Dear ICA Members,

Welcome to a double-issue of The Current! We want to jump right in by encouraging activism in 2018. The Society for American Archaeology annual meeting is taking place in Washington, D.C., April 11-15, 2018. As many island and coastal archaeologists will be heading to Washington, we want to echo the SAA’s call for action on legislative action that threatens cultural heritage. The SAA is working to stop H.R. 3990, the National Monument Creation and Protection Act, a bill being sponsored by Congressman Rob Bishop, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee. This bill restricts the establishment of National Monuments larger than 640 acres. Coastal and island archaeologists should also take particular note that this bill would also prohibit the creation of any new Marine National Monuments and allow existing monuments to be reduced in size. This bill threatens the Antiquities Act and we urge you all to consider taking action by navigating to the SAA’s website, where you can identify which elected representatives to contact to voice your concerns.

As you will see in the “Recent Publications” section, in 2017 island and coastal archaeologists produced abundant new data and syntheses covering important anthropological issues, including indigenous voices in archaeological theory, practice and knowledge production (Lepofsky et al. 2017; Searles 2017), the earliest known long-distance maritime migrations of Pleistocene peoples (Anderson 2017), Neanderthal adaptations (Romagnoli et al. 2017; Wragg Sykes 2017) and early trade in marine resources (Star et al. 2017), to name just a few. We have compiled close to 250 publications relevant to island and coastal archaeology from fifty different peer-reviewed journals and several presses. As you peruse these recent publications, please remember to regularly submit your new
publications for inclusion in future issues of the newsletter by filling out this online form. We regularly hear from archaeologists who read the newsletter that they are grateful to have learned about new research featured in the “Recent Publications” section. For young scholars, in particular, The Current serves as a good forum for raising your research profile.

Submit to American Anthropologist! The flagship journal of the American Anthropological Association has a new Associate Editor for Archaeology, Kathleen Morrison (University of Pennsylvania), herself an environmental archaeologist who has worked in island and coastal regions. In a recent conversation we had, she encouraged more archaeologists to submit their work for review in this high-profile journal. This is a good opportunity to reach a wide readership of anthropologists in all sub-fields!

In addition to submitting your new publications, we encourage you all to begin thinking about news items you can submit to the Newsletter in 2018. The more contributions we receive, the more successful the Newsletter will be in making island and coastal archaeologists around the world aware of active research projects, new publications and possibilities for collaborative work.

Finally, we would like to extend a big thank you to Christina Giovas for her tremendous service as Editor of The Current for the past five years. Christina made The Current an important forum for sharing coastal and island research, and the newsletter would not have been possible without her. As Christina steps away from her editorship, we would like to open a call for a new co-Editor to join Kristina Douglass beginning with the first issue of 2018. Interested archaeologists should contact Kristina directly to discuss the role at kdouglass@psu.edu.

With that we wish you all Happy Holidays and an excellent start to 2018!

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

MEETINGS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND CALLS FOR PAPERS

Joint Annual AIA & SCS Meeting, Boston, USA – January 4-7, 2018

The Joint Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) and the Society for Classical Studies (SCS) (formerly known as the American Philological Association) will take place in Boston, Massachusetts, January 4–7, 2018. For more information visit the meeting website.
Association for Art History Annual Conference, Courtauld Institute of Art and King’s College, London, UK – April 5-7, 2018

Sessions include *From the Phoenicians to the Celts: Toward a global art and architectural history of the ancient Mediterranean*. For more information see: https://www.archaeological.org/events/26115

51st Annual Meeting of the Canadian Archaeological Association, Winnipeg, Canada – May 2-6, 2018.

See conference website for more information and call for submissions: https://www.archaeological.org/events/26115

Island and Coastal Archaeology Interest Group Meeting, Washington D.C., USA – April 11-15, 2018

The SAA Island and Coastal Archaeology Interest Group will hold its annual business and member meeting at the 83rd Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology. All are welcome to attend. Meeting time and location will be announced in the final program to be posted on the SAA Website.

