FROM THE DIRECTOR

GRATITUDE...

ERIC BLINMAN, PH.D.
OAS DIRECTOR

I’m not sure what sort of “convergence” it has been, but the past few weeks have been remarkable. A series of client project deadlines piled up like a train wreck, the nomination packet for the Society for American Archaeology’s public education award was due, end-of-year philanthropy flooded in, preparations were made to support the Montezuma Ball fundraiser for the History Museum and Historic Sites, a book chapter on archaeomagnetic dating was due, and we welcomed a new Governor and a new Department of Cultural Affairs Cabinet Secretary – Debra Garcia-Griego.

That’s plenty to occupy the holidays and end-of-year transition, and apart from too little sleep, I’m personally thankful for it all! Looking backward, and especially as we compiled our achievements in education, it has been a remarkable several years. As Chuck Hannaford always puts it as we finalize our award-nomination packet: “We want to lose! If anyone is doing more for archaeology education in the Nation than we are, they deserve to win!”

On the philanthropic side, your support for our education and research programs is as heartwarming as it is necessary. It validates what we do, and we

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SAA AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

Well, it’s that time again. The Society for American Archaeology will be recognizing an organization with its Award for Excellence in Public Education at this spring’s national meetings in Albuquerque.

The award “recognizes excellence in the sharing of archaeological information with the general public and is designed to encourage outstanding achievements in public engagement.” The award cycles through three categories, community, media and technology, and curriculum. This year, SAA will recognize “outstanding programs or products that reflect collaborative initiatives that engage diverse communities.”

The Office of Archaeological Studies

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Events

**FEAST OF FRIENDS**

The food just kept coming at the annual holiday potluck held Dec. 14, 2018, at CNMA. Employees, retirees, and FOA members celebrated the season together at this sumptuous event with homemade soups, salads, breads, and other sweet and savory treats.

**MAY 18, 2019**

**EXPLORE THE VISTA VERDE COMANCHE PETROGLYPHS**

**UNIQUE SITE NEAR TAOS DISCOVERED IN 2008**

On Saturday, May 18, 2019, Friends of Archaeology will host a tour of La Vista Verde, a Comanche petroglyph site, near Taos, NM. OAS archaeologist and Comanche tribal member Mary Weahkee will lead the tour.

The La Vista Verde site, discovered in 2008, offers a view of rare rock panels that emphasize the Comanche horse culture during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Glyphs at the site include images of mounted warriors, horse herds, and the capture of horses.

Mary will also be offering a pre-tour lecture on Comanche history and culture at a date to be determined prior to the trip.

This tour is rated as easy and consists of an approximately 2.5 mile, round-trip hike on flat ground. Members of the tour group will be carpooling. Four-wheel-drive vehicles will not be required. The price of the tour and lecture will be $90 for FOA members and $100 for non-members.

For reservations, call the FOA hotline at (505) 982-7799, ext. 7, after 7 a.m. on Tuesday, April 9, 2019. The tour will be limited to 18 participants, so please remember to sign up early.

**E-MAIL BLASTS**

As you may have noticed, FOA is sending out e-mail notifications, or “blasts,” announcing events not previously listed in our newsletter. If you would rather not receive these e-mails, just follow the instructions at the bottom of the e-mail and you will be taken off our distribution list.
Office of Archaeological Studies

The Office of Archaeological Studies (OAS) was the first museum program of its kind in the nation. OAS staff conducts international field and laboratory research, offers educational opportunities for school groups and civic organizations, and works to preserve, protect, and interpret prehistoric and historic sites throughout New Mexico.

Friends of Archaeology

The Friends of Archaeology is an interest group within the Museum of New Mexico Foundation that supports the OAS. To join the FOA, you need only become a member of the Museum of New Mexico Foundation and sign up. Visit www.nmarchaeology.org for information. We’re also on Facebook; just search for “@FriendsofArchaeology.”

Mission Statement

The mission of FOA is to support the OAS in the achievement of its archaeological services mandate from the State of New Mexico through participation in and funding of research and education projects.

Friends of Archaeology Board

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Jennifer Kilbourn (FOA Coordinator)
Events

Evening Lecture Series Planned

Puebloan History from Ancient Times to the Present

The class that Dr. Eric Blinman taught for the Friends of Archaeology on an experimental basis last fall will be rolled out again in a slightly streamlined form—focusing in on the prehistory of the northern Southwest. The class will be held from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings (but will often run over that time). This is probably the only time that Eric will be able to integrate the class into his usual work schedule. Classes will be held in the conference room at the Center for New Mexico Archaeology.

