June PCAS Speaker

Dr. Paul G. Chace

*Patriotic Footprints: José Francisco Ortega, Frontier Diplomat, with Maria Antonia de Ortega, Frontier Presidio First Lady—stories of Spain’s Alta California early frontier*

Previous, José Ortega had led Father Junípero Serra in early 1769 from La Paz northward to Alta California. An already established experienced frontier diplomat (and obvious linguist), Ortega had been selected by the King’s Viceroy to be the lead scout for the famed 1769 Portolá expedition north from San Diego. Ortega successfully trespassed Native territories the length of Alta California that year and returned south, never firing his gun.

Ortega’s four-decade Spanish military career, mostly as a Presidio Commandante, concluded with a rancho land grant near Santa Barbara. José and Maria both are buried at Mission Santa Barbara.

Dr. Paul Chace, often a lecturer and frequently published with the *PCAS Quarterly*, is a past President of the Pacific Coast Archaeological Society. He earned his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of California, Riverside. Dr. Chace is also a Trustee of the Presidio Heritage Trust of San Diego, which promotes the heritage of Old Town San Diego, with its preserved grand citadel ruins of the Spanish Royal Presidio, where “California” began in 1769. The Presidio also was California’s capital in 1829–1831

PCAS Zoom Meeting

- Email a registration request by **noon on Thursday, June 9**, to membership@pcas.org.
- You will receive an email with a link to the Zoom meeting.
- Guests (non-PCAS members) are welcome with registration.
- When the presentation starts, please **mute your microphone and turn off your webcam**.

PCAS host **Steve Dwyer** will open the Zoom meeting at 7 pm to allow time to resolve any technical problems prior to the beginning of the PCAS General Meeting and lecture at 7:30 pm.

Free Zoom Meeting

**JUNE/JULY 2022**

**PCAS Newsletter**

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José Francisco Ortega was the Commandante of the Spanish Presidio at San Diego, within Native Kumeyaay territory, for its initial 12 years. His wife, Maria Antonia de Ortega, from a stalwart military family, joined him as First Lady on the San Diego frontier in 1773, and in 1782 the couple founded Santa Barbara Presidio.
May Speaker Notes

*Did the Clovis Culture Cause the Extinction of Elephants in Ice Age North America?*

By Megan Galway

Dr. Metin I. Eren, with data from his research at the Kent State University Experimental Archaeology Laboratory, presented a new perspective on whether Clovis hunters caused the extinction of mammoths in the Americas.

It appears that the first inhabitants of North America arrived from Asia some 16,000 to 17,000 years ago, likely along the Pacific coast. Earlier dates, such as those suggested for the White Sands footprints, are possible but still being debated. The Clovis culture is placed at 12,700–13,600 years ago and is identified by a distinctive set of artifacts, including hide working tools, stone gravers or punches, and bone tools of undetermined use. The Clovis people were known for their stone tool technology, finely worked and made to last. This technology appears to have developed in the Southwest and migrated to the north as the glaciers receded. Clovis people traveled far and fast, transporting material up to 500 km, and they disbursed over time into every environment.

Clovis has long been associated with proboscidean hunting based on a number of cases of Clovis artifacts found in association with mammoth bones. Dr. Eren’s study focused on whether Clovis people were actually hunting and killing these animals. Of all the megafauna sites in North America, only 16 contained Clovis artifacts, and only 14 of these were mammoth sites. Microwear studies of the points at these sites indicate they were most likely used as knives rather than spears and that the Clovis people may have been scavenging rather than hunting. Replication and experimentation show that the blades work well for this purpose.

The one identifier of Clovis has always been the fluted point. These are generally 10–12 cm long, but longer in the Pacific Northwest. They were likely used with an atlatl, but an atlatl with a Clovis point has never been found. Fluting is difficult, taking a great deal of skill, and breakage was common.

(Continued on p. 3)
2022 Scholarship Report

PCAS was saddened by the recent loss of our President, Scott Findlay, but in his honor we were able to add an additional scholarship this year. Education was again affected by the pandemic during 2021, so we were doubly impressed by the quality of this year’s applications, making the selection process even more difficult. The following students have been selected to each receive a scholarship of $1,000.

Robert Leachman will be a senior at the University of California, Merced. In 2021 he was able to attend a field school at a Roman villa site in Rapoltu Mare, Romania. The school provided a range of archaeological techniques from the traditional (such as excavation) to more modern (ground penetrating radar and photogrammetry). There was also time in the lab processing the excavated artifacts. He has developed an interest in bioarchaeology and participated in various studies of animal teeth and Peruvian feathers. He hopes for a future in research and education. Robert will receive the Gloria Bogdan Memorial Scholarship.

