



The Santa Cruz Archaeological Society Newsletter— Fall 2023

Remembering Rob Edwards

October 6, 1938-May 17, 2023

Rob Edwards: My Teacher, My Mentor, My Friend

Rob Edwards was one of the early Bay Area CRM (Cultural Resource Management) Cowboy Archaeologists who came out of San Francisco State during the 1960s, as students of Adan Treganza. In 1971, he and his wife, Julie, and their two young children, Rebekah and Toby, moved to Soquel, California, after he and Julie were both hired at Cabrillo College, in nearby Aptos. Over the following decades, Rob built an archaeology program at Cabrillo which developed a reputation throughout California and beyond, giving his students rigorous training in the basics of the archaeological methods of survey, excavation, laboratory, and archival research, as part of a certificate program in Archaeology Technology, and as a portion of an Associate's Degree in Science in Archaeology Technology. Over the years, scores of primarily California students went through this program at all levels of their education, from high school to post Ph.D. Many of these students went on to become professional archaeologists working for government agencies and for private CRM firms. A few even started their own CRM companies. Some went on to teach archaeology at the college level.

In 2004, I attended a talk at the University of California (UC) Santa Cruz (UCSC) by professor and local forensic anthropologist, Alison Galloway. After the presentation, I stayed to ask Ms. Galloway for her advice on returning to college, with the intent of attending graduate school in anthropology/archaeology. She recommended the Cabrillo College Archaeology Technology Program. I started at Cabrillo that fall, when Rob was on sabbatical. As a full-time mom with two school-age children and a Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology from UC Santa Barbara I had never used, I was excited to return to school after 13 years of working nights and weekends in the restaurant industry. I thought it best to ease back into academia and jump start the old brain cells with just a couple of units, so I took Arche 113A and 113B, two single unit classes focusing on

federal and state CRM laws. These classes, taught by Dawn Duncan Hubbs, a former student of Rob's, were offered on weekends and did not conflict with my domestic duties. Rob had recently had surgery and Julie brought him by the class in his wheelchair one afternoon to say hello. Although we had spoken on the phone previously, this was the first time I had seen Rob in person. During spring of 2005, I enrolled in Arche 113C, the one-unit class where we attended the Society of California Archaeology (SCA) Annual Meeting in Sacramento, with Rob as the instructor. In April, my connections with the Cabrillo College Archaeology Technology Program led to my first real archaeology job – a test excavation in Gilroy with a local CRM company.



Field School at the Redman-Hirahara House-2005

That summer, I took all three field-archaeology classes taught by Rob and Charr Simpson-Smith. It was an intensive full-time program (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.) that, with one-week hiatus between each class, lasted all summer. The first class was survey, the second was excavation, and the third was laboratory. My mom watched my children so I could participate in this series of classes, which helped prepare me for work as a field archaeologist. Rob and Charr seemed to like me, partly because I was an older student (almost 40) and more experienced since I already had a Bachelor of Arts and had participated in a field school in 1989. The class was full, with 25 students. Later Rob told me that they really didn't want so many students in the class. Rob's classic *modus operandi* was, on the first day, to tell the students how hard the class would be and to be very strict and demanding the first few class meetings, so that the students who were not serious about taking the class would drop out. Rob and Charr were hoping some students would drop out so the class would be smaller. No one did. Also, if anyone missed one class, they would be dropped from the class. No one did. One student even came to school when he was sick because he didn't want to be removed from the roster. Some of us students covered for him and helped him with his work so he had an easier day.



Rob and TA Roger Findley at the Warehouse at the end of Excavation Field Class 2005



Students are also useful for pushing stuck vans. —Los Padres National Forest Survey Class 2007

We used the white Cabrillo College vans to get to our survey locations. I had heard that Rob was kind of a crazy driver, so I made an effort to ride with Charr or one of the teaching assistants. I guess at some point Rob noticed that I was avoiding riding in his van and one day when we were loading up, he looked me right in the eye and told me to get in his van. During that ride, I saw that he was a good driver and I was not afraid to ride with him after that. However, one day down at the Indians, in Los Padres National Forest west of King City, he decided to go off cross-country, through the grass and oak woodland landscape, and one of the students in the back seat hit the ceiling when we went over an especially big bump. Rob slowed down a little after that, but not very much.

