



April, 2012

Newsletter of the

Archaeological Geology Division of the Geological Society of America



NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Members may have noticed the absence of a fall newsletter. With apologies, we are back on schedule and looking forward to more regular updates in 2012! The newsletter leadership will also be welcoming a new co-editor for the fall 2012 edition. Please feel free to send any news or research blurbs for inclusion.

Newsletter co-editors,

Katie Adelsberger, kadelsbe@knox.edu
Cynthia Fadem, fademcy@earlham.edu

AGD LEADERSHIP

We'd like to welcome the new AGD officers, as voted by the membership during the fall of 2011.

Chair: Loren Davis, Oregon State University
Vice-Chair: Katherine Adelsberger, Knox College
Secretary-Treasurer: Christopher Hill, Boise State University

Congratulations to the new officers, and thank you to the outgoing Chair Kathleen Nicoll and Secretary-Treasurer Elizabeth Robertson for all your hard work!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

**77th ANNUAL MEETING
SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY
Memphis, TN
April 18-22, 2012**

Memphis promises some excellent geoarchaeological sessions. Don't forget the GIG **business meeting** on Thursday, **April 19th, 6:30-7:30 pm.**

Thursday, April 19th

Mapping, GIS, GPS, Poster Session
New Geoarchaeological Approaches to
Paleoenvironments and Settlements, Poster
Session
Paleoenvironmental Research, Poster Session
Paleoenvironmental Research in South America, Poster
Session
Stones, Bones and Profiles I & II: Celebrating the
Contributions of George C. Frison and C. Vance
Haynes, Morning/Afternoon Symposia
From Source to Center: Raw Material Acquisition and
Toolstone Distributions, Sponsored Symposium

Friday, April 20th

Obsidian Sourcing Studies, Poster Session
Obsidian Studies Across the Americas: Alaska to
Argentina and Beyond, Poster Session
Sourcing Studies in Pottery, Chert and Other Artifacts,
Poster Session
A World of Obsidian: Sourcing, Dating and Beyond,
Sponsored Symposium
Bruce H. Dahlin Memorial Session Part 2: Adaptations
and Maladaptations to Environmental Change,
Symposium
Geoarchaeology and Geophysics, General Session

Sunday, April 22nd

Geoarchaeology of Ritual Behavior and Sacred Spaces,
Sponsored Symposium

These are just a few of the sessions available, so check the preliminary schedule. Be sure to double-check session times and the location of the business meeting.

**ANNUAL MEETING
GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
Charlotte, NC
November 4-7, 2012**

Abstract submission is now open, with an **August 14th** deadline. The AGD has a number of co-sponsored sessions planned, so check these out and submit your abstract!

T11. New Developments and Applications in Sclerochronology

GSA Archaeological Geology Division; Paleontological Society

C. Fred T. Andrus, Donna Surge

Sclerochronology, the study of physical and chemical records in accretionary skeletons, is increasingly important in several disciplines. This session will highlight new geochemical methods, species validation studies, and applications in archaeology, ecology, paleoclimatology, and paleontology.

T12. A Healthy Dose of Quaternary Geochronology at the Shoreline: Applications of Luminescence and Other Dating Techniques to Resolving the Timing of Coastal, Estuarine, and Lake Shore Processes

GSA Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division; GSA Archaeological Geology Division; GSA Environmental and Engineering Geology Division; Geochemical Society

Shannon A. Mahan, Kenneth Lepper

We encourage presentations on applications and refinements for dating methods, such as OSL, ESR, fission track, radiocarbon, and cosmogenics, with a focus on constraining the timing and rates of Quaternary geologic processes around coastal shorelines.

T13. Geoarchaeological Approaches to Paleoenvironments and Landscapes

GSA Archaeological Geology Division; GSA Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division

Katherine A. Adelsberger, Justin A. Holcomb

Geoarchaeologists utilize a variety of proxy records as primary evidence for landscape and environmental change in archaeological contexts. This session welcomes interdisciplinary papers focused on understanding human

interactions with past environments throughout the Quaternary.

T14. Archaeological Geology (Posters)

GSA Archaeological Geology Division

Katherine A. Adelsberger

This session welcomes poster presentations on interdisciplinary topics in geoarchaeology.

