

**2022 David A. Fredrickson
Lifetime Achievement Award Nominee**

MARK Q. SUTTON

Submitted by:

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The SCA has declared that “The David A. Fredrickson Lifetime Achievement Award is given for cumulative contributions to California archaeology that have spanned a lifetime and ... [is] therefore reserved for the elder members of our profession.” Our choice for this prestigious award in 2022 is a person who surely has contributed greatly to California archaeology during the past five decades. Our nominee is someone who has worked incessantly and doggedly on behalf of California archaeology and the SCA for a more than half a century and, with the exception of his red hair becoming gray, has weathered the ups and downs with his humor intact—all the while accumulating a massive trove of publications. The individual we honor is the eminent scholar and Professor Emeritus, Mark Q. Sutton, a member of this august organization since 1972.

Mark grew up in the desert, having a father who worked for the National Park Service in Death Valley. Archaeology fascinated him from an early age, and in 1968 when he was still in high school and his family had relocated to Lancaster, he began assisting Roger Robinson of Antelope Valley College (AVC) with archaeological excavations in the western Mojave Desert. During those years, under Robinson’s guidance, he participated in numerous archaeological excavations and received his A.A. degree in 1971. Subsequently, he earned a B.A. in 1973 and an M.A. in 1977, both in anthropology, from CSU Sacramento, and a Ph.D. in anthropology in 1987 from UC Riverside. He has taught at a number of community colleges and universities, but his longest running position was at CSU Bakersfield (CSUB) from 1987 to 2007, at which time he retired as Emeritus Professor of Anthropology. Currently, he holds the position of Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of San Diego, College of Arts and Sciences.

Since 1976, his professional work as an archaeologist has been at Edwards Air Force Base (1976-1977), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Barstow Resource Area Office (1978-1983), the Archaeological Research Unit at UC Riverside (1983-1987), the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) at CSUB (1987-2007), and at a variety of other agencies and

private companies. During his time with the BLM and throughout his graduate school days, he worked on numerous archaeological projects, including assisting fellow graduate students in their excavations in the Mojave Desert, such as Nopah Cave, Afton Canyon, Indian Hill Rockshelter, Rose Spring, and the Whisky Flat Pronghorn Drive Corral, among others. In his own research, he has worked at hundreds of sites in many parts of California and the Great Basin, most notably in the southern San Joaquin Valley (SSJV) and the Mojave Desert.

In 1983, Mark enrolled at UC Riverside to work on his Ph.D. under the direction of Phil Wilke. He received his Ph.D. in 1987, whereupon he was asked to become a one-year replacement for an Anthropology Department faculty member at CSUB. He took on the struggling department and almost single-handedly built the Archaeology Program into a premier enterprise known throughout California and beyond for its academic and cultural resource management (CRM) excellence. Within a year, Mark took over the inactive CRM program on campus, then known as the Cultural Resource Facility (later renamed the CAR), turning it into a lucrative training ground for students, concurrently generating resources for the program. Mark's enthusiasm and zeal for archaeology attracted many students; as a result, by 1989 he was offered a permanent position as a tenure track professor at CSUB.

By this time, he had also started turning the bureaucratic wheels for the creation of a graduate program in Anthropology. At the same time, he hired his fellow UCR graduates Bob Parr and Robert Yohe to help with the burgeoning CRM work that for years generated nearly a million dollars annually in revenue. The first formal graduate students came on board in the early 1990s, and Mark established a research agenda that included the excavation and analysis of various archaeological sites in the SSJV, in addition to providing access to numerous archaeological collections at AVC, CSUB, and elsewhere to allow students the experience of analyzing previously excavated sites in the SSJV and Mojave Desert. For the majority of these sites, Mark was adamant about publishing the site reports as monographs and articles in various venues, often giving students lead authorship even if he actually wrote most of it!

