



# New Mexico Archaeology

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO FOUNDATION

WWW.NMARCHAEOLOGY.ORG

AUGUST 2025

### SEASONS MAY CHANGE, BUT SOME THINGS STAY THE SAME

JOHN TAYLOR-MONTOYA  
OAS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings, Friends! As I sat down to write this, my thoughts have been occupied by the fact that the end of summer is in sight and fall is on the horizon. For some of you, fall in New Mexico may feel more like second summer. In the high country in northern New Mexico, the first frost may seem like it's just around the corner. New Mexico is an amazing place with such diverse environments and an equally diverse cultural landscape. Regardless of where we are, however, the seasons change. Organizations are no different. At OAS, we have recently experienced some changes in staffing. I am very pleased to announce the hiring of a new Director of Business Operations. I hope you will join me in welcoming Lynne Drakos to the Office of Archaeological Studies. Lynne brings to OAS decades of experience in both archaeology and business. We are thrilled to have her join our team, and we are looking forward to Lynne's contribution to our organization's future success.

Returning to the idea of the rich natural and cultural landscape of New Mexico, the Foundation members that support the Office of Archaeology are both

See **Director**, on Page 7.

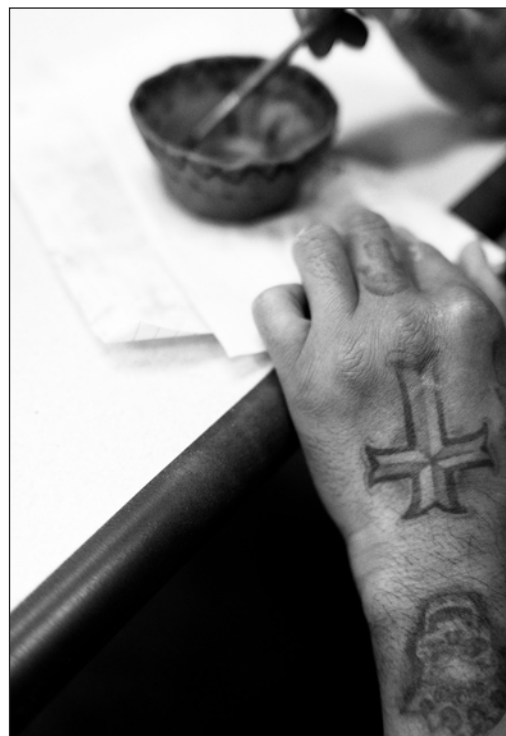


## SERVING TIME AND TENDING TRADITION

### EDUCATION PROGRAM GOES BEHIND BARS

ZIGGY PROTHRO  
OAS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

This spring, the Office of Archaeological Studies visited the Metropolitan Detention Facility (MDC) in Albuquerque to work with incarcerated youth. Our learners were high-school students enrolled in school at the MDC, and adults involved in GED preparation classes. Along with Wonders on Wheels supervisor Jennifer Hasty, we spent a full day at the facility, working with different groups throughout the day and finding the time to work with every student who signed up for the class. We brought out our collection of pelts for the inmates to interact with while we discussed the basics of archaeology. This was followed by a



See **Tradition**, on Page 6.

Photos by Chris Cozzone

## WELCOME TO NEW FOA BOARD MEMBERS!

The Friends of Archaeology is pleased to welcome three new board members whose experience and passion will further strengthen our mission.

