The SHA Newsletter

This Issue

2.... President’s Corner
3.... Editorial
4.... 2014 SHA & ACUA Elections
15.. Seattle 2015
16.. Opinion & Debate
   16.. News from ACUA
   17.. Student Subcommittee News
   17.. PEIC: A Huge Game of Chess
20.. Images of the Past
21.. Sprague Library Appeal
22.. Current Research
   23.. Australasia & Antarctica
   23.. Canada - Ontario
   25.. Great Britain & Ireland
   26.. Latin America
   26.. USA - Gulf States
   29.. USA - Pacific West
31.. Paul Courtney Memorial Conference

SEATTLE 2015
PERIPHERIES AND BOUNDARIES
I want to use the ongoing saga of the National Geographic Diggers program to address a topic that we all need to actually care about, not just pay lip service to: public outreach. You are probably thinking, “Hey, we always have a public day at my site,” or “I give lots of talks to school children.” And how many people do you actually reach? One hundred? Two hundred? One thousand? Jerry Milanich (1991:109) wrote that an article in the New York Times about the Hernando de Soto expedition reached more people than all the people who will ever read everything that he and his colleagues will ever write, teach, or say about the archaeology of Hernando de Soto. That is the power of the popular media.

Do we really want to get involved with the media beyond the occasional “serious” documentary? Or are they something to be tolerated so that we can get on to the important work at hand (like figuring out whether those are cut or wrought nails or can we really put in one hundred shovel tests a day?). We all say we think that public outreach is important (it is our Ethical Principle #7), but are we willing to compromise to reach the masses? I realize that compromise is a dirty word these days and that working with the popular media can be seen as the mark of the media whore and not a serious scientist. I am not suggesting we sell out, but perhaps a little buy-in would help.

We are blessed with possibly the coolest job on the planet. Heck, even Captain Picard wrestled with the decision of whether to pursue his interest in archaeology or attend Starfleet Academy. The public loves the idea of archaeology, so their support should be a given, right? Wrong! We have taken that initial support and have squandered it. If someone comments, “You’re an archaeologist? That’s so interesting!” we quickly disabuse them of that opinion by going into mind-numbing detail on ceramic analysis or heuristic approaches to artifact interpretation.

But, hey, we are scientists and this is what we do. Yes, but do we have to go into excruciating detail? My sister once opined that our parents liked what I did for a living more than what she did (she’s a systems analyst for Hewlett-Packard). I replied they didn’t understand what she did. She launched into an exhaustive description of WANs, LANs, and blade farms. I said, “You mean you make computers talk to each other?” She sighed and rolled her eyes and said, “It is a lot more complicated than that!” “Of course,” I replied, “and there is a lot more to what I do than just digging up old stuff. They just don’t want the tedious details. They are satisfied with the romantic big picture. So that’s what I give them.”

I think most people are that way. If they over-romanticize what we do, should we correct them? Should we lecture them on what they need to know and why they should care? Perhaps, but we need to work on our delivery. Nobody likes...
Editorial
Alasdair Brooks

The Future of the SHA Newsletter: Part II

As mentioned in the Spring issue of this publication, the Board of Directors discussed a range of possible formats regarding the future of the SHA Newsletter. Along with Co-Publications editor Annalies Corbin (my fellow elected editor on the Board), I have now been appointed to a small committee that has been tasked with making a final recommendation to the Board on this issue at the end of August.

The consensus of the Board is that the future of the Newsletter likely lies in a primarily digital format, and Dr. Corbin and I will be exploring a range of digital publication options over the coming months. Our priority is to make sure that any final product offers an improvement on the Newsletter in its current print-focused format, rather than a simple replacement of print with digital.

A formal and detailed announcement on the final decision regarding the Newsletter’s future format—likely to be implemented starting with the Spring 2015 issue—will be made in my editorial in the Fall Newsletter. Until then, SHA members are still very welcome to offer their thoughts on this issue. If you would like to share your opinions, do please feel free to email me at my home email address: <alasdair.brooks@hush.com>. I will be sure to share your thoughts with Dr. Corbin as we study our options.

References:


Olson, Randy 2009 Don’t Be Such a Scientist. Island Press, Washington, DC.

being lectured to. I see this at home when I slip into “professor mode” at the dinner table. My family’s eyes glaze over and any important information I was trying to impart falls on deaf ears. Does that mean we quit spreading the good word about archaeology? Of course not, but we shouldn’t execute a data dump on folks who ask us what’s the greatest thing we have ever found. We have two audiences: our colleagues and the public, and each should be approached differently.

This is why we (SHA and the SAA and the AIA) are working with National Geographic: to reach a larger demographic who might have an interest in archaeology and to make their show Diggers better. Right now, it is lively and fun. The hosts are over-the-top silly and there is the excitement of finding hidden artifacts. There are also some educational aspects that have been worked in. They give a brief history of the sites to which the Diggers are invited. Whenever an artifact is found, they insert a graphic of what it would look like cleaned up and how it functioned and, yes, a potential value is assigned on some cases. They end each episode with a local scholar helping them identify different artifacts and why they are important (artifact value is never the basis for assessing importance for that scholar). So why the ruckus?

There are two groups who really hate the show: serious metal detectorists who feel the antics of the show’s hosts portray all detectorists in a bad light, and archaeologists who see the assigning of value to an artifact as a major breach of archaeological ethics (see one of the responses to my recent blog—<www.sha.org/blog>). The rest of us are rather ambivalent about the show. We don’t particularly care for it, but neither do we feel moved to break out the torches and pitchforks. Perhaps we should become more engaged?

The mood in the nation these days is to cut “unnecessary spending” and provide jobs. Section 106 may provide jobs for a lot of archaeologists, but most businesses see it as just another hoop they need to jump through—an impediment to them providing “real” jobs. If this starts to resonate with the general public, the law could be in serious jeopardy. So far, the general public is on our side and we need to work to keep them that way. Not just those who watch PBS, but the millions more who watch reality TV on network television.

And while they are watching, we can keep pressuring National Geographic to add more real archaeology to the show, but without it becoming a “You’ve had your fun, now sit down and listen to some science!”

Archaeology is fun, and we shouldn’t be ashamed of that. Randy Olson (2009) has written an excellent book, Don’t Be Such a Scientist, which looks at how we can better communicate with the general public. His four admonitions are: Don’t be so cerebral, Don’t be so literal minded, Don’t be such a poor storyteller, and Don’t be so unlikeable. It is worth reading, because we are trained to talk to colleagues, not to regular folk—regular folk who actually might not agree that the billions spent complying with the National Historic Preservation Act has been worth it because we know a lot more about the Archaic Period in eastern North Carolina.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation is gathering good examples of what we have learned from 50 years of the NHPA archaeology. It has been like pulling teeth to get any examples and most of the ones that have come in don’t “play well in Peoria,” as the politicians used to say about pleasing the common man. If we are to retain the gains we have made in the past half century, we can and must do better. But not all at once. Perhaps an example or two of good archaeology in a reality TV show is a good place to start.

No one learns if no one is listening.
2014 SHA and ACUA Elections

Note: Only the candidate’s present position, candidate statements, and photographs are printed in the Newsletter. For full details of each candidate’s biographical statement, please see the SHA website (<www.sha.org>).

TREASURER

Sara F. Mascia, RPA

Present Position:
Vice President, Historical Perspectives, Inc., Westport, Connecticut

Given the qualifications and experience outlined in your biographical statement, what do you believe you can contribute to SHA if elected as SHA Treasurer?

In my role as Treasurer for SHA, I have endeavored, along with the members of the SHA board, to reduce expenses and rebuild the Society’s reserve funds in order to ensure that SHA remains financially healthy in a challenging economy. I believe that the growth and maintenance of our organization depends on the stability of our reserves, which enables the Society to accomplish long-term goals. Over the last several years I have worked closely with our investment account manager to slowly increase our reserves to a level considered to be appropriate.

The most challenging aspect of the role of Treasurer is keeping our fees as stable as possible while working to safeguard all of the unique services that the Society provides to the membership. My experience with CRM finance, academic grant management, association budget coordination, investment management, and accounting, combined with the recognition of the unique elements that make up our Society, will enable me to work with the board and our Executive Director on maintaining future balanced budgets.

If elected to serve as a Treasurer of SHA what priorities would you emphasize taking into account SHA’s missions and goals, ongoing committee activities, and the management and financial challenges of the Society?

For the last several years, I have been fortunate to serve as the Treasurer for the Society. In that time, with the help of the entire Society board, we have placed SHA on a firm financial foundation that has enabled us to maintain the production of high-quality publications and well-attended (as well as motivating) conferences.

My experience with SHA and other associations has enabled me to meet and work with peers and students on pertinent issues encountered by all working archaeologists. SHA has been a thriving organization for well over four decades and as a member of the board, I believe it is our responsibility to encourage both student and professional participation in our organization. I sincerely believe that the promotion of our discipline, as well as the diverse projects that our members are working on, provides a bridge for the public to understand the research aims of all historical archaeologists.

If I am reelected to the board, my goals are to encourage the expansion of our public presence (e.g., the website) and to continue to advocate for our student members, while maintaining fiscal responsibility for the entire membership. I believe that SHA’s support for student members and the promotion of the spirit of volunteerism is vital to the continued growth of the Society.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David R. Starbuck, RPA

Present Position:
Professor of Anthropology, Plymouth State University, New Hampshire

Given the qualifications and experience outlined in your biographical statement, what do you believe you can contribute to SHA if elected as a Board Member?

As an academic, I have shared my love for historical archaeology with my classes for nearly forty years, and I believe that my best experiences in this field have come from working with both students and the public. My summer field schools have stressed public outreach for many years, with avocational archaeologists working side by side with
professionals and college students to form a dedicated and experienced team every summer. I have learned to share an awareness of cultural resources with a diverse constituency, and I believe that my excitement for historical archaeology enters into everything that I do.

I also have many years of experience in writing and editing for various journals and newsletters, often focusing on reaching “popular” audiences with a minimum of jargon but with much passion for discovering and interpreting the past in ways that are meaningful to just about everyone. I enjoy teaching and excavating, and I emphatically love being an archaeological storyteller to anyone who will listen. If elected, I will work to expand our audience through public education and by helping students to better prepare for the challenges in our field.

