



THE MAXWELL

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Volunteers Enhance the Maxwell

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The daily operations that keep a museum running often take place in un-glamorous locations and windowless rooms, as well as in exhibition galleries and local schools. In many areas you'll find dedicated volunteers who contribute their time, talent and technical skill in service to the Maxwell Museum. This edition of *The Maxwell* is dedicated to them!

During the past twelve months, volunteers have contributed over 2,600 hours in all areas of the museum, most notably in Archaeology including the Office of Contract Archeology, Education, and the Laboratory of Human Osteology. A volunteer graphic artist produces *The Maxwell* newsletter you are reading. It is due to these individuals that the museum is able to further its mission of preservation, education, and research.

Archaeology

The basement of the Hibben Center for Archaeology is a hive of activity filled with volunteers who come daily, often outnumbering the staff and shaking up the homogeneity of a typical museum setting. Current archaeology volunteers include a former design director for a local news station, a quilter, a government contractor, and a Viking enthusiast.

Some volunteers are completing projects within an Institute of Library and Sciences (IMLS) grant the Maxwell received in December of 2016, which provides funding for new compact shelving in the collections spaces and for processing the bulk archaeological collections housed at the off-site warehouse. The processing involves sorting, rebagging and tagging artifacts, and in general, bringing the collection up to contemporary museum standards. Collections currently being reboxed are artifacts excavated from the Bolack Land Exchange site and another excavated from the West Mesa of Albuquerque. Processing these sites enables the long-term preservation of excavated material culture and allows researchers to readily use the collection. Without volunteers, these some-odd 400 boxes would take decades to work through.

Other volunteers are readying the
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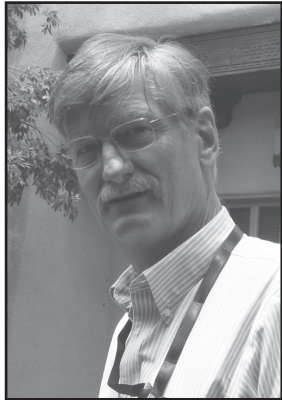
Volunteers, Carolyn Gilmore, Deborah Ellis, and Marty Kuehn, make a custom mount for an archaeological jar. (Photo by Karen E. Price)



Volunteer, Tom Ocken in the Photo Lab.

Director's Column

Volunteers are the Museum's Secret Weapon!



When I started my job as the Curator of Archaeology in 2003, I was amazed by the size and geographic scope of the Maxwell Museum's archaeology collections. I was also concerned by the lack of organization and poor storage conditions. Fixing those problems was such a gargantuan task, I didn't know what I was going to do.

And then someone showed up and offered to help. For free! I said yes, of course. Then someone else showed up, with the same offer. Then a third person showed up ... and it kept happening. Today there are 32 active archaeology volunteers. We still have a long way to go but over the past decade and a half, the archaeology collections have shaped up to a degree I could never have imagined.

Of course, that's just one of various museum programs that routinely make use of volunteers. When a teaching kit goes out to a grade school class, for example, a trained volunteer takes the kit there, assists with the learning, and returns the kit to the museum. Every year, in countless ways, volunteers make it possible for the Maxwell Museum to do a far better job than the small staff could do by itself.

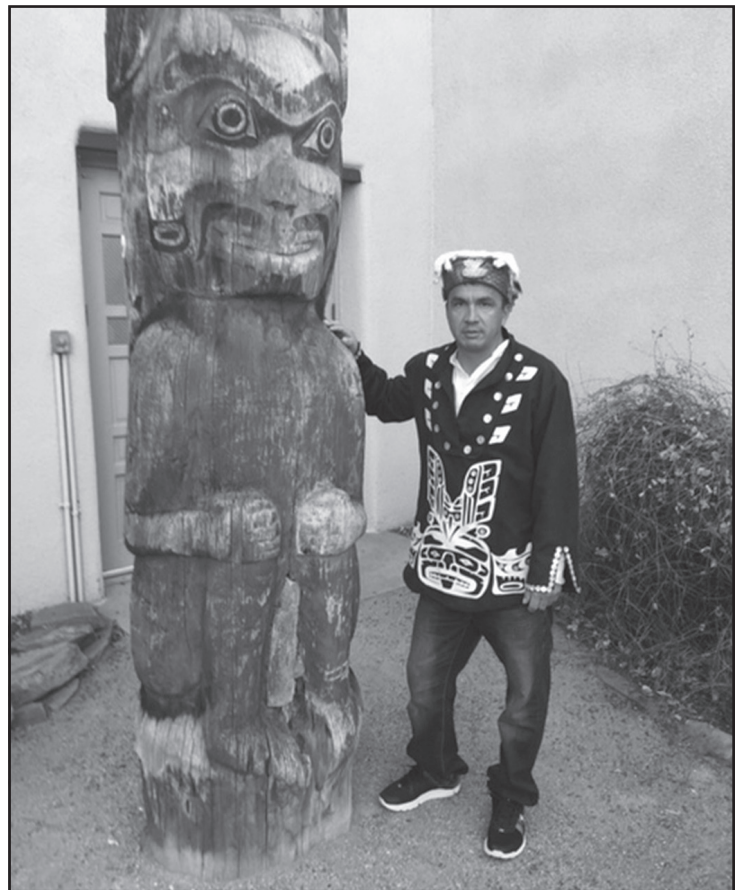
Many of those reading this newsletter are volunteers. On behalf of the Maxwell Museum, thank you—you're awesome! Please be sure to attend our volunteer lunch on March 23, so the museum staff can thank you in person. I'll be there, and I hope you can make it too.

