



# THE MAXWELL

A Publication of the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology & University of New Mexico

VOLUME 50 NO.1  
SPRING 2020

## CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE AGE OF PANDEMIC

### CULTURAL HERITAGE



Over the last few months our world has changed. Museums and heritage sites in New Mexico and around the world have closed to the public and it is not at all clear when it will be safe to re-open or who will come when we do. At the same time, many of us are turning to art, to music, to crafting, and to culture for comfort, education, and escape from the grim news that bombards us. We are seeing anew how much cultural heritage and cultural objects – from our own communities and our collective humanity – give meaning and value to our lives, perhaps especially in difficult times.

Far beyond our current crisis, cultural heritage is threatened around the world, from development and resource extraction, climate change, looting, and violence. The Maxwell Museum stands with communities and activists fighting to protect their heritage and with our peers and professional organizations advocating for stronger legal frameworks for the protection and ethical stewardship of cultural heritage.

Through our exhibitions, collections, and educational programs the Maxwell Museum celebrates diverse human stories and strives, as our new mission statement affirms, to work “toward greater understandings of the fullness of human experiences in the Southwest and the world” (see p. 11). Our exhibitions tell stories of the human past and present and explore current environmental and other threats to natural and cultural resources; our archaeological and ethnographic collections derive from millennia of human cultural creativity and actions – from 2 million years ago until the present; our archives contain more than 100,000 images, videos, and documents from research among diverse communities by anthropologists from UNM and other institutions. Ongoing projects by the Office of Contract Archaeology (OCA) document and develop preservation plans for archaeological sites and regions throughout the greater Southwest.

And much more. In this “pandemic issue” of our newsletter (which is only coming to you virtually since the UNM print shop is currently closed), we share some of the work we are doing to study, preserve, and present stories of cultural heritage.

### MAXWELL MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY STATEMENT ON THE PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

*From Chaco Canyon to Mesopotamia, from the ravages of resource extraction to the targeting of heritage sites in war, the University of New Mexico Maxwell Museum of Anthropology stands for the protection of cultural heritage and against the wanton destruction of irreplaceable sites, living monuments, landscapes, and institutions that hold the material evidence, memories, and stories of our shared human experience.*  
(January 19, 2020)

## DIRECTOR'S COLUMN



Carla Sinopoli

Greetings to all and I hope you enjoy our first entirely non-paper newsletter.

This has been an interesting and challenging few months for the Maxwell, as I am sure it has been for all of you. We've witnessed anew how the entire planet is interconnected, as COVID-19 has ignored geographic, political and cultural boundaries in its spread around the globe. As anthropologists, we are reminded of past pandemics and the long term colonial histories that are contributing to the unequal impact of the disease on New Mexico's (and diverse global) communities and cultures, and we are both observing and part of the social and cultural transformations that this pandemic may lead us to create.

The University of New Mexico has been in "limited operations" since March 17 and is now slowly beginning to reopen. I and the Maxwell staff are still largely working from home, with occasional forays into the museum to ensure that all is well. We have been keeping busy and in touch through numerous virtual meetings. We have successfully hired Dr. Kari Schleher as our new Curator of Archaeology (and Assistant Professor of Anthropology) and have completed a new strategic plan for the Museum. And we've been expanding our digital presence through daily posts on social media and our website and a new and still growing online exhibition, which has drawn contributors and visitors from around the world. We hope you have been enjoying this content and would love to hear from you about what you would like to see more of as we work to continue to provide informative and interesting anthropological content in multiple formats (email me at [csinopoli@unm.edu](mailto:csinopoli@unm.edu) or [maxwell@unm.edu](mailto:maxwell@unm.edu)).



Kari Schleher

One of the fascinating aspects of our shared experience is witnessing how so many people have turned to culture—including musical and theatrical performances, online museums, webinars, (not to mention cooking and cuisine)—in this time of stress. We at the Maxwell firmly believe that culture, heritage and museums matter even and perhaps especially in times of crisis. That is the theme of this issue of our newsletter.

I am afraid we can't yet answer many of the questions I expect you have: when will we open to the public again? When will our volunteers and students return to work in the collections? I can assure you that we will not open until we can do so as safely as possible to protect the well-being of our visitors and staff. I can also assure you that in whatever format we are in, we will continue to work to serve our UNM and greater community and greatly look forward to seeing you online and, when conditions allow, in person.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts and suggestions and hope that you stay safe and well,

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carla M. Sinopoli".