The “value” of the experimental class was set at somewhere between $15 and “priceless” per session by those who participated in last fall’s event. For eight sessions, reserved enrollment (a guaranteed seat at a table) will be $120 for the full set of classes. The room will accommodate 20 participants at tables (for notes and noshes to maintain blood sugar levels), plus four seats for education docents. If there is room, drop-in attendance will be $25 per session, but there will be no guarantee of space from class to class…

Initial enrollment for the full course will be through the hotline on a first-come-first-reserved basis. Call (505) 982-7799, ext. 6, and leave your name, a callback number, and the number of class seats you would like to reserve. FOA will get back to you for confirmation and payment information within a couple of days. Minimum enrollment will be 12 for the class to go forward. After the initial enrollment period, the hotline will be updated with a notice as to whether there is room for drop-in students.

Class Schedule

February 13: Conceptual and practical tools for understanding SW archaeology
February 20: The destination: Modern peoples and cultures of the Northern Southwest
February 27: Peopling of the Americas through the Southwestern Archaic
March 6: Agriculture, pottery, and the emergence of Formative culture
March 13: Villages, social complexity, ethnic diversity, and the Foundations of Chaco
March 20: The Pueblo II period and the workings of the Chacoan system
April 3: The first migration, the Pueblo III communities, and the second migration
April 17: Puebloan communities at the threshold of European Colonialism

There will be no classes March 27 and April 10.
OAS and FOA note the death of **Stewart L. Peckham** on Nov. 10, 2018. Stew joined the Museum of New Mexico Laboratory of Anthropology infant contract archaeology program in 1954 and would eventually serve in several roles as Chief Archaeologist, State Archaeologist, Curator of Collections, and Associate Director of the Laboratory of Anthropology. Stew spent his first seven years with the Lab surveying and excavating sites throughout the state as part of the Highway Salvage Archaeology Program. Stew also excavated archaeological sites prior to the construction of the Abiquiu and Cochiti Dams in 1961 and 1962 and conducted research at Puye Ruins and Santa Clara Pueblo. He was a mentor for many of the older OAS staff members, often demonstrating an almost photographic memory of every site he ever worked on.

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**William Powers**, who worked as an archivist for the Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian for 22 years, passed away Dec. 21, 2018. While at the Wheelwright, Willow created the museum’s first archival outreach program. She organized and maintained the archives at the Museum of New Mexico’s Museum of Indian Art and Culture; worked as an archival consultant for the School for Advanced Research, the National Park Service, the New York State Museum, and several Native American pueblos and tribes, and taught anthropology at the University of New Mexico and the University of Iowa. Her late husband, Bob Powers, worked closely with many OAS staff in various positions with the National Park Service, and he and Willow were productive and congenial members of the Santa Fe anthropological and preservation community.

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We note the passing of **Patricia Kuhlhoff** on Nov. 20, 2018. Pat, who moved to Santa Fe in 1989, served as a docent for the Santa Fe Opera, entertained visitors at Rancho de Las Golondrinas, conducted downtown tours for the Palace of the Governors, and worked at the Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce’s tourist information booth. She participated in many FOA events beginning with her arrival in Santa Fe, including attending the 2018 Holiday Party as one of her last social events.

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### Upcoming Bag Lunch Talks

Talks are held in the OAS Conference Room at the Center for New Mexico Archaeology. Talks are informal (and you can bring your bag lunch). Usually, seating is adequate, but we have had 80-plus people show up for a talk in a room that can only hold 35. Seating is available on a first-come-first-served basis.

**Archaeological Compliance and Research at LANL: Turkeys, Homesteaders, and the Manhattan Project National Historical Park**

*Tuesday, February 12, 2019*

by Cyler Conrad, Ph.D., Cultural Resource Technical Lead, LANL

This talk focuses on the status of the Los Alamos National Laboratory cultural resource compliance and research program. Recent compliance-based research on pre-Hispanic turkey husbandry and management, ancestral Pueblo small-site use and function, human adaptations during the homesteading era, and the creation of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, provide the opportunity to re-examine the function and role of cultural resources in a national laboratory setting. This talk will explain the function of the cultural resources program and how compliance research benefits the long-term programmatic strategy at LANL.

