As the 2014 president of The Greater Atlanta Archaeology Society, I want to wish everyone a wonderful New Year. As an extended member of the SGA, we are full of many talented and giving souls within our local chapter that share a common interest in the study of ancient cultures.

Everyone has their own story on how archaeology made its first impression on them. Archaeology first intrigued me at an early age. For a Christmas present back in the 1960's, I received a large book with many pictures showing sites from all over the world with well illustrated recreations of what they might have looked like from the archaeological excavations and discoveries found on each of the sites. The name of the Book was called, *The Dawn of Civilization*, by Thames and Hudson. It was a collection of several archaeologists, artists, photographers, and writers.

My first actual, hands-on archaeology occurred when I was still in middle school. My teacher, Mr. Sokol, invited me to work with him on an archaeological site in Brielle, New Jersey. The site was along a dried-up river bed. I remember walking in the woods and seeing nothing but forest and growth everywhere with no visual signs that any people had lived in this area. Being a rookie and novice in archaeology, I was expecting something to jump out and say, “Here we are come dig us up”—LOL!

As I was given directions and instructions to start using a compass and measuring...
Message from the President

—continued from cover

a square-shaped box (my first grid), and stringing it off just where I was told—I lost track of time itself due to the excitement of discovery. The site itself was a Dutch trade post; in its latest components finding Dutch trade pipes and beads mixed in with the native pottery and points. We actually found archaic points possibly pointing to the site being inhabited 1000’s of years earlier!

My family moved from New Jersey to the Florida Keys, and with my new found passion of archaeology I wanted to continue my new hobby; I did not think of it as just a hobby but looked at it as studying myself and our ancestors more deeply. I remember reading about an archaeological excavation going on at Indian Key in the local Keynoter Newspaper, so I proceeded to get in touch with those involved: Irving Eyster, a historian, archaeologist, and teacher that lived in Lower Matecumbe Key, and the state archaeologist Henry Baker, the principle investigator for the excavation at Indian Key. Irving invited me to join and meet them at a small local restaurant called Papa Joe’s—a local landmark for many years, which is closed now.

The only transportation I had at my finger tips was the local Greyhound bus station, so I looked up the times and took the bus from Marathon Key to Islamorada Key where the bus stopped across from Papa Joe’s to let me off. I did that trip several times over the course of several months to help in the excavations. Papa Joe’s was convenient for everyone, since we had to get on inflatable pontoons to cruise over to the north shore of the Island in deep water to get to the dock area. The south side of the Island was full of shallows called ‘The Flats,’ which prevented us from using outboard engines.

Once on the Island, I met Henry Baker and his associates from the state. Both Henry and Irving gave me a personal tour of the whole Island, and once that was over I was assigned a crew to work with. Over the next couple of months I was fortunate to work on several different structures and features.

Indian Key was the county seat of Monroe County in the early 1800’s. The local Calusa Indians were being harassed by the federal government for their lands and word got out there was a price on their heads—dead or alive. It got back to the local Calusa chief, Chahaika. On the dawn of August 7, 1840, seventeen Indian canoes went out to Indian Key in the early morning hours and attacked the Island, killing almost everyone on the Island except for a few that hid in the submerged turtle corral pens. The Island was never again inhabited after this attack.

After the excavation came to an end on Indian Key, Irving Eyster continued to involve me in his excavations in Key West and the other Islands throughout the Florida Keys. Irving is the kind of man that made an outstanding friend, teacher and mentor and made a great lifetime impression regarding archaeology on me. He turned 95 this year and is still active in developing a future museum for the middle Keys with his collection of Keys and South Florida artifacts.

In High School, I established an archaeology club to share my passion and interest with others. The club was developed to educate and explore for new sites. This was my early indoctrination into the world of archaeology, and in closing, I would like to hear from others regarding how they discovered archaeology too!

Your President,
Scott Goodlow
December Holiday Party

We elected the 2014 officers and board members December at the holiday party as proposed in the November Atlanta Antiquity!

Officers:
President - Scott Goodlow
Vice President - Les Heyward
Secretary - Lyn Kirkland
Treasurer - David Kasriel

Board:
Professional Advisor - Jeffrey Glover
Board members - Ansley Abraham, Connie White, Lily Green, and Marty Benton

Thanks again to Jack Kilgore for arranging use of the Brianwood Estates clubhouse for the festivities. I conducted our traditional Archeo-Trivia contest again with no prizes. Here is my favorite question.

