



The Current

NEWSLETTER OF THE ISLAND & COASTAL ARCHAEOLOGY
INTEREST GROUP

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Editor's Note:

The SAA Island and Coastal Archaeology Interest Group Launches!

Dear ICAIG Members,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *The Current*, the newsletter of the newly launched Island and Coastal Archaeology Interest Group (ICAIG) of the Society for American Archaeology. *The Current* serves as the primary communication medium for ICAIG members and will be published biannually in Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter issues.

The Island and Coastal Archaeology Interest Group was recently formed by Scott Fitzpatrick (Department of Anthropology, University of Oregon), Torben Rick (Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution) and Victor Thompson (Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia) to bring together and represent the interests of archaeologists and researchers in related fields working in marine, estuarine, and littoral environments. ICAIG aims to explore various important archaeological topics, including the colonization and settlement of islands, the movement and transfer of exotic goods, plants, and animals, the development of trade and exchange systems between different cultural groups, interaction spheres and their development, seafaring technologies, the role of insular environments in sociocultural complexity, how peoples compensated for resources restrictions present on some islands (e.g., coral atolls), aquatic adaptations and the exploitation of marine resources, historical ecologies, colonial and post-colonial dynamics of indigenous societies, and the management and conservation of insular resources. The larger goal of the interest group is to provide an international forum for archaeologists working on islands and



coastlines. Further information on the mission and activities of ICAIG may be found below in the report of the first ICAIG meeting, which took place in April at the 78th Annual SAA meeting in Honolulu, Hawai'i.

This issue of *The Current* contains information on upcoming conferences and events, ongoing research projects conducted by ICAIG members, and recent publications in the area of island and coastal archaeology. *The Current* reflects the interests of ICAIG's 700+ members and requires your contributions and input to make it a successful platform for island and coastal archaeologists worldwide. If you are interested in submitting information about a project, recent publication, description of a past or upcoming event, or other interest piece, please turn to the last page of this newsletter for details on how to contribute.

Christina M. Giovas
Editor, *The Current*



Report on the First ICAIG Meeting

The first meeting of the Island and Coastal Archaeology Interest Group was held on Saturday April 6th at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. Approximately fifteen people were in attendance. The meeting was presided over by the interest group founders, Scott Fitzpatrick, Torben Rick, and Victor Thompson. The business of the first meeting was largely devoted to discussion of the role and intended activities of the interest group as outlined below.

1) As outlined in the SAA Interest Group Proposal, ICAIG is aimed at archaeologists and other scientists with interests in the techniques, methodologies, and theories used to investigate island and coastal regions. Its stated mission is to advance the field of island and coastal archaeology and facilitate the professional development and growth of scholars interested in the role of island and coastal environments in human history. ICAIG offers an international forum for archaeologists from different scientific backgrounds who share a common interest in studying islands, archipelagos, and coastal regions across time and space by providing:

1. An organized mechanism that, through regularly scheduled meetings at the annual SAA conference, highlights the importance these environments for understanding human cultural and biological development.
2. A sounding board and a means to facilitate discussion among members who wish to pursue (or are currently pursuing) archaeological research in these environments.
3. A vector for developing collaborations among a diverse group of scholars across the social and natural sciences.



2) ICAIG activities will/may include:

1. Regular sponsorship of a symposium at the annual SAA meeting.
2. Periodic sponsorship of the publication of papers from the symposium in the *Journal of Island and Coastal Archaeology*.
3. Periodic sponsorship of a field trip at the annual SAA meeting.
4. Communication with members of the interest group through a biannual newsletter. A newsletter editor (Christina Giovas) and archaeological illustrator (John Swogger) were appointed to oversee this task.
5. Provision of information on undergraduate and graduate student programs that focus on various aspects of island and coastal archaeology.
6. The creation of an ICAIG website or Facebook page (forthcoming).
7. Possible sponsorship of a student award.

Following discussion of these topics, the meeting was adjourned. The next ICAIG meeting will take place at the 79th Annual SAA Meeting in Austin Texas; date and location to be announced.



