Colorado Archaeological Society
2024 State Conference Speakers Program
Saturday, October 5, 2024: 9:00 AM – 3:45 PM
(All presenters live unless otherwise noted)

AM-1 Session
9:00 – 9:05: Opening remarks and announcements. (CAS Vice President Larry Beidle)

9:05 – 9:25: Grant Coffey, Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. A virtual presentation of *A New Look: Reassessing Local Archaeological Landscapes Using LIDAR.*
Abstract: For decades archaeologists have relied upon their eyes to discern and document the landscape features of Ancestral Pueblo peoples of the Four Corners region. With the advent of new technologies and instrumentation, landscape documentation is undergoing an amazing transformation. Learn how centuries-old features such as farm fields and Chaco-era roads are being reexamined by twenty-first century technology. Along with Native collaboration, these new tools will help augment and expand our understanding of these features and the ancient communities of which they were a part.

Biography: Grant Coffey is an archaeologist and the research database manager at the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in Cortez, Colorado. He has done archaeological work in the northern Southwest for over twenty years, and he directed part of Crow Canyon's *Goodman Point Archaeological Project.* He has published peer-reviewed research in *American Antiquity, Journal of Field Archaeology, Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* and *Kiva*, and he has contributed to many edited volumes. He also participates in the Pueblo Farming Project (PFP), which is a collaborative project between the Hopi Tribe and the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. In his current position as the research database manager, he manages 40 years of archaeological field data, data from the PFP, and works with various stakeholders to provide access to the data and technical support.

9:30 – 9:50: Dr. Jade Luiz, Metropolitan State University Denver. *"Among the Nymphs": Archaeology of the 19th-Century Central City Brothel District.*
Abstract: In 2023, the Central City, Colorado brothel district became the location of an archaeological field school conducted by Metropolitan State University of Denver's Department of Sociology and Anthropology. This district, active on what was considered Pine Street between the 1860s and 1912, consisted of 5 houses that either burned or were pulled down with no additional building taking place on the site afterwards. In addition to serving as an excellent site for training students in archaeological practices, Central City has an unusually enthusiastic relationship with its history of sex work, best represented in its annual "Madam Lou Bunch Day" festival celebrating one of the more famous madams from the period. For this reason, the project has also become an excellent case study in public archaeology and community engagement. In partnership

with the Central City Opera House Association, the Gilpin County Historical Society, and Central City, students have started to uncover tantalizing clues into the lives of the people living and working in the district. While the public has certain perception regarding what life was like as a nineteenth-century sex worker in a Colorado gold mining town, researchers are attempting to use archaeological investigation to attempt to determine the real lived experiences of the people living on Pine Street.

Biography: Dr. Luiz is an assistant professor of anthropology at Metropolitan State University of Denver. She received her Ph.D. from Boston University, where she specialized in historical archaeology, nineteenth-century urbanism, gender, and archaeology of the senses. Her research delves into the history of nineteenth-century prostitution, and her dissertation work focused on an archaeological collection from a North End brothel on Endicott Street [Boston, MA]. The results of her research have contributed to several publications, and she is the co-author of *Archaeology of a Nineteenth-century Brothel in Boston, MA: Erotic Facades* (Routledge 2023). In June 2023, Dr. Luiz began directing an archaeological field school for MSU Denver investigating the historic sex district of Central City, Colorado.

9:55 – 10:15: Nicholas Puente, CU Boulder PhD candidate and Alice Hamilton Scholarship recipient, 2023 and 2024, reporting on his doctoral research:
Exploring Subsurface Worlds: The Punta Laguna Caves Project.

Abstract: Subterranean spaces have long been important locations for peoples across the world and time. This presentation explores how ancient Maya peoples at the archaeological site of Punta Laguna in Yucatan, Mexico, engaged with subterranean caves. For the Maya, caves, or *ch'een* in Yucatec Mayan, are understood to be entryways to the underworld realm of ancestors and deities. The rain god *Chahk* is thought to live in caves, from which he brings the rainfall that nourishes the yearly harvest. As such, caves are important ritual venues that inform our understanding of how and when ancient Maya peoples engaged in reciprocity with deities and ancestors.