Question - What is the relationship between Lady Cora in PBS’s Downton Abbey and Lady Almina and what does that have to do with archaeology. Hint: Who wrote, “Can you see anything?” it was all I could do to get out the words, “Yes, wonderful things.” Answer on p. 8

-David Kasriel

2014 Tenenbaum Lecture

Monday, February 3, 2014, 7:30 p.m. at the Carlos Museum at Emory University. Free and open to the public. No tickets required. Free parking in the Fishburne and Peavine Decks. More information at http://www.js.emory.edu/events/Tenenbaum2013.html

William G. Dever

DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSOR, LYCOMING COLLEGE
PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF NEAR EASTERN STUDIES, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

DID GOD HAVE A WIFE?
ARCHAEOLOGY AND FOLK RELIGION IN ANCIENT ISRAEL

This illustrated lecture will showcase recent archaeological evidence that reveals the differences in beliefs and practices of ordinary people in ancient Israel compared to the elitist, idealist portrait in the Bible, particularly the ongoing veneration of the Canaanite Goddess Asherah.

February 3, 2014
Wednesday, 7:30pm

Reception Hall
Michael C. Carlos Museum
Emory University
Searching for Prehistoric Indians in the Southeast

Smallwood and Jennings review the archaeological record of the American Southeast and highlight how this region is helping us better understand early hunter-gatherer life ways during the Pleistocene and Holocene periods of prehistory. They discuss the emergence of early cultural diversity during the Pre-Clovis and Clovis periods, the great regionalization of hunter-gatherers during the Paleoindian-Archaic transition, and the development of new traditions during the Middle and Late Archaic periods.

Dr. Ashley Smallwood is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology and the Director of the Antonio J. Waring, Jr. Archaeological Lab at the University of West Georgia. Her current research focuses on prehistoric technology and the organization of lithic industries in the American Southeast. She studies Paleoindian and Archaic technology in the region, with a focus on the adaptive context of stone tool production. Smallwood has excavated at prehistoric sites including Topper (SC), Gault (TX), Friedkin (TX), the Cumberland River Basin (TN), and Dry Creek (AK).

Dr. Thomas Jennings is on the faculty at University of West Georgia. He specializes in applying geoarchaeology, stone tool analysis, and quantitative methods to understand the Pleistocene peopling of the Americas. Other research interests include the prehistory of the Great Plains and hunter-gatherer adaptations to Younger Dryas climate change. He has experience excavating Paleoindian sites in Alaska, Colorado, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and, most recently, Texas.

Tuesday, January 14th
Fernbank Museum of Natural History
767 Clifton Rd NE, Atlanta, GA
Starts at: 6:30 pm.

Please join us for dinner at a nearby restaurant after the meeting.
Book Review


Reviewed by Robert C. Bryant, Georgia State University, Atlanta.

Adam King’s *Etowah* is a great overview of the archaeological thought surrounding the Etowah mound complex, located in Northwest Georgia. He describes the complex change in economic and political organization for the region from the Late Woodland through the Contact period and does a good job illustrating the problems of labeling ancient organizations as chiefdoms—a remnant of Cultural-Evolutionism—and redefines the term chiefdom specific to his own study of Etowah’s past. Although a great overview of the region, he admits his theories on the chiefdom capital’s organization fall short on comprehensive data to support his claims—which is why his book focuses a great deal on the need to gather more data on this important site. Despite the limited data, King does a great job of spurring interest in the region synthesizing what data we do have in preparation for further refinement and research.

In Chapter One he defines and subdivides a chiefdom into three categories: a simple chiefdom, or one that has a single level of hierarchy in its political administration, a complex chiefdom, or one that has two or three levels of hierarchy in its political administration, and a paramount chiefdom, an amalgamation of several simple complex chiefdoms into one polity. He also utilizes corporate and network economic strategies to describe how chiefdoms in the region came to be and how stable they remained. His basis for defining political systems lies in studying both the political complexity and political economic strategies separate from one another in order to understand the overarching structure of political organization in the Etowah Valley.

In Chapter Two he defines his study area of Etowah and spends the rest of the chapter building a chronology of the region, reviewing all the sites pertinent to the study area, and discussing the settlement patterns of these sites through time. The third chapter is a more thorough overview of the Etowah mound complex’s history as a political unit in the broader study area and the settlement changes it underwent. He provides numerous images to help detail the chronological erection of the mounds and which ones may have been in use as any given time. Chapter Four is King’s application of his theoretical chiefdom framework on Etowah Valley and discusses how his model predicts the political transformations between simple and complex chiefdoms through time.

