



# THE MAXWELL

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## Sinopoli Takes the Helm

Carla M. Sinopoli joins the University of New Mexico as Director of the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology and Professor of Anthropology. An archaeologist specializing in South Asia, her survey and excavation projects in southern India examine the political economy of the 2nd millennium CE imperial capital of Vijayanagara and emergent sociopolitical inequalities in the second and first millennia BCE Iron Age. In addition to her archaeological work, Sinopoli's research interests also include the history of university museums and anthropological collecting. She is the author or editor of 10 books and dozens of articles and her work has been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation, National Endowment for Humanities, National Geographic Society, Wenner Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, among others.



Sinopoli comes to UNM from the University of Michigan, where she was a professor of anthropology and curator of Asian collections in the Museum of Anthropological Archaeology. As curator, she conducted research, developed exhibitions, and published on archaeological, ethnographic, and photographic collections from the Indian Himalayas, China, and Southeast Asia. Her final curatorial project at Michigan is a collaborative co-curated exhibition of Anishinaabe baskets from the Great Lakes that is scheduled to open at the Ziiwing Center of Anishinaabe Culture and Lifeways in Mount Pleasant Michigan in spring 2019. In addition to her curatorial work, Sinopoli served as director of the UM Museum of Anthropological Archaeology from 2005-2011 and directed Michigan's Museum Studies Program from 2012-2018.

Sinopoli is excited to bring her museum experience and expertise to UNM and the Maxwell Museum: *"With its remarkable collections and rich history of scholarship and exhibitions about the human experience past and present, the Maxwell Museum has a storied place among University anthropology museums in the United States and beyond. I am honored and thrilled at the opportunity to be part of UNM's and the Maxwell's long commitment to anthropological research, education, and community engagement. I look forward to working with the Museum's talented curators and staff and colleagues across UNM and our region to build on the museum's impressive history by increasing educational opportunities for UNM students; strengthening community partnerships with Indigenous and source communities and other museum stakeholders; engaging new audiences; supporting ongoing efforts to improve collection care and dissemination; facilitating new and innovative research and creative projects; and continuing to present challenging and innovative exhibitions."*

Increasing knowledge and understanding of the human cultural experience.

## Director's Column



*Carla and field assistant Abramma at end of season celebration, Kadebekele, India*

I write this note not even a month into my appointment as director of the Maxwell Museum. I arrived here earlier this fall from the University of Michigan where I taught Anthropology and Museum Studies and was a museum curator for 25 years. It has been an exciting adventure to relocate to Albuquerque and I am humbled and honored to have the opportunity to lead this distinguished museum.

I would be remiss not to acknowledge the many contributions of David Phillips and express my personal gratitude to him for his support and insights as I begin to learn my way around UNM. Dave generously served as Interim Director of the Maxwell from December 2015 through September 2018, before which he was our curator of archaeology (since 2003). Even as Dave eases into his much deserved (and long-delayed) retirement, he continues to

work on Maxwell Museum publications and generously share his knowledge and insights on the Maxwell's remarkable history, collections, and casts of characters past and present. Thank you Dave, and Happy Retirement!

I've spent my first few weeks here beginning to get to know the staff at the Museum and learning about the many activities and aspirations in our Collections, Archives, Interpretation and Administrative divisions. I still have a lot to learn. But what I have learned thus far is that the Maxwell is blessed with an extraordinary, highly skilled, dedicated, and committed staff and impressive and hardworking volunteers, docents and student employees. Over my career, I have had the pleasure of meeting and interacting with leaders and staff from many dozens of museums and I am convinced that museum folks are among of the most passionate and committed individuals in the world. Everyone I have met at the Maxwell confirms and strengthens this conviction.

I have walked into a museum where many exciting things are already underway. Education curator Amy Grochowski is leading an interdisciplinary team seeking funding to reimagine and update our now three-decades old Ancestors exhibition; ethnology curator Lea McChesney is overseeing an NEH-funded project to develop a master plan for the curation and care of the collections and continues to work with the Tlowitsis First Nation on the Smith Totem Pole project; interim archaeology curator Chip Wills is working with collection managers Karen Price and Carmen Mosley on a federal NAGPRA grant to inventory and repatriate ancestral remains and burial objects from Pottery Mound; Robert Dello Russo and his amazing team at the Office of Contract Archeology have recently received contracts for new work at the Guadalupe Mountains National Park and White Sands National Monument; and Mary Beth Hermans is preparing for our 10th annual Navajo Rug Auction on November 17—the biggest annual fundraiser for the Museum. Our exhibits team led by Devorah Romanek is working on exciting new temporary exhibits to open soon. And I have not yet touched on the amazing curatorial work being conducted in the archives and collections by staff, Hibben fellows, and many volunteers, nor the tremendous administrative and budget team that keeps everyone on track.

