



# Archeology Program

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## May 2019 Archeology E-Gram Print edition

**Midwest Archeological Center (MWAC) news is prominent in this month's E-Gram.  
Congratulations on 50 years of service!**

### NPS NEWS

#### **Former Chief of National Park Service Midwest Archeological Center Cal Calabrese Passes**



Francis Anthony "Cal" Calabrese, age 76, passed away peacefully at home in Omaha, Nebraska, with his wife and service dog by his side. Calabrese was born and raised in Waterbury, Connecticut. He received a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Missouri, Columbia. Calabrese had a long and accomplished NPS career including as Chief of MWAC. His position at retirement was Associate Regional Director for Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships, Midwest Region.

His research contributions and publications span Southwest, Southeast, and Plains prehistory. Calabrese also participated in Forensic Archeology with Physicians for Human Rights under the auspices of the United Nations War Crimes Commission.

He competitively sailed catamarans, and sailed the ARC Caribbean 1500 from Portsmouth, VA to Tortola, BVI. He spent four years sailing in the Bahamas and Caribbean with his wife. Throughout his life, he traveled extensively in the U.S. and around the world. He appreciated well-designed cars, motorcycles and was an avid pilot, flying both for his work and for pleasure. He loved the outdoors and was an accomplished downhill skier. Many will remember him as the ultimate DIY'er.

In addition to his devoted wife of twelve years, Linda Stevenson, Calabrese is survived by nieces, nephews and cousins and lovingly remembered by his many friends.

#### **National Park Service 2019 Cotter Award Winners Announced**

The NPS has announced the winners of the 2019 John L. Cotter Award for Excellence in NPS Archeology. This award is presented to archeologists who excel in scientific archeological research, community involvement, and public education. The winners are:

***Vergil Noble (Professional Achievement Category):*** Noble's career at the Midwest Archeological Center (MWAC) has left an indelible mark on the region. Working in almost one-third of the Midwestern parks, Noble has left a legacy of reports, conference symposia and papers, and many publications. His assistance in developing and writing National Historic Landmark (NHL) nominations and management plans, and grant management led to establishment of numerous NHLs. His service with the Society of Professional Archaeologists, Register of Professional Archaeologists, and presidency of the Society for Historical Archaeology provided platforms for improving the methods and theories of archeological research.

### ***Southeast Archeological Center Digital Curation Project (Project Award)***

The Digital Curation Project, directed by Andrew Wise, completed the digitization of 900,000 files for over 500 archeological projects spanning many decades. The project migrated 1930s film and audio recordings and recent side-scan sonar and x-ray fluorescence results to a centralized digital database. It provides efficient access for both research and park management tasks, and ensures the long-term preservation of this information. Plans to further public access to these data are ongoing.

John L. Cotter (1911 – 1999) was best known for his work at Jamestown, Virginia, and his contributions to the development of historical archeology. The award was created to recognize professional achievements and exceptional projects in honor of Cotter’s long and distinguished career. Award nominations are peer submitted and voted on by an award committee comprising five NPS archeologists.

The Cotter award committee congratulates this year's winners, and invites the NPS archeology community to attend ArcheoThursday webinar presentations by the awardees later this year.

### **Bob Sonderman Receives Lifetime Achievement Award for Historic Preservation Excellence**

Bob Sonderman, former NCR Regional Curator, was recently honored with the District of Columbia Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation for Individual Lifetime Achievement Award for his work with DC Preservation and with the NPS.



Sonderman retired in 2018 after 25 years with the NPS. He began his NPS career as an archeological technician after preservation positions in the private sector, and served as Staff Archeologist and National Archeological Collections Manager for the NPS National Capital Region. In 2010 Sonderman became Regional Curator and Director of the Museum Resource Center.

### **National Park Service Midwest Archeological Center Celebrates 50 Years**

July 2019 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MWAC. The Center was established on July 1, 1969, from staff and offices of the Smithsonian Institution’s River Basin Surveys. Since then, MWAC staff have completed over 1,100 archeological projects. To celebrate, MWAC will host a series of events in July in downtown Lincoln, Nebraska.