International Union of the Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences (UISPP) XVIII, Paris, France – June 3-9, 2018

The USSSP XVIII Congress will take place in Paris’ Latin Quarter earlier in June 2018 and includes two sessions on Coastal Prehistory and Submerged Landscapes. The call for abstracts is now open. The general them of the Congress is *Adaptation and Sustainability of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Societies Confronted to Climate Change*. The deadline for proposals of communications has been extended to December 20, 2017. For additional details see the Congress webpage.

Europa Lecture of the Prehistoric Society: Coastal Archaeology in Prehistory, University of York, UK – June 22-23, 2018

The Prehistoric Society Europa Conference 2018: *Coastal Archaeology in Prehistory* will be held at the University of York from 22–23 June 2018. This year the conference celebrates the achievements of Professor Geoff Bailey (University of York), who will be honoured with the Europa prize for his contribution to European prehistory. The conference will look at issues explored in Professor Bailey’s research on coastal archaeology including colonisation and
dispersal, exploitation of marine resources, shell midden studies and submerged landscapes. It will take place over two days, with the first day devoted to early career researchers.

Confirmed speakers for Saturday 23rd include: Chris Stringer (Natural History Museum), Clive Gamble (University of Southampton), Nena Galanidou (University of Crete), Helen Farr (University of Southampton) and Hein Bjerck (Norwegian University of Science and Technology).

Along with two full days of lectures, the conference will also include exhibitors and a poster display. Those interested in displaying a poster should send a 150 word abstract to Annabell Zander (az661@york.ac.uk) by May 20, 2018. Please include in the email your current title and organizational affiliation.

To book online via Eventbrite please follow this link: https://pseuropa2018.eventbrite.co.uk. For more information see: http://www.prehistoricsociety.org/events/event/europa_conference_2018/

ICAZ 20th Meeting of the Fish Remains Working Group, Portland, OR, USA - August 26-30, 2019

Mark your calendars, for the 20th Meeting of the Fish Remains Working Group (FRWG) set for August 26-30, 2019 in Portland Oregon, USA, followed by a weekend field trip to the Oregon Coast.

FRWG is a working group of the International Council for Archaeozoology. The group formed in 1980 at the Zoological Museum of the University of Copenhagen and has met regularly since then. Its members are an interdisciplinary consortium of researchers (archaeozoologists, archaeologists, zoologists, ichthyologists, historians, and fishery biologists) interested not only in the study of fish remains retrieved in archaeological sites from around the world, but also on any matter dealing with fishing, the fish trade, and fish consumption.

One of the main aims of the FRWG is to provide data of use in the management of fishery resources. The working group carries out this mandate by sponsoring biannual international conferences such as this one. More information about the FRWG is available at: https://www.alexandriaarchive.org/icaz/workfish.

The FRWG is an outstanding way to meet with scholars from around the world in a small, supportive atmosphere. Portland, Oregon is a perfect place for such gathering because fish were and continue to be of fundamental importance to indigenous people and the broader citizenry of the region.

The local organizer and host will be Virginia Butler (Portland State University (U.S.A.), with help from a planning committee: Madonna Moss (University of Oregon, U.S.A.), Iain McKechnie
(University of Victoria, Canada), Elizabeth Reitz (University of Georgia, U.S.A.) and Jen Harland (University of the Highlands, Orkney).

Please consider joining us in August 2019! We will have a website in place by April 2018, to help you plan your participation. Questions? Contact Virginia Butler at virginia@pdx.edu

Past Meeting Report: The 27th Congress of the International Association for Caribbean Archaeology

The 27th Congress of the International Association for Caribbean Archaeology (IACA) was held from July 23-29, 2017 at the Divi Carina Bay Beach Resort & Casino on St. Croix, the largest of the United States Virgin Islands. Since its founding in 1961, the IACA/AICA Congress has provided an international forum for academics, amateur archaeologists, archaeological enthusiasts, museum professionals and the general public to discuss issues and current research in Caribbean archaeology. The biennial congress brings together an international research community to promote interdisciplinary dialogue and highlight current research on the prehistory and history of the Circum-Caribbean. At this year’s Congress plenary sessions spanned topics as diverse as “Cultural Resource Management, Heritage, and Public Archaeology”, “Climate Change and Human Eco-Dynamics”, and “Myth, Symbolism and Iconography”. Papers were presented with simultaneous translation into English French and Spanish.

