



# APRIL - 2024

PRESERVATION ♦ EDUCATION ♦ RESEARCH ♦ INSPIRE

Dear Member:

COOKIES, COFFEE & CONVERSATION! and a lecture. What's not to like? Please join us at 5:30 for some stimulating conversation with fellow members and have a cup of coffee and some cookies.

*We are working on the Field Trip to see the Key Marco Cat in person. Watch for special email with details.*

Thanks to everyone who has already renewed their memberships for 2024. If you haven't yet done so, we have two ways that you can pay: Via Paypal on the webpage or mail a check to Time Sifters, Inc., PO Box 5283, Sarasota, FL. 34277.

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



*San Lorenzo Olmec Colossal Head (Artefact Fans)*

*April 17 - at 5:45 PM at the Selby Library in downtown Sarasota*



## ***"Recent Advances in Human Origins Research: New Insights From Northern Africa to Southeast Asia"***

***Dr. Sarah Freidline***  
*Assistant Professor of Anthropology,  
University of Central Florida (UCF)*

New technologies and methodological approaches in the last decades have led to exciting advances in paleoanthropology - especially concerning the origin of our species, dated to roughly 300,000 years ago, and our subsequent dispersions out of Africa. Current fossil and genomic data suggest that we were not the only members of our genus alive during this time.

Following our African origin, how many times humans dispersed into Eurasia, when this occurred, what routes they took, and who they encountered is intensely debated. In this talk, Dr. Freidline will discuss recent advances and pending questions in human origins research, focusing on her work on some of the earliest Homo sapiens fossils from Northern Africa (Jebel Irhoud, Morocco) and Southeast Asia (Tam Pà Ling, Laos), as well as our enigmatic cousins, the Denisovans.

*Dr. Sarah Freidline* is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at UCF and an Associate Researcher in the Department of Human Origins at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary

Anthropology (MPI-EVA) in Leipzig, Germany. She received her Ph.D. in 2012 working jointly at the City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate Center and the MPI-EVA, and from 2012 to 2020, she worked as a post-doctoral researcher at the MPI-EVA in the Department of Human Evolution.

Dr. Freidline specializes in paleoanthropology. Her research focuses on the evolution and development of human craniofacial morphology. She applies state-of-the-art methods to interpret craniofacial growth in fossil species ranging from Homo erectus to H. neanderthalensis and H. sapiens with the goal of better understanding the evolution of our species.



*Photos: Dr. Freidline*

# UNESCO World Heritage Sites

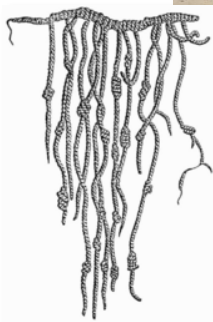
## #1269 - Sacred City of Caral/Supe, Peru

By Evelyn Mangie, Time Sifters Board Member



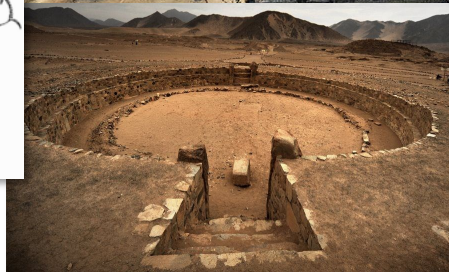
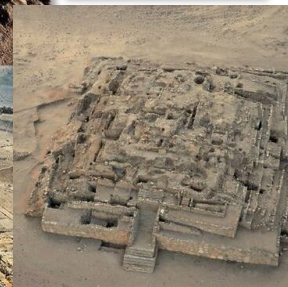
A city, according to anthropologists, is a community with advanced social organization, monumental buildings, advanced technological innovations, record keeping, the ability to carry on long-distance trade, and other attributes not found in villages.

Historians believe that the first fully developed cities were built in Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq) by about 3000 BCE. Until recently, they assumed that cities did not exist in the Western Hemisphere until much later, but archaeologists now know that cities were being built in the Americas at about the same time as those in Mesopotamia and China.



One of the first cities of the Americas is *Caral*, in the Supe Valley in Peru, 113 miles north of Lima. Caral was discovered in 1905 but was not fully studied until 2001 when an American historian, **Paul Kosok** realized it was pre-ceramic (before 9500–1800 BC), thus one of the oldest sites in the Americas.

Radiocarbon dating confirms that agriculture and monumental architecture were present in Caral at least 5000 years ago. The city was already a thriving metropolis by 2627 BCE. By comparison, the Egyptians began



There is also evidence of textile manufacturing in Caral.

There were no ceramics, but they built

*Photos: Wikipedia, UNESCO World Heritage, Christopher Kleihege, Daniel Barker, culturamazca.com, Pinterest*

elaborate temples of stones, sticks, rubble, and mud in pyramid-style. **It's believed to be the first of the massive American pyramids in South and Central America.**

Caral is especially interesting because it appears to have been deliberately planned to separate the social classes. It is naturally divided in half by the Supe River; the upper half has six sections, each with a large pyramid and an open plaza; the lower half has one large pyramid and several small pyramids. The residences in the upper half appear to be for the elite who were probably associated with activities that took place in the temples.

building their pyramids ca 2780 BCE. The city was large, covering ca 35 square miles (370 acres) with a population of probably 3,000 people. Evidence shows that the people of Caral developed advanced irrigation, engaged in trade with coastal neighbors, created a sophisticated calendar, and kept records using a quipu (**fiber strings knotted at different levels**). Their impressive irrigation system allowed them to produce cotton that could be traded with coastal societies for the manufacture of fishing nets.

