



MARCH 2026

# PCAS Newsletter

The Monthly Publication of the  
Pacific Coast Archaeological Society

[www.pcas.org](http://www.pcas.org)

Volume 65 Number 3

ISSN 0270-6776

## March PCAS Speaker

Dr. G. Richard Scott

*Teeth Tell the Tale:  
Dental Evidence and the  
Peopling of the Americas*

### Zoom Meeting

**March 12, 7:30 pm. See p. 5.  
No March in-person meeting.**

*Long before DNA, teeth were telling the story of the first Americans—and they still have more to say.*

Dental crown morphology has long contributed to debates over the peopling of the Americas, and recent advances in the study of tooth root morphology have further expanded its analytical power. Because dental traits are highly heritable, developmentally conservative, and minimally affected by environment, they provide a robust line of biological



Dr. G. Richard  
Scott.

evidence for assessing population history. This talk reviews how patterned variation in crown and root traits has been used to evaluate competing models for the timing, number, and source populations involved in the initial settlement of the New World. Particular attention is given to contrasts among Northeast Asian, Southeast Asian, and Austral-Melanesian dental complexes, the Sundadonty–Sinodonty distinction, and the implications of founder effects and regional differentiation within the Americas. Dental evidence is considered alongside archaeological and genetic data, highlighting both areas of convergence and instances where teeth reveal additional population structure not readily captured by genetic models alone. Together, these data point to a peopling process originating in the high Arctic during the last glacial maxima that was complex and multistage.

Dr. G. Richard Scott is a Foundation Professor of Anthropology at the University of Nevada, Reno. He earned his B.A. and PhD degrees in Anthropology at Arizona State University. After completing his degree in 1973, he taught at the University of Alaska Fairbanks from 1973 to 1997. After a short-lived retirement, he resumed his academic career at the University of Nevada, Reno in 2001. His specialty is dental anthropology, with a focus on human tooth crown and root morphology. He has written or edited five books in this area, including *The Anthropology of Modern Human Teeth* (1997), which came out as a second edition in 2018. Geographically, he has worked in the American Southwest, Alaska, the North Atlantic, Spain, and Hungary. Recent publications focus on how dental morphology contributes to questions regarding the peopling of the Americas.

**This will be your last Newsletter if you haven't renewed your membership! Use the membership form in this Newsletter or renew online: [www.pcas.org/membrs.html](http://www.pcas.org/membrs.html).**

## February PCAS Speaker Notes

### *Radiocarbon Dating & Stable Isotopes in Archaeology*

By Albert Knight

Our Thursday, February 12, 2026, speaker was Dr. Maren Pauly, a scientific associate at SGS Beta, which specializes in “biobased product testing.” Archaeological-related applications of this testing is only a small part of what SGS does. Dr. Pauly specializes in isotope geochemistry analysis. She completed her BS and MS at the University of Waterloo, in Ontario, Canada, and received her PhD from Freie Universität Berlin, in the Federal Republic of Germany.

SGS Beta, advertises itself as a “High-Quality Carbon-14 Testing Laboratory.” According to the website, SGS claims to be “the world leader in Testing, Inspection, and Certification” in “biobased product testing, measuring percent biobased carbon versus percent of fossil carbon in any product.” The site notes that “Biobased means containing organic carbon of renewable origin like agricultural, plant, animal, fungi, microorganisms, marine, or forestry materials living in a natural environment in equilibrium with the atmosphere ...” Much of the work the company does concerns the detection of Carbon-14 as a pollutant in petroleum products, in order to “determine the biobased content of products for regulatory or certification purposes.” That is, the presence of (relatively) “new” Carbon-14 in “old” petroleum products is not good. Something to think about next time you tank-up your car!

