

# New Mexico Archaeology

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO FOUNDATION

WWW.NMARCHAEOLOGY.ORG

NOVEMBER 2023

## OAS RETIREES, RESEARCHERS, VOLUNTEERS, ATTEND 2023 PAQUIMÉ TALK

BY MARVIN ROWE

Researchers, volunteers, and employees (both past and present) of the New Mexico Office

**Chair of  
NY section  
of American  
Chemical  
Society  
visits OAS.**

See Page 7.

of Archaeological Studies played a prominent role at this year's "Primera Mesa Redonda de Paquimé" [First Round Table

on Paquimé] held October 26, 27, and 28 at the Archaeological Zone of Paquimé at Casas Grandes, Mexico.

Collectively, those affiliated with OAS were responsible for four of the 35 presentations at the round-table event. Participants included Thatcher Seltzer-Rogers, director of business operations at OAS and president of the Archaeological Society of New Mexico; Caitlin Ainsworth, PhD candidate at UNM; Timothy Maxwell, former director at OAS; retired geologist and OAS Research Associate Bob Florek; retired chemistry professor and OAS Research Associate Marvin W. Rowe; and Jeff Cox, recently retired from OAS.

In addition to presenting their new research on manganese compositions in black pigments of the Casas Grandes polychrome ceramic tradition, Bob Florek and Marvin Rowe

See **Paquimé**, on Page 7.



Photo by Barbara Am Ende

## EXPLORING ROCK ART SITES AT COMANCHE GAP

BY SUSAN MCMICHAEL

FOA members and friends spent a beautiful, crisp fall weekend, Saturday, October 7, and Sunday, October 8 exploring The Creston, also known as "Comanche Gap," which is located on the San Cristobal Ranch in the Galisteo Basin.

The tours, which were led by archaeologists Chuck Hannaford and Eric Blinman, were a huge success! Many participants found themselves in awe of the extraordinary rock art and dramatic scenery of The Creston's volcanic dike and the "gap," which has long been interpreted as an entrance between the world of the Pueblo and Plains Indians who came sometimes to trade or raid.

The archaeologists did a masterful job,

with their deep knowledge of the site, and safely guided participants over rocks and steep ascents to see this "pantheon" of New Mexico rock art that scholar Polly Schaafsma once referred to as a "magical place bristling with protective powers."

Spectacular rock art included a mix of warrior and religious symbolism including shields with war clubs, bear claws, sun imagery, and clan symbols connected with warfare. Several *shalako* figures were identified along with *kachina* figures and rich symbolic imagery of the Galisteo Basin. This was an excellent tour and perfect day for the lucky participants!

Thanks to Chuck Hannaford, Eric Blinman, Jerry Cooke, Tom Noble, and all of the FOA volunteers who made this a successful tour! ❖

## FOA MEMBERS OFFER INPUT ON FUTURE TOURS; SO WE'VE MADE SOME CHANGES

The FOA Board thanks all of you for expressing your concerns regarding difficulties encountered during the sign-up process for the Comanche Gap Rock Art Tour. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience or misunderstandings that these difficulties may have caused, but we have made a number of changes to make the sign-up process easier and more efficient:

- Forty-eight hours before tour sign-up begins on EventBrite, the entire sign-up process will be checked and re-checked by three individual FOA board members. Any glitches will be corrected before you sign-up.
- If all tours are full, and you opt to take a position on our event waiting list, please be aware that the waiting list will be checked daily. Those on the waiting list will remain in the order in which they signed up. Members will be informed quickly, via e-mail, of openings as they occur. If the waiting list reaches a certain number, organizers may offer additional tours.
- Maps and directions to tour locations will be sent to you, via e-mail, at the time you sign up. For each tour, please remember to use the map and directions sent to you by the FOA. Do not use Google, as it will often guide you to the wrong place. You will also be provided with the phone number of an FOA representative who you can call if you get lost on the way!

Thank you for your patience.