CONFERENCES, MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND CALLS FOR PAPERS

July 15–20, 2013 – The **25th Congress of the International Association for Caribbean Archaeology** will be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, USA. The headquarters will be the Tapia Theatre, located in Old San Juan. Additional information may be found at the Congress website, <http://www.iacacongress2013pr.com/en/> and the organization's website, http://museum-server.archanth.cam.ac.uk/iaca.www/Eng_webset/iaca_eng.htm

September 23–27, 2013 – The **Under the Sea: Archaeology and Palaeolandscapes** conference will be held in Szczecin, Poland. This is the final conference of the European SPLASHCOS network (Submerged Prehistoric Archaeology and Landscapes of the Continental Shelf), and is open to all comers. Conference website: <http://www.splashcos.pl>
SPLASHCOS website: <http://www.splashcos.org>

October 11-13, 2013 – The **2013 Society for Hawaiian Archaeology Annual Conference: *Hawai'i in the Context of the Pacific*** will be held at the Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI, USA.



Call for Papers (Abstract Submission Deadline: August 16, 2013)

The 2013 Society for Hawaiian Archaeology Conference will provide an opportunity to strengthen the field of Hawaiian archaeology in Hawai'i and the wider Pacific Islands. The conference will be held at the Bishop Museum and the theme this year is *Hawai'i in the Context of the Pacific*. The conference will take place just weeks after the re-opening of Pacific Hall, and conference participants are encouraged to explore our understanding of Hawaiian archaeology from a broader regional perspective.

Highlights of the conference will include: pre-conference field trips; a welcome reception and exclusive access to Hawaiian Hall and Pacific Hall at the Bishop Museum; a lū'au with keynote speakers and entertainment; and paper presentations, panels and forums. Also planned is the first annual Student Poster Competition, which will include cash prizes!

Please email presentation and poster abstracts to Summer Moore at summer@bishopmuseum.org by August 16, 2013. A more detailed schedule for the conference will be available in late August.

January 12-18, 2014 – The **20th Congress of the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association** will be held in Seam Reap (Angkor), Cambodia. Additional information may be found on the conference website, <http://ippa.weblogs.anu.edu.au/communications-and-membership/siem-reap-conference-january-2014/>

January 30 - February 1, 2014 – The **SPF – Equipe Ethnologie Préhistorique Pacific Archaeology Meeting** will be held in Paris, France.

Call for Papers

The Ethnologie Préhistorique Research Laboratory from UMR7041 of ArScAn (Paris I and Paris X Universities) at Nanterre, in partnership with the Société Préhistorique française, is organising an International Conference entitled "*Spatial dynamics in Oceania: Discovery, Appropriation and the Emergence of Traditional societies*". This meeting will be held in Paris, France, from January 30 to February 1, 2014, in the newly restored building of the Institut National d'Histoire de l'Art (INHA), 2 rue Vivienne, close to the Louvres Museum in the centre of the city. Aiming to explore the question of "Spatial dynamics in Oceania", the discussion will focus on three main themes related to key phases of Pacific islands prehistoric chronology: Discovery, Appropriation/Use and the Emergence of Traditional societies. Spatial dynamics can be perceived at various scales through analysis of intra-sites organisation, relationships between types of sites as well as a multitude of landscapes uses. The organizers encourage contributions tackling a wide range of aspects relating to the spatial dimension of human activities at these three key phases of Pacific Island the societal trajectory. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the meeting organizers Frédérique Valentin (frederique.valentin@mae.u-paris10.fr) and Guillaume Molle (guillaume.molle@upf.pf).





UPCOMING EVENTS

The Isle of Romance—A Prehistoric and Historic Overview of Santa Catalina Island, California
by Ivan H. Strudwick, LSA Associates, Inc. San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands, on **Wednesday August 28**, 7:30 pm. Free. (Information [\(909\) 307-2669](tel:9093072669))

Events of the Dr. John D. Cooper Archaeological and Paleontological Center. For more information visit the Cooper Center's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/JDCooperCenter> or call 714-647-2100.

Keepers of Orange County's Past: Preserving Our Heritage, April 25th – end of December 2013.
Presented by the Dr. John D. Cooper Archaeological and Paleontological Center and OC Parks
Old Orange County Courthouse
211 W. Santa Ana Blvd.
Santa Ana, CA, USA 92701
Open M-F, 9AM-4PM

The Cooper Center, a unique partnership of the County of Orange and California State University, Fullerton, is proud to share examples of its collection as well as its research, education, and outreach with the community at large. The artifacts and fossils, recovered from Orange County lands and preserved at the Center, are outstanding examples of the County's vital scientific heritage. From bizarre animals like a shark-toothed whale to archaeological mysteries like cogstones, this exhibit explores the history of life in Orange County and the countless secrets that scientists are just beginning to uncover. Learn more about the gargantuan task of caring for 180 million years of prehistory in the exhibit gallery at the Old Orange County Courthouse.

