



AMERIND ALUMNI NEWS

FEBRUARY 2021, VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

New for you: The Amerind Alumni News

Dear Amerind Scholar,

You are receiving this newsletter because of your past association with Amerind. Perhaps you spent your sabbatical here, perhaps you did some research in Amerind's collection and archives, or perhaps you joined an Amerind Advanced Seminar or were a co-author—we at Amerind would like to stay in touch with you. This occasional newsletter will be delivered to your email address a few times each year, keeping you informed about what Amerind scholars are up to now. We will also be inviting you to Amerind events. I want to thank each and every one of you for contributing to Amerind's long history and research mission.

Wishing you good health and good spirits,

Eric J. Kaldahl, PhD, RPA
President & CEO

Announcing the Amerind-SAA Advanced Seminar Winner for 2020

But wait—the 2020 SAAs were canceled! This is true, but thanks to a dedicated group of judges and creative symposia leaders—we held the Amerind-SAA Advanced Seminar competition virtually. We want to extend a big thank you to all those scholars who agreed to give their papers to us virtually, in spite of the cancellation of the Austin meetings. Amerind especially wants to thank our peer review judges for 2020: Drs. Cathy Cameron, Susan Chandler, Katherine Dungan, Paul Fish, and Christine Szuter.

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Photo courtesy of Kerry Whelan





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Announcing the Amerind-SAA Advanced Seminar Winner for 2020

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The winner of the 2020 advanced seminar is *Food, Diet, and Cuisine in the Ancient Andes* organized by Drs. Marta P. Alfonso-Durruty and Deborah E. Blom. Congratulations! Their scholars have been hard at work meeting online to hammer out the next book in the Amerind’s publication series with the University of Arizona Press. We hope—public health crisis permitting—that this group will be able to convene at Amerind in 2021 for a publication ready by the 2023 SAA meetings.

For 2021, Amerind and the University of Arizona Press will release a wonderful new title exploring the Flowering World. For 2022 Amerind’s new book will explore the latest research developments concerning macaws in the southwestern US and northern Mexico. More about these upcoming publications in future newsletters.



Image by LoggaWiggler from Pixabay

SAA Reception 2021

We had planned to continue our new tradition of an Amerind Scholar Alumni reception at the annual SAA meetings. We were fortunate to hold our first reception at the Albuquerque meetings, but we were unable to gather in Austin. For 2021 we will be announcing a virtual reception in the next newsletter. As always—free Amerind books are waiting for lucky winners in our drawing contest. Enjoy this chance to catch up with your fellow Amerind Alumni and win a few new books, delivered right to your home!

Calling Peer Review Judges

How does the Amerind Advanced Seminar process work? It begins when symposia organizers register with our partner the Society for American Archaeology. The SAA generously gathers the information from interested participants and forwards it to Amerind. For our part, we call upon you—our Amerind Scholars—to serve as peer review judges. These judges sift through the initial list of interested competitors, narrowing that list down to 4-5 semifinalists. Next the judges divide and conquer, spreading out through the meetings to find the winning symposium.

Interested in helping out? Amerind seeks a group of six judges each year. We ask each peer reviewer to serve for two SAA meeting cycles. Judges winnow the initial list at home. We then meet once before the SAAs to select the semifinalists. At the meetings, each judge attends two semifinalist symposia. Finally the judges meet during the SAA meeting to decide a winner. Fun, good conversation, and delicious food and drink provided. Want to join the team? Contact Eric at ekaldahl@amerind.org.



Photo courtesy of Kerry Whelan

Reconstructing Identity in the Late Pre-Hispanic Papaguería: Production, Distribution, and Use of Sells Red Pottery

Photo courtesy of Bill Doelle



Southwest are partnering, with the help of a Carryl B. Martin grant from the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society, to examine the production, distribution, and use of Sells Red Ware in the context of identity creation and maintenance in southern Arizona during the Late Pre-Hispanic period (post AD-1250). They are examining existing collections with temper and petrographic analyses that characterize variability and the extent of Sells Red production.

Previous petrographic analyses of Sells Red from the Papaguería and a few sites in the Tucson Basin have identified two sand temper compositions that are related. This suggests limited and specific manufacture of Sells Red. Amerind's Paloparado project collection is one of the best published collections of Sells Red pottery. Their team analyzed 50 sherds from the collection microscopically. Amerind has since granted permission to conduct petrographic analyses to further their research.

Need to access the Amerind archives or collections? Contact Eric ekaldahl@amerind.org or Amerind Librarian Sally Newland libros@amerind.org for support.

As COVID-19 was closing in, Drs. Bill Doelle and Sarah Herr (see above) dropped by Amerind. The two are part of a team of researchers developing a better understanding of the Sells Red pottery type. Their group includes researchers Dr. Mary Ownby and Jim Heidke. Amerind's Paloparado and Babocomari excavation projects, conducted by Charles Di Peso, recovered both whole Sells Red vessels and hundreds of sherd samples.

Their team requested access to Amerind's Sells Red collection from the Paloparado site. Mary Ownby, Desert Archaeology, and Archaeology





Scholar Alumni lead Online Programs

As Amerind was forced to close due to the pandemic, Amerind Alumni stepped up to give a series of free online lectures to the world. From a few hundred listeners in April, these programs quickly grew to a thousand people per presentation. Thanks to all who gave their time and talent to help Amerind reach a broader audience, educating our listeners about the latest insights into the human story.



Thanks to all our 2020 Presenters!

- Dr. Marta Alfonso-Durruty
- Dr. Christine Beaulé
- Dr. Deborah Blom
- Dr. Cathy Cameron
- Dr. John Douglass
- Dr. Pat Gilman
- Dr. Matthew Sakiestewa Gilbert
- Dr. Paul Minnis
- Dr. José Luis Punzo Díaz

If you'd like to participate in our ongoing online lecture series—we would LOVE to hear from you and so would our audience! These one hour talks are generally held on Saturday mornings at 11 am Arizona time. We invite our speakers to address any topic they choose. During the lock down of the pandemic, these talks engaged lifelong learners in the most wonderful ways. If you are interested in presenting, please contact Eric ekaldahl@amerind.org.

Private Research Centers in our Scholarly Community

Private research centers like SAR, Amerind, Crow Canyon, Archaeology Southwest, and so many others, play a crucial role in our community. We hope that your experience at Amerind benefited you. Many of our alumni remember their time at Amerind for its great productivity—the chance to step away from daily routines and talk in depth with fellow scholars. For our sabbatical scholars—the opportunity to soak in the beauty of Texas Canyon has led to fruitful writing. The books and publications that have flowed out of these Amerind experiences enrich our understanding of the human story. Further, these publications are benefiting new generations of scholars.

Help us sustain these remarkable intellectual experiences for today's community and tomorrow's scholars. Without the support of our community, these important scholarly opportunities would not be possible. We greatly appreciate your support at any level—as an Amerind member, donor, visitor, or online shopper. Visit our website www.amerind.org to learn how you can help this research center continue to serve our anthropological community.

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