TIME SIFTERS ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

NOVEMBER-2026

PRESERVE ◆ EDUCATE ◆ RESEARCH ◆ INSPIRE

Dear Member:

Last month we heard from Dr. Uzi Baram about the great Ottoman Empire, this month we travel to Peru to hear about a pre-Inca civilization, ***"Tracing the Footprints of Imperial Expansion at Monte Lima, Peru"*** by Dr. Sarah Taylor. Please join us on November 18th at 5:45.

Our Holiday Party is scheduled for December 5 at the Brown's house in Sarasota. A separate flyer will be sent to all members. Hope to see you there. It is always fun with a lot of great people.

Darwin "Smitty" Smith, President
hmsbeagle22@gmail.com

Historical Trivia

Where was the tomb "Lord of the Flutes" found?



Answer on page 5

November 18th - at 5:45 PM
at the Selby Library in downtown Sarasota



"Tracing the Footprints of Imperial Expansion at Monte Lima, Peru"

Dr. Sarah Taylor
Professor of Instruction
University of South Florida



Photos: *Wikipedia, Sarah Taylor*

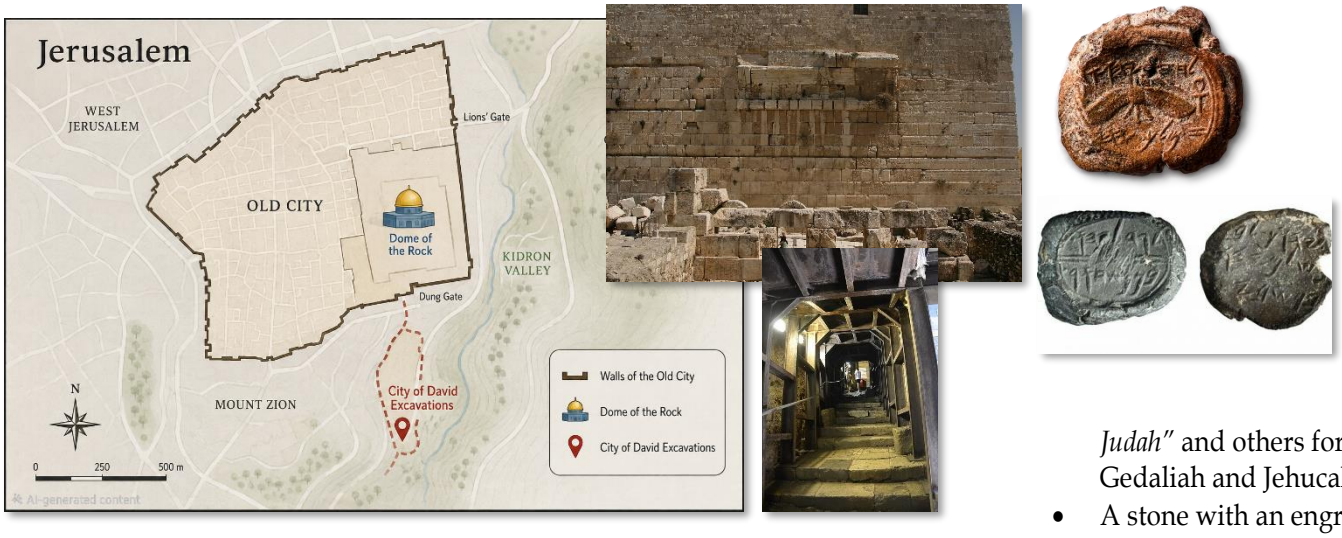
The Chira Valley in northern Peru is often overlooked in discussions of the ancient Andes. Considered a frontier far from the centers of political power, it has nevertheless been shaped by the rise and expansion of powerful states and empires. Drawing on recent findings from the Proyecto de Investigación Arqueológica del Valle de Chira (PIAChira), this presentation examines how imperial influence transformed the landscape and what these discoveries reveal about the region's past.