The Punta Laguna Caves Project was established in 2023 to investigate ancient cave use with three goals: identifying caves within Punta Laguna's site boundaries, mapping and surface collecting artifacts in caves to identify ancient activity and documenting the relationship between caves and nearby surface architecture. This presentation reports our initial results, which indicate that ancient Maya peoples at Punta Laguna frequently interacted with caves through their modification, removal of cave formations, known as speleothems, and deposition of ceramic offerings. Additionally, we present a brief discussion of the Punta Laguna Caves Project's future direction.

Biography: Nicholas Puente received his BS in Anthropology at Loyola University Chicago in 2019. He received an MA in Anthropology from the University of Colorado Boulder, where he is currently a PhD candidate. He is an anthropological archaeologist that specializes in ancient Mesoamerica, specifically the Maya of the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. His research interests include collaborating with contemporary Maya

peoples through community archaeology, understanding how ancient Maya peoples utilized caves, and investigating how non-elite Maya communities were affected by the Terminal Classic period transition. Nicholas' dissertation research considers how ancient Maya peoples navigated periods of intense and frequent drought during what is commonly known as the Terminal Classic period "collapse" (900 – 1100 CE), at the archaeological site of Punta Laguna, in Yucatan, Mexico. Nicholas has been a member of the Punta Laguna Archaeological Project (PLAP) since 2020. The PLAP, co-directed by Dr. Sarah Kurnick and David Rogoff, has conducted investigations at the archaeological site of Punta Laguna, in the state of Yucatan Mexico since 2014. In 2023, he founded the Punta Laguna Caves Project, a distinct subproject to explore the subterranean and identify how Maya peoples interacted with caves at Punta Laguna. This project builds on recent developments in Maya cave archaeology and seeks to increase archaeological understandings of ancient Maya cave use, non-Western responses to climate change, and provides insight into non-elite cave use.

AM Session Break, 10:15 – 10:35 (includes time for announcements)

AM-2 Session

10:35 – 10:55: Holly ("Sonny") Shelton, Dominquez Archaeological Research Group (DARG). ***A Bison Tale: The Western Colorado Bison Project. Evidence of Prehistoric Bison Hunting Specific to Western Colorado.***

Abstract: In 2016 Shelton initiated the Western Colorado Bison Project, a DARG research project funded primarily by the History Colorado State Historical Fund. The project is focused on collecting and assimilating evidence related to the prehistoric and historic occurrence and procurement of western Colorado bison into a useable and shareable database. Findings from this project have significantly enhanced our understanding of the interrelationship of humans and bison over time on Colorado's western slope.

Biography: Holly "Sonny" Shelton is an archaeologist, faunal analysis specialist, and field crew member for Grand River Institute and is a Dominguez Archaeological Research Group (DARG) associate. Shelton has worked for over 30 years as an archaeologist in Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Utah. She has also been privileged to serve the public as a Registered Nurse in western Colorado.

11:00 – 11:20: Caitlyn Young, DU Capstone Scholar and Alice Hamilton Scholarship recipient, 2023. An overview of her capstone project: ***Using GIS and LiDAR to Support Community Archaeology Workshops in Surprise Valley, California.***

Abstract: This presentation highlights a community archaeology project in Surprise Valley, California. The June 2023 workshop involved the Northern Paiute Gidutikad Band, the Kosealekte Band of the Pit River Tribe, and local residents. Activities included plant counts and collection, lithic reduction, traditional burn practices and drone photography, while emphasizing Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK). Over the following year, an interactive map was created to document important sites

and plant harvesting areas. This project showcases the connections between people and place, promoting community engagement and enhancing the understanding of cultural memory through applied anthropology.

