

**INTRODUCTION TO “A HALF CENTURY (SO FAR!) DEDICATED TO THE PURSUIT
AND ADVANCEMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE – SYMPOSIUM
IN HONOR OF MARK Q. SUTTON”**

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As the co-organizers of this symposium in honor of Mark Q. Sutton, the three of us teamed up to honor our colleague, mentor, and friend upon his receipt of the David A. Fredrickson Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2022 SCA Annual Meeting. It was truly a “labor of love” for the three of us, and we had no problem finding others of the same mind to contribute papers at the symposium. Four of the papers that were presented at the symposium were submitted for publication in this issue of the *Proceedings of the Society for California Archaeology* (pages 12-71). Many others expressed interest in participating because of their respect and admiration for Mark, but for various reasons were unable to do so. Some of the papers were personal reminiscences of how Mark positively impacted their lives and careers, and others were research-oriented toward subjects of interest to and by him.



Most of the presenters at the symposium for Mark. Back row (left-right): Robert Yohe, Jim Cassidy, Matthew Des Lauriers, Dicken Everson, and Audry Williams. Front row (left-right): Richard Osborne, Jill Gardner, Mark and Melinda Sutton, Joan Schneider, Brooke Arkush, and Amy Girado. As a surprise to Mark, we all wore Hawaiian shirts and jeans as a tribute to his long-standing habit of teaching his classes in similar attire. Image courtesy of Ginny Osborne.

The following is the symposium abstract that appeared in the 2022 SCA Annual Meeting Program:

During the last five decades, Mark Q. Sutton has been one of the most prolific archaeologists of California and Great Basin prehistory. His massive body of work includes the Mojave and Colorado deserts, San Joaquin Valley, coastal and inland southern California, and western Great Basin. Throughout his 50-plus years as a professional archaeologist and professor at California State University Bakersfield (CSUB) and the University of San Diego, Mark has conducted research at some of the most important archaeological sites in California and the Great Basin, mentored generations of students, directed hundreds of archaeological projects, published extensively, and presented papers every year at the SCA Annual Meetings.

Under Mark's tutelage and encouragement, for 20 years the contingent of CSUB student presenters at these meetings was usually the largest of any other California university. In 1997, the SCA presented him with the Martin A. Baumhoff Special Achievement Award for his editorship of the *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology*. This year, he has been awarded the David A. Fredrickson Lifetime Achievement Award for his remarkable contributions to our knowledge of the prehistory of the western United States.