

# 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! -

**March 10** - Thurs 8:00 pm  
Room E229 East Campus

**Military Archaeology of South  
India 1450–1600**

**April 14** - Thurs 8:00 pm  
PepsiCo Theatre East Campus

**The World Trade Center  
Ship Project**



**March 10 - Thursday 8:00 pm  
7:30 pm – Refreshments  
Room E229 – East Campus  
"Firearms and Fortifications:  
The Historical Archaeology of  
Military Conflict in Islamic  
South India, 1450-1600"  
Phil Wagoner PhD- Wesleyan University**

**April 14 - Thursday - 8:00 pm  
7:30 pm – Refreshments  
PepsiCo Theatre – East Campus  
The World Trade Center Ship  
Michael Pappalardo**

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In July 2010 contract archaeologists monitoring construction at the World Trade Center Redevelopment Site in lower Manhattan observed the remnants of a ship buried within the landfill approximately 25 feet below the ground surface. As archaeologists and members of the construction crew exposed the 35-foot-long section of the ship, a team was assembled of nautical archaeologists, maritime historians and conservators to examine the vessel. It was quickly determined the ship could

*(Continued on page 2)*

Gunpowder weapons were introduced into the Indian subcontinent as early as the mid-fifteenth century, and by the sixteenth century, cannons are regularly mentioned in historical accounts of sieges and battles. Yet, the consensus among historians is that cannons played only an insignificant part in Indian warfare before the eighteenth century and the advent of European colonialism. In particular, it is widely held that pre-colonial Indian armies could not use cannon effectively due to the alleged technological inferiority of the locally produced guns.

Not only are such interpretations based on a selective reading of the textual record, but they also fail to consider the testimony provided by the material evidence itself.

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## The World Trade Center Ship - Michael Pappalardo

not be preserved in situ nor lifted out in one piece. In consultation with New York State Historic Preservation Office and the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, it was decided the ship would be disassembled timber by timber so that each piece could be examined, documented, and analyzed. Experts have determined that the ship was most likely a Hudson River Sloop, a class of large, single-masted vessels that carried goods up and down the Hudson River and perhaps went as far south as the Caribbean.

The ship appears to have been constructed during the 18th century and was incorporated into the landfill along the shores of the Hudson River by the 1790s. Almost 2,000 artifacts were recovered from in between the ship's timbers, including animal bones and vegetable seeds that may represent meals eaten on board, personal artifacts such as gilded shoe buckles,

s m o k i n g pipes, and mirrors, and a wide variety of ammunition, including musket and cannon balls, that may have been used for hunting or defense. A



Revolutionary War-era pewter button from the jacket of a British soldier was also recovered. Analysis of the ship and its associated artifacts is currently taking place so that archaeologists can determine as much as possible about the ship's construction and use, the lives of the individuals on board, and how it became submerged below the Hudson River and incorporated into the landfill.

Michael Pappalardo is a Senior Archaeologist and Technical Director at AKRF and a Registered Professional Archaeologist with more than 20 years of experience in cultural resource management, working in the context of both National Historic Preservation Act compliance and state and local level legislation. He received his MA in Anthropology from Binghamton University where he focused on the application of ground-penetrating radar to urban archaeological contexts and his BA

### RESEARCH NEWS - GALLOWS HILL

#### — REDDING —

#### Spring Dig at Gallows Hill

Our weekend digs at the Gallows Hill site will begin in late March and will continue through mid-May. This season, we will expand some of the areas studied last fall in the northeastern portion of the site, particularly in one area on the edge of the site where the deposits are somewhat deeper than has been the case elsewhere on the site. The dig is planned to take place on the following dates: March 26, April 3, 9, 17, 23 and 30, May 8 and

from New York University. As a professional archaeologist he has directed numerous research projects involving a wide variety of cultural resource types, from the earliest periods of American prehistory through the historic period, often as part of major development or transportation projects. Mr. Pappalardo has worked on and managed projects in many states from Maine



to California but has focused on the New York region and New England. Please join us April 14th in the PepsiCo Theatre on the East Campus at 8:00 pm.