Congress attendees were treated to excursions to the Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve and to sites in the Salt River Estuary. Among these was Estate Concordia, the birthplace of Hubert Harrison, an important leader in the Harlem Renaissance of the late 19th/early 20th Century (pictured below). Attendees also toured the Columbus Landing Site, where Columbus set ashore in 1493 on his second sailing to the New World. The site includes the Ball Court found and removed to Denmark in 1922-1923 by Gudman Hatt, as well as Fort Salé, an English, Dutch and French fort active from 1640-1696. While there has been much looting of the site over the years, major portions remain intact. At the Visitor Contact Station of the Park, Congress participants were able to view artifacts recovered from Hatt’s 1922-1923 excavation, placed on display for the occasion (pictured below).

The IACA member-wide business meeting was conducted on July 27th. A proposal for the development of a Caribbean Threatened and Endangered Sites Task Group was brought forward by Joshua Torres (National Park Service) for discussion and accepted by the membership (see news item below). Full meeting minutes are available for review by the public at: https://blogs.uoregon.edu/iaca/files/2017/11/IACA-2017-Business-Meeting-Minutes-2mxspdh.pdf
Caribbean Threatened and Endangered Sites Task Group

At its 2017 congress on St. Croix, US Virgin Islands, the International Association for Caribbean Archaeology (IACA; [https://blogs.uoregon.edu/iaca/](https://blogs.uoregon.edu/iaca/)) developed a Caribbean Threatened and Endangered Sites Task Group (TESTG). The group focuses on the preservation and protection of Caribbean archaeological heritage with a focus on fragile resources actively, or projected to be, impacted by human activities (i.e., development, looting etc.) and by extension, climate change. With the recent devastation wrought across the Caribbean region by multiple powerful storms in the 2017 hurricane season, this initiative becomes more important than ever.

Comprising cultural resource professionals and scholars actively working in the Caribbean, with expertise and interest in island and coastal settings, the group serves as a nexus for information sharing, preservation guidance, and network support to build capacity and effect change at institutional and community levels in the region. The group also welcomes dialog with other like preservation groups and organizations in similar island and coastal settings to promote dialog and facilitate action.
For more information regarding the group please contact the IACA TESTG board liaison, Dr. Joshua Torres (joshmtorres@gmail.com; joshua_torres@nps.gov), or member at large Dr. Meredith Hardy (meredith_hardy@nps.gov).

A coastal site in the U.S. Virgin Islands experiencing rapid erosion by the sea (left); exposed shell and ceramic within wave-washed midden deposits (right). Photos courtesy of Joshua Torres)

**RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS**

**Extractive Ergology in Pigment Mining, Desert Coast of Chile**

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The site San Ramón 15, located in the Cordillera de la Costa of Taltal, Northern Chile, is an iron oxide pigment mine exploited during the Early Archaic (ca. 12,000-10,500 BP) and the Late Archaic (ca. 4,300 BP), corresponding today as the oldest mine in the continent (Salazar et al. 2011). Although pigment is widely registered along the prehispanic sequence, featured in offerings associated to coastal burials, red Chinchorro mummy preparation, rock art, and as part of a waterproof mix applied on sea lion leather rafts, little is known about the extraction, processing, and distribution of this resource.

Thus, our study aims to reconstruct the local pigment mining chaîne operatoire from an ethnoarchaeological approach, supplemented with a morphofunctional and traceological characterization of the associated assemblage, formed by hammerstones with a low level of formatization and seashell instruments that show use-wear, to evaluate a possible link between artifact diversity and functional categories. At present, we are developing a protocol to collect pertinent data that would allow us to grasp the complexity of this process (FONDECYT 1151203).

This approach intends to ameliorate our understanding on prehispanic pigment procurement and production, given its importance as a distinctive cultural trait in the symbolic and ritual scope of the desert coast past populations, enrichening the traditional description of these groups, beyond their subsistence strategies.

