



New Mexico Archaeology

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO FOUNDATION

WWW.NMARCHAEOLOGY.ORG

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RETURNING TO OUR ROOTS

JOHN TAYLOR-MONTOYA
OAS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I am writing this message, Santa Fe is blanketed with a dusting of snow. It's not yet winter but this reminds me of when I first stepped into the role of Executive Director. It is hard to believe nearly a year has gone by since that time. In my first message to the Friends as OAS Director, I wrote about my direct connection to the history and heritage of New Mexico. I made the point of emphasizing that history is living in New Mexico, even the distant past that Western society has labeled pre-history is present here in New Mexico.

I was reminded of that recently while reviewing a monitoring report for a project OAS completed over the past year for the City of Santa Fe. In the historical background section, one of my ancestors was mentioned in a section about Spanish land grants. In this case, Don Feliciano was the petitioner to the Court of Private Land Claims in the 1890s. Indeed, this particular person appears in multiple historical texts and accounts. For some reason, seeing his name in our report caught me by surprise. His name was an unexpected reminder of my roots. That got me thinking about similar connections in other OAS projects. How else are we returning to our roots?

This has been a banner year for archaeological services. The

See **Director**, on Page 7.



A FAIR DAY FOR ARCHAEOLOGY

HEAVY RAINS FAIL TO DAMPEN CNMA OPEN HOUSE

STORY BY ZIGGY PROTHRO
PHOTOGRAPHS BY MELISSA MARTINEZ

A wet, muddy day wasn't able to put a damper on the success of the New Mexico State Archaeology Fair on Saturday, Oct. 19. The event was hosted by the Center for New Mexico Archaeology and was co-coordinated by the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, the Office of Archaeological Studies (OAS), and the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture Archaeological Research Collections (MIAC-ARC). The heavy rains necessitated the transfer of all exhibitors indoors, and every available space was utilized to ensure that everyone had plenty of room to do demonstrations and make

presentations. The education classroom was filled with children and adults painting (replica) potsherds with yucca brushes and yucca paints, creating their own Mimbres-style art on paper plates, grinding corn, learning about an archaeologist's day, and handling real and replica artifacts. OAS's staff, research associates, and volunteers spent the entire day interpreting the Archaeomagnetic Laboratory, interpreting the Analytic Laboratories including carbon dating and the use of supercritical fluids, making pots and arrows using traditional methods, and learning about osteology and its use in archaeology. Other agencies also

See **Fair**, on Page 2.

OAS ARCHAEOMAGNETIC LABORATORY DONOR FUNDS LEAD TO EXCITING WORK AT OAS

BY SHELBY JONES
OAS LABORATORY DIRECTOR

The months of logistics and years of discussions are in their final stages! All approvals are in and major progress is underway to upgrade the 30 plus-year-old OAS Archaeomagnetic Laboratory into a world-class lab with increased capabilities and quality.

In 2023, Capital Outlay funds were earmarked for the renovation of the laboratory; these funds, combined with plenty of donor support, made this project possible. In August 2024, OAS took delivery of the retired magnetic equipment from UT Dallas and has spent the last several months upgrading, testing, and calibrating these systems for use. In November 2024, the lab took possession of the first of four loads of custom-cut hardwood that will be used in the construction of specialized shelves needed to store the 30,000 legacy archaeomagnetic specimens housed in the lab. In Spring 2025, the last instrument from UT Dallas will

Custom-cut hardwood will be used to build specialized shelves for 30,000 specimens.

arrive: a custom-made, room-sized, magnetically shielded space. The shielded space will arrive in pieces and will be constructed in place.

