Dear ICA Members,

The editorial team of *The Current* has expanded. My name is Kristina Douglass, and I am delighted to join Christina Giovas as the new Co-Editor of *The Current*. I recently completed my PhD at Yale University and am now a postdoctoral fellow at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History. My work investigates human-environment interaction along the southwest coast of Madagascar from the earliest known period of human settlement in the first millennium BC through to the recent past. My current projects explore changing patterns of resource exploitation at different sites through time, including the exploitation of now-extinct fauna like the island’s giant elephant birds, and the social processes at play in a region characterized by frequent human migrations, resource scarcity and highly variable climatic conditions. I look forward to serving as Co-Editor of *The Current*.

As the “Research Highlights” and “Recent Publications” sections demonstrate, the field of island and coastal archaeology is thriving all over the world and contributing valuable insights into people’s engagement with island and coastal landscapes, climatic and environmental change, and trade and exchange. What is perhaps most impressive, in addition to the broad geographic and temporal range of current coastal and island archaeological research, is the diversity of techniques and approaches, some new, some old, being applied in innovative ways to the study of the island and coastal past.

Climate change, both in the past and in the present, was among the most intensively discussed topics at this year’s SAA’s in Orlando. Island and coastal archaeologists are working on the frontlines of climate-related questions because of the acute vulnerability of coastal populations to changes in climate. Several excellent papers delved into the urgent need for salvage archaeology at many important coastal sites around the world.
and showcased heroic efforts of island and coastal archaeologists to document and preserve archaeological remains threatened by sea-level rise and other climate-related changes. We encourage ICA members to send us reports on how climate change is affecting sites in their research areas and to think about proposing a climate-related session for the 2017 SAA’s in Vancouver BC (see the Announcements section for details).

As always we welcome your research updates, announcements for conferences and symposia relevant to the ICA community and notifications of your new publications for inclusion in the Newsletter!

Christina M. Giovas
Kristina Douglass
Co-Editors, *The Current*

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*Report on the Annual ICA Interest Group Meeting at the 81st SAA Meeting Orlando, Florida*

Reported by Victor Thompson

The ICA Interest Group conducted its annual business meeting in Orlando, Florida during the 81st meeting of the SAA. The meeting was presided over by interest group committee members, Victor Thompson (University of Georgia), Christina Giovas (University of Queensland), Scott Fitzpatrick (University of Oregon) and Todd Ahlman (Texas State University). Approximately 10 – 15 members were in attendance. The meeting commenced with status updates on past business, following which were discussions relating to submission procedures for ICA sponsored sessions and future activities to be undertaken by the Interest Group.

Agenda summary:

1. The creation of a Co-Editor position of *The Current* to assist Christina Giovas with the production of our newsletter. The new Co-Editor is Kristina Douglass.

2. Discussion of a field excursion (archaeological site or museum visit) in association with the annual SAA meeting in Vancouver. The Executive Committee will solicit proposals for this event.

3. The possibility of sponsoring a social event, such as an ICA meet and greet. Discussed was the possibly using our meeting time to function as this.
4. The possibility of a co-sponsored session with the SAA Committee on Climate Change that addresses threats to cultural resources in island and coastal regions (e.g., sea level rise). Also suggested was the possibility of applying to the Wenner-Gren Foundation to support additional conference activities associated with this theme.

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

The Island and Coastal Archaeology Group Announces a Call for Submissions

Proposed ICA Sponsored Session at the SAA 2017 Annual Meeting, March 29-April 2, 2016, Vancouver, BC.

Organizers of symposia with an island or coastal archaeology theme for the 82nd Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology to be held in Vancouver, BC are invited to apply for ICA sponsorship. Only one session can be sponsored. The sponsored symposium will be announced in the fall/winter issue of *The Current* and noted in the SAA meeting program. To be considered for sponsorship, session organizers should email a symposium abstract and participant list to the Meeting Committee. Contact Victor Thompson (vdthom@uga.edu) with the subject line “ICA Sponsored Session” no later than July 21, 2016. The award announcement will be made in August.