**When “Take only pictures” Isn’t Enough: Two Case Studies in Kiva Mural Recovery**

*Tuesday, March 12, 2019*

by Eric Blinman, Ph.D., Director, OAS

Wall art in ancient pit structures is rarely preserved. When it is found in a salvage archaeology situation, the next question is “can it be recovered?” OAS has successfully recovered two kiva murals in the past 30 years, and the process is of interest from both an engineering and art historical perspective.

**Origin of “Anasazi” Ceramics: A View from the Southern Chuska Valley**

*Tuesday, April 23, 2019*

by C. Dean Wilson, Ceramic Brain

Observations about pottery from sites in the Southern Chuska Valley spanning from the early sixth through eighth century provide important clues concerning the source and nature of pottery origins and the rapid changes that culminated in the production of distinct gray and white wares characteristic of vessels long produced in the Colorado Plateau by Pueblo potters. Both the sources of derivation of this pottery and potential ecological and artistic influences resulting in the distinct qualities of early Anasazi pottery will be discussed.

OAS staff members are encouraged to reprise professional talks at our bag lunch events. We also encourage visiting scholars to update us on their research. Visit www.nmarchaeology.org to catch any additional spur-of-the-moment talks.
brought home the award in 2005 and again in 2012. We’ve submitted an application again this year, but we’re kind of hoping that we won’t win again. There are some truly amazing programs out there, and the discipline will be much better off if we are not the best.

But here’s what we’ve been doing. Between 2014 and 2018, our education outreach program provided 699 days of educational activities, delivering more than 1,000 individual programs. We came into contact with nearly 60,000 adults and children, the vast majority of them New Mexico residents.

Working in collaboration with the New Mexico State Library, we delivered programs in libraries throughout the state as part of their summer reading programs.

Intended as a reward for children formally enrolled in local reading programs, OAS took the time to interact with adult patrons and their families as well. Following one presentation in Anton Chico, a community with only 105 residents, 20 people signed up to receive library cards.

Another recent collaboration with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish started after decades of side-by-side education programs at the Festival of the Cranes at the Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge. Familiarity with our program resulted in an invitation to include traditional atlatl-and-spear and bow-and-arrow components at the regional Game and Fish Expo in Albuquerque. The demonstrations were a hit.

With our help, Game and Fish created a First Hunters patch that is issued as part of their youth outreach program. They’ve also added a cultural resources preservation page to their 2019 hunting and fishing guide, encouraging hunters to leave artifacts in place and giving those same hunters access to OAS educators if they would like to send photos of their discoveries for identification or comment.

Taking advantage of both ability and creativity, OAS osteologists developed special bone-based presentations for Santa Fe’s summer youth program. Early on, children examined the structure and function of bones and learned about the roles bones play in support and movement. Information included a number of variables like thickness, density, flexibility, and the joining of bones with soft tissues. Children were also introduced to bone names, bone scale and proportion, and radiographs.

Our annual October celebration of International Archaeology Day here at the Center for New Mexico Archaeology is increasing in popularity and offers children and adults a closer look at what we do here at OAS. Those attending this free event can throw atlatls, shoot...
Success

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arrows, create yucca fiber items, watch pottery firings, learn about coiled basketry, and speak with working archaeologists. In 2018, more than 200 people attended.

Our yucca fiber projects also brought contemporary artists from the Future Farmers collective to OAS and the Center for New Mexico Archaeology following a referral by curators at Site Santa Fe. That interaction led to an invitation from Future Farmers to participate in a performance art piece.

In preparation for another contemporary art installation, artist Alexis Rockman was directed to OAS for an introduction to potential New Mexico sources of natural pigments. The result was a half-day discussion and guided experimentation with a range of pigments used by our education program. The final exhibition included a salamander image, painted from an OAS photo, with credit given to OAS in the exhibition catalog.

OAS has also participated in interaction and consultation with the New Mexico Arts Council and Santa Fe Botanical Garden. Through the Santa Fe Chapter of the Council on International Relations, and the U.S. State Department, OAS has hosted archaeologists and museum professionals from western Asia, the Middle East, North Africa, Nepal, and Central Europe.