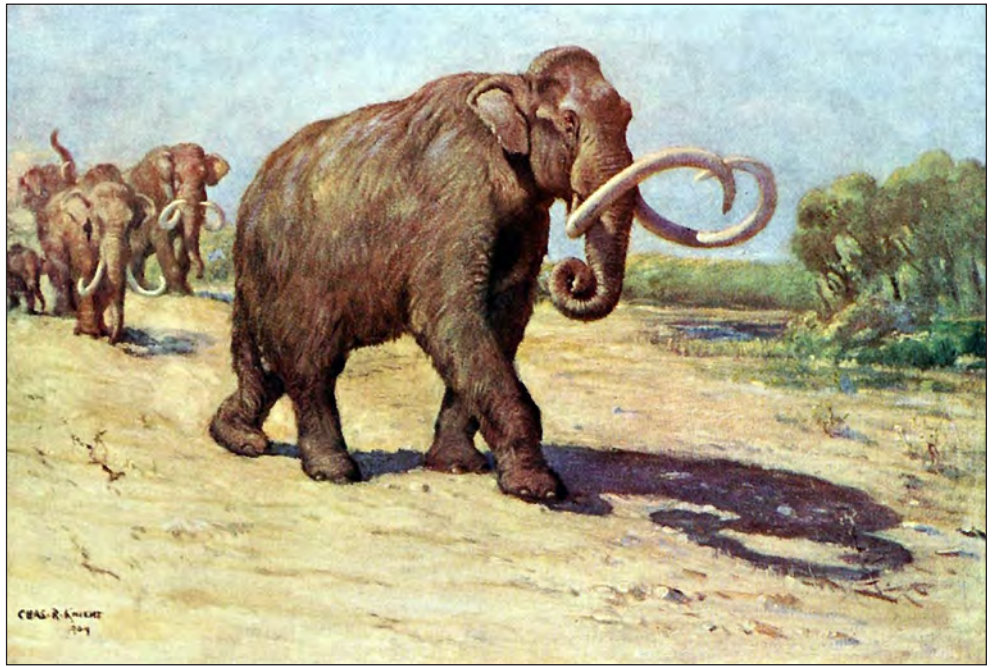
Charlie Weiss, an environmental professional and attorney, has led major health, safety, and sustainability programs in his career. Since moving to Santa Fe in 2021, Charlie has immersed himself in Southwestern archaeology and is eager to give back through his participation in the FOA.

Zella Cox brings 25 years of leadership in finance, law, and management to our group. A former site steward for the Santa Fe National Forest, Zella is deeply engaged in protecting cultural resources and supporting nonprofits across New Mexico.

Joseph Benitez, a retired public relations and marketing executive, has had a lifelong interest in the archaeology and cultures of Latin America. He is also an avid collector of Pre-Columbian and contemporary Latin American art. ❖

### FOA NEEDS MORE BOARD MEMBERS

The Friends of Archaeology group is looking for volunteers with an interest in Southwest archaeology to join this dynamic group's board and support the OAS through educational and cultural archeology-focused activities such as field trips, lectures, and research. If you're interested, we would really love to hear from you! Please call Lauren Paige at (505) 982-2282, or send a short statement of interest to [lauren@museumfoundation.org](mailto:lauren@museumfoundation.org)



OAS is raising money to buy museum-quality specimens of Ice Age fauna, like this Columbian mammoth, seen here in an illustration by C. R. Knight, for use in its education program.

## OAS IN THE MARKET FOR ICE AGE REPLICAS

JOHN TAYLOR-MONTOYA  
OAS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This spring my son completed his hunters education course. He felt a real sense of accomplishment and could not wait to apply for his first draw. Together we looked at the options for large game hunts for youth, eagerly hoping to get a good draw for his first hunt. When you read the words "large game" and think of New Mexico today, the image of deer or elk may come to your mind. If someone were to suggest hunting large game like camels or elephants, you may think first of Africa. When you look out across the broad basins of New Mexico today it is an open landscape with mostly small species of wildlife. Birds, lizards, and the occasional jackrabbit or cottontail. However, there was a time when these broad plains would have been more like a savanna dotted with trees and plush with rich grasslands and shrubs. Roaming these areas would have been a rich variety of wildlife both large and small.

At the end of the last Pleistocene era, around 14,000 years ago, the people

that first inhabited New Mexico would have lived in a land where mammoth, mastodon, gomphothere, giant cave bears, saber tooth tigers, American lions (*Panthera atrox*), camels, giant sloths, and other now extinct animals roamed freely. The first big game hunt for a young hunter at that time may well have been the extinct bison (*Bison antiquus*), some 20 percent larger than modern bison and with larger straighter horns. It is difficult for us to relate to the amazing wildlife that once roamed North America.

