

Archaeotext

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



Club Meetings – Fall Academic Semester

Save These Dates! -

Nov 10 - Thurs 8:00 pm

**Peru - Coastal and Highland
Occupations of the Lurin Valley**

Dec 7 - Weds

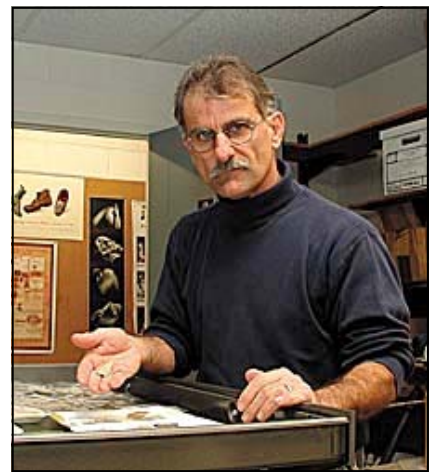
Pot Luck 7:00 pm

Lecture 8:00 pm

**The Search for Ezra
Chamberlain and Confederate
Submarine H.L. Hunley**



**November 10 - Thursday - 8:00
GenRe Forum - East Campus
Peru - The Initial Period Occupation
of the Lurin Valley , Coastal and
Highland Interaction
Christopher Milan - Yale University**



**December 7 - Wednesday - 7:00 pm
PepsiCo Theatre – East Campus
“ The Search for Ezra Chamberlain
and the Confederate
Submarine H.L. Hunley”
Nick Bellantoni
Connecticut State Archaeologist**

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Cover Photo - The Spotted Horses of Peche-Merle Cave near Dordogne, France 16,000 ybp, the Magdalenian Period

Since late 2009 the Middle Lurin Valley Settlement Pattern Project (PAVMEL) has been looking at the interaction between coastal and highland groups in the middle section of the Lurin valley on the central coast of Peru. The primary focus has been on interaction between coastal and highland groups during the Initial Period (1800 – 800 BC) and Early Horizon (800 – 200 BC).

In two seasons a survey of the middle section of the valley was conducted along with excavations at five sites: Malpaso, Anchucaya, Quebrada San Francisco, Sisi-caya, and Chillaco. By looking at these sites it has been possible to look at how these two different ethnic groups interacted and the role of U-shaped temples of uniting disparate communities into larger social blocks.

This year, 2011 is the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. We are happy to present Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni who will share with us the story of the Confederate submarine, the H.L. Hunley, the first Confederate submarine to sink an enemy warship, in combat. On February 17, 1864, on a clear moon light night, the Hunley attacked and sank the USS Housatonic which was on Union blockade duty. However, the Hunley never returned from this mission and it was a mystery where the Hunley disappeared to on the night of February 17, 1864 and what became of its crew.

In 1995, Clive Cussler found the Hunley resting on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean 100 yards away from the USS Housatonic. A team of underwater archaeologists lifted the vessel out of the water and safely shipped it to Charleston, South Carolina.

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Peru - Coastal and Highland Settlements in the Lurin Valley

Malpaso is a U-shaped temple that is typical of the Initial Period. It is located 31 km inland in front of a dry ravine known as Quebrada San Vicente. It is relatively small for a U-shaped temple, only taking up 1.5 acres and the largest mound rising approximately 5 m in height. Excavations show that it is much like other U-shaped temples excavated in the lower part of the valley by Burger. The ceramics recovered from Malpaso bear some similarities to those found at coastal sites, most notably Ancon, a fishing village north of the Lurin valley. A residential sector was identified on terraces behind the mound. Residential architecture consisted of quadrangular structures made of stone and mortar.

Anchucaya is a small site on the alluvial fan of another dry ravine some 7 km further in the valley. It contains a U-shaped mound that had been previously thought of as U-shaped temple. Excavations proved that it was not a U-shaped temple, nor did it date to the Initial Period. The alluvial fan had been terraced during the Late Horizon (1435 – 1532) to be used for maize cultivation. This terracing destroyed most of the Initial Period occupation but not all of it.



Sisicaya is a small rural community located 45 km in the valley. The cemetery for the community is located inside a dry ravine. Just around this cemetery there is a surface scatter of ceramics from various periods including the Initial Period. Similarly, Quebrada San Francisco is a scatter of ceramics inside a dry ravine. Quebrada San Francisco is located in front of a small Inca administrative site deep inside the ravine.



The final site that will be discussed is Chillaco, a small hamlet located on a cactus patch some 55 km inland. It was occupied during the Initial Period and Early Horizon by a group that

came from the highlands near Lima. Little is known about highland groups in the Lima region and the excavations at Chillaco represent some of the most detailed research on the topic.