Dave Phillips,
Interim Director

The Totem Pole Move

After roughly a century out in the weather—first in British Columbia, then at UNM—the museum's full-size totem pole is moving inside. It's either that, or let the pole deteriorate into an unrecognizable log. After extensive consultation with the community of origin, the plan is to (1) lift the pole up and over the museum, using a giant crane; (2) lower it in the parking lot and freeze it in a semi-trailer as a pest control measure; (3) move it to the Hibben Center atrium so carvers from the community can restore the pole, and (4) re-erect it inside the Hibben Center, which will require a second giant crane and temporarily removing the skylight. A difficult, expensive process! And one that sometimes has me worrying at three in the morning. But, as is so often the case, doing the right thing is neither cheap nor easy. When the museum added the pole to its collections decades ago, it made a silent promise to take care of it forever. It's now time to make good on that promise.

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Tlowitsis Nation Chief Danial Smith stands beside the totem pole carved by Charlie Yakuglis James. The pole was commissioned by Chief Smith Sewid of the Kwakwaka'wakw Tlowitsis Nation in the early 1900s and transported to New Mexico in 1941. (Photo by Lea McChesney)

The Totem Pole Move *continued from page 2*

The totem pole is scheduled to be taken down and moved from the courtyard to a cold storage container west of the Museum on April 1st and installed in the Hibben Center later this spring.

Check the Maxwell Museum website for up to date information on the relocation, restoration and rededication of the Smith Family totem pole carved by Charlie Yakuglis James. Because of the complex nature of the project some dates may shift. The Maxwell continues to raise funds for the completion of the project, please go to website <http://artsci.unm.edu/give/index.html> and scroll down to Institutes/Museums.

Volunteers Lift the Maxwell *continued from page 1*

collections space for the new shelving units by relocating and organizing pottery. Six new rolling carriages will more than double the shelving space currently being used to safely house the museum's ceramic vessels. Part of this move requires that other volunteers make custom mounts and boxes for the pottery on the shelving. Another volunteer photographs the artifacts, keeping the museum up-to-date on its digital records.

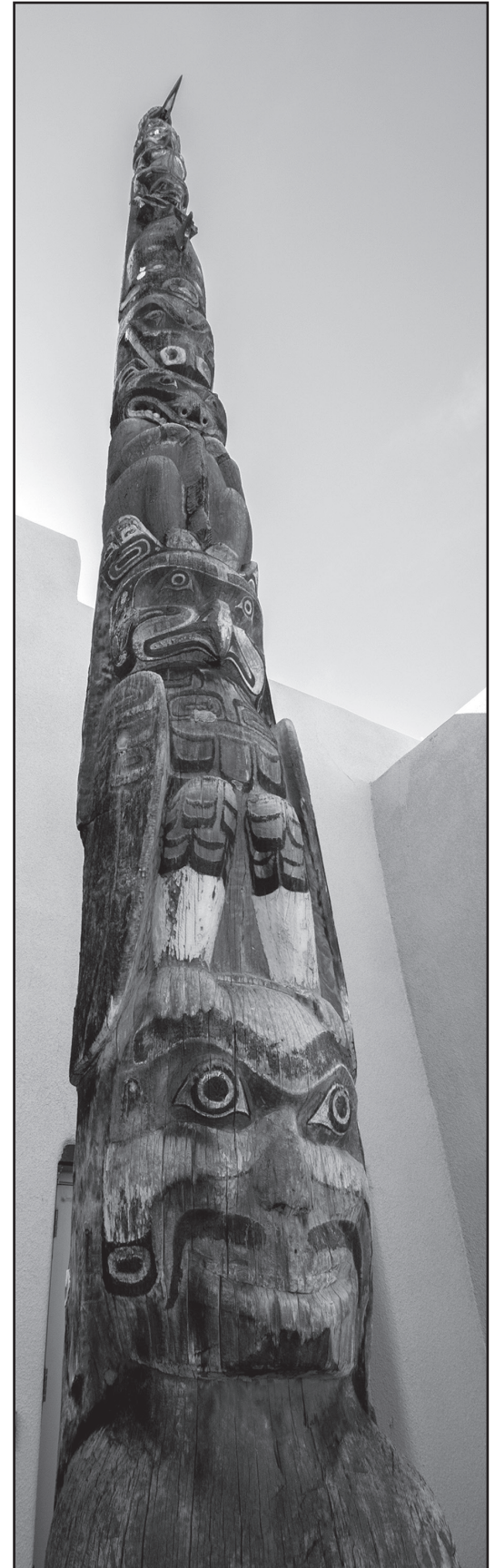
At the Office of Contract Archeology a volunteer has worked on many aspects of the Water Canyon Paleoindian site project and the White Sands Missile Range site evaluation, including organizing collections of artifacts, bones and samples for radiocarbon dating and residue analyses, and creating databases of rare prehistoric artifacts.