If elected to serve as a director of SHA what priorities would you emphasize taking into account SHA’s missions and goals, ongoing committee activities, and the management and financial challenges of the Society?

I am proud to be a long-term member of SHA and am delighted to have been nominated for the SHA Board of Directors. If elected, I would like to work with several aspects of public education, including programs to reduce the looting of historic sites, increased television programming (“better storytelling!”), and more partnerships with archaeological societies in other countries. As a teacher, I am eager to strengthen the training of our students, and as a preservationist, I am eager to find more ways to work together with historic preservation programs to the benefit of both disciplines (my university offers a Master’s in Historic Preservation, so I am committed to reaching out to colleagues in this related field). Above all, I want to expand our public outreach so that everyone “out there” will want to become an historical archaeologist!

Patricia M. Samford

Present Position:
Director, Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, Maryland Historical Trust

Give the qualifications and experience outlined in your biographical statement, what do you believe you can contribute to SHA if elected as a Board Member?

My 30-plus years working as an historical archaeologist in museum, academic, and cultural resource management settings have helped me come to understand the challenges faced by the diverse venues in which we practice our profession. As a director of various institutions, working with staff, board members, nonstaff professionals, and the public, I have developed management skills that will help me take into account the varied interests of the SHA membership when making decisions while serving on the SHA Board. In the 2008 member needs survey, members stated that public outreach and increased member services were extremely important. As director of the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab, the state curation and conservation facility for Maryland, I have made it a priority to expand access to collections, both through online research and artifact identification tools such as Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland, Maryland Archeobotany, and Archaeological Collections in Maryland, and through the development of online finding aids to the collections curated there. Educational outreach to the public in the forms of traveling exhibits, educational modules, engaging with public schools, and publications have also been a priority throughout my career. These past experiences will be beneficial to my participation as a board member.

If elected to serve as a director of SHA, what priorities
would you emphasize, taking into account SHA’s missions and goals, and ongoing committee activities, and the management and financial challenges of the Society?

The Society is currently conducting a member needs survey—the first since 2008—and I look forward to working with the Board to assess those results and implement changes that will address member concerns and needs. Because much of my career has been spent in museums, I am committed to working with diverse audiences in engaging the public with archaeology. As such, I am concerned with the challenges of making archaeology accessible and interesting to the public without compromising our ethical standards of site protection and integrity. The recent popularity of reality metal-detector shows on cable television is especially troubling and I have been working with colleagues to help determine what our response as a profession needs to be. I am also committed to furthering the accessibility of archaeological data and research resources through web-based media.

Linda Stone, RPA

Present Position:
Project Archaeologist, Governors Island Park and Public Space Project, New York City

Given the qualifications and experience outlined in your biographical statement, what do you believe you can contribute to SHA if elected as a Board Member?

Throughout my career, it has been a priority to give back to the profession that gives me so much joy. It would be an honor to continue my tradition of doing so as a member of the SHA Board of Directors. After spending my 25-year career serving on professional societies at the city and state level in New York, I feel I am well qualified to work on a national (and international) scale.

While in graduate school, I attended meetings of Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) and found their mission to educate and advise agencies and the public and to promote cooperation and communication among professional archaeologists exemplary. Soon after graduation I was asked to run for their board. Since then I have been an active member and am currently president (through March 2015). Several years ago, a PANYC board member suggested I might be interested in working on behalf of the statewide organization with similar interests, the New York Archaeological Council (NYAC), and nominated me for treasurer. I continue to serve on the NYAC board, having completed three terms. I am active in several committees. In addition to the Standards Committee, I was a member of the committee that completed the much-needed redraft of the NYAC bylaws.

My work with the New York professional archaeological organizations has exposed me to colleagues with varying professional interests and experiences. Finding common ground among professionals is basic to working toward common goals. Should I be elected to serve on the SHA Board, I promise I will strive to provide the same high level of commitment I have applied to my local societies and to work with and on behalf of SHA to the best of my ability.

If elected to serve as a director of SHA what priorities would you emphasize taking into account SHA’s missions and goals, ongoing committee activities, and the management and financial challenges of the Society?

Without doubt, managing finances is key to the longevity of SHA and its ability to continue providing existing membership benefits and to making the Society more attractive to potential new members. As a small business owner for over 20 years, and as past treasurer of two archaeological organizations, I am familiar with organizational and time management as pertains to financial challenges. Increasing membership numbers, income, and membership participation in SHA needs to remain a priority. One way to do this is to engage more student members and support their path to full membership when they receive their degrees. A focus on membership retention, particularly of student members, could be one facet of such a plan. The SHA Annual Conference is a prime opportunity for this. In addition to the variety and quality of papers presented and the business and committee meetings, the conference is an opportunity to network. Networking not only provides members with professional contacts, but also creates the opportunity for student members to introduce themselves as professionals and for new professionals to make connections that will solidify their careers. Budgets are tight all around and our annual conference fees and other expenses associated with attending the conferences can be cost prohibitive for students and new professionals. Although SHA is not in a position to provide financial assistance to all those in need, identification of outside funding sources may be helpful. Current awards and support for membership via committee work can be one avenue explored, as is the case with Gender and Minority Affairs and Academic and Professional
Training Committees. We could work with these and other committees and with the Membership Committee, building on their current efforts, to share relevant information with those members in need of financial assistance.

Lyle C. Torp, RPA

Present Position:
Managing Director, The Ottery Group, Maryland

Given the qualifications and experience outlined in your biographical statement, what do you believe you can contribute to SHA if elected as a Board Member?

I am a firm believer that the practice of archaeology is identical whether performed from a university, public agency, or the private sector. I also believe that individuals that practice within each of these sectors have a unique and important perspective to contribute to the discipline as well as a responsibility to participate in shaping the future of the discipline. The profession is best served when all of these sectors work cooperatively. Currently, the private sector is poorly represented on the SHA Board of Directors. The vast majority of future jobs are in the private sector, and crucial training and professional development takes place in this arena. Archaeologists working in higher education, public agencies, and the private sector each have different roles and therefore can make different contributions to the future of the discipline. My service on the ACRA Board of Directors has given me a strong sense that the potential contribution by the private sector is vast and largely untapped. I believe that SHA would benefit from the diversity of my experience, not only from my 25 years of experience as an archaeologist, but also from my experience as a businessperson, where survival depends upon being a successful advocate for archaeology, and where success depends upon the ability to mentor the next generation of business owners and managers and serve as a leader within the professional community.

If elected to serve as a director of SHA, what priorities would you emphasize taking into account SHA’s mission and goals, ongoing committee activities, and the management and financial challenges of the Society?

The board is responsible for representing the interests of the membership and supporting the fiscal and programmatic success of the organization. Two principal areas are particularly important to me: recruiting and training the next generation of professional archaeologists, and making sure that a high level of public support for archaeology is maintained. SHA plays a vital role in both of these areas, and needs to maintain a visible and effective leadership to ensure that our research remains relevant and our ability to conduct research remains viable.

Many private-sector firms have taken an active role in developing internship opportunities for emerging professionals. As opportunities for fieldwork experience can be somewhat limited in an academic setting, cultural resource management firms provide opportunities for students to gain work experience year-round. Increasingly, however, this relationship has transcended the simple need for labor, and meaningful mentoring relationships have begun to develop. In my experience at the state and regional level, I see these university–private sector partnerships as vital to the success of the next generation of professionals by providing opportunities to gain experience in the early stages of an individual’s career, and also by providing a source of income for students during the early years of their professional careers. With low levels of job security, poor wages, and nonexistent benefits, this is a group that is currently being lost to the discipline at an astonishing rate. The major professional organizations have demonstrated a commitment to early-career development, and this effort needs to be expanded and sustained.

Education and outreach have been at the forefront of the SHA’s mission. Public support is vital to ensuring that there is a future for this field at a time when funding is constrained, STEM education is promoted in the university to the exclusion of other programs of study, and a well-funded antiregulatory movement devalues the benefit of conducting cultural resources review in advance of development projects. The major professional organizations need to remain at the forefront of an outreach program that effectively counters these broad attacks on science, education, and the stewardship of historic resources for the benefit of the public. Each committee within SHA has an important contribution to education and outreach efforts. If elected, I will contribute to the SHA’s mission in support of professionalism, advocacy, and outreach to the best of my ability.
NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Bonnie J. Clark

Present Position:
Curator for Archaeology, Department of Anthropology, University of Denver

Given the qualifications and experience outlined in your biographical statement, what do you believe you can contribute to SHA if elected to the Nominations and Elections Committee?

If elected, I would bring a strong background of applied and academic work to the Nominations and Elections Committee. The majority of my students work in heritage preservation writ large and I see my teaching role as a bridge between the heady world of research and the real-life needs of those who manage historic sites. I would bring that same philosophy to SHA. Our discipline includes a wide range of practitioners; our organization should welcome and represent them. I also bring a decades-long connection with historical archaeologists in the American West, a region which is sometimes less well represented in SHA leadership.

Chris Horrell, RPA

Present Position:
Historic Preservation Officer, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), New Orleans

Given the qualifications and experience outlined in your biographical statement, what do you believe you can contribute to SHA if elected to the Nominations and Elections Committee?

I feel confident in saying that I have had a unique and varied career that has afforded me the opportunity to interact with many of our colleagues, whether they conduct their work/research in terrestrial and/or underwater contexts. More importantly, while I serve principally as a marine archaeologist for a federal agency, I consider myself an archaeologist first and foremost with solid relationships with members throughout our Society and at various levels (from students to long-standing members). My time as a member of SHA has also provided me the opportunity to familiarize myself with how the Society functions, conducts business, and performs its most important function: serving the membership. This knowledge, coupled with my experience working with colleagues at the international level, I feel has given me the requisite expertise and experience to provide competent guidance, suggestions, and recommendations to the Nominations and Elections Committee.

Brian Mabelitini, RPA

Present Position:
Principal Investigator, Gray & Pape, Inc.

Given the qualifications and experience outlined in your biographical statement, what do you believe you can contribute to SHA if elected to the Nominations and Elections Committee?