Biography: Caitlyn Young is a graduate of Santa Rosa Junior College holding associate degrees in anthropology, social and behavioral services, and humanities. She has experience in heritage management and mapping geoarchaeology, and is now a senior in the University of Denver's Department of Anthropology, minoring in GIS. After graduating from DU in spring 2025, she intends to continue her education in graduate school focusing on community-engaged landscape archaeology and implementing mixed-media digital practices including LiDAR and 3D printing.

11:25 -11:45: Steven Hughes, avocational archaeologist. *The Lost Rock Art of Glen Canyon and the San Juan River.*

Abstract: In January, 1963, the gates on the Glen Canyon Dam closed and the waters began to rise. When the full pool level was reached, scores of rock art and other archaeological sites were flooded. Archaeological surveys were made of many of the sites before flooding, but little is now publicly available to view them. Over 200 color slides of the now flooded rock art were taken at 24 of the inundated sites in 1960 and 1961 on the Colorado and San Juan River float trips organized by Howard F. Hughes. This presentation is by his son, Steven Hughes, who also photographed on those trips. The slide show will present a sampling of the better rock art at many of those sites. The underwater site locations will be shown on Google Earth satellite images.

Biography: After getting his law degree from Stanford University, Steve engaged in the private practice of law in Oregon for 41 years until his retirement. He and his wife Laurence moved from Oregon to Fruita, Colorado six years ago in order to have easier access to the Southwest rock art and archaeology sites they both enjoy seeking out. Steve was first introduced to Southwest rock art by his father 65 years ago.

Lunch! 11:45 – 1:00 PM (on your own)

PM-1 Session
1:00 – 1:05: General remarks and announcements.

1:05 – 1:25: Dr. Jonathan Dombrosky, Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. A virtual presentation on *Chasing Bison Through Time and Space: Radiocarbon and Stable Isotope Insights at 5MT1905.* Authors: Jonathan Dombrosky, Reuven Sinensky, Susan C. Ryan, Steve Copeland, and R. David Satterwhite

Abstract: 5MT1905 is an ancestral village site intermittently occupied from approximately A.D. 700 to 1280. The Crow Canyon Archaeological Center has conducted research there since 2017, focusing on reconstructing its occupational history, connections to local and regional networks, its role as a community center through time, and human-environment interactions. Excavations in contexts likely dating to the 10th and 11th centuries A.D. yielded bison (*Bison bison*) remains, which are rare for the Colorado Plateau. These remains are found in various horizontal and vertical positions. However, when the skeletal elements are considered together, the Minimum

Number of Individuals (MNI) equals one. Are there multiple bison individuals or a single individual? Further, did 5MT1905 site occupants procure these specimens locally or did they come from distant trade? We use AMS radiocarbon dating on multiple bison and annual plant specimens from the same contexts to understand depositional rates. We further use stable isotopic ($\delta^{13}C$) modeling to predict where specimens originated on the landscape. Our analyses provide insights into the extent of depositional mixing, whether people were intentionally placing bison remains in the same location over time, and the extent of local to non-local procurement.

Biography: Dr. Jonathan Dombrosky is the Environmental Archaeologist at Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. He received both his Bachelor's and Master's at the University of North Texas and his PhD from the University of New Mexico. He uses big data to answer broad questions about subsistence practices and zooarchaeology in the central Mesa Verde region. Some of his major projects have focused on Ancestral Pueblo fishing strategies in the Middle Rio Grande region of New Mexico during the late pre-Hispanic period. He has wide-ranging interests in human behavioral ecology, stable isotope ecology, 3D geometric morphometrics, radiocarbon chronology building, and conservation biology. His research is published in international journals including the *Journal of Archaeological Science*, *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences*, *The Holocene*, *Hydrobiologia*, and *PeerJ*.

