Synergy, collaboration, and support describe the interrelationships of the divisions of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA). The largest state-operated museum and cultural system in the nation, DCA originated with the founding of the Museum of New Mexico (MNM) in 1909 (three years before statehood). Archaeology was the principal motivation for Edgar Lee Hewett’s creation of MNM, and State-supported archaeology found its home within the Palace of the Governors until 1947. In that year, MNM absorbed the Laboratory of Anthropology, which had been founded in 1927 as a rival institution. With the combination of two remarkable programs, State-supported archaeology slowly shifted its focus to Museum Hill, expanding geometrically with the initiation of contract archaeological services in 1952 and the first highway archaeology program in the nation in 1954.

Outgrowing the Laboratory of Anthropology in 1984, contract archaeology and the bulk of the archaeological collections moved to the old St. Vincent’s Hospital building, now the Drury Hotel. At the same time, the Laboratory of Anthropology’s remarkable collections, which spanned the earliest Americans to contemporary Native American art, inspired MNM Regents and the Legislature to create the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture (MIAC), which opened in 1987. The Office of Archaeological Studies (OAS), the contract archaeology program, became independent of MIAC in 1990.

The need for better storage conditions and the eventual sale of the old hospital building by the State initiated the steps that led to the construction of the Center for New Mexico Archaeology (CNMA). OAS moved into CNMA in late 2012, and MIAC’s Archaeological Research Collections started their move a year later. The whole pottery collection will be the last of the MIAC archaeological collections to move, starting this summer.

Although MNM archaeology is concentrated at CNMA in terms of collections and practice, archaeology finds a niche just about everywhere within DCA. The State Library has sponsored archaeology education programs in libraries throughout the state, including tribal libraries. OAS helps with archaeological issues that crop up during maintenance and construction at DCA venues including the National Hispanic Cultural Center, the State Historic Sites, and every one of the Santa Fe museum
The first tours will start at 8 a.m. Additional tours will depart at intervals thereafter, with the final tours starting shortly after lunch. Although elevation changes will be equivalent only to climbing up and down four or five flights of stairs, the tours will cover close to 2 miles of hiking over rough/rocky and soft/sandy terrain. Cholla, snakes, and the weather are the usual hazards of this event.

Tours will be scheduled based on a first-call-basis via pre-registration through the Friends of Archaeology hotline. The hotline opened at 7 a.m. on Tuesday, April 23. Call (505) 982-7799, ext. 6. Please leave your name, the number of people in your party, and a call-back number. A Friends of Archaeology volunteer will call back within a day or two to gather more information for official registration and to assign arrival times. Maps, waivers, and instructions will be distributed to registered participants around May 24. The hotline will remain open until 9 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21.

Chiles and Sherds is one of two major fundraising events that the Friends of Archaeology organizes each year as part of the Museum of New Mexico Foundation. Cost for this event is $100 for FOA members and $110 for non-members. Proceeds support education and research programs of OAS.

**Chiles**

Continued from Page 1.

Unlike other Galisteo Basin pueblos, there is almost no rock art in the Pueblo Shé vicinity.

**MODERATE HIKE**

Although elevation changes will be equivalent to climbing up and down four or five flights of stairs, tours will cover 2 miles of hiking over rough/rocky and soft/sandy terrain. Plan for snakes, summer weather.
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)

Thursday, June 20, 2019

The Berkeley-Abiquiu Collaborative Archaeology Project explores the potential connection of the Abiquiu Mesa site to Ancestral Pueblo exchange systems.

Ancestral Abiquiu Pueblo

The FOA is offering the unique opportunity to visit the ongoing excavation of the ancestral pueblo of Abiquiu being conducted by the University of California-Berkeley. The excavation is part of a larger effort called the Berkeley-Abiquiu Collaborative Archaeology Project. Members of Merced del Pueblo de Abiquiu requested this collaboration in order to collect more information about the Abiquiu Mesa site because of its connection to the group’s heritage and identity. The project is also exploring the potential connection of the Abiquiu Mesa site to exchange systems during the Ancestral Pueblo period, with special emphasis on x-ray fluorescence spectrometry to examine the origins of obsidian and rock art pigments. Larger research goals are to help the Merced del Pueblo de Abiquiu obtain federal recognition as an indigenous community, to re-assert water rights in the surrounding area, and to reclaim lost ancestral lands by documenting archaeological evidence of historical ties to surrounding areas.

