Reopening and then Some! New Exhibitions at the Maxwell Museum

In Fall 2021, the reopened Maxwell Museum and adjacent Hibben Center is featuring five new exhibitions, reopening with a vengeance after being closed to the public for 521 days!

The Maxwell Museum reopened its doors to the public on August 17 with the opening of the long delayed exhibition Heartbreak: A Love Letter to the Lost National Museum of Brazil. This exhibition, co-curated by Dr. Devorah Romanek and former Museum Studies (now doctoral) student Jackson Larson was conceived as a tribute and commentary on the loss of the National Museum, which burned to the ground in Rio de Janeiro in 2018. Originally scheduled to open in the spring of 2020, over the succeeding year the exhibition grew to acknowledge another museum fire in Brazil (University of Minas Gerais Natural History Museum) and the failures of leadership and impact of the pandemic on Indigenous communities of the Amazon. A somber message, conveyed with bright colors and Amazonian objects from the Museum’s collections.

While the Heartbreak exhibition highlights objects from Brazil’s Amazon Basin, we feature additional Amazonian objects from the collections in the accompanying exhibition: From Headwaters to Mouth: Other Amazonian Collections in the Maxwell Museum. This exhibition, curated by Carla Sinopoli, presents the distinctive ceramics and textiles of the Shibibo (or Shipibo-Conibo) people who live along the upper reaches of the Amazon in southeastern Peru.

(continued, page 3)
Dear Friends of the Maxwell Museum,

We are pleased to bring you our Spring 2021 newsletter, full of news about some of the happenings at the Maxwell Museum over recent months. We reopened our galleries in mid-August, as we were welcoming UNM students back to campus and student employees, researchers and interns back to the Museum. We also welcomed our first K-12 class group this month and it is great to see visitors back in the Museum and enjoying our permanent exhibitions and the new temporary exhibitions featured in this newsletter. We have remained cautious about hosting large public programs given pandemic conditions, but will be hosting a Homecoming Open House on Friday November 5 from 5-7 pm (see page 5) and are excited about the return of the Annual Navajo Rug Auction and Preview on November 19 and 20 (see p. 6). Face masks are required and covid safety protocols are in place as we work to ensure the safety of our visitors, staff, and student employees.

For a change, I have (mostly) good news about Maxwell staffing. Ethan Aronson recently jointed us as our new store manager and administrative assistant. Prior to coming to the Maxwell, Ethan worked at Casa San Ysidro, the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History, and Modern Albuquerque LLC, and brings a wealth of experience to his new position. We are excited to have him! We are also excited that we will soon be welcoming Dr. Gordon Ambrosino as our NAGPRA coordinator. Gordon joins us on November 15, with expertise in landscape archaeology and rock art, and extensive NAGPRA experience at the Field Museum of Natural History, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and, most recently, Auburn University. We are also currently searching for two additional positions and if all goes according to plan, will be back up to full staff by the end of the year. On the less good news side of things, we said good-bye to our long-term exhibit preparator Michael Rendina, and longest Maxwell employee, who left the Museum in August. His meticulous skills and deep institutional knowledge are missed, and we wish him well in his next endeavors. We hope to post the Preparator position soon, and meanwhile I want to acknowledge Curator of Exhibitions Dr. Devorah Romanek, who has been doing double (triple?) duty to keep our exhibits schedule on track.

With renovations completed, we reopened the Museum Store and are featuring some exciting new artists. The Online store should be up and running soon, so be sure to keep us in mind for your holiday shopping. We hope to see you at our open house, rug auction, and in the Museum, and wish you a happy and healthy fall and holiday season.

Warm regards,

Carla M Sinopoli
Director

New acquisition, face mask by Jillian Waterman (Saginaw Chippewa), 2021 (birchbark, leather, horsehair)
In addition to Shipibo objects and images, the exhibition features an object directly connected to Brazil’s lost National Museum: a plaster cast of an archaeological ceramic tanga (pubic shield) from the island of Marajó, located at the river’s mouth. This object was donated to the Maxwell in 1942 by Heloisa Alberto Torres, the first woman director of the National Museum of Brazil, and was likely a cast of an object in the Museum’s collections. The reproduction survives, while the original was almost certainly lost.