Festivities will kick off on July 10 with an “Archeology on Tap” happy hour featuring lightning talks by staff on current projects. On July 11, the Center will host an Open House with exhibits and an archeological collections tour. MWAC Archeologist Tom Thiessen will present a lecture entitled *How the Midwest Archeological Center Came to Be*. For MWAC alumni (whether staff, volunteers, or interns), a brunch held on July 12 offers the opportunity to share stories over coffee and snacks.

From July 1-19 visitors to the Denney Federal Building can see some of the well-preserved cargo of the steamboat *Bertrand*, which sank in the Missouri River on April 1, 1865. This exhibit, housed in the building lobby, will showcase some of the objects MWAC staff helped preserve.

Visit <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1740/events.htm> for event details. Those planning to attend the brunch on July 12 should RSVP to [MWAC\\_distancelearning@nps.gov](mailto:MWAC_distancelearning@nps.gov) by July 2.



### **National Park Service Sponsors Winning Poster**

For the fourth year in a row, Alaska's poster design has won the 2019 Society for American Archaeology (SAA) annual State Archaeology Celebration Poster Contest. Winners are selected by popular vote of conference participants at each year's SAA Annual Meeting.

The effort is led by NPS in collaboration with tribal and agency cooperators from across the state. This year's theme was the Ocean Bay tradition, which has a close association with Katmai National Park.

Organizations wishing to receive a poster or to be added to the annual poster mailing list can submit requests here:

[ak\\_archaeology\\_poster@nps.gov](mailto:ak_archaeology_poster@nps.gov)

To learn more about the Ocean Bay Tradition, go to

<https://www.nps.gov/katm/learn/historyculture/ocean-bay-tradition.htm>

### **Disabled Combat Veterans Dig for Battle Stories at Revolutionary War Site**

Thirty disabled combat veterans are taking part in a month-long archeological investigation at the Revolutionary War site of Saratoga National Battlefield. In partnership with the NPS, the excavation is run by the non-profit American Veterans Archaeological Recovery (AVAR). After their field work is completed, the veterans will spend two weeks analyzing and cataloging the artifacts in a lab, and adding them to a digital map.

"We are a program that takes veterans, wounded warriors, active-duty, if you have a disability, or if you don't have a disability," said Nichol Fuentes, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and AVAR's chief operating officer.

By creating teams and assigning the vets a mission, the investigations preserve history and mimic the camaraderie vets experienced during their military service. The exercise is designed to help veterans cope with challenges like PTSD. "Archeology is not curing cancer or anything like that anytime soon, but it could help people therapeutically and help let people know there is still some fight left in them," said Army veteran Zeth Lujan.

*By Matt Hunter, Spectrum News*

### **Last American Slave Ship Discovered**

Researchers have confirmed that remains of a wooden ship in Mobile River is *Clotilda*, that illegally carried captive Africans from Benin into Mobile Bay in 1860. The ship was burned and deliberately sunk to destroy criminal evidence: *Clotilda* captain William Foster and *Clotilda* owner Timothy Meaher were tried but not convicted of illegal transport of human cargo.

One hundred and nine persons were taken off the ship and sold into slavery. Residents of Africatown, a still extant community near Mobile, are descendants of people brought to Alabama on the *Clotilda*. In 1927, Cudjo Lewis, then one of the last living *Clotilda* survivors, shared his life story with anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston. Her book *Barracoon*, published in 2018, tells of Lewis's voyage aboard *Clotilda*.

Finding the wreckage—and confirming it as the *Clotilda*—is the result of historical and archeological investigations led by the Alabama Historical Commission, supported by the Slave Wrecks Project, and SEARCH, Inc., a collection of maritime archeologists and divers, including former NOAA Chief Archeologist James Delgado, specializing in exploring historic shipwrecks.

The Slave Wrecks Project (SWP) is an international network of researchers and institutions hosted by the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture and includes the NPS Submerged Resources Center. Created in 2008 to study the transatlantic slave trade, SWP uses maritime archeology, historical research and the study of sunken slave ships as its entry points. SWP supported the Alabama Historical Commission in archeological work and in designing a way to involve the community of Africatown to preserve the memory of the *Clotilda*.