Prehistoric OC: Annual Family Festival Celebrating Archaeology and Paleontology

Saturday, October 12, 2013

11AM – 3PM

Ralph B. Regional Park, Buena Park, CA, USA

The Dr. John D. Cooper Archaeological and Paleontological Center will celebrate International Archaeology Day and National Fossil Day (which are only four days apart) on October 12, 2013 with a FREE educational family event, Prehistoric OC. The Prehistoric OC festival is an opportunity for the Cooper Center to share Orange County's rich history, prehistory and Native American culture with the community.

Prehistoric OC is fun for both young and old, with a number of activities including archaeological and paleontological demonstrations and exhibits, educational crafts and hands-on activities. The event is hosted in collaboration with Orange County Parks at the Ralph B. Clark Regional Park in Buena Park, CA where the Los Coyotes Paleontology Museum is located. The Museum will host guided tours to showcase its extensive fossil collection from Orange County and there will be a working laboratory where visitors can see real paleontologists and archaeologists in action. Additionally, the Kizh Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians and the Juaneno Band of Mission Indians will be present to share their culture with the public. Other participants include Coast Live Oak School, Pacific Coast Archaeological Society, California State University Fullerton's Geology Department and Jurassic Con. We are currently looking for more participants who would like to have a booth at the Festival to share



information, science and culture. If you or your group is interested please visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/PrehistoricOc> or call 714-647-2100.

“The Attacking Ocean: Sea Levels Past and Future” featuring guest speaker, renowned archaeologist Brian Fagan, PhD
Tuesday, November 12, 2013
6PM Social hour, 7PM Lecture
Old Orange County Courthouse
211 W. Santa Ana Blvd.
Santa Ana, CA, USA 92701

The Dr. John D. Cooper Archaeological and Paleontological Center is thrilled to host renowned archaeologist Brian Fagan, PhD for a special guest lecture at the Old Orange County Courthouse in Santa Ana, CA on Tuesday, November 12, 2013. The Lecture Series is part of an educational program which accompanies the exhibition “Keepers of Orange County’s Past: Preserving Our Heritage” currently on display in the Old Orange County Courthouse through the end of the year.

A social hour begins at 6:00 pm with refreshments, a chance to speak with Dr. Fagan and an opportunity to enjoy the exhibition. The lecture titled "The Attacking Ocean: Sea Levels Past and Future" will begin at 7:00 pm. Join us as Brian Fagan takes us on a fascinating journey into the world of sunken lands and the inexorably rising ocean, and into the frightening realm of megastorms and sea surges. He tells a sobering tale of increased vulnerability and potentially catastrophic disasters in the future that confront millions of us living near sea level.



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

The Mauritian Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (MACH) Project

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The modern face of Mauritius, in many ways idyllic, masks an extremely turbulent past. The island served as the seat for the British Empire’s ‘Great Experiment’ to replace slaves predominantly from Africa with indentured labourers primarily from Asia – a model adopted the world over due to its ‘success’.



Perhaps unsurprisingly, given the mass diasporas that catalysed its modern population, the island is now home to an incredibly wide array of ethnic groups (one of the most diverse in the region based on this project's own genetic studies). Furthermore, in the absence of any indigenous population, Mauritius also offers a unique testing ground for addressing issues of human impact on ecology. In 1810 the British, who were flooding Europe with cheap sugar, captured the island. Mauritius became a critical component in this industry, producing ~10% of the world's sugar in 1859, a staggering figure for a landmass only marginally larger than Los Angeles. The results were ecologically disastrous, for one, the island's forest were decimated and reduced from ~98% to 2%. The MACH project (www.stanford.edu/group/mauritianachlgy) is adding to the growing body of research addressing the consequences of colonisation on the modern population and ecosystem. In particular, it focuses on contributing to our understanding of the transition from a slave workforce to 'free' labourers, a subject that has equal significance to both Mauritian and global communities.



Excavations at Le Morne Old Cemetery, believed to be the burial ground of a post-emancipation former-slave community. The cemetery falls within the buffer zone of the Le Morne Cultural Landscape World Heritage Site, commemorating *maroonage* and resistance to slavery.