Dr. Sarah Taylor is a Professor of Instruction in the Department of Anthropology at the University of South Florida and an archaeologist who has spent years conducting fieldwork across several parts of the Americas. Her research focuses on the archaeology of coastal Peru and Ecuador, particularly political organization and its footprint on the landscape over time. Dr. Taylor is passionate about sharing archaeology with the public and helping people connect with the human stories revealed through archaeological research.

Notes from a Time Sifter

City of David Excavations.

By: *Uzi Baram.* ***Photos:*** *Armstrong Institute of Archaeology, Wikipedia.*



In 1838, Edward Robinson, a Connecticut Minister, along with Eli Smith, traveled in Palestine, part of the Ottoman Empire, asking peasants for their names of ancient ruins. Robinson is credited as the *Father of Biblical Archaeology* for correlating present-day place names with Biblical cities. His most famous identification came in Jerusalem, known as ***Robinson's Arch,*** a small protrusion on the western wall of the Temple Mount that was part of a staircase to the Second Temple of 2,000 years ago.

For nearly two centuries, archaeologists have looked, walked, drawn, photographed, and excavated to figure out the contours of a city thousands of years old and the focus the Abrahamic faiths: Judaism, Christianity, Islam.

The walls of what is today calledthe Old City of Jerusalem were built 500 years ago. There is local folklore that two tombs by the Jaffa Gate belong to architects. When Suleyma the Magnificent learned that they did not include the original core of Jerusalem, known as the City of David, the Sultan had them executed and buried inside the city.

Just outside those Ottoman walls, archaeologists have been excavating the *City of David,* David being King David, the greatest king of ancient Israel who made Jerusalem the capital of his kingdom 3,000 years ago. David's son, Solomon, built the Temple housing the *Ark of the Covenant.* The High Priests engaged in continuous rituals, with the details laid out in Torah. After Solomon, the kingdom split and Hezekiah and others expanded the city. Prophets, like Jeremiah, warned of destruction. Babylonian forces destroyed the Temple in 586 BCE. Rebuilt after the return from Babylonian Captivity, Herod the Great expanded the structure. The Roman military crushed the Jewish Revolt including destroying the Temple in 70 CE.

The City of David Excavations have been revealing that ancient city. The small finds have included:

- A small golden bell which fits the description for the vestments of the High Priest for the Temple
- A Roman sword
- **Bulla – clay seals for letters –** containing the names of court and one stating *"Belonging to Hezekiah, son of Ahaz, King of Judah"* and others for Gedaliah and Jehucal
- A stone with an engraving of a menorah

These are finds from the history of Jerusalem when the Temple stood.

Even more impressive is the **Pilgrimage Road,** coming from the Pool of Siloam to the Temple. 600 meters of the Road have been recovered. The finding: this is the path that Jesus of Nazareth and his disciples would have climbed to enter the Temple. In Hebrew, going up to the Temple is Aliyah, a physical as well as spiritual climb.

The finds, though not the findings, are contested. In 1947, the United Nations created two states, one for Jews and one for Arabs with Jerusalem as an international city. The attack on the Jewish State led to Jerusalem being divided between Israel and Jordan; when Jordan attacked in 1967, Israel liberated Jerusalem and has treated the city as its united capital, a position recognized by the United States but not the international community. The legal question: *Do the finds require international agreement on who gives permission to excavate?* The archaeological question: *What else will the ground reveal?*

Cornelia Futor Memorial Student Research Grant

Old Cahawba Archaeological Park, Selma, Alabama

By Layla Alvarado.



With the support of the *Cornelia Futor Student Research Grant* from the *Time Sifters Archaeological Society*, I was able to attend the Alabama Historical Commission's Cultural Resource Management Training Program. The main goal for this program was to teach students Cultural Resource Management (CRM) laws and regulations, i.e. NAGPRA and Section 106, Phase 1 and Phase 2 methods, laboratory methods, and public outreach.