14. Please keep in mind that this schedule is subject to change due to poor weather conditions or other circumstances. It is requested that you contact Ernie Wiegand before the weekend you plan to attend so that you will be informed of any schedule changes and so that enough equipment and supplies are brought to the site. He can be reached at the Archaeology office (203-857-7377).

## Firearms and Fortifications in Islamic South India

### Phil Wagoner- March 10



Phillip B. Wagoner is Professor of Art History and Archaeology at Wesleyan University, where he has taught since 1987. He specializes in the architecture, archaeology, and cultural history of late medieval and early modern South India,

Actual cannons and fortifications survive from pre-colonial India in significant quantities, but they have attracted very little scholarly attention from either historians or archaeologists. To remedy this situation, historian Richard M. Eaton and I carried out two seasons of field research in 2005 and 2006, devoted to exploration and documentation of 33 early modern fortified sites in southern India. Through this work we have identified and documented over one hundred specimens of early modern cannons, many of which have been preserved in situ on the ramparts of their forts. This material evidence reveals a very different picture

and since 1999 has increasingly worked in the area of buildings archaeology. His publications include *Tidings of the King: a Translation and Ethnohistorical Analysis of the Rayavacakamu* (Honolulu, 1993), *Vijayanagara: Architectural Inventory of the Sacred Centre* (with George Michell; New Delhi, 2002), and numerous articles and essays. His study with Richard M. Eaton is nearing completion and will result in a monograph tentatively titled *Power, Memory, and Architecture: Contested Sites in India's Deccan Region, 1300-1600*.

from that provided by textual sources alone. In particular, it testifies to the high degree of technological innovation of sixteenth-century gunfounders, engineers, and architects, as they worked out the problems of adapting siege cannons to defensive use.



Please join us March 10th at 8:00 pm for the lecture in room E229 on the East Campus.



## Archaeology Classrooms and Lab - On the Move!

Beginning in May, the West Campus "A" Wing will be undergoing major renovations. As a result, the Archaeology office and classroom will be moved, temporarily, to the basement of the Schwab Information Technology section of the West Campus. Some of our collections that were stored in the north basement, which will also be affected by the renovations, have already been moved to their new location.

Beginning in the fall, both the archaeology and geology classes will be held in the basement room until the renovations are completed. This winter, the room will be converted for use as a combination classroom, office and collections storage. This will mean that for the first time, all archaeology facilities will be located in a single place. Upon the completion of the renovations, the classroom will emerge somewhere else on the West Campus; it is hoped that the basement room may continue to serve as collections storage and, possibly, as a laboratory facility. This would allow the club to conduct regular lab sessions, which have been all but eliminated due to the need for classroom space throughout the college over the past few semesters.

At some time in late winter, we hope to begin our move. Much work will need to be done: shelving must be obtained, and, along with other furniture, be set up. The collections will need to be examined and organized so that they will be readily available for class and/or research use. We will also be moving hundreds of books, publications and maps to the new location. As part of the move, we would like to develop an index for the collections and publications, as well as the fieldnotes and photographs that have documented our archaeological projects over the years.

This will be a major undertaking, as the move must be completed by mid-May. Once everything has been moved, the work of organizing the materials will continue well into the summer. I encourage any of our club members who would like to assist to contact me at the Archaeology office (857-7377). I will keep the membership informed about the move at our spring meetings.

-Ernie Wiegand

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Cover Photo - Ceramics, Private Collection  
Barnwell, Allendale County, South Carolina

## 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.



Bronze Axes, Musee de Picardy, Amiens, France.

### Save the Date - ASC Spring Meeting

The Archaeological Society of Connecticut will co-sponsor their spring meeting with the Massachusetts Archaeological Society on May 21. While the program is still being worked out (details will be provided at a later club meeting), the meeting itself will be held at Old Sturbridge Village, which will certainly provide an added dimension to the meeting!



### 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 four of the last five years NCC has been represented at this fascinating dig.

Weeks are May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. Cost is only \$466.00 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)