The PCAS is, of course, interested in the archaeological applications of Carbon-14 testing. All living things absorb radioactive Carbon-14 isotopes from their environment while alive, and the age determination depends on the half-life of  $^{14}\text{C}$  decay. Carbon-14 intake ceases after death, and then it begins to decay to Carbon-12 at a known rate. The approximate age of specimens can be determined by establishing the ratio of Carbon-14 to non-radioactive carbon isotopes (e.g., Carbon-12), which continue to be the same. Radiocarbon dating is useful to as early as 42,000 to 50,000 YBP. Any organic (i.e. carbon-based) specimen is potentially datable. This includes bones, teeth and ivory, shell, plant materials (including paper and seeds), and charcoal. Depending on the type of analysis, specimens should consist of approximately 10 grams of material.

Specimens to be tested should have been recently exposed (so they have not been contaminated by exposure to the elements), they should not have been touched by bare hands (another potential source of contamination), and they should be picked up with a CLEAN trowel or other CLEAN tool and immediately wrapped in aluminum foil and then placed in a NEW



Dr. Maren Pauly.



baggie. Labels and other provenience information should be put on the OUTSIDE of the baggie. In terms of potential for analysis, it is pointless to collect a contaminated specimen, or to allow a previously collected specimen to become contaminated. If an adequate amount of uncontaminated material can be collected from artifacts like manos, metates, bowls, pestles, and pottery, the artifacts can also be successfully dated.

Cost for analysis can vary depending on the amount of preparation required at the laboratory and importantly on how soon the results of the analysis are needed: For example, a field researcher may want to get a result ASAP, so as to help determine if in-progress work should continue at a particular location, or not. If there is no immediate rush, and testing results can wait for a couple of weeks or longer, the costs will be lower. Dr. Pauly noted that a baseline fee for a single sample analysis would be somewhere in the range of \$675–\$700.

We note that Dr. Pauly gave her presentation beginning at 10:30 pm, her (East Coast) time. We all extend our appreciation to her for staying up late so that she could accommodate our schedule.

Further information about SGS Beta is available at [www.betalabservices.com](http://www.betalabservices.com).

## SCA Annual Meeting

The Society for California Archaeology Annual Meeting will be held at the Riviera Resort and Spa in Palm Springs, March 5–8. PCAS will have a table in the bookroom with information about our society including membership, scholarships, and the *PCAS Quarterly*. We will also present a poster in the Topics in Public Archaeology session on Saturday, March 7, 5:00 pm–6:30 pm, in the Crosby Courtyard.

Please stop by and say “Hi” in the bookroom or at the poster session!

## DIG THIS ...



### Lectures

***Ancient Egyptian Kings from Below: Royal Power in Practice***, by Dr. Luisa Osorio G. Silva (UC Irvine). A lecture of the AIA, Orange County Chapter, DeNault Auditorium in Grimm Hall, Concordia University, 530 Concordia West, Irvine, March 1, 2 pm. Information: <https://aia-oc.org>.

***How Maize Shaped History***, by Emily Johnson (UC Santa Barbara PhD candidate). A lecture of the Santa Barbara County Archaeological Society, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, March 2, 7 pm. Free. Information: [www.sbnature.org/visit/calendar](http://www.sbnature.org/visit/calendar).

***“I May Still Be Speaking”—Indigenous Oral Tradition of Northern Baja California***, by Michael Wilken-Robertson (anthropologist). A lecture of the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association, ABDNHA Library, March 6, 6:30 pm. Fee: \$12; members \$10. Information and ticket purchase: <https://abdnha.org/activities>.

***Happy as a Pharaoh: Joy and Fulfillment in Late New Kingdom Royal Art***, by Dr. Tara Prakash (College of Charleston). An ARCE/Bowers Museum onsite lecture, March 14, 1:30 pm. Fee: \$15; Bowers and ARCE members free. Recorded lecture available one week after onsite event. Fee: \$10; Bowers and ARCE members free. Ticket purchase and information: [www.bowers.org](http://www.bowers.org).