**Continued on page 4 ...**

## 2024 Heritage Award - Archaeological Conservancy

Time Sifters Board member, *Marion Almy* was honored by *History & Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County* on Thursday, March 21 for her work in Florida and Sarasota County. The Awards Dinner was held at the Sarasota Art Museum.

The following is the description of some of her accomplishments to date. "Recognizing Ms. Almy for her outstanding efforts to preserve and document prehistoric



sites in Sarasota County and the Tampa Bay region, for decades of effective advocacy for archeological conservation and historic preservation in Florida and her effectiveness in advancing archeological preservation with national, local and state government agencies, including the Florida Department of Transportation and Florida Division of Historical Resources, among her many other accomplishments."

### In the News

## Arrested for Digging up over 200 Artifacts

By Smitty, Time Sifters Board Member. Sources: WFLA Tampa, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

According to a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) news release, officers spent two days watching the couple, Zane Golas, 35, and Amanda Hahn, 34 dig around the *Lizzie Hart Sink*, which is located in the Withlacoochee State Forest and is identified by the state as an archaeological site. They found the pair excavating an area surrounded by palm fronds, which they admitted to illegally cutting down. Golas and Hahn were caught with 179 and 45 artifact pieces, respectively.

They were each charged with excavating, removing, or attempting to remove, deface, destroy or otherwise alter an archaeological site on land owned or controlled by the state of Florida, and were booked into the Citrus County Jail.



### The FWC statement ...

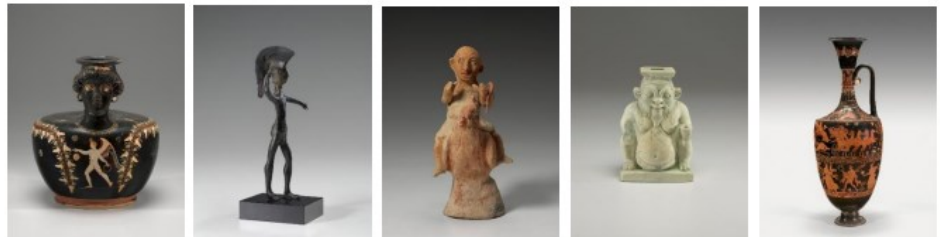
"Excavators won't be able to dig their way out of this one. After two days of surveillance, our officers caught two subjects with over 200 artifacts they dug up from an archaeological area in one of our Wildlife Management Areas. They tried to be sneaky by hiding their site behind palm fronds they cut down and placed around the area (also a violation), but our officers saw through the ploy. They were charged with numerous violations, arrested, and taken to the county jail. In total, 224 artifacts were seized and taken into evidence."

### In the News

## The Virginia Museum of Fine Art has repatriated 44 artifacts

By: Communications Division, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts - December 5, 2023

The Virginia Museum of Fine Art has repatriated 44 artifacts to Italy, Egypt and Turkey. These artifacts include a 5th century BCE bronze statue, a 330 BCE Italian wine flask, and a cosmetic vessel from Egypt.



Continued from page 2 ...

## Caral, Peru ...

The residences in the lower half are small and likely were for the common folk who probably served as labor.

There were large plazas at the foot of the pyramids. A **sunken amphitheater**, one of the earliest known megalithic structures in the Western Hemisphere, was near the largest pyramid.

The size of the public buildings indicates powerful leaders, but no weapons or evidence of war have yet been found at Caral. Instead, **they found flutes** and other musical instruments made of condor and pelican bones. The culture appears

to have been peaceful and focused on commerce and pleasure.

Historians believe the city was the center of a cultural complex that interacted with at least 19 other communities along the Amazon River, some several hundred years older than Caral. Archaeologists estimate ca 20,000 residents lived there and shared the Supe Valley culture for about 1200 years (3000-1800 BCE) until it was abandoned ca 1800 BCE, probably because of natural events like earthquakes and/or drought.

Caral has been UNESCO World Heritage Site #1269 since 2009. Archaeologists are still researching



Photos: [thehistoryhub.com](http://thehistoryhub.com), [salkantaytrek.com](http://salkantaytrek.com)



the site, the largest recorded site in the Andean area.

This was a real city and is cause to rethink the development of cities in the Americas.

## THE 76th ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

Pensacola, Florida – May 10-12, 2024



## By Land & Sea

This year's conference will be held at the University of West Florida's Downtown Campus in historic Pensacola. Participants can enjoy a free Friday reception and Saturday night's award banquet at Apple Annie's, in the Seville Quarter entertainment complex, which includes historic structures and architectural features from across the Gulf coast. Sunday morning tours will highlight the unique archaeology of Pensacola.



Pensacola  
Archaeological  
Society



UNIVERSITY of  
WEST FLORIDA

Registration is now open for the 76th Annual FAS Convention. To be held this year in Pensacola on May 10–12. Go to either our webpage or the FAS web page to register. On Time Sifter Web page, click the "About TSAS" tab and click on the "FAS" logo and you are all set to register. See you there.

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