



# THE MAXWELL

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## Celebrating Chaco at the Maxwell Museum 90 Years, 2 Great Events

*Carla Sinopoli, Maxwell Director & UNM Professor of Anthropology*

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*Chaco Culture by Martin Gray courtesy of sacred sites*

90 years ago, Edgar Lee Hewett, founder of the UNM Department of Anthropology launched the first of many UNM archaeological field schools in Chaco Canyon. While not the first fieldwork among the spectacular ancestral Puebloan and Navajo archaeological sites distributed across the canyon (Hewett himself had already conducted excavations at Chetro Ketl in 1920-21), the 1929 UNM field school began the long-term commitment of UNM to archaeological research at Chaco that continues today. It also began a long-term partnership in Chaco research of the UNM Department of Anthropology, Maxwell Museum (initially created to care for collections generated by Hewett's field schools), and the National Park Service. Indeed, since the early 1970s, NPS and UNM Chaco Museum Collection and associated archives have been housed on the UNM campus, moving to their current home in the Hibben Center in 2007.

This fall, the Maxwell Museum celebrate 90 years of UNM research in and on Chaco Canyon with presentations by two UNM anthropology faculty members who are continuing this long tradition.

On Friday September 27, Distinguished Professor Patricia Crown will present on recent work that builds upon her and her colleagues' 2008 identification of chocolate residues on cylinder jars recovered from Pueblo Bonito. In, *Chocolate in Chaco at Beyond*, Crown expands on this remarkable discovery to review 10 years of research on cacao consumption in the U.S. Southwest and Mexican Northwest and what she has learned tells us about ritual consumption of this imported beverage and the exchange networks and social relations through which cacao and other goods traveled from the tropical lowlands of Mesoamerica to Chaco Canyon. Dr. Crown's lecture will be followed by a fundraising reception in the Maxwell Museum, featuring Mesoamerican cacao elixirs, wine, and chocolate. *Continued on page 5*

## Director's Column



*Carla Sinopoli*

As of this writing, I have been at UNM for almost a year. While I still feel like the new kid on the block, I am learning the acronyms and can now (mostly) find my way around campus and the museum's basement corridors without getting lost.

If last year was a time of learning, this year is a time of action. The Maxwell is about to launch a multi-month strategic planning process, assisted by museum consultant Gail Anderson (<http://gailanderson-assoc.com/>). We are excited to see where our collective efforts to revisit our mission, vision and programs will lead as we work to become an ever more vital part of our UNM, Albuquerque, New Mexico and global communities.

We also are about to launch a search for a new Curator of Archaeology. Archaeological materials comprise by far the largest component of the Maxwell's collections of some 3 million objects and are remarkable resources for research, teaching, display and community collaboration. Our new curator will wear two hats, as a half-time tenure-track assistant professor in the Anthropology Department and as a half-time curator in the Museum. Until a new colleague joins us, Professor W.H. Wills continues to ably serve as Interim Curator of Archaeology.

In addition, the Museum is preparing for a 2020 reaccreditation review by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). We have been an accredited museum since 1973. This is the highest form of recognition for American museums that demonstrate a commitment to best practices and serving the public trust.

Meanwhile, we look forward to a fall of exciting events and activities: the opening of the Vernacular Response exhibition, 2 lectures on Chaco Canyon, the fall rug auction and appraisal clinic, and a book signing by our own Curator of Exhibits Dr. Devorah Romanek. Visit <https://maxwellmuseum.unm.edu/> for all of the details and we look forward to seeing you at our fall events.

## 2019 Celebrate Chaco Events!

### *Chocolate in Chaco and Beyond*

by Patricia L. Crown

Friday, September 27

Lecture 6:00 p.m.

