

# ***The Archaeology Channel*** **Conference on Cultural Heritage Media**

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June 25-26, 2021

Friday, June 25, 9:20 am – 5 pm

Saturday, June 26, 10 am – 6 pm

Civic Winery



**Presented by Archaeological Legacy Institute as a part of**

***The Archaeology Channel* International Film Festival**

# **The Archaeology Channel Conference on Cultural Heritage Media**

Civic Winery, 50 East 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue

## **Presentation Schedule**

### **Friday, June 25:**

- 9:20 am      ***True Stories of Moana***  
Marianne “Mimi” George, Pacific Traditions Society and Vaka Valo Association  
Heu’ionalani Wyeth, Pacific Traditions Society, Anahola, Hawaii
- 10:00        ***The Making of “Remains”***  
Joe Day and Jose Rodriguez, U.S. Army, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, Los Angeles,  
California
- 10:40        ***Native Agency and Cultural Heritage Media: Towards a Collaborative Model***  
Monty Dobson, Stratigraphic Productions LLC , Springfield, Missouri
- 11:20        ***AntiquityNOW and the Next Generation: Itty Bitty Antiquity Shows Preschoolers the  
Fun in Cultural Heritage***  
Shirley Gazsi, AntiquityNOW  
Brooke Todsens Whitlow, AntiquityNOW Executive Director, Cranford, New Jersey
- 2:00         ***Visual Archaeology in Museums of Pakistan***  
Abdul Rauf Kakepoto, Department of Archaeology, Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur, Sindh

### ***Symposium: The Search for Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan: Where We Stand and What Comes Next***

- 2:40        ***The 2015, 17, & 19 Visits to Nikumaroro: An Overview***  
Thomas F. King, Silver Spring, Maryland
- 3:20        ***Dogs on Nikumaroro in 2017***  
Lynne Engelbert, Institute for Canine Forensics, Saratoga, California
- 4:00        ***Did Gerald Gallagher Unearth the Bones of a Norwich City Castaway? – Part 2***  
Kenton Spading, St. Paul, Minnesota
- 4:40        ***Why Is This Funny? Amelia Earhart as a Punchline***  
Marjorie Smith, 2015 and 2017 Betchart Nikumaroro Expeditioneer, Bozeman, Montana

**Saturday, June 26:**

***Symposium: The Search for Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan:  
Where We Stand and What Comes Next (continued)***

- 10:00 am      ***Trips to Tarawa***  
Jaime Bach, SEARCH, High Springs, Florida
- 10:40            ***Managing the Medical Risks During the 2019 Expedition***  
Aaron Arrants, National Geographic Expedition Medic, Jacksonville, Florida
- 11:20            ***Don't Dispense with the Dispensary!***  
Joe Cerniglia, TIGHAR, Uncasville, Connecticut
- 2:00             ***Will Satellite Imagery Prove to Be the Key in Earhart Mystery?***  
Michael Ashmore, Roadtoamelia.org, Cowchilla, California
- 2:40             ***2019 Update on the Search for Amelia***  
Lynne Angeloro, Canine Forensics Foundation, Sequim, Washington
- 3:20             ***Reassessment of Acute Environmental Impacts on Earhart's Final Flight - Part 2***  
Greg George, TIGHAR Technical Volunteer, Bloomington, Illinois
- 4:00             ***A Future Direction for Earhart-Noonan Research on Nikumaroro***  
Richard M. Pettigrew, Archaeological Legacy Institute, Eugene, Oregon
- 4:40             ***Round Table Discussion***

## Symposium

### ***The Search for Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan: Where We Stand and What Comes Next Friday, June 25, and Saturday, June 26***

The 2019 expedition to Nikumaroro Island, featuring National Geographic-sponsored deep-water exploration by Robert Ballard and terrestrial investigations led by Fred Hiebert and Tom King, marked a turning point in the search for Amelia Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan. At issue now is the future of research efforts. What should be the next steps? Did Ballard's survey, described in October 2019 by National Geographic on TV, rule out the existence of Electra airplane parts in the deep water off the reef? Did the negative results strengthen the case for other disappearance hypotheses? How should future research be organized and by whom? How will future media coverage be managed and sponsored? This symposium is conceived as a summit meeting among those interested in solving the mystery and planning for further research efforts, whatever hypotheses they subscribe to.