Objects from the Maxwell archaeological collection

## ARCHAEOLOGY COLLECTIONS: CURATION AND REPATRIATION

The Maxwell's archaeology collections derive from nearly a century of archaeological research in New Mexico and beyond, and include objects and associated records from UNM faculty fieldwork; state, federal and tribal organizations; and donations. Comprising more than two million objects, these collections constitute an irreplaceable record of the human past that has been entrusted to the care of the Museum to preserve for future generations.

Much of the work of Interim Curator of Archaeology W.H. (Chip) Wills and Senior Collection Manager for Archaeology Karen Price, and the many students and volunteers who assist them is to ensure that these collections are well cared for and accessible for research and teaching. With support from grants from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service, our staff are documenting collections, rehousing them in archival bags and boxes, and entering standardized information into our digital records.

When we closed access to the Museum in mid-March, more than 40 people were working in the archaeology collections. While the physical labor of handling collections has been on hold thanks to the pandemic, we have been taking advantage of the unanticipated time away from the storerooms to update information for our new collections database and do other essential record keeping tasks that tend to get put to the side in the day to day rush of collections work.

The ethical care of archaeological collections is not solely about hanging on to old collections however. It also requires that some of the remains and objects in museum collections be returned to the indigenous communities to which they are related. The 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) recognizes the unique nature of certain categories of materials held by museums—human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony—and provides a framework for their repatriation.

The Maxwell Museum currently holds a grant from the National NAGPRA Office of the Department of Interior for the site of Pottery Mound, excavated by UNM over many decades. In addition to work in the Laboratory of Osteology inventorying the burials from the site, staff and student employees in the archaeology collections have examined 795 boxes of Pottery Mound artifacts to identify any objects that may fall under NAGPRA for review by cultural experts during Tribal consultations. These consultations, and the process of repatriation, have been made longer by pandemic delays, and we look forward to meeting again in person when conditions allow.



Maxwell Museum volunteers sorting collections



## OCA AND THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORY AND CULTURE

The Maxwell Office of Contract Archeology (OCA) is actively engaged in the preservation, recovery and interpretation of historic and cultural resources across the State of New Mexico and occasionally in Arizona, Texas and Colorado.



We seek to preserve cultural sites in place where possible and, when not possible, to carefully recover archaeological data through meticulous excavation, the study and interpretation of the recovered cultural materials, and the curation of those collections in climate-controlled repositories, such as the Maxwell Museum.

Working with a broad range of clients, including those from the private sector, Federal and State agencies, and Native Tribes, Pueblos and Nations, OCA works diligently to craft preservation plans and research designs to protect prehistoric and historic archaeological sites and traditional cultural properties from impending destruction by construction, land management and other ground-disturbing projects.

OCA crew member documenting an archaeological site in the gypsum dunes at Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Texas.



OCA archaeologists recording large artifact scatter at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico.

## ARCHIVES

The Maxwell Museum's archives can best be described as a cultural archive. Cultural heritage documentation in the archive can be physical, digital (scanned documents or photographs and born digital material), analog, and audio and/or visual materials.

Archives have special needs, different in many respects from archaeological or ethnological objects. In general, archives collect primary source documentation such as journals, field notes, correspondence, reports, photographs, maps, financial records, memos, newspaper articles, autobiographical works, memoirs, and oral histories. Archives permanently preserve these records for use by researchers.

The Maxwell Museum's Archives contain the Museum's records from its earliest decades to the recent past. In addition, the Archives contain the research papers of UNM (and non-UNM) anthropologists, as well as specialist collections, exemplary documents, and photographs. The Archives hold information pertaining to other collections at the Maxwell: archaeology, ethnology and osteology. These records provide information on provenance, use, historical information regarding cultural origin of collections and objects and their history of acquisition, and other information that is useful for scholarly research. Many of the Maxwell's archaeological collections, especially those that come from UNM Archaeological Field School sessions, are supported by documentation located in the Archives, including published and unpublished reports, data forms and summaries of analyses of objects (ceramics, lithics, etc.), reports on dating, and documents generated during the fieldwork, such as field forms, maps, field specimen catalogues, grid forms from the excavation, notes, photographs (of fieldwork and specific objects), correspondence relating to pre- and post-excavation activities, and other information.



Largo Site (Large Slab House), Frank Hibben, 1940.

