



THE MAXWELL

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Museum Studies staff (l to r): Graduate Assistant Maren Svare, Unit Administrator Anne Marie Carpenter, Director Loa Traxler, Graduate Assistant Steve Maness

Museum Studies Steps Up

Mary Beth Hermans
Public Programs Manager

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Check the schedule of classes offered in Museum Studies and enter a nexus of interdisciplinary theoretical, academic and applied museology. Museum method seminar *What is a Museum Object?* examines the multivalent meanings of a museum object that will become the basis for an exhibition at the Maxwell Museum and *The Creation of an Exhibition* initiates the planning of a co-hosted exhibition to be simultaneously installed at University of New Mexico Art Museum and the National Hispanic Cultural Center. Core classes in *Museum Practices*, *Museum Interpretation* and *Museum Collection Management* examine the purpose of museums, public education within a museum and how to collect, catalog and care for museum collections. Practica expand themes and are cross-listed in Art & Art History, Biology, History and Anthropology, strengthening collaborative experiences across the UNM campus.

“A primary program goal is to help students gain additional credentials for their careers, gain them locally in the state,” said Loa Traxler, Museum Studies Director. Bethany Abrahamson described her practicum experience. “I feel that Museum Studies gave me the opportunity to pursue the creation of an exhibition from the ground-up which has positively benefited my resume and provided project-management experience in a museum setting.”

Advancing Museum Studies at UNM



In 2009, faculty and staff from the University of New Mexico’s five museums: the Harwood Museum, Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, Meteorite Museum, Museum of Southwestern Biology, and UNM Art Museum, met and developed a proposal to expand the interdisciplinary Museum Studies program from a graduate minor to graduate major with an accompanying undergraduate certificate program. The proposal presented compelling rationale of the need for a locally trained museum professionals – New Mexico is tenth in the U.S. for museums per capita- and based on the strengths of the existing graduate minor. The proposal has been favorably reviewed and endorsed by more than twenty offices, academic committees and departments including the UNM Board of Regents, the statewide Council of Graduate Deans and the Academic Council (provosts from NM state universities). In addition, the New Mexico Association of Museums, Museum Collaborative Council of Albuquerque, Tribal organizations, and stakeholders from a variety of institutions and organizations across the State have endorsed the proposal.

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DIRECTOR'S COLUMN E. JAMES DIXON

When thinking of museums, the first things that often come to mind are great exhibitions or outstanding programs that we have experienced. In our engagement with the final product, we often forget that behind every meaningful experience there are cadres of dedicated professionals that bring these experiences to us. Like many other public institutions, museums have been asked to do more with less in recent years. Declining resources and increased demands for accountability and higher standards for exhibits and programs make museum work increasingly challenging.

Although the University provides staff salaries, it has no state funding for exhibitions, programs, curation, or research. As a result, the staff work diligently not only to deliver quality services, but also raise the funding for all these activities by writing proposals to organizations ranging from the National Science Foundation to small private, state and local foundations and programs. Contributions from the Friends of the Maxwell Museum include donations and thousands of hours of volunteer service. In December we hosted a Volunteer Luncheon to honor and thank our wonderful volunteers.

As a university museum, we engage students in much of our work. Students help staff the Museum store, assist with programs and exhibits, and conduct research. Undergraduate students that you see at the museum are part of the university's work-study program. Most of the graduate students have fellowships, including the valuable Hibben Fellowship, or assistantships provided through research grants and contracts.

We also rely on collaborative relationships with faculty in the Department of Anthropology who serve on our exhibit proposal review panel and participate as guest curators for exhibits. Our exceptional collaboration with the Ortiz Center integrates community partnerships and supports exhibits and programs. As an anthropology museum, we especially value our relationships with Tribal governments in New Mexico and throughout the United States, because they offer insights and opportunities to share the resources of the museum more broadly. The Maxwell Museum partners with other museums on campus and beyond to support and further develop a Museum Studies program to serve the needs of students and the state. We also partner with Chaco Canyon National Park and work with a variety of government agencies to assess and mitigate potential damage to archeological sites through the Office of Contract Archeology. As we look forward, we expect these activities to contribute to exhibits and programs at the Maxwell.

