

# 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! -**

**Feb 11** - Thurs 8:00 pm -

**The Death and Ultimate  
Remains of Adolf Hitler:  
Archaeology and Forensics**

**March 11** - Thurs 8:00 pm -

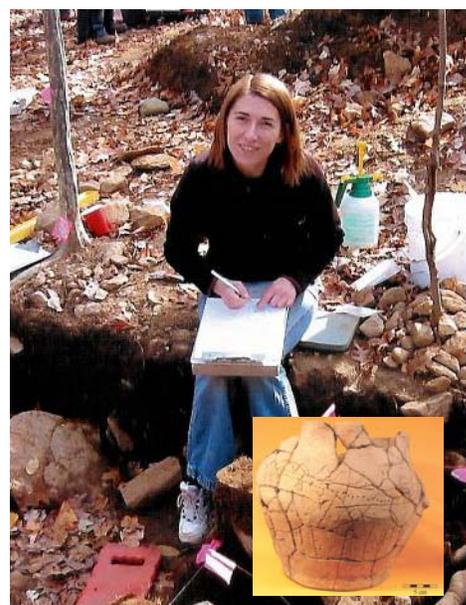
**Iron Age Burials  
in Poland**

**April 8** - Thurs 8:00 pm -

**The Late Archaic  
in South Central  
Connecticut**



**February 11 - Thursday 8:00 pm  
GenRe Forum – East Campus  
“Adolf Hitler’s Remains:  
Archaeology and Forensics”  
Nicholas Bellantoni  
Connecticut State Archaeologist**



**March 11 - Thursday - 8:00 pm  
Culinary Arts Dining Room - East Campus  
“Iron Age Burials in Poland”  
Magdalena Kulczynska  
Univ. of Lodz, Poland and NCC**

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As WWII was ending, Russian troops closed in on Berlin as Hitler and other Nazi officials confined themselves to a bunker beneath the city. Hitler married Eva Braun in a small civil ceremony in a map room within the bunker complex. Hitler hosted a modest wedding breakfast with his new wife, then took Secretary Traudl Junge to another room and dictated his last will and testament. He signed these documents at 04:00 and then retired to bed. Hitler and Braun lived together as husband and wife in the bunker for fewer than 40 hours.

Some witnesses reported hearing a loud gunshot. After waiting a few minutes, Hitler's valet, Heinz Linge, with Bormann at his side, opened the door to the small study. Linge later stated he immediately noted a scent of burnt almonds, a common observation made in the presence of prussic acid, the aqueous form of hydrogen cyanide. Hitler's SS adjutant,

Magdalena Kulczynska is a 2001 graduate of University of Lodz in Poland. She received her degree in archeology with a specific focus on the Roman Period of Iron Age in Eastern Europe. She participated in several excavations in Poland, from Neolithic to Middle Ages periods, most of which were burial sites from the Roman Period. Her Master thesis was combined with work of another graduate, Magdalena Dziegielewska, and published in 2008 by the National Museum of Archeology in Warsaw in series Monumenta Archaeologica Barbarica in German. Magdalena has been a member of Norwalk Community College Archeology Club since 2006 and is participating in club excavations as well as other digs in Connecticut. She is also a graduate of Norwalk Community

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## February - Adolf Hitler's Remains

Sturmbannführer Otto Günsche, entered the study to inspect the bodies, which were found seated on a small sofa; Eva's to Hitler's left and slumped away from him. Günsche has since stated that Hitler "...sat...sunken over, with blood dripping out of his right temple. He had shot himself with his own pistol."

