



JANUARY - 2023

PRESERVATION ♦ EDUCATION ♦ RESEARCH ♦ INSPIRE

Dear Member:

The Holiday Party was a success. Good food, conversation and new friends. We all had a great time. The Historical Trivia was very challenging and fun. We had three very good teams, but *the Diggers*, which included the Almys and the Woodworths won. Thanks to everyone for all the help to make this annual event happen.

See you on January 18th at 6:00 for Dr. Scott Branting's lecture on "*The Rise and Fall of Kerkenes*". We will not be simulcasting our lectures via ZOOM any longer, as people prefer the in person events. We will continue to record them and post them on both our YouTube site and web page.

Speaking of Turkey, we are in the preliminary stages of planning a *trip to Turkey* in September or October 2023. Stay tuned for more information.

Darwin "Smitty" Smith, President

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January 18 - at 6:00 PM at the Selby Library in downtown Sarasota

The Rise and Fall of Kerkenes:

New Technologies for Exploring Cities of the Past

Dr. Scott Branting
Associate Professor of Anthropology
Director of the Kerkenes Project
University of Central Florida



Dr. Scott Branting is an Associate Professor in the Anthropology Department at UCF in Orlando.

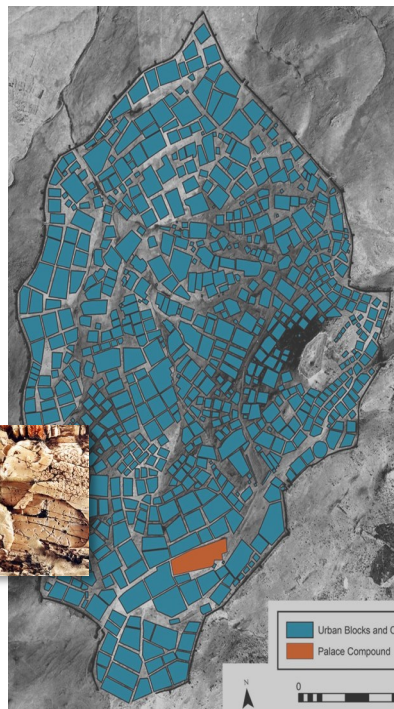
Previously at the University of Chicago, he was director of a center focused on geospatial technologies in archaeology. He has also worked collaboratively with the US Department of State on monitoring cultural heritage destruction in Syria, Iraq, and Libya.

He holds degrees in archaeology and geography from SUNY Buffalo, the University of Chicago, and Wheaton College. Much of his research has focused on the archaeology of Iron Age Turkey, where he's Director of the Kerkenes Project.

For almost 100 years the immense metropolis at **Kerkenes** in central Turkey has lain shrouded in mystery. Scholars have puzzled over this large pre-planned city apparently built and occupied by the Phrygians, of King Midas fame, for a brief period of time between the fall of the Assyrian Empire and rise of the Persian Empire around 550 BCE. Over the past 30 years, the site has been a showcase of new technologies being used alongside active excavation, useful in reconstructing the plan of the buried city and the activities and interactions of the people who inhabited it.



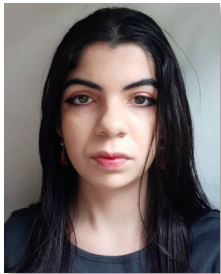
Together, the latest excavations and technologies are shedding new light on what transpired in this ancient city in the years prior to its fiery destruction.



Cornelia Futor Memorial Student Research Grant

Raynaliz Velazquez, UCF.

By Raynaliz Velazquez, Student Research Grant winner 2022



I am a first-generation student from Puerto Rico majoring in Anthropology at the University of Central Florida. Last summer I had the opportunity to attend **The Kerkenes Project** field school in Turkey with archaeologist and project director, **Dr. Scott Branting**. While pursuing my undergraduate degree I worked while attending classes full-time on campus knowing I wanted to participate in the Kerkenes Project. By working and saving on the side, I could help fund future opportunities in the archaeological field for the summer. With the aid of **the Time Sifters Cornelia Futor Memorial Student Research Grant**, I was able to participate and gain essential hands-on experience at an international field school. My time abroad was a valuable experience learning from different cultural customs and traditions practiced in Turkey. I had the opportunity to learn under knowledgeable professionals and students from various universities and specialties during the field season, further enriching my learning experience.

The Kerkenes Project offers both an archaeological and geophysical field school focusing on a Iron Age megacity. I was able to participate



in both programs, assisting with the geophysical survey at Kerkenes, and following up with active excavations in one of the urban blocks. The daily tasks and schedule during the workday kept me constantly occupied. Every day I learned new skills and habits.

I commenced my Honors Undergraduate Thesis (HUT) paper in Turkey on trade and commerce at Kerkenes while simultaneously starting my Fulbright application for graduate school.

This opportunity abroad confirmed my passion for archaeology and provided critical experience for graduate school.

Work inside the dig house involved laboratory work, including paleobotanical and zooarchaeological analysis, as well as conservation efforts to reconstruct pottery or other artifacts. Days off from work involved exploring the nearby city called **Sorgun**, where we could visit local shops. Our excursion to the

city was always filled with excitement to roam around and learn more of the city and its people while supporting their businesses.

