



Department of Anthropology

Anthropology Newsletter

Transforming Lives Through Discovery!

January 2015 • Vol. 4 No. 2

Welcome

The Anthro students and alumni profiled here are just a few of those who have received funding and recognition for their research.

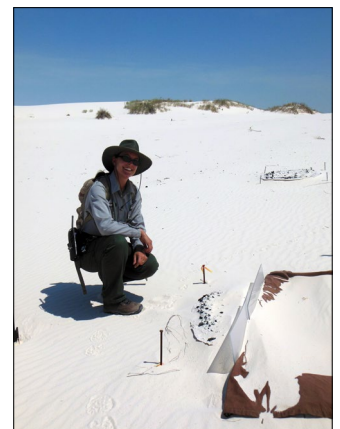
Thanks to new funding from Dean Christa Slaton, and contributions from alumni and supporters to the "Friends of Anthropology", we offer grants of up to \$1,000 for graduate research. We have funded students working both internationally and locally, on projects as diverse as primate behavior, stewardship of archaeological resources, human responses to environmental change, Native American art and material culture, and medical anthropology.

We invite you to share in our Department's success and our students' accomplishments. Your support matters!

Rani T. Alexander
Department Head

The Women of White Sands: Preserving the Heritage of Southern New Mexico

NMSU Anthropology Graduates have been working amidst the glistening white gypsum sand dunes of southern New Mexico that are "like no place else on Earth." Students and alumni play a significant role in the National Park Service's efforts to enhance public education and outreach, and to preserve the plants, animals, and prehistoric and historic archaeological sites located in this stunningly beautiful and unique desert environment. White Sands National Monument currently employs or has facilitated research and internship opportunities for eight Anthropology graduates and current students. The women of White Sands are Allison Harvey, Archaeologist (MA 2013), Erin Schmidt (MA 2013), Nina Williams (MA 2013), Molly Murphy (MA 2015), Tara Cuvelier, Visual Information Specialist (BA 2012), Robin Milne, Monument Ranger (BA 2012), Kobi Weaver (BA 2014), and Katelyn McCollum (MA 2015).



Allison Harvey monitoring an experimental hearth mound

Allison Harvey was originally hired as a seasonal archaeology technician while completing her MA thesis on "hearth mounds," the unique archaeological thermal features often found on the leading edges of the parabolic dune field. She fell in love with the Monument and the National Park Service because she "was captivated by the silences and solitude of the desert environment and the unique archaeology found only at White Sands." As a result

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Allison Harvey, Nina Williams, and Erin Schmidt

Fall Conference Calendar

Faculty and students made numerous professional research presentations at local, regional, national, and international conferences in fall of 2014. Richard Wright and David Morales Andrade received travel awards from the Dean's Fund for Excellence in the College of Arts and Sciences, and Donica Spence received a Departmental travel award. Kristin Corl received a Sigma Xi Grant-in-Aid of Research. The Anthropology Graduate Student Organization and ASNMSU also provided support for student travel.

FUZE-SW 2014: Food + Folklore Festival, Museum of International Folk Art/Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, Santa Fe (September 12-14)

Lois Stanford:
Moderator, Panel on "Listening to Our Ancestors: Farming Smart in the High Desert."
Presenter, More than Guacamole: the Social History of Avocados.
Presenter, Panel on "Who's Minding the Kitchen? Gender and the Story of Cooking in the Southwest."

37th Meeting of the American Society of Primatologists, Decatur, GA (September 12-15)

Donica Spence and Brenda Benefit:
Hand preference in siamangs (*Symphalangus syndactylus*) at the El Paso Zoo



"Women of White Sands," continued

of her research investigation, she rose through the ranks to become the Monument's staff archaeologist. Her current research goals at White Sands include "Paleo-climate reconstruction, geoarchaeology, prehistoric lithic technology and land-use studies, and utilizing GIS and remote sensing techniques to advance research and management of cultural resources." Since her appointment, her work has expanded so that now she "wears many different hats, including serving as the park's GIS Specialist and Museum Curator."

