



AIA-LA

Spring 2025 Newsletter



ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ACTIVITIES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY



Dear AIA-LA Society Members,

We hope you are all doing well now that spring has sprung!

Events: Thank you to all who joined us for our big National Lecture on March 23 delivered by Dr. Nam C. Kim of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and titled *“Barbarians” and Bronzes: The Origins of Civilization in Ancient Vietnam.* It was an excellent talk followed by an amazing Vietnamese-inspired reception. Next up this spring is our Spring AIA-LA Ahmanson Lecture, which will be delivered by Dr. Debbie Carlson on Sunday, May 4th at 2pm at 1201 9th St. in Manhattan Beach about Underwater Archaeology Off the Coast of Turkey. We will keep you posted about our additional lectures via the Weekly Round-Ups.

Student Programming: Thanks to the generosity of our local members, we will be able to sponsor two undergraduate fieldwork scholarships again this summer, and will be raising the amount of each scholarship to \$1,500-2,000. We are very happy to announce that we will also be able to fund a graduate student fieldwork scholarship again this year, also in the range of \$1,500-2,000. The call for applications is currently available on our website. Submissions are due in by the end of the day on Friday, April 4th, 2025.

Our undergraduate student liaison (Maria Carolina Zensen Simoes) and graduate student liaison (Luis Rodriguez-Perez) are organizing an information session about applying to graduate school that will provide the opportunity for undergraduates to speak with (and learn from) current grad students.

Membership Perks: We hope you have continued to receive your subscription to Archaeology magazine. If you are not receiving it, you may need to renew your membership, which can now easily be completed online. Please also consider inviting friends and neighbors to join by pointing them to our website and/or forwarding them this newsletter. We will be offering a series of opportunities available only to AIA-LA members this year, including private tours of upcoming museum exhibitions and a series of mini-lectures about recent advances in archaeological technologies. You can also look forward to getting to know the AIA-LA community through Sanford Holst’s nationally-recognized Member Spotlight Series.

Website and Weekly Roundup: Our website and weekly email roundups remain the principal gateways to stay updated regarding our archaeological programming. Our Social Media Coordinator Sanford Holst is continuing to expand our online presence and make it as user-friendly as possible. If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to email us at losangeles.archaeology@gmail.com.

Lastly, we want to encourage you to reach out to any of our board members with any questions, concerns, or interests you may have. We sincerely look forward to seeing you all soon.

With best wishes and gratitude for your continued support!

The AIA-LA Board



Brief Recap of Recent AIA-LA Events



The Fall 2024 AIA-LA Garden Party

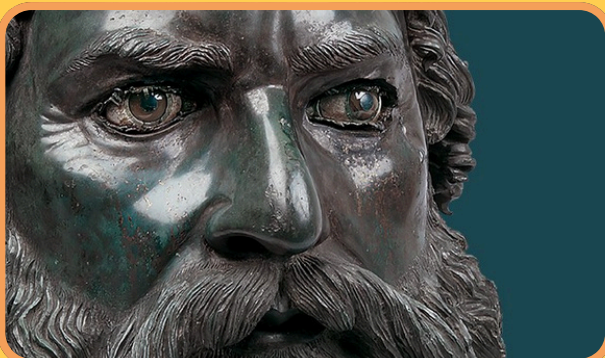
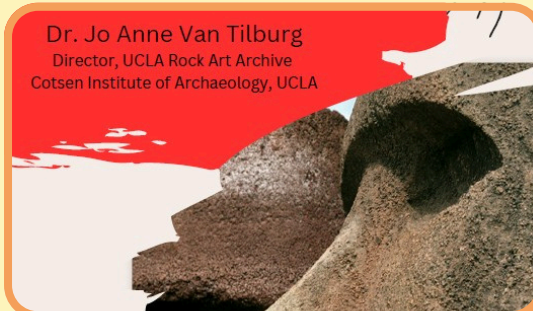
was a huge success! (Sept. 29th)

Thank you so much to Charlie and Weezie Steinmetz for generously hosting yet another spectacular Garden Party and to the 80+ members who joined us in person!

Uncovering Easter Island

Dr. Jo Anne Van Tilburg, Director of the UCLA Rock Art Archive at the Cotsen gave an excellent Fall Ahmanson Lecture on Nov. 3rd about her ongoing collaborative research on the moai of Rapa Nui

Dr. Jo Anne Van Tilburg
Director, UCLA Rock Art Archive
Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA



Ancient Thrace and the Classical World

AIA-LA Getty Villa Liaison and Associate Curator Dr. Sara Cole led an incredible tour of the Villa's Exhibit *Ancient Thrace and the Classical World: Treasures from Bulgaria, Romania, and Greece* on December 14th.

We Live in Painting Exhibit Tour

Dr. Alyce de Carteret (Assistant Curator in the Art of the Americas) led an amazing tour of the LACMA exhibit *We Live In Painting: The Nature of Color in Mesoamerican Art* on February 8 for AIA-LA Members.





“Barbarians” and Bronzes: The Origins of Civilization in Ancient Vietnam



Dr. Nam C. Kim

**Professor of Anthropology
Director, Center for SE Asian Studies
University of Wisconsin**



2,000 years ago, China’s Han Empire stretched its imperial grasp beyond the mountains far to the south of the Central Plains, reaching into the domains of “barbarians”. In their chronicles, the Han claimed that they “civilized” the “barbarians” of Vietnam’s Red River Valley. In contrast, many Vietnamese believe this time and location represents the birthplace of an indigenous, Vietnamese civilization that predates Han arrival. Thus, at the heart of ongoing, intense, and sometimes nationalistic debates are two contrasting views. This lecture presents new and ongoing archaeological research that addresses these themes and questions. Specifically, it highlights recent investigations at the Co Loa site, considered to be the first capital and earliest city of ancient Vietnam.