For more information about SWP, see the webinar **The Slaver Shipwreck Sao Jose Paquete D’Africa: New Perspectives and Possibilities for the Realization of the Black Atlantic Paradigm from Maritime Archaeology** at <https://www.nps.gov/training/NPSArcheology/html/index.cfm#p2>

### **National Park Service Ranger Monitoring Program Helps Protect Archeological Sites**

MWAC has expanded the use of Collector for ArcGIS and the NPS Geospatial Portal to assist law enforcement rangers in monitoring archeological site conditions. Due to the sensitive nature of site location information, the feature services and web maps are hosted on the internal NPS Geospatial Portal. With assistance from a grant provided by the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, MWAC developed a workflow for collecting archeological site monitoring data using mobile devices.

MWAC created a geodatabase that mirrors the paper form the rangers used previously. With Collector, rangers download maps for their park, navigate to a known site location, record information on disturbances and potential threats to the site, and take photos with their mobile device. The information is synchronized when they return to the office and used by MWAC to update the condition for each site in the CRIS database. Archeologists determine if additional action is necessary to protect the site. Overall, the efforts have increased the ability to identify issues and protect archeological sites.

*By Amanda Renner, Anne Vawser, and Austin Butterfield, NPS Midwest Archeology Center*

### **Interior Places Moratorium on Leasing in Greater Chaco Region**

Senator Martin Heinrich and DOI Secretary David Bernhardt announced a commitment from the Department of the Interior to place a one-year moratorium on oil and gas leasing within a 10-mile buffer zone around Chaco Culture NHP. Plans for expanded fracking in the Greater Chaco region have faced backlash from local communities, as well as from the New Mexico Congressional delegation. The Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act, introduced in both the House and Senate last month, would permanently protect this area from any future leasing.

*By Gabby Brown, Sierra Club*

### **Community Engagement on African American Research at Colonial National Historical Park**

On April 20, 2019, community members attended a second meeting hosted by Colonial NHP and the Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation to discuss research on African American history and culture at Jamestown Island. This meeting focused on human remains of possible African ancestry discovered during projects on the island.

Superintendent Kym Hall requested community input on respectful remembrance, appropriate study, and reburial with dignity. Audrey Horning and Joe Jones, College of William and Mary; David Givens, Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation; and Melanie Pereira of NPS gave presentations. Regional Cultural Anthropologist Eola Dance moderated. Attendees developed questions about the material presented, providing guidance for ongoing research. The meeting ended with a guided tour of the archeological site.



Excavations at the “Angela Site” investigate the lives of the first Africans in the colony. The site is named after a woman who lived and worked at Jamestown. She was likely born in present-day Angola and was among the first Africans at the colony in 1619.

Africans contributed greatly to the success of Jamestown. Current research seeks to identify the ways they shaped early life in the Virginia Colony. Descendant groups support a more complete telling of this period in American history. Research at the “Angela Site” is critical in interpreting and protecting the history of Virginia’s first Africans.

*From InsideNPS story by Carolyn Black*

### **Middle School Students Help to Protect Rock Art Near Utah Lake**

Two dozen middle schoolers in Sandy’s Blessed Sacrament Catholic School Archeology Club are doing rock art surveys at the Adelbert Doyle Smith Family Preserve as part of an effort to list the site on the National Register of Historic Places. John McHugh, a science teacher at the school, is the club’s sponsor.

In 2013, Smith’s descendants donated the property to The Archaeological Conservancy, which maintains it as a preserve open to the public. Before the land was acquired by the Smith family 60 years ago, it had already been stripped of its artifacts, according to Steve Manning, of the Utah Rock Art Research Association who conducted the first formal survey of the Smith preserve’s petroglyphs in 2014.

The site’s key occupants were Fremont Indians, whose largest known villages have been recorded on the opposite side of Utah Lake. Some of the images show humans in what appears to be ceremonial garb or engaged in hunting or ritualist activities. Others depict snakes, bighorn sheep and other animals.