Southeastern Archaeological Conference to be Held in Athens, Georgia, USA – October 26-29, 2016

The 73rd annual Southeastern Archaeological Conference meeting will be hosted in Athens, Georgia, known as “The Classic City of the South”. This year the conference will be held at the Classic Center located in the heart of downtown Athens from October 26-29th, 2016. For more information about the conference and to register please visit the conference website at [http://www.southeasternarchaeology.org/annual-meeting/details/](http://www.southeasternarchaeology.org/annual-meeting/details/)

As a supplement to the official conference webpage, you can also find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/seac1conference](http://www.facebook.com/seac1conference)

Athens is known for its hip music scene, fantastic bars, distinctive vibe, and good (inexpensive) food. Check out [http://www.visitathensga.com/](http://www.visitathensga.com/) for more information on Athens.
The Paleoecology of Subarctic Seas (PESAS) is a consortium of archaeologists, historians, marine ecologists, oceanographers and climate modelers. The group operates as a working group of the Ecosystem Studies of Subarctic and Arctic Seas (ESSAS) subprogram in the Integrated Marine Biogeochemistry and Ecosystem Research (IMBER) program. PESAS is also a partner program with IHOPE Circumpolar Networks. Our goals are to better understand the ecodynamics of human-environment processes at various spatial and temporal scales across the subarctic North Pacific and North Atlantic regions. Three themes guide our work. These include 1) understanding the role of changing oceans and coasts as platforms for coastal adaptation and migration during the deglacial; 2) characterization of coupled atmospheric, oceanographic and ecological cycles from early to late Holocene and at millennial to decadal scales as they relate to human maritime adaptations, dispersal, settlement, and intensification of marine economies; and 3) changes to the marine ecosystem and sustainability of regional economies as they have transitioned through the expansion of colonial, commercial, and industrial incorporation over the past centuries to millennium. Scholars interested in learning more may consult the WGPESAS link on the ESSAS Working Groups page (http://www.imr.no/essas/working_groups/en) or contact Ben Fitzhugh (fitzhugh@uw.edu).

JOHN EVANS DISSERTATION PRIZE

John Evans (1941-2005) was an inspirational environmental archaeologist, responsible for advancing the discipline and fostering many of today’s top researchers in the field. His many books continue to make a contribution to practical and theoretical aspects of environmental archaeology. To honour the memory of John and his achievements within environmental archaeology, the Association for Environmental Archaeology (AEA) has an annual competition for the best undergraduate and Masters dissertations in any aspect of environmental archaeology.

2016 competition: A choice of prizes of £75 (please note that international students may be liable for the transfer costs) or 3-year membership subscriptions to the AEA will be awarded to the best undergraduate and Masters dissertation, which may be on any aspect of environmental archaeology worldwide. Abstracts from the winning dissertations will be published in the AEA newsletter (this is a condition of entry that all entrants will be agreeing to on submission of their dissertation). The John Evans Dissertation Prize winners will also be encouraged to submit an abridged version of their dissertation for publication in the Association’s journal, Environmental Archaeology, subject to the usual review process.

The AEA invites each Department of Archaeology (or other relevant department) to submit the dissertation of their best candidate by 31st July 2016. Submissions from individual students are not accepted. English is the preferred technical language of submission although the committee will also accept submissions in other languages, but these must be accompanied by an English summary (max. 2 pages) to conform to the submission rules. Departments wanting to submit in languages other than English should contact the prize administrator (Dr. Alex Livarda) to determine whether the submission can be accommodated. The results will be announced at the AEA autumn meeting in Rome, Italy, September 29–October 1 2016 (http://www.aea2016rome.com/overview.html). Please note that only digital copies (pdf) of dissertations will be accepted, and these should be sent to Dr Alex Livarda, who
RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Lycoming College Expedition to Idalion, Cyprus