**Email losangeles.archaeology@gmail.com
if you would like a recording of this lecture which
took place on Sunday, March 23rd 2025.**

AIA-LA Member Spotlights

2024-2025 (so far!)

In fall 2023, we introduced the AIA-LA Member Spotlight series, written by long-time AIA-LA member Sanford Holst. Our members come from a wide range of backgrounds, tend to be well-traveled, curious about things, and genuinely interested in discovering something new. The member spotlight series, which will include new installments every couple of weeks, will help to continue to build our community by providing the opportunity to get to know a little more about your fellow members.

The 2024-2025 Member Spotlights are all up on the AIA-LA Website and include Dawn Cox, Paul Scotton, Patty Civalleri, Ken Lapatin, Debby Sneed, Michael Stewart-Bernard, John Papadopoulos, and Caroline Smith.



Dawn Cox



Paul Scotton



Ken Lapatin



Patty Civalleri



Michael
Stewart-Bernard



Debby Sneed



John
Papadopoulos



Caroline Smith

Get ready for your own spotlight, and stay tuned for more in 2025!

Congratulations to AIA-LA Vice President Charlie Steinmetz and K-12 Liaison Dr. Dawn Cox!

Charlie was honored with Trustee Emeritus status by the National AIA Governing Board for his life-long support of the AIA and Archaeology. Congratulations and thank you, Charlie!



Dawn was elected to the AIA National Governing Board at the AIA Council Meeting in January! It will be great to have her on the board representing our interests here in the LA Society. Congratulations again, Dawn!

Schedule of SoCal Events: Spring 2025

For additional information about society events, contact Ken Seligson (kseligson@csudh.edu). Consult our web page for updated information. More events will be included in our weekly round-ups.

Wednesday April 9th, 5:00pm PT

AIA Archaeology Hour Lecture

Dr. Mark Aldenderfer
“Archaeology and the
Tibetan/Himalayan Afterlife”

Sunday, May 4th 2:00pm PT

AIA-LA Spring Ahmanson Lecture

Dr. Deborah Carlson
“Underwater Archaeology Off the
Coast of Turkey”

Sunday, April 27th, 2:00pm PT

AIA-OC Spring Lecture

Dr. Paul Scotton (CSULB)
“The Harbor of Ancient Corinth: Results
from the 2024 Excavation Season”

May 1st and 2nd

10th Cotsen Graduate

*Archaeology Conference: Plural
Geographies*

Keynote Speakers: Dr. Anna
Agbe-Davies (UNC) & Dr. Menna
Agha (Carleton University)

Local Exhibitions

LACMA

We Live in Painting: The Nature of Color in Mesoamerican Art (Until September 2, 2025)

Fowler Museum

Taming the Desert: Resilience, Religion, and Ancestors in Ancient Peru (Until May 11, 2025)

Additional Programs and Lecture Series

AIA Orange County Lectures

Getty events and talks

Pourdavoud Center

Stavros Niarchos Hellenic Center, UCLA



AIA-Los Angeles Society
Spring 2025 Ahmanson
Lecture

Underwater Archaeology Off the Coast of Turkey



Join us for our Spring Ahmanson Lecture by world-renowned underwater archaeologist Dr. Deborah Carlson. She will discuss her ongoing research on shipwrecks off the coast of Turkey.

Dr. Deborah Carlson

President, Institute of Nautical Archaeology
Nautical Archaeology Program Coordinator
Professor
George O. Yamini Family Chair in Nautical
Archaeology
Texas A&M

Getty Villa Visiting
Scholar 2025

Sunday, May 4th, 2:00pm PT
1201 9th St., Manhattan Beach
and Simulcast Via Zoom



VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

I enclose:

\$_____ to support the 2025–2026 programs of the Los Angeles Society of the AIA.

\$_____ contribution to the Undergraduate Fieldwork Scholarship

\$_____ contribution to support a new Graduate Student Fieldwork Scholarship

\$_____ contribution to support: ____ National lecture; ____ Book talk; _____ social event

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail (strongly recommended for current updates): _____

☐ This is a new or corrected address

Please make your check payable to the AIA LA Society and return it in the enclosed envelope to our treasurer:

John Cameron, PO Box 261, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274.

DONATIONS ARE FULLY TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

AIA LOS ANGELES COUNTY SOCIETY GOVERNING BOARD

	Official Position/ Interests	Officer	Term	Contact
Officers	President	Ken Seligson	2022-2025	kseligson@csudh.edu
	Vice President	Charlie Steinmetz	2022-2025	charlie.steinmetz@gmail.com
	Treasurer	John Cameron	2020-2023	johnjcameron77@gmail.com
	Membership Secretary	Caroline Smith	2023-2026	caroline@me.com
Additional Board of Governors	<i>Prior President</i>	Aaron Burke	2019-2022	aaburke@ucla.edu
	<i>Graduate student liaison</i>	Luis Rodríguez Pérez	2022-2025	lrodriguezperez@g.ucla.edu
	<i>Undergraduate liaison</i>	Maria Carolina Zensen	2023-2025	zensensi@usc.edu
	<i>Getty liaison</i>	Sarah Cole	2020-2023	scole@getty.edu
	<i>K-12 school liaison</i>	Dawn Cox	2022-2025	cdawn29@yahoo.com
	<i>Ex Officio Member</i>	Owen Doonan	2020-2023	owen.doonan@csun.edu
	<i>Ex Officio Member</i>	Paul Scotton	2022-2025	pscotton@csulb.edu

General concerns or interests? Email us at: losangeles.archaeology@gmail.com.