Archaeology Southwest/University of Arizona Preservation Archaeology Field School
Student outreach projects presented at the Gila Library/Community Center, June 28, 2014

Alex Covert (Hobart & William Smith Colleges, NY) and Selena Soto (Grand Valley State U, MI)
We conducted our project on the benefits of archaeological survey. We used maps and handmade dioramas to show that excavations are not always necessary when trying to identify and date archaeological sites.

Madisen Dancer (Univeristy of Arkansas)
I did a hands-on research project on burden baskets. I not only researched the mythology behind them, but I actually made a burden basket with local materials I collected.

Christopher Davis (University of Colorado Boulder)
My project was an overview of obsidian, including how it forms, its significance within archaeological sites, and geological sourcing. I also discussed how we can use this information to learn about trade patterns and social interactions in the past.


Riley Duke (University of Arizona)
I compared the projectile points found at the 3-Up and Dinwiddie archaeological sites. This comparison provided information about when the sites were occupied and differences in the raw materials the prehistoric village residents had access to.


Andrew Finn (Mesa Community College, AZ)
I compared four different types of throwing weapons: the atlatl, baton de commandement, thronged arrow thrower, and rabbit stick. My goal was to educate visitors on the history and use of these weapons through hands-on experience using versions we constructed though experimental archaeology.

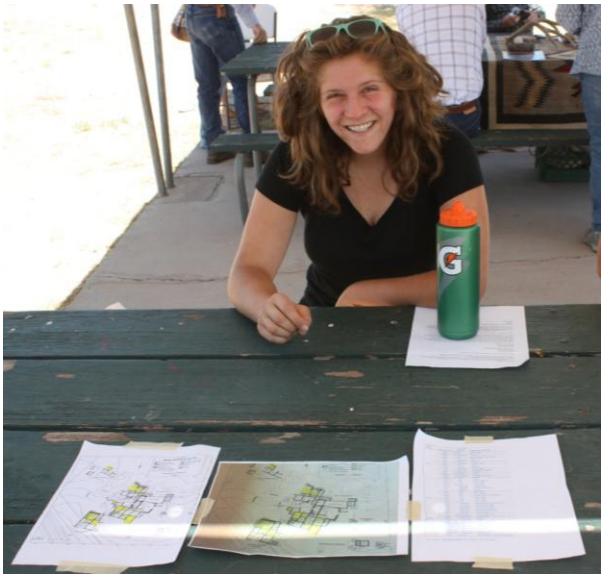
Maxwell Forton (Michigan State Univeristy)
My project consisted of identifying Kayenta-style manos and axe heads in the groundstone assemblage at the Dinwiddie site. By examining which rooms had finger-grooved manos and fully grooved axe heads rather than other forms, we can gauge the possible influence of Kayenta presence at the site.

Jacqueline Fox (Arizona State University)
My project researched the various chemical and microscopic means of analyzing and sourcing ceramics, focusing on INAA, PIXE, XRD, and petrography. These processes reveal the elemental and geological components of ceramics to examine where and how they were made, which can provide information on human movement, resources, and trade connections.

Danielle Gilbert (Arizona State University)
I conducted an experimental archaeology project to better understand the manufacturing process behind glycymeris shell bracelets. I documented the process of making a bracelet with photos and measurements to that I could identify the use-wear patterns on ground stone and understand the formation of the bracelet.

Kaelyn Olson (University of Minnesota-Morris)
I did an experimental archaeology project making cattail mats. Its purpose was to examine wear on the mats and the roles of different weave patterns, and to compare the results to the use of different plants in the region.

Izzy Starr (Wellesley College, MA)
I examined figurative Mimbres ceramics found at NAN Ranch Ruin to compare their locations within different room blocks at the site. I hypothesized that different types of images might signify horizontal (familial, clan, or moiety) or vertical (elite and common) social stratification with different areas.



Aaron Trumbo (University of Hawaii Maui College)
I built a cut-away model of an idealized Cliff phase adobe room to study and illustrate ancient construction techniques. The sand and clay used in the adobe mix was locally sourced from Mule Creek.


Erin Verbeck (Vanderbilt University, TN)
I looked at Mimbres pottery to assess whether hachure (repeated lines on pottery) represents water. I examined pottery from NAN Ranch Ruin (in the middle Mimbres Valley) to see whether there were any correlations between the presence of hachure on pottery and social status or sex of individuals found buried at the site.


Hannah Zanotto (Arizona State University)
I examined variations in the types of paint used on Salado polychrome pottery at the Dinwiddie site. By examining carbon vs. mineral paint used on pottery, we can learn more about social interactions and identify northern influences in locally made ceramics.

Other displays at the Archaeology Fair included a make-your-own jewelry table (where visitors made steatite pendants) a flintknapping demonstration by Allen Denoyer (Archaeology Southwest), and a general archaeology information table.

The Archaeology Fair was followed by a tour of excavations in progress at the Dinwiddie Site.

Thank you to Madge Slavec and the Gila Library and Community Center for their help and support in organizing the Archaeology Fair; to the owners and employees of the Rocker Diamond X Ranch, our wonderful hosts in Mule Creek; to the owner of the Dinwiddie Site for his support of our work there; and to the students and staff of the 2014 Preservation Archaeology Field School for their hard work, both in the field and their late nights with computers, glue, posterboard, cattails, mud, and all kinds of other unexpected materials.