Erin Schmidt and Nina Williams began their work at White Sands as graduate research assistants on a Desert Southwest Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit grant (Dr. Rani T. Alexander, PI, David Bustos NPS ATR Official), a collaboration between NMSU's Department of Anthropology and White Sands National Monument designed to provide support for inventory and recording of prehistoric and historic cultural resources, particularly those located along historic roads and trails. Erin and Nina worked closely with Allison Harvey and conducted archaeological field survey and site recording, GIS analysis of cultural and natural resources, artifact identification, and report writing. After the grant concluded, both worked as Archaeological Technicians for the Monument. Erin recalls the "the absolute quiet tranquility that exists in areas of the park." Nina



Molly Murphy and her son, Rowan

emphasizes that the White Sands opportunity "was a wonderful stepping stone to future employment with White Sands and other environmental agencies." Nina is currently a Cultural Resource Specialist for SWCA Environmental Consultants. Erin is currently the GIS Technician for Hamilton County in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She also continues to assist GIS analyses for Human Systems Research, here in Las Cruces.

NMSU Anthropology graduate student Molly Murphy is employed as a graduate research assistant to write an Archaeological Overview of White Sands National Monument funded by another Desert Southwest Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit grant (Dr. Rani T. Alexander, PI; David Bustos NPS ATR Official). Since 2013 she has been working intensively in southern New Mexico's libraries and archives, and interviewing archaeologists and historians about their work with the archaeological and historical resources located on the Monument and across the Tularosa Basin. She is currently working to complete the text of the report, along with its extensive appendices, annotated bibliography, and digital resources. Her MA thesis research, directed by Drs. Fumi Arakawa (Anthropology) and Nancy McMillan (Geological Sciences), involves ceramic compositional analysis of southwestern pottery. Molly enjoys her time working at the monument because she says "it has been an excellent professional experience that has also allowed me to continue work on my master's and eased my transition to working student and mother after my son was born in April 2013." Molly will complete her MA degree in 2015 and anticipates developing a career in archaeological and cultural resource management.

In addition, NMSU Anthropology Alumni and students are working to enhance public

(Continued on p. 9)

Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia (ENAH), México, D.F. (September 22-26)

Rani T. Alexander:
Arqueología antropológica del período posterior a la Conquista Hispana en Mesoamérica, a series of five seminars for faculty and students of the Facultad de Arqueología, ENAH.

III Encuentro de Antropología Social, Universidad Autónoma de Tlaxcala, Tlaxcala, México (October 2-3)

David Morales Andrade:
La relación entre cultura y comida en los transmigrantes mexicanos a través de los "sabores y saberes"; El caso de Portales Nuevo México en los Estados Unidos.

18th Biennial Mogollon Archaeology Conference, New Mexico State University (October 10-11)

Lonnie Ludeman, Conference Chair
Fumi Arakawa and Bill Walker, Technical Program Chairs
Monte McCrossin, University Museum, Registration and Opening Reception Host

Judy Berryman:
Prehistoric and Historic Use of the Malpais.

Kristin Corl:
A Case Study in Burning in the Jornada Mogollon at Cottonwood Spring.

J. Dylan Clark:
Life Stone, Death Stone: Animate Power and Representation in Natural Material of the Mogollon Culture Region



Student Spotlight: Angel Peña and the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument

On May 21, 2014, the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument (OMDP-NM) was established by Presidential Proclamation. NMSU Anthropology graduate student, Angel Peña, was there to witness the event. The Department of Anthropology, our colleagues in the Bureau of Land Management, and our friends in the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance have been celebrating ever since.



Signing of the Presidential Proclamation in Washington, DC. From left to right: David Soules, local engineer, City Councillor Nathan Small, Roberta Henry, local advocate, State Representative Jeff Steinborn and Angel Peña

President Obama's executive order under the 1906 Antiquities Act designated 496,330 acres of five iconic mountain ranges – the Robledo, Sierra de las Uvas, Doña Ana, Organ, and Potrillo Mountains – as a new national monument managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The reserve protects significant prehistoric, historic, geologic, and biologic resources of scientific interest located in our region's Chihuahuan Desert grassland environment.