Vernacular Response, featuring the spectacular photography of Diné artist Rapheal Begay came down in mid-September and in its place the Museum has installed Indigenous Women: Border Matters, which opened on October 19. The exhibition comes to UNM from Santa Fe’s Wheelwright Museum, where it was organized by curator Andrea Hanley. It presents the work of four Indigenous women artists who speak to issues on both sides of the U.S.–Mexico border. Featuring work by artists Makaye Lewis (Tohono O’odham), Daisy Quezada Ureña (Mexican-American), M. Jenea Sanchez (Latinx), and Gabriela Muñoz (Latinx), the exhibition explores and questions how indigenous women interact with the land. If you didn’t get to see this compelling exhibition in Santa Fe—or even if you did—come visit it at the Maxwell, where it will be open through April 2022. We thank the Wheelwright Museum and the artists for sharing their work with us.
Current Issues in Anthropology: Afghanistan

The Maxwell Museum’s Current Issues in Anthropology exhibitions are timely displays that affirm our commitment to share information and create a forum to address current events and issues affecting our region and our world.

We hadn’t planned to develop two additional exhibitions this fall, but events in Afghanistan in late August led us to reconsider. The departure of U.S. and coalition forces, collapse of the Afghan government, victory of the Taliban, and the searing images from the Kabul airport led Curator Devorah Romanek and Director Carla Sinopoli to delve into the collections and design two exhibitions that speak to both the recent history of Afghanistan and concerns for the future. In today’s media environment, even the most dramatic of global events quickly disappear from the front pages and our daily consciousness. As thousands of Afghani allies and refugees arrive in the United States, and many more continue to try to leave Afghanistan, and as we watch the Taliban reinstitute their repressive rule, these exhibitions, to be installed in early November, seek to share knowledge, provoke thought, and encourage action.

Both exhibitions feature objects of everyday life: hats in one and bread in the other. Four hats in a variety of regional styles (and one necklace) are featured in a single-case exhibition in the Maxwell Museum. In Afghanistan, as throughout the world, clothing styles signal ethnic identity, religious affiliation, and even political loyalties. Among the hats featured is a pakol, a felted wool hat from the Nuristan region of eastern Afghanistan. Because of their association with the Northern Alliance resistance to the Taliban, pakol hats were banned by the Taliban during their first period of rule from 1996 to 2001. This exhibition, curated by Carla Sinopoli, presents some general information on the history of Afghanistan, a landlocked nation of tremendous ethnic, linguistic, and environmental diversity located at the crossroads of Central, South, and Southwest Asia. A timeline summarizes the last 40+ years of Afghan history, from the 1979 Soviet invasion to the 2021 U.S. departure.

Bread, the main staple of Afghan cuisine, is the focus of a photo exhibition curated by Dr. Devorah Romanek in the atrium of the Hibben Center (where you can also visit the Smith Family Totem Pole!). The significance and history of bread making, selling, and eating provide a lens into the recent history of Afghanistan. Long a male occupation, the large numbers of widows created by 40 years of war led to the rise of widows’ bakeries and small woman-run operations. The social and economic liberalization of the post-2001 period led to the flourishing of urban café culture, creating places where young men and women could interact. Today, these cafés have closed and the recent takeover by the Taliban coupled with the withdrawal of international donors and a catastrophic drought have intensified the hunger already experienced by many Afghan people. The price of wheat has risen dramatically and the United Nations’ World Food Program estimates that 93% of Afghanistan’s people are not getting enough to eat and as many as a million children may die of starvation this winter.

A handout available near both exhibitions will contain information on how you can help Afghani refugees in New Mexico and organizations providing aid in Afghanistan.

Assadullah, who, like many Afghans, goes by only one name, inspects freshly baked naan at 4 a.m. before putting it on display in Kabul, 2019. Photograph by Ivan Flores for the article “In Kabul, Naan Endures” by Ruchi Kumar, Heated.com
THREE UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS HOST HOMECOMING OPEN HOUSE

Celebrate Homecoming with the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, UNM Art Museum, and Tamarind Institute, Friday November 5 from 5-7 pm

The Maxwell is partnering with the University of New Mexico Art Museum (UNMAM) and Tamarind Institute to offer extended hours on Friday, November 5th from 5:00 - 7:00 PM. Join us to reconnect with some of the best resources on campus.

