



Center for
Desert Archaeology
Annual Report 2008

Our Goals

To conduct research that addresses questions of broad interest and connects people of today with the past.

To promote an ethic of preservation to the public and professionals.

To achieve long-term preservation of cultural heritage—archaeological sites, historic buildings, and cultural landscapes—in the Greater Southwest.

To enable people to explore and learn about the Southwest's past through creative and varied means.

To achieve long-term financial security and organizational viability.



CENTER FOR
DESERT
ARCHAEOLOGY

a nonprofit corporation

Dear Friends,

THERE IS NO QUESTION that these are challenging times. Like many of you, the Center also feels the effects of this economic climate—yet threats to the places of our shared past persist. Once lost, archaeological sites and cultural landscapes can never be recovered. And so we are committed to continuing our work, come what may—*because it matters*.

2008 was a year of beginnings, progress, and completion at the Center. We received a National Science Foundation grant that enabled us to move into the next phase of our long-term research on population dynamics. Our ensuing work in the Mule Creek region of the Upper Gila River Valley provided students with preservation-based training, and brought us closer to understanding our big-picture questions about migration and population collapse in late prehistory. Funding from the National Trust for Historic Preservation broadened the scope of our site protection program, and our first Field Representative hit the ground running in the fall. At the same time, we kicked off Archaeology Café, a new public program centered on informal discussion of cultural and scientific topics. Our digital media team made impressive progress on the Virtual Vault, a revolutionary project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. We brought you four more outstanding issues of *Archaeology Southwest*. And last, but certainly not least, we published an *Executive Summary* of the Feasibility Study for the proposed Little Colorado River Valley National Heritage Area.

2009 is off to a promising start. Plans are underway for our second field school at Mule Creek. The Archaeological and Rural Historic Reserve System for prioritizing and protecting resources continues to take shape. We're publishing a special *Archaeology Southwest* on early agriculture that revisits and builds upon topics we explored ten years ago. Our expanded digital media team is taking preservation archaeology in dramatic new directions—watch for developments at our redesigned website.

As you see, we're carrying on with this important work because we believe that this is the best way to foster widespread appreciation and responsibility for the places of our shared past. Our successes will ensure that the message of preservation archaeology continues to spread. The achievements featured in this annual report are a direct result of your extraordinary support, in all its forms. Our gratitude is deep, and sincere.

Thank you,

William H. Doelle
President & CEO

Key Accomplishments in 2008

Key Accomplishments

Researching questions of broad interest

In July, Jeff Clark, Deb Huntley, and Brett Hill were awarded a National Science Foundation grant to further our study of migration and population collapse into the late 14th century, when there seems to have been a shift to the Upper Gila and Mimbres valleys of New Mexico. They are also exploring ways in which the concept of diaspora might help them understand social dynamics in this turbulent time.

Paul Reed had a productive year: his edited volume *Chaco's Northern Prodigies* was published in June; he and his team compiled a database of nearly 800 Ancestral Puebloan sites in the Middle San Juan region of northwestern New Mexico; and he organized the November 2008 conference of the New Mexico Archaeological Council.

In the summer of 2008, we partnered with Hendrix College to provide preservation-based field training in the Mule Creek region of the Upper

Gila River Valley. Center Research Associate and Hendrix professor Brett Hill directed the recording and limited testing project; he was joined by Center staff Deb Huntley, Rob Jones, and Katherine Dungan, as well as University of Arizona graduate student Elizabeth May. Participating Hendrix students included Sarah Hunter, Kelsey Parker, Ahren Wardwell, and Owen Wilkerson. Dr. Suzanne Eckert (Texas A&M) assisted with excavation and preliminary analyses.

More than 4,000 prehistoric agricultural fields in the Southern Tucson Basin were located and recorded by Matt Pailes and volunteers Ken Fite, Cherie Freeman, and Bruce Hilpert. Fieldwork on the survey project was completed in 2008.

Jeff Clark joined with University of Arizona professor Barbara Mills on a successful grant award from NSF's Human and Social Dynamics Program. Deb Huntley is among the diverse set of team members collaborating on this innovative project, *Southwest Social Dynamics in Late Prehistory*.