On the day of McHugh’s field trip, his students inspected dozens of panels marked with small magenta flags, basically retracing Manning’s earlier work. They entered data on each petroglyph on a standard

form, recording the size, condition, precise GPS coordinates, degree of repatination, directional aspect and slope of the rock surface and other information.

*From story by Brian Maffly, Salt Lake City*

## **FEDERAL NEWS**

### **Lonnie Bunch III, Director of National Museum of African American History and Culture, New Smithsonian Secretary**



Lonnie G. Bunch III has been appointed Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, becoming the first African American leader in its 173-year history. Bunch is founding director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Bunch takes over a quasi-federal institution of 19 museums, nine research centers and the National Zoo that is supported by 7,000 employees and a \$1.5 billion annual budget. His appointment was praised across the Smithsonian, with many employees pointing to his insider status as a great benefit of his appointment. He is the first Smithsonian director to become secretary in 74 years, and the first historian in the job.

Bunch, 66, was born in Newark, New Jersey, and raised in a predominantly Italian American neighborhood in Belleville. He earned BA and MA degrees in history from American University. He has taught at numerous universities and written books on black military history, the American presidency, and museums. In 2005, the American Alliance of Museums named Bunch one of the 100 most influential museum professionals. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2017, and in 2018, was given the Phi Beta Kappa Award for Distinguished Service to the Humanities.

Bunch's first stint at the Smithsonian was as an education specialist at the National Air and Space Museum from 1978 to 1979. After a few years at the California African American Museum in Los Angeles, he returned in 1989, joining the National Museum of American History, where he moved up the ranks to become associate director of curatorial affairs, a position he held for six years. In 2001, he became president of the Chicago Historical Society.

Bunch became director of the African American Museum in 2005 and, over the next 11 years, oversaw the design, location and construction of the 400,000-square-foot building. He also led the effort to amass a collection of 40,000 items. Showcasing political skill and fundraising prowess, Bunch secured \$270 million in federal money and \$317 million in private donations by the time the museum's doors opened on Sept. 24, 2016.

*From report by Peggy McGlone, Washington Post*

### **Virtual Archaeology Museum Opens**

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has opened its Virtual Archaeology Museum, which displays video, 3D models, and mosaic maps of shipwrecks from the 19th and 20th centuries. The shipwrecks were discovered by BOEM through underwater research and oil and gas exploration. With

remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) and underwater videography, surveys of these shipwrecks are now possible, and photo-real and hyper-accurate 3D models can be created from two-dimensional imagery.

The BOEM Virtual Archaeology Museum can be accessed at <https://www.boem.gov/Virtual-Archaeology-Museum/>.

*From story in Maritime Executive*

### **BLM offers reward for information on Shinob Kibe vandalism**

The BLM is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of those involved in vandalism of public lands located on Shinob Kibe Mesa, Washington County, Utah. The words “Dog Town” were painted in large, white letters on the boulders at the top of Shinob Kibe in mid-March. The Shinob Kibe mesa is an important archeological site and a sacred place to Paiute Indians.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Archaeological Resources Protection Act hotline at 800-227-7286 with any information. Callers may remain anonymous.

*By Ryann Richardson, St. George News*

### **Finding History Along Federal Highways**

Maryland State archeologists are digging up the history of slavery, connecting an enslaved woman who lived on a plantation 200 years ago to modern-day relatives in Sierra Leone. A pipe stem containing DNA from saliva was recovered from beneath the floor boards of a house on the 700 acre tobacco plantation, Belvoir, located near Annapolis. DNA analysis indicates that the owner of the pipe was female, and most likely taken from a community in West Africa.

Archeologists work with state transportation departments to uncover the history hidden underneath and along highways. In 1937, Nebraska was one of the first states to require that highway contractors suspend work and call in archeologists whenever historical artifacts were found. As the interstate highway system was taking shape in the 1960s, construction vehicles drove over thousands of miles of territory to connect the country, prompting the passage of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act, which in turn created the Highway Archeology program. A collaboration between the Federal Highway Administration and State Departments of Transportation, the program regulates salvage archeology during construction and supports state archeologists as they explore sites of historical importance.

