

Time Sifters

October 2014



A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

PO Box 5283, Sarasota FL 34277

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NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, October 15, 2014, 6:00 PM

Selby Library, Downtown Sarasota

John Kantner PhD, RPA

Chaco Canyon: From the Outside Looking In

The ancient ruins of Chaco Canyon in northwestern New Mexico stir our imagination with questions about their origins, purpose, and demise. Historically, research has concentrated on the stunning architecture and what transpired within the canyon walls. In the past few decades, however, archaeologists have turned to a consideration of Chaco's tremendous impact across the American Southwest, especially in distant villages that lived in the shadow of Chaco Canyon. In this colorfully illustrated lecture, Southwest archaeologist John Kantner describes how new interdisciplinary research is answering critical questions about the ancient Chacoan world.

John Kantner (PhD, RPA) joined the University of North Florida in August 2013 as the Assistant Vice President for Research, and was appointed Associate Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School in June 2014. Previously, he was Vice President for Academic & Institutional Advancement at the School for Advanced Research, an independent research center for the social sciences and humanities.

Dr. Kantner is an anthropological archaeologist with a broad background in the social sciences. He received his doctorate from the University of California–Santa Barbara, where he studied archaeology, anthropology, geography, geochemistry, and evolutionary theory. His research focuses on the archaeology of ancient societies, with a particular interest in the processes by which complex social and political regional institutions emerged from communities of comparatively simple horticulturists. His research is explicitly comparative, and he has collaborated on projects throughout the United States, as well as in Costa Rica and Peru. In addition to several books, Dr. Kantner's research appears in journals such as *Human Nature*, *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*, *Journal of Anthropological Research*, *Journal of Archaeological Research*, *Journal of Archaeological Science*, and *Historical Archaeology*.



John Kantner at work.



Chaco Canyon

Dr. George Luer: A New Database of His Work

by Aric Archebelle-Smith



Dr. George Luer narrating a tour of Charlotte Harbor archaeological sites during FAS 2014

Since his first publication in *The Florida Anthropologist* in June 1977, Dr. George Luer has published over 45 articles in *The Florida Anthropologist*. He has published at least one article nearly every year since 1977 and in many years he has published upwards of three or four articles. Dr. Luer's prolific body of work was so vast that finding all of his articles on a specific site or subject was a difficult task even with all back issues of *The Florida Anthropologist* being made available online. To solve this problem, Dr. Uzi Baram from the New College Public Archaeology Lab proposed the creation of a database of all of Dr. Luer's articles published in *The Florida Anthropologist*.

Work on creating this database was started by the 2013 NCPAL/FPAN joint intern Annie Carter. After her time as the NCPAL/FPAN intern was completed, Annie Carter passed the database on to the 2014 intern Aric Archebelle-Smith. Between the two of them, they read through and added thirty-four of Dr. Luer's articles to the database. The database makes it easier for people to sort through Dr. Luer's articles. Once the database is finished, anyone will be able to access the database and search through Dr. Luer's articles by title, site or site number, subject, time period, or date of publishing. The current NCPAL/FPAN intern, Aric Archebelle-Smith, hopes to finish compiling the database in the Fall of this year.

Dr. Luer's work has focused largely on unveiling Florida's pre-Columbian past through examining its archaeological record. Dr. Luer began his archaeological career studying sites around his home of Sarasota, including the midden that his family's home is located upon. He has worked with many other notable Florida archaeologists and even defined the Manasota Culture with the help of another Sarasota archaeologist, Marion Almy. Throughout his career, Dr. Luer has spent a great deal of time studying and writing about Native American burial mounds, middens, canals, ceramics, shell tools, and metal tablets. Dr. Luer has received a great deal of awards for his work including, most recently, the Florida Anthropological Society's prestigious Ripley P. Bullen Award at the 2014 Florida Anthropological Society conference.

Throughout his work, Dr. Luer has strongly advocated for the preservation of archaeological sites and the protection of Florida's natural environment. He often includes segments at the end of his articles detailing the actions that need to be taken to preserve the site being discussed and its surrounding environment.

Dr. Luer continues to publish articles in *The Florida Anthropologist* regularly, with his most recent article discussing tabbed circle artifacts having been published in the September 2013 issue. He also publishes articles outside of *The Florida Anthropologist*. His most recent publication was a chapter in the book *New Histories of Pre-Columbian Florida* published in 2014 by the University Press of Florida. Once the database of all Dr. Luer's articles for *The Florida Anthropologist* has been completed, it will be an invaluable resource for anyone looking for academic articles about Florida's archaeological past.

Another Lesson that Provenience Matters: The Little Manatee River Drum found in 1967

Uzi Baram

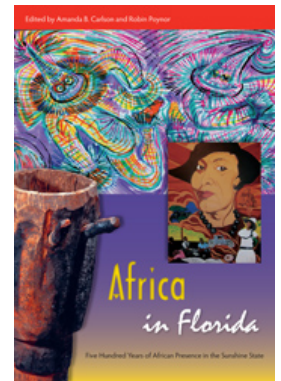
Director of the New College Public Archaeology Lab and
Professor of Anthropology, New College of Florida



Provenience and Provenance

Students of archaeology wrestle with the terminology for artifacts. In the very useful about-com, K. Kris Hirst offers the debate over the terminology: provenience is “the precise location where an artifact or archaeological sample was recovered archaeologically” while provenance is “the detailed history of where an artifact has been since its creation” (<http://archaeology.about.com/b/2006/05/16/provenience-provenance-lets-call-the-whole-thing-off.htm>) but recognizes that the overlap can be confusing. One focuses on the archaeological record as the context for an artifact, or assemblage of artifacts, while the other traces the chain-of-ownership for an object. Provenience matters, as the example of the drum from the Little Manatee River can show.