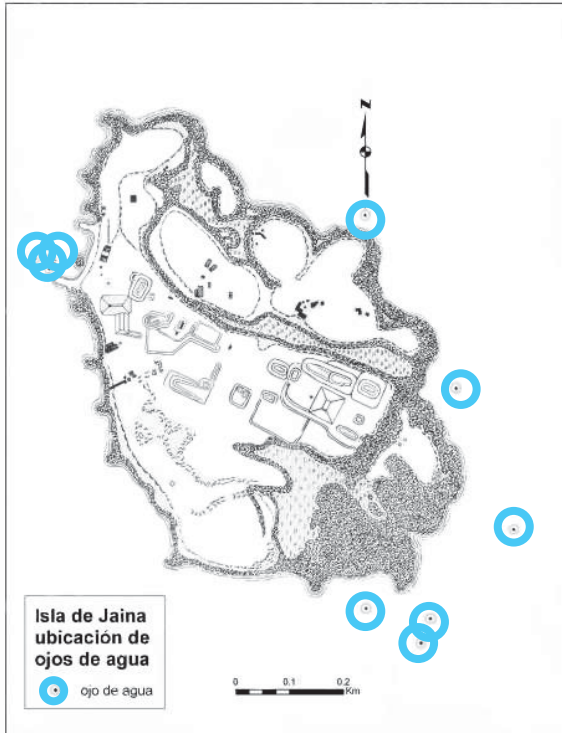
Hina/Jaina: Gateway to the Underworld

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As an artificial ritual religious feature built offshore in the Gulf of Mexico's northeastern corner, nine freshwater springs define Jaina island's special niche facing a dense mangrove forest on Campeche, Mexico's northwest coast. Recent information gleaned from architecture, site design, archaeological burials' quantity and content, historic and modern ethnography, ethnohistoric documents, and figurine imagery all point to its singular functional role. The island's pre-



Columbian toponym, *Hina*, describing perishable storage structures for dried native maize species, also reiterates this sacred Maya place's meaning to amass "seeds for the future". No residential architectural remains house the overwhelming quantity of infant burials, envisioned as symbolic ears of corn "planted" in successive, sacred white marl substrates as offerings to the Maize, Rain, and Underworld Gods. As meme for the sun's daily westerly entombment in the sea, those buried proffered souls travelled from death to regeneration and rebirth and embodied a sacred exchange medium for sustaining ancient Maya social cosmic order.



Jaina site map, redrawn from Piña Chan (1968 *Jaina: La casa en el agua*, Fondo de Cultura Económica, México) by Armando Anaya Hernández.



Late Classic Fine Orange Ware mold-made figurine depicting Ah Puch, God of the Underworld, holding a votive knife in the left hand, with subjected infant sacrificial victim. Figurine photo courtesy INAH Campeche Museum.

While seventeenth to mid-eighteenth century British, Dutch, and French nautical charts record the place name *Hina* while searching for logwood, this point of reference fused reconnaissance and oral historic accounts. Jayna, transformed from "Hi-Na", is the Spanish transcribed term from a European buccaneers' pronunciation of the original toponym, dates to late eighteenth century Spanish New Spain's charts, and morphs into Jaina thereafter. Marl, maize, life, death and rebirth, and polyglot renderings from pre-Columbian Maya to historic British, French, Dutch, and Spanish temporal frames all imbue meaning to this unique gateway to the Underworld.



Gramalote: Social Interaction and Economic Dynamism During the Emergence of Social Complexity in the North Coast Of Peru. A New Perspective from a Domestic Settlement

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General view of a domestic sector at Gramalote. The stone walls are part of up to 4 domestic units with an average of 80 square meters. Each house has a kitchen, a courtyard, a food-consumption area and a sleeping area.

Excavation at Gramalote, a 3-hectare site with calibrated dates between B.C. 1550-1250, was conducted between 2010 and 2012. Extensive units opened at the site uncovered domestic architecture and public areas. Importantly, lab analyses are demonstrating that the households living in Gramalote shared a marine-oriented economy based on shark and sea-lion meat, complemented by fish, seabirds and abundant mollusks. There is evidence that Gramalote inhabitants were practicing wetland-type horticulture to grow reeds, gourds and squash in large quantity. Also, some households were engaged in non-subsistence activities (apart from marine exploitation), such as the manufacture of shell beads, basketry, mats and the production of red pigment in large scale.