Anthropology 163

Free and Open to All

*Cacao Elixirs, Wine & Chocolate*  
Fundraising Reception with Dr. Crown  
immediately following her lecture

at the Maxwell Museum

\$40.00 Tickets at

[maxwellmuseumstore.unm.edu](http://maxwellmuseumstore.unm.edu),

Maxwell Museum Store

or by phone 505 277-3700

### *Chaco Canyon and the University of New Mexico: 90 years of Discovery*

by W. H. Wills

Thursday, October 10, 7:30 p.m.

Hibben Center

Free and Open to All

*Proceeds from the events will support  
archaeological research & collections  
at the Maxwell*



Lorraine Gala Lewis  
Laguna/Taos/Hopi

*Kelly's Legacy Vineyards*



DEPARTMENT OF  
ANTHROPOLOGY



MAXWELL  
MUSEUM  
OF ANTHROPOLOGY



*Thirst-Quenchin' (Navajo, NM), 2017, by Rapheal Begay*

## A VERNACULAR RESPONSE Photographs of Rapheal Begay

*“Exploring the past, creating the present,  
and curating the future”*

By Devorah Romanek and Rapheal Begay

Anthropology broadly defined is the study of human culture. Put another way, anthropologists create a portrait of the people they set out to study. Many anthropology museums have their origins in the salvage anthropology and vanishing race theories of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when anthropologists and museum curators rapaciously collected the material culture of Indigenous Peoples thinking they would soon literally or culturally disappear, due to the impact of colonization.

The Maxwell Museum, like so many other anthropology museums, contends with the legacy of such collecting practices, and works to facilitate more accurate contemporary portraits of those represented in its collections, with some notable portion of the collection being comprised of Diné (Navajo) material culture.

### The Photographs of Rapheal Begay in an Anthropology Museum

The imagery of Diné photographer Rapheal Begay presents an account of the Navajo Nation—without ever directly portraying any people—by focusing on the land and the material and visual culture of the people. By bringing these photographs into our museum and combining them with a small selection of related material culture from our collection, the Navajo Nation and New Mexico, we offer an opportunity to engage with a contemporary portrait of Diné people, through inference in picturing the land and culture as viewed through the camera lens and words of Rapheal Begay.

A Vernacular Response is the documentation of land and environment with respect to symbolism, perspective, and imagination reflective of the Diné way of life. An ongoing theme within the series is the acknowledgement and celebration of Indigenous innovation and future forward imaging. One can discern the role of creativity within Navajo art and life as a strategy for survival. The Navajo cultural teaching of *hozho* expresses the intellectual concept of order, the emotional state of happiness, the biological condition of health and well-being, and the aesthetic dimensions of balance, harmony, and beauty. The vernacular is comprised of the everyday, which is simultaneously a lived experience of balance and of awe. With respect to time and space, the photographic venture within A Vernacular Response is a means of communication and reflection.

**A Vernacular Response** Photographs of Rapheal Begay, exhibition celebration takes place at the Maxwell Friday, October 25, from 6 – 8 pm. Rapheal Begay will be attending the celebration and will discuss his work. The event is Free and Open to All. The exhibition continues through 2020.

Vernacular:

noun

uk /vəˈnæk.jə.lə/ us /vəˈnæk.jə.lə/

the form of a language commonly spoken by the people of a particular region or by a particular group, esp. when it is different from the standard language.