If educators, scholars, and designers are "invisible" when you tour a museum, it is often a sign that they have done their jobs well. They understand that the work they do is not about them, but about stewardship and delivering quality educational opportunities, exhibitions, and programming to visitors, program participants, students, and visiting scholars. They understand that the focus of their efforts and dedication are the institution's constituents and that their role is to enhance the sense of discovery and exploration that underlie our mission. It is often easy to forget this incredible "behind the scenes effort" by so many devoted individuals and supporting organizations to bring these extraordinary benefits to our community. As the new year begins, I am grateful for the terrific and dedicated team that makes the Maxwell Museum one of the best anthropology museums in the country.

Museum Studies Steps Up From page 1

The proposal is pending at the State of New Mexico Office of Higher Education. Supporters are eagerly anticipating acceptance of the graduate major, a thirty-three hour interdisciplinary course of study designed to give students academic graduate training in all aspects of museology and a chosen cognate discipline.

Housed within the Hibben Center, the Museum Studies program benefits students from multiple academic disciplines who have an interest in museums. Traxler expresses appreciation to the Maxwell “top to bottom, couldn’t have asked to work with a better unit, new colleagues and current staff, have been really supportive to the academic mission of Museum Studies and the staff.” A bequest from the estate of Jean D. Klein and funding from the Maxwell Museum Libraries & Archive Fund established through the efforts of Alan and Joyce Shalette were used to convert raw space into offices, a seminar room and library.

The first undergraduate certificate courses were offered at the University and through UNM Extended University during the 2012-2013 academic year. The demand for online Museum Studies courses was greater than projected and instructors developed additional online courses. Unit Administrator Anne Marie Carpenter supports students and the multidisciplinary program. “I’m familiar with the University culture, and can take some of the topics students don’t quite know about and find a straighter path so they can be more efficient.” The existing graduate minor continues to be fully enrolled and attract exceptional students. “What I found most useful and took away is the opportunity to gain opportunities in the field that you want to work in that I might not have been able to do” reflects graduate student Christian Waguespack. “When I was doing the museum studies minor it was more art based but when things changed I was with more anthropology students and the Maxwell. In making it interdisciplinary not just through the art department I learned a lot more than I would have.”

The Museum Studies program was officially transferred from the College of Fine Arts to the College of Arts and Sciences in August, 2014. The new designation as a stand alone program has brought a vision long held at the University to fruition. Traxler is enthusiastic. “We’ve been able to expand the curriculum and to broaden the engagement with students from different departments and programs, important support with not only campus museums who are our greatest allies but also with the museums in the Albuquerque community.”

LEARN MORE ABOUT MUSEUM STUDIES AT [HTTP://MUSEUM.UNM.EDU](http://museum.unm.edu)



Museum Studies Staff

Loa Traxler Director and Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Dr. Loa Traxler received her training in Anthropological Archaeology at the University of Pennsylvania. Her experience includes over twenty-five years of excavation, survey and collections management at sites throughout the world. Her research focuses on the architectural evolution of Classic Maya centers and the nature of sociopolitical organization of these societies.

As Director of Museum Studies program, Traxler combines teaching in Museum Studies and Anthropology and is responsible for administration, curriculum development for the Certificate and Masters degree programs and mentoring undergraduate and graduate students. She also participates in university service and community service for her profession, representing the Museum Studies Program and Maxwell Museum in the UNM Faculty Senate. At the national level, Traxler serves on the Society for American Archaeology Committee on Museums, Collections, and Curation, and as an officer and member of the Board of Directors for two charitable organizations supporting museums and cultural heritage in Latin America.

Museum Studies Staff

Anne Marie Carpenter Unit Administrator

Anne Marie Carpenter came to UNM from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks where she worked as an academic advisor. She has worked in student services as a student advisor, admissions manager and department coordinator for the last 15 years in New Mexico, Washington state and Alaska. Ann Marie holds a degree in Organizational Psychology from Western Washington University and is pursuing graduate studies in Student Development. Additionally, she serves as Secretary for the New Mexico Academic Advising Association.

