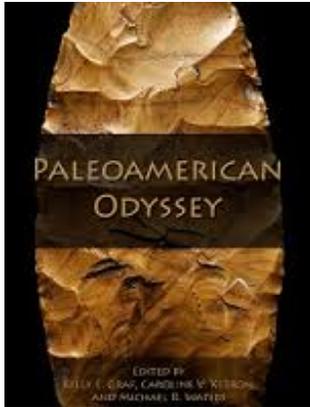


Archaeotext

*The Newsletter of the Norwalk Community College
Archaeology Club and
The Archaeology As An Avocation Program*



NCC Archaeology Program Represented at International Paleoamerican Conference – Santa Fe, NM

Club Meetings – Fall Academic Semester



November 14 - Thursday - 8:00 pm
GenRe Forum - East Campus
Archaeological Frauds
Kenneth Feder - Central Connecticut SU



December 12 - Thursday -
Holiday Pot Luck 7:00, Lecture 8:00 pm
GenRe Forum - East Campus
Offering Children and Llamas to the
Ocean: Animal and Human Sacrifice in
the Peruvian North Coast

Save These Dates! -

Nov 14 - Thurs 8:00 pm

Kenneth Feder

Dec 12 - Thurs 7:00 pm

Annual Pot Luck

**Sacrifice on the Peruvian
North Coast**

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Kenneth "Kenny" Feder is a professor of archaeology at Central CT State U. and will join us to speak on his favorite topic of Archaeological Frauds. He is the author of several books on pseudoarchaeology such as *Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries: Science and Pseudoscience in Archaeology*. His book *Encyclopedia of Dubious Archaeology: From Atlantis to the Walum Olum* was published in 2010. He is the founder and director of the Farmington River Archaeological Project.

In addition to his work on frauds and hoaxes, Kenny has done recent work excavating the Native American steatite (soapstone) quarries in northern Connecticut, and the Barkhamstead Lighthouse community.

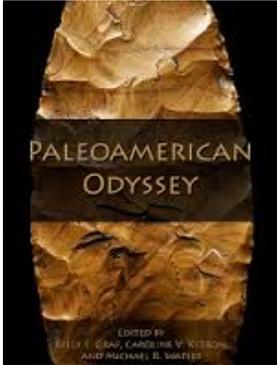
Please join us Thursday, November 14 in the GenRe Forum, East Campus, refreshments 7:30, lecture 8:00 pm. Kenny is always a wonderful and entertaining speaker.

Gabriel Prieto will present the preliminary results of the recent excavation of a massive sacrificial context at the site of Huancaquito – Las Llamas, in the northern end of the Moche valley, North Coast of Peru. He will discuss the nature of the Chimú sacrificial practices, based on the data from sites within the Moche valley and in other valleys of the north coast region. From this comparative analysis he develops a working hypothesis for interpreting this sacrificial context. This is evaluated in the context of the emergence of Chan Chan (A.D. 1100 - 1470), the largest urban settlement in South America prior to the Incas.

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NCC Archaeology Program Well Represented at Recent Paleoamerican Odyssey Conference in Santa Fe, NM

Club members Neal Konstantin, Candace Meador, Jeff Kalin and Ernie Wiegand attended the "PaleoAmerican Odyssey" in Santa Fe, New Mexico Oct. 16-19. The conference pulled together a fascinating international array of experts dealing with all aspects of the colonization of the Americas, from early man in Asia to the Solutrean culture of southwestern France and northern Spain. The examination of a wide range of evidence presented by experts in genetics, geology, climatology, archaeobotany, zooarchaeology, experimental archaeology, underwater archaeology and even sociology complemented the work by leading archaeologists studying early sites in the New World. The presentations were accompanied by

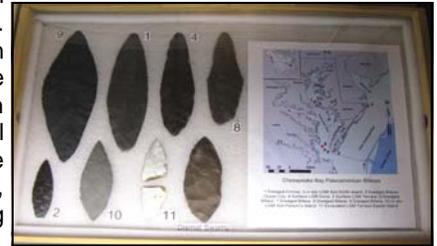


studying early sites in the New World. The presentations were accompanied by



Taos Pueblo, north of Santa Fe, continuously occupied for over 1000 years

numerous "poster" sessions at which dozens of researchers presented their work in an informal setting at which dialogues between scholars allowed an interchange of ideas on a number of topics. Each poster session correlated with the topics of each session of the oral presentations in the conference room, further stimulating discussion.