References

Settlement and Food Systems of Pingelap, Micronesia: The 2017 Field Season

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Pingelap is a coral atoll located in Pohnpei State, Micronesia. During the summer of 2017, the authors traveled to Pingelap to conduct field research with the aim of better understanding the chronology, landscape history, and food production practices on the atoll. This work was funded by grants from the Wenner-Gren Foundation and Dumbarton Oaks. Fieldwork included pedestrian survey, shovel testing, the excavation of three test units, soil sampling, interviews with local people about farming, and collection of botanical and faunal reference materials. Along with the three visiting archaeologists, Pingelap residents Eric Ernest, Fred Ohrio, and Herold Boaz were an integral part of the field crew.

Notably, one of the test units (TU1), placed at one of the highest elevation points on the inhabited islet, had cultural deposits extending to a depth of three meters. The uppermost 30 centimeters mostly consisted of cultural material from the twentieth century. However, below this were thick concentrations of fish bone and shell, as well as several prehistoric artifacts at a depth below two meters. These include a shell adze exhibiting macroscopic usewear damage, two shell beads, and

Figure 1. Prehistoric artifacts recovered from Test Unit 1. Clockwise from left: Shell adze, two shell beads, portion of shell pendant.
a shell pendant fragment (Figure 1). Currently, we are in the process of dating the sequence and analyzing plant and animal remains from this test unit. 

We thank Mordain David and the Pohnpei HPO staff, especially Shirley-Ann Palasko, who accompanied us to Pingelap in our first week, and Jason Lebehn, who offered tremendous logistical support. Dr. Berysin Salomon, Nanmwarki (King) of Pingelap, and the traditional leadership allowed us to work on their island; Pernes Pernas, Acting Mayor of Pingelap, helped facilitate our stay; and countless members of the Pingelapese community welcomed us and helped our research.

Hunter-Gatherer Monumentality and Environmental Tipping Points in Coastal Louisiana, USA

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Our applied geological and archaeological project studies the long-term history of indigenous towns, landscapes, and ecosystems along the Mississippi River Delta and their relationships to the formation of the river delta over thousands of years (Figure 1). This multi-year, cross-disciplinary project, called Resilience in the Ancient Gulf South (RAGS), is generating novel data on human-environmental dynamics before and after French and Spanish occupation of the region, including what ecological conditions led to “tipping points” that forced native communities to retreat and relocate their towns. Native American communities along Louisiana’s coast will be among the first communities forced to relocate due to rising sea levels; the New York Times has already labeled the indigenous Isle de Jean Charles community as America’s first “climate change refugees”. Environmental
degradation, climate change, land loss, erosion, and subsidence are all major threats to Louisiana’s prehistoric cultural heritage, as well as the livelihood of modern descendant communities. We hope through our work that we can study endangered coastal, prehistoric archaeological sites, learn more about what constitutes sustainability and resilience in the face of environmental dynamism, and create knowledge that will help tribal organizations gain funding for the preservation of historic landscapes, and if necessary, to relocate to more durable landforms.

Late Moundbuilding Settlements of Southern Brazil (Santa Catarina Coast)

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The sambaqui (shellmound) pre-ceramic culture has an enduring occupational history (ca. 7.5 to 0.9 kyBP) at the southern coast of Santa Catarina, Brazil (Figure 1). The final phase of this occupation (ca. 2.1-0.9 kyBP) is marked by the decline in shellmound building and transition to organic-rich earthen mounds (late sambaquis), with distinctive faunal composition but remarkable continuity as regards lithic and bone technology, as well as funerary mounding-up formation processes. Although environmental re-shaping of the coastal landscape along late Holocene are certainly involved into these changes, cultural processes are also at stake, possibly related to the arrival of hinterland Je groups. Their thin-walled ceramics appear by the end of the period, after what seems to have been a long and gradual period of interaction.

Figure 1. Research area and archaeological sites.
As these late-mounded sites are still poorly known, this research aims to map their distribution, chronology, and compositional diversity in order to understand the processes of interaction established between both groups and the strategies of occupation and organization of Je late-coming settlers. This work is part of the Je Landscapes of Southern Brazil research program, sponsored by a joint AHRC/FAPESP grant. After a recognition field season in February, future campaigns will focus on regional survey, mapping, GPR/GNSS-RTK modelling, and exploratory excavations in several sites to record stratigraphy and collecting sedimentary, faunal and $^{14}$C and $^{13}$/$^{12}$C samples. The expected results are refinement of the chronology and territorial patterns of these groups, as well as insights into the formation processes and cultural/functional variability of their sites.