From a look at these five sites it is possible to critically look at the role of early ceremonial centers in uniting dispersed settlements into larger social groups. It is also possible to better understand the interaction between coastal and highland ethnic groups. Malpaso is the most inland U-shaped temple and it is clearly associated with coastal groups, while sites like Sisicaya and Chillaco represent a highland group that was close by and regularly had contact with the temple. The temple not only served as a place for religious ceremonies, but a place where different ethnic groups could meet.

Chris Milan is a 6th year PhD student in Anthropology at Yale University. He received his bachelor degree from DePaul University in history and English literature. He began his archaeological career when his history advisor asked him why he wasn't an archaeologist. Milan's response was, well why not? He began working in Andean archaeology in 2002. His interests include ceramic composition and GIS. **Please join us Thursday, November 10th. Refreshments at 7:30 pm and lecture at 8:00.**



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Ezra Chamberlain and the H.L. Hunley

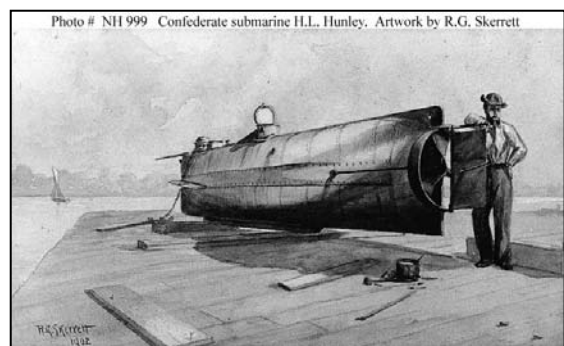
Anthropologists examined the remains of the crew and revealed a number of interesting facts from the position of the remains of the crew, artifacts their bones and teeth. What was also discovered was an ID tag on one of the Hunley's crew members. The name on it was Ezra Chamberlain, Private, 7th Connecticut Infantry, Union Forces. What was a CT Yankee doing in the submarine? That's when Dr. Bellantoni got involved and started digging for evidence.

Join us for our pot-luck Holiday Party and Dr. Bellantoni's exciting presentation as he reveals the details of the demise of the Hunley. Who was on board the Hunley when it sank and why Ezra Chamberlain's dog tags were found on the ship?

Dr. Nicholas F. Bellantoni serves as the state archaeologist with the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and Archaeology Center in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at the University of Connecticut. A graduate of Central Connecticut State University, he received his doctorate in anthropology from UConn in 1987 and was shortly thereafter appointed state

archaeologist. His duties are many, but primarily include the preservation of archaeological sites in the state. He serves as an Adjunct Associate Research Professor in the Dept. of Anthropology at UConn, as well as a State Commissioner for the Commission on Culture and Tourism and sits on the State Historic Preservation Council. Currently, he is President of the National Association of State Archeologists. His research background includes the analysis of skeletal remains from eastern North America. He has been excavating in Connecticut for over thirty

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RESEARCH NEWS - FROM THE FIELD

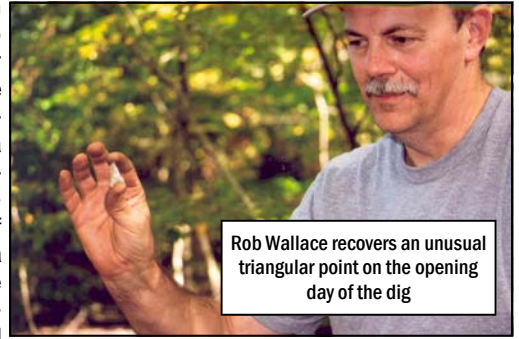
FIRST DAY OUT AT GALLOWS HILL

The opening of the fall semester dig at the Gallows Hill site, delayed for a week due to our never-ending rainfall, introduced many Introduction to Archaeology students to the rocky world of New England archaeology. Two of the excavation blocks dug last semester were expanded due to the higher than average amount of recoveries made from these areas.

In Block #6, a small sherd of an 18th century delft ceramic vessel was found, along with numerous pieces of quartz lithic debitage from the Late Archaic (c. 2500-2000 BC) occupation. Last season, numerous ceramics from the 18th century occupation were found in this area, including a Staffordshire rimsherd, the only piece of this ware recovered from the site, as well as several hand-wrought nails. Past work at excavation Block #7 showed that this area had a much higher than average concentration of quartz debitage. Most of the debitage, as well as biface fragments and a probable Late Archaic stemmed projectile point, were found at somewhat

lower depths than elsewhere at the site. This may be due to the block's location near the foot of a slope from which sediment may have eroded and covered the area when the land was cleared for agricultural use during the 18th century.