In Chapter Five, King expands his discussion on the political history of chiefdoms in the Southeast to a much broader geographical region, utilizing Etowah as a cornerstone of reflection, and he postulates how the contact with Spanish explorers further changed the systems in place. The sixth chapter is King’s summary of his goals. He ends the chapter with a welcoming acknowledgment that Native American perspectives are necessary to the further understanding the region and la-
ments that his book does not offer those perspectives. He provides an Appendix that gives a succinct overview of the radio carbon data he used to explore his chronologies and settlement patterns of the Etowah Valley.

Anyone interested in researching the Etowah Valley would greatly benefit from King’s useful analyses. Although some readers may want to see more hard data to support King’s analysis of the political landscape, I believe that’s his goal—to spur more interest. He responsibly makes the reader aware of all the short-comings of his models. The point of King’s book is not to commit to a specific model of the Etowah Valley’s political history, but look at the evidence that does exist and create a working model of how the rise and fall of different political organization systems may have occurred. Rather than say nothing at all, he generalizes the limited data at various sites both temporally and spatially to bring new ideas to the table and requests assistance from the discipline and Native American authorities to challenge or support them.

In summary, Adam King offers a fresh perspective on an area of the Southeast that is in need of more investigation to further our understanding. He does a responsible job of postulating hypotheses that are in need of research to support or refute them. Although the book’s readability lies somewhere between an academic and public work, I do think it would be an appealing read for either audience. In sum, he successfully starts a conversation on the archaeology of the Etowah Valley that can potentially raise interest in the area from the public, Western scientists and Native American nations.
Notes on the Savannah Slave Site

In Savannah, expansion of Georgia Route 204 to link the southern part of the city with Interstate 95 led to a Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT) requested archaeological survey. The DOT brought in archaeologist Rita Elliott and others, including a contingent from New South Associates. Ms. Elliot noted that the survey produced 33,858 artifacts datable from 1750 to the end of the Civil War. Perhaps the most exciting discovery was a one-time plantation site and evidence of slave cabins. The team was also impressed by evidence that a contingent from William Sherman’s army marched through the site and camped there.

The plantation was purchased by a wealthy attorney, William Miller, in the mid-1850s. Miller is known to have owned 87 slaves. Many of the artifacts provide evidence for simple slave cabins. Clusters of nails and the absence of a significant number of bricks suggest wooden structures. Negative evidence was important too; the absence of window glass supports the interpretation that the dwellings were crude. At the floor level of the cabins, storage pits were found reinforcing the image of humble structures. One artifact that attracted interest was an 1831 silver Mexican coin. The coin had a square hole punched through it probably using a hammer and a square nail suggesting that the coin was worn like a pendant. This coin was located with a metal detector, an increasingly popular remote sensing tool. The analysis of this 20-acre site will take some time because of its size and the large number of artifacts to identify and interpret.

-Allen Vegotsky
!! Membership Dues Reminder !!

This is a reminder that GAAS membership fees for 2014 are now due. If you would also like to join or renew membership to the Society for Georgia Archeology (SGA) along with your GAAS membership this can be done for an additional $20 (a $5 saving) before March 1. See the membership application and renewal form with my address on the last page of the newsletter.

-David Kasriel,

Answer to Trivia Question

Question - What is the relationship between Lady Cora in PBS's Downton Abbey and Lady Almina and what does that have to do with archaeology. Hint: Who wrote, “Can you see anything? I was all I could do to get out the words, ‘Yes, wonderful things.”

Answer - Downton Abbey is filmed at Highclere Castle, the home of the current Earl and Countess of Carnarvon. Just 19 when she married the 5th Earl of Carnarvon in 1895, Almina was the illegitimate daughter of Alfred de Rothschild. Lady Almina and Lady Cora were both residents of their respective real and fictional homes in November 1922 when a noted archaeologist said,

“...as my eyes grew accustomed to the light, details of the room within emerged slowly from the mist, strange animals, statues, and gold - everywhere the glint of gold. For the moment - an eternity it must have seemed to the others standing by - I was struck dumb with amazement, and when Lord Carnarvon, unable to stand the suspense any longer, inquired anxiously, ‘Can you see anything?’ it was all I could do to get out the words, ‘Yes, wonderful things.”