During his time at CSUB, Mark's appointments included Director of the CAR, Director of the Museum of Anthropology, General Education Committee Chair, Coordinator for the Master's Programs in Anthropology and Behavioral Science, Coordinator for the SSJV Information Center, and Outside Reviewer for other CSUs. He served as chair or committee member for numerous theses, including two of us (Jill Gardner and Audry Williams). He received numerous grants for archaeological research projects, most of which included student participation. In addition, he carefully shepherded students through the process of writing and presenting field and research projects at almost every SCA Annual Meeting during the two decades he was at CSUB. Under Mark's tutelage, the contingent of CSUB students at SCA meetings was usually the largest of any other California college or university. In addition to presenting a voluminous number of papers himself at these meetings, Mark has chaired many symposia over the years, and continues to do so today.

As well as his membership in the SCA, Mark has long maintained memberships in the Society for American Archaeology, the Pacific Coast Archaeological Society, the Great Basin Anthropological Association, and the Register of Professional Archaeologists, among others. In 1997, he received the SCA's Martin A. Baumhoff Special Achievement Award for his stellar editorship of the *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology (JCGBA)* from 1986 to 2001, bringing that journal back to life. In the 1997 *SCA Newsletter* (31[2]:8), it states that when Mark took over the journal, it "was seriously behind in its publication schedule, a grave concern to its readers, writers, and staff." It further notes that "As a result of his resolve and Herculean

effort,” he succeeded in getting the journal “back on schedule for the first time in many years.” In his fervent quest for getting back on schedule, he once humorously told one of us (Jill) that if people did not start submitting papers, he was going to publish his baby pictures, “and no one wants that!”

In addition to the many papers presented at professional meetings, Mark has authored a great number of books, monographs, textbooks, and articles on archaeology and anthropology. His publication list (as of summer 2021) is included as Attachment 1 to this award nomination.

As a testament to his passion for engendering student participation and encouraging collegiality, the following presents testimonials from the authors of this nomination. In addition, Attachment 2 includes tributes from some of his most ardent student admirers over the years. These tributes are an excellent way to measure Mark’s huge success as a teacher, mentor, and ultimately colleague and friend to the multitude of students who deeply appreciated his interest in them as budding (and future) professional archaeologists and as people he cared about.

Jill Gardner: I first met Mark in 1993 at a data sharing meeting in southern California, which I had attended with a mutual friend (it was my first such meeting). I knew of him from another mutual friend who taught archaeology at the community college I had attended. After we were introduced, Mark asked me about my academic plans. I said I was currently enrolled in an anthropology program at a local university (which I had already decided wasn’t the right fit for me), but that I really wanted to be at CSUB, especially for the chance to work on the *JCGBA* and to actually *do* archaeology. He grinned at me and said, “Yeah, we take students from that school [pregnant pause] ... takes us a while to retrain them!” Right then and there, I knew I would be going to CSUB, because I could tell we had a similar sense of humor and because I was aware of the excellent reputation of the anthropology program there. He strongly recommended that I start right away, and I enrolled shortly thereafter, whereupon I earned my B.A. and M.A. in the following four years. Due largely to his influence, I later earned my Ph.D. at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. As a direct result of his encouragement and support over the years since 1993, I became an editor for the *JCGBA*, *California Archaeology*, the *SCA Newsletter*, and *Proceedings of the Society for California Archaeology*. He was (and still is) a mentor, colleague, and friend to me. My continuing academic association with Mark (we have a number of joint publications) and social interactions with him and his beautiful wife Melinda over the years have been a great source of joy for me.