Upon opening up two more meter squares in the block, Rob Wallace recovered a complete triangular projectile point. Made of quartz, it has a deeply concave base, two prominent "ears" and an asymmetrical isosceles triangular blade, which may indicate that the point had been repaired or resharpened. As it does not compare with triangular points in regional typologies, it is currently untyped. As it was found at a depth of 14 cm., it may indicate a later occupation of the site, as the stemmed point previously recovered was about 20 cm. below the triangular point in an adjacent unit. Further work will be done at this block near the edge of the site, and its immediate surroundings to investigate this possibility. The excavations at Gallows Hill will continue through mid-Novem-ber. Club members interested in participat-



Rob Wallace recovers an unusual triangular point on the opening day of the dig



Introduction to Archaeology students Scott Petropoulos, Kimberly Duval-Hall and Drew Shuptar-Rayvis (L-R) start the dig season at Gallows Hill



Triangular Point in place

(Continued from page 2)

Ezra Chamberlain and the H.L. Hunley

years. Our December meeting will start at 7:00 pm with our annual "holiday hors d'oeuvres", a delicious selection of delicacies assembled by our club members. Please bring your own special treat to the meeting to share while catching up with old friends and making new ones! The lecture begins at 8:00 pm.



The Hunley in the cradle in which it was raised from Charleston Harbor



Replica of the Hunley in front of The Charleston Museum

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 The Archaeology As An Avocation Program

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Editorial Staff: Ernie Wiegand - Faculty Advisor
 Neal Konstantin Holly Cuzzone



The Thursday Night Lab is Back in Business!

After nearly two years of sporadic availability of laboratory space due to the record enrollments at the college, the Thursday night Archaeology Club laboratory sessions have resumed in their new location, room W-015 of the West Campus. This room, where archaeology and geology classes are now being held, is a temporary classroom until the renovations to the "A" wing of the West Campus are completed in 2012.



Much work has been done on the Gallows Hill site. The prehistoric artifacts have been inventoried and are almost up to date (pending further discoveries at the site this fall!). The historic

artifacts, chiefly ceramics but also including hand-wrought nails, window and bottle glass, clay tobacco pipe fragments and other materials, are next in line to be inventoried, along with the prehistoric lithic debitage.



Floral and faunal remains at the site are also being inventoried. So far, all of the marine shellfish and the animal bones have examined. The vast majority of these finds were made from within and immediately outside the late 18th century building that was the focus of our work for several seasons. One area in particular had a high density of these items and may represent a small midden area immediately west of the building site. Only two of the bones have been identified: a molar from a pig and another from a sheep. The rest consist almost entirely of small pieces of calcined bone that had been cooked; few of these are larger than a few millimeters. Almost all of the marine shellfish are hard clam.

The labs are held on Thursdays from 4:30-9:00 pm. except on those evenings when the Archaeology Club has a program meeting. Call Ernie Wiegand at the Archaeology Office for additional information (857-7377).



Anthropology and Archaeology Courses this Spring at NCC

This Spring semester at NCC offers three classes, including a course in specific archaeological skills. Courses can be applied towards the "Archaeology as an Avocation" certificate program. Courses are described at the right, and registration information is available from the Records Office at 203-857-7035 or the Archaeology Office, 203-857-7377.

Introduction to Archaeology (ANT 121), will be held on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** from **1:00-2:20 pm**. This course, taught by Ernie Wiegand, provides an introduction to prehistoric archaeology and Northeastern prehistory, and will include weekend "dig" sessions at a prehistoric Native American site dating to over 4,000 years ago. Recovered artifacts will be studied at class lab sessions, with students interpreting their finds in a written site report.

Physical Geology (GLG 121), will be taught by Ernie Wiegand on **Mondays and Wednesdays** from **9:00-11:50 am**. The course offers an introduction to physical geology, and examines the composition of the earth, and the forces, both external (glaciers, rivers, oceans, wind and gravity) and internal (plate tectonics, volcanism, earthquakes), that shape our world.

Cultural Anthropology (ANT 105). This is an introduction to Cultural Anthropology. Two sections of the course are offered, both on **Mondays and Wednesdays**. Section 1 is from **10:00 am -11:20 am** and section 2 is from **1:00-2:20 pm**. Taught by Mary Frances Carmell, the course illuminates social systems and patterns of behavior the world over. From tribal societies to enclave communities in our current times, under examination will be those beliefs, values, customs, rituals, laws and material culture - all those social structures that provide identity and that inform and explain a people's world view.

SAVE THE DATE - FOSA

Lecture will be held on Saturday, January 28, 2012 at 1:00 pm at Smith Middle School in Glastonbury, CT.
 Zach Zorich, Senior Editor of Archaeology Magazine

"Paleolithic Paintings: Art and Science Inside Chauvet Cave"