At the Maxwell, visit our permanent exhibitions and three recently opened temporary exhibitions: Heartbreak: A Love Letter to the Lost National Museum of Brazil, Indigenous Women: Border Matters, and From the Headwaters to the Mouth: Additional Amazonian Collections in the Maxwell Museum. You can also visit the Dia de los Muertos Ofrenda in the Maxwell Museum Courtyard and shop at the Maxwell Store where all UNM alumni receive a 20% discount from October 30-November 6.

Then, stop by the UNM Art Museum to view Visionary Modern: Raymond Jonson Trilogies, Cycles, and Portraits, currently on display through November 24, 2021. Jonson’s legacy at the University of New Mexico is threefold: as an educator, a curator, and a living modernist mentor around whom a strong community of artists was built in Albuquerque. His legacy is commemorated through this year’s special edition Homecoming poster, featuring his painting “Red Rocks, Colorado.” View this work in person at UNMAM and pre-order your 2021 Homecoming poster here.

At Tamarind Institute, there will be new work in the gallery by New Mexico-based artists Eric Garcia, Szu-Han Ho, Gaby Hernández, Jane Lackey, and Zahra Marwan. These prints are the result of Tipping Points, a collaborative project between the City of Albuquerque and Tamarind Institute. Light reception and open gallery hours from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

Visit https://artmuseum.unm.edu/ and https://tamarind.unm.edu for more information

Zahra Marwan
My Mom’s Three Sisters, Loud and Unafraid, 2021 (21-805)
Eight-color lithograph
Paper Size: 30 x 22 inches, Paper Type: White Arches Cover
Collaborating Printer(s): Brian Wagner
Edition of 13
NAVajo RUG Auction Returns:

**Preview:** Friday November 19, 5-7 PM, at the Maxwell

**Auction:** Saturday, November 20, viewing starts 11 am; bidding starts 1 PM at Prairie Star Restaurant, Santa Ana Pueblo

After a year’s gap, the Maxwell Museum Annual Navajo Rug Auction is returning to the Prairie Star Restaurant at Santa Ana Pueblo. The Maxwell is pleased to continue our long relationship with R.B. Burnham and Company of Sanders, AZ, which is now in its fifth generation of serving the native people of the Southwest. This year, we will greatly miss the presence of Sheri Burnham who passed away in 2020. The event won’t be the same without her generous and energetic presence. We look forward to welcoming back Bruce and Virginia Burnham and Kary Dunham and their handpicked selection of more than 200 traditional and contemporary rugs made by some of the finest weavers working today. The Rug Auction is the Maxwell’s largest fundraiser of the year and we missed its absence last year. More importantly, especially in this challenging time, the weavers receive 80% of the final bid price, so we hope you will come prepared to buy and support native artists.

You can preview a sample of the auction objects and bring in your own Native American artworks to the Maxwell Museum to be appraised on **Friday November 19 from 5-7 p.m.** Experts from R.B. Burnham’s will be on hand to identify and suggest the value of your items. Virginia Burnham will also feature her Native American jewelry trunk sale. Appraisals are $10 per item (no more than three items per person). To sign up, call (505) 277-1830 or arrive at the Museum early to secure any remaining slots.

Events on Saturday November 20, begin at 11 a.m. Viewing takes place from 11:00 am-1:00 p.m., and the auction will start at 1:00 p.m. sharp. Whether you are a collector or just interested in learning about Navajo weaving and acquiring your first weaving, the auction offers a great opportunity to view a variety of styles. It is fast moving, fun, and exciting. Browse, bid, and take home a unique handmade textile. Weavers received 80% of the final bid price, while the Maxwell Museum receives the 10% buyer’s premium. The auction is on Santa Ana land; purchases are therefore not subject to sales tax.