I am honored to be nominated to stand for election for the Society’s Nominations and Elections Committee. Since presenting my first conference paper in Williamsburg in 2007, my professional career has benefitted greatly from my membership in the Society and attending the
annual meetings. I have experience in all phases of project management and fieldwork in both the private and public sectors, and I would be able to draw on candidates from a broad network of professional archaeologists, primarily in the Southeastern and Midwestern United States. I believe the candidates nominated for offices should reflect the diverse membership of the Society. If elected, I would look forward to networking on behalf of the Society to identify a wide range of qualified and motivated candidates to serve the current and long-term interests of SHA.

Marco Meniketti, RPA

Present Position:
Associate Professor of Archaeology, San Jose State University, San Jose, California

Given the qualifications and experience outlined in your biographical statement, what do you believe you can contribute to SHA if elected to the Nominations and Elections Committee?

I believe that my education and background uniquely qualify me to serve as a member of the Nominations and Elections Committee, because my experiences span the discipline, intersect with multiple subfields, and provide me with a broad view of the needs of our diverse organization. As an active member of SHA since 1984, and of the RPA since 1999, I also have an historical perspective on the growth and changing character of the organization and the challenges it faces.

The research focus of SHA has been evolving and demographics within the Society have been changing as well. Our obligation to the members is to seek out those who are best qualified and able to serve the wide interests of all the membership. Having served as a program chair for a national conference of the Society for Industrial Archaeology, and as the current Underwater Program chair for the SHA conference in 2015, I understand the level of service and commitment required for a professional organization to operate smoothly, not only from committees, but from its leaders. Leadership comes from many places and being able to encourage and cultivate strong leadership from the membership who combine educational excellence in all its forms, research, and practical vision is my principal goal. I enthusiastically look forward to serving the Society by helping put forward the best candidates to keep SHA strong.

ACUA COMMITTEE

Dave Conlin

Present Position:
Chief of the National Park Service’s Submerged Resources Center

Given the qualifications and experience outlined in your biographical statement, what do you believe you can contribute if elected to ACUA?

I believe that the majority of jobs that will be available in underwater archaeology in the foreseeable future will not be in academia but will be in either the government or private sector. Having said that, I see absolutely no reason why interesting questions drawn from and based in academic inquiry cannot be explored and addressed within a management framework, i.e. there is no reason that just because it is governmental archeology it has to be boring. Given the interrelated nature of governmental regulations and requirements and the work done in the private sector to address these needs, I think it is vital to maintain a balance
between academic, private sector and governmental representation on the ACUA and I believe that I can work within all three of these areas in spite of the fact that I work for the National Park Service.

**If elected to serve the ACUA, what priorities would you emphasize, taking into account SHA and ACUA’s missions and goals, ongoing committee activities and the management and financial challenges of the Society?**

My goals for my term in the ACUA, if reelected, include contributing more to the student section of our organization and trying to make the ACUA and SHA more useful and friendly for our younger colleagues. If our organization is to grow and thrive, we need to offer more than just an annual forum for the exchange of ideas. Some of the other members of the ACUA have done wonderful things for ethics, outreach, and international involvement, and I would like to see us spend some of our energy networking on behalf of, and mentoring our younger members. Also I would like to see more minority involvement in underwater archaeology by highlighting some research domains like the global study of slavery that will create a more immediate attraction to the field than we have traditionally had.

**Kelly Gleason**

**Present Position:**
Maritime Heritage Program Coordinator for the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM)

Given the qualifications and experience outlined in your biographical statement, what do you believe you can contribute if elected to ACUA?

With experience in field research, management and education, I have the capacity to understand diverse issues that face the archaeological community today. I am able to contribute perspective from working in a culturally diverse part of the world as well as skills gained communicating archaeological research and management to a broad audience around the world.

**If elected to serve the ACUA, what priorities would you emphasize, taking into account SHA and ACUA’s missions and goals, ongoing committee activities and the management and financial challenges of the Society?**

If elected to serve the ACUA, my priorities would include an emphasis on new membership and better understanding the ways that SHA and ACUA can serve the archaeological community to inspire new membership and retain current members. Additionally, I would maintain my current focus on education and outreach with an emphasis on encouraging active participation by younger members. I would seek new and creative ways to communicate SHA and ACUA initiatives to current and potential new members.

**Sorna Khakzad**

**Present Positions:**
Maritime Heritage Program Fellow at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); Research collaborator to Archaeological Heritage in the North Sea (Belgium SEARCH project)
Teaching assistant at Maritime Studies, East Carolina University, USA

Given the qualifications and experience outlined in your biographical statement, what do you believe you can contribute if elected to ACUA?

I am honored to be considered as a candidate for the ACUA Board for the second time. Following my international
and national experiences in the field of cultural heritage in general and underwater cultural heritage particularly, I have a broad understanding of factors impacting heritage and archaeology worldwide. Considering the fact that underwater cultural heritage is quite a young field compared to terrestrial heritage, my knowledge of cultural heritage management and conservation has been an invaluable asset in projects which deal with underwater cultural heritage management. This quality is of importance also for SHA and ACUA for more effective collaboration in achieving their common goals. During the last seven years of my academic and professional experience in the field of underwater cultural heritage, I have applied and adopted methods for studying and managing underwater cultural heritage with regards to internationally recognized standards for cultural heritage. I have had and have close collaboration with UNESCO in project management and promoting the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. As my latest experience with UNESCO, I acted as a liaison and professional intern, assigned by the Flemish Government to UNESCO. In 2011 I was one of the coordinators from KU Leuven to organize the 10th anniversary of the UNESCO 2001 Convention in Belgium that had positive influence on the ratification of the Convention by Belgium. I was a think-tank member of a European project—Submerged Prehistoric Landscape and Archaeology of Continental Shelf (SPLASHCOST)—for four years, which made me familiar with the issues that Europe is facing at the moment specifically for the management of submerged historic and prehistoric landscapes. Working at the Institute of Nautical Archaeology (Turkey) and Wight and Hampshire Trust for Maritime Archaeology (England) and Flemish Heritage Agency (Belgium) offered me deep insight to national issues in different countries. These experiences provide me with a deep understanding of the issues which are considered crucial for studying, conservation, and management of UCH. However, what I still would like to emphasize is that the legacy of human interaction with the sea and land, which now we know as cultural heritage—either underwater or terrestrial—needs more attention. As a part of the expert community in underwater cultural heritage, I endeavor to determine and benefit from the potential of underwater cultural heritage as a resource for people’s advantages, education, outreach, and research, develop effective cooperation among stakeholders, and protection for future generations. For this, I see SHA and ACUA as an excellent platform that I can act to promote dialogue and understanding among academia, professional acting bodies, and government and regulatory agencies.

If elected to serve ACUA, what priorities would you emphasize, taking into account SHA and ACUA’s missions and goals, ongoing committee activities, and the management and financial challenges of the Society?

I am determined to follow the ethics of SHA and ACUA, and try to achieve their goals through sharing my international experiences which help bridge multiple disciplines and issues related to underwater and terrestrial cultural heritage. What I, in addition to many scholars, see as a priority is education. However, I have several parallel priorities. I set my priority for education in different levels; public education in order to make the public aware of the importance of underwater cultural heritage not only as a luxury, but emphasizing the benefits that it can bring to them; children’s education which is considered one of the recent challenges and goals in many parts of the world and as a UNESCO mandate; education on a higher level at universities and research centers and try to connect the scientific institutes which are developing new technologies for oceanic studies with educational institutes for maritime and underwater archaeology. In addition, I believe native and traditional populations (such as fishermen, boat builders, native people, etc.) have contributed a lot in the formation of maritime and coastal heritage from prehistoric to present times. One of my aims is to recognize these heritage assets and to use them as cultural resources for the benefit of native communities, and also for the broader research and educational purposes. It is crucial for all groups to know about the values of different types of heritage, in different levels, and to allow and empower them to express their views on the current and future situation of their cultural heritage and environment. Furthermore, I believe that better policies for management of underwater cultural heritage can be effective in the protection and conservation of this heritage. One of my aims is to follow good examples, such as the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage and similar charters and regulations such as ICOMOS Charter, Council of Europe,
and to assess other sea- and oceanic-related initiatives on the protection of marine resources, such as Marine Protected Areas and Integrated Coastal Zone Management in order to emphasize better the role of underwater and maritime cultural heritage as a resource in holistic coastal management plans. This fact also involves the economic values and benefits that underwater cultural heritage can bring for the societies and communities through public awareness, tourism promotion, and education.

I also believe that the younger generation, such as students of maritime studies and other related fields, can have more effective roles in the future of underwater cultural heritage protection, if they get involved more. I would like to give more chances for their voices to be heard through activities such as workshops, presentations, blogs, websites, and gatherings and cooperation in different initiatives.

One other priority is to give chances to the countries and state parties that have had less chance to develop and initiate underwater archaeological studies. Although, the focus of SHA and ACUA has been more on the Western world, now is the time to bring more examples of the whole world in our SHA and ACUA meetings and conferences. Many countries in Asia and Africa have been underrepresented due to the lack of knowledge and/or techniques and so on. Underwater cultural heritage is a common heritage of humanity, connecting people through the open waters to each other, and can be a factor to bring more people and cultures together.

In brief, through my focus on coastal cultural heritage and my multidisciplinary approaches to the management of underwater and coastal cultural heritage, I aim at awareness raising, public education, capacity building for research, and protection and management of our underwater cultural heritage resources and discovering ways to benefit from underwater heritage in every possible way for the present and future generations. And I believe being an ACUA Board member will give me the opportunity to achieve many of my goals, which are SHA’s and ACUA’s goals as well.

Massimiliano Secci

Present Position:
Research Fellow and Ph.D. Candidate at the Dipartimento di Storia, Scienze dell’Uomo e della Formazione - Università degli Studi di Sassari, Italy

Given the qualifications and experience outlined in your biographical statement, what do you believe you can contribute if elected to ACUA?

International, and in particular European-level, developments in cultural heritage management and funding strategies call for increasing collaboration across multidisciplinary approaches to the study, protection, and enhancement of the common cultural heritage. My career path testifies to my attention to, and interest in, both research and public outreach. In fact—as stated in last year’s candidacy statement (see the Summer 2013 Newsletter) —I believe that our discipline, in order to acquire a larger and much-deserved (indeed, necessary) role in societal development, needs to develop a broader connection with diverse but neighboring academic disciplines while also engaging with the public at large.