Dredged Paleoamerican bifaces from the Chesapeake region. The famous Cinmar biface (top row, second from left)

A major attraction was the exhibit room. Here were gathered collections of early man artifacts from sites in the Old World as well as the oldest and most prominent sites in the New World. An astounding array of stemmed and fluted points, bifaces, processing tools and art objects (which included a Folsom bead that measured perhaps 3mm. in diameter) were available for viewing and photographing. Other objects included the bones of Pleistocene mammals (chiefly mammoth but camel and horse as well), woven fabrics and coprolites from the Paisley Caves, and numerous artifacts from Clovis cache sites from much of the United States. The bi-pointed leaf-shaped bifaces from several early sites in the Mid-Atlantic

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Gabriel Prieto - Sacrifice in Peru



Gabriel Prieto is a PhD Candidate in Anthropology at Yale University. Since 2004 he has been working on some of the most important archaeological projects of the Peruvian North Coast. Since 2010 he has directed his own research project in the modern fishing village

of Huanchaco. Between 2010 and 2012 Prieto excavated more than three sites in that area, producing new information regarding the social dynamics and economic interactions of ancient maritime communities.

Prieto has published several articles in Peru, the US and the United Kingdom. He has participated in several TV documentaries

for BBC as well as the Chilean and Peruvian television. He is also a Sigma-Xi, Wenner-Grenn and a National Geographic / Waitt Foundation grantee.

Please join us December 12 in the GenRe Forum, East Campus, for our Annual Pot Luck Holiday refreshments at 7:00 pm, lecture at 8:00 pm.

Coming to the Pot Luck? Please bring an appetizer or a dessert!



NCC delegates at the Santa Fe conference: L to R, Neal Konstantin, Candace Meador, Prof. Ernie Wiegand, Jeff Kalin



The Drake Clovis Cache, 14 objects discovered in NE Colorado. Recent evidence from multiple sites proves Clovis technology spread from the southeast to the northwest, not the reverse, as previously believed.

Sun Tavern, Fairfield, CT Radiocarbon Date

The Sun Tavern excavation was conducted in the town of Fairfield, Connecticut between 2001 and 2006. The building itself is located on the original "Four Squares" that made up the town upon its settlement in 1639. During the middle part of the 18th century the structure was operated as a tavern by Samuel Penfield. The building was one of many burned by British forces during their invasion of Fairfield in 1779. The structure was rebuilt and operated by the Penfield family as a tavern until the beginning of the 19th century when it became a private residence, and thus it remained until the latter part of the 20th century when the property was purchased by the town.

In 2005, prior to the construction of the new Fairfield Museum and History Center building, an area in the rear of the Sun Tavern property was tested. This testing revealed a small shell midden in undisturbed context. The size of this midden was approximately 70 cm in diameter and approximately 60 cm deep. Among the shells were several pieces of Native American pottery, some of which exhibited a cord stick design. Also recovered were quartz and chert debitage. During the floatation analysis of the soil from the midden, charcoal pieces were recovered.



Sun Tavern in a 1910 postcard

Through the Lyent Russell Grant, sponsored by the Archaeological Society of Connecticut, we were able to get funding to have a sample of charcoal radiocarbon dated. The resulting radiocarbon date for the shell midden was 1220 to 1280 AD with a conventional radiocarbon age 760 +/- 30 BP (Beta 295836). This time frame falls into the Late Woodland period. This is one of the few, and perhaps the first, radiocarbon date taken in the town of Fairfield.

The recovered artifacts from this and the overall excavation of the Sun Tavern will help with future interpretation of the property and restoration of the Sun Tavern building by the Fairfield Museum and History Center. The archaeological reports for the shell midden (*Sun Tavern Shell Midden*



Excavation Area 2 Conducted between April and September 2005) and Sun Tavern (*Sun Tavern Excavation Final Report conducted from April 2001- November 2005*) are on file in the Fairfield Museum and History Center library with copies also on file with the Office of the State Archaeologist.

(Continued from page 2) region (above) were also on display, including the now famous Cinmar point that was dredged from the edge of the continental shelf along with the molar and tusk of a mastodon which were radiocarbon dated to ca. 23,000 years ago.

There was widespread (though not quite unanimous) agreement that the preponderance of evidence from well-documented and dated sites points to the presence of man in the Americas well prior to Clovis (about 13,000 ybp). Many of the sites date to about 15,000 years ago and a number are even earlier. The conference left us all reeling with the questions that will guide early man studies in the years to come!