From left to right: Kelsey, Owen, Brett, Ahren, and Sarah.

We welcomed our newest Preservation Fellow, Rob Jones, in the spring of 2008. Rob was instrumental in organizing the first season of the field school at Mule Creek, where he also served as Field Director. Rob's research examines the role of migrant communities in the circulation of obsidian in the 14th and 15th centuries.

Photo, left: Katherine Dungan, Elizabeth May, and Rob Jones. Photo, right: Paul Reed leads the Mule Creek team on a tour of Chaco Canyon.



Preserving our cultural heritage

Throughout 2008, Linda Marie Golier ably shepherded the Little Colorado River Valley National Heritage Area Feasibility Study through several drafts to completion. Released in January 2009, the *Executive Summary* highlights the distinctive resources of the valley and explains the benefits of this singular opportunity for community-based development in the region.

2008 was a year of significant progress at Camp Naco, Arizona. Two essential steps— asbestos removal and fence construction—protected this 1919 military installation and prepared it for a thorough condition assessment. The former recreation facility is the first structure slated for rehabilitation. Together with the Naco Heritage Alliance, we remain committed to the preservation and interpretation of this important place in borderlands history.



Preservation Archaeologist and Cascabel resident Jacquie Dale served on the Cascabel Working Group, a grassroots organization that successfully defeated a proposal to route an interstate highway bypass through the San Pedro River Valley.

Doug Gann and a cadre of intrepid volunteers from the Little Colorado Chapter of the Arizona Archaeological Society successfully moved the Casa Malpais Museum and Visitors' Center to its new home at the Springerville Town Hall. Despite the icy roads and bitter cold of late January, the collections remained safe and sound thanks to the team's dedicated efforts.

A prestigious matching grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Partners in the Field Program enabled the Center to bring field representative Andy Laurenzi on board in August. In November, Andy chaired



a workshop at which cultural and historical resources in the San Pedro River Valley were prioritized for protection efforts. A tour to several important archaeological sites in the San Pedro followed.

Helping people to learn about the Southwest's past

Our *Coalescent Communities Project* was chosen by NSF for inclusion in its 2008 highlights because of its exemplary outputs and outcomes—and the project was featured in an NSF web exhibit. Writer Tim Vanderpool reported on this work in the fall 2008 issue of *American Archaeology*, the magazine of The Archaeological Conservancy.

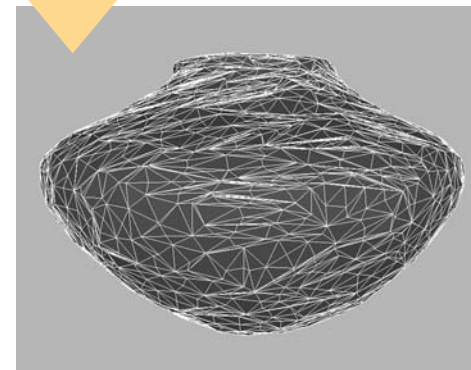
In March 2008, the *Virtual Vault*, a joint project of the Center and the Arizona State Museum, received a Digital Humanities Start-Up Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Doug Gann and assistants employ

powerful software tools to create photo-realistic digital models of ceramics from ASM's renowned collection. The models are integral to an Internet-based browser that will enable on-site and online visitors to experience the pottery collection in awe-inspiring new ways.

Archaeology Café debuted on September 2, 2008. These wildly successful monthly "happy hour" gatherings are dedicated to promoting community engagement with cultural and scientific research. Topics have included early agriculture along the Santa Cruz River, archaeoastronomy in northern Arizona, Chacoan migration and emulation, the effects of the eruption of Sunset Crater on ancestral communities, and findings from a 19th-century cemetery in downtown Tucson.

On November 15, 2008, the Center and the New Mexico State University Museum hosted a special reception for the opening of *From Above: Images of a Storied Land*. This astounding exhibition featuring large-format aerial photographs of important cultural landscapes continues to travel throughout the Southwest.

