

glyphs

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society

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October 2023



Next General Meeting:

October 16, 2023

7:00 pm (MST)

University of Arizona
Environmental and Natural
Resources Building 2, Room 107
Agnese Nelms Haury Lecture Hall
1064 E. Lowell Street
Tucson, Arizona

and

AAHS@Home (Zoom webinar)

www.az-arch-and-hist.org

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President's Message

by Rich Lange, President

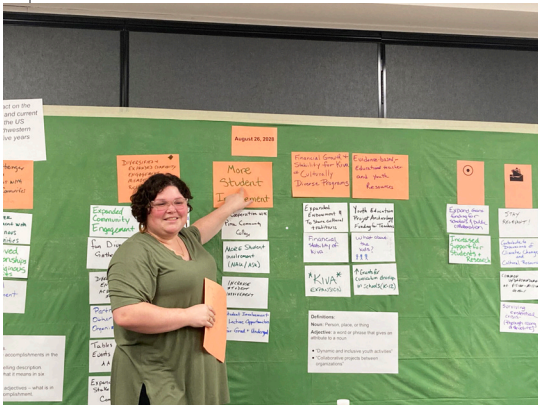
Late in the summer, your Board of Directors, current and former Officers, and many committee chairs or committee members (about 20 of us) gathered for a day-long session led by professional facilitators to become better acquainted, to review the past and current status of AAHS, and to engage in some dreaming and strategic planning for the future. We examined our objectives and values and will move forward to incorporate new perspectives and directions into our programming, our bylaws and operations manual, and updated goals in our mission statement and objectives. Some of these changes will require formal approval by the Board and

the membership — stay tuned! We hope many of these proposed changes can be presented to the membership by the end of the calendar year.

One theme that ran through several aspects of the review and planning is **VOLUNTEERS!** AAHS relies heavily on volunteers (for officers, the Board, and committees). We appreciate all of those

currently serving and those who have served in the past, but we also recognize we need to interest and involve more people, especially students and underrepresented communities, more seriously and continually. It's no secret that many organizations, institutions, and agencies are recognizing and acting to achieve the same thing. An organization is only as good as its members!

Two obvious areas needing volunteers are AAHS activities and the book sale in support of the Arizona State Museum Library and

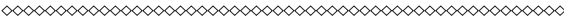


Rebecca Harkness, past student representative for AAHS, at the August 26 strategic planning session.

Archives. AAHS activities currently fall under the responsibilities of Co-Vice-Presidents for Activities—Susan Bierer (lectures) and Alycia Hayes (field trips). They could use the help of volunteers in identifying possible lecture topics and speakers and field trip destinations and leaders, as well as managing logistics for lectures and field trips—such as helping setup and use the technology for lectures and helping coordinate and manage field trips. If you are interested or want further information, please contact them individually (contact information is listed in this *Glyphs*).

For the book sale, volunteers can be involved in sorting, organizing, and processing books in the months and weeks leading up to a book sale and in the setup and management the days of the sale. This is a great opportunity for students to become involved, because most of these activities occur on the University of Arizona campus. Please contact Katherine Cerino (kcerino@gmail.com) if you would like to help with the book sale or if you would like additional information. The next book sale is scheduled for October 20–21, and your help is needed!

These are just a couple of examples of AAHS activities for which additional volunteers are needed; your help can be extremely valuable. Other areas could be media communications, the website, and general administration—from bookkeeping to membership. Please consider volunteering. We think you will enjoy the activities you would be involved in, the new friends you make, and the new places you will see!



AAHS Lecture Series

Lectures are offered in a hybrid format, presented in-person at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Building ENR2, Agnese Nelms Haury Lecture Hall, Room 107, and simultaneously through Zoom.