In the new year, we will begin a process of strategic planning that will help us lay out a road map for the next five years of museum activities and priorities and prepare for our 2020 reaccreditation application to the American Alliance of Museums. Among my goals is to expand the reach and impact of the Maxwell Museum across the University of New Mexico and region. We will be establishing a number of advisory committees to help us refine and expand our research, community engagement and stewardship missions. As I get to know the Maxwell better, I look forward to meeting the many friends of the Maxwell Museum: to learn more about you and your interests and work with you to support and nurture this remarkable institution.

## UNM Archaeologist Dello-Russo honored by the state for his service and noteworthy discoveries

by Katie Williams, UNM Communication and Marketing



Archaeologist Robert Dello-Russo, Ph.D., has received the Individual Achievement Award from the State of New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA). Dello-Russo, who is currently the director of the UNM Office of Contract Archeology, was recognized for his accomplishments in New Mexico archaeology and for his years of service to the state. He has been working professionally as an archaeologist in the Land of Enchantment since 1986.

While presenting the award, Matthew Bandy of the NM Cultural Properties Review Committee noted a few of the high-points of Dello-Russo's career including the discovery of, and 10 years of research at, the Water Canyon Paleoindian site in west-central New Mexico; pioneering work using X-ray fluorescence at the Black Canyon prehistoric rhyolite quarry near Socorro; and excavations at the deep, multicomponent Lemitar Rock-shelter at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge.

“What I appreciate most in my career is the continual reminder that archaeology is an interdisciplinary endeavor,” said Dello-Russo. “I have been repeatedly engaged with colleagues from a wide range of disciplines and it is their enthusiastic collaborations that have been invaluable to both me and the profession. The award I have received from the

New Mexico Historic Preservation Division would not have been possible without their noteworthy contributions to my research.”

While deputy director at the Office of Archaeological Studies, Department of Cultural Affairs, Dello-Russo served as principal investigator at the discovery of the earliest known evidence for domesticated cotton (ca. 2600 years old) near Deming, NM. Prior to that time Dello-Russo also created the first archaeology program for the NM Department of Game and Fish.

Currently, Dello-Russo is at The University of New Mexico where he is a research associate professor and director of the Office of Contract Archeology (OCA), a division of the Maxwell Museum. At OCA, he administers state-wide archaeological compliance projects for a range of clients and creates training and educational opportunities for students in cultural resource management. Dello-Russo continues to direct interdisciplinary research at the Water Canyon site, recently making noteworthy discoveries including the first chronometrically dated Cody-era Bison antiquus bone bed and processing area in western New Mexico (ca. 10,000 years old) and New Mexico's earliest grinding stone (ca. 9300 years old).

Dello-Russo's long-term career in New Mexico has led to dozens of presentations to professional and avocational organizations and public groups, over 200 peer-reviewed and technical publications and, as principal investigator to over \$4.9 million in research funding from grants, awards, contracts, and private donations.

Since the 1970s, the Cultural Properties Review Committee at the New Mexico DCA has presented Heritage Preservation Awards for outstanding preservation achievements. Individuals, organizations, authors, local heroes, businesses and agencies have received awards for significant contributions to preserving architecture, archaeological sites, language, cultural landscapes, and other important elements of our culture.

## Maxwell Participates in National Museum Assessment Program

The Maxwell Museum of Anthropology recently concluded the Museum Assessment Program (MAP) Collections Stewardship, submitting a final summary report to MAP administrators on September 26, 2018. MAP is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, an independent federal agency, and administered through the non-profit American Alliance of Museums (AAM). MAP helps museums strengthen operations, plan for the future, and meet AAM standards through self-study and a consultative site visit from an expert peer reviewer. The Maxwell chose to do a MAP Collections Stewardship in order to prepare for AAM re-accreditation in 2020. “If the Maxwell Museum is to continue serving UNM and the people of New Mexico, from time to time it needs to take a hard look at itself,” said Dave Phillips, Interim Director (now retired). “Ultimately, going through MAP is not about the Museum, but about how to better serve the public.”