Note: Masks are required and COVID-19 safe protocols will be enforced according to all guidelines of UNM, Santa Ana Pueblo, and the State of New Mexico. This may include, if necessary, canceling or postponing the event should conditions worsen. Visit our website for updates.
PASSPORT TO PEOPLE FAMILY DAY: BRING HISTORY TO LIFE

To celebrate International Archaeology Day, the Maxwell Museum hosted a Passport to People Family Day on October 9, 2021. The theme was "Bring History to Life" and approximately 40 visitors participated in a variety of activities learning and doing archaeology. We enjoyed beautiful early fall weather as we spread out in multiple activity stations across the Maxwell courtyard and nearby grassy areas. Families moved through the stations to learn about Pueblo pottery, ethnoarchaeology, stone tool manufacture, artifact recovery, and archaeological survey and mapping. Inside the Museum, docents led guided tours and a scavenger hunt through the People of the Southwest exhibition. Young visitors received a passport, in which they earned stamps after completing each activity. Participants who filled their passports received a goodie bag to take home.

Curator of Education Amy Grochowski marshalled an impressive team of Maxwell staff, docents, and UNM undergraduate and graduate students to host the event. Dr. Russell Greaves, Director of the Office of Contract Archeology, brought an array of basketry and wooden objects from his ethnoarchaeological research to consider what does—and doesn’t—preserve in the archaeological record. Maxwell Curator of Archaeology Dr. Kari Schleher and undergraduate education assistant Sophie LaBorwit introduced participants to the history of Pueblo pottery and encouraged them to try their hand at pottery reconstruction.

Professor of Anthropology Bruce Huckell demonstrated flint knapping, while nearby, anthropology doctoral student Katie Brewer showed participants how archaeologists sieve sediments to recover small artifacts. Maxwell Director Carla Sinopoli and anthropology graduate student and Hibben Fellow Erika Alvero introduced participants to ways that archaeologists discover sites and led field crews in conducting systematic surface collections. Graduate students Alex Crowell (Museum Studies) and docents Diana Shea, Phyllis Herbertson and Barbara Frames welcomed visitors, led tours in the galleries, and aided participants in making cordage beaded bracelets. We’re not sure whether the Museum staff or guests had the better time, but we in the Maxwell are definitely looking forward to the next Family Day in the spring!

The Maxwell Family Day Events are supported by the Passport to People Gift Fund with special thanks to Elaine and Garth Bawden. If you would like to sponsor a Family Day or other educational program, contact Curator of Education Amy Grochowski at amygro@unm.
Maxwell Museum Docent Diana Shea

Tell us about yourself
I moved to Albuquerque fifty years ago, where I married a UNM English professor, raised two children, earned a Masters in elementary education, and enjoyed a rewarding career as a second grade teacher. I am now retired and, typically, find myself busier than ever involved in a number of organizations and activities. However, volunteering at the Maxwell was my first and still favorite undertaking.

What brought you to the Maxwell Museum?
Shortly after retiring I attended a presentation that Curator of Education Amy Grochowski gave about the Maxwell docent program and instantly realized it was my new vocation. Two of my retirement goals were to continue working with students and to study an exciting new subject. This program was perfectly designed for me.

What kind of work do you do with the Museum?
The first step to becoming a docent was training. We had several months of classes expertly conducted by Amy, including guest presentations, tours on campus and elsewhere, and thorough examinations of the education materials. I had no idea the Maxwell collection was so extensive or varied. The Laboratory of Human Osteology was eye-opening and the Office of Contract Archeology just as exciting.

Once qualified, I was able to conduct tours of the museum exhibits, which were primarily scheduled school tours and principally the Peoples of the Southwest exhibit. I also brought Traveling Trunk Exhibits to classrooms, using hands-on materials and directed craft activities to present southwestern history topics such as weaving, pottery, and ancient tools. I’ve been part of many public Maxwell offerings, staffing tables at various events around town and as well as on-campus family days and yearly summer camp.

The pandemic lock-down presented new opportunities. I made some (homemade) video recordings of trunk presentations and stories that supported the Education Department’s virtual program, and participated in a couple zoom classrooms.