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The Iron Age (c. 1050 – 350BCE), inland polity of Idalion, Cyprus has been actively excavated since the 1970s (Gaber 2008). In recent excavation seasons we have been investigating the ways that Idalion is reflective of both local inhabitants and foreign visitors. One area of recent work is called the City Sanctuary (figure 1), a location where the local population worshipped
their deities and worked in their honor. Other ritual areas at Idalion have material culture that is identified with other localities on the island and Cyprus’s Mediterranean neighbors. This information has inspired the team to determine why one area of the site is locally based while others have a larger national and international presence. The answer may lie in the purpose of the City Sanctuary. We have found that the pottery and inscriptions at this sanctuary are reflective of the local group inhabiting the domestic area, excavated in previous seasons, several hundred meters away. This domestic area has evidence of pottery processing, among other home-industry activities such as olive oil production. We are currently suggesting that the majority of pottery excavated in the City Sanctuary is made predominantly on site and represents local traditions. Conversely, other areas of Idalion reflect more imported goods brought by visitors. Petrographic analysis of wares to determine the validity of this statement has begun. Current research at Idalion also supports recent discussions of inter-island interactions and cultural development on Cyprus, with an expanding research agenda investigating the interactions between Idalion and the nearby coastal polity of Kition.

References Cited

Gaber, Pamela

Human-Plant Interactions on Barbuda, Lesser Antilles

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Since 2010, long-term human-plant interactions are under study on the island of Barbuda, Lesser Antilles, as part of a doctoral project by Anne-Marie Faucher, Université Laval (Quebec). This project is part of the larger Barbuda Historical Ecology Project at the Barbuda Research Center, directed by Dr. Sophia Perdikaris (CUNY-Brooklyn College), and is possible through National Science Foundation and SSHRC (Canada) grants.

Figure 1. Interior of the kitchen structure, Highland House archaeological site.
Using data from four archaeological sites dating from the prehistoric to the post-colonial British occupations, this project aims to examine the evolution of food and wood procurement, utilisation and management on this island from the Ceramic Age until the 19th century. Four different archaeobotanical methods of analysis (seeds, charcoal, phytoliths and starch grains) have been used and results confirmed that maize and manioc (cassava) were not present on any of the samples examined, though griddles have been found at the Indian Town Trail site. However, griddles might have been use for native Guinea corn, which was exported to Antigua under the Codrington family’s management of the island (1684 – 1870).

Charcoal data used to estimate tree size and species composition documents the island’s deforestation. Today, only secondary-growth forest is present, and this has certainly affected soil properties, and currently affects the preservation of archaeological sites. Small-scale cultivation was successful during the 17th through 19th century, while timber was also exported to other neighboring islands along with charcoal. Food was also imported from Europe, as confirmed by the presence of two barley grains from The Castle and Highland House kitchen structure.

Proyecto Costa Escondida, Quintana Roo, Mexico: Winter-Spring 2016 Field Season

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Since 2006, the Costa Escondida Project has focused on the interrelationships between the ancient Maya and their dynamic coastal environment along the shores of the Laguna Holbox, northern Quintana Roo, Mexico. A recent grant from the National Science Foundation has enabled the interdisciplinary team – involving faculty, students, and staff from six universities in the US, Mexico, and Israel – to expand its paleoenvironmental and paleoecological reconstruction efforts at the ancient Maya port of Vista Alegre, as well as initiate a series of on- and off-structure excavations at the site and its neighbor, Conil. The University of Haifa team, led by Beverly Goodman and Rohi Jaijel, completed the second phase of a marine sediment coring program and initiated a sub-bottom profiling sonar survey of the waters surrounding Vista Alegre. Patricia Beddows (Northwestern University) expanded hydrogeochemical sampling efforts across the diverse coastal ecosystems surrounding the site.
Geoarchaeological field methods enable the team to better understand sea-level fluctuations and the morphology of the shoreline and harboring locations over time, as well as changes in ecosystem biodiversity. Excavations, led by Nelda Issa and Ashuni Romero, have revealed a remarkable density and diversity of material culture – characteristic of a relatively small, but once-bustling port connected to coastal trade networks into the Postclassic Period. The excavation team has also encountered numerous human skeletal remains, which are being recovered and analyzed by Vera Tiesler, Andrea Cucina, and Julio Chi Keb from the Universidad Autónoma de Yucatan.