Robert Yohe: I met Mark Sutton for the first time in 1980 when he was working as a part-time lecturer in Anthropology at Cal State San Bernardino. I was an anthropology undergraduate at the time and was taking his Prehistory of North America class in the evenings as I was working full time during the days. At the time, Mark and I just “clicked” and we shared both a warped sense of humor and a love of archaeology. It was because we got on so well that he invited me to participate in my very first archaeological excavation at Denning Springs Rockshelter in the northern Mojave Desert just south of Death Valley. Before the experience, I had planned on pursuing a career in paleoanthropology, but a combination of Mark’s enthusiasm for California desert archaeology and the experience at Denning Springs changed the course of my career. In addition to becoming good friends and colleagues, we both went on to graduate school at UC Riverside to pursue our doctorates in California and Great Basin prehistory under the direction of Phil Wilke. Our friendship and many collaborative research efforts have continued over the next 30 years. I can honestly say that without Mark’s early tutelage and encouragement, I would have gone in a completely different direction in anthropology. It was Mark’s early influence that set me on the journey that became my life’s work.

Michael Moratto: Mark Sutton first blipped my radar in the mid-1970s, and we have been colleagues in California archaeology ever since. Among our shared interests are peopling of the Americas, prehistory of southern California and the San Joaquin Valley, and paleoenvironmental change over time. His contributions to the field—decades of university teaching, mentoring, extensive field research, CRM work in academic and private sectors, and a prodigious output of published books and articles—have been nothing short of astonishing. Rare are the living archaeologists who might rival Mark in terms of professional accomplishments. His selection by the SCA to receive the David A. Fredrickson Lifetime Achievement Award is a no-brainer and long overdue. He has my full and hearty endorsement.

Audry Williams: I transferred as an anthropology major to CSUB in the mid-1990s, and at the time I had not yet taken any archaeological courses and had only been a resident of California for about five years. My first archaeology field class was the one and only time that CSUB offered Introduction to Kern County Archaeology. The class was perfect to introduce this Jersey Girl to California archaeology. I continued to take classes in archaeology, and it became clear this was the path for me. Mark soon told me I had a knack for archaeology and encouraged me to go onto graduate school to ensure I could have a career in archaeology. I did just that and earned a Master's degree from CSUB. Along the way, Mark's influence and support have been invaluable. Not only did he instill in me a great foundation in archaeology, he encouraged me to go out into the world and make my mark in the field of archaeology, as well as providing me with a lifelong friendship. I essentially have had two jobs in archaeology, one with CAR at CSUB and my current job with Southern California Edison (SCE). I first conducted work for SCE under the employment of CAR, and eventually Mark encouraged me to apply for a job at SCE, and it is likely that will be my job until I retire. I am only one of many students who have gone on to have great careers in archaeology due to Mark's influence and support. Mark has spent a lifetime of contributing to California archaeology as well as influencing others to do the same. As such, he absolutely should receive the 2022 David A. Fredrickson Lifetime Achievement Award.

Shelly Davis-King: My association with Mark is not so up close and personal as the others, but we have interacted at SCA meetings for at least four decades. I paid special attention in the 1980s and 1990s because of his intense and dedicated nurturing of his students, and his understanding of how important it is to publish, share, publish, and share. He has diligently supplied every remote reference I ever asked for, has been collegial at every turn, and over all, has a welcoming smile and twinkle in his eye when he makes contact at a meeting. As a fellow ginger, I loved his joviality (that twinkle!) and a rather odd and dry sense of humor. I wish I could say we have worked together, but we have not, as I am sure I would have benefited from his ability to communicate what is important. It is long overdue for Mark Q. Sutton to receive this award.

Given the testimonials presented herein, along with his list of publications and student accolades (Attachments 1 and 2), there is no doubt that Mark Q. Sutton distinctly deserves the David A. Fredrickson Lifetime Achievement Award. Mark's qualifications far exceed the SCA's criteria for this award.

Attachment 1

Mark Q. Sutton List of Publications

Coordinated and Compiled by Michael J. Moratto and Jill K. Gardner

This list of Mark Q. Sutton's publications is likely not entirely all-inclusive—or even completely accurate in some cases that were beyond our control—due to the sheer number of them over the past nearly five decades. As one of us (MJM) aptly put it, “Mark has published so many books and articles . . . if I missed anything, it must have been written at 2:61 a.m. on a July 32nd and printed in Outer Mongolia. Does our friend EVER sleep?” We did the best we could putting this list together without the ability to consult with the honoree and thereby ruining the surprise. Our sincere apologies to Mark (and his co-authors) for any errors or omissions.