Angel is a cultural resource specialist and organizer for the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, a non-profit, grassroots environmental organization dedicated to the protection, restoration, and continued

stewardship of New Mexico's wildlands and wilderness areas. Angel played many roles during the campaign for OMDP-NM. He says, "the most rewarding part of the process was the one-on-one engagement with the community, to see how the idea of a National Monument excited people because of all of the lifelong benefits it can bring to travelers, residents, and future generations." Beginning in July, 2013, Angel spearheaded a project with Groundwork Doña Ana and formed a "Green Team" to conduct archaeological inventories for the BLM within the areas proposed for the OMDP-NM. Sixteen local teenagers trained with Angel to record the cultural resources in the Providence Cone area. They also revitalized nine miles of the Sierra Vista Trail in the Doña Ana Mountains. Groundwork Doña Ana and the NM Wilderness Alliance are continuing their partnerships with the BLM to certify green team members to lead interpretive hikes and presentations and to promote education and responsible stewardship of the OMDP-NM's natural and cultural resources.

Angel's ability to mobilize local community support for the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks was pivotal to the success of the National Monument designation. Angel described that, "once President Obama announced that he would be using his executive order under the Antiquities Act of 1906, everything happened very fast. Everyone was excited, and those most heavily involved in the campaign had to immediately fly out to Washington DC to iron out the details and attend the signing." Since President Obama issued the

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Warren R. DeBoer:
Peregrinations of the Popol Vuh

James Hill:
Investigation of a Paleoindian
Landscape within White Sands
Missile Range

*Southwest Chapter of the
American College of Sports
Medicine in Costa Mesa, CA.
(October 17-18)*

Mary Alice Scott and Katherine
Jackson:
SAFeR Communities: Successful
Aging and Falls Risk Reduction
panel presentation (co-presenters
with Robert Wood, NMSU;
Christian Thompson, Univ. of San
Francisco; Jennifer Fabre, NMSU;
Lin Zhang, NMSU; Stephanie
Garcia, NMSU; Kayla Ivey, NMSU;
Krystyna Gonzalez, NMSU)

*New Mexico Historic
Preservation Division, Cultural
Properties Review Committee,
Jemez Pueblo, NM (October 17
and December 12)*

Brittany Porter:
Nomination of the Peter Hurd
and Henriette Wyeth Hurd
House and Studios (Lincoln
County) (Approved for the State
Register of Historic Places and
the National Register of Historic
Places)

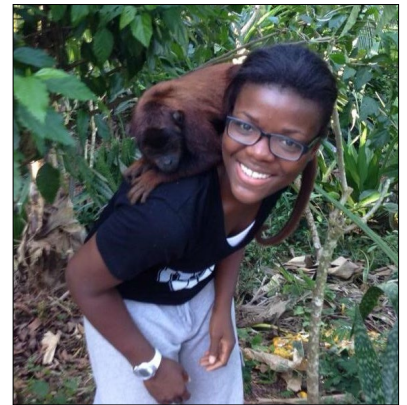
Frannie Cochran:
Nomination of the Mesilla Valley
School/Frank Papen Center (Doña
Ana County) (Approved for the
State Register of Historic Places)

Student Spotlight: Donica Spence, The Siamang's Song

The Siamang (*Symphalangus syndactylus*), or greater gibbon, is not only the largest of the lesser apes but also the loudest. They reaffirm lifelong pair bonds in song duets. The family dynamics of siamangs at the El Paso Zoo are the subject of Donica Spence's wide ranging research. Are captive siamangs right or left handed? Can they be taught to forage for food with appropriate enrichment containers? Does relocation of the older children of a tight-knit family group cause stress, elevating their levels of cortisol stress hormones? She hopes that her results will provide useful information not only to the El Paso Zoo but also to all who are interested in the welfare of captive animals.