In my opinion, archaeology generally (and underwater archaeology specifically) has too often developed in the background of other disciplines’ advances, acting as a bystander to major paradigmatic developments instead of participating in the discussion driving these advances. A greater involvement of the discipline and researchers in these discussions and decision-making processes will help create a stronger link between the “craft of archaeology” and the “real world.” It will not only help us—as a discipline—to be recognized as valuable actors in societal advancements, but will also help the discipline to better define itself and to better structure our paradigmatic approaches to the past, present, and future.

While the opportunities and experiences I have been granted through my education and career development allow me to engage with two often very different approaches (Anglo-Saxon and European) to the discipline, engagement with that dichotomy has helped me to realize that this difference is more often a terminological one, and dependent on geographical, juridical, and cultural characteristics. Aims and underlining objectives and goals are the same; what is often missing, and this is a global challenge, is greater communication between parties, and improved knowledge exchange and collaboration.

I believe my potential contribution lies—in my own small way—in granting the ACUA Board a different perspective, and possibly contributing a better understanding of these regional diversities. A better understanding of these issues will also offer a better integration between parties in order to better plan common efforts towards a common goal: understanding, protection, and stewardship of the underwater cultural heritage, as well as knowledge production and dissemination of the historical past.
If elected to serve the ACUA, what priorities would you emphasize, taking into account SHA and ACUA’s missions and goals, ongoing committee activities, and the management and financial challenges of the Society?

It has been stated that archaeology is primarily a local endeavor. This is absolutely correct as it has developed regionally, and is affected by regional peculiarities in terms of cultural, historical, legislative, and governance matters. At the same time, archaeology—and this is something shared with other disciplines in the humanities—is a universal discipline in that it touches on universal needs and expectations. Moreover, as it aspires to a scientific character (in the sense Keith Muckelroy attributed to the term), archaeology—very much including maritime archaeology—has a universal disciplinary character that needs to be recognized and pursued.

On the basis of these few remarks, I believe that the major mission and the priority of a body like ACUA is to participate in building such universal commonalities within the discipline’s practitioners, as well as with the non-archaeological “outer world.” ACUA’s public engagement makes it an extremely valuable vehicle for influencing knowledge sharing and awareness raising of the common underwater cultural heritage of humanity. In line with the 2001 UNESCO Convention, my commitment will be to contribute to this dialectic, and all my efforts—as they have been since my commitment to archaeology began—will be addressed to help ACUA spread the word in order to reach varied stakeholders. I sincerely agree with Wendy van Duivenvoorde’s statement (see the Summer 2013 Newsletter) from last year’s election round: there is a desperate need for overall cooperation, and particularly “a cooperative model between government, industry, academia and the private sector to find innovative, practical and sustainable solutions that, at the same time, benefit local communities and the general public.”

I will therefore stress the value of SHA and ACUA involvement with pursuing, participating, and influencing the establishment of a proactive and continuous dialogue between all involved stakeholders in order to contrast risks and hazards for the common heritage posed by infrastructure development or illegal activities. Therefore my commitment to the ACUA Board will be on these terms: increased international dialogue between practitioners, and attempting to create a common ground to uniformly develop the discipline on an international level. I also commit to addressing the value of collaboration between stakeholders, the general public, and other involved parties.

James A. Smailes

Present Position:
Secretary, Maritime Archaeological and Historical Society (MAHS)

Given the qualifications and experience outlined in your biographical statement, what do you believe you can contribute to SHA if elected as a Board Member?

I believe I bring a breadth of experience not just from my work with the archaeological community, both land and underwater, but also from my work in civil engineering and historic preservation. I have been an avocational archaeologist for more than 24 years, supporting professional archaeologists and graduate students with research or in the field, and teaching surveying and mapping to sport divers. I bring a working knowledge of the ACUA Board in a variety of ways, including having worked on the committee to improve ACUA outreach to the general public, and have represented MAHS at the annual conference.

My work in historic preservation and on the boards of other nonprofits has given me an understanding of the not-for-profit process. I bring a balanced view of the challenges facing ACUA/SHA with a practical view from the outside based on experience.

If elected to serve ACUA, what priorities would you emphasize, taking into account SHA and ACUA’s missions and goals, ongoing committee activities, and the management and financial challenges of the Society?

First, ACUA/SHA must continue to be advocates for cultural heritage by educating scholars, teachers, and government officials of diverse backgrounds. This could be through local outreach efforts, suggested lesson plans that could be downloadable from the SHA or other websites, or structured training programs.
Second, ACUA should continue to expand its education efforts for archaeology students, the general public, and the sport diving community. For historical archaeology students, it would be beneficial to expand their exposure to other fields that will impact their work as historians and archeologists. For sport divers, there are various avocational archaeology courses available offered by NAS, MAHS, and others. ACUA should continue its efforts to determine the best practices available from these courses. The result would not only be improved training for sport divers but could also provide additional information for outreach to the general public emphasizing the importance of preserving underwater cultural heritage.

James D. Spirek

Present Position:
State Underwater Archaeologist, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina Columbia

Given the qualifications and experience outlined in your biographical statement, what do you believe you can contribute if elected to ACUA?

My experience with public-sector underwater archaeology relating to research, legislative, regulatory, and public outreach, coincides with the mission of the ACUA to promote and preserve the underwater archaeological heritage throughout the world. My current position as state underwater archaeologist offers a unique platform to promote and advocate for the preservation of the underwater archaeological legacy in South Carolina through outreach to Federal, state, and local policy makers, archaeologists, sport divers, and the public. I have also been fortunate to have worked overseas on various projects outside of the United States that have broadened my awareness of the challenges facing fellow underwater archaeologists and the need to provide outreach and support, when requested, on standards of the discipline, methods, and general advice. Using this experience gained over many years in the field, I look forward to the opportunity under the aegis of the ACUA to address and provide guidance to issues on a national and international level that we confront on the state level to preserve the underwater archaeological heritage for future generations and archaeologists.

If elected to serve the ACUA, what priorities would you emphasize, taking into account SHA and ACUA’s missions and goals, ongoing committee activities, and the management and financial challenges of the Society?

If elected to the ACUA I would stress the role of the ACUA/SHA to promote the discipline of underwater/historical archaeology to a variety of audiences, especially relating to the preservation and ethical standards needed to realize the potential of these valuable sources of information as avenues to understanding our past, present, and future. One means to accomplish this is to provide a vetted list of research projects and activities on the ACUA website that espouse the missions of the ACUA and SHA. By offering these case studies exemplifying the practice of underwater archaeology, we can spread the message of what sound and ethical archaeology is in contrast to monetized-based recovery efforts put forth by various media and organizations. An undertaking that would require limited financial wherewithal from either entity’s budget and would complement ongoing ACUA/SHA activities to educate policy makers, governments, sport divers, and the general public about the importance of preserving these unique archaeological resources. I would look forward to working in concert with the other ACUA board members on this endeavor and serving to promote the mission of the ACUA/SHA.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NOTICE

Have you thought of SHA as part of your estate planning? Please let us know! Interested in ways of giving that provide tax benefits during life? Contact us at <HQ@SHA.org>.
SEATTLE 2015

The Organizing Committee for the SHA 2015 Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology invites you back to the Pacific Northwest for the second time in SHA’s history. The 2015 conference will take place at the Sheraton Hotel in the heart of the city of Seattle, with many restaurants, famous coffee shops, and microbreweries within a short stroll. 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. As one of America’s gateways to the Pacific Ocean, this is an amazing setting to thinking about our conference theme, “Peripheries and Boundaries.”

As SHA comes to the Pacific Northwest for the second time in the organization’s history, we wanted to select a theme that 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. We expect 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.

First settled in 1851, Seattle, Washington, is one of the cultural jewels of the Pacific Northwest. It is an area that has been inhabited by First Nations peoples going back at least 4000 years. In the years following contact Seattle became a focal point for all of the major extractive industries that fostered western expansion. In the early years of the town was prominent in the development of the Northwest logging industry. The city really took off with the gold rush of the 1890s. When gold was discovered in the Yukon Seattle became the provisioning hub for prospecting and mining. What developed in Seattle was a city that became an economic and cultural hub of the Northwest United States. This leadership continued into the 20th century as Seattle and Boeing Corporation became a leader in the growth of the aviation industry in the first half of the century and technological innovation in the second half of the century (hello Microsoft!). Today Seattle is widely hailed as one of the most livable cities in North America. It boasts of a relatively temperate climate, a thriving economy, and a diverse population. It is a city whose history offers much for the membership of SHA to explore.

Worried about winter weather impacting your travel? SHA is currently exploring conference insurance, which may help mitigate against the winter weather problems that have hit some past conferences. Watch for more details on the SHA website and here in the Newsletter.

The preliminary conference program will be published in the Fall Newsletter. The 2015 Organizing Committee looks forward to welcoming you to Seattle!
News from ACUA

Kim Faulk
ACUA Chair

As field seasons start across North America, the ACUA is celebrating its 51st anniversary. Under NHPA, you might say the ACUA has achieved the critical 50-year benchmark, becoming “historic” and, I would argue, continuing to be “significant.” As the new chair, the weight of the previous 50+ years, and the incredible things the ACUA has accomplished in that time, should be heavy. Instead, the opportunity to continue the hard work, consistent outreach, and ongoing mission of the ACUA is an inspiration.

In celebration of our 51st year, the ACUA is running a series of blogs by past chairs and members focusing on where we have been, where we are, and where we are going. The international scope of the ACUA Board and our work provides a unique opportunity to view our discipline beyond our continental borders. I invite you to participate in the discussion and provide us with your thoughts on where the field is heading by joining us at <http://www.acuaonline.org/category/deep-thoughts/>.

The 2014 Proceedings are in the publication process, thanks to the hard work of our guest editors Charles Dagneau and Karolyn Gauvin at Parks Canada, and the team at the PAST Foundation, who facilitate the Proceedings each year. The 2014 edition is the eighth installment of the Proceedings since the ACUA started publishing them again in 2007. The number and quality of submitted papers continues to climb each year, and I hope you will consider submitting your 2015 SHA paper for consideration next year. Additionally, work on the 2015 ACUA/SHA Calendar is under way, highlighting the outstanding photos entered into the ACUA Photo Contest in Québec. I would encourage all photographers to consider sharing their photos highlighting archaeology with the competition in 2015.

