This year’s banquet speaker is Dr. Timothy R. Pauketat, Director of the Illinois State Archaeological Survey (ISAS) and Professor of Anthropology and Medieval Studies at the University of Illinois. Tim is an archaeologist who has worked extensively around the Greater Cahokia region and in the Mississippi valley on the problems of that ancient behemoth’s historical impacts. Having previously held posts in Oklahoma and New York, he is the author or editor of 15 books and numerous other papers and data monographs. These include considerations of big history, religious movements, agency, archaeoastronomy, and North American archaeology generally. With his recent move to ISAS, Tim has recommitted himself to the goals of scientific and compliance archaeology, some of which will spill into his presentation.

**A Return to Archaeology’s ABCs: Astronomy, Bundles, Corn, and Climate Change**

What can we know about the human past and why should we care? One answer to these questions comes from shifting our point of view back to a focus on non-human agencies as these caused certain things to “matter.” Doing so is consistent both with scientific, materialist approaches in archaeology, old and new, and with pre-urban ontologies around the world. Global archaeological cases from China to Cahokia suggest how things mattered in the past. In an homage to the late Robert Hall, I trace some specific instances relevant to Plains archaeology – sweat lodges, pottery temper, maize, and the Medieval Warm Period.

Pre-Banquet Happy Hour/Cash Bar starts around 6:00 with the Banquet beginning around 7:00. Dr. Pauketat’s presentation will begin at 8:00. Banquet – $50 per person
Keynote Speaker only (no banquet ticket) – Free