Last summer, Donica undertook intensive field training in primatology to acquire the methodological skills needed to answer her questions. It turns out that the best way to measure changes in stress is through behavioral observation and the collection of fecal samples which can be tested for cortisol. What better place to acquire those skills than the Peruvian Amazon? Donica describes her summer fieldwork as follows.

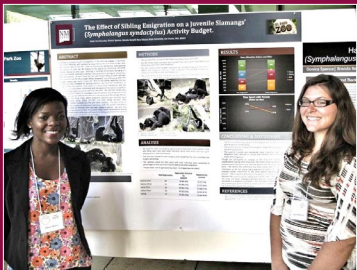
“I applied to the PrimatesPeru Female Reproductive Suppression project and was chosen to be a member of a six-person team. The project incorporated fieldwork, endocrinology, and a six-week crash course in Amazonian wildlife. The field season focused on the collection of fecal samples, behavioral observation, and genetic testing to determine dispersal patterns. Each day started at 5:30am. We used radio telemetry to navigate the dark forest understory and follow our target species, the Emperor Tamarin (*Saguinus imperator*) and the Saddle-back Tamarin (*Saguinus fuscicollis*).



Donica Spence and primate friend

We used focal animal sampling, scan sampling, proximity scans, and “all instances” sampling to document behavioral characteristics of each group. Fecal samples were catalogued and processed for analysis of hormone concentrations and genetic relation among the groups. The principal investigators hope to use this information to identify the mechanisms used by the dominant female to suppress the ovulation of subordinate females within her group. This assistantship gave me experience with the unpredictable challenges of behavioral observation and lab work in the field and provided excellent career development opportunities. I was also fortunate enough to encounter eleven of the twelve primate species located in the Peruvian Amazon.”

Donica has presented her research at the meetings of the American Society of Primatologists and the Southwest Association of Biological Anthropologists, where together with Kailie Dombrausky, she won the Outstanding Student Poster Presentation Award. She says, “Our project aimed to investigate the activity budget of the juvenile siamang at the El Paso Zoo after the relocation of her older sibling to the Fresno Zoo this April. Data analysis showed that rather than being more independent the juvenile allocated more time to her parents perhaps due to the lack of competition for their attention or a preference for having an active playmate.” After finishing her master's thesis, Donica plans to continue her research in a PhD program.



2nd Annual American Indigenous Research Association Conference, Salish Kootenai College, Pablo, Montana (October 10-11)

Don Pepion:
Ethnography of One Family On a 1939 Blackfeet Indian Reservation Farm Project in Montana

2nd Annual Conference of the Southwestern Association of Biological Anthropologists (SWABA), University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ (November 21-22)

Erica R. Davis, Brenda R. Benefit, and Monte L. McCrossin:
Incisor Variation at Middle Miocene Maboko Indicates the Possible Presence of at Least Two Small-Bodied Ape Species

Kailie Dombrasky, Donica Spence, and Brenda Benefit:
The Effect of Sibling Emigration on a Juvenile Siamangs' (*Symphalangus syndactylus*) Activity Budget (SWABA Outstanding Student Poster Presentation Winner)

Amy Langston:
Enriching the Lives of Captive Capuchins

Monte L. McCrossin:
Adaptive Diversity of African Miocene Bushbabies: Implications for the Evolutionary History of Galagidae

Donica Spence and Brenda Benefit:
Are Terrestrial Siamangs Left or Right Handed?

Alumni Spotlight: Max Ruben

Max Ruben graduated from NMSU in 2014 and immediately began to use his knowledge and research experience in medical anthropology to make a positive difference in people's lives. He is currently serving as a Family Shelter AmeriCorps Member for the Tom Waddell Urban Health Center, San Francisco Department of Public Health. During his time at NMSU he studied abroad in Ecuador and became a member of Dr. Mary Alice Scott's research team investigating the Social Epidemiology of Falls. He sends the following report from the field.