Of the 39 human graves excavated, one is distinguished for having a special set of a snuff tablet and palette set. Religion was very important to Gramalote inhabitants, based on the numerous ritual caches found within the houses as part of domestic rituals. These data offer a new perspective in our understanding of the early stages of Andean Prehistory, based on the study of social dynamics from a bottom-up perspective. In a broader sense, this research aims to provide

an alternative model to study fishing settlements, integrating subsistence pattern studies, technological aspects and the household approach.



Fishhooks made out of animal bone were recovered during the excavation of the domestic units at Gramalote. The size and shape of the fishhooks indicate that were used for catching drum fish (*Sciaenidae family*). The sharks were probably hunted with harpoons and sharpen sticks.



Recent Publications

Andrews, Anthony P., Rafael Burgos Villanueva, and Luis Millet Cámara
2012 The Henequen Ports of Yucatan's Gilded Age. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 16 (1): 25-46.

Andrus, C. Fred T., and Victor D. Thompson
2012 Determining the Habitats of Mollusk Collection at the Sapelo Island Shell Ring Complex, USA using Oxygen Isotope Sclerochronology. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 39:215-228.

Bailey, Geoffrey N., Karen Hardy, Abdoulaye Camara (editors)
2013 *Shell Energy. Mollusc shells as coastal resources*. Oxbow Books, Oxford.
Bayman, J.M., H. Kurashina, M.T. Carson, J.A. Peterson, D.J. Doig, and J.A. Drengson
2012 Household Economy and Gendered Labor in the 17th Century A.D. on Guam. *Journal of Field Archaeology* 37:259-269.

Bayman, J.M., H. Kurashina, M.T. Carson, J.A. Peterson, D.J. Doig, and J. Drengson
2012 Latte Household Organization at Ritidian, Guam National Wildlife Refuge, Mariana Islands. In *Archaeological Study of the Latte Period in the Mariana Islands*, edited by M.T. Carson, pp. 258-273. Micronesica Volume 42. University of Guam Press, Mangilao. Free access PDF: <http://www.uog.edu/up/micronesica/Vol42Abstracts.asp>

Carson, M.T.
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2012 Evolution of an Austronesian Landscape: The Ritidian Site in Guam. *Journal of Austronesian Studies* 3:55-86. Free access PDF: <http://en.nmp.gov.tw/lib/3-1.htm>

Carson, M.T.
2012 Ethnohistoric and geoarchaeological landscape chronology at Kawaihae, leeward Hawai'i Island. *Geoarchaeology* 27:385-409.

Carson, M.T.
2012 Re-examining Anomalous Early Dates of Settlement in Leeward Hawai'i Island. *Radiocarbon* 54:59-64.

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Carson, M.T.
2012 History of Archaeological Study in the Mariana Islands. In *Archaeological Study of the Latte Period in the Mariana Islands*, edited by M.T. Carson, pp. 312-371. Micronesica Volume 42. University of Guam Press, Mangilao. Free access PDF: <http://www.uog.edu/up/micronesica/Vol42Abstracts.asp>

Carson, M.T.
2012 Looking to the Future of Latte Research and Marianas Regional Archaeology. In *Archaeological Study of the Latte Period in the Mariana Islands*, edited by M.T. Carson, pp. 372-381. Micronesica Volume 42. University of Guam Press, Mangilao. Free access PDF: <http://www.uog.edu/up/micronesica/Vol42Abstracts.asp>

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2013 Micronesia: Archaeology. In *Encyclopedia of Human Migration*, Volume 1: Prehistory, edited by I. Ness and P. Bellwood, pp. 314-319. Wiley-Blackwell, New York.

Carson, M.T., and H. Kurashina
2012 Re-envisioning Long-distance Remote Oceanic Migration: Early Dates in the Mariana Islands. *World Archaeology* 44:409-435.



- Carson, M.T., and J.A. Peterson.
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2013 The Pottery Trail from Southeast Asia to the Pacific. *Journal of Island and Coastal Archaeology* 8:17-36. Free access PDF:
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- Dickinson, W.R., and P.D. Nunn
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2011 Who were the Middle Preclassic settlers of Quintana Roo's north coast? New evidence from Vista Alegre. *Mexicon* 33(3):69-73.
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- Hung, H.C., M.T. Carson, and P. Bellwood
2012 Earliest Settlement in the Marianas – A Response. *Antiquity* 86: 910–914.
- Jackson, H., Edwin Jackson, with contributions by Barbara T. Hester and Samuel Huey
2012 *Archaeological Investigations of Coastal Shell Middens in the Grand Bay Estuary, Mississippi*.



