



Narragansett Society Newsletter

March 3, 2025

SAVE THE DATE for our annual lecture!

The Hidden Dead: Bioarchaeology of Ancient Maya Cave Ritual

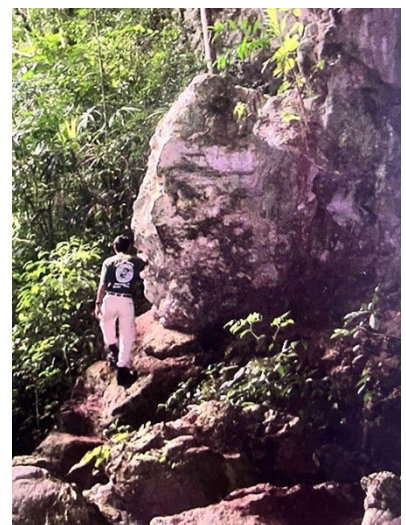
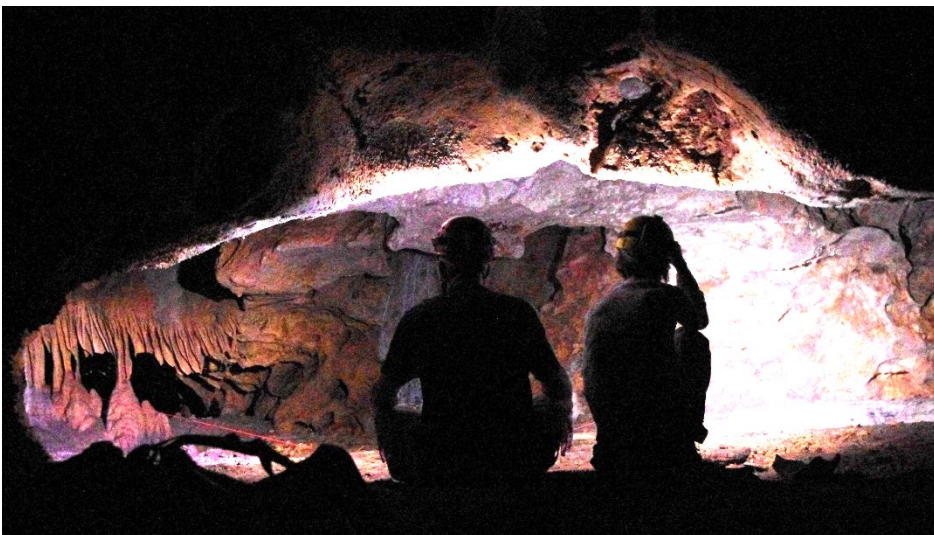
Wednesday, April 16, 2025

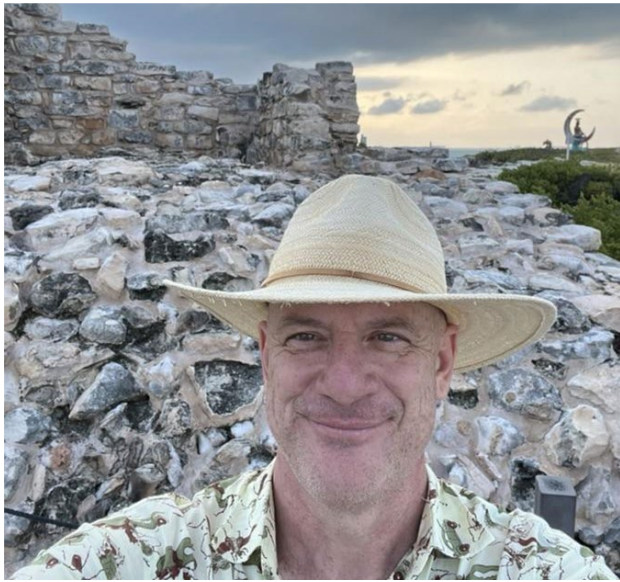
5:30 PM

Room 108, Rhode Island Hall, Brown University

Dr. Gabriel Wrobel will be presenting his lecture: *The Hidden Dead: Bioarchaeology of Ancient Maya Cave Ritual*. After the lecture a meet and greet with light refreshments will occur in the main foyer of Rhode Island Hall.

Use of caves by the ancient Maya appears to be ubiquitous. Archaeological explanations of Maya mortuary contexts in caves – in academic journals, television programs, and the popular press – have focused almost exclusively on sacrificial ritual. However, this rather sensationalist interpretation is not so clear-cut. This talk will cover some of the extensive pan-Mesoamerican corpus of ethnographic, ethnohistoric, epigraphic, iconographic, and linguistic sources to demonstrate how the Maya incorporated caves into their worldview and ritual. This talk then demonstrates the ways in which skeletal data can inform competing models of Maya mortuary cave use by highlighting recent bioarchaeological research in central Belize by the Central Belize Archaeological Survey (CBAS) Project.





Gabe Wrobel is Professor of Anthropology at Michigan State University and director of the MSU Bioarchaeology Laboratory. He has carried out research on the ancient Maya in Belize for over 30 years and directed several archaeological field projects, most recently at the site of Sarteneja on Belize's north coast. As a Fulbright Specialist, he has presented workshops on digital heritage with students in Belize and is currently expanding that work in collaboration with the Belize Institute of Archaeology, Ministry of Education, and educators of local Maya and creole communities.

Other upcoming events of note include the return of the AIA Archaeology Hour! These virtual lectures are all presented at 8:00 pm Eastern time. Learn more and click the links to register:

March 19, 2025 – Rosemary Joyce

Complex Society Without Rulers

[Register Here](#)

April 9, 2025 – Mark Aldenderfer

Archaeology and the Tibetan/Himalayan Afterlife

[Register Here](#)

Any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact us at:

aia.narragansett.society@gmail.com

Help Us Make Archaeology Visible in Rhode Island!