I faced many new challenges brought by my first time traveling and living abroad; a necessary situation to grow further through hands-on experience. I went from a place of familiarity into the unknown. Living amongst other passionate individuals in their field of study, brought together through the Kerkenes Project, created a unique

environment. The project dig house became a second home, and dinner conversations centered around developing research projects, talking through new ideas, and exploring personal interests. I learned a lot about myself and how to develop my HUT proposal further. By living at the dig house I made valuable friends from different countries who worked alongside me on the field or in the laboratory every day. Living together, working together, and socializing during our down times have created some of my fondest memories. Overcoming challenges brought by being in a new country with knowledgeable individuals becoming mentors was a secure feeling. Overall, my experience working on an archaeological project in Turkey came with new skills, friendships, and invaluable experiences. To say I have been in an abroad program for a student like myself is a proud achievement and I am grateful for **the Time Sifters Student Research Grant**.

UNESCO World Heritage Sites

#27 - Mesa Verde National Park (U.S.A)

By Smitty, Time Sifters Board Member. Sources: Wikipedia, World Heritage Site, and National Park Service.



Photos:
Wikipedia,
World Heritage -
Ko Hon Chiu
Vincent

Mesa Verde National Park is a massive concentration of ancestral Pueblo Indian dwellings, located on the Mesa Verde plateau in southwest Colorado in Montezuma County. The mesa plateau is at an altitude of more than 8,530 feet. Some 5,000 sites have been recorded, including villages built on the top of the mesa. There are also over 600 imposing cliff dwellings, built of stone and comprising more than 100 rooms. The name Mesa Verde is Spanish for “green table”. **The Ancestral Pueblo** people made it their home for over 700 years, from 600 to 1300 CE. It is best known for structures such as **the Cliff Palace**, thought to be the largest cliff dwelling in North America.

Starting c. 7500 BCE Mesa Verde was seasonally inhabited by a group of nomadic Paleo-Indians. The variety of projectile points found in the region indicates they were influenced by surrounding areas, including the Great Basin, the San Juan Basin, and the Rio Grande Valley. Later, Archaic people established semi-permanent rock shelters in and around the mesa. By 1000 BCE, **the Basketmaker culture** emerged from the local Archaic population, and by 750 CE they became known as **the Ancestral Puebloans**.

These people survived using a combination of hunting, gathering, and subsistence farming of crops such as corn, beans, and squash. They built

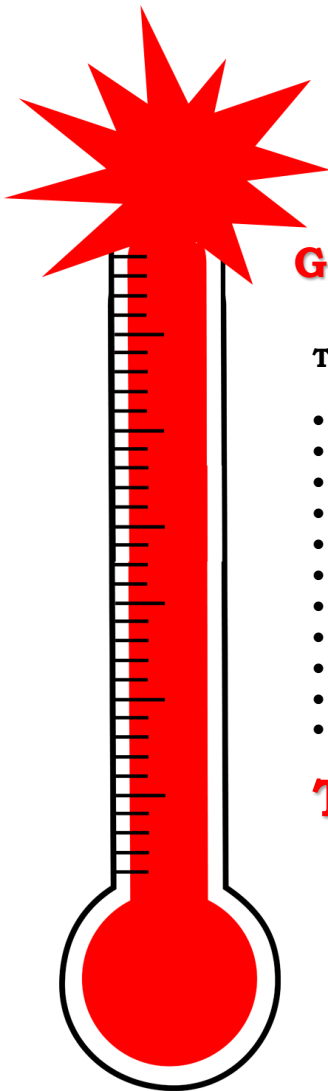
the mesa's first pueblos sometime after 650 CE, and by the end of the 12th century, they began to construct the massive cliff dwellings for which the park is best known. By 1285, following a period of social and environmental instability driven by a series of severe and prolonged droughts, they abandoned the area and moved south to locations in Arizona and New Mexico.

The Mesa Verde National Park was established by Congress and **President Theodore Roosevelt** in 1906, and it occupies 52,485 acres near the Four Corners region of the American Southwest. It is the largest archaeological preserve in the United States. It became a World Heritage Site in 1978 as site #27.

With the establishment of the Park, an emerging preservation ethic was determined to halt the centuries of looting and destruction by humans and nature. Through the efforts of Smithsonian archaeologist **Jesse Walter Fewkes**, field methods designed to excavate and collect artifacts were modified to identify and understand the effects of unrestrained looting upon standing architecture, buried features, and archaeological deposits. In addition, Fewkes realized the importance of preparing archaeological sites for visitation. He believed it was only through direct experience of being able to walk through a cliff dwelling, that the American public could appreciate and support the preservation of Mesa Verde's archaeological resources. To accomplish this, Fewkes, along with many of his contemporaries, invented the practice of ruins stabilization.

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Cornelia Futor Memorial Student Research Grant Fundraising



Total Donations so far: \$7,000.00

Goal was \$4,000.00

Time Sifters Archaeology Society is pleased to announce our list of Donors:

- Maranda Almy Kles, *ACI (Archaeological Consultants, Inc.)*
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- Dennis Kauser
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- Timothy Parsons
- Smitty

Thank You!!!!

Through the generosity of our donors, **Time Sifters** will be able to aid several students in attending field schools in the summer of 2023.

The Cornelia Futor Memorial Student Research Grant is an annual award that provides funding for eligible students (B.A., M.A., or Ph.D.) currently enrolled at a Florida University or College who are pursuing a major in Anthropology with a focus on Archaeology. This year's grant will help fund attendance to field schools and develop the necessary skills for excavation.



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