



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER • OCT 2023

QUATERNARY RESEARCH CENTER

From the QRC Director

BY SARA GONZALEZ

Welcome!

As we head into a new academic year I want to highlight a couple exciting developments within the QRC. In addition to growing our membership over the past year and adding local researchers to our ranks, we were able to award over \$28,000 in research funds to an array of projects.

Thanks to Brian Atwater and Ron Sletten, the QRC and the Subduction Reading Group gathered on June 8th for a paddle of the Niawiakum River. Taking advantage of the low tides, our flotilla of canoes and kayaks got an up close (and muddy!) tour of geological evidence for Cascadia earthquakes and tsunamis along an arm of Willapa Bay.

We were joined by a number of ESS students, members of the Shoalwater Bay Tribe, and local researchers and agency professionals for a five hour paddle followed by milkshakes and burgers at a local burger spot. It was an excellent day to be on the water and aside from our struggles in the mud, everyone made new connections and got to see some exciting geology and archaeology along the river. Brian's follow-up report is included in this newsletter.

Finally, I hope to see everyone at our upcoming **Welcome Back Luncheon + Open House** on October 19th, 2023 from 12 - 2pm in the QRC main conference room. Be sure to RSVP if you can and feel free to bring friend, family, and new colleagues!

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Willapa Bay field trip to stratigraphic evidence for Cascadia earthquakes

BY BRIAN ATWATER

The past occurrence of great Cascadia earthquakes and attending tsunamis gained credence in the late 1980s from geological evidence for sudden lowering of coastal land in Washington and Oregon. Examples were initially reported from the Niawiakum River, a sinuous arm of Willapa Bay, Washington. The Niawiakum was visited last year by four dozen scientists and engineers from the national meeting of the Seismological Society of America. A local group of 26 persons, with financial support from the Quaternary Research Center, made much the same trip on June 8, 2023.

The QRC-supported group viewed stratigraphic evidence for seven times of sudden subsidence in the past 3,500 years. They also examined sand layers from a wave train of a Cascadia tsunami of 1700 C.E.

Earth scientists, archaeologists, foresters, land-use planners, and a fluid-mechanical engineer made up most of the QRC-supported group. UW participants hailed from the QRC and three UW departments—Anthropology, Earth & Space Sciences, and Civil & Environmental Engineering. Non-UW affiliations included the U.S. Forest Service, Washington State Parks, and the Shoalwater Bay Tribe.

Incentive for the QRC-supported trip came in part from a student-led “Subduction zone reading group” that met most Tuesday mornings during the 2022–2023 academic year. Student participants in these meetings received two quarterly credits in the ESS 590 series.

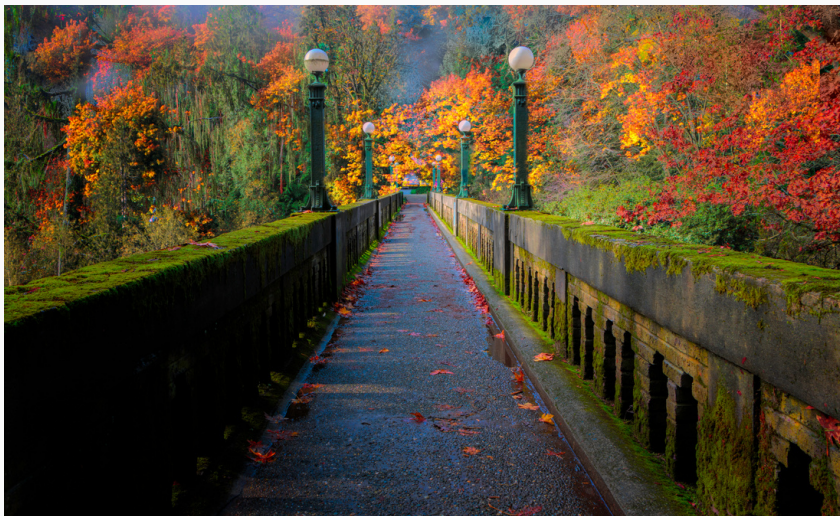
Both the trip and the reading group attracted postdocs from an NSF-funded project that aims to make Northwest coastal communities more resilient to natural hazards. These postdocs had been applying, with having seen it first-hand, geological estimates of land-level change and tsunami inundation. The QRC-supported field trip partly fixed this disconnect.





New QRC Reading & Writing Groups

To help facilitate our members' ability to connect and work with one another, this fall the QRC will be sponsoring Quaternary Reading & Writing Groups. We encourage members to apply for funds to support the formation and meeting of small reading and writing groups. We'll be accepting new applications each term and encourage each of you to either form or consider joining a group. Please see the call for applications for more details at <https://qrc.uw.edu/research/reading-writing-groups/>.



Nominate New Members

As a reminder, I want to encourage you to nominate your fellow peers, students, and new colleagues for membership in the QRC. In addition to growing our connected community, membership entails access to funding opportunities, support for reading and writing groups, among other benefits. Nominations can be sent to the QRC Director (gonzalsa@uw.edu) or the QRC Administrator, Erin Williamson (qrc@uw.edu).

QRC Luncheon + Open House

Join us Thursday, October 19th, 2023 at 12:00 pm in the QRC main conference room for a Welcome Back lunch and open house.

If you have an idea for a field trip or would like to organize a similar event, please apply for the QRC Director's Discretionary Fund!



QRC Semi-Annual Grant Awardees

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023

Ben Marwick, Geoarchaeological Research of sediment samples from Angkor, Cambodia, \$6,144

Brian Atwater, Willapa Bay field trip to stratigraphic evidence for Cascadia earthquakes, \$1,450

Zdena Porras & Marcos Llobera, Late pre-Hispanic and colonial era roads in Bogota (Colombia), \$5,000

Paige K. Wilson Deibel & Caroline Strömberg, Estella Leopold Collection and Lab Management Project, \$8,546

Hollis Miller & Ben Fitzhugh, Sitkalidak Archaeological Youth Camp 2023, \$7,918



The QRC has modest resources to support small research proposals, visiting speakers and other activities that promote interdisciplinary Quaternary scholarship at the University of Washington.

The deadline to submit proposals to qrc@uw.edu is November 8, 2023 by 5:00 pm.

Semi-annual grant proposals should be sent to qrc@uw.edu.

Discretionary and Visitor funding requests may be submitted to the QRC director directly and should be clearly labeled as “discretionary” requests.