We were honored to host a special evening with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Tony Horwitz and Center



Special Thanks to All Our 2008 Volunteers

Our volunteers assisted with computer modeling, library maintenance, laboratory analysis, collections preparation, special events, the Mule Creek Project, the South Mountain Rock Art Project, the Southern Tucson Basin Survey, Davis Ranch analysis, and special projects at Casa Malpais.

Connie Allison	Elyssa Gutbrod
Cherie Anderson	Sarah Herr
Hartley Anderson	Bruce Hilpert
Georgie Boyer	Kathryn MacFarland
Peter Boyle	Irma Moreno
Don Burgess	Bill Robinson
Katherine Cerino	Aniela Rodriguez
Diane Dittmore	Will Russell
Katherine Dungan	Connie Sarther
Suzanne Eckert	Dave Sarther
Carol Farnsworth	Linda Shuster
Gloria Fenner	Gabriella Soto
Ken Fite	
Cherie Freeman	

Thank You!

Research Associate Richard Flint in May 2008. These acclaimed authors spoke about their recent works on expeditions to North America from different yet complementary perspectives.

Archaeology Southwest won the Arizona Governor's Archaeological Advisory Commission's 2008 Award in Public Archaeology. This honor is shared with the authors, editor Tobi Taylor, and the production team of Emilee Mead and Catherine Gilman.



2008 Staff

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 Elisa Villalpando, *Centro INAH Sonora*

Staff

Roger Bull, *Webmaster*
 Jeffery J. Clark, Ph.D., *Preservation Archaeologist*
 Jacquie M. Dale, M.A., *Preservation Archaeologist*
 Mathew Devitt, M.A., *Preservation Archaeologist & Digital Specialist*
 Katherine Dungan, *Research Assistant*
 Douglas W. Gann, Ph.D., *Preservation Archaeologist & Digital Specialist*
 Linda Marie Golier, M.A., *Heritage Programs Coordinator*
 David A. Gregory, M.A., *Preservation Archaeologist*
 Deborah L. Huntley, Ph.D., *Preservation Archaeologist*
 Rob Jones, *Preservation Fellow*
 Andy Laurenzi, M.S., *Field Representative*
 Debra L. Lee, *Office Manager*
 Kathryn MacFarland, *Research Assistant*
 Fred Nials, M.A., *Geomorphologist*
 Matt Pailes, M.A., *Preservation Archaeologist, Southern Tucson Basin Survey*
 Linda J. Pierce, M.A., *Programs Manager*
 Paul F Reed, M.A., *Preservation Archaeologist*
 Catherine F. Sarther, M.A., *Membership & Events Coordinator*
 Tobi Taylor, M.A., *Content Editor, Archaeology Southwest*
 James M. Vint, M.A., *Preservation Fellow*
 Aaron Wright, M.A., *Preservation Fellow*

Research Associates

Richard Flint, Ph.D., *Independent Coronado scholar*
 Shirley Cushing Flint, M.A., *Independent Coronado scholar*
 J. Brett Hill, Ph.D., *Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Hendrix College*
 Patrick D. Lyons, Ph.D., *Head of Collections, Arizona State Museum*

2008 Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position

as of 12/31/08

Assets

Cash/short term accounts	\$473,992
Accounts Receivable	\$60,782
Property and equipment, net	\$214,254
Savings and short-term investments	\$600,000
Long-term investments	\$4,569,234
Total Assets	\$5,918,262

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$11,639
Accrued expenses	\$499
Total Liabilities	\$12,138
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	\$2,059,562
Temporarily Restricted	\$2,450,866
Permanently Restricted	\$1,395,696
Total Net Assets	\$5,906,124

Total Liabilities & Net Assets \$5,918,262

Statement of Activities

1/1/08 – 12/31/08

Income

Contracts	\$92,471	5%
Grants	\$450,226	23%
Individuals	\$1,758,176	91%
Interest and Dividends	\$205,944	11%
Realized Losses	(\$595,267)	-31%
Sales	\$13,106	1%
Total	\$1,924,656	100%

Expenses

Preservation Archaeology	\$485,539	45%
Education and Outreach	\$380,671	35%
Preservation Fellowship	\$67,554	6%
Fundraising	\$64,631	6%
Management and General	\$81,203	8%
Total	\$1,079,598	100%