So, stay tuned! We can't wait to invite you to the lab to see our progress during this massive construction phase and then, once again, after the set-up is complete. We are incredibly grateful for all the support we have already received during this process, especially those that have already donated to the still-open Archaeomagnetic Research Appeal through the Museum of New Mexico Foundation. If you would like to contribute toward the development of the Archaeomagnetic Laboratory Version 2.0, those funds will be put immediately toward the continued upgrade of our new lab equipment, specialized training, and laboratory management. ❖



Photo by Shelby Jones

Laboratory Analyst Emma Kostecki delivers the first of four loads of pre-cut boards to the OAS Archaeomagnetic Laboratory.

FAIR

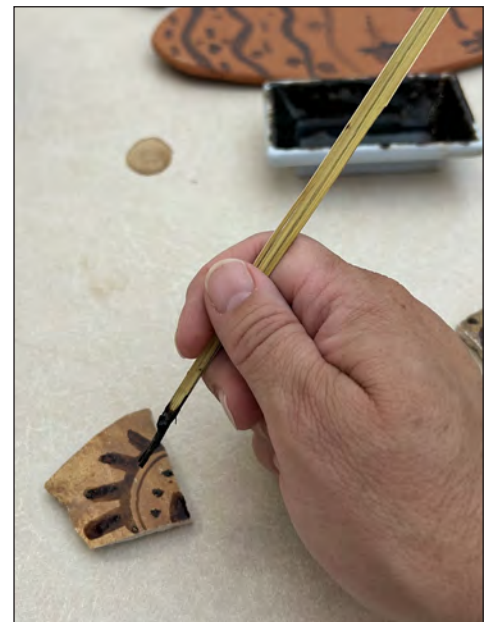
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participated, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Mexico State Land Office, New Mexico State Parks, Jornada Research Institute, National Resources Conservation Service, Archaeological Society of New Mexico, Santa Fe Archeological Society, the Archaeological Conservancy, Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Preserve, and Ghost Ranch. There were presentations on flintknapping, creating "rock art" with stamps, and more. A wealth of activities were available through MIAC-ARC, where visitors made shell necklaces with a pump drill and enjoyed tours of the typically closed-to-the-public artifact collection. The



Visitors had the opportunity to decorate modern-day sherds with organic paint.

New Mexico State Archaeology Fair has been an annual event since its founding in 1992, with a break in 2020 and 2021 from in-person events. ❖



Office of Archaeological Studies

The Office of Archaeological Studies (OAS) was the first museum program of its kind in the nation. OAS staff conduct international field and laboratory research, offer educational opportunities for school groups and civic organizations, and work 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, at 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: Marja Springer

Board Members: Barbara am Ende, Margaret Armstrong, Donna Coleman, Greg Dove, Tom Harrison, Susan McMichael, Tom Noble, and Sherill Spaar

Contributors to the Board:
Shelby Jones, Melissa Martinez, Lauren Paige, Thatcher Seltzer-Rogers, John Taylor-Montoya



STUDENTS GET A CLOSER LOOK AT THE ACOMA SITE



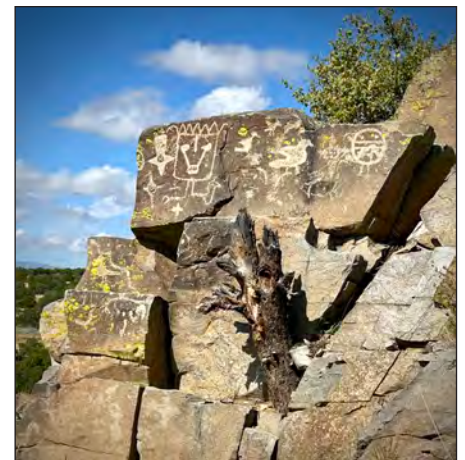
Busloads of students from Haak'u Community Academy enjoyed guided tours of the OAS Acoma dig site in mid-September. Led by OAS Education Coordinator Ziggy Prothro and OAS Executive Director John Taylor-Montoya, the tours gave students the chance to observe and ask questions about a real-life archaeological dig.

Photos by Melissa Martinez.



