



Council of Allied Societies

Chair: Steve Tomka stomka@rkci.com

Vice Chair: Jaye Smith jaye_smith@flash.net

Secretary: Andrew E. Gourd andrew.e.gourd@gmail.com

December 2021 CoAS News and Notes:

WELCOME! Grant County Archaeology Society to CoAS!

Please [visit their website](#) to learn about all GCAS does to help protect and educate on Mimbres archaeology.

WELCOME! Alaska Anthropological Association to CoAS!

Please [visit their website](#) to learn about their efforts to foster public knowledge and interest in circumpolar cultural heritage

WELCOME BACK! Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology to CoAS!

We are pleased to welcome SPA back to CoAS and look forward to continued collaboration and advocacy efforts. Please visit their [website](#).

HOT OFF THE PRESS! The November CoAS Newsletter.

So many thanks to our CoAS Newsletter Editor, Belinda Riehl-Fitzsimmons - the newsletter is chock-full of great content, news and information - do not delay in reading your [copy!](#)

A friendly reminder to all CoAS members that SAA Crabtree Award Nominations are *due January 7, 2022.*

Our goal is to have one nomination from each of our CoAS member societies! Visit this [link](#) for more information and submission requirements.

Another friendly reminder – submit your State Archaeology Poster for the SAA Poster Contest – *deadline March 1, 2022.*

For more information, visit this [link](#).

CoAS Facebook Group is growing!

Invite all of your Society members and chapters to join our Facebook group. It is a great place to post your upcoming Society activities and events.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/saacoas>

Notes from the Chair:

We are now in the holiday spirit and I slow down just a bit from my normal routine of working 12-hour days to only spending 10 hours in front of my computer. The newly gained 2 hours I tend to spend organizing my thoughts and reflecting on the year that is about to pass and the one that is about to open. As I reflect back over the last 11 months, I marvel at how much the Council has grown and how much we have accomplished through the boundless energy by my co-conspirators, the awesome talents of Belinda Riehl-Fitzsimmons (CoAS newsletter editor), the always there to help Carla Fernandez (SAA Senior Manager Meetings and Membership), and the 17 member societies of CoAS. We have updated and refreshed our Policies and Procedures, we have a CoAS Application that is current and inviting, we are regularly publishing CoAS communications, and we have a very active Facebook Group.

Our accomplishments as an organization, and the energy, richness of activities we hear about through our Facebook postings, the huge numbers of citizen scientists and avocational archaeologists that are pursuing their passion by being engaged in archaeological societies across the country gives me and should give us all a great deal of optimism for the future of archaeology and of the continued engagement of all of you out there to expand the horizons through which we can all share our love for the past and our quest to continue learning about it. Thank you all for a great year and our leadership group looks forward to continued growth and engagement. Happy Holidays! - **Steve**

Notes from the Vice-Chair:

Looking back on 2021, the best part for me was returning to work on the Robinson Collection Project hosted by Archaeology Southwest for the benefit of the Arizona State Museum. (A very self-serving video of our Robinson Project Team's Paper presented at the 2021 SAA Annual Meeting can be viewed on [Archaeology Southwest's website](#).) To get that initial call-back to the lab in March, then the much-anticipated return to the ASM Repository in September made these past few months very rewarding, including the thousands of artifacts our Team has documented and continuing our preliminary research regarding the understudied Safford Basin region of southeastern Arizona. The growth of CoAS during 2021 has been very satisfying - to see good response to the CoAS Facebook page, webpage and eCommunity reflects the desire for continued collaboration and good relationships between the avocational and professional communities, and that it is still at the forefront of the archeological discussion. I am looking forward to seeing many of you in Chicago in March/April and I encourage you to volunteer for the annual meeting - you might find me behind the registration desk, in the SAA office, monitoring sessions, at our CoAS booth in the Exhibit Hall - or snacking on provisions sitting in a quiet corner somewhere - wherever that is, please say hello and let's talk about how we can continue improving CoAS for the future. - **Jaye**

Notes from the Secretary:

I have been back in the working environment for a few months now. After the lapse of time due to staying at home with my children, I had a time for cleaning out the cobwebs of my mind. The thoughtful words of our chair show in my role back in the office as an Archeologist

for a private company. I do not have many interactions with the public outside of small gatherings. My busy life as father, husband, and employee leaves few opportunities for involvement in public outreach. However, the moments that do come up are rewarding. At a recent holiday gathering with making small talk with a stranger who had a common acquaintance I had one such occasion. A fellow about my age who is a teacher in a neighboring town expressed his desire to be an Archeologist as a young man. He wanted to learn more and I referred him to the state and local societies that train and use avocationalists. I made it clear people like himself can oftentimes become better archaeologists than someone such as myself due to the time spent at various sites excavating in a way I rarely get. Even more rewarding during the conversation was a moment when his wife responded to my mentioning of my heritage, that her family knows they were Cherokee. I cannot tell you how many times I have heard that exact line in my life. However, I have learned to respond with a kinder approach than some others that I know. Many families try to claim this heritage as a way to make themselves feel connected to a deeper history of place and culture. This interaction came with a different result than normal. I mentioned that if she was interested, she could search online records at the Oklahoma Historical Society. While her husband and I talked on further, she did just that. On her phone she found the site and input family names she knew to be connected. To my surprise and her excitement, she located a name in the Dawes rolls of someone she recognized from her family tree. She was ready to take this information to her relatives. I pointed her to Park Hill, Oklahoma for further exploring her new lead and possible life altering revelation. These interactions with the public handled with empathy and interest can have profound impacts on the citizens around us that can further everyone's understanding of themselves and their past. It leads to excitement that can lead to private funding and connections that sustain our relevancy outside of academic and statute compliance.