We also learned the protocols utilized by CRM professionals as well teaching us other skills needed by archaeologists. The program was divided by phases, where each week we would learn and work on something new. Our first week began with lectures relating to Section 106, NAGPRA, field and lab protocols, paperwork, etc. giving us a strong base of knowledge prior to going into the field. This prepared us for the tasks we needed to complete and what we may encounter in the field, like banana spiders, poison ivy, fire ants, etc. as well as environmental concerns like heat exhaustion and lightning.

Cahawba Archaeological Parkwas home to a Mississippian period Native American village (A.D. 1000 to 1500) that is often speculated, among other sites, to be home to the Mabila site from Hernando De Soto's expeditions. Cahawba was the first capital of Alabama from 1820-1826. Cahawba's reign as capitol was short due to continuous flooding, leading to Tuscaloosa to being chosen as the new capitol. It was also home to a prison named Castle Morgan for Union soldiers from 1863-1866. Cahawba lies in the Black Belt region of Alabama, known for fertile clay-rich soil that made it a great spot to grow crops. In the 1800s, cotton become the predominant crop grown and exported at Cahawba. It is estimated that over 60% of the population in Cahawba consisted of enslaved African Americans. Many of them are buried in the African American Cemetery at Old Cahawba.



Photos: *Trip Advisor & Layla Alvarado..*



Through my archaeological investigations, the goal at Cahawba was to try to piece together what life was like centuries ago and to bring further knowledge to the descendant communities still living within Selma.

We were divided into groups for different phases, my group first started with Phase 2, which was working at the ruins of the ***Kirk-View Mansion*** and the remaining building ***known as Barker's Slave Quarters'.*** Barker's was built by Stephen Barker in the 1800s, and it originally contained the two-story enslaved-peoples' quarters as well as a mansion in the front. The Kirkpatrick's bought the mansion and other lots in Cahawba post-Civil War. In the 1930s, a fire burned down the front mansion, leaving only the slave quarters.

In this phase, I learned how to dig a unit beginning from the surface. This was an incredibly important skill for me to learn as I was able to see how units are started prior to becoming trenches. I was also able to get a feel for the tools used in archaeology and the different ways in which they are utilized. My unit's goal was to study the stratigraphy changes and try to answer questions that had come up on a previous ground-penetrating radar (GPR) scan. The

scan showed that the front exterior brick wall of the mansion that had burned down in the 1930s, disappeared on the scan, which raised multiple questions: *Why does the physical wall suddenly stop and disappear on the GPR scan? And if it is no longer underneath the soil, what happened to the rest of the brick wall?*

The left corner shows the terraced part of the brick wall that we found. The terraced brick only appears in the far-left corner and disappears elsewhere. There was a large presence of molten glass, charcoal, and rubble brick that points towards a fire at the site causing some of the anomalies on the GPR scan.

In the third week of the program, I learned how to do shovel test pits (STPs). This was probably one of the most beneficial things I learned overall from this program as I had never excavated an STP before. Such subsurface tests are a large part of CRM work, and I was glad to be able to understand how to do this because it made me more confident in my abilities and for my future career.

In our final week, we worked in the lab. This was a field lab, set up in ***St. Luke's Episcopal Church*** on the grounds at Old Cahawba. There we learned how to wash and/or clean artifacts and sort them by type i.e. glass, ferrous metal, ceramic, etc. We learned how to conduct analysis on artifacts we had found as well as how to use professional cameras to photograph artifacts.

The community of Selma truly welcomed us, and we had a great experience interacting with the local people. *Fuel Alabama*, a program designed to connect students to different communities and industries, led and paid for excursions for many of us to experience Selma through its locals. This was a great experience. One excursion, for example, was the Alabama Audubon birding where we were able to go birdwatching with professionals and learn about the environment around us at Cahawba. Seeing many of the important Civil Rights Movement spots like ***the Edmund Pettus Bridge*** was also very interesting and humbling. Selma is a town steeped in so many levels of history, and it was amazing to experience. Old Cahawba Archaeological Park also being home to an indigenous Mississippian Mound building society (dating to around A.D. 1000 to 1500) as well as the home of enslaved individuals was another humbling experience.