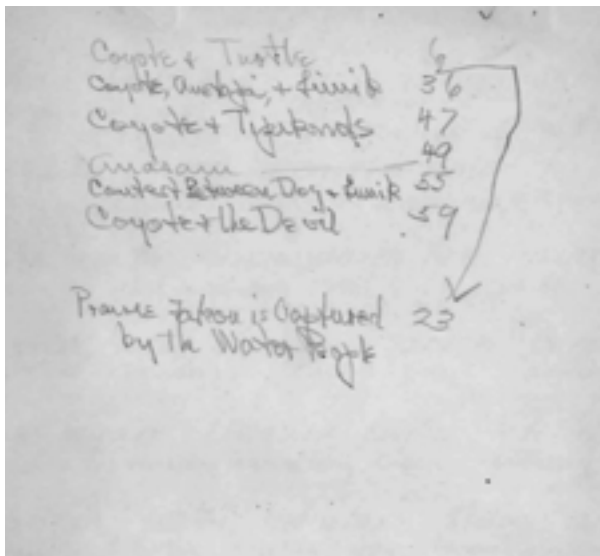


Table of Contents page from handwritten Yokuts text

### STANLEY S. NEWMAN COLLECTION AVAILABLE FOR RESEARCHERS SEPTEMBER 2020

Stanley S. Newman (1905-1984) was a professor in Linguistic Anthropology in UNM's Anthropology Department from 1949 to 1971. Newman researched Salish/Bella Coola languages in the Pacific Northwest, produced a Zuni Dictionary and in the 1930s, began visiting Central California to research Yokuts languages.

The collection (Accession No. 2013\_81) includes Newman's published and unpublished papers, articles etc.; colleagues' conference papers; correspondence (1930-1983); research materials and his many notecards and notebooks relating to his research for a Zuni dictionary; Salish vocabulary; Bella Coola dictionary; and numerous handwritten volumes of Yokuts texts relating stories in the original language with an English translation.

Contact Diane Tyink, Museum Archivist, to make an appointment ([dtyink@unm.edu](mailto:dtyink@unm.edu); (505) 277-1549).

## MAXWELL EDUCATION PROGRAMS TAKE A “THINK, FEEL, DO” APPROACH

*Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think. – Albert Einstein*



In 1956, educational psychologist Benjamin Bloom and colleagues published a framework for learning, now referred to as “Bloom’s Taxonomy.” This framework identifies three domains of learning: cognitive (the intellectual “thinking” domain), affective (the emotional “feeling” domain), and psychomotor (the behavioral “doing” domain). This theoretical framework for learning provides a solid foundation for hands-on, object-based learning in the Maxwell Museum.

Each domain is divided into a hierarchy of levels in ascending order of complexity. The cognitive domain involves stages of learning from remembering and understanding basic facts and terms, to applying and analyzing relationships and principles, and finally to evaluation and creation of judgments and solutions. This domain promotes critical thinking, where the learner can defend ideas and claims supported by evidence and reasoning. The affective domain involves stages of learning from receiving and responding to information, to placing value on an object, phenomenon, or piece of information, to finally organizing and characterizing values. This domain develops a value system that ultimately influences behavior. The psychomotor domain involves stages of learning to develop fine and gross motor skills from imitation and manipulation, to precision and articulation, to naturalization of habitual movements. This domain refines coordinated physical activity.

At the Maxwell, we apply this theory to our teaching practice to achieve desired program outcomes. Research has shown that a learner’s ability to process information is essential for gaining new skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, communication, creativity, and innovation. Object-based learning is a means of honing these skills, to build on and restructure prior knowledge and construct new knowledge. Studying objects can afford opportunities to sharpen observation and perception and provides the vehicle for learning new vocabulary and means of communicating ideas. Museum objects provide concrete and tangible evidence to understand intangible ideas.

The education collection presents cultural heritage of groups from around the world and back in time. Investigation of these resources connects learners with people who made and used the objects and demonstrates their connection to the natural world. Participants use and handle the materials or create their own pieces representing their internalized understanding of cultural practices and heritage. Cultivating an appreciation of heritage, when paired with developing values, can result in positive changes in behavior. Learners can then take action, either by simply creating social dialogue around an issue, advocating for change, or more directly by taking action to preserve and protect cultural and natural resources.

Visit <http://maxwellmuseum.unm.edu/education/educational-programs> or contact Amy Grochowski, Curator of Education at [amygro@unm.edu](mailto:amygro@unm.edu) or 505-277-2924 for more information about our programs.