Andrea Levinson discovered archaeology at Berkeley City College and decided this was to be her future. At the University of California, Berkeley, she attended field school working with representatives of the Bridgeport Indian Colony and Reno-Sparks Indian Colony and saw the potential of a collaborative future of anthropology. Studying communal hunting traps in the western Great Basin, she developed a project to compare pronghorn migration patterns with the location of the traps. She has also been working as a research intern preparing faunal bone samples. She plans to specialize in zooarchaeology and hopes for a future as a community college professor. Andrea will receive the Sherri Gust Memorial Scholarship.

Tristan Niles is transferring from Fullerton College to Sonoma State University. He describes a boyhood interest in desert exploration and a fascination with “found” objects. This summer he will be taking an overseas independent study course in ethnography and looks forward to fieldwork opportunities in the future. He has an interest in bioarchaeology and the art and architecture of earlier cultures and is considering pursuing a career with the National Parks Service. Tristan will receive the Myrtle Soderberg Memorial Scholarship.

Susan Potts is a senior at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Her interests include the political and social systems of the California Channel Island populations and rock and cave art. She believes that the study and understanding of past cultures will help us create a just and more equitable future. As a nontraditional student, she feels her life experiences have prepared her for the stress of challenging subjects and hopes to continue on to a master’s program. Susan will receive the Scott Findlay Memorial Scholarship.

We believe each of these students has something special to offer to our discipline and wish them every success in the future.

Our annual scholarships and grants are made possible by the generous donations of our members and supporters and Joe Hodulik’s fundraising activities. We thank them all.

May Speaker Notes (continued)

Some sources for the lithic material have not yet been located. The purpose of the flute has not been determined, but many have been suggested, including that it may have been a channel for bloodletting when an animal was speared. However this channel would be blocked if the point was hafted. The suggestion that it might be purely ritual or a good omen cannot be tested.

The length of the Clovis flute is variable but always leads to a thin, brittle base. Dr. Eren suggests this may be a “crumple zone,” similar to the bumper and crumple zone on a car, which absorbs impact and reduces breakage in the body of the point. This appeared to be the case when points were pressure tested in the lab. Seven replicated points of varied size were tested in the lab using clay, which is considered a reliable substitute for meat. Dr. Eren reports an average penetration of 18 cm. He then noted that the average thickness of mammoth skin is 2–3 cm, its fat 8–9 cm thick, and a wooly mammoth may have 5–15 cm of hair. In this case a spear would need to penetrate at least 15–27 cm in a wooly mammoth and 10–12 cm in a Columbian mammoth before it had any possibility of causing serious injury. He also notes that the tests were conducted indoors, at high velocity, and with a straight-on shot, so the average 18 cm would be the best case scenario. In tests using moose hide, the average penetration of successful shots was 7–13 cm, but 67.7% bounced off. Metal spears actually bent on impact, and muzzle-loaders had a 20% success rate.

Dr. Eren’s conclusion as to why Clovis points are found at mammoth sites is that the people were likely scavenging an already dead or injured animal. Points would be used for butchering, scaring off other animals, self-defense from other predators, and maybe occasional hunting. He describes the Clovis point as the Swiss Army Knife of the time, not a specialized knife or blade.
DIG THIS ...

Lectures


The Cultural Art of the Seri Tribe in Sonora, Mexico, by Mike Gray and Damien Paul Montañó. Bowers Museum, June 5, 1:30 pm. Bowers Museum, online or onsite. Fee: Onsite, $15 (members $10); recorded, $10 (members $5). Tickets and information: www.bowers.org or 714-567-3677.

The Good Kings, by Kara Cooney (UCLA), with book signing, June 11; Textile Production, Consumption, Trade at Amarna, by Jordan Galczynski (UCLA), and Early Dynasties Festivals and Rituals, by Jeffrey Newman (UCLA), July 9; Ptolemaic Abydos or Alexandria Projects, by Dr. Tom Landvatter (Reed College). ARCE/Bowers Museum lectures, 1:30 pm. Recorded lecture available for 24 hours. Fee: $13 in-person, $10 online; Bowers and ARCE members free. Information: www.bowers.org.


Important Field Skills and Geological Knowledge, by Brad Riney (San Diego Natural History Museum). A lecture of the San Diego County Archaeological Society, 12122 Canyonside Park Driveway, San Diego, June 28, 7:30 pm. Summer lectures will be held on July 23 and August 27 at 8 pm. Information: sdcas.org.


Classes, Meetings, and Events

The California Indian Basketweavers’ Gathering will be held June 24–26 at the Bear River Recreation Area, Loleta. Information: https://ciba.org.

