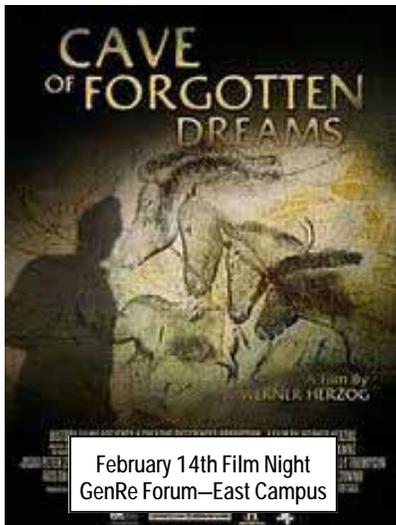


# Archaeotext

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



February 14th Film Night  
GenRe Forum—East Campus

## Club Meetings – Spring Academic Semester

### Save These Dates! -

**Feb 14** - Thurs 8:00 pm

#### Film Night!

Cave of Forgotten Dreams

**March 14** - Thurs 8:00 pm

Lonetown: Cultural Frontiers in  
Redding, Connecticut

**April 11** - Thurs 8:00 pm

Detecting Malaria in  
Archeological Human Bones



March 14 - Thursday - 8:00 pm  
Culinary Arts Dining Room - West Campus  
"Lonetown: Cultural Frontiers in  
Redding, Connecticut"  
Stuart Reeve and Kathleen von Jena



April 11 - Thursday - 8:00 pm  
GenRe Forum - East Campus  
Detecting Malaria in Archaeological  
Human Bones  
Jamie Inwood - Yale University

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Stuart Reeve and Kathleen von Jena will present a talk entitled "Lonetown: Archaeology and History of Cultural Frontiers in Redding." The talk will explore the struggles by local Native Americans to retain traditional lands in Redding. John Read, the "Father of American Law", was the first English settler in Redding in 1711, buying land from Chickens, a Pequonock-Aspetuck. Read's son and family formed a close alliance with Chickens and his family. However, this cultural frontier extends much deeper in time.

The presentation describes archaeology at Read's Lonetown Manor, Chickens' Reservation, and other important sites that have been discovered over the past 15 years as a result of the town's support for archaeological surveys.

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Malaria has long been a part of human history, with the earliest description of the symptoms dating back to Chinese medical writings from the third millennium BC. Malaria continues to be a global problem, even after years of global eradication and control measures. Malaria in human populations may have originated in Africa around 10,000 years ago. In order to further investigate its emergence, it is necessary to identify malaria in archaeological skeletal remains. This project aims to contribute to the study of malaria in ancient times by identifying visual malaria indicators in ancient bones.

This presentation will focus on the first step of the project, investigation of modern bones of mice infected by the fatal malarial

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### Lonetown: Cultural Frontiers in Redding, Connecticut

Stuart A. Reeve (Ph.D. 1986, SUNY Albany) has more than 40 years experience in archaeology across the United States, working in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, Chesapeake Bay, and more recently conducting surveys for permitting wind farms across



the county. Since 1996, Dr. Reeve has served as a consultant for the Redding Selectmen and Planning Commission and the Town of Easton, compiling town-wide historical and archaeological assessments. Research interests include prehistoric cultural chronologies, paleoecology and Colonial settlement patterns in Fairfield County.



Kathleen von Jena (BA 2004, Charter Oak College), has 15 years experience in archaeology and historic preservation. Ms von Jena is Redding Town Historian, consultant for the Redding Planning Commission and Town of Easton, and she works for the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation. Research interests include gender studies, early industries and cultural landscapes. Please join us March 14 in the Culinary Dining Room, West Campus, 8 pm.



### Hurricane Sandy Reveals Shell Midden at Roton Point in Rowayton, Norwalk

In November, in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, Mr. John Campbell contacted me to report that the loss of a 50 foot section of seawall at the Roton Point Club had revealed the presence of a shell midden. He asked if we would be interested in taking a look at it and possibly conducting an excavation before the discovery would be once again be sealed by a new sea wall.

Upon arriving at the site a few days later, it was clear that there was indeed a shell midden. The question then turned to "How old is it?" Directly overlying the midden was a fill layer containing some historic artifacts that had probably been deposited around the time of the construction of the sea wall. Close inspection of the midden, however, failed to reveal anything other than shells.



Of course we wanted to determine the age and cultural affiliation of the midden before the opportunity was lost. So, on December 2, a team of NCC Archaeology Club members and archaeology students arrived to conduct a limited excavation.

After clearing away the many roots that formed a curtain in front of the midden, photographs were taken and a stratigraphic profile of the site was drawn. The excavators each took a one-

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Skeletal remains in situ in Mali

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strain *Plasmodium berghei*. Using methods such as light microscopy, micro CT scans, X-ray diffraction, and scanning electron microscopy, bone pathology resulting from the infection will be reported. We intend to create a distinctive malarial profile for skeletal remains, which will be then applied to the study of ancient archaeological human bones, from historical and archaeological sites in West Africa.

Jamie graduated with a B.A. in Anthropology from Boston University and has since conducted histological research on bone at Yale Kline Geology Laboratory and The Yale Archaeo-



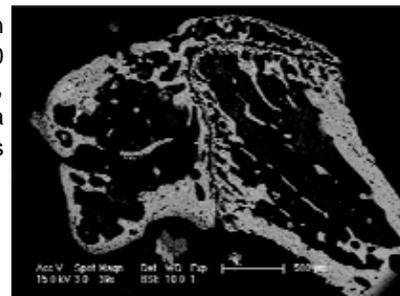
Dakar, Senegal

logical Labs, and is currently pursuing her doctorate in Archaeology from Yale. She has worked on archaeological projects in Italy, Peru, Mongolia, Mali and Senegal. Her research focuses on the impact of disease, particularly malaria, tuberculosis and syphilis, on population demographics, settlement patterns and migration patterns in archaeological sites in West Africa.