Jerry Cooke  
FOA Board Chair



# COMANCHE GAP



Photos by Barbara Am Ende

### Office of Archaeological Studies

The Office of Archaeological Studies 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](http://www.nmarchaeology.org) for information. We're also on Facebook, at [www.Facebook.com/FriendsOfArchaeologyNM](http://www.Facebook.com/FriendsOfArchaeologyNM).

### Mission Statement

The mission of the Friends of Archaeology is to support the Office of Archaeological Studies in the achievement of its archaeological services mandate from the State of New Mexico through participation in and funding of research and education projects.

### FOA Board

Chair: Jerry Cooke

Treasurer: Jerry Sabloff

Board Members:

Barbara Am Ende, Margaret Armstrong, Joyce Blalock, Donna Coleman, Jerry Cooke, Greg Dove, Susan McMichael, Tom Noble, Sherill Spaar, and Marja Springer

Contributors to the Board: Matthew Barbour, Michelle Ensey, Shelby Jones, Melissa Martinez, Lauren Paige

# SIGNS OF CHANGE



## CNMA HAS BEEN A BEACON TO HISTORY BUFFS, ARCHAEOLOGISTS, AND EVEN ANIMAL LOVERS

BY MELISSA MARTINEZ

Drivers traveling along Caja del Rio Road in the future may notice something new about the Center for New Mexico Archaeology building as they speed by.

The northeast wall of CNMA now boasts a brand new, silver-lettered sign that proudly proclaims to the world exactly who we are and what we do!

The sign was installed by the state in early October. Employees returning to work at CNMA on the Tuesday after the Indigenous Peoples' Day holiday were surprised to find a new sign on the building.

"It's so nice to know that our build-

ing will no longer be mistaken for the Humane Society," said Matt Barbour, co-interim director of the Office of Archaeological Studies.

OAS Field Director and Archaeologist Karen Wening said the building has been mistaken for the Santa Fe Animal Shelter numerous times since opening its doors in 2012.

"As soon as this building looked finished, we had people stopping in looking for the animal shelter," she said. "Every year it seems like a lot of people come by just looking for lost dogs."

CNMA would like to remind the public that its doors are open to archaeology enthusiasts and animal lovers alike. ❖

## GREETINGS FROM NEWLY HIRED INSTRUCTIONAL COORDINATOR

BY CHINARA LUCERO

Growing up in New Mexico, my life was enriched by all the different stories and cultures of the Southwest. I grew up



Chinara Lucero

exploring the New Mexico landscape, visiting pueblos, observing rock art and fossils, cleaning pottery, and embracing New Mexican food and culture. I learned how important the Rio Grande is to my home and

to the Indigenous people. Although I was young, a seed was planted in me that shaped my future in academics and the path I have chosen to pursue today.

I began my career as a field archaeologist, but I soon found that my greatest love was teaching, educating others by connecting archaeology with storytelling. I became an interpretive ranger. I have worked for the National Park Service, New Mexico Historic Sites, the U.S. Forest Service, and, most recently, Wonders on Wheels, the Department of Cultural Affairs' traveling museum.

I have created and implemented educational programs, tours, hands-on activities, visual aids, and web-based programs for communities of all ages and sizes. I have received service awards from Glacier National Park and Mount Shasta-Trinity Forest Service.

Continuing my career with OAS will allow me to continue to follow a path that educates, preserves and shares the stories of those who stood before us and the history of our surrounding landscape. This is important because it is our history that has helped shape our identity as a people today and will, in turn, shape those of tomorrow.

I reside in Albuquerque with my husband Ben and our dog Finnegan. ❖



## EDUCATORS SPEND A MAGICAL EVENING AT VLADDEM MUSEUM

BY CHINARA LUCERO

On October 5, Shelby Jones and I met with Santa Fe educators at the New Mexico Museum of Art's Vladem Contemporary. Employees and volunteers hosted "Teachers Night Out," an event that connects teachers with educators from local entities, allowing for new relationships to be built that augment the classroom experience. If you haven't visited the museum yet, I suggest you put it on your to-do list because it is well worth your time.