Cambridge Dictionary, Cambridge University Press

# Celebrate Chaco at the Maxwell Museum

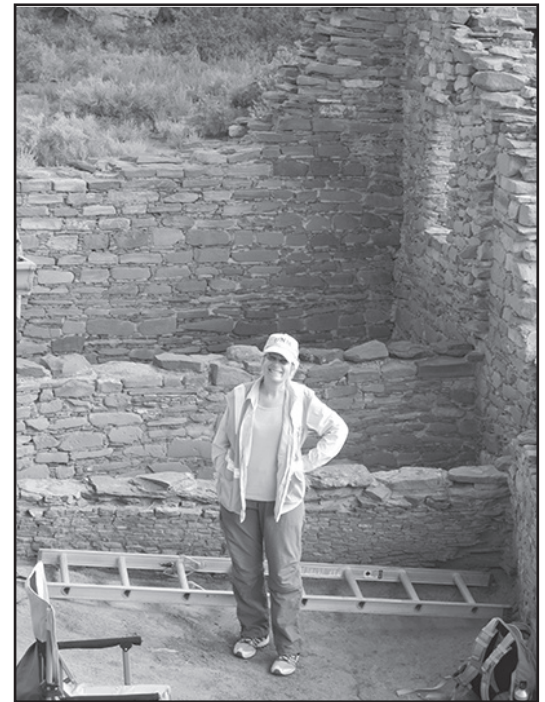
*Continued from Page 1*



*W. H. Wills*

On October 10, Professor of Anthropology and Interim Curator of Archaeology W.H. “Chip” Wills will launch the Maxwell Museum’s Celebration of International Archaeology Day and reinitiate the Annual Lecture in Archaeology at the Maxwell, with the presentation Chaco Canyon and the University of New Mexico: 90 Years of Discovery. Professor Wills himself has first-hand experience of several decades of this history. He began working in Chaco Canyon as a UNM undergraduate in the 1970s; held a post-doctoral fellowship at the Smithsonian examining Chaco collections made in the 1920s; and since 2004, has been co-directing new fieldwork in the canyon with Professor Crown, examining social complexity, land use, and regional and long-distance exchange, among other research questions.

Over the last 15 years, more than 250 UNM students have participated in this research. Wills’ encyclopedic knowledge of Chaco archaeology and UNM’s involvement in it are sure to educate and entertain.



*Patricia Crown*

## A Brief History of UNM at Chaco

- 1906 Edgar Lee Hewett is major force in establishing Antiquities Act of 1906
- 1907 Chaco Canyon National Monument established under the Antiquities Act
- 1920-21 Hewett begins excavations at Chetro Ketl
- 1922-28 Neil Judd of the National Museum of Natural History excavates at Pueblo Bonito; Hewett suspends excavations
- 1929 Hewett’s excavations resume at Chetro Ketl
- 19xx UNM purchases three sections of land from School of American Research: includes Una Vida, Hungo Pavi, Penasco Blanco, and Kin Kletso
- 1929-1947 UNM field schools at small sites within Chaco Canyon
- 1936 UNM builds permanent field station at Casa Rinconada
- 1949 UNM transfers all lands to the National Park Service (NPS) in exchange for research rights in perpetuity
- 1950s and 1960s UNM graduate students work on various projects in the park
- 1969-1985 joint UNM-NPS Chaco Project initiated, multi-disciplinary survey and excavations
- 1970 NPS Chaco Center established at UNM, over the course of the Chaco project NPS collections are moved to UNM and housed at diverse facilities around campus
- 2007 NPS Chaco Collection moves to specially-designed NPS facility in UNM Hibben Center for Archaeological Research
- 1988-2019 10 UNM PhDs on Chaco issues
- 2004-2019: UNM Anthropology research program at Chaco led by Professors Patricia Crown and W. H. Wills

## 11th Annual Navajo Rug Auction



Photo by Phil Downs

A participant examines the rugs before the auction begins.

**Saturday, November 16, 2018**

*Navajo Rugs Auctioned Locally!*

*Free admission, Open to All*

**• 11 a.m. Viewing • 1 p.m. Auction**  
*at the Prairie Star Restaurant*  
*Bernalillo, NM*

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*Appraisal Clinic*  
*at the Maxwell Museum*  
**Friday, November 15, 5 -7pm**

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 auction will feature a wide range of rug styles and other handcrafted Native American art. Whether you are a collector or interested in knowing more, the Navajo rug auction offers a great opportunity to learn about and view a variety of styles. The auction is fast moving, fun, and exciting. Browse, bid, and take home a unique handmade textile. Proceeds benefit Navajo weavers and the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology. Purchases are tax free.