Finally, the call for papers for the 2015 meeting in Seattle is open, and we hope you will consider exploring how “Peripheries and Boundaries” influence maritime themes and research.

The ACUA Board continues to work towards building opportunities for underwater, maritime, nautical, and “other” associated archaeologists around the globe. Since the Québec meeting ACUA members have worked on projects that span centuries, environments, and nationalities. Continued focus on legislative efforts and the ongoing exploitation of underwater cultural heritage keeps the ACUA working towards a time when materials found underwater will receive the same protection as those located in terrestrial environments.

The 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage continues to be a primary focus for the ACUA. Indeed, the ACUA and SHA’s accreditation as NGOs to the State’s Parties Scientific and Technical Advisory Board (STAB) demonstrates our ongoing commitment to the active promotion of best practices and ethics above and below the tide line. The ACUA and SHA, in conjunction with our international partners, continue to work to implement the UNESCO Convention around the globe and end the exploitation of submerged cultural heritage.

Recent interest by media outlets in the salvage of historic sites for commercial gain remains an issue the ACUA takes seriously. In 2011, the ACUA developed a guide to assist archaeologists and the media in better discussing and understanding the ethics of our field. If you find yourself in a situation where you are trying to address our field’s ethics, or fielding media questions, you can use our ethics press kit to help clarify your stance. It can be found online at <www.acuaonline.org> under the UCH Laws, Issues and Ethics tab.

Over the winter the ACUA instituted a benchmarking survey to examine where newly graduated students are finding work, what hiring managers are looking for, and what gaps exist in the current graduate programs for underwater archaeologists. The results of the study will be used to provide a review of where the field is going, and what modifications, if any, should be made to better prepare new archaeologists entering the field.

In April, the fourth ACUA Student Newsletter was released by ACUA Graduate Student Associate Members Nicole Bucchino and Jennifer Jones, the two of whom served both as editors and contributors of the entirety of the newsletter’s content. Their time on our board is marked by the level of enthusiasm and hard work they put forth to create a high-quality newsletter. If you have items you would like to contribute to the newsletter or questions for our editors, please contact us at <info@acuaonline.org>.

The 2015 ACUA George Fischer International Student Travel Award fall deadline is approaching! Any international student traveling to the 2015 Seattle meeting and presenting on a topic of maritime or underwater interest is eligible for the award. Amelia J. Astley, from the University of Southampton, won the 2014 travel award with her coauthored paper, “The Taphonomy of Heritage Shipwreck Sites: Implications for Heritage Management.”

It is my hope that over the next several months, as you work in the field, you will let the ACUA know what issues are present in your mind and project. The ACUA remains committed to assisting projects, archaeologists, and the general public to better understand the importance of protecting our submerged cultural heritage. We will continue to act in accordance with best practices and provide our assistance when asked to ensure that underwater resources are not exploited for the benefit of a few. I encourage you to let us know what we can do to remain relevant to you and your work.
Student Subcommittee Update
Academic and Professional Training Committee

Mary Petrich-Guy
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and
Jade Luiz
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The Academic and Professional Training Student Subcommittee (SSC) experienced an enthusiastic growth in membership and activities over the course of 2013 and at the 2014 annual meeting in Québec City, Canada. An impressive number of students made it to the 2014 annual meeting in Québec City, Canada, despite the many transportation challenges created by the wicked weather of the polar vortex. Nearly two dozen students attended the SSC meeting. With the creation of the “transitioning professionals” committee membership category, the SSC saw a greater retention of members, who partnered with incoming student members in the organization of SSC-sponsored conference forums, sessions, the second annual Student Ethics Bowl, and other tasks. In addition to these student-led offerings, SHA committees continue to work with the SSC in student-related matters.

Student-led features included the joint ACUA/sha forum (Reaching Out: Public Archaeology for Students and New Graduates, chaired by Nicole Bucchino and Jennifer Jones), the Student RAP Session (organized by Ashley Morton and Sara Belkin), the first annual SHA Student Ethics Bowl (organized by Jenna Coplin, Mélanie Rousseau, Olivier Roy, Antoine Loyer-Rousselle, and Jade Luiz), and a concise new presentation format, Pecha Kucha (My Research in a Nutshell: A Student Activity Powered by Pecha Kucha, organized by Olivier Roy, Mélanie Rousseau, and Antoine Loyer-Rousselle).

At the SSC meeting, Carl Drexler, representative for APTC, discussed ongoing committee efforts as well as opportunities for creating professional development workshops for conferences and online access. The committee seeks to create professional development workshops at minimal cost to students. Members brainstormed topics during the SSC meeting and Drexler is seeking topical suggestions in addition to job-seeking, grant writing, publication feedback, integrated technologies, and service opportunities for undergraduates.

The highest number of students ever participated in this year’s RAP session. Originally organized and intended as an informal setting for students to connect with each other as well as with senior members of SHA, the committee will reassess the session during 2014 with the intent of possibly revising it and planning for the 2016 annual conference in Washington, DC. If you are interested in offering feedback to session organizers, please contact Sara Belkin or Justin Uehlein.

This year’s annual meeting debuted several exciting opportunities for students. One of these, the SHA Ethics Bowl, met with great success despite a low-key start. Competitors included both graduate and undergraduate students from University of Idaho, Université Laval, University of Cambridge, and Cleveland State University. As our judges, we were honored to have Charles Ewen, Paul Johnston, Douglas Scott, Russell Skowronek, Linda Stein, and Julia King, who asked penetrating questions of our participants. This year’s case study dealt with missing data and an absentee report writer with a deadline for permit renewal looming. Despite there being no ideal option for our participants in this scenario, they did really well in making the best of an awful situation.

We are excited to begin planning next year’s ethics event. The formal call for registration will be sent out soon, but we hope that students will start thinking about all of the different events available to them early, including the Ethics Bowl. For this event students are welcome to form their own teams, composed of three or four students. Individual students are also encouraged to register and we will place them on teams. Teams will be given this year’s cases in advance so they can prepare their positions. The issues posed involve both underwater and terrestrial contexts and are based on current challenges students will face, if they have not already. In addition, we want the Bowl to mirror real life as closely as we can—one always has to expect the unexpected. For this reason, game-changing cards will be introduced during play. These impact all players. The cards contain new information about the cases and provide complications all players will need to negotiate. Quick thinking will be a plus! The spontaneous nature of these curveballs will make for additional fun.

Students enthusiastically participated in the session powered by Pecha Kucha. The fast-paced format, during which students present 20 slides for 20 seconds per slide, offered a unique opportunity for participants to practice presenting developing or ongoing research. This fun and helpful session was a great addition to the lineup of student-organized events at the SHA conference.

If you’d like to join the online conversation and get updates as they roll out, join the SSC student LISTSERV. For instructions on how to join, or if you have feedback, suggestions, or questions, please contact Mary Petrich-Guy, <petr5725@vandals.uidaho.edu>. Keep an eye out for more information regarding upcoming student events and opportunities to register for the 2015 Ethics Bowl. We look forward to seeing you in Seattle!

Public Education and Information Committee

A Huge Game of Chess
Played All Over the World:
Using Chess to Teach Historical Archaeology

Bernard K. Means
Virtual Curation Laboratory at Virginia Commonwealth University, <bkmeans@vcu.edu>
It’s a great huge game of chess that’s being played—all over the world—if this IS the world at all, you know. Oh, what fun it is! How I WISH I was one of them! I wouldn’t mind being a Pawn, if only I might join—though of course I should LIKE to be a Queen, best.

Alice, in Lewis Carroll, *Through the Looking Glass, and What Alice Found There*

Outside of teaching and research on New Deal archaeology, most of my archaeological work these days involves running the Virtual Curation Laboratory, where we create 3-D digital models of historic and prehistoric artifacts, drawing on collections from cultural heritage sites throughout the eastern United States. And, we create printed plastic replicas of these digital models, which can be used in ways that would be unwise with real artifacts: they can be incorporated into teaching, easily enough, and public outreach activities—bringing sites and stories about the people associated with those sites directly to interested audiences, even if they can’t go to the actual sites themselves. Shortly after we printed our first replicas of a real artifact, we had occasion to use them at a local high school and later at other public outreach efforts. These plastic replicas generated much more interest from audiences of all ages than did the digital artifact models, even though the latter were more accurate. The opportunity to touch an object tends to resonate—even if the plastic replica is a few steps removed from the original item in time, space, and what Colin Renfrew would term “substantialization.” The replicas are clearly that, lacking the heft of the original objects on which they are modeled, and sometimes in a garish color—red, green, or “safety” orange. Painting of the replicas can make them more closely resemble the original items, and enhance their verisimilitude—as long as you do not pick them up.

Three-dimensional printing of artifacts seems one step removed from the replicators seen on episodes of *Star Trek*. As a kid growing up on military bases, I was a geek long before geeks were cool. I knew all about *Star Trek* (back when there was just the 1960s TV show and 1970s cartoon) and I played games, especially chess. I eventually moved away from playing chess regularly, but, as my students can tell you, I maintain a strong interest in *Star Trek*, usually managing one way or another to worm the show into my anthropology or archaeology classes. Chess, on the other hand, and I have only recently become reacquainted—and largely by accident.

Scanning an artifact, whether onsite in the Virtual Curation Laboratory, or at a cultural heritage location such as Jamestown, or George Washington’s Ferry Farm, is a somewhat tedious affair with our inexpensive (but powerful) NextEngine Desktop 3D scanner (see Means et al. 2013 for details). It takes approximately an hour to scan an artifact. Other than securing the artifact onto the scanner’s rotating platform, and rotating the artifact 180 degrees halfway through the process, there is not much that members of the scanning team can do. Yet, the time is not sufficient to accomplish very many other tasks, particularly if one has limited space in an offsite location. To
occupy our time, I worked with my team of undergraduate students to produce archaeologically themed chess sets.