The Friends of Archaeology group will leave Thursday, June 20, from a rendezvous point in Santa Fe and carpool to Abiquiu where they will be met by members of Merced del Pueblo de Abiquiu and UC archaeologists. From there, participants will take a 1 to 1½ hour strenuous hike up the mesa. Participants will be required to hike difficult uneven terrain uphill with an elevation gain of 800 to 1,000 feet. Plan to be in the hot sun for up to six hours. Please bring a sack lunch and at least two quarts of water. Soft drinks and snacks will be provided. Further details will be provided to participants following registration for this event.

The FOA hotline for this hike will open Tuesday, May 14 at 7 a.m. Call (505) 982-7799, ext. 7. The price for this hike will be $90 for members and $100 for non-members. Participation in this event will be limited to 16 people.
**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. All talks begin at noon, unless otherwise noted.

**Mesa Verde National Park. Spruce Tree House. Alcove Arch Stabilization**

Tuesday, May 21, 2019  
by James A. Mason, Ph.D., P.E., National Park Service

This presentation reviews the construction means and methods history of the Spruce Tree House Alcove Complex and subsequent work to repair and stabilize the expansive site, with focus on the stabilization of the Alcove Arch. Topics will include ancient Puebloan construction means and methods, damage to the dwellings by artifact hunters, repairs and stabilization methods from Fewkes and Nusbaum to Lancaster, the 1960s arch stabilization work, and current analyses and potential stabilization methods of the Alcove Arch.

**Mesa Verde National Park. Cliff Palace. Preliminary Condition Assessment of the Alcove Complex and Dwellings, and Potential Stabilization Methods**

Tuesday, June 18, 2019  
by James A. Mason, Ph.D., P.E., National Park Service

This presentation reviews the construction means and methods history of the Cliff Palace Alcove Complex and subsequent work by NPS of repairing and stabilizing the expansive site. It will progress from initial contact by local Anglo-ranchers through prior repair and stabilization work by NPS archaeologists and staff, and conclude with results from current preliminary condition assessments and possible stabilization methods.

**Complex Ties between Past and Present: Ancestral Abiquiu Pueblo**

Thursday, June 27, 2019  
by Danny Sosa-Aguilar, Excavation Director, Ph.D. Candidate, UC Berkeley

The Berkeley-Abiquiu Collaborative Archaeology Project is exploring the potential connection of an Abiquiu Mesa site to exchange systems during the Ancestral Pueblo period, with special emphasis on the use of X-ray fluorescence spectrometry to examine the origins of obsidian and rock art pigments and the documentation of possible evidence of historical ties of the Merced del Pueblo de Abiquiu to surrounding areas. Excavation director Danny Sosa-Aguilar of UC Berkeley will present project goals and results.

**Talk on AAHS Traditions Technologies Seminar, Oaxaca**

Tuesday, July 9, 2019  
by Mary Weahkee, OAS Archaeologist

From March 8 to 17, 2019, Mary Weahkee attended the AAHS Traditions Technologies Seminar in Oaxaca, Mexico. Topics of discussion included shellfish dyeing, natural brown cotton, world-class backstrap weaving, and natural dyeing. The seminar included visits to the Zapotec, Trique, Mixtec, and Amuzgo villages and off-the-beaten-path travel in deep Mexico as well as traditional cuisine. Mary will share stories of her adventures.

Visit www.nmarchaeology.org to catch any additional spur-of-the-moment talks.
This year’s 84th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology was held April 10–14, in Albuquerque. The event brought together archaeological experts from around the country and was well attended by a number of professionals based here at the Office of Archaeological Studies. OAS professionals attended lectures and conferences and added to the event’s considerable content through papers, presentations, and talks.

OAS archaeologist Susan Moga said the highlight of her trip to the SAA conference was a special presentation on terracotta soldiers—Inscriptions and Technology: Knowledge of the Artisans Who Created China’s Terracotta Army—by Xiuzhen Li, Andrew Bevan, Marcos Martín-Torres, Yin Xia, and Kun Zhao. She also enjoyed talks on Spanish Colonialism, the future of bioarchaeology, and Casas Grandes and Paquimé.

Mollie Toll, outreach educator at OAS, wrote, “The SAA’s in Albuquerque were an awesome affirmation of the size (5,800 in one place!), liveliness, and youth of American archaeology today, as well as the broad interest in Southwestern ethnology and archaeology. I made the choice to attend sessions that piqued my basic curiosity rather than my sense of academic duty (Nightscape of Ancient Landscapes, Colors in the Southwest, Migration and Refugees, Oaxacan Cuisine), and that opened all kinds of associational doorways.”