T15. Geoarchaeology and the Late Quaternary Depositional Record in the Ohio Valley

GSA Archaeological Geology Division; GSA Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division; GSA Sedimentary Geology Division

G. William Monaghan

Session examines the depositional sequences and cycles, chronology, and geoarchaeology of the Ohio River Valley by focusing on the late Quaternary and Holocene history through studies in Quaternary geology, geomorphology, sedimentology, and geoarchaeology.

T22. Using Buried Soils to Reconstruct Past Climates: Opportunities and Considerations

GSA Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division; GSA Archaeological Geology Division; SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology)

Holly A. Meier, Jessica LB Monson, Ashley B. Zung

This session aims to (1) further investigate "soils as archives of past climates" using preserved pedogenic features, and (2) evaluate developed proxies for modern and ancient systems.

T24. Geomorphology of the Anthropocene: The Surficial Legacy of Past and Present Human Activities

GSA Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division; GSA Geology and Society Division; GSA Archaeological Geology Division

Anne J. Jefferson, Karl W. Wegmann, Anne Chin

This session explores the legacy of human activities and land use on earth surface processes and landforms. Studies on the impacts of agriculture, mining, urbanization, and forestry in prehistoric, historic, and modern times are welcome.

**ANNUAL MEETING
CANADIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION
Montreal, Quebec
May 16-19th, 2012**

Proposed sessions of interest include:

Using Tree Rings to Date and Locate:

Dendrochronology and Dendroprovenance
Archaeometry: A Science to Help Archaeologists
Modeling Environment/Agent Interactions in Prehistory

For more information, visit

<http://canadianarchaeology.com/caa/annual-meeting>

***INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
GEOMORPHIC PROCESSES AND
GEOARCHAEOLOGY***

Moscow – Smolensk, Russia

August 20th-24th, 2012

For information visit <http://geoarch2012.narod2.ru/>

***2nd INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
LUMINESCENCE IN ARCHAEOLOGY***

Lisbon, Portugal

September 5th-7th, 2012

For information visit <http://www.lais2012.itn.pt/>

***INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
THEORY AND METHOD IN THE PREHISTORIC
ARCHAEOLOGY OF CENTRAL EUROPE***

Mikulov, Czech Republic

October 24th-26th, 2012

For information visit <http://theoryandmethod.gofs.cz/>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

***DOUGLAS C. KELLOGG FUND FOR
GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH***

The Douglas C. Kellogg Award provides support for thesis or dissertation research, with emphasis on the field and/or laboratory aspects of this research, for graduate students in the earth sciences and archaeology. Recipients of the Kellogg Award will be students who have an interest in achieving the M.S., M.A., or Ph.D. degree in earth sciences or archaeology; an interest in applying earth science methods to archaeological research; and an interest in a career in geoarchaeology. Initially the amount to be awarded on an annual basis was \$500. The amount of the award given to the recipient will increase as the fund grows and the amount of the annual interest increases.

The 2012 Award will be presented at the 77th Annual Meeting of the SAA.

The 2013 award deadline will occur in the late fall.

Contact: Dr. Tristram R. Kidder, Department of Anthropology, Washington University, One Brookings Dr., St. Louis, MO, 63130 E-mail: trkidder@wustl.edu.

***CLAUDE ALBRITTON FUND
FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOLOGY***

Under the auspices of the Archaeological Geology Division, family, friends and close associates of Claude C. Albritton, Jr. created a memorial fund in his honor at the GSA Foundation. Initially, the fund was set up with a gift of several thousand dollars. Members of the GSA Archaeological Geology Division, GSA members, and those who knew Claude Albritton are asked to consider contributing to this fund.

The Albritton Fund provides an annual research grant of up to \$650 for graduate students in the earth sciences and archaeology, and such students are encouraged to apply. Recipients of these awards will have (1) an interest in achieving a master's or Ph.D. degree in earth sciences or archaeology; (2) an interest in applying earth science methods to archaeological research; and (3) an interest in a career in teaching and academic research. Awards will be given in support of thesis or dissertation research, with emphasis on the field and/or laboratory parts of this research.

More information, including application guidelines and forms, can be found at <http://rock.geosociety.org/arch/>. Applications should be sent to gsa.agd@gmail.com. For further inquiries, contact Awards Committee Chair Rolfe Mandel at mandel@ku.edu. To contribute to the Albritton Fund, send your gift to the GSA Foundation, indicating that the gift should go toward this award.