The list is in order by (1) Sutton as sole author, chronologically; (2) Sutton as lead author in order by number of co-authors and then alphabetically; and (3) Sutton as a secondary author, in order by number of co-authors and then alphabetically. The list covers the years between 1977 and the first half of 2021.

Sutton as Sole Author

Sutton, Mark Q. 1977. *The Archaeological Concept of Field House*. Master's thesis, California State University, Sacramento.

Sutton, Mark Q. 1977. “Antelope as a Resource in Aboriginal Antelope Valley.” *Kern County Archaeological Society Journal* 1:5-8.

Sutton, Mark Q. 1978. “A Series of Discoidals from Northern San Diego County, California.” *The Journal of California Anthropology* 5(2):266-270. doi:10.2307/20778619.

Sutton, Mark Q. 1979. “Three Baked Clay Figurines from the Antelope Valley, California.” *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* 1(2):367-369.

Sutton, Mark Q. 1979. “Archaeological Investigations at Lan-765: A Surface Site in the Antelope Valley, California.” *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* 15(4):35-47.

Sutton, Mark Q. 1979. “Archaeological Investigations at Ker-696: An Early Site in the Antelope Valley, California.” *Archaeological Survey Association Journal* 3(1):23-30.

Sutton, Mark Q. 1979. “Archaeological Investigations at Lan-771.” *Archaeological Survey Association Journal* 3(1):11-22.

Sutton, Mark Q. 1980. “A Pitted Boulder Site in the Western Mojave Desert.” *La Pintura* 7(2):10.

Sutton, Mark Q. 1980. *Archaeological Investigations at Antelope School (Lan-720): An Historic Site in the Antelope Valley, California*. San Bernardino County Museum Association Quarterly 27(3).

Sutton, Mark Q. 1980. *A Class 2 Archaeological Survey of a Portion of Stoddard Valley*. Bureau of Land Management, Barstow.

Sutton, Mark Q. 1980. “Some Aspects of Kitanemuk Prehistory.” *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* 2(2):214-225.

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- Sutton, Mark Q. 1984. "The Productivity of *Pinus monophylla* and Modeling Great Basin Subsistence Strategies." *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* 6(2):240-246.
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- Sutton, Mark Q. 1986. "Warfare and Expansion: An Ethnohistoric Perspective on the Numic Spread." *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* 8(1):65-82.
- Sutton, Mark Q. 1986. *Archaeological Investigations at the Owl Canyon Site (CA-SBR-3801), Mojave Desert, California*. Salinas, CA: Coyote Press Archives of California Prehistory No. 9.
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- Sutton, Mark Q. 1988. "Obsidian Analyses in the Mojave Desert, California: Results, Cautions, and Comments." In *Obsidian Dates IV*, edited by Clement W. Meighan and Janet Scalise, 51-63. Los Angeles: University of California Institute of Archaeology Monograph No. 24.
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- Sutton, Mark Q. 1988. "Test Excavations at CA-RIV-2827." In *Archaeological Investigations at CA-RIV-1179, CA-RIV-2823, and CA-RIV-2827, La Quinta, Riverside County, California*, edited by Mark Q. Sutton and Philip J. Wilke, 21-35. Salinas, CA: Coyote Press Archives of California Prehistory No. 20.
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Attachment 2

Student Accolades for Mark Q. Sutton

*The Society for California Archaeology
David A. Fredrickson Lifetime Achievement Award
2022 Nominee: Mark Q. Sutton*

Compiled by Audry Williams

The following accolades are merely a representation of Mark's students of the past few decades. We are sure that many of the students not included here would compose similar tributes if we had been able to contact them. What these particular students do represent is a cross-section from the mid-1980s, 1990s, and 2000s, during the height of popularity of the anthropology/archaeology and cultural resource management programs at CSUB.