We set up our booth on the upper balcony, which allowed a slight breeze and an illuminating glow as the sun set. Our booth was packed with prehistoric and historic hands-on "artifacts" that encouraged grown-ups to channel their inner child. Educators were given the chance to touch skunk and coyote pelts and squealed with delight, and disgust, when they realized they had picked up "glue sticks" made from pine resin, charcoal, and rabbit poop. One teacher asked us to



Educators who attended a special event at Vladem were able to learn more about NM's archaeological past.

take a picture of him while he pretended to throw our atlatl.

We met so many new friends and learned so much about other entities and their amazing educational programs. We connected with many educators, expanded our contact list, and even made plans for future events! We can't wait for future collaborations and for the opportunity to bring our educational programs to more classrooms! ❖

## OAS HIRES NEW FIELD TECHNICIAN

Steven Needle was recently hired to fill the position of archaeological field technician for the New Mexico Office of Archaeological Studies. He started his anthropology career at State University of New York Oswego as a linguistics major and finished it as an anthropology major at New Mexico State University in 2012.



Steven Needle

His archaeological career began in 2012, at the New Mexico State University Field School at Cottonwood Springs Pueblo, NM. He earned his master's degree in anthropology and a graduate certificate in cultural resource management from NMSU in 2015. Since then, he has presented papers at the 2015 Jornada Mogollon and 2016 Pecos conferences and has had his master's work published in *The Artifact*. He has volunteered on archaeological surveys at White Sands National Monument and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. He has also participated in the Historic American Buildings Survey, which included survey work, report writing, and community outreach for the nomination of Mesilla Park to the *National Register of Historic Places*, and he completed adobe and lime plastering work during the historic restoration of the Phillips Chapel, a *National Register* property in Las Cruces. Since 2013, he has held an internship at White Sands Missile Range and been hired for archaeological field work by Human Systems Research in Southwestern New Mexico and by QRI for a 14 week survey on Fort Bliss in New Mexico and Texas. He has worked as an archaeological contractor for the New Mexico Association of Conservative Districts in both crew and principal investigator positions throughout New Mexico and served as foreman and lead tradesman at Paul Davis Restoration for three years. With more than 20 years of experience in the building trade, he became a New Mexico licensed contractor, holding licenses in framing; drywall installation and texture; plaster, lath and stucco; and window, door and skylight installation. He started his own business, East Mountain Home Renovations, in 2023. Steven enjoys spending time with his family, playing a variety of acoustic stringed instruments and drums, and the occasional backpacking/fishing trip. He resides in the East Mountains with his wife, Molly, who is also an archaeologist, and their children, Rowan and Emma. ❖

After attending field school in Farmington, NM, she went on to conduct various collection analyses and presented a poster at the 2019 Pecos Conference. Graduating with a bachelor

## NEW CREW CHIEF TAKES OAS POST

The Office of Archaeological Studies welcomes new Archaeology Crew Chief Fiona Shaffer. Fiona began her archaeological career during her undergraduate education at the University of New Mexico, where she concentrated primarily on Chaco collections and worked closely with several prominent professors in the field.



Fiona Shaffer

of arts degree and bachelor of science degree in anthropology and psychology, respectively, she went on to earn her master's degree in public archaeology from UNM. She completed the process in 2023.

While working closely with UNM's Angelyn Bass, she spent time in Canyon de Chelly, Tonto National Monument, and Fort Davis preserving, photographing, and analyzing adobe and plaster. She led a small field crew in Arizona before moving on to work as a field technician for the U.S. Forest Service in the Jemez and Cuba districts. Her expertise is in lithic analysis, and she focuses on Plains-Pueblo relationships in Northern New Mexico. Fiona lives in Santa Fe with her dog. ❖

The Office of Archaeological Studies welcomes Project Director and Osteology Laboratory Supervisor Chandler Buchfink. As a teenager, Chandler's interests in anthropology and archaeology stemmed from his fascination with the human body and how it worked. Initially, he was unsure how to pursue these interests, as he didn't want to be a doctor or surgeon. It wasn't until he watched a television show called *Bones* that he decided he wanted to pursue a career in anthropology. Since then, Chandler has earned his master's degree in anthropology from Wichita State University and bachelor's degree in anthropology with a minor in physics from Texas State University in 2022 and 2019, respectively. He is a biological anthropologist whose main interests are osteology and human variation. He is also an eager traveler. He has visited several different destinations including the Pyramids of Giza, the Acropolis in Athens, Stonehenge, Notre Dame cathedral, Vatican City, and many more. He is excited to continue exploring the world. The next two countries on his list are Australia and Japan. ❖