While the projects are many and sometimes tedious, they are in no way thankless. Without volunteers, Archaeology would not be able to achieve its goals in a timely manner.

Laboratory of Human Osteology

The volunteers in the Laboratory of Human Osteology are an invaluable asset to the lab's operation. Their primary activity involves the cleaning and labeling of the documented skeletal collection. This collection continues to increase in size. All of the skeletal elements need to be labeled with two sets of numbers. On average there are 206 bones per adult. This makes the labeling a crucial, yet time consuming task. Additional tasks vary by the individual's skill level. One of our volunteers spent a while assisting with research through the collection of dental metrics. When lists of samples are needed for visiting researchers, volunteers are sometimes tasked to check that the individuals in the sample included the intact skeletal element(s) of interest. The Lab's volunteers are also wonderful about helping with the thousand and one little tasks that arise as part of a normal day.

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The totem pole as it stands today in the Maxwell Museum courtyard. (Photo by Karen E. Price)

Volunteers Enhance the Maxwell *continued from page 3*

Recently the Laboratory of Human Osteology completed a major remodel. In the wake of the remodel, much of the collection has been moved. The collection will need to be reorganized and restored to an orderly layout. While Lab employees will, of course, be involved in this shifting of well over a thousand boxes, the volunteers' assistance in this undertaking will be gratefully appreciated.

Education

Docents provide educational exhibit tours in the museum and traveling trunk presentations in the community. They also help with educational activities at family days, summer camp and learning festivals in the community. This consists of engaging with the participants, explaining concepts through demonstration with artifacts and other objects and/or storytelling assisting with hands-on experiences and helping to craft art projects. Often they will assist in development of programs and activities, researching activities and aligning lessons with state education standards. Our volunteers also make resources for our programs such as costumes and other hands-on items.



Mike Hauter documents the collection in the Osteo lab.



Carolyn Minette

The Maxwell Museum Education division would like to recognize docent Carolyn Minette for all the great volunteer work she has contributed for the past 10 years! Carolyn joined our docent program in September 2006 and has been a consistent and dedicated volunteer. A specialist in our Traveling Trunk program, she hauled trunks and educated students at more than thirty elementary schools in 2016. She has been involved in developing resource kits, researching state education standards that align with Maxwell programs, and has been generous with her time and resources making and donating objects for our trunks. Her experience as a world traveler and elementary education teacher have added a valuable real world perspective to our program. Many thanks, Carolyn, for all you do!

Karen E. Price, Anna Rautman and Amy Louise Grochowski contributed to this article.

Maxwell Museum Volunteer Luncheon the Gallery

The Maxwell Museum celebrates the contributions of volunteers at the annual Volunteer Luncheon, Thursday, March 23, at 11:30 a.m. All volunteers are encouraged to attend. Please rsvp to Sandra Lujan: lujans@unm.edu or call 277-4405.



Volunteers, Kath Linn, Kym Campbell, Bruce Walborn, and Tom Ocken at the 2015 volunteer's luncheon.

Discovery of Prehistoric Copper Artifacts in Southern Tularosa Basin of New Mexico

by Christopher Adams, District Archaeologist, Gila National Forest, and Alexander Kurota, Senior Archeologist, Office of Contract Archeology

Recent Office of Contract Archeology (OCA) fieldwork on White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) has resulted in the discovery of rare prehistoric artifacts made of copper. This archaeological success story is a result of cooperation with the Gila National Forest archaeologist Chris Adams and OCA archaeologists working on WSMR.

The archaeological team visited three of the major El Paso phase Jornada Mogollon adobe roomblock sites (LA 32079, LA 104864, and LA 1127502) on WSMR. Using the latest metal scanning technology, Adams and his colleague Charlie Haecker discovered five native copper nuggets, three copper beads, and one copper bell. Adams' on-going work in the Mimbres Valley of western New Mexico has shed light on the fact that the Mimbres were exploiting native copper nuggets from the Santa Rita Mine area during AD 950–A.D. 1130.

