

A Letter from the President of the Council for Minnesota Archaeology

Fellow CMA Members,

May you live in interesting times. Although the derivation of this phrase is unclear (citations are not forthcoming), we all know we would rather live in uninteresting times where rules and protocols are clear, sands don't sift, and the pendulum swings in our favor.

These have not been those times for most of us. For me, the field season looked to be off to the same start as last year, with small projects trickling in as we wrapped up reports and projects from the last season. Then everything paused. Major clients no longer had work for us, instead imposing spending freezes. Developers decided to wait and see for a while. Regulators and reviewers were given longer windows before communication, and some stakeholders stopped communicating all together. I watched our project load slowly dwindle to zero and my team of subconsultants started looking for other opportunities. Work has become a delicate dance of staying connected to clients without looking needy, looking for pivots, team meetings online for members spread out all over the cities, masks, and sanitizing. It has been especially hard for professionals working at the Science Museum and MNHS.

One of my personal frustrations is the knowledge I am still 'essential' and able to operate in the field but feeling hamstrung by an inaccessibility to the information needed to finish a job. We can no longer go to OSA, SHPO, and MNHS; and while there are some portals of online information available, it is a shadow of our old ability to come in and sift through all the available reports, notes, and maps of past professionals. Our industry has not kept up with the times and we absolutely need to do more to move our knowledge base away from paper silos and into digital clouds.

The CMA has tried to move slowly into this future. We had an online meeting for the spring which was well-attended, and I look forward to our next gathering. Furthermore, we have had an archaeology student from Morris volunteering their time to organize and scan our archives for posting online.

However, I am left wondering what can we do as an organization? Who can we talk to, to help those we rely upon to make access to the information we need better? I feel the frustration of our CMA members who work for OSA, SHPO, and MNHS; they are not the ones who can necessarily do anything. Is it time for us to move our complaints higher up the food chain? Or, is this just an issue for a relatively small number of us, and business should continue as normal?

After this newsletter and my letter are put out to our membership, I will start an email chain posing these very questions. Hopefully, it will help me generate some answers to my own questions, or at least help me to better appreciate

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Current Officers:

- Jeremy Nienow
President
- Laura Koski
Vice-President
- Fred Sutherland
Secretary/Treasurer
- Anastasia Walhovd
Editor
- Tim Tumberg
Past-President

where others of us in the industry are.

Finally, we still have our own CMA conference to plan for February 2021. It appears the traditional conferences (for example the SHA) are moving to an online venue. Should we do the same, while holding out for a traditional event? As always, my digital door is open, feel free to drop me a line.



T: 651-295-3744 | Jeremy.nienow@gmail.com

A Letter from the Vice President

CMA Members,

I would like to highlight our three new CMA members voted in at the June 6th meeting: David Maki, Tom Trow, and Andrea LaVasseur. All are experienced archaeologists or archaeologically-affiliated professionals either joining CMA for the first time, or returning to the CMA in retirement. I would also like to mention that at least one of the new members, along with our strong and diverse turnout from across the state at the last CMA meeting, are due to us trying out the CMA's first ever virtual meeting. We had strong support both before and during the meeting to utilize the online platform more often, and I think it is something we should pursue. Not only does it help us maintain safety measures in the time of a global pandemic, but it allows members from across the state (and neighboring states) to join and be a part of events they otherwise may not be able to make the commute to.

I would love to use the online platform for events besides meetings as well, and if any members would like to come forward with ideas for online seminars, panels, or even trainings or workshops, they can contact me at ljorenl@gmail.com and we'll see what we can get going! Please take this as a call-to-action for online CMA events and to take this moment to brainstorm how we can better highlight diverse voices in the CMA in our organization.

Laura Koski, M.S.

An Update from the Secretary Treasurer

Fellow CMA Members,

Short and sweet update: We currently have 42 active members and just under \$5,100.00. If you still need to renew your dues, please do not hesitate to reach to me at fsuthy@gmail.com or send a check to the address provided.

Fred Sutherland, Ph.D., RPA

Mailed items/checks should be sent to:

Council for Minnesota Archaeology
Kellogg Center
328 W. Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55102