*From a story by Emma Coleman*



**The Federal Archeologists Bookshelf: Magnetic detection of archaeological hearths in Alaska: A tool for investigating the full span of human presence at the gateway to North America.** Urban, Thomas M., Jeffrey T. Rasic, Claire Alix, Douglas D. Anderson, Linda Chisholm, Robert W. Jacob, Stuart W. Manning, Owen K. Mason, Andrew H. Tremayne, Dale Vinson. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 211: 73-92. 2019.

Magnetic survey methods show tremendous potential for the detection of archeological hearths in Eastern Beringia ranging from open-air camp fires to heat-intensive activity areas. This overview of the method is illustrated with eight case studies covering diverse geographic settings and time-periods from NPS units in Alaska. The case studies demonstrate the capabilities of magnetic detection instruments in

various modes of operation for finding datable archeological deposits that span the breadth of known human occupation of the region. Examples range from the simplest use of the magnetometer as a single sensor reconnaissance instrument in a “search mode,” to use as a gradiometer in conjunction with other geophysical methods such as ground-penetrating radar, to record precise measurements and inform nuanced interpretations. Examples presented range from the terminal Pleistocene to historic periods, spanning 12,000 years of human activity in Eastern Beringia, and encompassing the arrival, emergence, and expansion of multiple human groups or cultural traditions in the New World.

Link to open access article:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277379118310370>

### **Man Sentenced for Damaging Archeological Site**

Alan M. Thorkelson, of Challis, Idaho, pled guilty last month to the unauthorized excavation of the Devil Canyon archeological site. Thorkelson was sentenced on April 29, 2019 to pay \$2,000 in restitution. At his sentencing hearing, Thorkelson apologized to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes for the damaged site.

In October 2017, Thorkelson was caught by law enforcement digging at a Shoshone-Bannock tribal cultural site that was being monitored due to previous graffiti issues. “These archeological resources are of particular significance to tribal communities. The looting of these resources is especially harmful,” said Mary D’Aversa, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Idaho Falls District Manager. “We aggressively pursue those individuals who commit these violations of law.”

This case was investigated by the BLM with the assistance of the Custer County Sheriff’s Office. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes fully supported its prosecution.

*From EastIdahoNews.com*

## **GRANTS AND TRAINING**

### **NPS Offers Preservation and Treatment of Park Cultural Resources**

NPS Learning and Development is offering combined online and classroom training in preservation and treatment of park cultural resources. This training provides skills essential to directing and overseeing the preservation, treatment and maintenance of park cultural resources within a supportive environment of collaborative, interdisciplinary teamwork. The curriculum is especially designed for Facility Managers, Cultural Resource Managers, and other managers with cultural resource responsibilities.

At the end of the course, participants will be able to communicate and collaborate effectively and respectfully with a wide range of park disciplines toward a shared understanding in the management and treatment of park resources. Participants will be able to make informed decisions for resource evaluation and treatment development, including assessing, prioritizing, and developing and implementing short- and long-term treatment strategies.

The self-paced online coursework will begin August 5 and conclude on September 12, 2019. During four days of classroom experience, participants will work in interdisciplinary teams to solve preservation and treatment challenges within a park setting as a laboratory and test case for applying what they have learned. This year’s field study will be held at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Empire, Michigan. The field study will take place September 16-19, 2019.

You must participate online each week and attend all classroom sessions to receive credit for this class. There is no tuition for this class. All travel costs will be paid by the benefiting account. All applicants will be placed on a waitlist. Please do not book travel until you have received confirmation of your acceptance into the course.

To register for the course, visit <https://forms.gle/wWJJdzajBFNFyw6L6>

**Contact** Cari Kreshak at (808) 228-5334 or [cari\\_kreshak@nps.gov](mailto:cari_kreshak@nps.gov)

### **Joint ACHP-Smithsonian Institution Cultural Heritage Fellowship**

Now in its third year, recruitment is underway for a fall semester joint Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ACHP)-Smithsonian Institution Cultural Heritage Fellowship position, supported by the ACHP Foundation and the SI Office of Fellowships and Internships. This year's theme is the Music Heritage of the District of Columbia. This place-based cultural heritage fellowship will consist of a research project exploring the integration of historic sites and museum collections to tell fuller stories about the development, impact, and role of music in the history and heritage of Washington, D.C. The application deadline is June 16.

