2013 Monthly Speakers

Tuesday January 22nd, 2013 @ 7:30 p.m.

Descanso Notched Points: Innovation, Culture, and Interaction

Presented by Andrew Pigniolo

Distinctive foliate projectile points with multiple side notches, called here Descanso Notched points, reflect a narrow distribution in space and probably time. Their distribution in northern Baja California and southern San Diego County suggests a short-lived innovation. The narrow frequency distribution of this style provides a marker for both group territory and interaction sphere approximately 7,000 years BP. This has implications for modeling mobility and exchange in the distant past and leaves us with questions about why such a unique innovation was so localized.

Tuesday February 26th, 2013 @ 7:30 p.m.

The Processing and Technological Application of Asphaltum in Southern California

Presented by Kaitlin Brown

Asphaltum, also referred to as bitumen or tar, is a naturally occurring petroleum by-product used for thousands of years by native Californians as an adhesive and waterproofing agent. Asphaltum fragments, cakes, and asphaltum encrusted artifacts preserve well in the archaeological record and are found throughout California coastal and Channel Island deposits. Native peoples in southern California left behind an asphaltum production tool kit that is easily identifiable in the cultural material. In this presentation, I will discuss the research I have conducted on asphaltum production specifically focusing on its acquisition, processing, application, and functional analysis at a Late Holocene Site on San Nicolas Island. Using a multidisciplinary methodology, I will show the many activities involved in producing a tool that utilizes asphaltum and its long technological heritage in place before European contact.

Tuesday March 26th, 2013 @7:30 p.m.

Reconstruction of Life on the Southern California Coast

Presented by Dr. Tori Randall

Information pertaining to human biology, nutrition, and paleopathology can be gained from the study of human bones, and it is well known that analysis of skeletal material contributes to the knowledge of past populations. The lifestyle and behavior of a group of prehistoric southern Californians has been investigated, and
an osteological approach was used to provide a broad perspective on the health and nutrition, behavior, and population history of the coastal skeletal population.

Research on the skeletal population has shed light on individual behavior patterns that has added to our knowledge of the population’s lifestyle and our knowledge of southern California’s prehistory. Inferences about the general health and behavior of the population have been made through the study of skeletal indicators of dietary deficiency and stress, dental disease, interpersonal violence, osteoarthritis, and behavioral skeletal markers. Information about general subsistence behavior and mobility has been acquired through the study of differences in upper and lower limb diaphyseal robusticity and shape. Finally, the migration history of the southern Californians has been illuminated through the study of cranial morphology.

Tuesday April 23rd, 2013 @7:30 p.m.

**Does San Diego County have a chronology problem? And why can’t we agree on this like everywhere else?**

Presented by Dr. Mark Becker

Despite over 80 years of archaeological work in San Diego County, there’s still no consensus on a chronological scheme. This in itself is an interesting problem whereas other regions seem to settle on a basic chronology early on. This talk is not intended to solve this problem, or even propose a new scheme, but simply explore the reasons why this issue remains without resolution. One important aspect of the chronology problem concerns the non-formalization of the lithic assemblage. Lithic artifacts are often a corner stone of chronological frameworks since 99 percent of prehistory is composed of this artifact type. This non-formalization of the San Diego lithic assemblage should not be viewed as a purely expedient technology with little thought, but instead, as an alternative strategy that was both fairly unique to the region, and was also very successful throughout the Holocene Period.

Tuesday May 28th, 2013 @7:30 p.m.

**Maya Vases Speak: The Story of a Peten Prince’s Sacrifice Told in Glyphs and Iconography**

Presented by Dr. Judith S. Green Wells

The subject of this illustrated lecture developed when a bowl recently gifted to the San Diego Museum of Man in the Dr. Geoffrey A. Smith Collection came to my attention. It has rich iconography of calendrical vocalizing birds and a partly translatable text that fascinated me because it included the rare glyphs YAX CH’AB (“first blood sacrifice”). Working with Michel Quenon and Erik Boot, both experienced epigraphers and iconographers, we discovered other vessels in the
Justin Kerr Mayavase database for comparison. One from that database revealed explicitly three important aspects of the rite that had not been discussed in print. Also there is evidence that indicates that these vases were specifically made as gifts to important visitors at the feasts commemorating the ritual. We know that many of these treasures ended up in the tombs of their noble recipients. The vase thus "speaks" not only of the rite, and the prince and kin, but also reveals where he came from as the text includes an emblem glyph identifying the polity of Hixwitz, Guatemala.

When more vessels scattered in museums and private collections can be translated, even more can be deduced about Classic Maya history in the Guatemalan Peten. Of course, this in no way replaces the wealth of information gained when vases are excavated in situ by archaeologists.