Announcements

Getting the Archives Organized

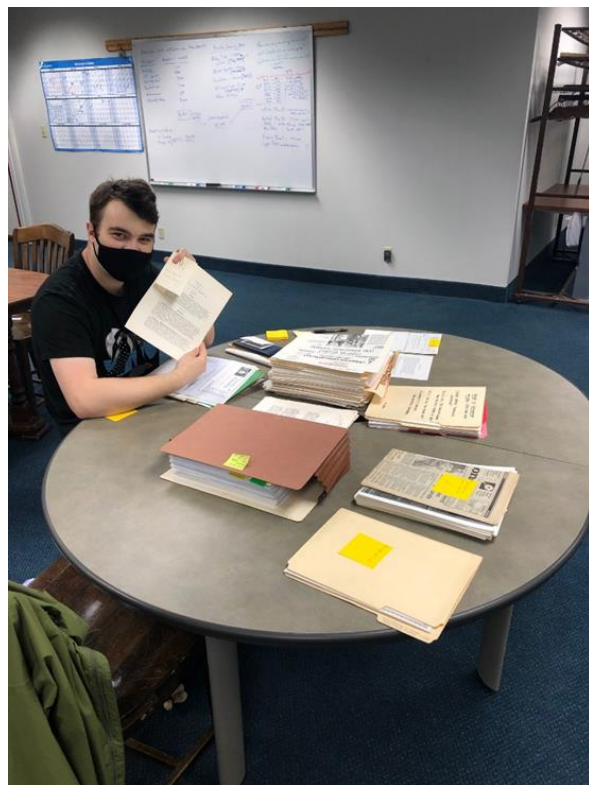
From Jeremy Nienow

For years, various officers of the CMA have diligently carried file boxes, briefcases, or backpacks from one meeting to another with the paper archives of our organization: bank statements; curriculum vitae; drafted letters; reports; etc. For a time, these materials were passed from officer to officer. Eventually, Pat Emerson stored a couple banker's boxes of materials in her office at Fort Snelling. Today, the materials are all stored at NCC's offices in St. Paul in our long-term storage cage. I started going through these materials last year after Pat's passing and found a mess of correspondence, causes, and caustic arguments among past members. There are some particularly scorching salvos from folks such as Elden Johnson. The piles were unfortunately too much for me to make my way through, I just didn't know where to start and could never find the time; and then Elias came along.

I met Elias Droessler at the MAC conference this past year down in Mankato. I was helping staff the MAS table and I was able to snag a few moments of his time. He is an engaging anthropology undergraduate at Morris entering his senior year this fall with an interest in lithics. I gave him my contact information and told him if he had time over the summer to reach out to me. In June he did just that, and although field work opportunities have been sparse, he has been volunteering in July to organize the CMA's past. The archives are being organized by subject and then chronologically. Once this is completed, he will be scanning in newsletters, member lists, bylaws, and other pieces of less sensitive information so they may be added to our website.

If you are interested in looking through the collection once he is completed, reach out to me for an appointment. For those who know students with a documentary anthropology or history of organizations bent, there could even be a senior thesis in there. If nothing else, you can really learn how the CMA has evolved over the years.

I have ample research time and space at the Offices: 200 Plato Blvd East. St. Paul, MN 55107.



Minnesota Archaeology Month: September 2020

The mission of Minnesota Archaeology Month (MAM) is to promote interest in archaeology and the role it plays in understanding the state's rich cultural heritage.

The goals of Minnesota Archaeology Month are to encourage:

- Public participation in archaeology;
- Stewardship of archaeological sites;
- Communication among professional and avocational archaeologists;
- Sharing archaeological knowledge with the general public.

Deadline to ensure inclusion in the calendar is August 10, 2020.

The calendar will be available on the OSA web site at:

<https://mn.gov/admin/archaeologist/>

(event information submitted after August 15 will be added to the web site as time permits).

The global pandemic has presented all of us with the new challenge of organizing events that incorporate social distancing. After careful consideration and in the interest of public safety, the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) has decided to go virtual with Archaeology Month. We have a public that is hungry for safe things to do, so this year we would like you to consider video clips, podcasts, power point programs and virtual events. If your organization has an archaeology related website we can direct the public to, send us the web address for listing. Going virtual also opens things up to an even larger audience! With this in mind, we hope you will consider sponsoring, organizing, hosting, or leading a virtual event during Archaeology Month.

However you feel like participating, *we encourage you and your organization to get involved!*

The OSA is currently compiling a ***Calendar of Events*** for MAM 2020 for posting on our web site. Contact Bruce Koenen (bruce.koenen@state.mn.us) for a form to submit an event.

An Update from Minnesota State University - Mankato

From Ron Schirmer

Despite having to cancel our field school, I have nevertheless begun a new research project at the Belle Creek site (21GD72). Part of the site (a mound and village complex) was recently acquired by the Prairie Island Indian Community, and we (me, my students, and the PIIC) are now collaborating on a project to clear out brush at the site so we can do comprehensive geophysical analysis (GPR, Mag, and Res). The goals are to: 1) relocate mounds mapped by Lewis, which are currently invisible, 2) compile data on the internal structure of different sizes and shapes of mounds, 3) examine inter-mound space, 4) assess how close the habitation area comes to the mound area, and 5) compare the Lewis data (in terms of mound locations and dimensions) with current data. These data will, in part, be used to help the PIIC THPO prepare a site management plan.