The deadline for submission of applications is **March 5th, annually**.

RICHARD HAY STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD

The Archaeological Geology Division offers an annual travel grant of up to \$650 to help a high school, undergraduate, or graduate student present a paper in the Division's technical sessions at the GSA's annual meeting. The Richard Hay Student Travel Award is competitive and will be awarded based on an evaluation of the scientific merit of the research topic and the

clarity of an expanded abstract for the paper prepared by the student and submitted to the Division's Awards Committee.

More information, including application guidelines and forms, can be found at <http://rock.geosociety.org/arch/>. Applications should be sent to gsa.agd@gmail.com. For further inquiries, contact Awards Committee Chair Rolfe Mandel at mandel@ku.edu. To contribute to the Hay Award, send your gift to the GSA Foundation, designating the gift for the Archaeological Geology Division Fund.

The deadline for submission of applications will be announced for the fall of 2012.

AWARDS

RIP RAPP AWARD **NOMINEES SOLICITED**

The Archaeological Geology Division would like to encourage nominations for its annual Rip Rapp Archaeological Geology Award. The award is given for outstanding contributions to the interdisciplinary field of archaeological geology; nominees need not be members of the GSA or citizens of the United States. Nominations should incorporate:

- a biographical sketch of the nominee, including date and place of birth; present office or title and affiliation; education and degrees; and honors and awards
- a statement of major events and outstanding achievements in the nominee's career
- a selected bibliography of the nominee's publications.

To make nominations or for more information, contact Awards Committee Chair Awards Committee Chair Rolfe Mandel at mandel@ku.edu. For additional details, please consult the Division website at <http://rock.geosociety.org/arch/>.

The deadline for receipt of nominations occurs in February, so please keep your nominations in mind for 2013!

FRYXELL AWARD FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

The Fryxell Award is presented by the SAS (see below) in recognition for interdisciplinary excellence of a scientist who need not be an archaeologist, but whose research has contributed significantly to American archaeology. The award is made possible through the generosity of the family of the late Roald Fryxell, a geologist whose career

exemplified the crucial role of multidisciplinary cooperation in archaeology. Nominees are evaluated on the breadth and depth of their research and its impact on American archaeology, the nominee's role in increasing awareness of interdisciplinary studies in archaeology, and the nominee's public and professional service to the community. The award cycles through zoological sciences, botanical sciences, earth sciences, physical sciences, and general interdisciplinary studies. The award consists of an engraved medal, a certificate, an award citation read by the SAA president during the annual business meeting, and a half-day symposium at the Annual Meeting held in honor of the awardee.

Describe the nature, scope, and significance of the nominee's contributions to American archaeology.

- Curriculum vitae.
- Support letters from other scholars are helpful. Four to six are suggested.

The deadline for receipt of nominations is also February for this award, and names will be welcome in 2013.

Contact: C. Margaret Scarry, Research Labs of Archaeology, CB 3120, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3120, p: (919) 962-3841, fax: (919) 962-1613, email: scarry@email.unc.edu

R.E. TAYLOR STUDENT POSTER AWARD

The SAS (see below) gives out awards for outstanding student posters in the realm of archaeometry. These awards are typically given at the Annual Meeting of the [Society for American Archaeology](#) and the [International Symposium on Archaeometry](#). A call for applications is issued on the SAS website (www.socarchsci.org), over SASnet and other listservs prior to conference dates. Students must submit an application in order to be considered for this award.

OF NOTE

SOCIETY FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

The Society for Archaeological Sciences (S.A.S.) was founded to establish a forum for communication among scholars applying methods from the physical sciences to archaeology and to aid the broader archaeological community in assessing the potentials and problems of those methods. Base membership (including subscription to the SAS Bulletin) is \$20. For membership inquiries, please contact Rob Sternberg, Department of Earth and Environment, Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, PA 17604-3003 USA.

Phone: (717) 291-4134 Fax: (717) 291-4186 or email:
<Rob.Sternberg@FandM.edu>

THE ARCHAEOLOGY CHANNEL

The nonprofit streaming-media Web site, **The Archaeology Channel** (www.archaeologychannel.org/) is consistently updated with new video programs. Visit the website for information on how to become involved through membership.

