

# Archaeotext

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



## Club Meetings – Spring Academic Semester

### Save These Dates! -

**Feb 9** - Thurs 8:00 pm

**Film Night! - Secrets of the Bog People - The Windover Site in Florida**

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

**Neanderthal Subsistence Strategies from Southern Iberia**

**April 12** - Thurs 8:00 pm

**Leveling the Dykes in 18th and 19th Century Scotland**



**March 8 - Thursday - 8:00 pm**  
**GenRe Forum - East Campus**  
**“Ecogeographic Variability in Neanderthal Subsistence Strategies: Recent Evidence from the Southern Iberian Peninsula Mediterranean Basin”**  
**Kellie Carlson - Yale Univ.**



**April 12 - Thursday - 8:00 pm**  
**PepsiCo Theatre - East Campus**  
**“Leveling the Dykes: Improvement and Clearance in Galloway Scotland during the 18th and 19th Centuries”**  
**Christine Broughton Anderson**

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This lecture will discuss emerging evidence for ecogeographic heterogeneity in Neanderthal subsistence strategies. This will be viewed in contrast to previous data that supported a temporally and geographically homogenous diet consisting almost solely of bovids, deer, and megafauna. The evidence for homogeneity will be examined via stable isotope analysis of Neanderthal skeletal remains and associated faunal remains. The results of this method will be reviewed, as will concerns about the nutritional requirements and physiology of Neanderthals as inferred from data provided by anatomically modern humans.

Faunal research will be briefly explored in order to ascertain what species were being consumed in different regions such as the Mammoth Steppe, Caucasus,

Drystane dykes are the iconic stone walls visible across the landscape in Scotland. However, these walls or dykes are representative of a period in Scottish history when hundreds of thousands of rural inhabitants were displaced from their homes through processes intended to modernize agricultural production. Known as the Highland Clearances, this period – the late 18th and 19th centuries - is engrained in the psyche of Scotland through songs, stories, and memorials. But was this practice only carried out in the Highlands or was this a national experience?

In the summer of 1724, a band of men, women, and children roamed the countryside of Galloway, Scotland tearing down or leveling drystane dykes in response to families being cleared from the land. Nearly one hundred years before the height of the Highland Clearances, lowland tenants and cottars were addressing the practices of improvement and

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## Variability in Neanderthal Subsistence Strategies

and Mediterranean Basin. An argument for increased dietary breadth will be constructed in light of recent evidence from lower latitude sites that suggest the inclusion of shellfish,



Crouching on a terrace is Cueva Negra. At left is Antonio Lopez Jimenez the microfauna expert. At right is Matt Steinkraus, a graduate student at Sheffield who studies evolutionary psychology.

tortoise, and birds. Adding to the faunal evidence is data from dental calculus and dental macrowear, which suggest greater plant consumption than previously understood. It will be found that although Neanderthals subsisted off a generally homogeneous diet in the Mammoth Steppe, eco-geographic variables can be identified



Mediterranean prehistory, human osteology and historic ceramics, while at Southampton she concentrated on human osteology and palaeodiet. Her research focus is in palaeo-anthropology and is working toward a PhD in this subject.

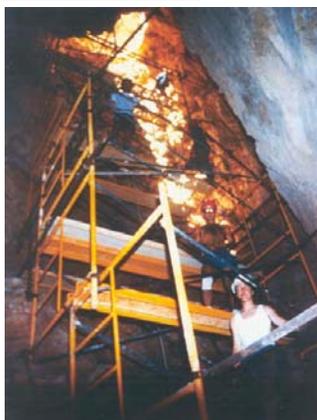
Kellie primarily excavated in the Mediterranean at Middle to Upper Pleistocene archaeological and palaeoanthropological sites, most recently in southern Spain at Sima de las Palomas, Murcia. This site has yielded the remains of several Neanderthal individuals and is believed to be a burial. She also excavated at Cueva

Negra, Murcia, a site occupied by *Homo heidelbergensis* and Neanderthals. This summer she will be excavating at the Balanica Cave Complex, a Mousterian, hominid-bearing site near Niš, Serbia.

Kellie is currently working on a provisional project with a team from University College London concerning an evolutionary mechanism that assembles phenotypes through space rather than time, as outlined by Shine *et al.* (2011), and applying it to early hominid migrations out of Africa.