Oct. 16, 2023: Nick Kessler, *Tree-Ring Dating Techniques for the Desert Basin of Southern and Central Arizona*

Nov. 20, 2023: Maren Hopkins and Kelsey Hanson, *TBA*

October 16: Topic of the General Meeting

Tree-Ring Dating Techniques for the Desert Basins of Southern and Central Arizona

Nicholas Kessler

Cultural chronologies in the desert basins of the Southwestern U.S. rely on radiocarbon dates and ceramic sequences that are limited in terms of resolution. More precise dating methods, such as dendrochronology, have not been traditionally applied here due to the limited number of datable trees in arid locales. This talk will explain how recent advances in radiocarbon dating and calibration, referred to as wiggle-matching, enable high-resolution tree-ring-based chronology building. Wiggle-matching has already been applied to well-known Arizona sites such as Montezuma's Castle and Snaketown, and the results of these case studies will be detailed. Prospects for larger scale projects – some already underway – will also be discussed, and the future of tree-ring radiocarbon dating will be forecast as it pertains to what can be gained from a new focus on tree-ring dating in the desert basins of the Southwest.



Speaker Nicholas Kessler was trained in archaeological science, geoarchaeology, radiocarbon (^{14}C) chronometry, and dendrochronology at the University of Kansas (Master's) and the University of Arizona (Ph.D.). He is currently a Post-Doctoral Research Associate at the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research at the University of Arizona. Since 2017, Dr. Kessler has focused on high-resolution chronology

This lecture is free and open to the public, but for Zoom attendance, you must pre-register at: <https://bit.ly/2023OctKesslerREG>



building using archaeological tree-ring samples in places where the utility of dendrochronology has traditionally been limited. This work takes a formal approach to analyzing and interpreting time, which provides new avenues for archaeologists to greatly improve their understanding of historical events. To accomplish this, Dr. Kessler has extended recent advances involving the sequential ^{14}C dating of annual tree-rings (wiggle-matching) to produce date estimates for archaeological timbers and wooden artifacts with precision that far exceeds most other contemporary chronometric techniques. In collaboration with other archaeologists, Dr. Kessler has published revised chronologies for a variety of archaeological contexts including cliff dwellings in the Southwest, a Great Plains earth-lodge village, and monumental earthworks and objects in the Midwest. As an expert in dendrochronology and ^{14}C dating, Dr. Kessler

has also published advances in the chemical pretreatment of contaminated archival charcoal and statistical methods for interpreting common age anomalies. He teaches dendrochronology at the University of Arizona and recently served as a visiting professor at Colorado College. Current research projects involve: a complete reanalysis of the wood and charcoal collected from the Tonto Basin (funded by the National Science Foundation), a Werner-Gren funded re-dating of timbers from a Late Mississippian mound center in northern Georgia, and various collaborative projects in Arizona with the National Park Service and the Forest Service.

glyphs: Information and articles to be included in *glyphs* must be received by the first of each month for inclusion in the next month's issue. Contact me, Emilee Mead, at emilee@desert.com.



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Current Research

The Effect of Local-Newcomer Interactions on Ceramic Practice in Chaco Canyon

*Genevieve Woodhead
University of New Mexico*

Around AD 1100, Ancestral Pueblo people moved from the Mesa Verde area to Chaco Canyon. At this time, pottery begins to resemble what Mesa Verde potters were making. It may be that local Chaco potters were collaborating with newcomers on this novel style of pottery or that newcomers were solely responsible for the change. To better understand this ceramic shift, I use painted sherds from vessels manufactured in and around Chaco Canyon, comparing highly visible decorations with less visible aspects of ceramic manufacture. I use this close examination of pottery to trace local Chacoan and immigrant Mesa Verdean interaction as it manifested materially. Permission to conduct the study involved consultation with 27 tribes with ancestral connections to Chaco, as well as the Chaco Culture National Historical Park and the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology. Additional funding was provided by an National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant.