## Conference Presentation Abstracts

(Alphabetical Order by Speaker's Last Name)

### ***2019 Update on the Search for Amelia***

**Lynne Angeloro, Canine Forensics Foundation, Sequim, Washington**

What did the dogs do? Did they alert? What did it actually mean? Is Amelia there? How will we ever know? Stories of the trip from Los Angeles Fiji to Suva and then on to Tuvalu and Niku...What was it like? Rough seas, fresh yellowfin tuna, a huge bluefin tuna, and an amazing chef onboard. Dwarfed by the Nautilus! The fun side of the Amelia Earhart search. Introducing the seadogs: Berkeley, and maybe Ruby, too!

Saturday, June 26, 2:40 pm

### ***Managing the Medical Risks During the 2019 Expedition***

**Aaron Arrants, National Geographic Expedition Medic, Jacksonville, Florida**

The remote location of Nikumaroro not only creates logistical challenges for conducting research, but also mandates unique consideration in the planning and execution of medical care for an expedition team. As the Travel Medic, I provided health and safety support for the National Geographic teams while off-grid and absent of medical facilities. Monitoring the physical and mental conditions of the researchers, forensic canines, government officials, documentary crew, and support staff presented challenges. The teams conducted operations, day and night, in all weather conditions, on ships in the open ocean, in zodiacs across lagoons, and hiking through uninhabited jungle environments. This presentation will review the intensive preparation, actual injuries, and real risks of the trip, along with lessons learned and valuable advice. The experiences gained serve as a reference to ensure the quality care of future teams headed to Nikumaroro and similar locales.

Saturday, June 26, 10:40 am

### ***Will Satellite Imagery Prove to Be the Key in Earhart Mystery?***

**Michael Ashmore, Roadtoamelia.org, Chowchilla, California**

A 2020 satellite image sparks a new direction of inquiry in the Amelia Earhart mystery. Looking inward to the Taraia Peninsula area of Nikumaroro island, there appears to be an object in the shallow water of the lagoon. It is possibly showing signs of being man-made, but what? Aircraft wreckage, perhaps? If so, it could be just a part or the entire remains of her plane. Could this be the key to finding the final resting spot of Earhart's Lockheed Electra?

Saturday, June 26, 2:00 pm

### ***Trips to Tarawa***

**Jaime Bach, SEARCH, High Springs, Florida**

What started as a rumored box of bones sitting in the post office in Tarawa led to the unexpected discovery of human remains in a cabinet in the back room of the cultural museum in Kiribati. As analysis continues, hope is not lost that the unidentified remains could be those of missing aviator, Amelia Earhart. From the original rumor that was surprisingly substantiated to the current comparative analysis, this paper will review the events that have unfolded since the 2017 Betchart expedition in an effort to relocate the 13 bones found on Gardner Island.

Saturday, June 26, 10:00 am

### ***Don't Dispense with the Dispensary!***

**Joe Cerniglia, TIGHAR, Uncasville, Connecticut**

In July 2017, I set out on an expedition to the uninhabited island of Nikumaroro. Our mission was to search for an answer to the Amelia Earhart mystery. Dr. Thomas King, expedition senior archaeologist, listed one of his mission objectives: To "search the site of the dispensary used by the I Kiribati and Tuvaluan people who occupied the island from 1939 until 1963, for medicine and skin care bottles to compare with those we've found at the Seven Site." It has taken almost four years to gain the perspective, objectivity and reflection that was needed to make this comparison rigorously. This talk will explore what the dispensary's comparative data tell us in relation to the village's brown amber vial, whose cap is imprinted with the words "UCA PHARMACY." This vial is possibly related to Earhart's hometown in California, Toluca Lake.

Saturday, June 26, 11:20 pm

***The Making of "Remains"*****Joe Day and Jose Rodriguez, U.S. Army, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, Los Angeles, California**

In 2017, Jose Rodriguez, a U.S. Army photographer, traveled to Vietnam with a team of archaeologists and other service members on a Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency mission to find the remains of Sergeant First Class Samuel Padgett, a soldier lost during the Vietnam War whose body was never recovered. Caught by Jose on camera, a team of seventy Vietnamese workers helped for nearly thirty days to excavate the site of his disappearance. Stateside, filmmaker and Army veteran Joe Day interviewed the daughters of Samuel Padgett in Asheville, North Carolina. Both daughters, now in their fifties, explained the hardships of growing up without a father. For this presentation, Jose and Joe will discuss their approaches in filming their respective portions of the project, and how they weaved these segments together during the editing process.