Several familiar names appeared in the meeting program. Dean Wilson shared his knowledge of the “Nature and Organization of Ceramic Production during Early Phases in the Chuska Valley” and contributed to “Investigations of the Los Rayos-Red Willow Chacoan Landscape.” Marvin Rowe presented “In Search of Hot (or Cool) Dates with Larry” during The Art and Archaeology of the West: Papers in Honor of Lawrence L. Loendorf symposium. William Lipe, Shannon Tushingham, Eric Blinman, Chuck LaRue, and Laurie Webster tackled the subject of how many turkeys are needed to make a blanket.

Caitlin Ainsworth presented “Paquimé in Perspective: A Meta-Analysis of Turkey Remains from the US Southwest and Northern Mexico;” Alexis O’Donnell, Emily Moes, Ethan C. Hill, Douglas J. Kennett, and Keith M. Prufer shared their study of “Indicators of Skeletal Stress in a Small Skeletal
Volunteers needed for education programs

History Museum, OAS making plans for new project

The OAS education outreach program builds on a long-term commitment to in-school and after-school programming, with emphasis on teacher training and outreach to schools and community groups in the distant corners of New Mexico. Each of our programs makes effective use of teams of adults, so that a single, trained individual (whether OAS staff or volunteer) can rotate around a classroom to groups of 4 to 5 students, or several parent-child pairs. Working in an outreach team allows us to share the load of transporting and setting up materials (we have LOTS of materials!), provide real attention and feedback to the recipients of our programming, and encourage productive reflection on the challenges and successes of specific programming.

An opportunity has arisen for a new outreach collaboration with the New Mexico History Museum. Tentatively titled “Making History,” NMHM contemplates a series of programs in the museum atrium that add the dimension of history to maker spaces, which are often digitally driven. The concepts underlying “Making History” are essentially the experimentation and hands-on practices of traditional technologies that have been part of the OAS education outreach program since its inception (pottery, cordage, stone tools, blankets, baskets, etc.). Clearly OAS has much to offer, and joint programming would be a positive goal.

Both increased school programming and any potential collaboration with the History Museum require leveraging new

SAA Excellence in Public Education Award

Apples and Oranges, Disappointment, Opportunity

Despite our hopes, OAS didn’t win this year’s Society for American Archaeology Excellence in Public Education Award. This year the award was conferred on the Magic Mountain Community Archaeology Project, a collaboration between the Denver Museum of Nature & Science and Paleocultural Research Group. The project was recognized for community involvement in the excavation of an archaeological site in Golden, Colorado. Over two years, 3,000 members of the community were involved in the project in one way or another.

OAS’s education outreach is very different in focus and in philosophy. Although we have considered trying to develop community excavation programs, there are practical and cultural concerns that argue against it. Practically, the cost of supervising discretionary field excavation is prohibitive for our unsubsidized (except for FOA member contributions) staff, and even after the cost of analysis and reporting is accounted for, every cubic foot of recovered artifacts and samples entails a curation cost of $525. Archaeology may be “fun” for participants in the sense of discovery, but the responsibilities of analysis, reporting, and curation are both heavy and expensive.

In New Mexico, we have two additional responsibilities. The first that applies to all archaeology is that the act of excavation is destructive. Digging into a site destroys the record that time has sealed in the ground and any observations or collections that aren’t made or are made incompletely can never be corrected in the future. The idea that you can only excavate a site once is a pretty heavy burden (morally and intellectually), and it underlies all of OAS’s contract archaeology projects. We excavate sites that are threatened with destruction by some sort of development activity: a road, a mine, a utility line, or a hotel. And the thick and comprehensive reports are the required end products.

The second responsibility is to descendant communities. Where tribes and pueblos accept that there is some value in excavating sites that would otherwise be destroyed, they are generally comfortable with the traditional knowledge of their own histories, and the value of excavating a site that isn’t going to be destroyed isn’t compelling. We might be able to work with descendants of Euroamerican communities in the excavation of Spanish Colonial or Territorial Period sites, but then we come up against the costs of the work and of carrying the project through to a final report.

In contrast, the OAS education outreach program stresses the deep and complex culture history of New Mexico. We endeavor to convey a respect for the people, cultures, and histories of the different regions of the state, often using hands-on experiences with ancient technologies to initiate conversations. The complexity, sophistication, and quality of life of past peoples are usually appreciated by modern communities, including descendant communities. We believe that building respect and understanding of archaeology as a discipline is secondary to building respect and understanding of our human past.