FLASHES OF THE FAMILIAR

**PUEBLO BLANCO
TOUR LEAVES ONE
MAN FEELING LIKE
HE'S COME HOME**



STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS
BY JOHNNIE MARTINEZ

Have you ever visited a place for the first time and experienced the uneasy feeling you'd been there before?

I've had the privilege of participating in three Friends of Archaeology (FOA) tours of Galisteo Basin pueblos and cultural sites this summer, and in all three instances, I've found myself pausing to wonder why some places seemed so familiar. One of those eerily familiar places was Pueblo Blanco, a large site situated on New Mexico State Trust Land and private property approximately 25 miles south of Santa Fe.

Like the FOA tours of the "The Creston" in Comanche Gap and Pueblo Colorado that preceded it, the Pueblo Blanco tour

was carefully planned and executed to keep us safe, informed, and entertained as we made our way from one spellbinding site to another. Expert archaeologists like Eric Blinman, C. Dean Wilson, and Charles Hannaford brought to life ancient walls, mounds, and rock art and patiently explained the origins and lifespans of the bits and pieces of broken pottery we excitedly brought to their attention.

And what a pueblo it must have been! Archaeologist Nels Nelson conducted an extensive survey of the site in 1912 and documented at least 15 buildings containing 1,500 to 2,000 rooms, three man-made water reservoirs, and nearby geologic formations of sedimentary and volcanic



See **Familiar**, on Page 6.

FAMILIAR

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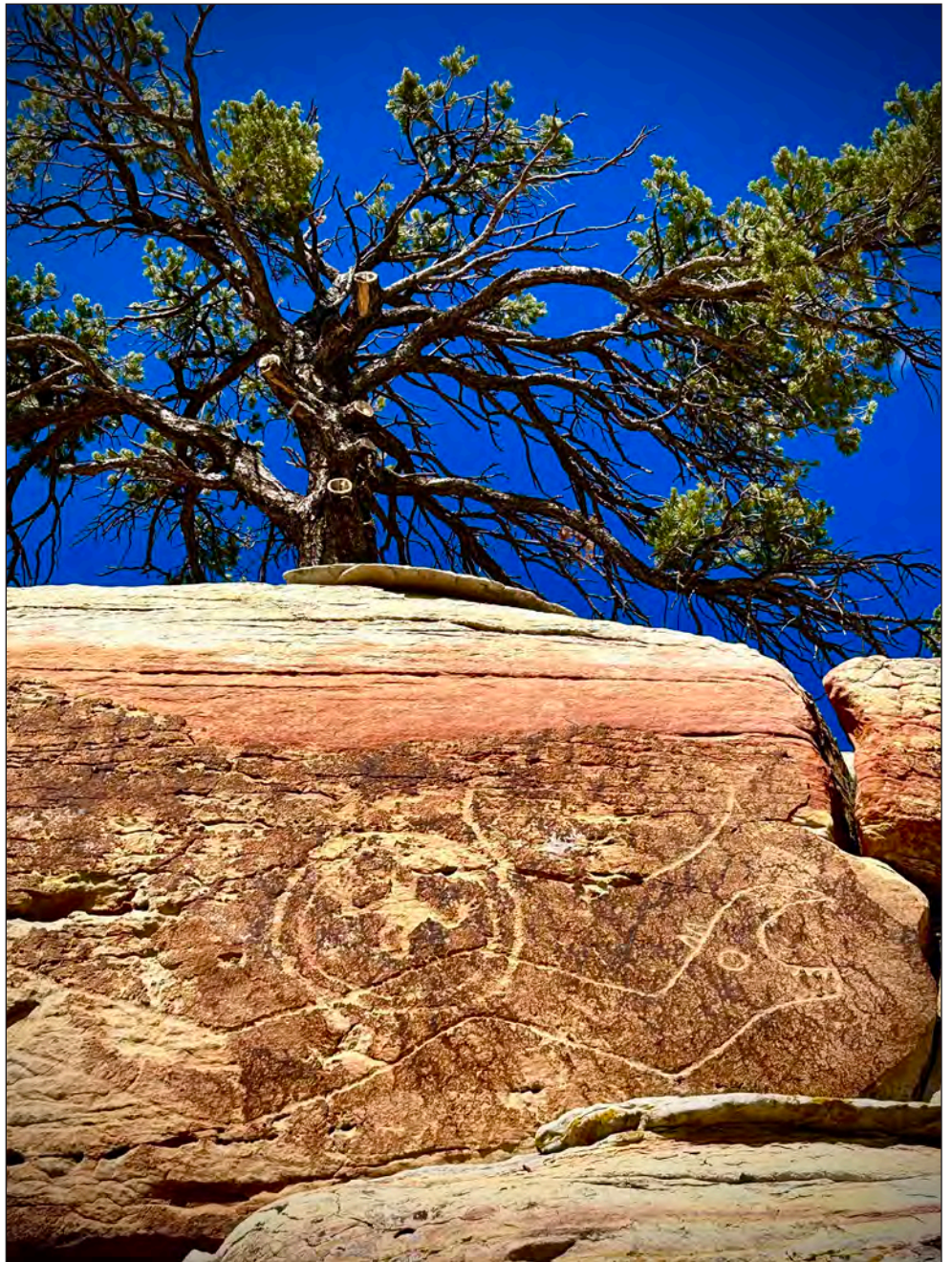
materials that provided useful materials for an estimated 1,500 residents.