Each chess piece is derived from one of the objects that we scanned in the Virtual Curation Laboratory, with most 3-D digital models modified in shape by the addition of a circular disk to create a stable platform, and scaled to the size of a chess piece. Selecting which objects would make the best chess pieces engendered some healthy dialog between me and my students. We all agreed that we would not select archaeologically recovered chess pieces (we have a rook and a pawn) but would seek our inspiration elsewhere. Our first chess set consisted of the following pieces: a frozen Charlotte doll as the pawn; a deer phalanx (toe bone) as a rook; a toy soldier in the form of a World War I doughboy as the knight; an Adena point as the bishop; and headless figurines of a man and a woman as the king and queen, respectively. These pieces derived from DC Archaeology (pawn), the osteological research collection at the Virginia Museum of Natural History (rook), Thomas Jefferson’s Poplar Forest (knight), George Washington’s Ferry Farm (bishop), and the Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens (king and queen).

As we played with our archaeological chess sets, we began to attract attention—we had inadvertently created a tool for engaging public audiences. We found this out the first time we played with our archaeological chess pieces in the Jamestown Rediscovery archaeology lab; as we played, volunteers and staff gathered around to watch and inquire about the story behind each piece—a story informed by historical archaeology (well, except for the Adena point and deer phalanx). Before too long, news of our chess set spread and we found ourselves in mid-May at the fourth-grade class of Katie Bullington, a teacher at the Richmond Waldorf School. I spoke to her young students about virtual archaeology, 3-D printing, and about each of the chess pieces. They eagerly asked questions, and I was able to leave with them our first printed chess set, which will be passed on to successive fourth-grade classes.

We have since made two other archaeologically themed chess sets. One of these consisted of Native American stone tools that predate the historic era, so are not within the purview of historical archaeology. The third chess set we created focused solely on the 1607–1610 period at Jamestown, which included the establishment of the James Fort and the “Starving Time.” Here, our pawn was the forensic reconstruction of a teenage boy killed shortly after James Fort was established. Our rook and knight both date from the “Starving Time,” with the rook being a butchered horse tibia and the knight a butchered dog mandible. The bishop is a smoking pipe made by Robert Cotton, the queen is a jeweler’s mold, and the king is a fragment from a Bartmann jug. This set we donated to Jamestown Rediscovery to thank them for their continuing collaboration with the Virtual Curation Laboratory, particularly with providing access to their collections for me and my undergraduate students.

Now, when I scan an artifact, or edit its digital model, I no longer simply think about the research and interpretive potential of these often unique and rare objects. Instead, I wonder to what position on the chessboard the artifact would best be suited!

Reference
Means, Bernard K., Ashley McCuistion, and Courtney Bowles
In February 2005, representatives of the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) signed an agreement with the National Anthropological Archives (NAA) designating the NAA as the repository for the long-term care and storage of SHA’s archives and memorabilia. Both Stephanie H. (Tef) Rodeffer, who served as the Secretary-Treasurer of SHA from 1978 to 2003, and Michael Nassaney, who served as Secretary of SHA from 2006 to 2011, worked diligently to organize the SHA collection and transfer it to the NAA in Suitland, Maryland. The collection is a rich source of information about the history of SHA and includes numerous images from SHA conferences over the past 30 years. Featured below is a photograph album assembled by Paul J. F. and Marietta Schumacher, with the assistance of Lester Ross. The album includes 93 photographs taken by Marietta Schumacher at SHA conferences from 1978 to 1991 (with the exception of 1981, 1983, and 1989). Most individuals in the pictures are identified. The Schumachers presented the album as a gift to SHA at the 1992 meeting in Kingston, Jamaica. Two years later, at the 1994 conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, the Schumachers received an Award of Merit from SHA for this gift. Their example has encouraged many other members of the society to submit additional images over the years, all of which are archived at the NAA.

Photograph album assembled by Paul J. F. and Marietta Schumacher, with the assistance of Lester Ross. The album includes photographs of SHA conferences from 1978 to 1991 (with the exception of 1981, 1983, and 1989). (Image taken with permission of the National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution Museum Support Center, Suitland, Maryland.)
As some SHA Newsletter readers may know, Rick and Linda Sprague donated their professional library to the Fort Walla Walla Museum (FWWM) in 2012 to help the museum become a regional resource for anthropology, archaeology, and ethnohistory in the northwestern United States. What may be less well-known is that Northwest Anthropology LLC, publisher of the Journal of Northwest Anthropology (JONA), and FWWM have teamed up to help complete the transfer and cataloging of the library. The reason is simple. The Sprague library is an important resource for the editors and staff of JONA. We regularly access the library looking for references and materials that might improve the quality of manuscripts that have been submitted for publication. Given Dr. Sprague’s important contribution to SHA specifically and historical archaeology generally, we would like you to consider supporting the Sprague library. Please take a moment to read about our accomplishments to date.

In 2013, we completed the transfer of the library (minus burial records) from Moscow, Idaho, to Walla Walla, Washington. We have rented an office at the museum for cataloging the books, journals, and ephemera, and begun processing the material under the tutelage of a retired librarian, Darcy Dauble (Walla Walla Community College). To date, through the efforts of part-time employee Kim Sutherland (B.A. Anthropology, U of Wyoming) and a museum volunteer, we have cataloged nearly half of the library. Having now seen the collection, we are as convinced as ever that the Sprague Library, appraised at $500,000, will help establish the museum as a regional center and curation facility for historical archaeology in the Pacific Northwest.

All of the accomplishments have been made possible through the use of museum funds, financial contributions from Northwest Anthropology LLC, third-party contributions, and FWWM volunteer staff. We would like to complete the cataloging of the Sprague material by July 1, 2015, so we can move forward with making the library available to students and researchers. We are only limited by funds, hence our call to colleagues.

Northwest Anthropology LLC has announced a Challenge Grant: it will match any new museum membership or museum/Sprague library contribution (up to a total of $25,000). Any funds you contribute to the museum will be used to help complete the cataloging; the match will be placed into the library endowment so that funds will be available in the future to maintain the library and keep it accessible to local, regional, and national researchers, as Rick and Linda intended.

Please help us get the Sprague library cataloged in time for JONA’s 50th Anniversary; yes, believe it or not, we will be publishing Volume 50 in 2016. You can visit the museum website at <www.fortwallawallamuseum.org> and use the “Donate Now” button. Becoming a museum member or a contributor to the Sprague library will keep you informed of our progress. JONA and the museum will greatly appreciate any help you can provide.
Please send summaries of your recent research to the appropriate geographical coordinator listed below. Photographs and other illustrations are encouraged. Please submit summaries as Word or text-only files. **Submit illustrations as separate files** (.jpeg preferred, 300 dpi or greater resolution).

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CANADA-ARCTIC (Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Nunavut)
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CURRENT RESEARCH BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE
Victoria

Secret Lives, Forgotten Stories: Highlights from Heritage Victoria’s Archaeological Collection, 16 April–12 October 2014 (submitted by The Ian Potter Museum of Art and Heritage Victoria): Archaeological artifacts from eight of Victoria’s oldest historic sites will be showcased for the first time at the Potter Museum of Art, University of Melbourne, 16 April–12 October 2014.

The exhibition includes more than 70 archaeological artifacts from Heritage Victoria’s collection, including 200-year-old objects from the failed convict settlement at Sorrento, a pistol from the site of the Eureka Rebellion, and burial boxes from the mass grave at Pentridge Prison where Ned Kelly was reburied.

The collection traces Victoria’s settlement and growth from convict times, through the years of the whaling industry and the Gold Rush, up to the birth of Marvellous Melbourne.

The artifacts also tell the stories of forgotten Victorians: people, such as the Chinese in the goldfields and impoverished workers in early Melbourne, who did not leave their mark on traditional histories but whose lives are reflected in the trinkets and treasures that are left behind.

The curator, Dr. Andrew Jamieson, says the exhibition represents a ‘coming of age’ of historical archaeology in Victoria. Never before has it been possible to see the state’s history so richly presented through the lens of archaeology. As Dr. Jamieson said, “Excavations in Victoria over the past 20 years have uncovered significant archaeological remains and relics. Many of the artefacts in the exhibition have never been displayed publicly before.... For the first time it is now possible to see the evolving story of Victoria’s 19th-century settlement and development reflected in its archaeology.”

The exhibition highlights the history of archaeology in the state, revealing the discoveries of archaeologists and the contributions they have made to our understanding of Victoria’s past.

The collection also has a maritime theme, featuring artifacts recovered from two important shipwrecks, the Cheviot and the SS City of Launceston. Dr. Jamieson noted, “The exhibition represents a very exciting and important opportunity to collaborate with Heritage Victoria (and the Heritage Council) in telling the story of the settlement and growth of Victoria through these unique objects.”

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Canada - Ontario

2012 and 2013 Investigations by the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation at Point Frederick, Kingston (submitted by Jeffrey Seibert, Ontario Ministry of Transportation/Trent University Archaeological Research Centre, <jeffseibert@hotmail.com>): The summers of 2012 and 2013 saw a return of the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation (CARF) to Point Frederick, Kingston, Ontario, the current location of the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) and Fort Frederick and the location of the 19th-Century Royal Naval Dockyard at Kingston. This location transformed over the 19th and 20th centuries from a Royal Naval Dockyard and establishment of the Royal Navy into Royal Military College of Canada, the military college of the Canadian Forces, and a degree-granting university. This
The brief report represents the culmination of a number of years of work by the agency in this location, and involved work on three separate, albeit thematically related, projects.

The first of these projects was the annual “Can You Dig It?” archaeological experience program offered by CARF on an ongoing basis, first developed by former executive director Susan Bazely. This program took participants from the community, aged 8 to adult, and allowed them to participate in a different archaeological project each season, under the supervision of a team of archaeologists headed by a licensed professional archaeologist. The 2012 “Can You Dig It?” program focused on the examination of the locus of the 1812-period Naval Hospital associated with the Kingston Royal Naval Dockyard complex.

These investigations were begun due to evidence that was uncovered by Parks Canada employees and expanded upon by historian Gareth Newfield (2009), which suggested that the traditional ascription of the current Commandant’s Residence at RMC as the 1812-period Naval Hospital was incorrect, and that the Naval Hospital from this time period indeed lay undiscovered as an archaeological ruin in the multipurpose sports field adjacent to the Commandant’s Residence.

