

**Paleoamerican Origins Workshop
February 14-16, 2008**

**Sponsored by
Center for the Study of the First Americans
Texas Archeological Research Laboratory
Southeastern Paleoamerican Survey
Smithsonian Institution**

General Statement of Purpose

Science advances when evidence and interpretations are verified or rejected according to the epistemology of the particular discipline engaged in the research. In the case of archaeology, the rules of evidence are largely subjective, each body of evidence is unique, and interpretations tend to be influenced to a significant degree by the idiosyncrasies of the investigator. These very real circumstances foster disagreements that are not easily resolved and there is no formal mechanism for arbitrating the disagreements beyond peer review of funding proposals and publications, neither of which is flawless. This all leads to divisiveness and polarization in regard to many controversial interpretations.

Nowhere within the discipline of archaeology have these unfortunate characteristics of our science been more apparent than in the debate over the archaeological evidence for the peopling of the Americas. Scholarly disagreement, debate, and promulgation of competing interpretations are beneficial to the discipline, but divisiveness and polarization are not.

This conference aims to convene scholars bearing a wide spectrum of views on the question of the peopling of the Americas for the purpose of furthering *reasonable, professional, constructive, and civil* dialogue toward improving our research methods, standards, and results.

A slate of eminent speakers will raise evidentiary and methodological issues in prepared presentations and these speakers will comprise a panel who will discuss issues broached in the papers. Subsequently, members of the audience will have the opportunity to participate in further discussion. Finally, post conference, members of the panel will prepare for dissemination a statement on the accomplishments of the conference.

Speakers are encouraged to address broad substantive issues, regional syntheses, or theory. They are asked not to rehash old presentations but to focus on topics that can further research efficacy beyond any particular site. The goal is to generate a higher level of confidence in the evidence and interpretations accounting for the peopling of the Americas.

Workshop Organization

The workshop is organized into three parts. Part I will be presentations and discussions of specific sites. The sites selected for discussion, were those sites that have yielded important information

about early human occupation of the Americas. These sites will be thoroughly evaluated and discussed. Part II is a presentation of models for the peopling of the Americas. Based on the evidence presented over the first two days, do these models make sense? What are their strengths and weaknesses based on the evidence? Part III will be a discussion of the rules of evidence. What evidence is needed to verify a human presence at an early site (artifacts, geology, dating).

Day 1 (February 14) Thursday

8:00-8:30 Welcome and Orientation (Mike Collins)

PART I: DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC SITES AND EVALUATION OF THE EVIDENCE
(Moderator: Mike Waters) Presentations will typically last 40 minutes followed discussion for the remainder of the time.

8:30-9:15 Introduction to Site-Specific Discussions, Rules of the Evidence
Genetics & Beringian Archaeology (Mike Waters & Ted Goebel)

9:15-10:00 Geoarchaeology and Geochronology: Factors and Premises Regarding
pre-11,000 ¹⁴C yr B.P. Humans in the New World (Tom Stafford)

10:00-10:20 Break

10:20-11:00 Schaefer site, Wisconsin--12,500 ¹⁴C yr B.P. (Dan Joyce)

11:00-11:40 Hebior & Mud Lake sites, Wisconsin—12,500 – 13,500 ¹⁴C yr B.P.
(Eileen Johnson)

11:40-12:00 Update on Manis Mastodon site, Washington—12,000 ¹⁴C yr B.P.
(Mike Waters)

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00-2:15 Discussion of 12,000 – 13,500 ¹⁴C yr B.P. sites along the Ice Margin

2:15- 2:55 Paisley Cave, Oregon—12,000 ¹⁴C yr B.P.
(Dennis Jenkins & Eske Willerslev)

2:55-4:00 Discussion of Paisley Cave

4:00-5:00 Paleoamerican Sites in South America (Ruth Gruhn)

5:00-7:00 Dinner
Dinner Presentation: Special presentation on the proposed Comet impact
in North America at about 11,000 ¹⁴C yr B.P. and its impact on people and
fauna. (Allen West and Jim Kennett)

Day 2 (February 15) Friday

8:00-8:40 Page-Ladson, Florida—12,500 ¹⁴C yr B.P. (Jim Dunbar)

8:40-9:20 Discussion of Page-Ladson

9:20-10:00 Cactus Hill, Virginia—16,000 ¹⁴C yr B.P. (Mike Johnson)

10:00-10:20 Break

10:20-11:00 Discussion of Cactus Hill

11:00-12:00 La Sena, Nebraska & Lovewell, Kansas sites—18,000 ¹⁴C yr B.P.
(Steve Holen)

12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:00-1:40	Discussion of La Sena & Lovewell
1:40-2:20	Topper site, South Carolina—15,000 to 50,000 ¹⁴ C yr B.P. (Al Goodyear)
2:20-3:00	Discussion of Topper site
3:00-3:20	Update on the Miles Point site, Delaware (Dennis Stanford)
3:20-3:40	Update on the Gault site, Texas (Mike Collins)
3:40-4:00	Update on the Buttermilk Creek site, Texas (Mike Waters)
4:00-4:20	Update on the Burnham Bison, Oklahoma (Don Wyckoff)
4:20-4:40	Update on Monte Verde I, (Mike Collins)
4:40-5:20	The View from Siberia (Andrei Tabarev)
5:20-7:20	Dinner Dinner Presentation: The Physical Anthropological data for Human Entry into the Americas (Doug Owsley)
7:30 – 9:30	Examination of artifacts from the Gault site, Buttermilk Creek site, Topper site, and other sites. Participants and Speaker-Participants are encouraged to bring artifacts for display this evening. The artifacts will be on display at the Gault Laboratory, Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory.

Day 3 (February 16) Saturday

PART II. THE MODELS—BASED ON THE SITE EVIDENCE PRESENTED HOW DOES THIS ALL FIT TOGETHER? (Moderator: Mike Collins) Speakers will present their viewpoints on a variety of topics and discuss how what they have heard over the last two days fits or does not fit their model.

8:00-9:00	The Case for a Late Human Entry Model (Gary Haynes & Stuart Fiedel) Presentation and Discussion.
9:00-10:00	The Case for an Early Human Entry Model (Mike Collins) Presentation and Discussion.
10:00-10:20	Break
10:20-11:10	The Pacific Coastal Route (Loren Davis) Presentation and Discussion.
11:10-12:00	The Atlantic Coastal Route (Dennis Stanford) Presentation and Discussion.
12:00-1:00	Lunch

PART III: GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE EVIDENCE, MODELS, AND THE RULES OF THE EVIDENCE (Moderators: Goodyear, Collins, Stanford, Waters, Goebel)

1:00-5:00 pm

General Discussion of sites, models, and the rules of evidence (site dating, geological context, and the evidence of human involvement at a site (artifacts and other remains).

Moderators:

The Moderators job is to:

- 1) Introduce the speakers
- 2) Keep the workshop on time
- 3) Keep the discussion going and not let the discussion get off track.

Part I: Waters

Part II: Collins

Part III: Goodyear, Collins, Stanford, Waters and Goebel