surveyed and tested on southern Kiska Island and on small areas of Segula and Little Sitkin Islands. Twenty seven new cultural occupations were identified, including prehistoric Aleut villages and historic Japanese World War II occupations. Pollen cores and modern intertidal samples of 15 plant and animal species were collected from the vicinity of a large village midden site. The team



tested the well-preserved midden to acquire a long-term record of cultural activities and environmental events. The archaeological materials from test excavations, pollen cores, tephra samples, and modern intertidal zone samples are under currently under analysis at University at Buffalo, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and Hamline University. The work is supported by NSF OPP-1303566. More details about the project are available on the project website (<http://ubwp.buffalo.edu/ratislandsresearch/>).

### Rediscovering La Punta: A Kumeyaay Village in San Diego Mapped by the Spanish in 1782

Micah J. Hale, Ph.D., RPA  
Dudek, Encinitas, California  
Email: [mhale@dudek.com](mailto:mhale@dudek.com)  
Brad Comeau, M.Sc., RPA  
Dudek, Encinitas, California  
Email: [bcomeau@dudek.com](mailto:bcomeau@dudek.com)

A Kumeyaay village located along the southern San Diego coast was identified by the Spanish in 1782 referring to it as “La Punta.” Over the last several decades, several archaeological studies have identified small buried deposits in the vicinity of the mapped village location. None of these studies fully considered their meaning in relation to one another or to regional trends in aboriginal occupation, dismissing any association of the archaeological deposits they found and the mapped village location. A recent wetland restoration project allowed for subsurface sampling using 5-inch hollow stem augers, backhoe trenching, and hand excavation resulting in the identification of a buried midden deposit. The midden assemblage included one arrow point, flaked lithics, aboriginal ceramics, groundstone, marine shell, and the remains of a thermal feature; altogether common elements of prehistoric San Diego archaeological sites. Several radiocarbon dates from the thermal feature date the deposit to the early 1600s and late 1800s, spanning the date of A.D. 1782 when the Spanish visited the area. Considering previous investigations, the results from this study indicate that the identified midden indeed represents the 1782 Kumeyaay settlement identified by the Spanish. It is also an example of the impact stereotypes have on archaeological interpretation. The findings of this study largely align with a growing body of literature that indicate hunter-gatherers of the San Diego region resisted higher degrees of sedentism employed by the Gabrielino and Chumash to the north, and responded to intensification through time-saving tactics rather than subsistence specialization (Hale 2010).



Figure 1: 1782 Spanish map of San Diego depicting approximate location of Kumeyaay village of La Punta

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## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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DOI: 10.1080/00438243.2014.931244

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2014 *Tangata Whenua: An Illustrated History*. Bridget Williams Books, Wellington.

Anderson, S.L., and A.K. Freeburg

2014 High latitude coastal settlement patterns: Cape Krusenstern, Alaska. *Journal of Island and Coastal Archaeology* 9(3):295-318.

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2015 *Caribou Hunting in the Upper Great Lakes: Archaeological, Ethnographic, and Paleoenvironmental Perspectives*, Museum of Anthropology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, No. 57.  
This edited volume brings together American and Canadian scholars of Great Lakes prehistory to provide a holistic picture of caribou hunters. Covering such diverse topics as paleoenvironmental reconstruction, ethnographic surveys of hunting features with Native informants in Canada, and underwater archaeological research - this volume presents a synthetic model of ancient caribou hunters in the Great Lakes region. This book is well suited for anyone with interests in Great Lakes prehistory generally, past environments, or the archaeological discovery of the world's oldest caribou hunting structures 120 feet below Lake Huron.
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## ***SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CURRENT***

A variety of interest pieces and announcements are accepted for publication in the ICAIG newsletter. Generally, the deadline for submission for the Spring/Summer Issue is May 1<sup>st</sup> and for the Fall/Winter Issue, November 1<sup>st</sup>. Submissions and inquiries may be directed to *The Current* Editor, Christina M. Giovas ([cmgiovas@uw.edu](mailto:cmgiovas@uw.edu)). Contributions need not follow any specific format, with the exception of “Research Highlights” and “Recent Publications” (instructions below).

### **Instructions for Submitting Recent Publications**

- Citations submitted for the “Recent Publications” section of the newsletter should follow the *American Antiquity* / *Latin American Antiquity* style guide. (<http://www.saa.org/AbouttheSociety/Publications/StyleGuide/tabid/984/Default.aspx>)
- “In press” citations should be accompanied by a digital object identifier (DOI).

### **Instructions for Preparing “Research Highlights” Descriptions**

- Prepare a short description, written in the third person, that includes the purpose of the research, location, brief review of findings to date (if relevant), and other information of potential interest to the membership.
- Descriptions should be single spaced, using 12 pt, Times New Roman or Calibri font, and should be submitted as an MSWord file (.doc or .docx).
- Be sure to provide a title (project name or site name) and include the names and organization of the author(s)/principal investigator(s) submitting the description.
- Provide a valid email address for a single contact author/principle investigator.
- Proof read and spell check the research description, especially place names.
- **Word limit:** please keep the description to a maximum of about 250 words (i.e., abstract length).
- Only include literature citations if absolutely necessary. List these after the research description using the citation format for *American Antiquity*. Guidelines available at: <http://www.saa.org/StyleGuideText/tabid/985/Default.aspx>
- **Images:** One or two (maximum) JPEG or TIFF format photos/images/illustrations may be included with the research description. Image resolution should be 600 dpi. Please note that photos may be cropped to fit to the page if images are too large or include significant “empty” space. To avoid this, please format images prior to submission to include only necessary content.
- Include a caption for any images submitted.

Submit descriptions and images as separate files to the newsletter editor, Christina Giovas, at [cmgiovas@uw.edu](mailto:cmgiovas@uw.edu). Submissions that do not meet the above guidelines will be returned to the author for revision, which may delay publication in *The Current*. Due to space constraints not all submitted pieces may be included in a given issue of *The Current*. If this is the case, your contribution will receive priority listing for the next issue. Do not hesitate to contact the editor if you have any questions. We look forward to receiving your contributions.