Construction of our new interdisciplinary lab (formerly called the AGES Research lab, now called the EARTH Systems Research Lab) is underway and we are scheduled to have the lab fully functional by mid-August. We have acquired a Malvern Mastersizer (soil particle size analyzer), in addition to equipment for tree ring analysis, stream flow analysis, palynology, etc., so that we can conduct and train students in a wide variety of environmental analyses.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE TIME OF BLACK LIVES MATTER

Thursday June 25th 4:10–6:00pm EDT

RECORDING NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!

A panel discussion, facilitated by Maria Franklin & Justin Dunnivant.
With Alexandra Jones, Alicia Odewale & Tsione Wolde-Michael.
Chaired by Ayana Flewellen.



Ayana Flewellen PhD, University of California Berkeley; Maria Franklin PhD, University of Texas; Justin Dunnivant PhD, Vanderbilt University; Alexandra Jones PhD, Archaeology in the Community, Inc; Alicia Odewale PhD, University of Tulsa; Tsione Wolde-Michael, Curator, Smithsonian

Where does archaeology sit in relation to Black Lives Matter and how might we find ways to engage with the insights and challenges of this moment in our archaeological practice? How do we move beyond statements of solidarity against anti-Black racism and towards making sustainable systemic changes in the discipline? And what might that change look like?

This panel discussion gathers notable scholars from different sectors and backgrounds who bring diverse experiences and interests to the topic of archaeology in the time of Black Lives Matter. Themes we hope to touch on include personal and scholarly activism and forms of solidarity; pedagogical and curricular strategies; capacity building and community engagement; and how we might diversify and critically rethink research themes and the presentation of archaeological heritages.

Highlighting Diverse Voices

The CMA newsletter would like to highlight diverse voices in a meaningful way in the next winter 2021 edition (December 2020/January 2021).

Please contact the editor, Anastasia Walhovd (anastasia.walhovd@gmail.com), if you have suggestions or would like to be included. Until then, please check out some content from the Society for Black Archaeologists now available for free online:

Archaeology in the time of Black Lives Matter: <https://www.societyofblackarchaeologists.com/>

Native American Archaeologist and CRM Professionals Zoom Discussion

Are you a Native American archaeologist, Cultural Resource Management professional, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or a student in a related discipline? Would you like to meet regularly with other Indigenous professionals in your field?

**Join us for a Zoom discussion meeting!
1:00 PM Central Time on August 15, 2020**

Please email indig.arch.crm@gmail.com to RSVP and receive the zoom link.

We are a small informal group of Indigenous archaeologists, THPOs, and Cultural Resource Management professionals looking to get to know more Indigenous people in our field across the US and encourage networking, sharing research and job opportunities, and more! If you'd be interested in getting involved or just getting on the email list for future communication, please get in touch with Anastasia Walhovd at indig.arch.crm@gmail.com.

Minnesota Archaeology Research Grants

Riaz Malik Research Grant Program 2020-2021 Academic Year

Council for Minnesota Archaeology Applications are Accepted on a Rolling Deadline

The CMA offers semi-annual research grants to support projects that advance the study of Minnesota archaeology. Examples of appropriate uses include specialist analytical costs (such as a radiocarbon date or time on a scanning electron microscope), or laboratory or field supplies intended for a specific research project (bags, vials, chemicals, etc). The monetary amount of each grant awarded is determined by the selected applications and the availability of funds. Based on the program's history, we expect the current awards to not exceed \$800. Student projects have priority. If no viable student applications are received, the grant is available to CMA members.

Required for application:

- Description of research project, with role of Research Grant defined
- Detailed budget and schedule
- Letter of support from applicant's academic advisor (for student projects)

Electronic submissions are welcome (a single PDF file is preferred). Applications will be reviewed by the grants committee, and recommendations forwarded to the full CMA membership. Funds will be made available to successful applicants as soon as possible after the notification.

Send applications to:

David Mather – National Register Archaeologist
State Historic Preservation Office
50 Sherburne Avenue/ 203 Administration Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155
david.mather@state.mn.us

Deadline for receipt of applications: Applications are accepted year-round. Please contact David Mather for more details.

Requirements: It is expected that grant recipients will publish their results in the CMA Newsletter, *The Minnesota Archaeologist* or other suitable format.

Riaz Malik came to Minnesota as a student of Elden Johnson at the University of Minnesota. He made significant contributions to investigations at Mille Lacs, Prairie Island, along the Rainy River, and elsewhere. As part of the Minnesota Trunk Highway Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey, he co-directed the data recovery investigations at the Bradbury Brook site (21ML42), pictured above. Riaz passed away in 1993.

Updates? Corrections?

Please send any corrections to Anastasia Walhovd at Anastasia.Walhovd@gmail.com.