Report submitted to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the Mississippi Development Authority. Department of Anthropology and Sociology, University of Southern Mississippi.

Joyce, Arthur A. (editor)
2013 *Polity and Ecology in Formative Period Coastal Oaxaca*. University Press of Colorado, Boulder.

Kuzmin, Yaroslav V., Oksana V. Yanshina, Scott M. Fitzpatrick, and Olga V. Shubina
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Lepofsky, Dana, and Megan Caldwell
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Margaris, Amy V.
2013 Reconsidering Raw Material Selection: Skeletal Technologies and Design for Durability in Subarctic Alaska. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory*. DOI 10.1007/s10816-012-9168-x.

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2013 Niche production strategies and shell matrix site variability at Albatross Bay, Cape York Peninsula. *Archaeology in Oceania* 4. DOI: 10.1002/arco.5002

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2012 Disruption of coastal societies in the Pacific Islands from rapid sea-level fall about AD 1300: new evidence from northern Viti Levu Island, Fiji. *Journal of Coastal Conservation* 16:199-209.

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Poteate, A., S.M. Fitzpatrick
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Rick, Torben C.
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Rick, Torben C., and Rowan Lockwood
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Rick, Torben C., Courtney A. Hofman, Todd J. Braje, Jesus E. Maldonado, T. Scott Sillett, Kevin Danchisko, and Jon M. Erlandson
2012 Flightless Ducks, Giant Mice, and Pygmy Mammoths: Late Quaternary Extinctions on California's Channel Islands. *World Archaeology* 4:3-20.

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Robb, K.R. and P.D. Nunn

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Rodning, Christopher B., Jayur M. Mehta, Bryan S. Haley, David M. Chatelain, and Erlend M. Johnson
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Submission Instructions: How to Contribute to The Current

A variety of interest pieces and announcements are accepted for publication in the ICAIG newsletter. Generally, the deadline for submission for the Spring/Summer Issue is May 1st and for the Fall/Winter Issue, November 1st. Submissions and inquiries may be directed to *The Current* Editor, Christina M. Giovas (cmgiovas@uw.edu). Contributions need not follow any specific format, with the exception of "Research Highlights" and "Recent Publications" (instructions below).

Instructions for Submitting Recent Publications

- Citations submitted for the "Recent Publications" section of the newsletter should follow the *American Antiquity* / *Latin American Antiquity* style guide. (<http://www.saa.org/AbouttheSociety/Publications/StyleGuide/tabid/984/Default.aspx>)
- "In press" citations should be accompanied by a digital object identifier (DOI).

Instructions for Preparing "Research Highlights" Descriptions

- Prepare a short description, written in the third person, that includes the purpose of the research, location, brief review of findings to date (if relevant), and other information of potential interest to the membership.
- Descriptions should be single spaced, using 12 pt, Times New Roman or Calibri font, and should be submitted as an MSWord file (.doc or .docx).
- Be sure to provide a title (project name or site name) and include the names and organization of the author(s)/principal investigator(s) submitting the description.
- Provide a valid email address for a single contact author/principle investigator.
- Proof read and spell check the research description, especially place names.
- **Word limit:** please keep the description to a maximum of about 250 words (i.e., abstract length).
- Only include literature citations if absolutely necessary. List these after the research description using the citation format for *American Antiquity*. Guidelines available at: <http://www.saa.org/StyleGuideText/tabid/985/Default.aspx>
- **Images:** One or two (maximum) JPEG or TIFF format photos/images/illustrations may be included with the research description. Image resolution should be 600 dpi. Please note that photos may be cropped to fit to the page if images are too large or include significant "empty" space. To avoid this, please format images prior to submission to include only necessary content.
- Include a caption for any images submitted.

Submit descriptions and images as separate files to the newsletter editor, Christina Giovas, at cmgiovas@uw.edu. Submissions that do not meet the above guidelines will be returned to the author for revision, which may delay publication in *The Current*. Due to space constraints not all submitted pieces may be included in a given issue of *The Current*. If this is the case, your contribution will receive priority listing for the next issue. Do not hesitate to contact the editor if you have any questions. We look forward to receiving your contributions.