**Please join us Thursday, March 8th. Refreshments at 7:30 pm and lecture at 8:00.**

Scaffolding looking up from the bottom of the cave at Sima de las Palomas.



that led to the inclusion of low-yield protein resources and plants, most notably in southerly latitudes such as the Southern Iberian Peninsula and Levant.

Kellie earned her first degree in Archaeology from Yale University in 2009. She received a degree in Palaeolithic Archaeology and Human Origins from University of Southampton (England) in 2010. At Yale Kellie focused on



Neanderthal tibia, from Sima de las Palomas.



Neanderthal skull, from Sima de las Palomas.

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## Clearance in Galloway Scotland During the 18th and 19th Centuries

clearing through revolt. Though the revolt was put down, it had a lasting effect on the way landowners approached modernization.

Against the backdrop of developing capitalism within Great Britain during the 18th and 19th centuries, Scottish landlords embraced "Improvement," a matrix of economic, material and social changes directed at the landscape and towards achieving a productive, civilized world through the moral betterment of the population. These changes were manifest in the commodification of land, domination through the disciplining of space, and a distinct alteration of peoples' relationships with each other and with things. Landlords successfully implemented a range of strategies as a means of achieving "improvement" ideals, including the clearing of people and settlements in tandem with agricultural improvements.

Clearing carves out spaces for capitalism and propagates socio-economic beliefs that significantly alter the lifeways of populations. As an act of violence, clearing disrupts the most

intimate relationships within family and kin groups as well as the relationships between larger social and/or political groups. It is also a global phenomenon, variant, and contingent upon the specific context. Clearing is apparent in its design to create an empty landscape, void of humans. What may appear as culturally bare is rarely so. Archaeologically these spaces are crucial markers – products of and precedents for social, physical, and ideological practices in which socio-economic change eroded the past.

By engaging in archival research, map analysis, and landscape survey, a material path of change within the landscape of Galloway is reconstructed. Physical representations of power, such as field walls and other built features which indicate shifts in the



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**February Movie Night!!**  
**“Secrets of the Bog People”**  
**The Windover Site - Florida**  
**Thursday, Feb 9 - 8:00 pm**  
**GenRe Forum - East Campus**



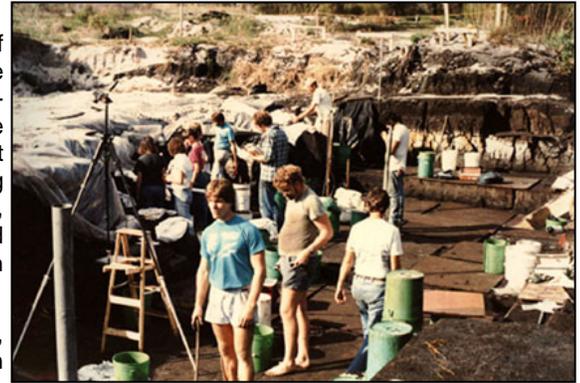
The first meeting of 2012 is our traditional movie night. Our feature presentation will be “Secrets of the Bog People”. No – it is not about the famous “Bog People” of northern Europe, but details the discovery, excavation and analysis of a truly remarkable site in south Florida, the Windover Bog site.

Located near Cape Canaveral, the site was discovered in 1982 when construction worker Steve Van der Jagy unearthed an ancient skull. A team of archaeologists working under the directorship of Dr. Glen Doran of Florida State University devoted several years to the excavation of the site, which was found to be an Archaic period cemetery dating to over 7000 years ago. Containing well over 150 individuals interred over a period of 1300 years, the site's remarkable preservation contrib-

uted to a number of major archaeological discoveries, including bone and shell artifacts, textiles and even preserved brain tissue allowing for the DNA study of the site's ancient people.

The findings at Windover challenged many of the ideas regarding life during the Archaic period in Florida. Far from living a highly nomadic way of life at a bare subsistence level, the Windover people led a settled way of life well-adapted to their environment. The study of their remains, and those of their accompanying artifacts, offer much information about their culture, social organization, economy, technology and religion.

**Come join us for this exciting presentation! The meeting will be held on Thursday, February 9 in the GenRe Forum, East Campus, at 8 pm, with refreshments at 7:30.**



Windover Site Excavation (from Windover Archaeological Research Project by Joseph L. Richardson)

Dr. Glen Doran (rt) and crew removing ancient textiles from the site for preservation (Photo courtesy of Glen Doran from NOVA web site)



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 ways space was reorganized, reconstituted, and designated for particular purposes or for example, to exclude access, are explored. Physical changes were accompanied by ideological changes. Processes of “ideological clearing” or “invisibilization:” the act of writing people off their indigenous lands to create an empty and available landscape flesh out the on-going process of erasing ethnically, racially, or economically diverse groups from both physical and mental landscapes.