To the Award Committee:

Mark Sutton has been a mentor, friend, and colleague to me since I enrolled in one of his classes at California State University, Bakersfield in 1992. I already possessed a Master's in Cultural Anthropology and was interested in obtaining an accreditation in Anthropological Archaeology. Mark suggested that I might be best served by applying to University of California, Santa Barbara, to pursue a Doctorate in Archaeology. Following his guidance, I was accepted to the UCSB doctoral program and successfully completed the degree in 2004.

Since that time, Mark and I have maintained ongoing personal and professional relations. Insights gained from these interactions have fostered fruitful research ideas and resulted in the personal publication of journal articles and a book currently submitted to Springer Nature press on the "Maritime Prehistory of Northeast Asia."

I can think of no one more deserving of this award than Mark Q. Sutton and wish to support his nomination for this award without reservation.

Respectfully,

Jim Cassidy, M.A., M.P.A., Ph.D.
Chair of Maritime History and Archaeology
Maritime Museum of San Diego
Cell: (661) 406-0605



Society for California Archaeology

Awards Committee

cc: Audry Williams, Senior Archaeologist, Environmental Services

August 11, 2021

To the Award Committee:

My name is Matthew Des Lauriers and this letter is in support of Dr. Mark Q. Sutton, who has been nominated for the David A. Fredrickson Lifetime Achievement Award. I first met Mark when I was a high school senior in 1994. I had visited CSU Bakersfield on a campus tour from Cuyama Valley High School. On that tour, I met with several faculty members who forwarded my name on to Mark, who reached out and invited me to accompany the weekend field class on one of their trips to conduct fieldwork at several sites on the former shoreline of Buena Vista Lake in the Southern San Joaquin Valley. I would like to say that Mark was enthusiastic about the recruitment process, but more than anything else, it was the odd charm of his gruff manner and the way he approached both teaching and research with an avuncular wisdom that belied his relative youth at the time. He didn't look down on people, and that inherent regard for 'folks,' regardless of their background, style, or superficial flaws was probably one of the first lessons I learned from him.

I did attend CSUB, and I can honestly say it was one of the best decisions in my educational career. I learned directly from the professors rather than from Tas in big lecture halls. I worked with faculty on their actual research and publication projects. I presented papers at professional meetings beginning my freshman year, and in the audience for my first paper at the Society for California Archaeology was Louis Binford (that year's keynote speaker). After that, few audiences would be nearly as intimidating. The CSU is, in my opinion, the best undergraduate educational institution in California (says the current CSU faculty member...).

Mark was there during a major crisis in my young career, and it was his support and mentorship that kept me from losing my way during that time. He taught me then that sometimes the support of a faculty member can be the difference in a person's life, and the difference between staying in archaeology and moving on can be a kind, non-judgmental word and an invitation to the group lunch at Applebee's, or coffee and a bagel in the cafeteria.

Mark always emphasized the importance of careful documentation of archaeological data (sometimes with a reference to the 1980's B Movie, the Reanimator...) and was insistent upon the idea that we have an ethical obligation to preserve the information about the past that we recover with precision and skill. He was also incredibly emphatic about his distaste for 'looters,'

and more than one tale of Mark's animus towards illegal desecration of archaeological resources will occur to the members of this committee, I am sure.

For myself, Mark's greatest contribution to California Archaeology will be the legacy of mentorship and support for his students. There are many of us working in the field today that were 'raised' by Mark. As I near my third decade in California archaeology, I find myself identifying more and more with the Mark Sutton I knew as an 18-year-old undergraduate. I see myself reflected both in the mentor I had, and in the students that I now have a chance to teach and mentor. Mark, if you read this letter, know that I am grateful for your support and the chance that you gave me to carry it forward. Thank you. Mark Q. Sutton is one of the best *people* that I know in California Archaeology, and one hell of an Archaeologist.