Evidence for the location of the site of the hospital had been initially encountered in 2007 and 2008 by CARF through careful examination of historical records and archaeological test pitting, which uncovered what appeared to be a small portion of the foundation of the hospital in the aforementioned field (Bazely et al. 2008). In the summer of 2012, the presence of the hospital was indeed confirmed through the excavation of 15 excavation units exposing portions of all 4 of the walls of the structure and what appears to be a portion of the fireplace/hearth of the structure.

FIGURE 1. The Commandant’s Residence at RMC: this structure was formerly believed to be the 1812-period Naval Hospital. (Photo by author.)

FIGURE 2. A group of young volunteers with the “Can You Dig It?” program excavating the foundation of the Naval Hospital.

These excavations confirmed that the dimensions (68 x 38 ft. or approximately 20.7 x 11.6 m) and architectural attributes (in the form of a large, rectangular foundation made of limestone flags) of the remains encountered conform to period artistic depictions and historical descriptions of the Naval Hospital, which was depicted and described as being a wooden-frame structure built on top of a limestone foundation a number of courses high. Analysis of the artifacts recovered from the location, including early-19th-century ceramics (with some later material from the mid-19th-century) and wrought (some early variant cut) nails, reinforced the supposition that this was indeed a structure built in the early 19th century that continued to be used and refurbished into the mid-19th century.

Subsequent to this work, CARF conducted excavations within Fort Frederick, the British fortifications located at the tip of Point Frederick, at the request of Defence Construction Canada in order to facilitate the construction of safety barriers around the two sally ports and powder magazine entrance at the fort in the earthworks flanking these ports/entrances. Fort Frederick was a vital component of the fortifications protecting both Point Frederick and Kingston during the early 19th century, and was later incorporated into the campus fabric of RMC when the Naval Dockyards were modified and repurposed as the military academy and university that they now are (Berry...
2003). These excavations consisted of small 50 x 50 cm pits that effectively would serve as postholes being dug and documented in order to allow for the construction of the barrier in question and mitigate the impact on the cultural resource (namely the earthworks). Findings were largely limited to rubble and dirt fill with brick in some of the units in the earthworks; diagnostic artifacts, such as ceramics, primarily dated from the earlier part of the latter half of the 19th century. Of particular interest was the large number of minié balls found, 5 in total, which interestingly accords with some written accounts and oral histories shared by Department of National Defence Staff suggesting that Royal Military College cadets in the period after confederation (ca. 1870) used Fort Frederick as a firing range.

The last project conducted by CARF at Point Frederick during the 2012–2013 field seasons consisted of the monitoring of a fence installation project, which ran across the base of the point, adjacent to Provincial Highway 2. Very little material of any archaeological significance was found, with the exception of a new area of early-19th-century settlement (ca. 1810s–1820s) found in the vicinity of the commemorative Royal Military College of Canada Memorial Arch. The find consisted of a large wrought spike, some early-19th-century ceramics, and a structural timber. The location of this find was noted and has been included in management plans for the site, but further excavation is not currently warranted. After the 2013 field season, CARF was declared financially insolvent and ceased to exist as a functioning entity. Unfortunately, the demise of this archaeological and historical nonprofit leaves a gap in the heritage education and research landscape in eastern Ontario.

I would like to thank everyone at CARF, especially Kip Parker, Ashley Mendes, Andy Snetsinger, Colin Smith, Catherine Raby and Jacob Bolduc, Andrew Wollin and Caelin MacDougall from Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Kingston, Ross McKenzie, the curator at RMC, Jonathan Moore and Bob Garcia from Parks Canada, and Gareth Newfield for their help in pulling this research together and to all of the CARF “Can You Dig It?” volunteers for doing the heavy lifting.

References
Bazely, Susan M., Shane Boyce, and Carrie Dunn

Berry, Michael

Newfield, Gareth

Great Britain & Ireland

Scotland

Ardmaddy Wishing-Tree, Argyll (submitted by Ceri Houlbrook, University of Manchester, <ceri.houlbrook@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk>): In September 2013, researchers from the University of Manchester undertook the Ardmaddy Wishing-Tree Excavation, generously funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology’s Small Grants Scheme. The Ardmaddy wishing-tree is a dead hawthorn lying prone in a grassy pass in Argyll, southwest Scotland. It is known as the ‘wishing-tree’ because a local custom involves inserting coins into its bark and making wishes. The exact age of this tree is unknown. No pre-20th-century literary references to it have been identified and a preliminary visit to the site in 2012 revealed that only a minority of the coins within the tree predate the decimalization of British currency in 1971; the vast majority dated to the 1990s and 2000s. However, local residents perceive this practice as long-standing, having originated in the 1950s at the very latest, and probably far earlier. It was not difficult to reconcile this information with the material evidence of the coins in the tree. The area—aptly named Bealach na Gaoithe: “the pass of the winds”—is known for heavy winds; it is likely, therefore, that many coins have been dislodged from the tree, fallen to the ground, and subsequently become buried. It was therefore the aim of the Ardmaddy Wishing-Tree Excavation to uncover as many coins as possible in order to establish a time frame of deposition.

It was integral that our activities not damage the wishing-tree in any way; heavily decayed, the tree fragments on touch and so this had to be taken into consideration when choosing where to dig. Using a metal detector, we identified...
The coins—having been cataloged—are currently held at Ardmaddy Castle, but questions remain about whether they should be distributed to local museums, donated to charity, or returned to the site of the wishing-tree. 

FIGURE 2. Lara Bishop, Ellen McInnes, and John Piprani, excavating at the Ardmaddy wishing-tree. (Photo by C. Houlbrook.)

potential ‘coin hot spots,’ marked out six small test pits around the tree, and began digging, working through 10 cm spits. Following five days of excavation (which were detailed on our blog: <http://cerihoulbrook.wordpress.com/>), we had recovered 703 small finds. Of these, 691 were coins.

The earliest datable coin was a penny issued in 1914; 23 others were predecimal, ranging from 1921 to 1970. The vast majority of coins, however, were British decimal penny and two-pence pieces. The decade which produced the highest quantity of deposited coins was the 1990s, whilst the presence of coins from the 2010s reveals that the custom is still active today.

The other aim of the Ardmaddy Wishing-Tree Project was to gather ethnographic data from local residents. Already a discrepancy has emerged between the archaeological evidence and oral history: for example, while only a single coin was uncovered dating to the 1910s, one local elderly woman recalled her mother claiming that the tree had been prolifically embedded with coins at the start of the 20th century. Such an insight flags the question of whether earlier coins have been removed, or if in fact a much-larger-scale excavation is called for—which can hopefully be the project’s next stage.

The coins—having been cataloged—are currently held at Ardmaddy Castle, but questions remain about whether they should be distributed to local museums, donated to charity, or returned to the site of the wishing-tree.

FIGURE 2. Lara Bishop, Ellen McInnes, and John Piprani, excavating at the Ardmaddy wishing-tree. (Photo by C. Houlbrook.)

Louisiana

Archaeology of the Chatsworth Plantation Site, East Baton Rouge Parish (submitted by Dennis Jones, Louisiana State University [LSU] Rural Life Museum, Baton Rouge, Louisiana): Pinnacle Entertainment, Inc., doing business as L’Auberge Casino Baton Rouge, opened on Labor Day weekend in 2012. This opulent facility is built over the existing Mississippi River levee south of Baton Rouge, Louisiana and has a striking view of the mighty Mississippi River. Because it incorporated the levee into its design, it required a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), which maintains the levees. Before issuing the permit, the Corps required that Pinnacle Entertainment comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Pinnacle contracted the LSU Rural Life Museum (RLM), through Natural Resource Professionals, to help with this process.

The L’Auberge Casino property includes portions of the antebellum sugar cane plantation of Chatsworth. Phase I survey and Phase II testing to determine the eligibility of this site for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) was conducted by Coastal Environments, Inc. (CEI), a respected cultural resources management firm in Baton Rouge. They recommended both sites as eligible for the NRHP and Pinnacle Entertainment then chose to involve LSU and the

USA - Gulf States

Latin America

Chile

Archaeological Fieldwork at Cobija Harbor: Archaeologist Francisco García-Albarido has recently studied the harbor at Cobija, a 19th-century Pacific-Coast port on the Atacama Desert coastline, which was Bolivia’s main seaport until it was annexed by Chile following the 1879–1883 War of the Pacific. The last decades of the 19th century were characterized by strong growth in Latin America’s engagement with global capitalism, which was boosted by advances in transportation (shipping and railroads) and communication (the telegraph). Cobija had been a key Pacific outpost of Bolivia since independence in 1825, but the combination of an 1865 earthquake and an outbreak of yellow fever led to the town’s decline; when Chilean troops occupied it in 1879 it was a shadow settlement. The port was left in ruins and only a small group of residents exploiting the coastal environment remain in Cobija today.

The material culture associated with the site comprises a variety of architectural remains and domestic artifacts such as glass and ceramics. It is worth stressing how the presence of dark green and torpedo-form bottles, and the presence of transfer-printed, flow blue, white granite, and banded wares attest to the area’s integration into the world market from the 1850s on. García-Albarido has concluded his analysis of the site by emphasizing that links with global capitalism are therefore well attested, and this explains several characteristic features of the settlement’s material culture signature prior to its decline and abandonment.
RLM in its compliance efforts. Dennis Jones is the principal archaeologist for the RLM overseeing the excavations and analysis of materials for the project.

Sugar cane growing and processing has long been significant to Louisiana’s economy and culture. After the first financially successful cultivation of sugar cane and production of sugar by New Orleanian Étienne de Boré in 1795, sugar soon became more widely available to the consumers of the United States during the early and mid-19th century and contributed to the livelihoods of an estimated 500,000 people in the state. The subtropical climate of south Louisiana, the extensive fertile alluvial soils of the Mississippi River delta, the cheap labor provided by slavery, and the easy accessibility of the river for transportation to the bustling port of New Orleans all contributed to the accumulation of enormous wealth by many plantation families. Visitors from all over the world still come to south Louisiana to view some of the antebellum palaces this wealth helped build.

What made this wealth possible was the combination of steam engine technology with the enormous tonnage of sugar cane stalks grown during the hot and humid summers in south Louisiana. Temperatures below freezing make it impossible to extract juice from the cane. Consequently, there are only a few weeks in October, November, and early December for sugar plantations to extract the cane juice that is processed into raw sugar and then sent to refineries. The traditional technology of grinding cane with horses, mules, or oxen turning the grinders was grossly inadequate to meet the constraints imposed by climate in Louisiana. The development of steam engines in the late 1700s onward proved to be the obvious solution. Almost every sugar plantation in Louisiana had its own sugar mill—almost 1300 just before the American Civil War—and most of them were steam powered.