Our investment in formal classroom education has increased over the past five years as we’ve shifted our emphasis toward more in-school events and teacher trainings. Mollie Toll and her volunteers have provided archaeology content and pedagogy exposure to teachers at local education conferences, at teacher resource nights in Albuquerque

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Research Notes
A brief look at what we’re doing at OAS

Monitoring Teams: Karen Wening, Susan Moga, Rick Montoya, Jeff Cox, Mary Weahkee, and Isaac Coan have been monitoring trenches and construction in Santa Fe during the winter months. Pleistocene alluvial deposits have dominated most of the excavations, except for the downtown projects. Karen has encountered nineteenth century foundations and demolition deposits under Marcy and Sheridan Streets. Mary and Isaac have been documenting patches of limestone and cobble foundations within the construction footprint of the Santa Fe County Administrative Complex. It’s old news, but waterline replacements along Johnson Street last summer encountered burials and pit houses dating to the late twelfth through early fourteenth centuries.

Bioarchaeology: Ann Stodder, Caitlin Ainsworth, Lexi O’Donnell, and Nancy Akins have been analyzing collections with occasional bits of fieldwork. Caitlin has been identifying animal bones from mainly Territorial Period trash accumulations. The others have been looking at the skeletal evidence of health and relatedness of buried individuals who are in OAS’s care (or at the Maxwell Museum), building up a sense of ancient individual and group identities in anticipation of repatriation consultations.

Dating: Jeff Cox, Marvin Rowe, and Eric Blinman have been advancing the frontiers of radiocarbon and archaeomagnetic dating. Marvin has initiated a multi-sample study of a possible forged Picasso painting while investigating the confounding nature of water plasmas during argon plasma sample preparation. Jeff and Eric just completed a major review article on archaeomagnetic dating that will upset the status quo.

Miscellaneous: Bob Florek and Marvin Rowe are working with Steve Post to determine whether portable x-ray fluorescence (pXRF) can help identify different adobe construction episodes at the Palace of the Governors. Bob and Marvin have applied pXRF, and Ann Stodder and Gary Sanford digital radiography, to aid in the interpretation of artifacts recovered from Coronado Historic Site that appear to be evidence of a mid-sixteenth century battle between Coronado’s men and the Pueblo residents of the village.

Director

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will continue to work hard to earn your trust on both fronts. Of special note, this past year has been the realization of a bequest from Johnny Ward, a remarkable woman who was a joy to interact with, and my memories of her laugh and smile infuse my approach to education.

Looking forward in the research sphere, we are beginning to hit our stride on a number of fronts. Before the next newsletter comes out we should be starting a small but exciting excavation inside the Palace of the Governors. In the analytic labs, digital radiography and radiocarbon dating are yielding interesting results, bioarchaeology is making quiet but strong contributions to our understanding of ancient New Mexico’s communities, and our archaeomagnetic dating program is poised to conduct a small revolution in theory and method.

As hard as we work, the excitement of archaeology makes it worthwhile.
**Award**

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and Santa Fe, and at professional conferences.

In west-central New Mexico, Mollie organized two-day presentations on prehistoric water and energy adaptations for Native American school groups. She also provided in-depth exposure to high school students at the Institute for American Indian Arts, with semester-long, dual-credit ethnobotany classes emphasizing adaptation and human ecology and the role of food and food procurement in culture and community building.

None of the above could have been accomplished without talent and commitment of OAS staff, retirees, volunteers, FOA members and donors, and the many community leaders who appreciate the value of our vision.

We’re not bragging. Really. Here at OAS, we believe strongly in the furthering of education for all through formal and less traditional means.

It is a responsibility that society has become increasingly willing to shoulder, on local, national, and global levels.

At a time when science, history, and education seem to struggle for credibility and respect, it is crucial that we as a society continue to focus on the enlightenment of ourselves and others and of the generations who are to carry on after we are gone.

Our loss in such an honorable category at the upcoming SAA award competition would mean that more and more people are finding newer and even more creative ways to educate and illuminate others about where we’ve been as a people and where we’re going. We’re excited about that. Good luck and all the best to our fellow applicants.

Believe us, this is a competition that we would be happy to lose, but if we win we will shout it from the rooftops!

—Melissa Martinez

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**Make Your Mark on NM Archaeology!**

Please consider supporting the Office of Archaeological Studies by making a gift to education or research by check, credit, stock, IRA rollover, or planned gift this year.

Your tax-deductible donation through the Museum of New Mexico Foundation will have a lasting impact throughout the state. One hundred percent of your donation will be directed to the Office of Archaeological Studies. No administrative fees are charged.

Give online: www.museumfoundation.org/support-archaeology.

For questions about giving, or to donate, contact Celeste Guerrero, at (505) 982-6366, ext. 116, or via e-mail at celeste@museumfoundation.org.