### 2020 CHILDREN’S SUMMER PROGRAM CANCELLED

Sadly, the Maxwell Summer program will not be returning for another week of fun and exploration. The generous support from the Albuquerque Archaeological Society, Maxwell Museum archaeology collections volunteers, and an anonymous donor will be used for the 2021 Summer Program; eight qualifying children will receive a scholarship to cover the full cost of the camp. Stay safe campers and enjoy our online educational offerings.



## PRESERVATION PROJECTS IN THE ETHNOLOGY COLLECTIONS



New housing for the Dr. Mari Lyn Salvador Guna (Kuna) Collection

More than 450 cultural groups from over 100 countries are represented in the Maxwell Museum Ethnology Collections. Ethnology Curator Dr. Lea McChesney recognizes these diverse objects and implements, clothing, musical instruments, art, and other forms of cultural expression as cultural heritage resources, and actively works with descendant communities and communities of origin to encourage access and improve our knowledge and documentation.

Daily, Senior Collections Manager Lauren Fuka works with students to preserve that material culture, by researching objects, improving documentation, and rehousing collections, to ensure they are available to Native and Indigenous individuals and groups, researchers, and classes.

Over the past year, graduate students in Anthropology and Museum Studies have been working hard to advance our preservation efforts, supported by the Hibben Trust and Museum Studies Program. Brett Salter is rehousing more than 250 pieces of Native American (Plains) beadwork, peyote fans, and feather war bonnets into new archival trays and supports. Roma Castellanos is creating custom storage trays for objects collected by former Maxwell Curator, the late Dr. Mari Lyn Salvador during her research with the Guna (Kuna) people of the San Blas Islands of Panama. Will Riding In is making storage mounts for the Maxwell's growing collection of Puebloan pottery. Hope Casareno is labelling, documenting, and vacuuming an extensive new donation of Mayan textiles from Virginia Guess; and Adam Fuchs is documenting black ash baskets made by Native American groups in the Great Lakes and northeast United States, compiling information and images to share with Native basket makers.

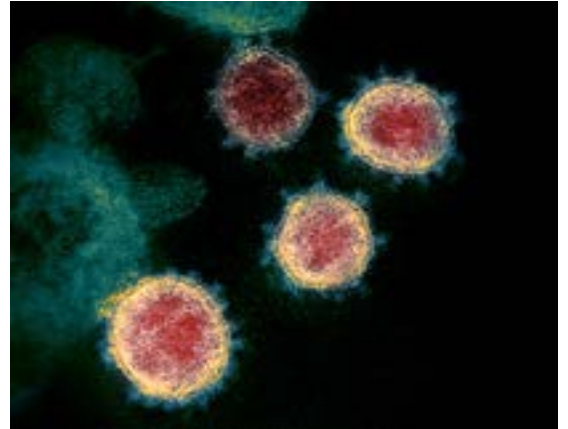


In broad and discreet ways, we are working to ensure that the Ethnology collections at the Maxwell Museum, representing a trove of rich cultural heritage resources, will continue to grow in support of the museum's mission and vision and will be preserved long into the future for use by campus and community groups alike.

Native American (Plains) feather war bonnet rehousing by Brett Salter

## EXHIBITIONS ONLINE: COVID 19: CONCEPTS OF ILLNESS AND WELLNESS

All around the world, museums are places where people can gather safely to encounter, explore, and engage with ideas and topics — new, familiar or challenging. In the face of the global Covid-19 (coronavirus) pandemic and the temporary closure of our physical gathering space, the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology continues our mission with an online exhibition about the current pandemic and the different ways to know about it. We offer this information in partnership with diverse contributors and with the goal of adding anthropological perspectives to understandings of this global crisis.



We continue to evolve the exhibition with contributions from people all over the world, so keep checking back. Throughout the process, we will provide factual information and resources regarding the current pandemic, consider other pandemics and epidemics past and present, and present different approaches to health and wellness, cultural, geographic and personal responses to widespread illness.