Since receiving the AAHS Research Grant, I have spent many hours in the archaeological collections of the Chaco Culture National Historical Park and the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology (thank you, too, to everyone at these museums). Collections visits involved sorting through pottery to identify sherds that would be appropriate

Recipient of a 2022 AAHS Research Grant. Thank you to the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society for awarding me a Research Grant in support of my dissertation. I also thank my committee members, Patricia Crown, Clarence Cruz, Hannah Mattson, and W. H. Wills. I am a Ph.D. candidate at the University of New Mexico, where I examine pottery made in and imported to Chaco Canyon circa AD 1100. The goal of my dissertation is to characterize Chaco-Mesa Verde interaction at a time when the influence of Chaco Canyon was waning and the nature of Chaco-Mesa Verde relationships was shifting. I am curious how craftspeople interact during such periods of sociopolitical and demographic upheaval.

for the dissertation sample. I targeted white ware rim and base sherds with sufficient surface area to capture primary elements of whole pots' painted designs. I also targeted late ceramic types associated with the period of increased Chaco–Mesa Verde interaction, specifically Chaco Black-on-white, Chaco-McElmo Black-on-white, and McElmo Black-on-white—a type from the Mesa Verde ceramic tradition (Figure 1).

I have now selected more than 1,000 sherds from approximately 700 unique white ware serving vessels, mostly bowls. The sherds come primarily from small sites and great houses in Chaco Canyon. I have completed object photography and nondestructive visual analyses and measurements for 775 sherds from 574 vessels. Visual inspection is the first step in gathering information on how potters formed and finished their pottery. I assess a suite of external ceramic attributes, including wall thickness, rim decoration, slip quality, and many others. From the painted designs visible on the sherds, I preliminarily defined 135 motifs.

Visual analyses and measurement work also involved the slow and careful process of identifying sherds that either refit or that arguably come from the same vessel. Many sherds may be stored and catalogued separately in museum collections based on how they were excavated and where archaeologists found them on a site or in an excavation unit. To avoid misrepresenting a single pot as multiple



Figure 1. Examples of painted designs found on the late Chaco Canyon ceramic types under study. Type collection sherds courtesy of the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, University of New Mexico: (left) Chaco Black-on-white (Maxwell Box No. 20476); (middle) Chaco-McElmo Black-on-white (Maxwell Box Nos. 38060 and 41829); and (right) McElmo Black-on-white (Maxwell Box No. 20411).

(continued on page 8)

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pots, I strove to match as many related sherds as possible. Refits and inferred crossmends comprise 17 percent of the sample. To date, I have identified differently catalogued sherds as refits or inferred crossmends from 60 represented vessels.

Work is still in progress, and the dissertation is projected to have a May 2025 completion. Following ongoing communication with the museum and Tribal Historic Preservation Office personnel, I will perform refire tests and ceramic petrography. One incidental observation I have made so far is that a small number of sherds that superficially look like local Chaco types Chaco Black-on-white and Chaco-McElmo Black-on-white have, when viewed under a binocular microscope, abundant Chuska trachyte in their ceramics pastes. Chaco pottery commonly has some Chuska trachyte present by way of sherd temper, but in such cases, the trachyte fragments are fewer than the sherd fragments. This mix of a Chaco decorative style with a nonlocal ingredient speaks to Chaco-Chuska interaction. Chaco-Chuska interaction was not the interaction I set out to study, but work is ongoing, and I am heartened by the continual research potential and value of studying existing archaeological collections.



Old Pueblo Archaeology Educational Programs

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center offers speakers to give presentations on various topics for educators and other adults, as well as for children. Examples of topics include:

- ◆ Archaeology and Cultures of Arizona
- ◆ Archaeology and You: Preserving the Past for the Future
- ◆ Arts and Culture of Ancient Southern Arizona Hohokam Indians
- ◆ Set in Stone but Not in Meaning: Southwestern Indian Rock Art
- ◆ Arrowhead Making and Flintknapping Workshop
- ◆ Traditional Pottery Making Working

To schedule a speaker on these or other Southwestern archaeology, history, and culture topics your organization might like to hear about, contact Old Pueblo Archaeology Center at 520.798.1201.

Student Corner

*Emily Jonsson
University of Arizona*

Welcome back to the academic year and back to the Student Corner! My name is Emily Jonsson, and I am the Student Representative to AAHS for 2023–2024. I am in my second year of the Master's program in Applied Archaeology at the University of Arizona, where I am currently working on my Master's thesis looking at the history of excavations and management of a Gallina site on the Jicarilla Apache Reservation.