Dr. Matthew Des Lauriers
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Matthew.DesLauriers@csusb.edu

August 3, 2021

Shannon Tushingam, Ph.D.
Society for California Archaeology
1692 Mangrove Avenue, #153
Chico, CA 95926
(530) 342-3537

Dear Dr. Tushingam:

Please accept my letter of support for Mark Q. Sutton, Ph.D., in consideration of the 2022 David A. Fredrickson Lifetime Achievement Award. My life has been significantly influenced by Dr. Sutton, even if he is unaware of his impact. The first field school I attended was taught by Mark in 2002; I became inspired by the Mojave Desert. His encouragement was instrumental in my ability to obtain a B.A. in Anthropology at CSU Bakersfield in 2008, and later my M.A. in 2018. College was somewhat of an uphill battle for me, being married, a mother, and the first in my family to attend. I had never heard of Anthropology, but I quickly realized that I had found my people in the Department.

Out of the numerous memories of Mark's influence, I would like to share a couple of the most meaningful. His teaching style incorporates humor, sarcasm, and healthy debates. One of my favorite memories in class was him waking up an unfortunate soul who had fallen asleep during a lecture. By the end of my first field course, I decided to switch my major from mathematics to anthropology. I nervously let Dr. Sutton know of my decision and he was thoughtful and supportive. I had always loved math and was unsure about making a hasty switch. His cheer helped me have the courage to try something new and ultimately changed the course of my life.

For the 2002-2003 academic year, instead of graduating I had my second child, unplanned and pretty exhausted. The pregnancy left me barely able to walk from pain that lasted beyond a decade. Finals for the Winter Quarter were the same week of my due date and I ended up having a caesarean delivery. I showed up to take my final and realized that I had been sitting in a room full of strangers and that Dr. Sutton was late. Confused and concerned, I set off to find Mark, who was sitting in his office upstairs. I asked about the time of the final and the room number so that I could come back. His response, "Well, that would explain why you weren't here yesterday." I was immediately overwhelmed, embarrassed, and tearful. Dr. Sutton calmly asked me to take 15 minutes to collect myself and that he would open the office next door so that I could take the final. I know he didn't have to do that; it was within his means to give me a zero for the final. He showed me compassion and humanity when I really needed it.

My accomplishments exist because Mark took the time and allowed this late bloomer to grow at my own pace. I am forever grateful. I managed to raise two beautiful young women during my time at CSUB, often bringing them to campus for office hours and club meetings. We both (barely) survived at least one diaper explosion in his office. I am still recovering!

I have worked in California archaeology ever since and currently hold a position with the Bureau of Land Management. Many of my cohort also hold valuable positions across the state and

beyond, a merit to Mark's teaching heritage. It is a common event to be drudging through the heat on an uneventful survey when I remind myself that "negative data are still data." These words of wisdom from him during my undergraduate time at CSUB always bring a smile to my face.

There was the time he dragged me, quite literally, along with several other former students, to an old bar in San Diego so that we could hear David Fredrickson play the guitar and sing. It was pretty magical for all of us. It might have been in the spring of 2012, but I am not certain. I will cherish the memory as well as the air of respect that Mark held for Dr. Fredrickson and his legacy. In some ways, these types of interactions are the greatest tools a teacher can share.

I am now able to approach problems with a sense of humor and while I no longer possess a hot pink tape measure in my field kit, I can handle the challenges in my world because I was encouraged to finish by Mark Sutton. His door was always open. I am so glad it was. Feel free to reach out for additional information as I would be happy to go on about my gratitude and immense respect for Dr. Mark Q. Sutton and his contributions to California Archaeology.