For more information, go to: <https://www.smithsonianofi.com/achp-fellowship/>.

### **Gloria S. King Research Fellowship in Archaeology**

The Maryland Archaeological Conservation (MAC) Laboratory is accepting applications for the seventh year of the Gloria King Research Fellowship in Archaeology. The MAC Lab is an archeological research, conservation, and curation facility located at Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, the Maryland State Museum of Archaeology. The MAC Lab is a clearinghouse for archeological collections from land-based and underwater projects in Maryland and curates 9 million artifacts representing over 12,000 years of human occupation. All collections are available to students, scholars, museum curators, and educators. The purpose of the fellowship is to encourage research in the collections.

Students, academics, or professionals (employees of the Maryland Historical Trust and St. Mary's College are not eligible) may research any subject in Maryland archeology and must use collections at the MAC Lab. Applicants may wish to look at the Maryland Unearthed website, which provides access to archeological collections maintained by the lab, at <http://jefpat.org/mdunearth/index.aspx>

Application includes a 1000 word proposal outlining the problem and the collections in the MAC Lab to be used to address the problem, a curriculum vita, and a letter of recommendation. Applicants are encouraged to contact the lab to ensure that the lab has appropriate collections. The stipend is \$700 a week, with a minimum 2 week stay and maximum 5 week stay. On-site housing may be available for fellows, dependent on scheduling of fellowship. Applications must be received by June 15, 2019.

Send applications to:

Patricia Samford, Director  
Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory  
Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum  
10515 Mackall Road  
St. Leonard, Maryland 20685

Gloria Shafer King was born on January 6, 1931, in Baltimore, Maryland. She spent summers as a child

on her family's farm near Chestertown, Maryland, and attended Washington College. In 1955, she and her husband, George M. King, started a small excavating construction business in Anne Arundel County. She had a lifelong interest in Maryland history and archeology and contributed funds and services to individuals and organizations supporting this interest. Mrs. King died on May 31, 2004, and this fellowship in her memory recognizes her many contributions to the preservation of the past.

**Contact:** Patricia Samford, [patricia.samford@maryland.gov](mailto:patricia.samford@maryland.gov)

### **Tribal Heritage Grants Available**

The FY2019 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Tribal Heritage Grants has been posted on [grants.gov](http://grants.gov). Information on the NOFO can be found under [opportunity number P19AS00200](#) on [grants.gov](http://grants.gov), and also on the STLPG web site, <https://www.nps.gov/thpo/tribal-heritage/application.html>.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE:** Federally recognized Indian tribes, Alaskan Native groups, and Native Hawaiian organizations defined as eligible applicants under the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. §300314)

### **WHAT PROJECTS ARE FUNDED:**

1. Locating and Identifying Cultural Resources – up to \$50,000
  - A. Survey and Inventory of Historic or Significant Places
  - B. Survey of Traditional Skills and Information
2. Preserving a Historic Property listed on the National Register -- up to \$60,000
  - A. Project Planning (Plans and Specifications for Preserving a Specific Structure or Site)
  - B. Repair Work to Preserve a Specific Historic Structure or Site
3. Comprehensive Preservation Planning – up to \$50,000
4. Oral History and Documenting Cultural Traditions – up to \$50,000
5. Education and Training for a Historic Preservation Program – up to \$50,000
6. Historic Preservation Interpretive/Education projects – up to \$50,000

Application Deadline: July 1, 2019

**Contact:** [stlpg@nps.gov](mailto:stlpg@nps.gov) or 202-354-2020 for more information.

### **SLIGHTLY OFF TOPIC: SAA Policies on Sexual Harassment**

By Karen Mudar

(Don't be fooled by the 'off topic' part of the title! This is relevant to everyone. As a recent NPS study on harassment has demonstrated, everyone who lives long enough is likely to be subjected to harassment.)