Attend the **Preview event** on Friday, November 15, 5 -7 pm at the Maxwell! Find the value of your Native American art at a special appraisal clinic. Specialists and experts will be on site to identify and set a market price. Appraisals are \$10 per item. Check out exquisite Native jewelry from Virginia Burnham's collection. For more information call 505 277-1400 or email mhermans@unm.edu.

The preview and auction are conducted by the **R. B. Burnham Trading Company**. Bruce Burnham and his family are well known for their work in trading Native art of the four corners area for five generations.

**Call for volunteers!** Needed at the rug auction on Saturday, November 16, from 12 – 3pm. Volunteers needed to “model” and manage rugs. Call 505 277-1400 or email mhermans@unm.edu.

## Heartbreak: A Love Letter to the Lost National Museum of Brazil

Flames engulfed Brazil's historic National Museum in September 2018. Singular objects and collections representing millions of years of history were reduced to ashes overnight. The fire is especially devastating for Brazil's longest inhabitants, the Indigenous nations of the Amazon. The fire destroyed the last records of indigenous languages no longer spoken and irreplaceable examples of material culture from now colonized indigenous groups. There are hundreds of distinct indigenous groups currently living in traditional ways in the Brazilian Amazon. However, they are under increasing threat from violence and encroaching industrial activity. The exhibition will open early 2020.



Brazil Blue D

Photo by Karen E. Price

## Welcome new staff!



**Alex Denning** recently joined the Maxwell Museum as the Senior Collections Manager for Human Osteology. Originally from the east coast, Alex spent the last five years working with medical wet specimen collections at both the Warren Anatomical Museum at Harvard Medical School and the Mutter Museum in Philadelphia. Alex holds a MSc in Human Osteology and Palaeopathology from the University of Bradford (UK), as well as graduate certificates in Museum Studies and Death Investigation. Their interests include: stable isotope analysis of diet and mobility, particularly of high-altitude populations; examining race, gender, and abnormal development in medical science history; and the ethics of studying human remains in archaeological, museum, and forensic contexts.

**Lauren Fuka** joins the Maxwell as Registrar and Senior Collections Manager of the Maxwell's Ethnology Collections. Lauren earned an MA in Anthro-

pology from Northern Arizona University, with an emphasis on museum studies and applied archaeology. She brings nearly 10 years of experience managing diverse museum collections, including archaeological and ethnographic materials from across the United States and around the world. In her most recent position as Museum Collection Manager at the Museum of Anthropological Archaeology, University of Michigan, Lauren was responsible for a collection of more than three million artifacts and organized a large-scale move of the collection to a new offsite collections and research facility. She previously worked as Registrar at the Western Archaeological and Conservation Center of the National Park Service in Tucson, Arizona; Collection Manager at the Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center; and NAGPRA Collections Assistant at the Museum of Northern Arizona. In addition to her skills as registrar and collection manager, Lauren bring a passion for the unique educational mission of university museums and experience working with students, faculty, and visiting researchers. Welcome Lauren!



## Student Focus

**Ember Richards**

When you enter the Museum Store you will most likely be greeted by the friendly and knowledgeable Ember Richards. Ember earned an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts and in 2018 enrolled at UNM to the Interdisciplinary Arts program at the College of Fine Arts. The flexibility to design their own art degree appeals to Ember, who plans to go into business making illustrations and comics.

Working at the Maxwell provides experience interacting with Museum staff, visitors and artists. Recently an artist related the cultural significance of fetishes which really impressed Ember. "As an artist and storyteller the more knowledge and information I have the more I can draw from - you never know what will trigger inspiration in your art." They have advanced from running the register to doing things like managing the point of sale system and picking out products for the store.





The University of New Mexico  
Maxwell Museum of Anthropology  
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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



### **A Vernacular Response:**

*Photography of the Navajo  
Nation by Rapheal Begay*



### **Drowned River:**

*The Death and Rebirth of Glen  
Canyon on the Colorado*



### **Intertwined:**

*The Mexican Wolf, the  
People and the Land*



### **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 Maxwell Museum Director Carla Sinopoli 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.