I've learned from experts like Blinman that pottery sherds are a reliable indication of when these pueblos were occupied and the extent to which their inhabitants interacted and traded with their contemporaries from near and far. Analysis of Pueblo Blanco glaze-ware indicates it was most heavily occupied between AD 1300 and 1490. Imagine that... we were examining (and carefully replacing) pottery sherds created years before Christopher Columbus ever set foot in the western hemisphere.

In addition to the pottery sherds, there were large numbers of petroglyphs and other types of rock art depicting a wide range of animals, kachinas, symbols, and abstract motifs etched into the volcanic and sandstone formations near the Pueblo. A report about Pueblo Blanco written by the University of New Mexico's Office of Contract Archeology notes that, "The rock images indicate that iconography and spiritual concepts were deeply woven into the daily lives of the inhabitants of Pueblo Blanco." Among those images are warriors, shields, snakes, bears, kachina masks, and stars, one of which looks like a comet with a tail. Standing before these massive rock walls and gazing at the beautiful art created by those people so very long ago filled me with a sense of awe not unlike that I've experienced elsewhere in the churches, cathedrals, and temples built by contemporary religious believers.

The faint, ghostly flashbacks I experienced during last summer's tours of the three Galisteo Basin cultural sites may have an occult, ancestral explanation. Like many Hispanics in Northern New Mexico, I'm the product of unions between my European and Native American ancestors... in fact, approximately 30 percent of my DNA markers are Native American.

During our ancestral research, we've discovered that one of my grandmothers was a Tano Indian woman named Ines, whose home was the Pueblo of San Cristobal in the Galisteo Basin. Perhaps I'm seeing these wonderful, strangely familiar places through her eyes...it's a beautiful thought. ❖



Large numbers of petroglyphs were etched into the cliffs at the Pueblo Blanco site, above.

Left, tour-goers get a detailed lesson on pottery types found in the Galisteo Basin.

PAIR ATTENDS ARCHAEOLOGY EDUCATORS CONFERENCE IN CEDAR CITY

OUR EDUCATION COORDINATORS THANK FOA FOR HELPING FUND TRIP

With the assistance of a generous grant from the FOA, Shelby Jones and Ziggy Prothro attended Project Archaeology's National Archaeology Educators Conference, Oct. 24–27, in Cedar City, Utah. As Shelby is the NM state coordinator for Project Archaeology, and Ziggy is the education coordinator for the OAS, we felt it was important for both of them to attend.