Student Practicum in Museum Studies

Bethany Abrahamson Conserving New Mexico



I created a small exhibition at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, that discussed how natural history collections are used in wildlife conservation efforts in New Mexico. The project was a collaboration between NMMNH and the UNM Museum of Southwestern Biology. I headed the project along with the NMMNH Bioscience curator, Dr. Ayesha Burdett. I started planning the exhibition in the fall of 2013 and it opened in January 2014. It was on display for about six months with an opening reception and a couple of training days for museum volunteers to learn about the exhibition.

Steve Maness American Alliance of Museums Conference Fellow

I submitted an essay describing my own experiences on the theme of “Diversity”. I wrote about what a different perspective I have as a non-traditional (the new way to say older) student who happens to also be openly gay and “Out” in a context of being in college and doing things that are stereotyped as activities of early 20-somethings. I mentioned that the application form asked “Gender” and described how that question is loaded with assumptions and could put some people in an unnecessary stressful situation. I was shocked when I got the email and letter that I had been selected. I applied truly believing that I wouldn’t get it because the Fellowship is open to both Museum professionals, in addition to students. There was only one Fellowship last year. I was selected from a pool of over 300.

Maren Svare UNM/Chaco Field Schools Tour

My practicum will result in the creation of a new tour that could be implemented within the Maxwell’s *People of the Southwest* exhibition. The new tour, targetted for adults, focuses on the University of New Mexico’s involvement with Chaco Canyon through field schools and ongoing research. Visitors will have an opportunity to handle some artifacts from the Maxwell’s education collection that are similar to artifacts from Chaco, creating a more hands-on experience. The tour will make the exhibition more contemporary by bringing new information to visitors and by focusing on the dig site in the exhibit and explaining excavation practices that still go on.

Christian Waguespack Luz Restirada: Latin American Photography from the UNM Art Museum



Luz Restirada examines how photographers working in Latin America have navigated the interplay of technology, art and history from the 19th century up to the present as well as the social and cultural role photography has played in Central and South America. *Luz Restirada* presents works from the UNM Art Museum’s Latin American holdings in an effort to broaden the historical context of art and cultural exchange in this part of the world. The exhibition was at the UNM Art Museum in 2013 -14.

New Museum staff



Curator of Ethnology Lea S. McChesney, PhD, is a cultural anthropologist working in the Southwest, her research focuses on material and expressive culture and the legacy of museum collections to ongoing cultural heritage. A Research Associate of Harvard's Peabody Museum, she is a core member of the Hopi Pottery Oral History Project with the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History and the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office. Her recent publications include *"From Entangled Objects to Engaged Subjects: Knowledge Translation and Cultural Heritage Regeneration,"* in *Museum as Process: Translating Local and Global Knowledges* (Routledge 2014), and *"From a Potter's Perspective: Hopi Pottery and the World Market,"* in collaboration with Hopi artist Karen Charley, in *Artisans and Advocacy in the Global Market: Walking the Heart Path* (SAR Press 2015). She is teaching the Museum Studies seminar, *"What Is a Museum Object?"*



Archivist Diane Tyink is in charge of the 'paper' collections in the Museum, including documents, maps and photographs. Previous to this position, Diane worked for the University of Texas as a Reference & Instruction Librarian and Archivist. In 2010, Diane was awarded a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to process a large congressional collection. She has Masters degrees in both History and Library Science from the University of Arizona. Diane's graduate work in History focused on Latin American colonial ethnohistory, specifically the Maya in the highlands of Guatemala at the point of contact with the Spanish. Diane's hobbies include hiking and reading.

The Administrative Division of the Maxwell plays a critical part in museum solvency. **Unit Administrator Sandra Lujan, Accountant 2 Josh McGrath, and Administrative Assistant 3 Shelley Simms** work together to keep up with the changing nature of University business. Administration is responsible for daily operations including processing all receivables and payables such as research grants, payroll, and donations. The Friends of the Maxwell membership group is just one of the initiatives organized and managed by the Maxwell administrative staff.