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The Puerto Peñasco Archaeology and Paleoenvironment Project

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The Puerto Peñasco Archaeology and Paleoenvironment Project includes survey, mapping, and test excavations at prehistoric shell middens on the edges of Estero Morúa and Bahía Adair near the northern Gulf of California Mexican community of Puerto Peñasco. This project began with reconnaissance surveys in the late 1990s. Recent work has included test excavations at four sites, La Morua, Otolith Hill, Ojo de Agua, and Los Tabanos. Midden shell at these sites is dominated by a few species of clams and oysters, and localities with pottery include Trincheras, Lowland Patayan, and Hohokam wares.
La Morua has extensive middens along an extinct channel of the Rio Sonoyta that entered Estero Morua. Surface artifacts include ground stone; obsidian flakes and points; pottery; shell tools; shell jewelry manufacturing debris; and animal bone (including sea turtle). Fish bones, crab claws, charcoal, and human bones are also present subsurface. Buried hearths yielded radiocarbon dates between AD 30 – 200 and AD 630 – 680 (1 sigma).

The other three sites are in Bahía Adair, which contains a series of dunes, tidal flats, and salinas. Otolith Hill is on a high dune at the edge of a tidal flat, and lacks pottery. In addition to shell, it contains abundant otoliths. Radiocarbon dates on otoliths center around 3800 BC. Ojo de Agua and Los Tabanos are on dunes above a salina near a former freshwater spring (Figure 1). Both sites have surface pottery. Buried deposits at Los Tabanos (Figure 2) likely represent earlier use of the area, similar to Otolith Hill.
Indian Town Trail a Pre-Columbian Site. Antigua and Barbuda, West Indies

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Archaeological research by Brooklyn College CUNY since 2006 on the island of Barbuda focuses on examining the long term human ecodynamics from first peopling to today. The Indian Town Trail project is the core of doctoral dissertation research carried out by Reaksha Persaud, Dept. of Anthropology, The Graduate Center, CUNY. This project is a part of The Barbuda Historical Ecology project directed by Dr. Sophia Perdikaris (Brooklyn College, and Graduate Center, CUNY).

The data and dates collected from the archaeological site of Indian Town Trail (ITT) shows that ITT is the only site on the island connecting the Amerindian cultures to the colonial time period. The questions surrounding the site are not only about understanding the people, time and place connections, but also whether there is a link between the Troumassoid inhabitants of ITT and the Barbudans of today. Preliminary analysis of the existing zooarchaeological material from excavated units (Figure 1) provides a unique look into the varied marine resource exploitation (inshore, off shore, and mangrove) that is atypical for Barbuda in both preceding and subsequent periods to ITT. The faunal data is indicative of wetter conditions during 1200 – 1300 AD pointing to a climatic change. Additional work will add to the chronological framework already established and will provide a deeper understanding of the island’s past occupation and resource exploitation by groups of different people.

Figure 1. Indian Town Trail excavation, Unit D, 2016.
FRAGSUS Project, Gozo, Malta

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The third, fourth and fifth field seasons of the FRAGSUS project on fragility and sustainability in the Maltese islands during the fourth and third millennia BC took place in Spring and Summer 2015 and Spring 2016, supported by the European Research Council. The Spring 2015 season examined the Neolithic temples of Santa Verna and Ggantija and the Bronze Age site of In Nuffara. Work at Santa Verna established the size and orientation of the temple and the timing of initial occupation, which began in the sixth millennium BC. One of the two “grain silos” excavated on In Nuffara revealed an interesting sequence from the Bronze Age until Classical Times (Figure 1). In the Summer 2015 season, work focused on the Neolithic temple of Kordin. The final season of Spring 2016 reopened a very small section of the temple of Skorba, reaching the earliest phase of occupation of the islands. In all this work, the aim has been to extract precise chronology, economic and environmental evidence through very extensive flotation of sediments. In parallel, work continued on the analysis of the pollen and snail cores, the Brochtorff Xaghra human remains, and the study of soils in the landscape. The research is led by Prof. Caroline Malone at Queen’s Belfast, and the current phase of research is coordinated by Prof. French (Geoarchaeology), Dr. Pace, Dr. Stock and Dr. Power (osteology), Dr. Stoddart (Landscapes), Ms. Stroud and Dr. Vella from the Universities of Cambridge and Malta, Heritage Malta and the Superintendence of Malta.