The focus of this year's conference was twofold: to prepare and empower educators to teach difficult history; and to present workshops about offering rock art investigations as part of archaeological outreach.

Shelby and Ziggy spent the three days of the conference connecting with other archaeology educators, listening to lectures and panels presented by Indigenous speakers about teaching difficult history effectively and with sensitivity, and practicing techniques of rock art investigation in and out of the classroom.

The conference included three field trips to local rock art locations, including Parowan Gap. Thank you to the FOA for helping make this happen! ❖

LOOKING FOR US?

OAS is located at 7 Old Cochiti Road, off Caja del Rio Road. If you're driving west, we're the first building on the left just before you reach the animal shelter.

OAS TAKES ARCHAEOLOGY TO THE SF CHILDREN'S MUSEUM



Education Coordinator Ziggy Prothro, center, and OAS volunteer Vincent, right, discuss archaeology with a young enthusiast during the 'Weird Science' event on Tuesday, Oct. 29, at the Santa Fe Children's Museum. 'We interacted with about 300 people, from preschoolers to grandparents, and made some great connections!' Ziggy said.

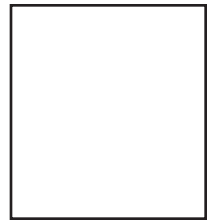
DIRECTOR

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roots of OAS are in conducting important research, often through client-based projects. Our flagship project continues to be the Acoma data recovery project. This project is an excavation of a historic age Pueblo habitation site overlooking the Rio San Jose. For their community, history and heritage is very much alive. Like the account of my paternal great-grandfather's grandfather appearing before the CPLC in 1893, the community at Acoma can remember stories about life in the settlements along the Rio San Jose told to their grandparents by their grandparents. This is an opportunity for the community to explore the roots of modern Pueblo community and bridge between the present and the past. It is a unique project, and we are privileged to be a part of it. We are working extremely hard to bring to a

successful close. The project has been a team effort by all OAS staff, led by our intrepid field crew, who has been working for months in weather ranging from the heat of summer to the cold of the fall season. Thank to everyone for their hard work and dedication.

There are times when returning to our roots is more than a nostalgic look at the past. Sometimes it is an important part of rediscovering those things that give us purpose and inspiration. We should hold on to the things that still work for us and let go of those things that no longer help us move forward in a positive way. Thank you to all of the FOA members who continue to volunteer and help with events like the Distinguished Lecture in Albuquerque this past September and Archaeology Day in October. I look forward to working with you and maybe even hearing a few stories about your ancestors! ❖



BROWN BAG LECTURE

TRENDS IN DECORATED POTTERY DURING THE PUEBLO REVOLT

A free lunchtime talk, "Trends in Decorated Pottery during the Pueblo Revolt Period," will be presented by OAS Research Associate C. Dean Wilson. The talk will focus on trends in Pueblo decorated pottery produced and distributed throughout the greater Santa Fe area during the seventeenth century. The talk will include information regarding the documentation of changes in Pueblo pottery during a period largely related to the Pueblo Revolt. Changes used to define new and distinctive decorated types and styles reflect the influence, response, and resistance to Spanish rule and persecution that ultimately led to the Revolt. Changes in Pueblo decorated pottery forms created following the Revolt will also be discussed.

This talk will be held in the OAS library at the Center for New Mexico Ar-



This bowl, decorated with a dragonfly motif, reflects the changes in Pueblo pottery during and after the revolt.

chaeology. Talks are informal. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. This talk begins **Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2024, at noon**. Look for special announcements regarding this and other talks on the FOA Facebook page or on the New Mexico Office of Archaeological Studies website. ❖

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/. For questions, or to donate, contact Lauren Paige at (505) 982-2282, or via e-mail at lauren@museumfoundation.org.

