UC Davis Professor Speaks May 20 on Hunter-Gatherer Settlements

SAN LUIS OBISPO – UC Davis Anthropology Professor Robert Bettinger will describe findings from what he calls some of the most unexpected and remarkable archaeological sites in western North America in a talk Thursday, May 20, at Cal Poly.

The free presentation is titled “The Highest Native Settlements in North America: Hunter-Gatherer Occupations Above 10,000 Feet in the White Mountains of Eastern California.” The talk is from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Business Building Rotunda (Room 213).

Bettinger’s comprehensive research program, undertaken over several years, reveals intensive exploitation of this unique and extremely challenging environment as early as 3,500 years ago.

His research interests include cultural ecology, hunter-gatherers, early food-producing societies, and adaptation in arid lands. He has done extensive fieldwork in China, including projects in Inner Mongolia and the Gansu Province.

Bettinger has been awarded several grants from the National Science Foundation. In 2002 he was awarded an NSF grant to study the earliest agriculture in north China.

He has published dozens of papers, written numerous books reviews, and has been cited in several reference publications.

Bettinger’s talk is sponsored by the Social Sciences Department. For more information, call 756-2752.

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(Note to Editors: For a photo of White Mountains and the archeological site, please contact Jo Ann Lloyd at 756-1511 or jllloyd@calpoly.edu.)