“I would like to give you an update of what's happening here in San Francisco. As an AmeriCorps volunteer, life has forced me to increase my frugality and do without certain amenities I would otherwise possess; however, I have discovered how unimportant money is for me in bringing satisfaction. My work, colleagues, and clients enrich this experience beyond what I could have imagined. My job varies day-to-day, which I enjoy. Three days a week I work in an urgent care clinic located within a family shelter. Among medical assisting and maintaining household items, I work closely with patients to connect them to primary care physicians (sometimes escorting them to crucial appointments) and any other requisites such as health insurance. Outside the clinic, but within the shelter, I teach a health class for kids, a nutrition/cooking class for adults, and collaborate with a massage therapist who periodically provides free massages.

Once a week, I work within a needle exchange site operated by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. My primary role is to educate and train drug users on how to use Naloxone. Fortunately, the Foundation gives me the power to “prescribe” the drug, which is highly sought after among this population. Additionally, I manage drug paraphernalia tables and do outreach to users on the streets. On Tuesdays, I work in a satellite clinic in the San Francisco Day Labor Program. This has immensely increased my Spanish abilities, something in which I have found passion ever since my adventures in Ecuador.

Finally, I spend one day a week medical assisting and advocating for patients in a Transgender Clinic with a physician specialized in HIV care (this clinic solely treats HIV transgender women of color). Soon I'll be trained in HIV testing/counseling for the transgender community as well as the Asian Pacific Islander community (the Transgender clinic is based out of an API site).



"I feel that I am much better equipped to serve this population after learning the fundamentals of medical anthropology, and I am more prepared to embark on this medical journey having worked with Dr. Mary Alice Scott"



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2014 Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C. (December 3-7)

Rani T. Alexander, AAA Nominations Committee, Archaeology Seat
Mary Alice Scott, Nominations Committee, Society for the Anthropology of North America
Lois Stanford, General Listserve coordinator, Culture and Agriculture Section

Miriam Chaiken: Indigenous Knowledge, Livelihoods, and Human Agency in Community-Based EARLY Warning Systems

Jacquelyn Heuer, Alison Wilcoxson, David Leins, and Tara Hefferan: Creating Ethnographic Opportunities through Department Sponsored Internships

Lois Stanford: Session organizer, Unpacking Food Sovereignty: Examining The Processes of Constructing, Maintaining, and Regaining Local Sovereignty Over Food. Presenter, Unpacking Sovereignty: SEED-Saving and Reproduction of Landrace Chile in New Mexico
Session Discussant, Food, Climate Change, and Small Family Farms: New Roles and Opportunities for Anthropology

Richard Wright and Mary Alice Scott: Why Would People Sign Up If They Can Come to Us Anyway? the Affordable Care Act on the Ground in the U.S. Southwest

Departmental Transitions



NMSU selected Dr. Miriam Chaiken, a distinguished achievement professor and department head of Anthropology, as the new Dean of the NMSU Honor's College. Miriam is an applied cultural anthropologist who combines her knowledge of nutritional anthropology with research and consulting in international development. Her work in Southeast Asia and Africa focuses on voluntary and involuntary resettlement, agricultural development, gender equity, poverty reduction and famine early warning systems, and culturally sensitive health care policies.

Miriam is still first and foremost an anthropologist, and the department remains her primary intellectual and academic home on campus. She will continue to teach one course per year in applied or nutritional anthropology. She plans to continue to advise undergraduate and graduate students. We will miss seeing her on a daily basis but look forward to new collaborations and opportunities for our students in the Honors College. Congratulations!



Dr. Monte McCrossin stepped down from his position as Director of the University Museum and returned to the Anthropology faculty at the end of the fall 2014 semester. As much as he has enjoyed serving as Museum Director for the past eight years (2007-present), he states that "the time has come to return to teaching, curriculum development, advising, and research in biological anthropology." Monte is internationally recognized for his work in hominin evolution, particularly the locomotion of organisms belonging to the genus *Kenyapithecus*, the common, knuckle-walking ancestor of humans and our closest living relatives, the gorilla, bonobo, and chimpanzee.