OAS Educator, Ziggy Prothro, and I are embarking on programming about Ice Age New Mexico. Our goal is to highlight the sometimes overlooked and often misunderstood Ice Age archaeology of New Mexico. We cannot take our audiences to Ice Age archaeological sites but we can bring examples of the bones of Pleistocene fauna to them. We are having a fund drive to purchase museum-quality specimens of Ice Age fauna. These tools will help bring our programming to life. If you are interested in contributing, reach out to Lauren Paige at the Museum of New Mexico Foundation. ❖



### New Mexico 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](http://www.nmarchaeology.org) for information. We're also on Facebook, at [www.facebook.com/FriendsOfArchaeologyNM](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfArchaeologyNM). Friends of Archaeology's e-mail address is: [Friendsofarchaeologynm@gmail.com](mailto:Friendsofarchaeologynm@gmail.com)

### 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

Board Members: Barbara am Ende, Margaret Armstrong, Joe Benitez, Donna Coleman, Zella Cox, Greg Dove, Sherill Spaar, and Charlie Weiss.

# OAS WELCOMES DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS

The Office of Archaeological Studies would like to welcome our new Director of Business Operations Lynne Drakos!

Lynne earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in anthropology, with a focus on geoarchaeology, from the University of New Mexico in 1987 and 1989, respectively. During her undergraduate and graduate studies at UNM, she attended and worked at field schools that included excavations near Ramah, NM, and work at the SU Site near Reserve, NM. Lynne also attended Harvard University's field program at Koobi Fora in Kenya.

Lynne worked as a seasonal employee for the US Forest Service out of the Coyote Ranger District prior to being hired by the Office of Archaeological Studies and the New Mexico Department of Transportation in the 1990's. Several years later, she opened her own contracting firm, Drakos Archaeological Consulting, and spent time conducting fieldwork in Santa Fe and throughout Northern New Mexico.

Her career path took a different direction when she opened and ran a holistic health care clinic in Breckenridge, Colorado, while also teaching anthropology and geology courses at Colorado Mountain College. While living in Colorado, she raised her son and still found time to enjoy many days of skiing and trail running. Lynne continues to



Lynne Drakos

spend time outdoors. She enjoys rock-climbing, hiking, and camping and also pursues interests in creative writing and fiber arts. She is looking forward to re-exploring the environment and culture of New Mexico. ❖

## TAKE THE 2025 FOA MEMBER SURVEY

The 2025 Friends of Archaeology Member Survey is online now! Visit [tinyurl.com/2025FOASurvey](https://tinyurl.com/2025FOASurvey) or scan the QR code here to provide feedback on the programs and experiences you'd like to see offered by FOA. Whether you're a hiker, an archaeology enthusiast, or just curious about the past, your input will help us create the engaging, and accessible programs you're looking for. Those who complete the survey by October 17, will be entered into a drawing for a one-on-one or small group coffee with the OAS Executive Director. ❖





# SUPERB SHELVES SCULPTED!

## STATE STAFFERS SHAPE STAGGERING STORAGE SYSTEM

SHELBY JONES  
OAS LABORATORY SUPERVISOR

When I first walked into the Archaeomagnetic Laboratory at OAS in 2015 as a PhD student, I was overwhelmed by the quantity of data, samples, reference material, and notes. The goal of that trip was to meet the OAS staff, evaluate the archaeomagnetic collections, and return home with a plan to tackle the proverbial elephant in a meaningful way that would allow me to complete my dissertation in a reasonable length of time. Looking back, I am not sure I succeeded at accomplishing any of those things other than meeting

the incredible staff, because as I continued to visit and intern at OAS for the next five years, I continued to find even more data and run into hiccup after hiccup. However, bite by bite, I did slowly succeed at eating the proverbial elephant and was successful at wading my way through the incredible resources stored in OAS's Archaeomagnetic Laboratory Archive, which included decades of accumulated data from both the DuBois and Wolfman estates. I would visit OAS for two to 12 weeks a year, sorting through boxes, finding data and scanning those records for later digitization when I returned home. This continued for five years, until I

moved to New Mexico in 2020 and started working full-time at OAS, first as a contractor then as a state employee.

In my first couple of years working full-time at OAS, big changes in the laboratory were starting to peek over the horizon: It became evident that the Archaeomagnetic Laboratory would become the recipient of several large acquisitions, including the archaeomagnetic records of Eighmy, Lengyel, and Sternberg, plus deaccessioned laboratory equipment from UT Dallas. While incredible, these acquisitions meant a large volume of material would be entering

See **Superb**, on Page 5.