Friday, June 25, 10:00 am

***Native Agency and Cultural Heritage Media: Towards a Collaborative Model*****Monty Dobson, Stratigraphic Productions LLC, Springfield, Missouri**

Events in historically colonized spaces are burdened with historical trauma and landscapes from the theater where the interactions between colonizer and Native Peoples play out. Emphasis on collaborative efforts with Native Peoples is especially important in media projects with high-profile cultural heritage highlighting imperial expansion, forced removal and erasure of culture and peoples. The project design for archaeological research projects paralleling cultural heritage media projects relies on the active voices of the Native Peoples whose legacy and story we are recovering and telling. This highlights the active agency of Native Peoples, both historically and presently. Acknowledgment of Native agency is a necessary action in confronting the legacy of colonialism that still impacts the relationship between the dominant European American society and original Native Peoples.

Friday, June 25, 10:40 am

***Dogs on Nikumaroro in 2017*****Lynne Engelbert, Institute for Canine Forensics, Saratoga, California**

During the summer of 2017, four specialized canine teams traveled to Nikumaroro searching for the remains of Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan as part of a journey organized by The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery (TIGHAR) and the National Geographic Society. This was the first time Historic Human Remains Detection (HHRD) had been used in an extreme tropical environment. TIGHAR utilized many technological devices to work the Seven Site, with the exception of specially trained HHRD dog teams. Extensive research has deemed this location to be the most likely site of Ms. Earhart's demise. Along with this location, other areas were searched as well, with very interesting results. We will discuss the search plan, the search and the results of what the dogs were able to accomplish.

Friday, June 25, 3:20 pm

***AntiquityNOW and the Next Generation: Itty Bitty Antiquity Shows Preschoolers the Fun in Cultural Heritage*****Shirley Gazsi, AntiquityNOW****Brooke Todsén Whitlow, AntiquityNOW Executive Director, Cranford, New Jersey**

A given group of people evolve to worship, dress, and have customs and rituals in a certain way to create a distinctive lifestyle. All these elements added together embody the culture of a people. The creation of a culture comes about over the course of many years, and never stops as long as that culture exists. Habits and social behaviors continue to adapt and change. What is fascinating is how a culture began. Why were certain customs adopted? Why do people across the globe have such varied lifestyles, beliefs and mythologies? The Culture Project is a curriculum module adaptable for middle and high school students. It is an exercise in which students in individual groups create their own culture and describe it using storytelling, artwork, music, and other imaginative elements. Its goal is to help students understand the evolution of collective living and appreciate the foundations of civilizations today.

Friday, June 25, 11:20 am

### ***Reassessment of Acute Environmental Impacts on Earhart's Final Flight - Part 2***

**Greg George, TIGHAR Technical Volunteer, Bloomington, Illinois**

According to the Royal Astronomical Society, "the year 1937 was one of great sunspot activity, probably unequaled since 1870-1871" and "a fairly definite peak in frequency occurred in July," "not improbably the maximum peak of the [then current 11 year] cycle." Further, "...manifestations of solar activity that have increased concurrently with sunspots ... provided unique data for comparison with disturbed conditions in the ionosphere." At an observatory at Zurich, on July 2nd, 1937 "the new formation of a new group of sunspots was observed, developing into a large center of activity on the eastern part of the sun's disk." Later on July 22nd, unusual "naked-eye" sunspots thought to be "the largest group so far recorded in the cycle" was observed on the sun's east limb. I examined sunspot data following Earhart's departure from Lae and considered the possibility that geomagnetic activity adversely affected her journey.

Saturday, June 26, 3:20 pm

### ***True Stories of Moana***

**Marianne "Mimi" George, Pacific Traditions Society and Vaka Valo Association**

**Heu'ionalani Wyeth, Pacific Traditions Society, Anahola, Hawaii**

Modern media have long purveyed romantic and exclusionary stories about Pacific peoples, such as "the last Polynesian navigator died," there is a "Polynesian Triangle," and there were no women navigators. "Star navigation" is now presented as the most important factor in formation of the ancient knowledge and networks of Oceania. In the film, *We, the Voyagers: Our Moana*, people of Taumako, Solomon Islands, reveal their lives as part of their ongoing ancestral story of the first voyager, Lata. The current crew of Lata learns how ancestral vessels perform and how to navigate by relationships among wind positions, swell patterns, oceanic lights, and other phenomena. Lata's crew includes women weather-workers and navigators, girls weaving the sail and making cordage, and the usual thieves and gluttons. They reach faraway islands, reconcile past traumas and revive networks that bring sustainability, resiliency and joy. Taumakoans embraced filmmaking to convey the real "Moana."