During the excavation class, we were working at the Redman-Hirahara House in Watsonville. One of the students, a guy from Los Angeles, had gone kayaking at Elkhorn Slough over the weekend and had suffered severe sunburn. He showed up for class on Monday but was not doing well and ended up being physically ill at the site. He and another student were staying at the hotel next door and he told Rob he was sick and had to go to his hotel room. The student knew the consequences of missing the class but he just could not keep going. After class was over for the day, Rob went with the student's roommate back to the hotel room to check on him. Rob pushed into the room and he was lying on his bed in his skivvies, bright red! Rob said something like, "Wow, you really did get a bad sun burn. We'll see you tomorrow on site." Rob let him make up the missed time after the class ended, by cleaning equipment and putting all the tools away at the Cabrillo archaeology warehouse.



Rob capturing “Kodak Moments” at the 2006 Cabrillo Graduation

The following spring, I graduated Cabrillo with an Associate Science degree in Archaeology Technology. The graduates of the program received hard hats emblazoned with CCATP (Cabrillo College Archaeological Technology Program), so we would have them for future jobs doing archaeological monitoring on construction sites. We wore these hard hats during the graduation ceremony so we did not need a mortarboard, but were instructed to buy a tassel. When I asked Rob how we were going to attach the tassel to the hard hat, he looked at me with a totally straight face and said, “duct tape.” He had a great sense of humor and I loved his jokes. He was well known for his puns, too.

Rob encouraged me to attend my first Santa Cruz Archaeological Society (SCAS) meetings in 2005. I had not known that Santa Cruz had an archaeological society. When they were looking for people to do archaeological surveys, I volunteered. It was a great way to get experience and to get to know some of the other people who were active in the society, like Lyn O’Niel, the President, and Judy Husted, the Secretary, both former students of Rob’s. I learned a lot about doing small surveys from Lyn and Judy. Lyn recruited me to join the board of the society, and I became the Membership Coordinator in 2007, then the Vice President in 2012, a role in which I continue today.

Rob Edwards was one of the most influential people of my archaeological career. He recommended me for an internship with Sally Morgan, Archaeologist and Senior Environmental Planner at UCSC, who got me involved in the archaeology of the Cowell Lime Works,

my Master of Arts (M.A.) thesis site, located on the campus of UCSC. Rob and Sally both gave employment recommendations. I worked for Rob doing odd jobs at the end of his Cabrillo teaching career, after I had finished the Archaeology Technology Program but was still taking some courses at Cabrillo. Rob and I lived about a quarter mile apart, and would sometimes carpool to SCAS meetings and events, and I helped at the archaeology warehouse many times on special projects.

Rob encouraged me to apply to Sonoma State to attend graduate school and study Historical Archaeology under Adrian Praetzelis, and he wrote a recommendation for my application. While I was in graduate school, he regularly inquired as to how school was going, how I liked my classes, professors, etc. He asked me to send him a copy of my thesis when it was done, and came to my celebration party when I finished my thesis, organized by his wonderful wife, Julie, for whom I had also worked during school breaks.

After I received my M.A., Rob hired me to do monitoring work for him on a couple of projects in downtown Santa Cruz, and to process and research the artifacts I recovered. When he decided not to do small projects any more, he referred potential clients to me, but forgot to tell me, and I was a bit confused when I received the first couple of emails. I called him and he said, “oh yea, I’m sending my clients to you.” Those small projects referred by Rob, along with consulting work at the Cowell Lime Works for UC Santa Cruz Physical Planning and Construction, were the start of my own small consulting company. Whenever I had a question or a problem, I could always call Rob and ask his opinion and advice. I wanted to hire him but he would not let me pay him for his help. When I had a chance, I would give him a gift card for his birthday or a jar of homemade blackberry jam at Christmastime. He knew the history of just about every site in Santa Cruz County and he knew just about every person who had worked in CRM in the Santa Cruz area, as well as most in Monterey and Santa Clara counties, too. Once in a while, I came across an unknown name on an old site record or a report and I could ask Rob about the person. He almost always knew who it was, and most of the time, they were one of his former students.

Rob Edwards founded the SCAS in 1972 as a means of sharing archaeological research with the wider non-academic community. Micki Ryan was the first President. Over the years, membership has ranged from around 50 to as many as 200, but has generally averaged around 100 people, primarily students, professional archaeol-

ogists, and lay people. The society continues to hold monthly speaker presentations, although these were done via Zoom during the pandemic. SCAS returned to in-person talks this past September. Rob stayed involved with the society until he passed away in May 2023, offering leadership and advice whenever needed.