GEOARCHAEOLOGY: AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

Geoarchaeology is an interdisciplinary journal published six times per year that presents the results of original research at the methodological and theoretical interface between archaeology and the geosciences. It remains the premier peer-reviewed publication emphasizing our discipline. *Geoarchaeology* celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2010, and as part of the journal's commemorative festivities, a Virtual Issue of the 25 top-rated and most influential papers from the journal's back catalog was compiled. Another virtual issue consisting of past articles was also recently assembled by Co-Editor Jamie Woodward titled *Geoarchaeological Research in Egypt and the Nile Valley*. Both virtual issues are currently accessible on-line at the journal's website ([http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/\(ISSN\)1520-6548](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)1520-6548)). All virtual issue articles are free for downloading.

You are invited to submit your research to *Geoarchaeology*. Manuscripts should examine the interrelationship between archaeology and the various disciplines within Quaternary science and the Earth Sciences more generally, including, for example: geology, geography, geomorphology, pedology, climatology, oceanography, geochemistry, geochronology, and geophysics. We also welcome papers that deal with the biological record of past human activity through the analysis of faunal and botanical remains and palaeoecological reconstructions that shed light on past human-environment interactions. The journal also welcomes manuscripts concerning the examination and geological context of human fossil remains as well as papers that employ analytical techniques to advance understanding of the composition and origin or material culture such as, for example, ceramics, metals, lithics, building stones, plasters, and cements. Manuscripts reporting on research conducted in Africa, Australia, and South America are especially encouraged.

Manuscript submission and review is fully electronic and processed through Manuscript Central, a web-based program for managing documents in the peer-review

process. For more information, go to the "For Authors" link at the journal's website or contact Co-Editor Gary Huckleberry at ghuck@email.arizona.edu.

CONTENTS OF RECENT ISSUES

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Surveying the Townscape of Roman Ammaia in Portugal: An Integrated Geoarchaeological Investigation of the Forum Area (pages 123-139). *Frank Vermeulen, Cristina Corsi and Morgan De Dapper*

The Geoarchaeology of Mudbricks in Architecture: A Methodological Study from Catalhöyük, Turkey (pages 140-156). *Serena Love*

An Objective Approach to Defining Earthwork Geometries Using Subdecimeter Digital Elevation Models (pages 157-165). *Michael A. O'Neal*

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Research Articles

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Environmental Change and Terrestrial Resource Use by the Thule and Inuit of Labrador, Canada (pages 18-33). *Natasha Roy, Najat Bhiry and James Woollett*

The Significance of Intestinal Parasite Remains in Pollen Samples from Medieval Pits in the Piazza Garibaldi of Parma, Emilia Romagna, Northern Italy (pages 34-47). *Assunta Florenzano, Anna Maria Mercuri, Aurora Pedersoli, Paola Torri, Giovanna Bosi, Linda Olmi, Rossella Rinaldi and Marta Bandini Mazzanti*

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Invitation for Beta Testing: BIOPADIS Database

Developed as part of Andrea Alveshere's doctoral research on DNA taphonomy, the Biomolecular Preservation and Detection Information System (BIOPADIS; /bi-'op-ad-is/) database is designed to track data for environmental context, specimen properties, and laboratory strategies that would influence DNA preservation and detection. The environmental context portion of the database accommodates data for factors such as climate indicators, stratum formation process, Munsell color, pedologic structure, deposit texture (grain size), pH, oxidation/reduction potential, conductivity/salinity, and elemental composition.

Members of the geoarchaeology community are invited to be involved in beta testing the environmental context portion of the database to help fine-tune the database structure and user experience, and also to evaluate whether this portion of the database would be useful on its own, as a repository for data from geoarchaeology projects not necessarily related to DNA analysis. For more information, please visit www.biopadis.com or email andrea.alveshere@biopadis.com.

FEATURED RESEARCH

Neolithic Archaeology and Soilscales Körös Area: 2011 – Survey Year.

Roderick B. Salisbury and Gábor Bácsmegi

2011 saw the beginning of the second phase of investigations at small Late Neolithic (c. 5000 BC) settlements in the Körös Basin of eastern Hungary, funded by a British Academy Small Grant “Prehistoric environmental mitigation: agrarian settlements and palaeohydrology in Neolithic Hungary”. This project focuses on two small settlements near the village of Csárdaszállás, just south of the modern channel of the Triple Körös River. Earlier research in this area, during the 1980s, involved surface survey which identified a scatter of small sites dating to the Middle and Late Neolithic, but unlike other site scatters in the Körös Basin, this area does not seem to contain a large nucleated village or ‘tell’ (settlement mound).