*Senior collections manager Meghan Truckey examines Chinese ceramics.*

The Maxwell MAP committee was led by archivist Diane Tyink and included unit administrator Sandy Lujan, senior collections manager Meghan Truckey, archaeology collections manager Karen Price, and curator of exhibits Devorah Romanek. The committee met during the spring and summer to complete the self-study, gathered data about collections, and involved Museum staff in a MAP exercise tracking objects from archival records to collection shelves by accession number and object description.

After submitting the MAP Self-Study Workbook in early June, an expert peer reviewer visited the

Museum July 24 - 25 to discuss the self-study. In that brief visit, the MAP peer reviewer toured most of the Museum's spaces -focusing on the collections areas- and met with interim director David Phillips, newly hired director Carla Sinopoli, staff committees and archaeology volunteers.

The peer reviewer's report was received on August 29, 2018. The overall report was very positive, reporting the Museum is on target in its path to become reaccredited by the AAM in 2020. The Maxwell was awarded its first accreditation in 1973 and reaccredited in 1985, 1997, and 2006. Utilizing MAP as a tool to prepare for reaccreditation is a positive strategic move for the Museum and has led the way to strategic planning including the Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations (STEPS) in Collections Management.

The Museum will continue to report on the reaccreditation process and is looking for participants to give time and expertise in creating a successful application. Contact Sandy Lujan (505) 277-0296 [lujans@unm.edu](mailto:lujans@unm.edu) for more information.

## Membership Benefits Improved! The Maxwell Museum Joins the North American Reciprocal Museum Association

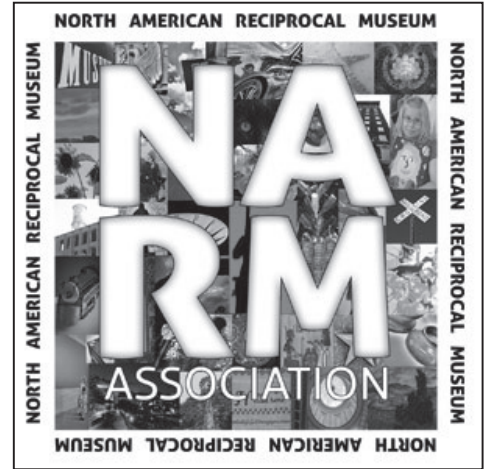
Maxwell supporters have a new opportunity to participate in an international membership association by joining the Friends of the Maxwell Museum.

The North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) Association® is a mosaic of art museums and galleries, historical museums and societies, botanical gardens, children's museums, zoos and more. NARM is a community of institutions that have come together to create additional value and sense of membership for each institution's members. Each NARM member institution offers a new and different world of discovery for its members and visitors, and each is also a part of a whole as a member of the NARM Association.

NARM is one of the largest reciprocal membership programs in the world with members in the United States, Bermuda, Canada, El Salvador and Mexico! Over 1,000 institutional members that offer their individual NARM qualified members reciprocal benefits. Already a member? Upgrade or give the gift of membership to friends and family.

It's easy for individuals and families to participate! Join the Friends of the Maxwell or renew your membership at the \$100 level and your membership card will include the NARM logo. Then, simply present your current membership card validated with accepted NARM identification to any participating NARM institution to receive: Free/member admission during regular museum hours; Member discounts at museum shops; Discounts on concert/lecture tickets.

NMARM member museums are local, national, and international. Check the list of NARM affiliated institutions at <http://narmassociation.org/> and visit museums courtesy of your Maxwell membership!



## MUSEUM STORE WINTER SALE DECEMBER 1 - 29



Prudy Corea | Acoma

Purchase gifts for the holidays!  
Up to 20% discounts throughout the store.

In store or online: [HTTPS://MAXWELLMUSEUMSTORE.UNM.EDU](https://maxwellmuseumstore.unm.edu)

### HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Friday, December 4, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Enjoy Hanging of the Greens! The Maxwell will offer holiday inspired refreshments and evening hours at the store sale.

Free and Open to All

## 10th Annual Navajo Rug Auction

**Saturday, November 17**

**11 a.m. Viewing 1 p.m. Auction**

**Prairie Star, Bernalillo**

More than two hundred traditional and contemporary handmade rugs by weavers of New Mexico and Arizona will be on display and available for purchase. The only local Navajo rug auction, it will feature a wide range of styles. Whether you are a collector or new to Navajo rugs, the auction offers a great opportunity to understand the art and craft of Navajo weaving and understand regional and historic styles. Proceeds benefit Navajo weavers and the Maxwell Museum. Purchases are tax free.