Rob encouraged members of SCAS to be actively involved within the community concerning archaeology-related issues. During the early 1980s, the City of Santa Cruz considered permitting a major development project on Mission Hill. Under the direction of the Cabrillo College Archaeology Program, SCAS members, along with Cabrillo students, participated in multiple years of salvage excavations at the site of the “Lost Adobe,” a previously unknown building that was once part of the Santa Cruz Mission complex. In cooperation with the local historical society, SCAS and other concerned citizens pushed for changes to the city’s planning department development procedures in the Mission Hill area, within the city’s other historic neighborhoods, and in the rest of the city. Additionally, as one of the founders of the Adobe Coalition, SCAS was instrumental in the support of the preservation of the historic and archaeological resources surrounding Mission Santa Cruz. Through the cooperation between this group and the staff of the California State Parks, among others,

the establishment of the Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park was possible.



CA-SCR-20 Lunch Lecture—1982 Field School. Photo from Rob Edwards Collection.

In 1981, the City of Scotts Valley, for construction of a parking lot for a city hall building, deliberately bulldozed a very old and significant precontact site (CA-SCR-177) which dated to approximately 10,000 years Before Present. Rob and other SCAS members were at on the forefront of the fight to preserve the remainder of the site and to force the city to comply with cultural resource laws. In partnership with the Scotts Valley Historical Society and the SCA, members of SCAS raised funds, educated the public, went to meetings, and performed other types of political and

civic activism. When all else failed, SCAS initiated litigation against the City of Scotts Valley.

Due to previous connections with local heritage and conservation, the Santa Cruz courts accepted SCAS as a stakeholder in this legal case that lasted three years. In 1983, Scotts Valley offered, and the society accepted, a \$27,500 out-of-court settlement. This money was used for background research and data analysis. Furthermore, SCAS recruited a group of volunteer professional archaeologists to lead a salvage excavation and to assist with the study of the resulting data. Professional and avocational archaeologists from all over the state, including more than 230 students and faculty from more than 10 colleges and universities, and more than 125 people each day during a four-day period gave their time and labor to assist with this large salvage project. Enough data were produced to verify the age and the importance of the site.

The SCAS raised money for special projects and has awarded many scholarships and student grants over the years. In 2016, the Society established the “Lost Adobe Fund” to support the ongoing study of the artifact collections and archival materials from the 1980s Lost Adobe excavations on Mission Hill, furthering their long-term obligations for the stewardship of local cultural resources. In 2021, Rob Edwards spearheaded the efforts to redesign and modernize the Scotts Valley Site display located at City Hall, and he was instrumental in raising \$20,000 to fund this endeavor, a project he continued working on until his death.

The SCAS, under the point leadership of Rob Edwards and other key individuals, has received various awards during its 50 years. The Santa Cruz and Scotts Valley Historical Societies, the Santa Cruz County Board of

Supervisors, and the SCA have all recognized SCAS for its work in historic preservation and its significant efforts toward the conservation and care of Santa Cruz County's cultural heritage. Its members have volunteered on many projects in northern California, helping to preserve our state's valuable archaeological and historical heritage.

All of this is possible because of the work established by my teacher, my mentor, my friend ...Rob Edwards.

Pat Paramoure



Above: Rob at the Bolcoff Adobe, 1988 Field School. Courtesy Rob Edwards Collection

Left: Field School Student sketch of Rob, July 2, 2004

Below: Jenny "outlining" Rob to determine his "wingspan". July 2, 2004 (All photos courtesy Mary Gerbic unless otherwise cited.)



The Man who Guided the Course

Like many others, I would not have become an archaeologist without Rob Edwards, Charr Smith, and the Cabrillo College Archaeological Technology Program (CCATP). Rob's no-nonsense, tough-love teaching approach - mixed with his nurturing nature and the largest heart filled with compassion - prepared his students for further academia, a job in archaeology, and generally fostered them to excel in their potential.

My story with Rob and the CCATP began by chance in a grocery store around 1991. I was in 5th grade, and my mom was waiting in the checkout line and began talking to a stranger: that stranger was Rob. Their conversation turned to archaeology and the CCATP; my mom mentioned that her son was interested in archaeology. Rob, being the person he is, told her he would mail me a packet full of archaeological and CCATP information. True to his word, that packet came in the mail.