_**Saturday June 22nd, 2013 @8:00 p.m.**_

**From Abalone to Seals to Foxes: Archaeology as a Tool for Managing California’s Natural Resources**

*Presented by Dr. Todd Braje*

Over the last decade, scientists have increasingly recognized the power of archaeological data to help evaluate the health and structure of extant ecosystems and contribute to a better understanding of the nature of ancient ecosystems. In a world beset with collapsing fisheries, coastal shell middens can provide a rich source of information on the ecology and evolution of ancient marine ecosystems and the long history of human environmental interactions. On California’s Channel Islands, where maritime peoples lived for at least 13,000 years, archaeological research raises interesting questions about the antiquity of human impacts on coastal fisheries, shifting ecological baselines, and the supposedly "natural" states that modern fisheries and ecosystem managers seek to sustain or restore.

*NOTE: This will be the first of our Summer Lectures, held on a Saturday evening in the courtyard at Los Peñasquitos Adobe. The Saturday Evening Lectures will replace the usual 4th Tuesday Programs during the summer months only.*

**There will be no 4th Tuesday Programs in June, July, or August.**

The public is invited to arrive early and bring a picnic dinner, chairs, and drinks. It can get cool in the canyon at night – especially when there is “June gloom” around, so long-sleeves, jackets, and/or blankets are recommended. Bug repellent is also recommended. SDCAS will provide desert. The program begins at 8:00 p.m. with the lecture following some short announcements.
Saturday July 27th, 2013 @8:00 p.m.

**Jesus, Josephus, and the Migdal Mosaic: Rethinking the First-Century Galilee Boat**

Presented by Dr. Jerome Hall

*Presentation on the data and narrative and often perverted dialogue the two carry on.*

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Saturday August 24th, 2013 @8:00 p.m.

**BEERology: Craft, Culture, and Civilization**

Presented by Dr. Rex Garniewicz

*Over 10,000 years ago hunter-gatherers crafted the first brew. Since then, beer has spread across the globe and has come to be known by many names. Brewing beer led us to grow crops, build cities, and write the first recipe. As our relationship with beer continued, it became part of our daily life, religion, and culture. Craft beer reflects the foundations of civilization. Like the earliest brewers, today’s craft brewers are innovators who add new ingredients, techniques, and styles in search of the perfect beer. Their quest will never end.*

*NOTE:* This will be the last of our Summer Lectures, held on a Saturday evening in the courtyard at Los Peñasquitos Adobe. The Saturday Evening Lectures will replace the usual 4th Tuesday Programs during the summer months only.

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Tuesday September 24th 2013 @7:30 p.m.

**In Search of the American Dream: Unaccompanied Youth and the Journey North**

*Presented by Linda Sanchez, M.A.*

Thousands of minors risk their lives every year by making the dangerous journey to come to the United States (U.S.) on their own and without the required documentation; these young people are termed unaccompanied minors by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). These youth come to the U.S. for a variety of reasons, including economic hardship, civil unrest in their indigenous country, and abandonment by their parents or other family members. Although there are about 500 of these young individuals detained every day, very little research has been conducted on them, as most immigration research focuses on other facets of immigration such as economic consequences. This study focuses on unaccompanied minors from Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Mexico while they were housed at a shelter located in Southern California. An important aim of this study was that it would serve as an opportunity for the unaccompanied minors to describe their worlds in their own words.

Tuesday October 22nd 2013 @7:30 p.m.

**Back to Africa: Some Thoughts on the Archaeology of a Neglected Continent**

*Presented by Dr. Tim Gross*

Dr. Gross will discuss some of the archaeology he saw on his recent trip to Uganda and will contrast it with his 1976 work in Egypt. He will also share a few observations about the process of doing archaeology in Africa and prospects for the future.

Tuesday November 26th 2013 @7:30 p.m.

**The Warner-Carrillo Ranch House**

*Presented by Susan D. Walter*

One of the most gratifying aspects of their work has been seeing several of their projects successfully culminating in museums or repurposed structures that
interpret the past based on their field work and archival research. We are very proud our work has benefitted the public.

These end products, of course, do not occur in an ivory tower. Large numbers of highly talented specialists contribute amazing amounts of work to produce a viable museum. A number of awards have been bestowed upon the various people who have contributed to these projects.

The Warner-Carrillo Ranch House is an example of one of these successful outcomes. Susan will describe the excavations in and around the adobe structure, mention some of the interesting items found, the restoration of the dwelling, and describe the opening of the building as a museum. She will conclude with a description of hopes for future work to be done in this fascinating area of San Diego County’s back country.