## Preview at the Maxwell & Appraisal Clinic

**Friday, November 16, 5 - 7 p.m.**



Photo by Emma Difani

*Kash Heitkamp looks at Navajo rugs.*

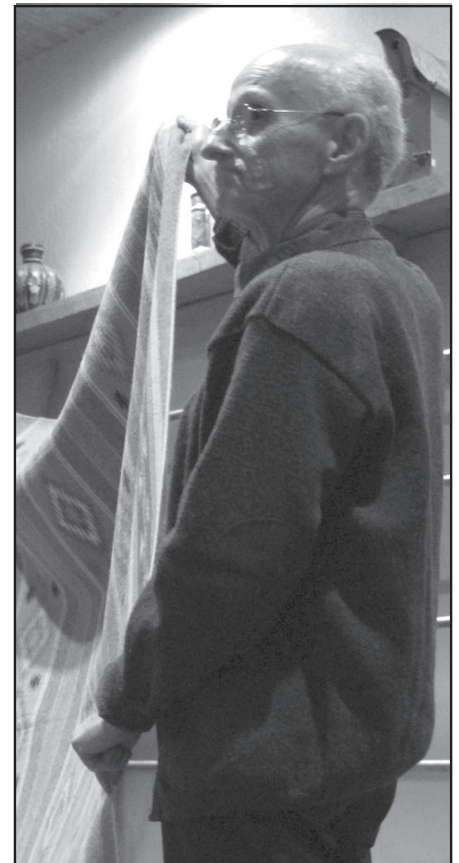
Wondering about your Native American arts and crafts? Attend the Preview and Appraisal Night. Bring in Native American arts & crafts and learn their history and value; purchase Native American jewelry; and check out the auction inventory. Specialists and experts will be on site to identify and set a market price for all appraisals. \$10 per item, schedule an appointment at 505 277-1400 or mhermans@unm.edu.

The Preview and Auction are conducted by the R. B. Burnham Trading Post. Bruce Burnham and his family are well known for their work in trading Native art in the Four Corners area for five generations. Their expertise in buying, selling, and trading has earned the respect of collectors and peers

## Alan Shalette: In Memoriam

Alan Shalette, longtime volunteer at the Maxwell Museum, passed away peacefully on September 1, 2018. A chemical engineer by training and banker by profession, Alan and his wife Joyce, an elementary school teacher, retired to Albuquerque from Chicago and became involved in anthropology, a serious avocational interest. Alan created several public projects for the Museum while continuing financial consultations internationally. He was active with the former Maxwell Museum Association (MMA) Board of Directors, serving as Treasurer, and outside of UNM was very involved with the Albuquerque Archaeological Society, serving as President for several years and Editor of their newsletter. He was a great (though challenging!) supporter of the Maxwell and the MMA.

Alan's largest contribution to the anthropological community at UNM was the creation the Antiquarian Book Fair which he directed for twenty-one years with Joyce and a roster of volunteers and vendors. The Fair raised funds in support of the Maxwell Museum, the Museum Studies program, and the Clark Field Library and Archive. A consummate bibliophile, Alan turned the Clark Field into a well organized gem, computerizing and categorizing its holdings, and even building shelves. Alan also performed and instructed in book repair for many years, restoring books and manuscripts that are part of the anthropological record held in the Archive.





The University of New Mexico  
Maxwell Museum of Anthropology  
MSC01 1050  
1 University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87131

## MUSEUM HOURS:

Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

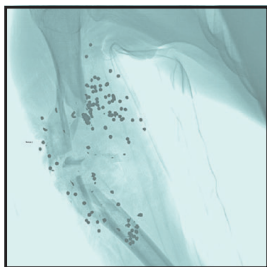
## FREE AND OPEN TO ALL!

Info call: 505 277-4405

Visit: <http://maxwellmuseum.unm.edu>

Like us: <http://facebook.com/maxwellmuseum>

## CURRENT EXHIBITS



### **Gun Violence:**

*A Brief Cultural History  
through Nov. 17*



### **Return to Dinétah:**

*the 150th year anniversary  
of the Navajo Peace Treaty*



### **People of the Southwest**



### **Ancestors**

*If you are passionate about the Maxwell Museum and wish to financially support one or more of our programs, please contact Carla Sinopoli, Director, at 505-277-0382, [csinopoli@unm.edu](mailto:csinopoli@unm.edu). By utilizing our free gift planning services, you may be able to provide a more generous gift than you believe possible!*

*The Maxwell* is produced by the staff at the Maxwell Museum. Edited and designed by Mary Beth Hermans and Kym Campbell.

Increasing knowledge and understanding of the human cultural experience.