**Socioeconomic Legacies of Landscape Management in Antigua, West Indies**

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Contemporary environmental challenges in Antigua, West Indies, including landscape instability and soil quality loss, are the legacies of pre-Columbian and historic landscape management decisions. Anthony Tricarico’s ongoing doctoral research seeks to inform how past land use has impacted the socioeconomic and environmental realities of contemporary Antiguan farmers. The pre-Columbian period was defined by a marked decrease in biodiversity across the island, which created conditions conducive to environmental degradation. Building on this legacy, Antigua was later dedicated to sugarcane monoculture for nearly 300 years. The changing human-environmental dialectic through time and across space created a coupled natural-human system defined by nonlinearities and path dependencies by multiple actors. This research employs a variety of geoarchaeological methods to inform the physical and chemical impacts of pre-Columbian and historic agricultural practices on contemporary soil quality. Additionally, this research employs the use of semi-structured interviews to incorporate local farmers as active participants in the research process. Collaboration with local farmers is essential for developing sustainable mitigation solutions to environmental problems and for understanding potential

Figure 1. Anthony Tricarico taking core samples on Antigua.
future trajectories for sustainable land management. Thus far, geomorphological surveys and soil sample collection across four sites (Betty’s Hope, Elliot’s Estate, Warner’s Estate, and Indian Creek) have revealed indications of physical and chemical soil degradation and landscape instability. All four sites collectively span the pre-Columbian and historic periods, affording unique insights into the implications of nearly 4,000 years of land management decisions.

Excavation and Relocation of a Wooden Shipwreck in San Juan Harbor, Puerto Rico

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A historic wooden shipwreck was excavated and relocated in San Juan Harbor, Puerto Rico. The wreck was detected within the dredging area for the new Isla Grande Crowley Terminal (Figure 1). In coordination with the Consejo de Arqueología Subacuática and the PRSHPO and the USACE, the author proposed relocation to preserve the wreck. The exposed bow was in 21 ft. (6.4 m) of water (Figure 2), with the stern buried in 10 ft. (3 m) of mud. Following excavation and mapping in zero visibility, high-pressure air was injected to release the hull. Relocation was successfully conducted on April 1, 2016, towing the shipwreck in mid-water with a small tugboat in reverse, with even the fragile marine fauna arriving at a new location out of harm’s way (Figures 3 – 5).

The length of the hull is 72 ft. (22 m) above the keelson, and 23 ft. (7 m) wide amidships. The wood has been identified as Douglas fir and southern yellow pine. The wreck was initially C14 dated within the Nuclear Bomb Spike, with incisive dating by AMS of the outer tree ring of pine from the lower hull, between 1805 and 1936. This engine-powered merchant vessel was built in the U.S. during the Great Depression, tentatively Pocahontas, sunk on December 5, 1965.
The most intriguing artifact is an Afro-Caribbean wooden statuette, 19 cm long, C14 dated in the late 18th century, tentatively the head of a Batón de Muerte of the Palo de Mayombe religion, presumably post-depositional and contrary to the view of shipwrecks as “time capsules.” This shipwreck is significant to the “post-schooner” history of Caribbean maritime commerce, the archaeology of late wooden-hulled vessels, and the history of San Juan Harbor.

Figure 3. Bow area of Crowley shipwreck, vertical view with PVC grid in place, during a rare moment of limited visibility, taken with wide-angle go-pro camera.

Figure 4. Wrought iron nail retrieved in-situ from Crowley shipwreck, initially suggesting a 19th century schooner, subsequently identified as an engine-powered vessel.

Figure 5. Relocating the shipwreck in mid-water, suspended from eleven lift bags with combined capacity of 22 tons, with tugboat operating in reverse.
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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 1st and for the Fall/Winter Issue, November 1st. Submissions and inquiries may be directed to The Current Co-Editor, Kristina Douglass (kdouglass@psu.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).
- Submit recent publications by filling out this Google form.

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).
- **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 and a written statement from any individuals identifiable in photos granting their consent for the SAA to publish their photo.

Submit descriptions and images as separate files to newsletter Co-Editor, Kristina Douglass, at kdouglass@psu.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.