Along the Mississippi River, sugar cane plantations such as Chatsworth reflected the French arpent system of land survey. This system emphasized frontage on the river and its tributaries with pie slice shapes going back from the waterfront toward the back swamp that was at a lower elevation than the better-drained natural levees closer to the rivers. This system, in turn, led to linear arrangements for the sugar plantations: the grand plantation houses fronting the river, the slave quarters lined up behind them on either side of the quarters road, and the sugar mill yet further behind the quarters, belching smoke and smells during the autumn “rolling” season. During the summer, these

FIGURE 1. Location of the Chatsworth Plantation site (16EBR192) in Louisiana.

FIGURE 2. Detail from the 1879-1880 Mississippi River Commission map showing the orientation of Chatsworth Plantation to the Mississippi River.

FIGURE 3. Illustration in Harper’s Weekly newspaper of a sugar cane harvest in Louisiana in 1875.
structures were surrounded by a thick forest of sugar cane plants that reached well over 10 feet high.

The LSU RLM’s work at the Chatsworth Plantation site began in early 2013 with the excavation of that plantation’s sugar mill. A heap of brick, mortar, slate, metal, and other items was blanketed by almost a century of south Louisiana’s riotous vegetation where a two-story industrial structure once stood. Dr. Carl Kuttruff, archaeologist and skilled backhoe operator, assisted the project’s crew for four months by removing rubble and defining the footprint of this industrial structure. Although much modified over its decades of operation between the 1840s and the 1920s, and despite a major fire on-site in 1898, the original design of the uncovered sugar mill reflected the process patented in 1846 by French engineers Charles Derosne and Jean-Francois Cail.

The original owner of Chatsworth Plantation built two rows of double-pen cabins on either side of the quarters road, as well as other structures to house the enslaved work force. The 1860 census reported that Fergus Peniston, the plantation’s owner at that time, had 151 slaves at Chatsworth housed in 41 cabins. Although completely abandoned by the early 20th century and overgrown by vegetation after their razing, 19 residences within the quarters area of Chatsworth Plantation were excavated by LSU RLM and CEI. Coastal Environments, Inc. also defined and excavated portions of two privies they discovered, one of which reportedly had a “mere” 50 rooms. Construction began in 1859, but the American Civil War and the disruption of the ensuing Reconstruction intervened to prevent Chatsworth’s “Big House” from attaining the ultimate splendor to which its original builder once aspired.

In the aftermath of the devastating Mississippi River Flood of 1927, the U.S. Congress passed legislation that funded the construction of earthen levees of unprecedented...
dimensions and strength, to ensure that such a flood never happened again. These new levees were set back from the existing levees and encroached upon the Chatsworth Plantation House itself. Somewhat shabby and in disrepair after over 90 years of standing as a symbol of antebellum gentility to some and oppression to others, Chatsworth was demolished in 1930. During its last years it served as a “country inn” that was raided just months before its destruction for serving alcohol during Prohibition.

The process and results of archaeology done at Chatsworth now form a display at the LSU Rural Life Museum where the excavated materials will also be curated. Project staff are also building a database of all the excavated materials, so that not only will the usual counts and weights of material be available through queries, but also maps of the site showing artifact distribution. Thousands of digital images of the artifacts themselves will be linked to this database for future researchers to better understand what was excavated. This database will be posted online so that other archaeologists and historians can access the information about Chatsworth Plantation.

In addition, this project has provided two graduate students in LSU’s Department of Geography and Anthropology, Matt McGraw and Jason Brooks, with subjects for their thesis and dissertation, respectively. Also, a 2013 field school for undergraduates at LSU exposed a dozen students to the realities of fieldwork in Louisiana’s summers and provided them with valuable field and lab experience. Finally, the Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC) recently gave the Rural Life Museum a public outreach grant to aid in the production of a video to post on several websites and display at the museum itself. This professionally developed video will introduce the public in Louisiana and throughout the world to the past that was a 19th-century sugar cane plantation and how archaeology documents and preserves that past.

FIGURE 6. Artifacts recovered from the Quarters area of the Chatsworth Plantation site: (A) rosette on Civil War U.S. cavalry horse’s bridle, (B) painted porcelain doll’s leg, (C) stoneware ginger beer bottle, (D) two views of a ceramic smoking pipe bowl, (E) 1848 Seated Liberty five cent piece, (F) metal heel plate for woman’s boot, and (G) two of over 100 gunflints recovered in the Chatsworth Plantation Quarters.

USA - Pacific West

California

Recent Publications in California (submitted by Stephen Van Wormer): The following recent regional publications may be of interest to SHA members working in California and elsewhere. Articles focus on southern California, looking at the economic and social evolution of farming families and communities, ca. 1870–1900; Mexican and American folk traditions at a mining camp; and the material culture study of glass artifacts from the San Diego Presidio.


2014 Mexican and American Folk Architectural Traditions and Adaptations at Hedges: A Late Nineteenth - Early Twentieth Century Mining Camp in the California Desert. California Archaeology 6(1):95–118.


Nevada

Quenching the Mine: A Look at the Mary Mine Water System (submitted by Travis Hansen and John S. Blustain, Kautz Environmental Consultants, Inc.): The state of Nevada is made up of a largely semiarid, desert environment and therefore the acquisition, transportation, and storage of water supplies have been of primary concern to its inhabitants. As
mining was historically the principal industry in Nevada, large population centers were located near the ore deposits, often without regard to year-round surficial water supplies. Such communities either had to develop their own water supplies by drilling wells or bring in water from elsewhere by freight, railroad, or pipes. Piping in water often leaves a substantial signature in the archaeological record and the resulting feature systems offer a window into their developer’s priorities and technologies. Ongoing work by Kautz Environmental Consultants, Inc. (KEC) of Reno, Nevada, within the Silver Peak Mining District of Esmeralda County, Nevada, seeks to explore the water transmission and storage systems of one such mine, the Mary Mine, and its associated company town.

In 2011, KEC was contracted to conduct a cultural resource survey of 2,226 acres of public and private land within the Silver Peak Mining District. Survey crews found and recorded a series of water conveyance features, including a long berm for a pipeline and a water tank located near the Mary Mine. Archival research suggested that these remains were associated with the water system constructed by the Pittsburg Silver Peak Gold Mining Company (PSPGMC) in 1907. Well documented in Hugh Shamberger’s (1976) history of Silver Peak, this system collected water from the company’s reservoir in the nearby town of Blair and traversed the rugged Silver Peak mountain range, bringing water to the Mary Mine. In total, the system utilized three triplex pumps to raise the water 503 m over a distance of approximately 4.5 km.

In 2014, KEC returned to conduct archaeological and architectural mitigation of the Silver Peak Mining District in advance of renewed mining activity in the area. As part of the project’s research design, KEC personnel sought to reconstruct and interpret the mining district’s technological systems, including the water conveyance subsystems. Investigations focused on the archaeological and architectural resources that remained. During the mitigation, field crews conducted a complete feature and artifact recordation and excavated numerous mining and residential features. Included in these mitigation activities was a thorough recordation of the Mary Mine water system. Though it was in ruins, crews found the system to be largely relatable to historic photographs and accounts. The epicenter of this complex is the remains of the Mary Mine water tank platform, which is surrounded by a system of water pipes, a flume, a water cutoff valve, and a dense scatter of structural debris (Figure 1). In close proximity to the water tank are two pipelines that would have transported water throughout the mine. On the southern side of the platform, the remains of a flume are present; this component appears to have connected to the main water supply line from Blair.

Water from the tank not only provided for mining operations, but was also delivered to residential structures for drinking water and domestic purposes. A secondary storage facility or cistern (not pictured in Figure 1) was located downslope to the southeast and likely stored water for the employee bunkhouse and mess halls, two of the more-substantial habitation structures in use during the operations of the PSPGMC. Other features of the system include a pipe and secondary water tank near the Mary Mine adit portal, which would have stored water for use in the mine.

This feature system, a small component of the larger mining systems observed within the Silver Peak Mining District, illustrates the technological sophistication that was present on the Mary Mine. The extent and complexity of the system, and the capital that was needed to build it, evidence the level of investment in mining support systems generated by the PSPGMC during the first decade of the 20th century.

Ongoing analysis and archival research at KEC seeks to generate complete maps of the water system on the Mary Mine site, and compare the system with similar water systems of similar mines in other early-20th-century Nevada mining camps. Future work will explore how water was prioritized between industrial and domestic uses and provide a site-specific context to interpret the unique characteristics of the Mary Mine water system. In addition, while the water system was originally built for the Mary Mine, the associated gold deposits were occasionally reworked throughout the 20th century. KEC will further investigate the water system and its components and will seek to identify and explore evidence of system adaptation and reuse.

**Reference**

Shamberger, Hugh
1976 *The Story of Silver Peak, Esmeralda County, Nevada.* Nevada Historical Press, Carson City, NV.
On Saturday the 18th of October, 2014, a conference will be held in the Frank and Katherine May Lecture Theatre in the Henry Wellcome Building at the University of Leicester in memory of Paul Courtney, long-standing member of both the Society for Historical Archaeology and the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology (SPMA), and former editor of SPMA’s journal *Post-Medieval Archaeology*.

The meeting, held jointly by the Finds Research Group and SPMA in collaboration with Yolanda Courtney, will be a celebration of Paul’s many interests, including his contributions to local history, artifact research, ceramic studies, and fortifications both in the UK and internationally. There will be a chance at the end of the day for those attending to raise a glass in Paul’s memory.

The conference program can be found at the SPMA website at:  

The Henry Wellcome Building is located on Lancaster Road, with ample car parking nearby; a pdf map of the university campus is available at:  

Conference registration costs £15 for students/retired/unwaged delegates, £20 for others, and includes all refreshments, lunch, and a postconference wine reception.

To register for the conference, visit the following website and register online:  

Or download the registration form from <http://www.spma.org.uk/_assets/files/PC_Conf_registration_form.pdf> and send it with a check for the required amount made payable to “Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology” to:

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