What is your favorite part of what you do in the Maxwell Education Department?
Every part is my favorite, really. The only thing I haven’t already mentioned is the regular opportunity for further training from various experts, and field trips to places as varied as Chaco National Historic Site and the Belén Harvey House Museum. And it’s all made even more enjoyable with the camaraderie of my fellow docents and Maxwell staff.

Do you have any advice for people interested in becoming a Museum docent?
My only advice is to urge you to contact the Education Department to express your interest in becoming a docent. It’s a couple of thoroughly enjoyable hours per week, well worth your while.

The Maxwell gratefully acknowledges all of our docents and voluters for their many contributions to the Museum. Interested in volunteering? email maxwell@unm.edu
Undergraduate Hannah Cantrell

Each year, more than 40 UNM undergraduate and graduate students work in and with the Maxwell Museum, contributing immeasurably to collections care, exhibit development, educational programs, research, and visitor services. Here, undergraduate anthropology major Hannah Cantrell describes her work in the Maxwell’s Laboratory of Osteology.

Tell us about yourself
I am a senior majoring in Evolutionary Anthropology with a minor in Geography. I am currently in the data analysis phase of my senior research project, which I will be submitting for publication in the spring. For this project, I am studying dental health and health disparities by counting missing and restored teeth through CT scans of deceased New Mexicans who died between 2010-2017. I am in the McNair Scholars Program here at UNM as well. My next research project will be part of the McNair program’s requirements. Starting in the spring of 2022, I will be conducting an overall health survey on skeletal remains of a pre-contact Indigenous population from Southern Belize.

What brought you to work at the Maxwell?
In 2018, when I first started thinking about attending UNM, I was interested in majoring in Anthropology after spending that winter working for the National Park Service at Grand Canyon National Park. My uncle, who is from here, brought me to campus to show me around and we walked through the Maxwell. Since then, I had been thinking about how to get a job working here, both because it was good experience in my field and because I’ve believed in museum and collection work for a long time. I started working here in the summer of 2021 after deciding that I wanted to study the skeleton and hope to continue my position here in the Laboratory of Human Osteology until I graduate.

What kind of work have you been doing for the Museum?
When I first started last summer, I was labeling human remains from the documented skeletal collection [the remains of individuals who have donated their remains to the Museum to be used for research and teaching]. This consisted of cutting up small paper labels and attaching them to each bone with B-72 resin. I also have done inventories of remains in the documented collection. When we get a donor’s skeleton, we put it in soil for about a month. After pulling the skeleton out, we need to brush off the dirt, record which bones are present, and see if there are any obvious abnormalities in the skeleton. Since the semester has started, I have been laying out remains and photographing them. I photograph the whole skeleton as well as each individual bone. These photographs will go into our database for records.

What do you enjoy about working at the Maxwell?
We have an excellent donor program and currently have 320 documented skeletons in the collection. Donor collections are a great way to conduct human skeletal research, especially if they take the place of research being conducted on North American Indigenous remains. The donor program allows us to continue ethical research and education here in the United States. I also am grateful for the hands-on work I am getting with skeletal remains. This experience is beneficial to my future goals and continuing research on the human skeleton. I am learning so much while working here and am loving every second of it!

What are your goals after you graduate?
After graduating in December 2022, I will start a Ph.D. program in Biological Anthropology, specifically Bioarchaeology, in the fall of 2023. After completion of that I hope to be an Anthropology professor.
GRADUATE STUDENT ADAM FUCHS

Each year, more than 40 UNM undergraduate and graduate students work in and with the Maxwell Museum, contributing immeasurably to collections care, exhibit development, educational program, research, and teaching. Here, Adam Fuchs, MA Student in the Museum Studies Program, describes his Maxwell experience.

Tell us about yourself
I am a Master’s student in Museum Studies at UNM. Originally from Maryland, I majored in Anthropology as an undergraduate at UNM from 2012-14. Between graduating and returning to school in 2019, I worked as an archives technician and educator at the Baltimore Museum of Industry.

What brought you to work at the Maxwell?
I’m interested in how museums can help descendant communities sustain their cultures by opening cultural heritage collections to community access, as well as the roles this access can play in the reproduction of traditional ecological knowledge.