***El Presidio de San Diego: Uncovering Southern California’s First European Settlement***, by Richard L Carrico (archaeologist and historian). An in-person lecture of the San Diego Archaeological Center, March 21, 11 am. Fee: \$15 (includes museum admission); members \$5. Information and registration: [sandiegoarchaeology.org/event/el-presidio-de-san-diego](http://sandiegoarchaeology.org/event/el-presidio-de-san-diego).

***Exploring the Use of Forensic Canines in the Detection of Late Precontact (1000–300 BP) Remains for Applications in Archaeology***, by Christine Lambert. A San Diego County Archaeological Society lecture, Los Penasquitos Ranch House, March 24, 7:30 pm. Free. Information: [sdcas.org/upcomingevents](http://sdcas.org/upcomingevents).

***Dating Australia’s Oldest Rock Art***, by Dr. Helen Green (University of Melbourne). An online AIA Archaeology Hour lecture, March 25, 5 pm (PT). Free. Information and registration: [www.archaeological.org/programs/public/lectures/archaeologyhour](http://www.archaeological.org/programs/public/lectures/archaeologyhour).

Many past PCAS lectures are available on YouTube: [www.youtube.com/@pcas-pacificcoastarchaeolo9403](http://www.youtube.com/@pcas-pacificcoastarchaeolo9403).

## Request for PCAS Speaker Recommendations



Joe Hodulik.

PCAS Programs Chair **Joe Hodulik** does a great job of scheduling noted speakers for our monthly meetings! Speakers have presented a variety of topics—from the peopling of the Americas to local rock art. With Zoom we have reached a broader attendance, and speakers have been able to present while being at the tip of South America and in Europe.

Joe is asking for your recommendations for future speakers. Please send recommendations to Joe at [programs@pcas.org](mailto:programs@pcas.org) and include any available contact information.



[www.facebook.com/pacificcoastarchaeologicalsoc](http://www.facebook.com/pacificcoastarchaeologicalsoc)

## Sign up for Ralphs’s Community Contribution Program

PCAS thanks Ralphs and all our participants for this opportunity to earn a donation of at least 1 percent of your Ralphs’s purchases. Please go to [www.ralphs.com/i/community/community-contribution-program](http://www.ralphs.com/i/community/community-contribution-program) and sign-up.

- Link your card by searching for “Pacific Coast Archaeological Society” or inserting the PCAS organization number, QT023.
- Call 1-800-576-4377 for assistance.

Thank you for supporting PCAS!

## 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.

### Zoom Meeting

- Email a **new** Zoom registration request by **noon on Thursday, March 12**, to [membership@pcas.org](mailto:membership@pcas.org). You will receive an emailed link to the 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.

**No in-person meeting in March.**

### PCAS Speaker Calendar

**April 9, 2026**

**Richard Carrico**

*El Presidio de San Diego: The Story of Alta California's First European Settlement and Its People*

**May 14, 2026**

**Dr. Mark Sutton**

**June 11, 2026**

**John W. Foster**

*The Archaeological Study and Preservation of a Deep-Water Sinkhole in the Dominican Republic*

## 2026 PCAS Board Members and Committee Contacts

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\*PCAS Board Member

## PACIFIC COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

### 2026 Calendar Year Membership and Subscription Form

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletters will be sent by email unless a mailed copy is requested.

*I have read and agree to abide by the PCAS Code of Ethics* \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

**Membership** (Includes Quarterly/Newsletter)

- Active Member – \$45
- Family Membership – \$50
- Supporting Member\* – \$55
- Donor Member\* – \$75
- Lifetime Member\* – \$1000

\* May be individual or family membership

**Subscription Only**

- Quarterly* – \$50
- Newsletter* – \$20

**Scholarship Fund**

- Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Join online:**

[www.pcas.org/membsr.html](http://www.pcas.org/membsr.html)

**Or return with payment to:**

Pacific Coast Archaeological Society  
PO Box 10926  
Costa Mesa, CA 92627-0926

[www.pcas.org](http://www.pcas.org)