Paleoamerican Odyssey Conference



Clovis artifacts from Mockhorn Island, VA



Atlatl demonstration at conference poster session

Gallows Hill Site Opens for the Fall Season

The excavations at the Gallows Hill site began in late September and will continue through November. Club members and students from the "Introduction to Archaeology" class are continuing the block excavation at the eastern edge of the site. While only lithic debitage has been found so far, it is hoped that additional materials will be recovered from the block before it is completed. At that time, the block will be back-filled and a series of new excavation units started in the eastern and southern portions of the site.



Gallows Hill, excavating unit N82W96. From Right to Left are Kimbherlyn Juarez, Judith Rivas and Kaila Baker.

Recovered materials will be processed in the Thursday night Archaeology Club laboratory sessions, which are held in room W-015 from 5:30-8:30 pm. Those who are interested in participating in the dig and lab sessions should contact Ernie Wiegand for further information at 203-857-7377 or via e-mail at

wiegand@ncc.commnet.edu.



The Newsletter of the Norwalk Community College
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Neal Konstantin Bree Longcore

Olivia Vlahos Scholarship Fund

The Vlahos Scholarship, which was created in 1999 to honor Professor Olivia Vlahos, founder of the Archaeology as an Avocation certificate program, is seeking applicants for this year's award. The student selected for the award will preferably reflect the philosophy of Professor Vlahos by demonstrating the intention to further study areas related to the Social Sciences, specifically the field of Anthropology (whose sub-fields include cultural anthropology, archaeology, physical anthropology and linguistics) at the undergraduate or graduate level. The scholarship award is an amount up to \$1000.00 and will be given, if funds permit, every year.

The scholarship invites open competition from among members of the Norwalk Community College student body, either currently enrolled at the college or those who have previously enrolled in the Archaeology as an Avocation certificate program. Preference will be given to a student who demonstrates merit in Anthropology, the Social Sciences as well as courses involving Culture Studies. The expectation is that the recipient of the award will be transferring to, or is currently in, a degree-granting program at an upper-level institution. Selection will be made by a committee of anthropology/archaeology faculty at the college and their designees.

To complete the application process, a student must begin by submitting an 800-1,000-word essay. The essay must be developed along three lines: 1) Why the applicant has chosen to study their particular curriculum; 2) A summary of the accomplishments the applicant has achieved to date; 3) How the applicant will use the curriculum they have studied to further their academic or professional career. Preferably the student should submit all academic transcripts and two letters of recommendation from professors familiar with the candidate's academic record and desire to undertake a specified field of study.

To be eligible, a student must submit all application materials postmarked no later than April 1. Inquiries concerning eligibility and applications should be directed to Ernest Wiegand at the Archaeology Program Office (203-857-7377).



Anthropology and Archaeology Courses this Spring at NCC

This Spring semester at NCC offers three classes, including a course in specific archaeological skills. Courses can be applied towards the "Archaeology as an Avocation" certificate program. Courses are described at the right, and registration information is available from the Records Office at 203-857-7035 or the Archaeology Office, 203-857-7377.

Introduction to Archaeology (ANT 121), will be held on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** from **1:00-2:20 pm**. This course, taught by Ernie Wiegand, provides an introduction to prehistoric archaeology and Northeastern prehistory, and will include weekend "dig" sessions at a prehistoric Native American site dating to over 4,000 years ago. Recovered artifacts will be studied at class lab sessions, with students interpreting their finds in a written site report.

Physical Geology (GLG 121), will be taught by Ernie Wiegand on **Mondays and Wednesdays** from **9:00-11:50 am**. The course offers an introduction to physical geology, and examines the composition of the earth, and the forces, both external (glaciers, rivers, oceans, wind and gravity) and internal (plate tectonics, volcanism, earthquakes), that shape our world.

Cultural Anthropology (ANT 105). This is an introduction to Cultural Anthropology. Two sections of the course are offered, both on **Mondays and Wednesdays**. Section 1 is from **11:30 am -12:50 pm** and section 2 is from **1:00-2:20 pm**. Taught by Mary Frances Carmell, and part of the Archaeology as an Avocation curriculum, the course illuminates social systems and patterns of behavior the world over. From tribal societies to enclave communities in our current times, under examination will be those beliefs, values, customs, rituals, laws and material culture - all those social structures that provide identity and that inform and explain a people's world view.

Register in January!