Office of Contract Archaeology



Staff Archeologist Erin N. Hegberg is also a doctoral student specializing in 19th century historical archaeology. Her dissertation "Consumer Relationships in 19th Century Territorial New Mexico: Regional Identity" examines relationships between material culture and identity, between local and regional identities, and between producers and consumers. These relationships played a vital role in the formation and maintenance of modern Hispanic identity through the tumultuous changes of the Mexican and American Territorial Periods.

Archaeologist Crew Chief Lillian Richards oversaw excavations at LA 179071, a Middle Archaic site in the San Juan Basin, which revealed two partial pit structures with associated thermal features including four large and deep features interpreted as possible roasting pits. Bulk sediment samples from two of the intramural features yielded Zea mays (corn). Radiocarbon assays on the corn samples returned date ranges of 1260-1414 BC. The dates are some of the oldest known examples of corn in the San Juan Basin.



Staff Achievement

Director James Dixon has been appointed to the National Science Foundation (NSF) Advisory Committee on Geosciences. The Directorate of Geosciences includes the Divisions of Atmospheric and Geospace, Earth and Ocean Sciences and Polar Programs. Polar Programs encompasses both Arctic and Antarctic research at NSF. Annual research and related activities funding for the Directorate of Geosciences exceeds \$1.3 billion. The charge of the committee is wide ranging, including to provide advice, recommendations and oversight for the NSF's geosciences research and education portfolio; be a base of contact with the scientific community to inform NSF of the impact of its research support and NSF-wide policies on the scientific community; and to perform oversight of program management, overall program balance, and other aspects of program performance for geoscience activities.

Heather Edgar, Curator of Human Osteology and Corey Ragsdale, Ph.D. candidate in anthropology and assistant in the Maxwell's Laboratory of Human Osteology have been published in the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. *Cultural interaction and biological distance in postclassic period Mexico* compares biological relationships with geographic and cultural relationships among the Aztecs, Maya, and other groups. The research uses cultural modeling techniques new to bioarchaeology.

Mary Beth Hermans, Public Programs Manager led the Museum Collaborative Council of Albuquerque to recognition with the State of New Mexico and successfully applied 501 C3 non-profit status with the federal government. The designation allows the twenty four member group of Museums and Public Attractions to apply for state and federal grants.



UNM Regent Bradley Hosmer, David Phillips and UNM President Robert Frank

Phillips Receives Gerald May Award

David Phillips, Curator of Archaeology was awarded the Gerald W. May Outstanding Award. The Award recognizes outstanding staff members who have made significant contributions to the University. Phillips is one of just four awardees selected from staff throughout UNM. Each recipient receives a monetary award and a plaque, presented at a public ceremony in December.

Devorah Romanek, Curator of Exhibits with art historian Khristaan Villela (Santa Fe Institute of Art and Design) in cooperation with the Palace of the Governors Photo Archive Photo Curator, Daniel Kosharek, has received the Beaumont Newhall Grant from the New Mexico Council on Photography. The grant will support the publication of a book on historic New Mexican photographs from the Palace of the Governor's archive, and will be published by the University of Oklahoma Press. The book is part of Romanek's ongoing research on photography and anthropology.

OCA Water Canyon Field School & Tour



The Water Canyon site is a multicomponent Paleoindian locale associated directly with an extensive buried, fossil wet meadow deposit, known as a "Black Mat". The site currently consists of at least three cultural components, including a Late Paleoindian component with an intact *Bison antiquus* bone bed and a possible Clovis campsite.

The field school runn between May 27 and June 21, 2015. An exclusive tour of Water Canyon for a limited number of interested members of the public is scheduled for Saturday, June 13. Details will be provided by Maxwell email, or call the OCA at 505 277-5853.

The University of New Mexico
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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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Like us: <http://facebook.com/maxwellmuseum>

CURRENT EXHIBITS



**Heritage
New Mexico**



Archeology on Ice
Through April 4



El Agua es Vida
*Acequias in New Mexico
Through May 16*



**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 Mirjana Gacanich.

Increasing knowledge and understanding of the human cultural experience.