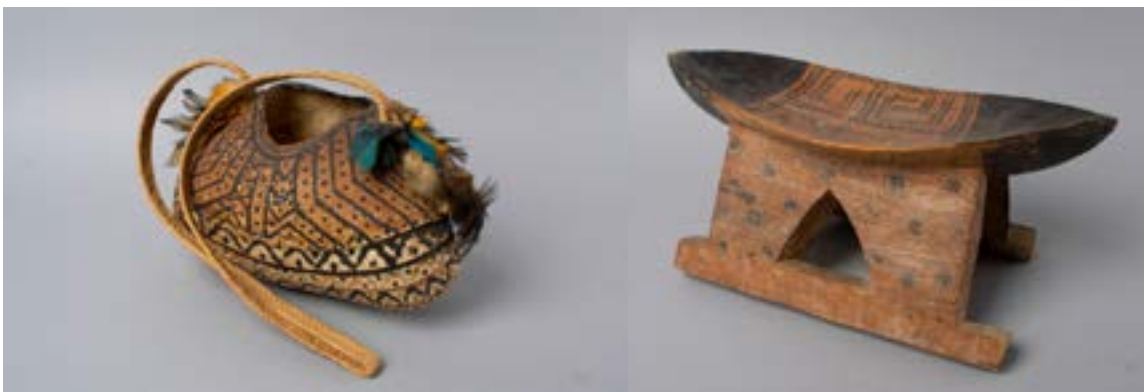
## HEARTBREAK: A LOVE LETTER TO THE LOST NATIONAL MUSEUM OF BRAZIL



Shuar earrings detail, collected by Don South in 1962.

Through our temporary exhibitions, the Maxwell Museum regularly addresses *Current Issues in Anthropology*. Sadly the physical opening of our next exhibition has been delayed by the coronavirus (a virtual version may appear sooner). *Heartbreak* addresses the tragic destruction of the National Museum of Brazil, which burned to the ground on September 2, 2019, victim of decades of neglect of the 200 year old building. More than 20 million natural history specimens, cultural objects, and irreplaceable recordings and records of Brazil's indigenous communities, were destroyed.

Co-curated by recently graduated Museum Studies MA student Jackson Larson and Curator of Exhibitions Devorah Romanek, this exhibit features Brazilian objects from the Maxwell's collections to share knowledge with, and pay tribute to, the National Museum. It addresses the importance of the Museum's collections to indigenous communities and examine the struggles of the indigenous peoples of Brazil's Amazon Basin to preserve their ways of life against the intensifying threats of mines, ranchers, and the Brazilian state.



Wapishana Bolsa (container bag), made from armadillo shell, & Waiwai Stool, Roraima Region, collected by Katarina Real, ca. 1950s.



## OSTEOLOGY: DONATING BODIES FOR FUTURE STUDY

You may not think of the gift of a skeleton as a contribution to cultural heritage. However, through the Maxwell Museum's Body Donation Program, the gift of one's body makes an invaluable contribution to scientific research and education on contemporary human biological and cultural diversity. Since 1974, the Laboratory of Human Osteology at the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology has accepted body donations for research and educational purposes under the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act.

Today, the Documented Skeletal Collection comprises skeletal remains of over 300 individuals, donated to the Maxwell Museum by the donors before death or by their families. Demographic information such as sex, age, ancestry, medical history, occupation, and cause of death is available for many of the individuals.

A few examples of research using this data includes:

1. studying the reaction of bone to trauma such as different types of fractures
2. testing more accurate methods of estimating age-at-death of an individual
3. creating new standards for identifying unknown individuals from forensic (medico-legal) contexts
4. examining the skeletal manifestations of particular diseases such as osteoarthritis and osteoporosis.

The collection also provides a fascinating snapshot of the progression of medical and surgical technologies over the last 70 years.

Skeletal collections of this nature—that is, a large number of known individuals who lived in the late 19th century to the present-day—are rare. The Maxwell's Documented Skeletal Collection is the only modern skeletal collection of its size in the Western United States, and draws students and researchers from all over the country. As a result, the Documented Skeletal Collection has been, and continues to be, instrumental in training evolutionary anthropologists, advancing scientific knowledge, and preserving contemporary human biological variation in perpetuity.

Note: Due to the COVID-19 outbreak and concerns that remain regarding its diagnosis and environmental persistence, and to protect the staff and students who work in the Maxwell's Laboratory of Human Osteology, the body donation program is on hold until further notice. We look forward to resuming the program when it is safe for all parties involved.



## PUBLIC PROGRAMS ENGAGES ONLINE

While the physical museum is currently closed Maxwell public programming has shifted online. We've come up with a different topic each weekday and are hosting an online exhibit as well.