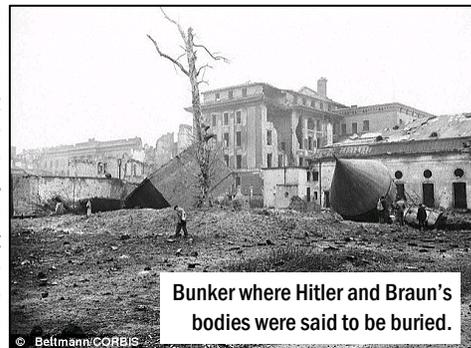
It is widely believed that Hitler and his wife Eva Braun killed themselves in the bunker in order to avoid possible capture. Accounts suggest that his remains were burned and buried at the site, and later moved by the Soviets to other sites in Germany in the decades after the war. But this is uncertain. Other reports suggest that Adolf Hitler may not have shot himself



Russian held Skull Fragment

dead and perhaps did not even die in his bunker. The lack of public information concerning the whereabouts of Hitler's remains encouraged rumors that Hitler may have survived the end of World War II. Records kept by the Soviet KGB and Russian FSB were opened in 1992 and matched the widely accepted version of Hitler's death, that his death was by suicide by gunshot and cyanide poisoning. However, the Russian

archives yielded more detailed autopsy information along with what happened to the corpse. What became of Hitler's remains is still an open question and it was thought the answer could lie in the Russian archives in Moscow, where



Bunker where Hitler and Braun's bodies were said to be buried.

among other artifacts, there is a piece of human skull with a bullet wound that the Russians say is that of Adolf Hitler.

As part of the filming of a new series on The History Channel, MysteryQuest, Nicholas Bellantoni, was brought on a fact-finding mission from Germany to Moscow in search of evidence. He conducted an exploratory dig through a patch of earth where Hitler's remains were said to have been reburied by the Soviets in the decades after World War II, searching for bone fragments. He also gained access to the Russian national archives, where he reviewed documents related to the Soviets' handling of Hitler's remains, and examined and gained DNA evidence from blood and bone fragments the Russians have said for decades belonged to the Nazi dictator.

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## Iron Age Burials in Poland



College and is looking forward to new experiences in archaeology within the United States.

Magdalena will present the research from her master thesis which was published by "National Museum of Archeology" and titled "Cieblowice Duze, Ein Graberfeld der Przeworsk-Kulture im sudwestlichen Masowien." (translation: Cieblowice Duze cemetery from Przeworsk culture

in central Poland). She will present a short history of the Iron Age in Europe, which will concentrate on revealing finds from Cieblowice Duze, a burial site from the Przeworsk culture in Poland dated from 150 A.D. through 350 A.D. During the excavations performed between 1984 and 1991, an archeologist from the Museum of Tomaszow Mazowiecki, Marek Karolczyk, discovered 149 graves, a cremation site and several loose artifacts. The artifacts and the burial site as a whole were classified as one of the most significant sites characteristic of the Przeworsk culture, but there were also several differentiating traits from other sites. Social structure, burial types and equipment found in the graves are typical for this society. However, the timeline and the influences found among the artifacts make it unique for this culture.



Iron Age artifacts from various graves in Central Poland



Magdalena Klczynska's thesis published by the National Archaeological Museum in Warsaw

## RESEARCH NEWS - FROM THE LAB

This winter, Archaeology Club laboratory sessions will be offered on an irregular basis as a result of the lack of classroom space for many courses due to our enrollment surge. Currently, we will have sessions running from 4:30-9 pm in room W-131 on the following days: March 18, April 1, April 15, April 29 and May 13. As we go to press, the availability of room W-131 will be reviewed after college final registration has concluded. An updated schedule for labs will be made available at our Feb. 11 club program meeting.

Our winter activities will continue with the study and cataloging of the artifacts from the Gallows Hill site. We will also revisit some of the collections made during earlier digs with our objective of creating updated catalogs of materials from these sites.

In the spring, we will have several dig sessions at Gallows Hill. A schedule will be available later this semester.

**April 8 - Thursday - 8:00 pm**  
**Culinary Arts Dining Room East Campus**  
**The Late Archaic in S. Central Connecticut**  
**Dr. Cosimo "Cos" Sgarlata**