Chandler Buchfink

## OAS WELCOMES NEW OSTEOLOGY LAB SUPERVISOR, PROJECT DIRECTOR

The next two countries on his list are Australia and Japan. ❖

## LECTURE SERIES

# ARCHAEOLOGY AS HISTORY IN THE SOUTHWEST

For the past several years, the Friends of Archaeology have sponsored an evening lecture series that covers the history of Southwestern communities from the peopling of the New World to the Reconquest. The lectures are prepared and presented by Dr. Eric Blinman, former director of the Office of Archaeological Studies.

The lectures will be presented live via Zoom on Wednesdays, beginning at 5:45 p.m., starting on **January 3, 2024**. The lectures will be recorded, and recordings and PowerPoint decks will be available for paid subscribers to review for at least a month after the close of the lecture series. Each lecture will be 1 to 1½ hours long. There will be at least eight lectures following the topic sequence below [*the previous series eventually consisted of 12 lectures*].

This lecture series will count for at least eight hours of continuing education credits toward permitting qualifications for New Mexico Cultural Resource Consultants. Dr. Blinman will encourage feedback and discussion following each lecture.

A new experiment for this series will be both immediate responses to participant questions as well as more in-depth responses to discussion issues raised by participants and peer archaeologists. In-depth responses will be added to the ends of subsequent Wednesday lectures or will be incorporated into those lectures.

A premise of the lecture series is that archaeology is history that must culminate in the post-colonial diversity of Native American communities. An additional premise is that as a scientific discipline, archaeology presents models and interpretations explicitly for critical evaluation rather than presenting those models as truth. Dr. Blinman's perspective has been shaped by his early exposure to archaeology in 1967, his first collaborative tribal archaeological project (1977–1978), decades of consultations on issues of cultural affiliation under NAGPRA, and decades of building and executing research designs that define



Chaco Canyon

the goals of archaeology prompted by economic development projects. Lectures will include:

- **Conceptual and Practical Tools for Understanding Southwestern Archaeology** will cover evolutionary models, subsistence economics, how languages change, principles of demography, tools for climate and environmental reconstruction, and measures of time.
- **The Destination: Modern Peoples and Cultures of the Northern Southwest**

will cover the diversity of environments and cultures at European contact, language diversity and history, means of maintaining community identities, and how impacts of colonization have shaped perceptions (and misconceptions) of Native peoples.

- **The Early Years: Peopling of the Americas through the Southwestern Archaic** will cover the remarkably early traces of humans in the Americas, Paleoindian and Archaic lifeways, and differentiation of distinct peoples within the Southwest.

- **Agriculture, Pottery, and the Emergence of Formative Lifeways** will cover the diversity of historic relationships as population, domesticated crops, and pottery transform Southwestern communities and establish the foundations of multiculturalism.

- **Villages, Economic Intensification, Social Differentiation, and the Foundations of Chaco** will explore the rhythms of climate change, intra- and inter-village integration and interaction, and structures of the middle centuries of Southwestern culture history.

- **Post-Chaco Communities and the Two Migrations** will build on the decentralization of Chaco and the initiation of the waves of migration that set the stage for the modern distributions of peoples and cultures.

- **Pueblo Communities at the Threshold of Colonization** will explore the impacts of both climate change and colonization and how these contribute to the complexity of contemporary Native identities.

Cost is \$180 for FOA members and \$200 for non-members. Registration will be through the link on the Friends of Archaeology page of the Museum of New Mexico Foundation website at <https://www.museumfoundation.org/friends/friends-of-archaeology/> or at our Eventbrite page at <https://bit.ly/foaevents> ❖

## CHAIR OF NY SECTION OF AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY VISITS

Dr. Mary Virginia Orna, chair of the New York section of the American Chemical Society, and a group of about 15 to 20 professional chemists and engineers, collectively known as ChemSource, visited OAS on October 11, 2023.