## SUPERB

Continued from Page 4.

the laboratory space, a space that was already completely full, which led to many questions: How will our laboratory needs change given the new acquisitions? How do I set up the laboratory to serve us now and in the future? How do I make additional space in a laboratory without expanding the footprint? Some of these questions had been pondered with others for years and several ideas had been shared, but with the acquisitions eminent amidst so many other changes at OAS, all new creative solutions needed to be considered... this led me to shelves.

If I couldn't build out, what about building up? And that is just what we did. Starting with a team of volunteers, we slowly sorted through the mountains of data and samples, identifying our needs for the space as we worked. These needs came down to two things, lots of filing cabinet space and lots of shelf space.



See **Shelves**, on Page 6.

Photos by Melissa Martinez



# OAS DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES RECAP; LECTURE SERIES WILL CONTINUE IN 2026

JOHN TAYLOR-MONTOYA  
OAS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Working with the Museum of New Mexico Foundation, OAS launched a new Distinguished Lecture Series in the fall of 2024. For the inaugural event, we chose to invite Dr. David Rachal to speak about his research on the geoarchaeology and dating of the human footprints at White Sands. The interpretation of the human footprints and apparent antiquity continues to be a topic of intense interest to everyone with an interest in the archaeology of North America, professional and non-professional alike. We were honored to have a guest speaker like Dr. Rachal who is recognized for his expertise in the surface geology and geoarchaeology of southern New Mexico but whose breadth of experience reaches as far afield as Africa. The talk was particularly relevant because it highlighted Dr. Rachal's most recent finds from his ongoing project at White Sands. The event was held in Albuquerque at the Museum of Natural History and Science and was a smashing success. The venue was sold out, and we had very positive feedback from the audience. Several Friends board members were there to lend their support. We want to recognize their efforts and thank them for helping to make the event a success. The OAS Distinguished Lecture series'



Dr. Kelly Jenks speaks at the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe.

purpose is to promote current, preferably cutting-edge, archaeological research that is salient to the people of New Mexico. The invitees are individuals whose work or research exemplifies excellence in their field of specialization and broad public interest. The chosen speaker is an exemplary in a field of study or specialization that has direct relevance to

the history and heritage of New Mexico. Preference is given to candidates whose work is in archaeology or is directly relevant to archaeology, but invitee does not have to be a practicing archaeologist. An example of the latter could be a legal professional whose work focuses on cultural resource protection laws.

The speaker for 2025 was Dr. Kelly Jenks, professor and museum director at New Mexico State University. Dr. Jenks's lecture was on her latest research at the Cañon de Carnue land grant site in Tijeras Canyon. She presented her findings from recent excavations at this eighteenth century Hispano/Genizaro community. Dr. Jenks provided the audience with an interpretation of life for the eighteenth-century villagers and an interesting perspective on the concept of *querencia* and the notion of "place" or "homeland" in archaeology. This lecture was held in Santa Fe on Museum Hill and was well attended by an audience that included heirs of the land grant, local archaeologists, Foundation members, and the general public. Several members of the Friends of Archaeology board were there and once again generously lent their time to help make the event a success.

We are already looking forward to the 2026 lecture. Be sure to look for news when we have confirmed the speaker and venue! ❖

## SHELVES

Continued from Page 5.

Armed with those two goals, I sat down and designed the first draft of a plan to design, fund, acquire, and build a custom shelf unit that could store the up to 51,000 specimens and their paper records. The result was a 27-foot-long, 10-foot-tall and 2-foot-deep shelf structure that could accommodate 16 filing cabinets and safely store thousands of pounds of material.

With the financial support of our generous donors, we completed the

build this August. The build took five days to complete, but in the end, we had a beautiful hardwood structure held together by wooden biscuits, non-magnetic brass screws, wood glue, and a lot of dedication. The process of filling the shelves and moving in the filing cabinets is ongoing, but I am incredibly proud of our success so far.