Monte investigates the phylogenetic relationships, adaptations, and ecology of African ape and human ancestors from the middle and late Miocene (15-5 million years ago). During his tenure as Museum Director, Monte was instrumental in broadening the disciplinary scope of the exhibits to include themes in biological anthropology, including the 2009 presentation of "Neanderthals" and most recently "The Skull beneath the Skin: Forensic Anthropology of the Human Cranium."

With the assistance of NMSU's Southwest Border Cultures Institute, he promoted exhibits and scholarly activities that focus on collaboration with Native American communities and scholars, among them the current exhibit entitled "O'odham *Himdag*: Weaving a Way of Life" which features forty baskets from the University Museum collection representing works created by historic and contemporary Akimel O'odham (Pima) and Tohono O'odham (Papago) weavers of central and southern Arizona and northern Mexico. Welcome back to Breland Hall!



Permanent Exhibit: "Pottery from the Americas"

The University Museum is home to a unique and comprehensive collection of both prehistoric and historical pottery. This collection includes almost 600 pottery vessels that reflect the vibrant artistry and beauty of Southwestern and Mesoamerican ceramics.



The University Museum also holds an extensive type collection of sherds from New Mexico and Chihuahua, as well as other research and educational materials.

Fall 2014 Exhibits at the University Museum

Support for exhibit development at the University Museum comes from the Friends of the Museum and NMSU's Southwest Border Cultures Institute, established by a 1998 National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant.

O'odham *Himdag*: Weaving a Way of Life



This exhibit features forty baskets from the University Museum collection representing works created by historic and contemporary Akimel O'odham (Pima) and Tohono O'odham (Papago) weavers of central and southern Arizona and northern Mexico. The O'odham *Himdag*, or desert people's way of life, encompasses cultural knowledge, values, and beliefs, all which are woven into each basket. This exhibit showcases the materials, techniques, designs, functions and several identified individual artists behind this innovative and rich ongoing tradition.

Cloth as Community: Hmong Textiles in America



This exhibit features 28 textiles—flower cloths and embroidered story clothes—by those in the Hmong community. Hmong flower cloth (or *paj ntaub*) is one of the world's great textile traditions and an excellent example of cloth as community. Despite its deep roots in Hmong culture, this complex art was not widely known outside Asia until after the Vietnam War, when Hmong refugees arrive in the United States. The works illustrate the

profound relevance of textiles as infrastructure in the Hmong culture, and an art form that shifted as it adapted to fit new realities.

Organized and toured by ExhibitsUSA, a national part of Mid-America Arts Alliance, the exhibition was first curated in 1999 by Carl Magnuson, a cultural anthropologist, working with a Hmong refugee community. Curatorial updates have been done by Geraldine Craig, who has published more than a hundred essays on contemporary art and Hmong textiles, in venues such as the *Hmong Studies Journal*, *The Journal of Modern Craft*, *Art in America*, and *Surface Design Journal*. Craig is currently department head of art at Kansas State University, and previously served for six years as Assistant Director for Academic Programs at Cranbrook Academy of Art.



2014 Friends of the University Museum

Anonymous

Ms. Denise K. Anstine

Pat and Rebecca Beckett, COAS
Bookstore

Bowlin's Mesilla Book Center

Dr. Paul Deason and Mrs. Christine
Davidson

Dona Ana Archaeological Society

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas G. Doneker,
Jr.

Mr. Stan Ediger and Ms. Jo Ingle

Dr. Joan M. Jensen and Mr. John
Gustinis

Dr. Lonnie C. Ludeman

Mrs. Ann Palermo

Dr. Cynthia E. Rebar

The Honorable J. Paul Taylor

Light in the Desert: Photographs from the Monastery of Christ in the Desert by Tony O'Brien

This exhibition was organized by the New Mexico History Museum, Department of Cultural Affairs, State of New Mexico, Santa Fe, and features 20 selenium-toned silver gelatin prints of photographs on display at the University Museum through January 31, 2015.