The group's mission is to improve the quality of chemistry education around the world. To this end, they have traveled for more than two decades under Dr. Orna's leadership.

Before the pandemic, Mary and her associates traveled to various locations throughout Europe. This time, the group confined their trip to the United States. This made Santa Fe, and OAS, their top choice for a good science-based visit, though the groups also took time out to enjoy many other Santa Fe attractions.

As part of their tour, they requested several OAS talks. Shelby A. Jones, OAS laboratory supervisor, gave a talk on "Archaeomagnetism and Its Applications in the Broader American Southwest." Marvin W. Rowe presented a talk on "Nondestructive <sup>14</sup>C Dating: Plasma Oxidation Extraction of Organic Carbon and Nondestructive pXRF Analyses." Both talks were given at CNMA.

Later, Mary Singleton and Richard Hasbrouck hosted a cocktail party in Dr. Orna's honor. ❖



OAS Research Associates Marvin Rowe and Bob Florek, above, took time to explore Casas Grandes during a recent trip to Mexico, where they attended "Primera Mesa Redonda de Paquimé" [First Round Table on Paquimé] on October 26, 27, and 28. Marvin and Bob gave a special talk on pXRF analysis, left, at the first-ever event.

### CAN'T FIND US?

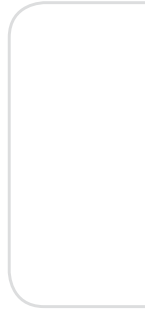
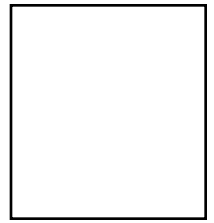
If you're planning a trip to OAS, we're at 7 Old Cochiti Road, off Caja del Rio Road. We're the first building on the left, just before the animal shelter.

## PAQUIMÉ

Continued from Page 1.

were pleased to be able to obtain numerous pieces of pottery from a family of potters in Mata Ortiz, as well as a sample of local manganese ore used by modern pottery makers for black pigments. They are excited to use these recently obtained samples as

comparative samples in their research into the pigment sourcing of the ancient makers of the Casas Grandes polychrome ceramics. Their preliminary evidence, based on the uniquely high manganese ratios with some barium, suggests that the raw material sources used today for black pigment are the same sources used by the past residents in the area. ❖



## **BROWN BAG LECTURE: FEBRUARY 14, 2024**

# CERAMICS FROM NUSBAUM'S 1935 LA PLATA VALLEY SURVEY

OAS Research Associate C. Dean Wilson will be offering a free lunchtime talk on the Examination of Ceramics from Deric Nusbaum's 1935 La Plata Valley Survey.

Over the course of the La Plata Highway Project, ceramics collected during Deric Nusbaum's 1935 survey and recording of 992 archaeological sites in the La Plata Valley were located and examined. These collections provide a fascinating glimpse into the goals and techniques utilized by pioneering archaeologists of the time, while also contributing to a further understanding of the long occupation of this valley by often large Ancestral Pueblo communities.

Information from this analysis was used to supplement the extremely large database accumulated during the La

Plata Highway Project and provides insights concerning the nature of continuity and change during a long occupation by groups producing a continual sequence of Northern San Juan tradition pottery.

Data from this study also provided insight into the nature of and influences from other areas as well as how climate influenced changes in settlement patterns at communities occupied in different elevations and settings.

This talk will be held in the OAS library at the Center for New Mexico Archaeology. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. This talk begins **Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at noon**. The lecture will be provided in an online format, either on the Friends of Archaeology Facebook page or the FOA Youtube channel. ❖

## **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. Your tax-deductible donation through the Museum of New Mexico Foundation will have a lasting impact. One hundred percent of your donation will be directed to the OAS. No administrative fees are charged. Give online: [museumfoundation.org/give/](https://museumfoundation.org/give/). For questions, or to donate, contact Lauren Paige, at (505) 982-2282, or via e-mail at [lauren@museumfoundation.org](mailto:lauren@museumfoundation.org).