What kind of work have you been doing for the Museum?
I have been working on a project involving the Maxwell’s collection of black ash baskets, which are made among Indigenous communities in the Great Lakes region and Northeast. Black ash trees are a threatened species and Indigenous basket makers are working to protect both the trees and the basket making tradition. Our goal is to connect the Maxwell collections to community members and partner institutions in support of these efforts. This has involved creating a workbook documenting our black ash basket collection which has been sent out to community artists and other museums with the objectives of sharing information and facilitating access.

What do you enjoy about working at the Maxwell?
I enjoy working at the Maxwell because there is always something new to see in the collections.

What are your goals after you graduate?
I would definitely like to do something collections related, ideally something involving ways to connect communities with cultural heritage.
IN MEMORIUM: LOU SCHUYLER

The Maxwell Museum mourns the passing of Lucy ("Lou") C. Schuyler, long time patron, volunteer, avocational archaeologist, and dear friend of many in the Maxwell Museum and Albuquerque archaeological community. The daughter of a factory worker, Lou attended Brown University on a mathematics scholarship and went on to obtain an M.A. in systems engineering. She worked as an analyst and consultant for IBM, as the information officer for a major publisher, and as an independent consultant. After retiring from successful careers in New York, Lou and her husband Hank Schuyler relocated to Albuquerque in 2004. It was there Lou pursued her lifelong interest in archaeology, joining several local archaeological societies and volunteering at the Maxwell Museum. She continued this work for 17 years, until a sudden onset of cancer.

Lou's professional career prepared her well for dealing with the challenges of legacy archaeological records. Her first task at the Museum was to create a preliminary spreadsheet database for the Tijeras Pueblo collections being reorganized by a volunteer crew; she next did similar work for the collections from the site of Pottery Mound. Lou then began working with field and laboratory notes and collections records to create descriptive reports on unpublished legacy projects. Working on these reports allowed her to explore her interests in Native American jewelry. Lou published 12 reports in the Maxwell Museum's online Technical Series, making invaluable contributions to archaeological knowledge. Before becoming ill Lou had completed the draft of her final series of reports, providing a room-by-room description of the 1970s UNM field school excavations at Tijeras Pueblo. These are currently being edited for publication by Hank Schuyler and former Curator of Archaeology Dave Phillips and generations of archaeologists will continue to benefit from her work. She will be deeply missed.

Volunteer Karen Armstrong Receives Award

Congratulations to Maxwell Museum volunteer and avocational archaeologist Karen Armstrong who was awarded the Alexander J. Lindsay, Jr. Unsung Heroes Award from the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society (AAHS) The award recognizes those many under-acknowledged individuals who work behind the scenes as essential contributors to archaeological research. Karen and Lou Schuyler began volunteering together at the Maxwell Museum in 2004. As Lou's attention turned to preparing reports for the Maxwell’s Technical Series, Karen became the organizer and leader of the archaeology volunteer "crew," a group that (until the pandemic) worked every Wednesday in the Maxwell Museum, rehousing collections and, as their motto denotes creating Ordo ab Chao, "order out of chaos." Over the last 17 years, the crew has rehoused more than 3000 boxes of archaeological materials from some 50 archaeological sites. As a result of their efforts, these collections are better documented, better cared for, and made more accessible to researchers.

Congratulations Karen on this much deserved honor! We look forward to welcoming you and other volunteers back as soon as conditions allow!
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE MAXWELL MUSEUM

The Maxwell Museum gratefully acknowledges the support of the donors, members, and volunteers, who contribute so much to the work we do. We especially thank our members who have stuck with us during the period we were closed, and the volunteers still waiting to return.

Thanks to the following individuals and organizations who have made donations to the Maxwell Museum since January 1, 2021:

**Albuquerque Community Foundation (Davis-Kozoll Fund)**  
**Don and Barbara Baum**  
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(* Gift in honor of Lou Schuyler)

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OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 6

UNM Alumni, stop by the Maxwell Museum Store during homecoming for a 20% discount!

(Discerns are not applicable to books, consignment items, marked down items, or memberships)

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