These concerns are best understood by exploring the ways in which the creation, maintenance, and subversion of power was carried out within developing agrarian capitalism. Archaeologists have convincingly demonstrated that power is always delineated in the landscape. Building on this work, this project investigate the ways in which clearance is manifest in improvement strategies that transformed the material and ideological world of eighteenth and nineteenth century Galloway. Furthermore, it seeks to understand how improvement has been re-created as a covert practice of domination that has remained

engrained in the identity of Galloway. Finally, this research considers how archaeology has assisted in the continuation of such practices.

Christine Broughton Anderson is currently writing her dissertation on the Lowland Clearances in Galloway, Scotland. The dissertation fieldwork was funded by a grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation. She is pursuing her doctorate in Anthropology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Her interest in Scotland and in the Dumfries and Galloway region stems from her father's family, who were tenant farmers during the period in which she researches. Besides being an historical archaeologist, she has excavated extensively on Neolithic sites as well as early Medieval in Scotland. Her first career was teaching History on the high school level; This is much more fun!



**Please join us on Thursday, April 12 for the lecture at 8:00 pm, with refreshments at 7:30 pm.**



## Olivia Vlahos Scholarship Fund

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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 to the college postmarked no later than April 1. Inquiries concerning eligibility and applications should be directed to Ernest Wiegand at the Archaeology Program Office (857-7377).

## RESEARCH NEWS - FROM THE FIELD

### Gallows Hill Closes for 2011

The fall semester dig at Gallows Hill came to an end in late November after dealing with record-breaking snowfall and record-breaking new depths to the site.



Two of the redware milk pan rim assemblages from the Gallows Hill site (photo credit: Dawn Brown)

Work at the excavation block "G" in the northeastern corner of the site has continued to contain larger than average amounts of lithic debitage and, at a depth of about 50 cm. below surface, a small concentration of charred wood fragments that may be the remains of a surface hearth. As no diagnostic artifacts have been recovered from this level, the age and cultural affiliations of its occupants remain unknown. As the upper levels have contained narrow stemmed points of the Late Archaic, it may be that an earlier component exists at the

site. Alternative scenarios include the possibility that the area containing the deeper deposits may be a portion of a larger feature that extends beyond the small area excavated to date. The 2012 field season will expand our work in this area to explore these possibilities.

True to archaeological tradition, the last day of the Intro to Archaeology class at the site saw the discovery of a new point type at the site. Chelsea Dean, a Fairfield-Ludlowe High School senior taking the course to explore her career interests, uncovered the first Burwell point at the

site. This type, defined by Dr. Lucianne Lavin from her work with Lyent Russell at the Burwell-Karako site near New Haven, dates to the Late Archaic period and has been found associated with other point types of the "Narrow Point" tradition in the state.

Back in the laboratory, work on cataloging and analysis of the Gallows Hill artifacts continues. To date, all 166 stone tools have been cataloged, as have all faunal materials from the site. While most of these consist of small

calcined bone fragments and hard clam shell fragments, a pig molar and a sheep molar have been identified. Most of the bone and shell remains have been found within or close to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century cellar hole in the northwestern portion of the site, as have been the vast majority of the historic period artifacts. A major effort to refit the hundreds of redware sherds from the site has begun and will continue throughout the spring semester. Laboratory volunteer Bob Steele has put together enough pieces to reveal that at least two different milk pans are represented, as well as several hollow ware pieces that may be from bottles, jars or other storage containers. Ultimately, we hope to determine the minimum number of vessels from the site as well as their functions. Along with the rest of the historic period artifacts, such data will aid in the interpretation of the structure that stood at the site over 200 years ago. We encourage club members to help in these efforts. The Archaeology Club Laboratory sessions will be held each Thursday evening (except for Club meeting nights) from 4:30 to 9:00 pm. in our new room, W015, located below the Atrium of the IT Center of the West Campus. Club members interested in participating at the dig should call Ernest Wiegand at the Archaeology Office (857-7377) for information.



Chelsea Dean holding the first Burwell point found at the Gallows Hill site (photo credit: Anna May Jerusavage)