Photos: *Layla Alvarado..*

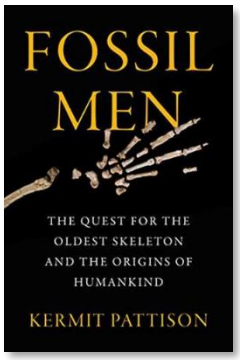
The goal of our excavations at Barker's was to honor the stories and lives of the latter people, the silent majority who may have never had the chance to speak on their own behalf.

Overall, my experience was incredible, and I came out on the other side of it, a stronger and more confident archaeologist. This was an amazing experience that showed me a different part of the United States, and I was exposed to new historical and archaeological knowledge that I did not have previously. I think this experience will help me greatly in my future career in archaeology, especially in advancing further in CRM. I highly recommend this program and field school to dedicated students who are serious about pursuing archaeology as a career.

A Time Sifters Book Review

Fossil Men: The Quest for the Oldest Skeleton and the Origins of Humankind.

by Kermit Pattison (REVIEW by: Goodreads.)

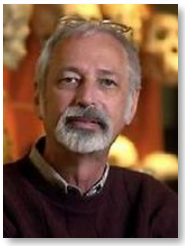


A behind-the-scenes account of the discovery of the oldest skeleton of a human ancestor, named "Ardi"--a find that shook the world of paleoanthropology and radically altered our understanding of human evolution.

In 1994, a team led by fossil-hunting legend Tim White--"the Steve Jobs of paleoanthropology"--uncovered the bones of a human ancestor in Ethiopia's Afar region. Radiometric dating of nearby rocks indicated the skeleton, classified as ***Ardipithecus ramidus,*** was 4.4 million years old, more than a million years older than ***"Lucy,"*** then the oldest known human ancestor. The findings challenged many assumptions about human evolution--how we started walking upright, how we evolved our nimble hands, and, most significantly, whether we were descended from an ancestor that resembled today's chimpanzee--and repudiated a half-century of paleoanthropological orthodoxy.

Fossil Men is the first full-length exploration of Ardi, the fossil men who found her, and her impact on what we know about the origins of the human species. It is a scientific detective story played out in anatomy and the natural history of the human body. Kermit Pattison brings into focus a cast of eccentric, obsessive scientists, including one of the world's greatest fossil hunters, **Tim D. White**--an exacting and unforgiving fossil hunter whose virtuoso skills in the field were matched only by his propensity for making enemies; **Gen Suwa,** a Japanese savant who sometimes didn't bother going home at night to devote more hours to science; **Owen Lovejoy**, a onetime creationist-turned-paleoanthropologist; **Berhane Asfaw**, who survived imprisonment and torture to become Ethiopia's most senior paleoanthropologist and who fought for African scientists to gain equal footing in the study of human origins; and the Leakeys, for decades the most famous family in paleoanthropology.






Photos: *Timothy D.White, GenSuwa, Owen Lovejoy, & Berhane Asfaw.(Wikipedia, Alchetron*, Leaky Foundation, & Ferneseheserien.de)



Saretta Sparer

Time Sifters was sad to learn of the passing of long time member and friend, ***Saretta Sparer.*** Saretta served for a while on the Time Sifters Board of Directors, but her greatest love was volunteering on community archaeological projects. Whenever there was a chance to come to the New College Archaeology Lab to help out with artifact sorting, Saretta was there. We will especially remember her during the COVID year, when we had to process over 30,000 artifacts from the Manatee Mineral Spring excavations. She and Karen Jensen were relegated to the porch, but they happily worked there to wash or brush clean everything we brought them. I will always remember Saretta's adventuresome spirit and kind nature. - *Sherry Svekis*

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Historical Trivia: Panama.