During 2007 and 2008, Roderick Salisbury conducted soil coring and geochemical prospection at the sites of Csárdaszállás-8 and -26 as part of his PhD research. The results of this work indicated the presence of at least two layers at the site of Csárdaszállás 26 and intact cultural deposits under the plough zone at both sites. Patterning of chemical elements revealed geochemical signatures suggestive of middens, cleaned/trampled areas and food preparation areas. The remains of pits and houses were also identified. The patterns from Csárdaszállás and other sites examined, which included sites from both the Late Neolithic and the succeeding Early Copper Age (c. 4500 BC) revealed long-standing traditions in the development of cultural soilscales and the use of settlement space. These traditions appear to stretch over the classic tell period and into the succeeding period of settlement dispersal.

The new campaign seeks to address several questions that arose from this earlier research, including: (1) what is the spatial organization of small early Late Neolithic farmsteads in relation to local waterways and groundwater levels? (2), does settlement nucleation and the development of super-sites or tells form one aspect of prehistoric mitigation of local climate change? And (3), how is settlement space used, and what is the patterning of cultural soilscales, in the preceding Middle Neolithic, in the period leading up to tell and supersite formation?

To address these questions, Roderick Salisbury and Hungarian co-director Gábor Bácsmegi have begun to investigate palaeohydrology, environmental variables and settlement structure during the period from the Middle to Late Neolithic transition through the Late Neolithic in the middle Körös basin. The 2011 campaign involved geophysical prospection, intensive and controlled surface collection, and environmental coring (Figures 1 and 2). Geophysical survey saw the first geomagnetic surveys conducted at these sites (magnetic survey done by Dr Gábor Bertók, ECTHELION Bt). At Csárdaszállás-8, we found a series of longhouses along a relict channel of the Körös River. At Csárdaszállás-26, we identified the first known enclosed small site from this period in eastern Hungary (Figure 3).



Figure 1. Gábor Bertók of ECTHELION Bt. conducting geophysical prospection at the Late Neolithic site of Csárdaszállás-8 in Békés County, Hungary.



Figure 2. Environmental coring in a palaeochannel near the Late Neolithic site of Csárdaszállás-26 in Békés County, Hungary.

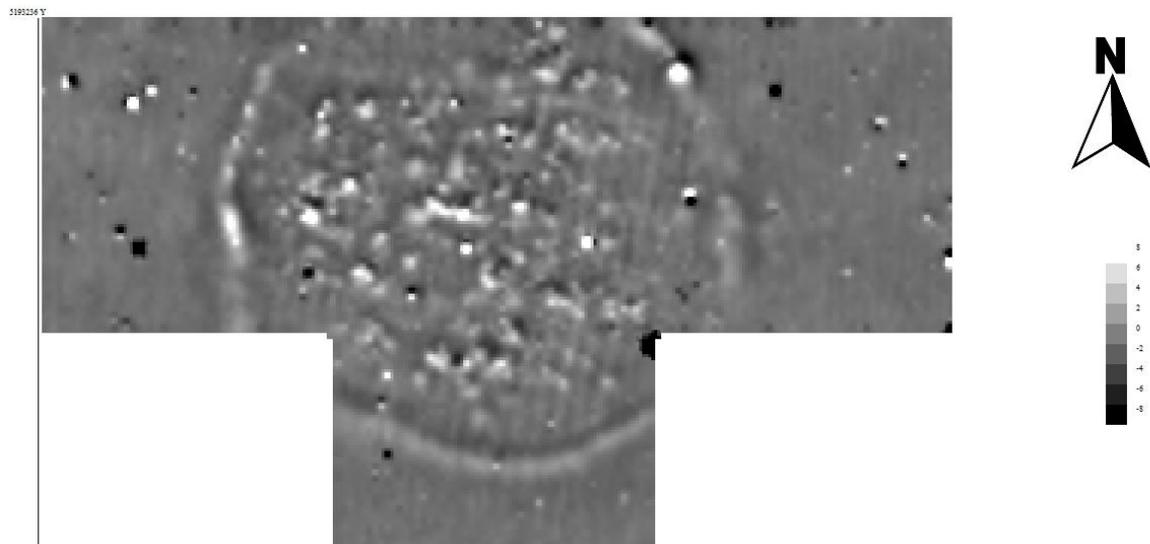


Figure 3. Magnetogram of Late Neolithic Csárdaszállás-26 in eastern Hungary showing enclosure and interior features.