During the search for material evidence of the early 19th century maroon community known as Looking for Angola (see my essay on the project in the October 2013 Time Sifters Archaeology Society Newsletter https://www.academia.edu/4736370/Partners_in_Search_of_History), one particular artifact haunted the research process. We know little of Angola beyond the growth of the maroon community in the aftermath of the battles at the Apalachicola River (1816) and Suwannee River (1818) and the destruction of the settlement in 1821, just as Spain handed Florida over to the USA. The archaeological traces by the Manatee Mineral Spring suggest the connections among British filibusters, Cuban fishermen, and Seminoles with the maroons but the material culture is mundane, consisting of the mass-produced ceramics of the era. There is one notable exception. Jane Landers in *Black Society in Florida* (1999:232) published a black and white photograph of a drum with the caption: “African-inspired mahogany drum found in the bank of the Little Manatee River.” That drum, featured on the cover of the recent *Africa in Florida: Five Hundred Years of African Presence in the Sunshine State* (edited by Amanda B. Carlson and Robin Poyner in 2014), could be a substantial contribution to revealing the African heritage of Gulf Coast Florida.



Could be.

The drum is made of wood, mahogany as Professor Landers (1999: 232) noted in *Black Society in Florida*. Today, mahogany is rare in Florida but *Swietenia mahagoni* is native. And we know that drums are important in the history of the enslaved rising up to gain freedom because they were outlawed. So an African-inspired drum is significant for locating the maroons, self-emancipated people of African heritage, sometime called escaped slaves. While the drum is evocative, the provenience limited interpretation. Now stored at the Florida Museum of Natural History the artifact, cataloged as E183, has received only minor attention (the museum has a file listing all who requested information on the drum – it is a thin file). Florida is famous for its wet sites, with many examples of amazing preservation of wood and other organic materials. So preservation through the centuries is possible for the drum. But without archaeological dating, one can reasonably propose a range from the earliest African settlements in Florida to mid-20th century craft production for the tourist trade and its history is not known. Why? [Link to the full story at our website www.timesifters.com](http://www.timesifters.com)



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2014 - 2015 MEETING CALENDAR

October 15, 6pm: Dr. John Kantner, *Chaco Canyon: From the Outside Looking In*

November 19, 6pm: Hermann Trappman and Elizabeth Neily

January 21, 6pm: Darwin "Smitty" Smith, *The Archaeological Year in Review*

February 18, 6pm: Dr. David Overstreet, *Northern Limits of Maize Cultivation as Evidenced from Menominee Indian Reservation Remains*

March 18, 6pm: Dr. Birgitta Wallace, *Vikings in North America*

April 15, 6pm: Student grant winners

May 20, 6pm: Dr. Gabrielle Vail

Meetings are at Selby Library: downtown Sarasota, Central Ave and 2nd Street

OCTOBER EVENTS

October 21, 6pm-8pm: Archaeology Works: Pottery New College Public Archaeology Lab. Time Sifters continuing collaboration with NCPAL brings great hands-on workshops to our members. Come out and have fun!

October 18, 11am: International Archaeology Day event at Reflections of Manatee. A tour of the interpretive signs installed last year, highlighting the historical and archaeological evidence of the many peoples who used the spring.

October 18: Pine Level Public Art and Archaeology Day, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Pine Level United Methodist Church, 9596 N.W. Pine Level Street, Arcadia. The Florida Public Archaeology Network West Central Region will offer hands-on activities. The DeSoto Arts and Humanities Council will display landscapes/streetscapes of Pine Level between 1866 and 1900 and "fat quarter" quilts made with reproduction fabrics. The Historical Society will exhibit artifacts from the site and there will also be guided tours of the site. Food and beverages will be available.

For More Information on any event, email ssvekis@gmail.com

ARCHAEOLOGY WORKS: POTTERY

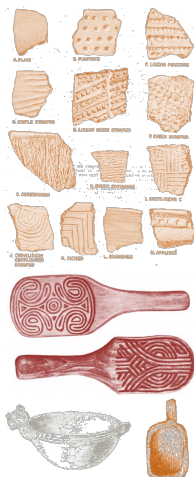
What can baked bits of clay teach us about prehistoric people?

Come out to the New College Public Archaeology Lab to learn to identify different types of prehistoric pottery found around Florida and about how archaeologists use these clues to learn about people in the past.

Where: Public Archaeology Lab
New College Bayfront Campus
5800 Bay Shore Rd
Sarasota

When: Tuesday, October 21st
6:00 – 8:00 pm

For more information: Contact Aric at
Aric.Archebelle-Smit@ncl.edu



Your renewal date is above; please remit if due.
Please contact us if you think there is an error.