Friday, June 25, 9:20 am

### ***Visual Archaeology in Museums of Pakistan***

**Abdul Kakepoto, Department of Archaeology, Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur, Sindh, Pakistan**

This presentation is based on academic research combining heritage, visuals and museums. Our project is designed to gauge the scope of visualization in archaeological studies and the current state of museums associated with public universities in Pakistan. Four universities have been selected for focused group discussions, consultative workshops and seminars. This presentation aims to highlight the rich heritage of Pakistan and its scope in the academic world. Moreover, results and recommendations made by Pakistani scholars and people of relevant organizations will be shared with American scholars, individuals and organizations for future collaborative projects.

Friday, June 25, 2:00 pm

### ***The 2015, 17 & 19 Visits to Nikumaroro: An Overview***

**Thomas F. King, Silver Spring, Maryland**

The 2015, 17 and 19 "expeditions" to Nikumaroro in pursuit of Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan were built upon ten previous visits for the same purpose by The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery (TIGHAR), but were sponsored by Archaeological Legacy Institute, Betchart Expeditions, and National Geographic. They collected a variety of data that fleshed out our understanding of the island and the castaway who died there, but did not solve the mystery of the Earhart/Noonan disappearance.

Friday, June 25, 2:40 pm

***A Future Direction for Earhart-Noonan Research on Nikumaroro*****Richard M. Pettigrew, Archaeological Legacy Institute, Eugene, Oregon**

The search for traces of Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan began in 1937, but the more recent expeditions to Nikumaroro Island began in 1989 under the auspices of The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery (TIGHAR), which organized fieldwork through the 2017 field season. National Geographic organized fieldwork there in 2019 with a team including the Ocean Exploration Trust and its president, Robert Ballard, as well as a group of former and existing TIGHAR members. Neither TIGHAR nor National Geographic has plans to go back to Nikumaroro, which many of us still suspect was the last stop of the Earhart world flight. To continue this research there, my proposal is a multi-disciplinary, multi-year, research project involving additional disciplines beyond the Earhart investigation that could include climate science, geomorphology, archaeology, anthropology, and biology. Such a project could draw financial support from diverse sources, including granting foundations and media producers. This presentation outlines a basic plan for that project.

Saturday, June 26, 4:00 pm

***Why Is This Funny? Amelia Earhart as a Punchline*****Marjorie Smith, 2015 and 2017 Betchart Nikumaroro Expeditioneer, Bozeman, Montana**

Amelia Earhart, D.B. Cooper and Jimmy Hoffa Go Into a Bar ...

It's always hard to pin down what makes something funny. Humor, after all, is extremely subjective. But why is it that mysterious disappearances often become punchlines to jokes and cartoons? Is it possible that it's nervous laughter we're hearing because nobody knows for sure what happened to the real people behind these and other familiar names? For many decades, Marjorie Smith has been fascinated by the world's fascination with Amelia Earhart.

Friday, June 25, 4:40 pm

***Did Gerald Gallagher Unearth the Bones of a Norwich City Castaway? Part 2*****Kenton Spading, St. Paul, Minnesota**

In 1929, the British ship, SS Norwich City, ran aground at the Pacific Island of Nikumaroro. In 1937, Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan disappeared in the Pacific region. In 1940, human bones and associated artifacts, including shoe parts, were unearthed by British colonial officer Gerald Gallagher on Nikumaroro. The bones and artifacts could be associated with lost sailors from the Norwich City. The British Central Index Register of Merchant Seamen records, which include heights of selected lost sailors, will be compared to Dr. Hoodless' and later researchers' height estimates for the 1940 skeleton. Learn why research into the Norwich City sailors, culture and equipment is a critical component to understanding the context of the bones and artifacts recovered by Gallagher.

Friday, June 25, 4:00 pm