We can't wait to invite you to come see our upgrades! Thank you for contributing to the preservation and accessibility of this archive, we absolutely could not have completed this project without your support!❖

## TRADITION

Continued from Page 1.

lesson in pot-building using traditional pueblo methods. Each student had enough clay to create and paint their own small pot and were encouraged to change the shape and decoration in any way that appealed to them. We've fired the pots here at the OAS, and their creators will be able to take them home when they are released. The program was very well received, with many smiles and thanks coming from our students. We plan to visit the MDC again next spring. ❖



Mary Weahkee, third from right, leads a tour to La Vista Verde Comanche petroglyph site in 2019. Photo by Carolyn Florek.

## VISTA VERDE TOUR SET FOR OCTOBER

This fall, Friends of Archaeology will host a tour of La Vista Verde, a Comanche petroglyph site, near Taos, NM. Former OAS archaeologist and Comanche tribal member Mary Weahkee will lead the tour. Mary will lead a lecture about the site the night before.

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 here include images of mounted warriors, horse herds, and the capture of horses.

This tour, which is rated as easy and consists of an approximately 2.5 miles, round-trip hike on flat ground, will take place on Saturday, October 25. Members

of the tour will be carpooling. Four-wheel-drive vehicles will not be required. Bring water and snacks, and prepare for fall weather.

The lecture and hike, combined, will be \$150 for FOA members and \$165 for non-members. The tour is limited to 18. Stay tuned to the OAS website and the OAS Facebook page for information. ❖

## DIRECTOR

Continued from Page 1.

numerous and distributed across the state of New Mexico (and, in some cases, across the world). This is a clear sign of the enthusiastic interest in the rich archaeological heritage of New Mexico. Since I took the position of executive director, I have made it my mission to expand OAS programming to have a similar statewide footprint. I have also made an effort to listen to our members and incorporate your voices and input in our programming for Foundation members. In the future, you can look forward to OAS providing more programming across New Mexico. Our members can also look forward

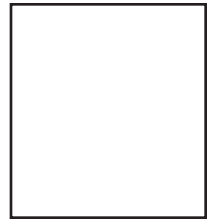
to being able to provide more direct input. My commitment to hearing your voices continues and, working with the Foundation staff, we will be sending out a survey to all of our members. The previous surveys that we have sent out were met with very positive feedback and were tremendously helpful.

At OAS, our team continues to provide statewide services for the people of New Mexico. Our education program, led by Ziggy Prothro, has provided in-person programming to more than 20 counties in New Mexico in the last year. Ziggy has worked hard to reach rural, under-served, and tribal communities. Her programming is making a difference. You may also see our field vehicles rambling down a highway or county road near you. Our field

archaeologists are working on projects from the Mescalero Sands to the mountains in Taos County. Our team—Cameron Turley, Steven Needle, Esther Peramune, Isaac Coan, and Claire Vranicar—have been braving dune fields and hill slopes and all things in between to help record and protect the archaeological heritage of New Mexico. OAS is also about to embark on an innovative statewide training program that promises to change the way we think about professional development in archaeology. We are partnering with the Department of Agriculture, New Mexico State University, and others to bring this service to New Mexicans.

Expect to see more of OAS in the community in the coming years. Perhaps in a neighborhood near you! ❖





## ARCHAEOLOGY FAIR: SEPTEMBER 27 GHOST RANCH HOSTS 2025 FAIR

Join us at this year's Archaeology Fair at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, New Mexico for a day of hands-on activities and learning. This free event takes place Saturday, September 27, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Office of Archaeological Studies and the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division will be joining more than a dozen state, federal, and private archaeological organizations at this year's event.

Planned activities include:

- Atlatl throwing in the clover field
- Pinch pots
- Sherd drawing/coloring
- Flintknapping
- Lithic artifacts
- Ceramic artifacts
- Historic artifacts
- Bone tools

- Yucca fiber

Participants include:

- Historic Preservation Division staff
- Ghost Ranch staff
- Office of Archaeological Studies
- New Mexico State Parks
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- Public Service Company of New Mexico
- Department of Cultural Affairs' Wonders on Wheels bus

The historic and picturesque Ghost Ranch is located at 280 Private Drive 1708, just off Highway US 84, in Abiquiu. Admission to the event will be free. Day-use hiking and museum-admission fees will also be waived. It is highly recommended that all visitors and participants bring their own water and snacks. ❖

## 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).