Shortly thereafter, my mom took me to Cabrillo College's career fair day to visit the CCATP's booth. This large event was held at Cabrillo's football field and included various departments and programs. The CCATP had a few of their sifting-screens with soil and mock artifacts for the public to experience. I remember the joy sifting the screens and uncovering artifacts. Besides being good dirty fun, it was confirmation to a kid that this profession really does exist, and was available to learn if I wanted.

Rob's no-nonsense style of teaching became known to me about seven years later. In 1998, as a senior in high school, I was able to attend Rob's Introduction to Archaeology class. I waited years for this opportunity. The class was held weeknights and included three mandatory field trips scheduled on weekends. Towards the end of the semester, I missed our third and final trip; I arrived at the Cabrillo parking lot in the morning about five or ten minutes too late. The CCATP vans were long gone. For anyone who took his classes with fieldtrips you might remember Rob saying, "If you arrive late, you'll see our exhaust fumes." He was not joking.

The next class meeting I walked through the door, sat down, and Rob looked at me and said, "Sorry, Robbie, you missed the fieldtrip." He then said something to the effect that I'll need to retake the class next semester; but in the meantime, I would receive an incomplete grade and could go home. I was hurt, but not devastated. I retook Rob's introductory archaeology class during spring 2000. It was easier the second time around; I passed with good marks, not the best, but good. My next step was to take Rob's field school.

For those that know, Rob and Charr's field school did not mess around. It was hard, sometimes intense, rewarding work. I am grateful for the summer of 2000; our survey class was in the Hunter-Liggett/Los Padres area, and excavation at CA-SCR-20 in Bonny Doon. Rob's instructions to "take good notes" were hammered on the daily. His requirement to always wear a brimmed hat and long-sleeve shirt in the field – no matter the weather – was strictly enforced. There was at least one student who thought it was going to be a sort of summer vacation playing in the dirt; they did not last long and dropped out.

Forward to 9/11, 2001: I arrived at Cabrillo in the morning after watching the terrorists' attacks. Classes were being held amidst everyone's feelings of shock, sadness, fear, and anger. Televisions were placed in the main quad outside so students could see the developments as they walked between classes. My first stop was to see Rob. I was not enrolled in his class at that time, but I needed to talk to him about my incomplete grade and possible future work. I sat in the back of the room. I will never forget how he opened his lecture and consoled the class with words of "on a day like today, it can be comforting to study the past." He was right, and at that moment, Rob offered comfort.

We met in his office after that class. We talked about the terrorists' events, what might be our country's response, and we talked about my incomplete grade and a possible job working with the CCATP. He assured me he would change that grade on my record to a passing one. Rob never changed that grade to passing. In fact,

the opposite occurred, that incomplete grade changed to a “fail” due to the length of time which had passed. To this day, it is the only “F” grade that is marked permanently on my student record. I look back on it now and love the irony that the only permanent Fail grade I received in my life is in archaeology. Years later I spoke to Rob about this; we both had a laugh.

Rob gave me my first paying archaeology job during the summer of 2002 for the excavation field school at



**Rob overseeing excavation at the San Francisco Presidio.
July 25, 2007**



Rob, Robbie and Charr at the 2019 Sacramento Society for California Conference. Photo courtesy Robbie Gleaton

Año Nuevo State Park (CA-SMA-238). During one of those workdays Rob asked me to move his truck. This was not a problem until I got in and realized it was a stick shift. I got out and told him that I was sorry, but I did not know how to drive a stick. He just looked at me for a second in sort of dumbfound disbelief, but said nothing and moved the truck himself. Fast forward to the last day of the course when the class was back at Cabrillo’s campus and Rob was giving a final lecture about job skills. He called me out for not knowing how to drive a stick shift.

Thanks to Rob and Charr, I managed to complete the CCATP with an Associate of Science in archaeological technology. From there I went to Sonoma State University and received a Bachelor of Arts in anthropology, then a Master of Arts in Cultural Resources Management. I would occasionally see Rob and Charr when they visited Sonoma with their class, or at the Information Center doing their own research. Seeing them together at SSU, or at a SCA conference, always brought me joy.