Maxwell staff including our Director, Curators, Senior Collection Managers, Hibben scholars and graduate students create content on a wide range of anthropological topics. Objects are on view for the first time to a wide audience, providing an inside look from our collections, scholarly research is highlighted and the history of the Maxwell is revealed. We feature a new activity each week designed by our education team and offer our expertise in the Ask the Maxwell posting.

Check it out on the Maxwell website, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!

Online programming schedule:



**OBJECT MONDAY:** presents archaeology, ethnology and osteology collections through images of artifacts with descriptions and provenience.



**EDUCATION TUESDAY:** Lulu the Lobo provides downloadable resources and stem activities to fill out the curriculum while K – 12 students finish the year at home and to educate and entertain throughout the summer.



**RESEARCH WEDNESDAY:** Maxwell staff give presentations, submit papers, and posters at professional conferences throughout the year. Learn about their scholarly research.



**HISTORY THURSDAY:** traces the story of the Maxwell Museum from its beginnings until today. Catch weekly entries and look through the Maxwell blog for the full story.



**ASK THE MAXWELL FRIDAY:** a forum for all things anthropological. Have you got a question? Send it to [maxwell@unm.edu](mailto:maxwell@unm.edu) or post on our facebook page?

### FOLLOW US!



## PLANNING OUR FUTURE: REACCREDITATION AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

While many of our museum collections and research look to the past, the Maxwell staff has spent a lot of time this year looking to our future.

First, we are preparing for a reaccreditation review by the American Alliance of Museums. Accreditation by the AAM, the largest professional museum organization in the U.S., is an acknowledgement of a museum's commitment to excellence in all of its activities and to maintaining the public trust. Fewer than 8% of anthropology museums and 16% of university museums currently hold AAM accreditation. The Maxwell has been continuously accredited since 1973 and is up for reevaluation and renewal in 2020. To prepare for reaccreditation we have been reviewing and updating policies and procedures, conducting collection inventories, identifying what has changed since our last review and defining our priorities for the future. Our self-study is due to the AAM in July 2020 and we look forward to hosting a panel of reviewers in the late summer or fall.

Second, and above and beyond preparing for the AAM review, in summer 2019 the Maxwell hired Museum Consultant Gail Anderson (Gail Anderson Associates) to work with us to develop a new strategic plan for the Museum. Our last detailed plan was completed in 2005. While it served the Museum for many years, much has changed in the museum world, in anthropology, and in the Maxwell Museum since then. Over eight months and many meetings in Fall 2019-Spring 2020, our new strategic framework and three-year plan is nearing completion. Since it is not yet finalized, we can't share it with you yet. But we are excited about our new direction! We hope to have the plan fully approved by the end of June 2020 and will post it on our web site then.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO DONNA KAY LASUSKY

The Maxwell Museum's Office of Contract Archeology's Donna Kay Lasusky retired at the end of May 2020. Donna joined the OCA in 1988 as a clerical specialist and retired as Unit Administrator. In this role, she oversaw all financial reporting and personnel administration, managing many projects, and making sure OCA's full-time, on-call and student employees got paid on time and billed to the right project. Donna also was OCA's lead report production specialist, and produced numerous archeological reports ranging from small to large major multi-volume reports. And she did it all with good humor and wondrous efficiency. We wish you a happy and healthy retirement Donna, filled with fun and adventures -- we'll miss you!



Donna Kay Lasusky



## VISIT OUR ONLINE STORE AND SUPPORT LOCAL ARTISTS

The Maxwell Museum may be closed, but our store will be open until June 5 and beginning again on July 1 (after completing our end of fiscal year inventory). The Maxwell store works with many local and Native artists. Please help support them by shopping online while social distancing. Late graduation presents? Early holiday presents? Need to treat yourself? Visit <https://maxwellmuseumstore.unm.edu/> to find wonderful handcrafted gifts.



### CURRENT MAXWELL MUSEUM MEMBERS

The Maxwell Museum appreciates our members. We are working hard while our doors while are closed; however, we realize your membership is not is not as useful as it usually is. Therefore, we are extending all memberships for six months. If you wish to donate your extra six months to the Museum, please consider renewing at your regular time.

### BECOME A MAXWELL MUSEUM MEMBER

If you are not currently a Maxwell Museum Member, please consider becoming one or making a gift to the Maxwell. Your memberships help us to continue our digital efforts and continue to serve our community during this challenging time. Join online at <https://maxwellmuseumstore.unm.edu/> or mail the below to the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, MSC01 1050, 1 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131

Please check all that apply:

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