In response to events at the Society for American Archeology (SAA) 2019 conference in New Mexico, Society President Joe Watkins issued a candid apology to the profession, in which he said,

As the President of the Board of the Society for American Archaeology I want to apologize for the events that happened last week in Albuquerque under my watch. I failed to take the kind of action we should have taken to address the distress of the attendees at our meeting. I allowed myself to be convinced that our harassment policy was more important than the feelings of our members....

This situation has highlighted the weakness of our communication with our membership. I pledge to strengthen our internal and external communication mechanisms by increasing the communication between Board liaisons and their respective task forces and committees.

On Friday late morning, April 12, 2019, SAA staff received two complaints regarding David Yesner's presence at the meeting due to sexual harassment allegations made against him while employed at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. (Yesner retired from UAA, in 2017.) SAA has stated that staff began reviewing the complaints immediately.

Within an hour of receipt of the complaints, SAA received correspondence from UAA Chancellor Cathy Sandeen. Sandeen informed SAA that on April 8, 2019, Yesner had been banned from UAA's campus and events after a Title IX investigation found nine women's accusations of sexual harassment and assault to be credible. Three claimants in the investigation were also at the SAA meeting and reported Yesner's presence to the organization. SAA banned Yesner from the meeting Friday afternoon.

In a second letter reporting on the events, President Watkins stated "... the archaeology profession is at a tipping point regarding the issue of systemic sexual harassment. ... Women in our field are being disrespected, mistreated and assaulted and we have not done enough to bring this issue to light..."

On behalf of the Executive Board, he presented a 6-point plan:

- to make the topic part of a presidential opening session in 2020.
- to develop a women's-focused event in DC to discuss harassment issues.
- to create an opportunity for representatives with varying backgrounds and experiences within the membership to have an open dialogue with the board.
- to provide SAA Board, staff and member training on sexual harassment.
- to more easily communicate sensitive issues with SAA and have a counselor at the 2020 meeting.
- to establish a task force and share updates on the task force with the membership to ensure this is an effective and lasting change.

These are all excellent proposals, but some procedural changes would be useful, too. It is unclear when Yesner arrived at the meeting, but he registered on site, and was there on Thursday morning when independent journalist Michael Bolter informed SAA staff of his presence. (Bolter was also banned from the meeting.) To be fair, until Sandeen weighed in, Bolter's information could be regarded as hearsay, and one can hardly expect SAA student volunteers handling registration to be responsible for banning people from attending the meeting. Also, SAA staff are incredibly busy during the meeting, ensuring that everything goes smoothly, and are unlikely to be frequently checking social media.

SAA is changing attendance procedures. The SAA Board has already established a task force to review and update the SAA's policies on sexual harassment (2015) and anti-harassment (2018) and *the procedures for implementing these policies*. All potential attendees will be required to certify they have not ever been the subject of a negative finding on a Title IX investigation and have not had a current or pending disciplinary action resulting from an RPA grievance investigation. Whether self-reporting that you have been accused of harassment is going to be effective remains to be seen.

In another turn of events, 20 female students, including the SAA 2019 meeting attendees, filed a civil suit in federal court on May 14, alleging that they suffered sexual harassment, exploitation, and academic and professional retaliation from Yesner. The suit also names the UA Board of Regents. The plaintiffs are

demanding a trial by jury; reimbursement for tuition; reimbursement for expenses incurred as a consequence of the sexual harassment; damages for deprivation of equal access to educational benefits and opportunities provided by the University; and damages for lost earnings and earning capacity. Among other things, they are also demanding Yesner's name be removed from their diplomas.

*From report by Lizzie Wade, Science; Laura Holman, Grant Robinson, KTOO;  
SAA website*

**Archeology E-Gram**, distributed via e-mail on a regular basis, includes announcements about news, new publications, training opportunities, national and regional meetings, and other important goings-on related to public archeology in the NPS and other public agencies. Recipients are encouraged to forward *Archeology E-Grams* to colleagues and relevant mailing lists. The *Archeology E-Gram* is available on the *News and Links* page at [www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm](http://www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm) on the NPS Archeology Program website.

**Contact:** Karen Mudar at [karen\\_mudar@nps.gov](mailto:karen_mudar@nps.gov) to contribute news items and to subscribe.