The last time I saw Rob in person was in 2019 during the Society’s annual conference in Sacramento. Rob and Charr sat with me at my newly formed company’s booth during the silent auction to eat tacos and catch-up. Rob joked somewhat that given his age this conference would be the last he attended (but it was not!). Rob and I would talk in the years later through our work with the SCAS. His last big project, the display at the Scotts Valley City Hall for CA-SCR-177, is ongoing, but will be completed.

The morning after I learned of Rob’s death, I thought about a poem he entered in the SCAS’ newsletter (Edwards 2013). Published in the

1970s by Theodora Kroeber, the poem is about Ishi and his death (Kroeber 1973). I thought that day about the poem, and how Rob enjoyed it.

Rob gave me so much that I can never repay. He taught me self-discipline. He taught me the importance of recording the stories of others, including those of my own family. He taught me to wear a hat and long-sleeved shirt in the field always, to be on time always, and to take good notes! He encouraged me to do better and reach my potential. He showed me I could continue my education in archaeology, and that in the end it is possible to make a living doing this “work.” He introduced me to the SCAs and took me to my first annual meeting in 2001 in Modesto. He gave me my first archaeology job. He guided me.

Lastly, I remember Rob once telling our class something like: “The ones that aren’t the best students are typically the ones I see that go on to be professional archaeologists.” I absolutely was not the best student. Thank you for everything, Rob. My life is in ruins, and I am forever grateful.

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References

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Kroeber, Theodora

1973 Poem for the Living. Theodora Kroeber Papers, 1881-1983 (bulk 1960-1979); BANC MSS 69/145c; The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.



Rob giving the morning talk to the crew chiefs and class—2002 Año Nuevo. Photo courtesy Robbie Gleaton.



Rob speaking to field class, 1988, possibly at the Castro Adobe. Photo from Rob Edwards Collection



(Left) Rob and Diane Gifford-Gonzalez at the Live Oak Grange SCAS talk, Dec 14, 2017. (Below)

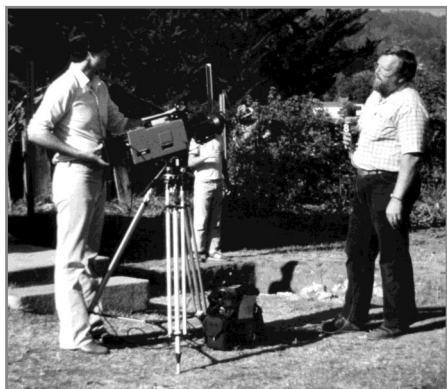
Rob on the last day of Field School, August 25, 2005.



Left: CCATP Graduating Class—June 2, 2006.

Lower Left: Rob being interviewed at the Scotts Valley Site (unknown date—1983?) Photo from Rob Edwards Collection.

Rob Edwards and Laurel Davenport, Open Hole Day, SF Presidio, July 25, 2007.





Poem for the Living

By Theodora Kroeber

Pretext: Recently during a Map Sale Outreach at the Cabrillo Farmers Market, I talked with a person from Corralitos named Norma Johnson. In our discussion she mentioned a poem that she had seen about *Ishi* written by Theodora Kroeber. I asked if she would send it to me and she did. I thought others in the Society might enjoy it as I did. It was published in 1973 and was evidently very popular at that time although I don't remember seeing it. Enjoy, *Rob Edwards*

*When I am dead,
Cry for me a little.*

*Think of me sometimes,
But not too much.*

*It is not good for you
Or your wife or your husband
Or your children
To allow your thoughts to dwell
Too long on the dead.*

*Think of me now and again
As I was in life
At some moment which is pleasant to recall,
But not for long.*

*Leave me in peace
As I shall leave you, too, in peace.*

*While you live,
Let your thoughts be with the living.*



2023 Speaker Lineup

We are planning to meet at 7:30 this fall, “hybrid”, with in-person and Zoom attendance possible. For more information, and directions for how to RSVP for meetings, visit the SCAS website:

<http://www.santacruzarchsociety.org/calendar>

RESERVATION ONLY & SPACE LIMITED, WITH PREFERENCE TO CURRENT SCAS MEMBERS.

- Oct 12 Pat Paramoure, GEI Consultants—A Tribute to Rob Edwards
- Nov 9 Kristina Roper Graber, Cal State Fresno
- Dec 14 TBD

2024

- Jan 11 Jim Delgado, SEARCH, Inc.
- Feb 8 John Schlagheck, Dudek
- March 14 Julie Swift, Ventura Arch Society *Zoom*

Archaeological Society Business

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