In August, the AAHS Board and Officers were invited to a strategic planning retreat to establish goals for AAHS for the next few years. Rebecca Harkness, a University of Arizona Ph.D. student and former Student Representative, and Daniel Montoya, a Laboratory Specialist with the Archaeology Centre at Pima Community College and current Board Member at Large, were essential in offering perspectives from the younger generations within AAHS. This process was incredible, as it allowed us to share our ideas and what we would like to see from AAHS for students and emerging professionals moving forward. One of the key visions many people stated was the inclusion and focus on student voices in the society. As a result of these conversations, we decided it would be necessary to build a committee to represent all these perspectives, beyond just a single student representative from the University of Arizona.

As we begin the academic year, I challenge you to think: How can AAHS better support students and young professionals? What type of events would you like to see? How can we expand both who chooses to be a member of this community and who has access to being a member of this community? These types of questions will form what this committee looks like, what events we plan, how we reach out to people across Arizona (and beyond!), and how the future of AAHS can look as we move forward. If you are a student, young professional, or anyone who has ideas for how to support this specific group, we would love to have you involved. Whether you have ideas or just want to stay in the loop for events, send me an email at emilyjonsson@arizona.edu, and we will make sure you are included!

OCTOBER USED BOOK SALE

Friday, October 20, 10:00 am–4:00 pm
Saturday, October 21, 10:00 am–2:00 pm

Arizona State Museum Lobby

All books ½ price from 12:00–2:00 pm on Saturday



Come shop our annual fall used book sale. As always, the proceeds benefit the Arizona State Museum library. We have lots of archaeology books as well as a large assortment of non-fiction, particularly history and biography. Our collection ranges far beyond the Southwest with

anthropology and archaeology books from Meso-America, Africa, Europe, and North America. Books are reasonably priced starting at \$2.00.

We will also have the new AAHS t-shirts for sale.

If you would like to help set up or tear down, contact Katherine Cerino at kcerino@gmail.com.

AAHS Membership Application

Membership is open to anyone interested in the prehistory and history of Arizona and the Southwest and who support the aims of the Society. Membership runs for a full year from the date of receipt and covers all individuals living in the same household. If you are joining as a household, please list all members of the household. Monthly meetings are free and open to the public. Society field trips require membership.

Membership Categories

- ☐ \$60 **Kiva members** receive four issues of the Society's quarterly journal *Kiva* and 12 issues of *Glyphs*
- ☐ \$45 **Glyphs members** receive *Glyphs*
- ☐ \$35 **Student Kiva members** receive both *Kiva* and *Glyphs*
- ☐ \$100 **Contributing members** receive *Kiva*, *Glyphs*, and all current benefits
- ☐ \$150 **Supporting members** receive *Kiva*, *Glyphs*, and all current benefits
- ☐ \$300 **Sponsoring members** receive *Kiva*, *Glyphs*, and all current benefits
- ☐ \$1,500 **Lifetime members** receive *Kiva*, *Glyphs*, and all current benefits

Note: For memberships outside the U.S., please add \$20. AAHS does not release membership information to other organizations.

I wish to receive *Glyphs* by (circle your choice): Digital Only Print and Digital

I wish to receive *Kiva* by (circle your choice): Digital Only Print and Digital

I am interested in volunteering in AAHS activities: Yes Not at this time

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You can join online at www.az-arch-and-hist.org, or by mailing the form below to:

Sean Hammond, VP Membership
Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society
Arizona State Museum, The University of Arizona
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Board of Directors 2023–2024

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The objectives of the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society are to encourage scholarly pursuits in areas of history and anthropology of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico; to encourage the preservation of archaeological and historical sites; to encourage the scientific and legal gathering of cultural information and materials; to publish the results of archaeological, historical, and ethnographic investigations; to aid in the functions and programs of the Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona; and to provide educational opportunities through lectures, field trips, and other activities. See inside back cover for information about the Society's programs and membership and subscription requirements.

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