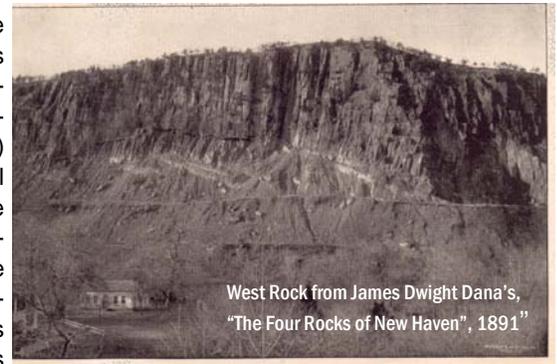
My interest in archaeology began with the Archaeology as an Avocation Program at Norwalk Community College where I received my certification in 1996. I was awarded a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology/Anthropology from Western Connecticut State Univ. in 1999, a Master of Arts in Anthropology from Hunter College in 2002, and a Doctor of Arts in Anthropology in 2009, from the Graduate Center of the City Univ. of New York (CUNY). In graduate school my focus was the analysis of stone tools, under the tutelage of my renowned advisor Dr. Bill Parry, and my area focus was the archaeological Northeast. I have performed lithic (stone tool) analysis working for Historical Perspectives of Westport and I am currently working as an adjunct professor at Western Connecticut State University. My dissertation was entitled, "The Upland Archaeology of West Rock Ridge in South-Central Connecticut: Small Stemmed Point Tradition Land-Use Intensification."

My dissertation research at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York focused on an upland environment in South-Central Connecticut, West Rock Ridge, and how analysis of archaeological data from this environment could contribute to general and specific knowledge concerning the prehistoric hunter-gatherers who once occupied this part of the state. The research



was able to demonstrate a positive correlation between the usage of marginal, rugged, environments such as West Rock Ridge, and increasing population density during the Late Archaic Period. This correlation is best

explained due to constraints on hunter-gatherer mobility: 1) larger local subsistence groups requiring more frequent residential moves as resources



West Rock from James Dwight Dana's, "The Four Rocks of New Haven", 1891"

were used up more quickly, and 2) population packing of discrete residential units as available territory became scarcer.

The research was also important because it enabled me to develop a general model concerning long term processes of cultural change and adaptation in South-Central Connecticut. Furthermore, this model can be used to compare and contrast the patterns of important archaeological cultures in prehistoric Southern New England such as the Small Stemmed Point and Susquehanna Traditions.

But the research I performed as a graduate student also piqued my interest in hunter-gatherer archaeology, especially as it pertains to simple, mobile foraging societies; or what can colloquially be referred to as "small-scale hunter-gatherers". To the degree that archaeologists have studied cultural evolution during human prehistory, this preoccupation has inevitably focused on those punctuated events such as the origins of agriculture, the rise of city states, or the earliest stone tool manufacturing. But for most of human prehistory, human social and economic existence has been organized in terms of: close face to face inter-contact, in small, mobile societies, subsisting on whatever resources were locally available. These societies changed and adapted along with changing environmental, technological and demographic circumstances. The evolution of technology, social forms and subsistence strategies in small-scale hunter-gatherer societies is no less a part of overall human cultural evolution than any of the punctuated forms of human progress listed above.

## Archaeological Society of Connecticut Bulletin to feature articles from club members

The latest issue of the ASC Bulletin has gone to press, and within a few weeks all members from 2009 will be receiving Bulletin #71, our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue. The articles for this issue are based on the presentations made at the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting last spring, and include works by Archaeology as an Avocation program graduates Holly Cuzzzone (M.A., Yale 2007) and Cosimo Sgarlata (PhD., City University of New York 2009) and program coordinator Ernie Wiegand.

Holly Cuzzzone's article was coauthored with Dr. Britt Hartenberger (Western Michigan Univ.). It is entitled "Late Archaic and Late Woodland Occupations at Cove River: New Data on Subsistence and the Narrow Point Tradition".

This study presents an analysis of the Cove River site from excavated materials and a collection in the Peabody Museum of Natural History. The materials are used to reconstruct subsistence patterns of the Late Archaic and Late Woodland periods and the dating of the Narrow Point tradition in Connecticut. Excavations in 2005 and 2006 revealed artifacts, features, and ecofacts which enabled analysis of subsistence and suggest that the site served as a seasonal base camp in the Late Archaic and a more special purpose site in the Late Woodland. The inhabitants relied mainly on hunting in both periods but their food processing activities varied. Projectile points from excavation and the collection help address the date of the Narrow Point tradition, an outstanding question. The points and radiocarbon date obtained at the site demonstrate the continuation of this tradition into the Woodland period, supporting the dating proposed by Lavin (1984). Such a long extent for the tradition means that the Woodland period may be underrepresented in this region if point types alone have been used for dating sites. Lastly, the excavations provide valuable new data to complement the few other published excavations from the Quinnipiac River Valley. Cosimo Sgarlata's article is titled "The Significance of Open Source Resources for Understanding Spatial Variability among Small-Scale Hunter-Gatherers in Southern New England".