Our method of surface survey is by timed collection of 10m collection units covering the magnetic survey area of each site. We identified ceramics from the Szakálhát and earliest Tisza phases, and found that daub concentrations were lower than expected. In addition, we recovered several obsidian tools and part of a zoomorphic figurine. In the next field season, we will extend this controlled surface survey to adjacent areas, and do less formal field walking in the surrounding landscape to identify other loci of activity.

Environmental coring was conducted with Prof. Pál Sümegei from the University of Szeged. We collected samples from coring was conducted with Prof. Pál Sümegei from the University of Szeged. We collected samples from relict channels of the Triple Körös River just north of each site. Samples are being analyzed for both hydrological and environmental data, including sedimentology, pollen, macro-botanicals, molluscs, geochemistry and magnetic susceptibility, to give us data regarding water levels, rate of flow, vegetation and climate in this micro-region. Organic material is being radiocarbon dated at the Poznan Radiocarbon Laboratory.

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITORS

A new newsletter co-editor will be joining Cynthia this coming fall. Please welcome Judson Finley from the University of Memphis to our newsletter crew! As always, we welcome featured research, and news from the membership, as well as ideas and suggestions for making the newsletter a more valuable resource. Please send any and all information and ideas to us at kadelsbe@knox.edu and fademcy@earlham.edu. We wish everyone an excellent summer field season!

- Katie Adelsberger & Cynthia Fadem

ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOLOGY DIVISION AWARD FUNDS

The Richard Hay Student Paper/Poster Award is a travel grant awarded to a student presenting a paper or poster at the GSA's annual meeting. The grant is competitive and will be awarded based on the evaluation of the scientific merit of the research topic and the clarity of an expanded abstract for the paper or poster prepared by a student for presentation in the Division's technical session at the meeting.

The **Albritton Award Fund** provides scholarships and fellowships for graduate students in the earth sciences or archaeology for research. Recipients of the award are students who have (1) an interest in achieving a Master's or Ph.D. degree in earth sciences or archaeology; (2) an interest in applying earth science methods to archaeological research; and (3) an interest in a career in teaching and academic research. Awards in the amount of \$650 are given in support of thesis or dissertation research, with emphasis on the field and/or laboratory aspects of the research.

Please consider a contribution to the award funds of the AGD. You can make a donation to the Archaeological Geology Division Award as well as the Albritton and Rip Rapp Award funds via the GSA foundation website:

<http://www.gsafweb.org/makeadonation.html>

Your contribution is tax deductible in the U.S.

The GSA Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation with a tax ID# 74-215-6871.

For other ways to give, visit <http://www.gsafweb.org/otherwaystogivet.html>

DOUGLAS C. KELLOGG FUND FOR GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Under the auspices of the SAA Geoarchaeology Interest Group, family, friends and close associates of Douglas C. Kellogg formed a memorial fund in his honor. The fund provides support of thesis or dissertation research, with emphasis on the field and/or laboratory parts of this research, for graduate students in the earth sciences and archaeology. Recipients of this award will be students who have (1) an interest in achieving an M.S., M.A., or Ph.D. degree in earth sciences or archaeology; (2) an interest in applying earth science methods to archaeological research; and (3) an interest in a career in geoarchaeology.

Money donated to the Douglas C. Kellogg Fund will not be used for the annual award. Instead, the interest generated each year will be awarded on an annual basis to the recipient. Initially, a minimum of \$500 will be awarded; the amount of the award will increase as the fund grows and the amount of annual interest increases. The first Douglas C. Kellogg Award was made in spring, 2003.

Please make a contribution to the Douglas C. Kellogg Fund for Geoarchaeological Research. A contribution form is below.

Students interested in submitting a research proposal should contact Dr. Tristram R. Kidder, Douglass C. Kellogg Fund, Department of Anthropology, Washington University, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO, 63130; email: trkidder@washu.edu.

DONATION TO THE SAA DOUGLAS C. KELLOGG FUND FOR GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

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(name - please print)

Address: _____

Checks should be made out to "Society for American Archaeology". SAA will send you a receipt for tax purposes.

Please mail this form and your contribution to:
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