Jamie is currently involved in a joint project with the Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire- Université Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, Senegal, investigating micro-morphological and biomolecular indicators of malaria in historic and archaeological skeletal remains housed in their collections. This project is funded by a Macmillan Center faculty grant.

Please join us on April 11th at 8:00 pm in the GenRe Forum, East Campus, for a fascinating lecture on this subject.

An electron microscope image of an infected mouse bone



## February 14th Film Night - Werner Herzog's *Cave of Forgotten Dreams*

Join us Valentine's Day evening for our "February Movie Night". We are pleased to announce that this year's film will be "*Cave of Forgotten Dreams*", the award-winning documentary by famed director Werner Herzog.

Herzog's subject is Chauvet Cave which was discovered in the south of France in 1994 by Jean-Marie Chauvet, after whom the cave is named, Eliette Deschamps and Christian Hillaire. After following air currents into the cave, they viewed the first of the hundreds of paintings of animals in the cave: a mammoth, to which she exclaimed "They were here!" Indeed they were.

Mammoths, bison, horses, lions and others depicted with a grace and sophistication that places them among the finest examples of early cave art. Although their age, estimated to be about 34,000 years before present, twice the age of Lascaux, has been debated, all are in agreement that Chauvet is nothing short of spectacular.



In the course of his filming, Herzog took extraordinary care not to disturb the cave, its art or the hundreds of animal bones and artifacts that carpet its floor. His knack for casting interesting subjects from a wide range of backgrounds for interviews extends even to a perfumer and a circus-performer turned anthropologist! As Chauvet Cave is closed to the public, *Cave of Forgotten Dreams* provides the next best thing: a tour of a magnificent "lost cathedral" of early man by a skilled guide who combines mystery, awe and wonder, with a dash of wry humor; a memorable trip into the mind and soul of our ancestors.

Please join us in the GenRe Forum, East Campus on Valentine's Day, Thursday, February 14th. Refreshments at 7:30, film at 8:00. The film is 90 minutes in length.

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meter long section of the shell midden and removed the layer containing the midden. The soil was passed through ¼" mesh sieves and all artifacts and faunal materials were recovered for later analysis.

It soon became evident that the midden dated to the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The artifacts included nails, window glass, bottle/jar glass, and a few sherds of whiteware and porcelain. While most of the shells were from hard clams, some oysters were also recovered. However, the vast majority of the bones were from chickens, although pig and possibly sheep bones were also recovered in very small numbers.

Roton Point was a major recreational attraction from the 1890's until its demise in 1941. In its heyday, there was a hotel, an amusement park, a midway featuring attractions such as a glass blower, fortune teller, games of chance and various refreshments, and a theatre for vaudeville. Many big bands of the era played there, including Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Guy Lombardo and Glenn Miller, among many others.

Considering the fact that several steamers and a trolley brought thousands of visitors to the park, the shell midden is but a tiny reflection of the summer fun enjoyed by many in what was then called "the prettiest park on Long Island Sound" ([www.rotonpoint.org/about/history](http://www.rotonpoint.org/about/history)).



### Join the Archaeological Society of Connecticut!

*The ASC wants YOU!* The Society, founded in 1934, is made up of avocational and professional archaeologists and those interested in archaeology. It promotes the study of prehistoric and historic archaeology throughout the state through its publications (the ASC Newsletter and the Bulletin, which presents reports of research in and near Connecticut) and its spring and fall meetings. The ASC also maintains a fine website filled with information about activities, meetings, publications and research in and around the state ([www.connarchaeology.org](http://www.connarchaeology.org))

To join (or renew your membership), send a check for \$25 to ASC treasurer Cosimo Sgarlata at 1 Roscoe St., Norwalk, Ct. 06851.

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Neal Konstantin Holly Cuzzone

## The Olivia Vlahos Scholarship Fund

The Vlahos Scholarship was created in 1999 to honor Professor Olivia Vlahos, founder of the Archaeology as an Avocation certificate program. 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 and will be given, as 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 Certificate program. Contact Ernie Wiegand at 203-857-7377 for application details and requirements.



Bronze Axes, Musee de Picardy, Amiens, France.

### Spend a Week This May Digging Topper in South Carolina!



Join a fun group of volunteer avocationalists, graduate students and professionals for a week of excavation at one of the most important and oldest sites in the Americas. The Topper Site in Allendale County, South Carolina, excavated by Dr. Al Goodyear of USC, has a large Clovis as well as controversial Pre-Clovis components. For five of the last six years NCC has been represented at this fascinating dig.

Weeks are April 29, May 6, 13, 20 and 27. Cost is only \$488.00 which includes lunches and dinners. Drive, or fly into Charleston, Atlanta, Charlotte or Columbia, SC. For more information contact: [www.allendale-expedition.net](http://www.allendale-expedition.net)



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN THE LAB

The Archaeology Club lab sessions are held each Thursday night from 3:30 – 8 pm in room W-015 of the West Campus. This room is located in the basement at the north end of the West Campus building, below the atrium (follow the signs on the walls of the atrium or call Ernie at 857-7377).

Although most of the Gallows Hill artifacts have been processed, the materials from this fall's dig season remain to be done. In addition, some materials from previous club digs are being readied for work, including the Incerto House artifacts and ecofacts from this emergency salvage dig conducted in 2001-02. No previous experience in the lab is necessary – we'll show you the basics of processing and cataloging the artifacts. Call Ernie Wiegand at the Archaeology Office for additional information (857-7377).