All three beads appear to have been made using the cold-hammer technique which implies that they were made of raw pieces of copper that were hammered into thin sheets with no smelting involved. The copper sheets were rolled into burrito-like forms called beads. The prehistoric copper beads are extremely rare in



Two copper beads from Adobe Walls site, LA 32079.



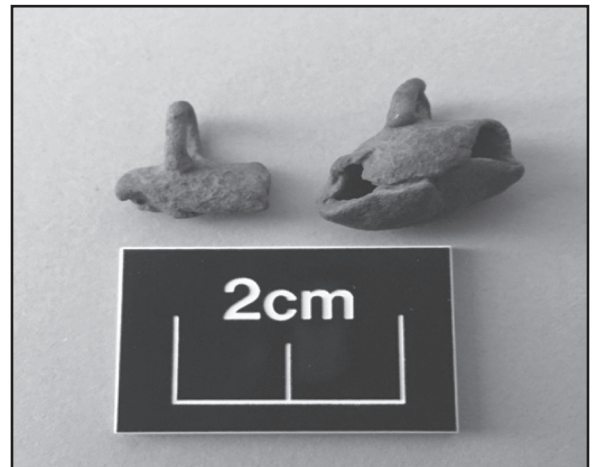
The altered copper bell from LA 117502.

Adams has already found several examples of this type of altered copper bell have been found in the Mimbres area. Is this a form of ritual retirement, because the function of the copper bell has been changed? The altered copper bells examples from the Mimbres Valley have been found in large open areas adjacent to the pueblo roomblocks. Similarly the beads and the bell from WSMR were also found close to the plazas and other open areas possibly used for communal gathering.

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the American Southwest with the only comparative specimens being recovered in 1919 by archaeologist Earl Morris from the Aztec Ruin in northwestern New Mexico.

At LA 117502, a copper bell was discovered. Just like the three beads, the bell was created using the cold hammer technology. What is unique about this copper bell is that the bell/body was altered. No clapper stone was evident, but it appears to have been folded, re-shaped and/or crushed but the loop was not damaged.



Two examples of altered copper bells from the Gila National Forest.

Discovery of Prehistoric Copper Artifacts in Southern Tularosa Basin of New Mexico

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An alternative explanation for the altered bells suggests that, after a portion of the bell broke off, the object may have been reshaped into a bead-like form to be still capable of producing a ringing sound. Copper artifacts likely would have been considered to be indicators of economic and social status among the prehistoric groups. This would explain the possible reshaping of the valuable copper objects of adornment. Perhaps it is also not surprising that the copper bells and the beads have been discovered in the plaza areas where prehistoric dancers may have worn such items during communal gathering and some of the beads and bells could have been lost during such events.

Interesting results have also been obtained from X-ray fluorescence analysis on the copper artifacts and the copper nuggets performed by Dr. Steven Shackley. The analysis indicates that most of the copper artifacts are elementally so different that they probably came from different source areas.



Surveying site LA 104864 on WSMR.

Maxwell Museum Store Staff Picks

The Maxwell Museum brings you pieces by local artisans, alongside ethically sourced goods from around the world reflecting the Maxwell's worldwide collections.



“Growing up my grandma always had centerpiece on her tables during the holidays. My favorite one was Thanksgiving, where she always managed to have different colored corn and novelties in the arrangement. Cornicles from New Mexico Candle Co. remind me of one of my favorite memories as a kid.”

Aaliyah, Sales Associate

“The new Chinese ceramics that the museum has been carrying this year are a wonderful addition to the museum's store items. The different colors and unusual shapes have added a needed 'pop' to the store and I still have my eyes on a few pieces.”

Sandy, Unit Administrator



“Come and see our consignment collection from Silver Sun Albuquerque. They sparkle and are very fashionable.”

Kat, Sales Associate

**Inventory is growing!
Members receive 20%
discount on qualified
purchases.**

Can't make it to the Shop? Order online: www.maxwellmuseumstore.unm.edu

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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

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CURRENT EXHIBITS



Pamela J. Peters

Current Issues in Anthropology



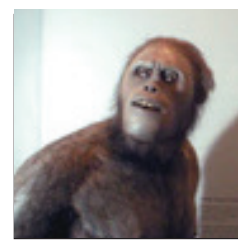
Cross Currents
China Exports and the World Responds



Earth, Fire, and Life
Six Thousand Years of Chinese Ceramics



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 Yolanda Dominguez, Development Director, at 505-277-3194, Yolanda.Dominguez@unmfund.org. 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.