Procession, Monastery of Christ in the Desert, 1995/2009 Photo Archives, Palace of the Governors (DCA/NMHHM). Tony O'Brien Collection, HP.2009.52.18

After being imprisoned in Afghanistan while on assignment for *Life* magazine in 1989, photojournalist Tony O'Brien sought solace and perspective at Christ in the Desert Monastery.

In 1995, O'Brien began a year of living and photographing this small contemplative community situated in the Rio Chama valley about seventy-five miles north of Santa Fe. During his stay, O'Brien was given free access to photograph the rituals and daily activities, both contemplative and secular, at the monastery. The resulting images not only

portray a continuing relationship between the photographer and the community of monks at Christ in the Desert but constitute an important body of creative work.

The accompanying book *Light in the Desert: Photographs from the Monastery of Christ in the Desert* by Tony O'Brien with an essay by Christopher Merrill was published by the Museum of New Mexico Press.

Harmonious Beauty - Through the Eyes of Diné Artists



Trading Woman, 1985. R.C. Gorman. Lithograph, Edition 87/200. University Museum 2014.44.01

This exhibition includes works by renowned artists including R.C. Gorman, Gerald Nailor, and Harrison Begay. These pieces from the permanent collection will be on display to the public for the first time. They provide a unique opportunity to look into the world of the Diné (Navajo), as seen and created by Diné artists. The creative works in this exhibit exemplify *hozho*, which embodies the Diné philosophy of striving to achieve balance and retain harmony, beauty and order in life.

Department of Anthropology Faculty

Archaeology

Rani T. Alexander, Dept. Head
Fumi Arakawa, Director of the University Museum
William Walker

Biological Anthropology

Brenda Benefit
Monte McCrossin
Sean Prall

Cultural Anthropology

Miriam Chaiken
W. Thomas Conelly
Don Pepion
Scott Rushforth
Mary Alice Scott
M. Lois Stanford

Emeritus

Christine Eber
Beth O'Leary
Edward Staski
Wenda Trevathan

Affiliated

Judy Berryman
Warren DeBoer
Noel T. Boaz
Weldon Lamb
Debra LeBeau
Larry Loendorf
Jennifer Robles
David Steele
Sara Stinson
Silvia Torezani

Staff

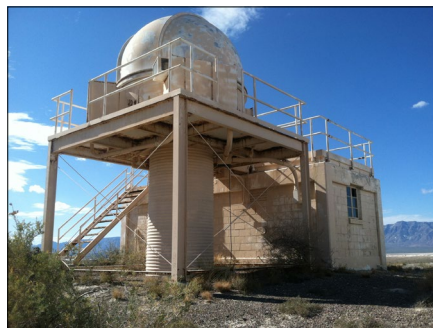
Barbara Burrell,
Department Administrator
Anna Strankman, Museum Curator

"Women of White Sands" continued

education and to organize and preserve the collections housed in the White Sands Museum. Tara Cuvelier is the Visual Information Specialist at White Sands National Monument. She designs print and video media and exhibits that enhance public education in the park. She received her BA in Anthropology with honors from NMSU in 2012. During her time at NMSU she focused on Southwestern Archaeology and Museum Studies. She participated in the Kipp Ruin Archaeological Field School, directed by Dr. Bill Walker, in 2011 and interned at the Las Cruces Museum of Natural History where she researched, planned, wrote, designed and installed the exhibition entitled "The Rift and the River: The Geology of Southern New Mexico." Tara says, "working at White Sands has been a fantastic experience for me. It has allowed me to increase my skills and experience not only in exhibit design but also in the curatorial arts." She plans to return to NMSU to obtain a Master's in Anthropology in the near future.

Robin Milne is a Ranger for White Sands National Monument and has worked in the Interpretation Division since 2010. She received her BA in Anthropology at NMSU in 2012. She is a third generation Alamogordo resident. Robin regularly leads the tours to Lake Lucero and the Lucero Ranch to explain the origins of the white gypsum sands and the history of cattle ranching in the Tularosa basin. She also gives public presentations about the animals of White Sands on Full Moon Nights.