All our best to Kathy McRee

FOA board and activity committee member Kathy McRee resigned her position early last month. We here at FOA have enjoyed working with Kathy for many years and look forward to spending time with her again soon. We are asking that you send any special sentiments to Kathy to melissaj.martinez@state.nm.us as we will be honoring her in our next newsletter.

See Education, on Page 7.
The Bright Side of Nuclear Testing
How We Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb

In the world of radiocarbon dating, the OAS laboratory has found a perverse silver lining in the legacy of nuclear weapons testing. The flood of radioactive carbon introduced into the atmosphere in the mid-1950s and early 1960s was taken up by plants and animals (including people). Where radiocarbon dating has very poor resolution in the period between the late seventeenth century and the present, during the brief period in the mid-twentieth century, the abundance of “bomb carbon” actually allows radiocarbon dating to discriminate individual years by their isotope content.

Marvin Rowe and the lab put this anomaly to use in helping demonstrate that a pretty purported Picasso painting (alliteration intended) was probably a forgery (the linen was a year or too young for the signature date), and the OAS lab is currently helping confirm that a Holocaust era painting is not a forgery (assuming that we can demonstrate a lack of bomb carbon).

Another current project will use the bomb isotope anomaly to test assumptions underlying radiocarbon dating of soot accumulations (such as cave and rock shelter walls and ceilings, cooking pot surfaces, hearth stones, etc.). Two OAS volunteers (Dianne Sangster and Lynn Robey) have isolated individual growth rings from a bomb era apricot tree from the Shonnard House [the new MNMF offices]. We will create soot layers on porcelain tiles from the wood samples and date the wood and the soot layers independently. If the age of the wood burned yields the same date as the soot, we can be more confident that radiocarbon dates from soot are meaningful.

The next step will be to overlay soot from wood of different ages. Can the plasma technique sample sooted surfaces gently enough and evenly enough that we can create a stratigraphic sequence of dates? If the discrimination potential of bomb carbon allows us to validate this approach, it will be a marvelous new chronological tool for archaeologists everywhere.

Education
Continued from Page 6.

resources, both human and financial. This newsletter is a call for new volunteers who might enjoy working with children and families as part of OAS programming. We have arranged for specialized training of both new and old volunteers in the increasingly sensitive world of in-school programming. OAS staff and volunteers will be the experimental cohort for a new volunteer training program under development by the Santa Fe Public Schools likely to take place in early June.

Anyone interested in becoming an OAS education docent, and in particular anyone interested in working in either school or museum settings, should contact Mollie Toll at mollie.toll@state.nm.us. Benefits include opportunities for subject matter training by OAS staff, the joy and craziness of working with today’s school children and families, and the opportunity to work with a wonderful group of like-minded people. If you are in a position to financially support the development of makers programs for the History Museum, contact Eric Blinman at eric.blinman@state.nm.us. Since we still don’t have any word on our BLM education grant, we can only move forward with these programs if we can find new funds.

Director
Continued from Page 1.

campuses. The Museum of Natural History and Science doesn’t just stop at dinosaurs; OAS has contributed to more than one lecture series on climate change and human history. Collaborations between OAS and New Mexico Arts have ranged from the public art installations at CNMA to programs and workshops for contemporary Native American fiber and ceramic artists.

We are especially close in mission to MIAC and increasingly to the New Mexico History Museum. The latter includes help with exhibition development, the archaeology of the Palace of the Governors and its environs, and educational programming. Closer collaborations with the Friends of History are under discussion, with tremendous potential to strengthen the understanding of New Mexico’s remarkable heritage.
MEETING

Continued from Page 5.


According to OAS Research Associate Sheri Spaar, “One of the most exciting papers I heard at SAA was given by Robert Gustas, University of Edmonton, on new methods of modelling past maritime movements based on “least cost” analysis. With this and other methods being explored by archaeologists, we may be able to trace the coastal voyages of ancient peoples at different geological eras and discover the scope of time and effort it took to make canoe trips from (say) Beringia to the tip of South America.”

OAS archaeologist Karen Wening wrote about her time at the event, “Unquestionably, the highlight of the SAA meeting for me was the seminar on plant domestication, where some exciting new ideas were presented concerning the chronology and the means by which many plants changed in response to human behavior, which one researcher suggested may date to pre-hominid times. This seminar dovetailed nicely with another excellent group of talks on the huge variety of ‘hot rock’ features in the southwest and the ways in which they were constructed to bake agave for food and fiber, along with numerous other foods. Another excellent seminar addressed cultural exchange between Native American and Hispanic populations in the colonial southwest. I am so grateful to have had the chance to attend!”

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.