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**February - Adolf Hitler's Remains**

"Hitler's Escape" premiered Sept. 16, 2009 and featured three UConn faculty: Nicholas Bellantoni, Linda Strausbaugh, and Dawn Pettinelli. Together they investigated what became of Adolf Hitler's remains in the days, months, and years after the end of World War II. At the university's Center for Applied Genetics, Linda Strausbaugh closed her lab for three days to work exclusively on the Hitler project's DNA analysis of blood and skull fragments taken from the Russians. In addition, Pettinelli conducted tests on the soil samples excavated by Nick. The results of Nick's research and the tests results will be revealed by Nick as he presents his adventure to Germany and Russia in search of what became of Adolf Hitler.

Nicholas Bellantoni, the State Archaeologist, is a faculty member in the Anthropology Department, and teaches courses, independent studies and serves on graduate committees. Dr. Bellantoni serves as the state archaeologist



Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun

with the CT State Museum of Natural History and Archaeology Center at UConn. 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. His research background is in the analysis of skeletal remains from eastern North America. He has been excavating in Connecticut for over 30 years.

**Vlahos Scholarship News**

The Vlahos Scholarship, which was created in 1999 to honor Professor Olivia Vlahos, founder of the Archaeology as an Avocation certificate program, is seeking applicants for this year's award.

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 to deserving students, if 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 as an Avocation certificate program. Selection will be made by a committee of anthropology/archaeology faculty at the college and their designees.

To be eligible, a student must submit all application materials to the college postmarked no later than April 1. Inquiries should be directed to Ernest Wiegand at the Archaeology Program Office (203-857-7377).

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**Archaeological Society of Connecticut Bulletin**

The paper focuses on mobile hunter-gatherer societies and the importance of variability among these societies in Southern New England. This variability is probably best reflected in their campsites. Simple, egalitarian societies apparently dominated the archaeological record in Southern New England. But long term processes of cultural change and adaptation throughout the prehistoric period led to several distinct adaptations among these peoples and shed light on human cultural evolution. Although the term "human cultural evolution" is more often associated with punctuated events in the past that have somehow become synonymous with "progress" such as the first stone tools, the advent of agriculture, or the earliest city-states; for more than 99% of human prehistory most people have lived in simple, mobile, hunting and gathering societies. The evolution of cultural forms in these societies is no less of part of the overall story of human cultural evolution than some of the more dramatic social and cultural changes listed above.

Ernie Wiegand's article, "Between a Rock and a Wet Place", examines the choices made by Native Americans in the selection of what characteristics of a rockshelter and its surrounding environment were important in making the decision as to whether or not to use or occupy a shelter. Some of these factors include shelter size, amount of headroom, orientation and the kinds of natural resources found at or near a rockshelter. The paper reviews several dozen rockshelter sites throughout Connecticut and also discusses the various functions rockshelters served in the past, from emergency shelters to quarry-workshops to seasonal camps.

These papers, as well as the other articles from around the state, provide a good sample of the kinds of work being done in Connecticut. For those of you who were not 2009 members, ASC Bulletin 71 can be purchased for \$15 by sending a check to ASC treasurer Cosimo Sgarlata at 1 Roscoe St., Norwalk, Ct. 06851. A 2010 ASC membership flyer is enclosed in this issue of Archaeotext for those who are renewing their membership or joining for the first time.

**Please Take a Moment and Send in Club Dues!**

Please mail \$20 dues (or more!), to:

NCC Archaeology Club

188 Richards Ave. Rm W236, Norwalk, CT 06854



Volunteer at Topper in May of 2010!  
go to [www.allendale-expedition.net](http://www.allendale-expedition.net)