1:30 - 1:50: Rory Tyler, avocational archaeologist. *Analytical Methods Applied to the Interpretation of Basketmaker Rock Art in the Moab, Utah Area.*

Abstract: Most Basketmaker rock art was made between 500 BCE and 800 CE and dealt largely, but not exclusively, with hunting. Basketmaker art, compared to most styles, is representational, graphic and repeated often enough to infer interpretations, meanings and use patterns. Tyler's interpretations of these patterns has resulted in his creation of 80 two-letter codes which can be used as a data set or database for various kinds of searches. He will discuss the methods he used to develop these meanings, which may be testable and transferable to other sites and cultures.

Biography: Rory Tyler has lived and hiked in Moab [Utah] for over thirty years and, as a result "…knows a lot of, and about, rock art in the area" (Rory).

1:55 – 2:15: Dr. Melissa Connor, Colorado Mesa University. *When the Site is a Scene: An Overview of Forensic Archaeology.*

Abstract: Forensic Archaeology is the application of archaeological techniques and theory to legal matters and often used in death investigations. Artifacts become evidence and need to be entered the legal chain of custody. The archaeologist must prepare, not to write a CRM report, but to write a report that defense attorneys will question them on, and the archaeologist will testify in court on their methods and results. As such, they should be cognizant of the Rules of Evidence that outline what constitutes an expert witness and what such testimony consists of. The talk presents an overview of the major paradigmatic and practical shifts that need to be made when working with the medico-legal community, along with case examples.

Biography: Dr. Connor is the founding Director of Colorado Mesa University's (CMU) Forensic Investigation Research Station and a Professor of Forensic Anthropology. She worked for 15 years as an Archaeologist for the National Park Service. She transitioned from exhuming prehistoric and historic remains to forensic body recovery when working with Physicians for Human Rights and the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the International Tribunal for Rwanda, as well as working in Iraq, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, and El Salvador. Prior to coming to CMU, she was the Director of the Master of Forensic Science Program at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

PM Session Break, 2:15 – 2:30 (includes time for announcements)
PM-2 Session

2:30 – 2:50 PM: Andrew Rogers, Geophysical Archaeologist, SRI; DU graduate and Alice Hamilton Scholarship recipient, 2023. A virtual presentation of *Investigations at the Sage Hen Springs Site in Northwestern Nevada: Evidence of Climate Influence on Settlement Patterns and Site Use.*

Abstract: Models of settlement patterns in the Northwest Great Basin describe a decrease in residential mobility, intensified use of upland spring ecozones, and an increase in diet breadth during the Late Holocene. Here I present data collected from the Sage Hen Springs site in Northwestern Nevada during a Phase II testing project by the Bureau of Land Management. These data support existing models at the small scale and point to climatic factors as influences on the cultural shift in the Late Holocene. This work was partially funded by the CAS Alice Hamilton Scholarship.

Biography: Andrew Rogers is a recent graduate of the University of Denver, where he worked with Dr. Nicole Herzog on Great Basin paleodiet studies. His thesis work focused on signals of cultural adaptations to shifting climate in the lithic record at Sage Hen Springs, NV. Andrew was also a staff archaeologist for the University of Denver Amache Project under Dr. Bonnie Clark. Andrew now works with Statistical Research, Inc. as a geophysical archaeologist.

2:55 – 3:15: Peter Faris, CRAA. A virtual presentation of *Basketry Shields in Western Rock Art.*

Abstract: Images of shields and shield bearing warriors are common in rock art of the American west. Actual prehistoric shields are, however, rarely found as artifacts. The few shields discovered are comprised of woven basketry. Given that basketry is usually produced by coiling from the center, I am going to suggest that petroglyphs of figures with spirals in rock art may represent figures holding basketry shields.