Kindly,

Amy Girado

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(760) 223-2326

Archaeologist Bureau of Land Management

Bakersfield Field Office agirado@blm.gov

(661) 391-6123

Tim Kelly
P. O. Box 1813
Kernville, CA 93238

August 4, 2021

To the Award Committee:

I am writing to offer my wholehearted support for Dr. Mark Q. Sutton's nomination for the David A. Fredrickson Lifetime Achievement Award. I met Mark in the fall of 2001 when on a whim I took his cultural ecology class (I was casting about for a post-graduate program other than English). I was immediately hooked by his deft teaching style which alternated between gruff and entertaining, intimidating and yet freely sharing his experience and wisdom. Mark had a knack for selling you completely on a method or theory and then deconstructing it, so it became a meaningful tool for your kit. One of my fonder memories of Mark is of him hovering on his folding chair a few feet upslope of a test unit I was digging for field class in triple-digit heat. His gaze boring into me but also a steady stream of instruction and knowledge and some humor made it somehow doable. Mark was an intimidating editor and many of us dreaded seeing our graded papers. My best achievement, and one of the papers I was proudest of, received an A- and a slew of scribblings in the margins. He encouraged and sometimes demanded that students present and publish their work, something that was both terrifying and (in retrospect) an extremely useful education.

The Anthropology program at CSU Bakersfield was (and is) small with only a few faculty and a few dozen students. Somehow Mark had cajoled the faculty and students into a genuinely collegial group. One of the keys to the program's success was the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR), a contract CRM shop that employed students. CAR filled in the gaps inherent in a small program by offering on-the-job training. Many, if not most, grad students were able to parlay their experience working for CAR into careers as archaeologists. At the time I was a student, literally all of the recent graduates were working in the field.

It is difficult to think of an individual who has contributed more to California archaeology over the past 50 years than Dr. Sutton. His publications span decades and his textbooks have guided hundreds if not thousands of students. I am grateful for the opportunity to sing his praises and would be glad to offer any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Tim Kelly

District Archaeologist
Sequoia National Forest
Timothy.Kelly@usda.gov

To the Award Committee:

I met Dr. Mark Sutton in the spring of 2002 on the campus of California State University, Bakersfield. I arrived there on a windy day to inquire about pursuing a graduate degree in anthropology. My intent was to conduct my graduate studies field project somewhere in the Mojave Desert. I do not know what drove my desire to work in that region, but I went with my instincts. I had heard that Mark was “Mr. Mojave Desert” in the world of archaeology, and I knew I had to study under him. I started the program that fall with Mark as my chair, and I realized then just how little I knew and how much I needed to learn. Mark’s style of teaching was tough, and we often bumped heads. I learned a lot from Mark and I eventually began working for the Navy and then the Air Force. I will always carry with me his passion and knowledge of Mojave Desert Archaeology. I feel that Mark is truly deserving of the SCA’s 2022 David A. Frederickson Lifetime Achievement Award.

Kish LaPierre
Tribal Liaison
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Naval Air Station Fallon

kish.d.lapierre.civ@us.navy.mil>

“Get ‘er done!” — A Student’s View of an Extraordinary Professor
Becky (Rebecca S.) Orfila, M.A.

To the Award Committee:

Putting his academic achievements and a gift for writing aside, Mark Sutton is a catalyst for student achievement in Anthropology. Inspirational, desperately funny, and at the same time, academically challenging, he is a swell guy and a brilliant teacher.

I returned to college to finish my B.A. and stayed around for my M.A. That meant lectures, lab classes, and field classes with Mark. With a “go forth and conquer” attitude, he pushes the lazy students, inspires the hesitant ones, and tests everyone to achieve their own level of success. No matter how booming his voice can be – and he does boom – it is always with a smile, though he’d hardly want you to think he was a softy.

On more than one occasion, I saw Mark go the extra mile for a student. In the case of a Cultural Anthropology student, an illness halted her desire to complete her Master’s degree. He made a special effort to help the dying woman put the last touches on her text and found volunteers to help with report formatting. The woman received her Master’s degree before she passed away.