More recently, Kobi Weaver and Katelyn McCollum have lent a hand to organize and catalog the collections in the White Sands museum. Kobi Weaver conducted an internship in spring of 2014 and worked closely with Allison Harvey to update and digitize collections records of White Sands many historic photographs. She completed her honors thesis in Maya archaeology at Blue Creek, Belize, and served as a member of NMSU Model United Nations. She was selected as a Sundt Honors scholar by the NMSU Honors College to study the Archaeology of Sustainability in Yucatan, Mexico. After graduation, Kobi was accepted to Teach for America; she is currently teaching in Donaldsonville, Louisiana.



This Cinetheodolite is one of several Cold War-era sites that are preserved on White Sands Monument

Katelyn McCollum is the latest Anthropology graduate student to intern at White Sands. She is investigating, digitizing and cataloging the historic photographs from the World War II and Cold War eras of the White Sands Museum. The museum holds an extraordinary photographic record of the development of the atomic age in southern New Mexico, and the images can be linked to important Cold War historic sites on the Monument and White Sands Missile Range. Kate is developing an exhibit for the White Sands visitor center that will launch in May 2015.

Thanks to the continuing collaborations among Anthropology Department faculty, students, and NMSU alumni with National Park Service resource and information specialists, the women of White Sands are making a difference in public education and responsible stewardship of our natural and cultural resources in southern New Mexico.

2014 Friends of Anthropology

Anonymous

Dr. Rani Alexander and Mr. Nigel Holman

Ms. Evelyn Billo

Drs. W. Thomas Conelly and
Miriam Chaiken

Dr. Paul Deason and Mrs.
Christine Davidson

Ms. Mari J. Langford

Drs. Gene and Deborah Long

Mr. Edgar A. Montoya

Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Shuttles

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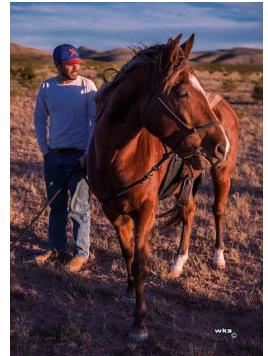
*Like us on Facebook
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regular updates
on department
activities:*

"NMSU Department of
Anthropology"

"Student Spotlight: Angel Peña" continued

proclamation for the Organ Mountain-Desert Peaks National Monument, Angel's work has expanded substantially. He has been involved in the local midterm elections for offices that are key to the protection and restoration of public lands in southern New Mexico. He continues his work with the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, and he plans to graduate with the MA degree in Anthropology in May 2015.

To top it off, Angel has accepted a new position as the National Monument Campaign Director for the Conservation Lands Foundation, whose mission is to protect, restore, and expand the National Conservation Lands through education, advocacy, and partnerships. Angel looks forward to "bringing the cultural resources of the western states to the forefront of the conservation conversation."



"Alumni Spotlight: Max Ruben" continued

Needless to say, I have been exposed to populations vastly different from anything I have ever experienced. Yet, it has been truly inspiring and enlightening to work with these people. Many of them have suffered trauma I cannot begin to fathom. I've learned that being an open set of ears is extremely powerful in addition to the services we provide. I could not be more grateful for this opportunity to connect with others whose spirits have been scathed, but also healed with time and determination through the channels of health and wellness provided by the health professionals with whom they interact.



MAKE A GIFT TO SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS AND SEND US YOUR UPDATES

Supporting Anthropology or the University Museum

BY CHECK. Please send your charitable gifts to the NMSU Foundation, PO Box 3590, Las Cruces, NM 88003 and indicate on the memo line if you would like to support the "Friends of Anthropology" or the "Friends of the University Museum."

BY CREDIT CARD. Gifts can be made on our secure page, giving.nmsu.edu/anthro.html, to either the Friends of Anthropology or the program of your choice.

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