Biography: Peter Faris has degrees in Art and Art History. He taught at Prestonsburg Community College (1970–1972) in Kentucky, and Chapman University in Orange California (1972-1974) as well as a part time instructor for Red Rocks Community College and University of Colorado Extension Program (1985 – 1992). He was Director of Exhibits at the Arvada Center (1976–1978) and Aurora History Museum (1995–2002), and was Executive Director of the Western Colorado Center for the Arts in Grand Junction, Colorado (1978-1981). Faris finished his working career as a librarian (2001-

2014). He became interested in rock art while at Grand Junction. Faris has been a member of CAS for 50+ years and founded the Rock Art Chapter in 2003. From 2008 to 2014 he was on the Board of Directors of History Colorado (originally the Colorado Historical Society) as the CAS Representative, and served on their Archaeology and Historic Preservation Committee from 2008 to 2021. He served on the Arapahoe County Cultural Commission from 2006–2016 and 2020-2023. Since 2009 he has published RockArtBlog (https://rockartblog.blogspot.com) weekly which achieved its one millionth viewing in May 2024.

3:20 – 3:40: Dr. Carol Patterson, Urraca Archaeological Services. *Rock Images of the Lower Gunnison River Basin.*

Abstract: The petroglyphs of the Smith Fork Canyon in western Colorado are unique considering their extreme antiquity and remarkable preservation. They provide a relational worldview of the archaic people and the landscape in a canyon characteristic of flashfloods, rock falls and abundant game-hunting opportunities. Interpreting these images through *relational thinking* means being inclusive of the landscape, the river, the plants, the birds, the animals and even the rocks, trails and mesas with the people who lived there. Such topics as these were relative to the lifeways of early hunting and gatherers who were far more attuned to the natural world and rhythms of life and survival than we can imagine.

Petroglyphs that are placed on certain rock faces while other, suitable rock faces are ignored, maybe because the cracks and lumps and spatial position of the rock face are part of the story. Several sites demonstrate that the rock itself mimics the landscape where the story takes place.

Water is of immense importance to ancient people, who learned that rivers could grow and flood over night without warning. High water can cause drowning if one is not vigilant, yet high water recedes leaving boggy marshes for water birds and game animals attracted to the pools. These blessings are what drew people here for thousands of years.

Common body gestures of both humans and animals suggest ‘movement’ for a narrative sequence. Arms outstretched with exaggerated hands are warnings of something nearby, as with unstable rock falls or flooded areas. Images of birds and bears may be seasonal markers for migrations and emergence from hibernation. Abstract designs may represent maps of the local river confluences and mark territories for certain groups. Historical charcoal drawings by Ute warriors depict conflict with the soldiers in the early territorial period in Western Colorado.

Biography: Carol B. Patterson, PhD, a Colorado native, has a BA from the University of New Mexico, MA from Columbia Pacific University, and her PhD in rock art from James Cook University, Australia. She was an adjunct professor of cultural anthropology at Metropolitan State College in Denver and Mesa State University’s Montrose and Grand

Junction campuses. She was employed as a GS11 field archaeologist for the Uncompahgre Field Office of the BLM in Colorado for 5 years. Her company of 15 years, Urraca Archaeological Services, specializes in rock art documentation and reevaluation projects.

She has published several books and journal articles including "*On the Trail of Spider Woman*," Ancient City Press, Santa Fe, 1997. Most Recently is the *Petroglyphs of Western Colorado and the Northern Ute Indian Reservation as Interpreted by Clifford Duncan,* American Philosophical Society Press, 2016.

Her work in the Bears Ears National Monument has produced three articles on the Keres, Zuni and Hopi petroglyphs, in the E-journal "Expressions" Vo. 22, 25, and 26. She has given many webinars and presentations to various archaeological groups in New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, California and Italy. They include "*The Runners*, depicted in rock images of Utah," and "*Clouds* in prehistoric art of the Southwest" These are posted on YouTube.

She now resides in Bluff, Utah.

3:40 – 3:45 PM: End Remarks and Announcements

3:45 PM: Speakers Program concludes.

Note: If you are a CAS member, please stay for the CAS Annual Members Meeting, which will be from 4:00 to 5:00 PM.