2022 Pecos Conference will be held at Rowe Mesa, New Mexico, August 11–14. Information: www.pecosconference.org.

Visit www.pcas.org for all the latest news.

Editor’s Note: Please confirm time and place of listing prior to the event. Submit items for Dig This to newsletter@pcas.org.
PCAS CODE OF ETHICS

The Pacific Coast Archaeological Society (PCAS) is a nonprofit group of professional and avocational people dedicated to proper management of our cultural resources, public education, and the protection and preservation of archaeological materials and collections.

The following principles have been adopted by the PCAS:

1. Professional methods and forms will be used on all archaeological field surveys, excavations, and laboratory sessions.
2. A complete record of field and laboratory work will be filed with the PCAS Curator and stored at a facility approved by the Society’s Board of Directors.
3. No archaeological materials will be removed without proper permits, landowner permission, and a field research design.
4. Unless otherwise legally stipulated before activity commences, all materials collected will be deposited for further research with the Curator at a facility approved by the Society's Board of Directors.
5. All generated reports will be the property of the Society and distributed as deemed appropriate.
6. All Society field activities will be performed only under the direction of a qualified field archaeologist (Principal Investigator) and the supervision of field or site directors.
7. The above principles will be observed on both Society approved projects and projects performed under the direction of an authorized institution or organization.
8. The Society and its members will strive to educate the public of the importance and proper management of our non–renewable cultural resources and to discourage the collection and commercial exploitation of archaeological materials.
9. PCAS members shall not benefit from the acquisition, purchase, sale, or trade of archaeological artifacts, materials, or specimens.
10. All members shall adhere to City, County, State, and Federal antiquities laws.

Sign up for Ralphs Community Rewards

PCAS thanks Ralphs and all our participants for this opportunity to earn a donation of at least 1 percent of your Ralphs’ purchases. Go to www.ralphs.com and sign in or create an account.

1. On the “My Account” page, scroll to Community Rewards. Link your card by searching for “Pacific Coast Archaeological Society” or inserting the PCAS organization number, QT023.
2. Call 800-443-4438 for assistance.

Thank you for supporting PCAS!

PCAS Speaker Calendar

No meetings in July and August

September 8, 2022
Don Laylander
Old Site Records and a New Perspective on Prehistoric Settlement Stability

October 13, 2022
Dr. Gabriel Sanchez

November 10, 2022
Brian Barbier
Shell Bead Production and Exchange

December 8, 2022
Paul Langenwalter II, Lauren Bilonen, and Aimee Montenegro
2022 PCAS Board Members and Committee Contacts

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<td>Steve O’Neil</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vicepresident@pcas.org">vicepresident@pcas.org</a></td>
<td>949-677-2391</td>
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<td>*Secretary</td>
<td>Gail Cochlin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:secretary@pcas.org">secretary@pcas.org</a></td>
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<td>Rene Brace</td>
<td><a href="mailto:treasurer@pcas.org">treasurer@pcas.org</a></td>
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<td>Hank Koerper</td>
<td><a href="mailto:curator@pcas.org">curator@pcas.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Field Trips</td>
<td>Stephen Dwyer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:fieldtrips@pcas.org">fieldtrips@pcas.org</a></td>
<td>714-969-1911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Historian/Librarian</td>
<td>Jane Gothold</td>
<td><a href="mailto:historian-librarian@pcas.org">historian-librarian@pcas.org</a></td>
<td>562-947-6506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Voting Member</td>
<td>Dorothy DeGennaro</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ddegennaro@pcas.org">ddegennaro@pcas.org</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>*Voting Member</td>
<td>Irene Foster</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ifoster@pcas.org">ifoster@pcas.org</a></td>
<td>714-828-0942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archivist</td>
<td>Gail Cochlin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:archivist@pcas.org">archivist@pcas.org</a></td>
<td>714-745-0815</td>
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<td>Joe Hodulik</td>
<td><a href="mailto:donation-awards@pcas.org">donation-awards@pcas.org</a></td>
<td>949-300-1864</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historian/Librarian</td>
<td>Jane Gothold</td>
<td><a href="mailto:historian-librarian@pcas.org">historian-librarian@pcas.org</a></td>
<td>562-947-6506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>Megan Galway</td>
<td><a href="mailto:membership@pcas.org">membership@pcas.org</a></td>
<td>714-539-6354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American Liaison</td>
<td>Steve O’Neil</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nativeamericanliaison@pcas.org">nativeamericanliaison@pcas.org</a></td>
<td>949-677-2391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter Editor</td>
<td>Rene Brace</td>
<td><a href="mailto:newsletter@pcas.org">newsletter@pcas.org</a></td>
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<td>Quarterly Co-Editor</td>
<td>Alan Garfinkel</td>
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