He is a “case by case” professor because he sees each student as a person with individual skills and interests. One grad student with a gift for illustration and flintknapping was encouraged to refine those special skills to produce professional images for his thesis. He gave middle-aged students the chance to merge what they knew from their previous careers with what they learned and experienced in their new career in Anthropology.

Mark celebrates the small successes of students as much as the larger ones. He encourages his students to do what connects them to anthropology. He gives opportunities to students to share authorship on professional publications and is keen on including students in the acknowledgments of his books.

It is a heartfelt honor to say I was one of his students. Heartfelt.

Mark’s Rules

1. Never take anything for granted.
2. Never go anywhere without a trowel.
3. When the job is done, write a report.
4. If you need help, ask!
5. Your project, you lead.
6. Clean up the mess you leave behind.
7. Sometimes, you’re wrong.
8. Citations, citations, citations.
9. When you can’t draw an artifact, ask a friend.
10. Keep your sidewalls straight.

Richard H. Osborne
32755 Riverside Drive
Springville, CA 93265
August 3, 2021

Subject: Society for California Archaeology David A. Fredrickson Lifetime Achievement Award 2022 Nominee: Dr. Mark Q. Sutton

To the Award Committee:

My name is Richard Osborne and this letter is in support of Dr. Mark Q. Sutton, who has been nominated for the David A. Fredrickson Lifetime Achievement Award. I first met Mark in 1984 when I was volunteering on a project that he was supervising near Afton Canyon in the Mojave Desert. At the time, I was taking an "Introduction to Archaeology" class and, for whatever reason, Mark took an interest in me and my enthusiasm for the field. In the following years, we stayed in touch and he regularly advised me regarding coursework, fieldwork, etc. Shortly after completing his Ph.D., Mark secured a position at California State University, Bakersfield, and set about the task of developing a graduate program there. He contacted me about the new M.A. program and encouraged me to apply. For the next five years, I worked closely with him as he mentored me through the program and beyond.

Aside from traditional trappings of graduate school (coursework, research, etc.), Mark introduced some unique opportunities that served both graduate and undergraduate students well. Working in conjunction with the University Foundation, he established a Cultural Resource Management (CRM) program called the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR). CAR provided "real world" on-the-job training for students, and brought revenue to the University. Working for CAR enabled students to apply what they were learning in the classroom, gain practical skills, and minimize student loan debt. An additional benefit was networking with the companies and agencies that utilized CAR's services. Upon graduation, students often landed jobs with those entities. Another practical component of the program that Mark set up was that all students (both graduate and undergraduate) were mandated to author/coauthor papers on the work they had completed, and to present those papers at professional meetings. Though frightening at first, this practice built confidence and made students better writers. He also encouraged his students to join professional organizations and become actively involved with them.

One day, Mark was contacted by an administrator from Porterville College, a small rural community college about 45 miles north of Bakersfield. They were about two weeks into the semester when their anthropology instructor was diagnosed with cancer. She needed to undergo treatment immediately and they were looking for a graduate student to take her place. As I had completed all of my coursework, Mark called me to his office and strongly recommended that I take the temporary position. I had been a TA but the idea of teaching classes scared me to death. He related stories of his early teaching days and slowly but surely twisted my arm to say "yes" to Porterville College. It turned out to be one of the best decisions of my life, as I was a part-time adjunct professor for seven years and full-time tenured professor for 17 years. I will be forever grateful to him for pushing me in that direction.

When I attended Cal State Bakersfield, there were between eight and 12 graduate students in the field of anthropology at any given time. I suspect that they all have stories similar to mine, and that any one of them would be happy to support Mark for this award. It is without reservation that I wholeheartedly recommend Dr. Mark Q. Sutton be granted the David A. Fredrickson Lifetime Achievement Award. Having known Dave, I am quite sure that he would have supported Mark for this award, as well. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Most sincerely,

Richard H. Osborne
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