The Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology (ACUA) has been at the forefront of underwater archaeology for more than 50 years. Its genesis as the Council on Underwater Archaeology, formed in 1959, and its purpose was fully realized at a meeting in 1963 when a group of archaeologists, historians, and sport divers met in St. Paul, Minnesota, for the first international Conference on Underwater Archaeology. The first joint conference with the then fledgling Society for Historical Archaeology was held in 1970. By 1973, the present structure and name of the ACUA were established and shortly thereafter a merging of conferences occurred. In 2003, a Memorandum of Agreement between the ACUA and the SHA was signed, formalizing the relationship between the two organizations.

The ACUA serves as an international advisory body on issues relating to underwater archaeology, conservation, and submerged cultural resources management. It is working to educate scholars, governments, sport divers, and the general public about underwater archaeology and the preservation of underwater resources. The ACUA assists the SHA Conference Committee in organizing the annual...
MEET YOUR GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES!

Jennifer E. Jones
Ph.D. Candidate
Coastal Resource Management
East Carolina University

Nicole Bucchino
M.A. Candidate
Historical Archaeology
University of West Florida

I am from Church Hill, Tennessee and I received my Bachelor of Arts from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in Anthropology (concentrating in archaeology and forensics) with a minor in Religious Studies. I have a Master of Arts in Historical Archaeology from the University of York, York, United Kingdom, and a Master of Arts in Maritime Studies from East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina. I am currently in the second semester of my Doctoral program in Coastal Resource Management at East Carolina University; my primary track is social science and coastal policy, focusing on maritime archaeological resources, with a secondary track focusing on maritime anthropology and geographical information systems. Dissertation work will focus on shipwrecks on land and their importance in the maritime cultural landscape.

I have participated in both terrestrial and maritime archaeological projects in several states and several countries. I am professionally interested in cultural resource management, especially of maritime resources, archaeological preservation and conservation. museum studies, technological advancement in the field, public perceptions of archaeology, and archaeology in the media, film, and photography.

Born in Framingham, Massachusetts, I eventually made my way to Florida and attended the University of Central Florida (UCF) for my undergraduate education. I received my first Bachelor of Arts from UCF in History with a focus on issues of science and modern society, and a second Bachelor of Arts from UCF in Anthropology, concentrating in archaeology. I am currently attending the University of West Florida as a M.A. candidate and was fortunate to receive the Florida Public Archaeology Network’s 2010 assistantship. Since December 2012, I have been working full-time with the Florida Public Archaeology Network’s Northwest Region as Outreach Coordinator. My thesis is a historical ecological perspective of the red snapper fishing industry in Pensacola from 1860-1930, focusing on the archaeology of fishing culture and the archaeology of shipwrecks engaged in the industry.

I have also participated in both terrestrial and maritime archaeological projects in several U.S. states and several countries and am professionally interested in maritime and social history and archaeology, public archaeology, and remote sensing in marine environments.

As your graduate representatives for the ACUA, please let us know if there is anything we can do for you! Feel free to contact either of us with any concerns, issues, or questions: grad-rep@acuasonline.org
The pilot project in the city of Siraf in Iran, with aim of identification, assessment and documentation of the archaeological remains, was conducted from the 16th to the 30th July 2012. It is believed that, since the city was submerged due to an earthquake in the 10th century AD, the southern edge of the city is still somewhere in the sea. As an important ancient trade port for many centuries, there should have been port facilities and shipyards in the city. This research investigated the remains in the sea in order to find traces of seafaring facilities under water and sand, contributing to the understanding of seafaring in ancient Persia.

A truly international project, this site along the southeastern coast of Iran brought together a team of scholars from America, Cyprus, and Denmark: Iranian-born Sorna Khakzad from KU Leuven in Belgium led team members Athena Trakadas (the Viking Ship Museum in Denmark), Matthew Harpster (The Institute of Nautical Archaeology), and Nicole Wittig (East Carolina University) on a two-week survey of archaeological features of the once prosperous port city.

During the field work, the project team evaluated coastal remain and recorded the amount of erosion by the sea from 50 years ago to today. This was done along the shoreline using detailed maps and previous excavations in order to have a comparative analysis. With the help of a sonar scanner, the team covered an area of about 2 kilometers by 500 meters in the sea in order to determine the location of the possible archaeological remains. They removed sand and plants, and documented some historical materials and artifacts. The results show that there are a lot of ancient construction materials underwater (such as stone blocks for wall construction and stone slabs which were used for pavements). The team also saw at least two stone anchors.

Fieldwork proved rewarding both in collaborating with international professionals and in seeing Iran’s rich culture first-hand. For the three U.S. scholars, visiting Iran was a great privilege and an unforgettable experience. Despite the team’s short time in the country, they were showered with limitless generosity and warm hospitality. Considering current affairs, this project demonstrates how a group of professionals working toward a common goal can transcend cultural and political obstacles.

—Submitted by Sorna Khakzad and Nicole Wittig
WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Our goal for this newsletter is to draw students interested in underwater archaeology together so that the distances between countries and universities can become much smaller! To truly help this newsletter reach the broadest student audience possible, we need YOU to share it with your peers and colleagues interested in the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology (ACUA) and the field of underwater archaeology in general. To assure that this student newsletter community is as inclusive as possible, please share your experiences with us so that we can share them with the rest of the underwater archaeology world. Any ideas for stories or student research features would be greatly appreciated! Please feel free to contact Jennifer Jones and Nicole Bucchino (grad-rep@acuaonline.org) at any time. We look forward to serving you as Graduate Student Representatives and reaching out to you in the future!

INTERVIEW WITH A PAST STUDENT REP:

BARRY BLEICHNER, EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

HOW DO YOU FEEL THE ACUA HELPS STUDENTS WITH THEIR GOALS?

All of the members of the ACUA Board are very open to discussing the professional aspects of underwater archaeology with interested students. The ACUA and the SHA student subcommittee also jointly organize student-oriented forums, panels, and lunches at the annual SHA conference, which offer excellent advice on some of the issues confronting current students and recent graduates. Additionally, the ACUA website (www.acuaonline.org) also contains pages on education and careers with links to graduate programs, jobs, and organizations devoted to underwater archaeology.

HOW CAN STUDENTS GET INVOLVED?

The best way to get involved with the ACUA and the broader underwater archaeological community is to serve as an ACUA Graduate Representative (see page 3 “What is the ACUA? cont.” on applying). Otherwise, I highly recommend attending conferences, such as the annual SHA conference, and speaking to professionals as well as fellow students. And, since nothing equals hands-on training, volunteer for projects and internships as much as possible. It’s a terrific way to obtain practical experience and establish contacts!

Past ACUA Graduate Student Representative Barry Bleichner

ACUA STUDENT

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY
STUDENT NEWSLETTER

Compiled by ACUA Board Graduate Student Representatives
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For any comments, questions, or suggestions, please contact:
Jennifer Jones and Nicole Bucchino at grad-rep@acuaonline.org
Visit www.acuaonline.org for more news and information