Recent data from the SAA's Cultural Values Assessment shows that younger professionals such as myself and students understand that building trust with our community of archaeologists and outside to laypersons is crucial to continuing our profession. We have diverse communities coming to the profession within and without asking new and important questions. Our work is recovering and understanding human material culture to elucidate the past for others to experience and grow from. It only makes sense that we listen to what others can teach us as well, after all communication is a two-way street. - *Andrew*

SAA NEWS

The digital edition of the [November issue](#) of The SAA Archaeological Record is now available online!

A Survey Opportunity from our friends at ACCIG

SAA and ACCIG student member, Chase McLean, is completing his MA research at Memorial University in Newfoundland, and he needs our help both taking and widely distributing a short survey called "Examining the Benefits of Archaeologists Working with Private Collectors." Chase would appreciate responses from professional and avocational archaeologists and collectors themselves, so please share across your networks. Follow this [link](#) for further instructions on how to participate.

Changes to the Archaeology Celebration Poster Contest

Several of the initiatives suggested by CoAS members to improve the poster contest have been accepted and will be initiated during the SAA Annual Meeting in Chicago. Get those submissions in ASAP - visit the link or contact Beth for more information.

Changes to the Archaeology Celebration Poster Contest

Does your state or province have an Archaeology Day/Week/Month poster? Submit it in the poster contest! The competition is going to look a little different this year, but it's the same celebration of local archaeology and heritage as always. After two years of online voting, we plan to take the best of in-person displays and online accessibility. The plan right now for the 2022 contest is to hold voting online and open it to the public. The physical posters will still be displayed at the SAA Annual Meeting in Chicago, while digital versions are online. For any questions or ideas about the contest, please contact Beth Pruitt at public_edu@saa.org. [Read more](#) about the submission guidelines and send those posters in by March 1!

Get Involved in SAA Public Day

SAA Members are working with Beth Pruitt, SAA's manager of Education and Outreach, to hold a public event at the SAA Annual Meeting in Chicago. If you'd like to join in planning or volunteering, please contact public_edu@saa.org.

Volunteer for the 87th Annual Meeting

The SAA is currently seeking enthusiastic volunteers for the 87th Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL. Volunteer opportunities are open to both members and nonmembers who are eager to connect with colleagues.

In order for volunteers to have meeting flexibility, the SAA requires two 4-hour blocks of volunteers' time. In return for your time, you will receive a complimentary meeting registration.

We will be accepting applications for the 2022 annual meeting until Feb 15, 2022; however, volunteer slots usually fill up in the fall. [Volunteer Application for SAA 87th Annual Meeting \(google.com\)](#)

SAA Government Affairs

From Deborah L. Nichols, Ph.D., RPA, SAA President

Congress finally approved, and the president signed into law, the "hard" infrastructure bill. It represents more than \$1 trillion in spending on roads, bridges, broadband, electric grid, and drinking water infrastructure projects. The SAA recognized the possibility that Congress could use the opportunity of a major transportation bill to put in place provisions to further streamline compliance reviews in order to accelerate project delivery. Over the past couple of years, our government affairs program has worked to educate Congress on the value of the NHPA's Section 106 process—how it not only preserves or mitigates damage to cultural resources caused by federally sponsored undertakings but also creates jobs and economic growth for the states and localities in which this vital work is performed. While there were

streamlining provisions included in the final bill, none of them have a direct, weakening influence on Section 106. The crucial issue now is to ensure that federal agencies, SHPOs, and THPOs have enough staff and funding in order to carry out the compliance work that all of these new projects will require in order to both preserve our shared cultural past and deliver needed infrastructure improvements. The SAA is working on that objective, too, and your membership helps makes that possible.

From David Lindsay, Manager, SAA Government Affairs

As Deborah mentioned above, the “hard” infrastructure bill was signed into law on November 15. While the “soft” version was adopted by the House, the Senate is in no hurry to follow suit—it may be well into December before a final agreement on that measure is reached. Further, Congress must pass a stopgap funding bill to prevent a shutdown at the end of this week, because it appears unlikely that a deal on a comprehensive FY 22 appropriations bill will be achieved before Friday. It is possible that the stopgap could last through the end of the year. Yet another deadline also looms—the debt limit will have to be addressed on or around December 15.

The good news is that as of this writing, the House is expected to pass the STOP Act as soon as today. This would represent a major move forward for this crucial legislation, which the many tribes, the SAA, and numerous other groups have pushed for more than six years. After that, the next step will be consideration by the full Senate.

Finally, on January 27 the SAA’s Online Seminar Series will host a “deep dive into the steps required for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its integration into the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).” The instructors—Kimball Banks and J. Signe Snortland—will describe the roles and responsibilities of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, lead federal agency, SHPO, THPO, tribes, consultants, and consulting parties in each step. Two-hour seminars like this are available to SAA members and nonmembers for a fee. All lectures are delivered remotely through Zoom. Go to our webinar page to sign up!

Recent SAA Actions and Positions

In November alone the SAA has urged passage of the New Philadelphia National Historic Park Legislation, sent our comments on the Biden administration’s proposed fix of Trump changes to NEPA regulations, and given our support for the reversal of the University of Florida’s decision to bar professors from serving as expert witnesses in court cases and to form a task force on the larger matter of school employees providing testimony on public positions deemed to be in opposition to the state government.

SAA members can track the Society’s positions and actions on the [Government Affairs web page](#) and by subscribing to the monthly Government Affairs newsletter. If you would like to sign up for the monthly Government Affairs newsletter, please contact David Lindsay at david_lindsay@saa.org.

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