Figure 1. Stratigraphy in grain silo, In Nuffara

For further details:
http://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/FRAGSUS/
Recent Publications

Angelbeck, Bill

Antonis, Kotsonas

Baeye, M., R. Quinn, S. Deleu and M. Fettweis

Bayliss-Smith, Tim P. and Edvard Hviding

Benvenuti, M., A. Orlando, D. Borrini, L. Chiarantini, P. Costagliola, C. Mazzotta and V. Rimondi

Bovy, Kristine M., Jessica E. Watson, Jane Dolliver and Julia K. Parrish

Breivik, Heidi M. and Martin Callanan

Burns, Stephen J., Laurie R. Godfrey, Peterson Faina, David McGee, Ben Hardt, Lovasoa Ranivoharimanana and Jeannot Randrianasy

Cardillo, Marcelo and Federico Scartascini

Catherine, E. Pratt

Cooper, Victoria and Peta Knott

Crowther, Alison, Leilani Lucas, Richard Helm, Mark Horton, Ceri Shipton, Henry T. Wright, Sarah Walshaw, Matthew Pawlowicz, Chantal Radimilahy, Katerina Douka, Llorenç Picornell-Gelabert, Dorian Q. Fuller and Nicole L. Boivin


Flores, Carola, Valentina Figueroa and Diego Salazar 2015 Middle Holocene Production of Mussel Shell Fishing Artifacts on the Coast of Taltal (25° Lat South), Atacama Desert, Chile. *The Journal of Island and Coastal Archaeology* DOI: 10.1080/15564894.2015.1105884


Hardy, Karen 2015 Variable Use of Coastal Resources in


Martínez, Gustavo, Florencia Santos Valero, Gustavo Flensborg, Natalia Carden, Luciana Stoessel, Ana Paula Alcaraz and Erika Borges Vaz 2016 Was There a Process of Regionalization in Northeastern Patagonia During the Late Holocene? *The Journal of Island and Coastal Archaeology* DOI: 10.1080/15564894. 2016.1163756


Levin, Maureece J. and William S. Ayres 2015 Managed Agroforests, Swiddening, and the Introduction of Pigs in Pohnpei, Micronesia:
Phytolith Evidence from an Anthropogenic Landscape. Quaternary International. 
DOI:10.1016/j.quaint.2015.12.027.

McDonald, Jo and Megan Berry

MacInnes, Bre, Ben Fitzhugh and Darryl Holman


Nesbitt, Jason S.

Nunn, Patrick D. and Nicholas J. Reid

O‘Connell, J. F. and J. Allen

Perry, Jennifer E. and Michael A. Glassow

Pluckhahn, Thomas J., Alex D. Hodson, W. Jack Rink, Victor D. Thompson, R.R. Hendricks, Glen Doran, Grayal Farr, Alex Cherkinsky, and Sean P. Norman

Pluckhahn, Thomas, Victor D. Thompson, Alex Cherkinsky

Pluckhahn Thomas J., Victor D. Thompson, and W. Jack Rink

Powanda Winburn, Allysha, Sarah Kiley Schoff and Michael W. Warren


Radimilahy, Chantal M. and Zoë Crossland

Reitsema, Laurie J., Tad E. Brown, Carla S. Hadden, Russell B. Cutts, Maran E. Little and Brandon T. Ritchison
2015 Provisioning an Urban Economy: Isotopic Perspectives on Landscape Use and Animal Sourcing on the Atlantic Coastal Plain.


Sandweiss, Daniel H. and David A. Reid 2015 Negotiated Subjugation: Maritime trade and the Incorporation of Chincha into the Inca Empire. The Journal of Island and Coastal Archaeology. DOI: 10.1080/15564894.2015.1105885


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 1st and for the Fall/Winter Issue, November 1st. Submissions and inquiries may be directed to The Current Editor, Christina M. Giovas (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

- “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. 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.