That archaeologist was Howard Carter, an English Egyptologist. In 1914, supported by his British benefactor Lord Carnarvon, Carter began his search for King Tutankhamen. In November 1922, during the last season of exploration that Lord Carnarvon said he could support, Carter struck gold. The 5th Earl died the following year, just a month or so after the burial tomb was opened (see Mummy’s Curse). Tut's tomb clearance continued until 1932, Carter died in 1939, and in 1977 I was able to view Tutankhamen’s burial mask and other wonderful things at the New Orleans Museum of Art. (Several sources including Wikipedia)

-David Kasriel
DNA, (Deoxyribonucleic Acid), is a molecule that encodes the genetic instruction used in the development and functioning of all known living organisms and many viruses. DNA is a self-replicating material present in all living organisms as the main constituent of chromosomes. It is the carrier of genetic information.

A separate DNA called mtDNA, (Mitochondrial DNA), is what gives our bodies energy from the structures within cells that convert the energy from food into a product that our cells can utilize. The old adage, “You are what you eat,” is true, because the energy created by what constitutes your diet leaves an mtDNA imprint. Imagine the number of different ancestral diets from around the globe which was dictated by geographical and annual weather conditions.

Recently, scientists were surprised to find links between early Europe and Asia. Theories are created to prove or disprove these links, typically with little evidence, but one has to start somewhere to get the brainstorming going.

Finding DNA from the Denisovan, a little known group of Neanderthals from Siberia, in a Spanish cave 100 feet under the ground was a surprise to scientists. One possible theory is that this was a predecessor to both Neanderthal and Denisovan before the two groups splintered. The other theory is the ancestral group interbred with a much older group like Homo Erectus. The unsolved opportunity for ancient DNA is to find the chronological sequence of hominid ancestry. The two caveats with this new methodology is that: DNA strands disintegrate into smaller fragments over time, making it difficult to determine their original order, and the second issue all scientists and archaeologists have to deal with—their own contemporary DNA can contaminate the ancient samples, ruining the analysis.

Recently a 400,000 year old thigh bone excavated from the Sima de los Huesos caves in Spain has the oldest known genetic material discovered. Hopefully this will be a good chance to test out the new genetic methodology. What scientists have managed to figure out is that this genetic information’s mtDNA is too limited to answer any details about their diets.

—Scott Goodlow
Although it lasted only 2 million years, the Awkward Age was considered a hazardous time for most species.
Dear Readers,

Congratulations to the new Officers! I hope everyone had a great holiday season! Mine was too long and too good! I’m ready for a new semester of graduate school and a fresh new volume of the Atlanta Antiquity newsletter to start 2014 off! We don’t have a lot of content this issue, which is no doubt due to the holiday festivities. Don’t fret! I have a feeling February will be packed once everyone settles into the new year!

I have a couple of ideas I’d like to try out this year: book reviews and lecture notes. I think it would be a great addition to the newsletter if anyone grabbed a book related to archaeology and wrote a quick review of it! This gives our readers a chance to see what books are out there and a quick idea of whether or not it interests them. It’s a format professional publications use for the same reason. We don’t all have time to read everything available and book reviews are a great way to get a quick grasp on what’s out there. I started it off this issue with one of my own book reviews I did for a class on Adam King’s *Etowah*. I think it might be fun as well to publish some selected lecture notes I take from my classes for everyone to read and learn from as well.

As always—Atlanta Antiquity wants to hear from you! Shoot us an email with your thoughts on any of our content or even submit your own content! There’s plenty of room in our newsletter so don’t be shy!

Cheers,

Robert Bryant
Membership Application & Renewal Form

Annual Dues for the Year 2014
Check Membership type:

_____ Individual ($20)

_____ Family ($25)

_____ Student ($10)

School ____________________________

_____ GAAS T-shirts ($10 each)

show number of each size:
brown ___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XXL ___ XXXL
blue ___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL

_____ SGA Membership ($20)

_____ Tax deductible contribution to the

GAAS Archaeological Research Fund

Information About You:
(Please Print)

Name: _____________________________________

Address: ___________________________________

_____________________________________

work/home/cell Phone: _______________________

work/home/cell Phone: _______________________

E-mail: ___________________________________

Reminder: If you joined GAAS in 2013 after September 30, then you are also paid-up for 2014 and need not pay dues for 2014. If you have any questions about your status, contact the GAAS Treasurer.

G.A.A.S.
2095 Street DeVille NE
Atlanta, GA 30345