Crow Canyon Archaeological Center and The Archaeological Conservancy are recipients of History Colorado’s 2022 Stephen H. Hart People’s Choice Award for Historic Preservation for their collaborative work to preserve the Haynie site. The award spotlights this Chaco village located in the central Mesa Verde region (northeast of what is now Cortez, CO) that was occupied from the A.D. 500s until regional depopulation in the late A.D. 1200s. Haynie has been the focus of Crow Canyon’s research since 2016. The State Historic Preservation Office’s Hart Award recognizes exemplary projects in preservation and archaeology that demonstrate best practices in maintaining Colorado’s past.

Materials collected from the Haynie site provide insights into social and environmental issues including how human-environment relationships change over time, social stratification, and the role of public architecture and community centers. These research results contribute to important cross-cultural discussions of human behavior.

When accepting the award, Kellam Throgmorton, Crow Canyon Field Director, reflected on how the pragmatic embrace of change allowed people to thrive here for four hundred years. These people “witnessed events every bit as dramatic as what we are experiencing today. We are not unique for living in an eventful present. Frequently our impulse is to change a place, but perhaps we ought to let the place change us.”

To learn more about the Haynie site, check out this video: tinyurl.com/ypc9ybyn

ANNUAL MEETING

YOU’RE INVITED TO THE 2022 CROW CANYON ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, October 15
10:00 to 11:30 AM (MDT), via Zoom

Hear from the Board Chair, Ricky Lightfoot, and Crow Canyon’s CEO, Liz Perry about accomplishments over the past year and plans for the coming year. Ask questions and share your thoughts.

We may be able to accommodate local members for in-person attendance at the meeting. Call Jeanne at 800-422-8975, ext. 452 if you’d like to attend in person.

To participate online, go to CrowCanyon.org and follow the instructions for attending the “Annual Meeting.”

MOBILE LEARNING LAB UPDATE

With your help, we are two-thirds of the way to our goal! Supply cabinets and other equipment are being installed including high-speed internet via Starlink, allowing for internet access anywhere. Educators are refining the STEM curricula to be delivered from the Mobile Learning Lab.

Help us reach our goal so that rural students can benefit from Crow Canyon’s unique programs.
Crow Canyon’s first group of interns arrived in mid-May with two working in the field, two in the Lab, two Native American interns working in the American Indian Initiatives department, and one in the Education department. At the same time, 10 college field school students arrived and spent seven weeks in intensive work with our staff and interns. The students and interns shared so much enthusiasm, optimism, and desire to learn this year.

Becky taught an evening program about Ute History the day before Bear Dance began for the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and the students all wanted to learn the steps. The next day a large contingent of interns and college field school students accompanied Becky to Bear Dance on their weekend off.

As a part of their coursework, the students developed professional presentations on the research they participated in with our staff and delivered them at the Pecos Conference in New Mexico.

We appreciate Justin Lund, Noah Collins, Mowana L. Lomaomvaya, and Kyle Kootswatewa for their contributions to Crow Canyon's mission initiatives!

We enjoyed working with the College Field School students and Indigenous scholars who were thoroughly engaged and excited to delve into the realm of archaeology and Indigenous cultural knowledge.

Students learned many perspectives from resident scholars representing diverse cultural backgrounds and gained a more holistic understanding of modern and past Indigenous cultures.

This National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Sites award supports authentic archaeological research for 10 undergraduate students from underrepresented populations over the course of seven weeks.

BECOME A MONTHLY PARTNER

PLEASE CONSIDER A GIFT TODAY!

Making a monthly, recurring gift is an easy, secure, and convenient way to increase your mission impact while being budget friendly for both you and us. You are able to give a little bit more to support the programs you love by spreading out your donations over twelve months. And, your monthly gift helps Crow Canyon efficiently manage its expenses throughout the year and reduce administrative costs.

Scan here to sign up online or visit CrowCanyon.org/support
Members of the archaeological community from around the world came together at two important conferences earlier this year, and Crow Canyon staff were at the heart of it all.

With insights on a diversity of topics, Crow Canyon experts presented on Indigenous perspectives on Chaco research, a collaborative farming project with Hopi, Chaco great houses on Colorado’s Great Sage Plain, footwear representing prestige and leadership in the Chaco world, ancient North American polities, how COVID has affected the future of public archaeology, and more. “Crow Canyon representation at these conferences was remarkable, given the sheer number of presentations we were invited to give,” said Susan Ryan, Chief Mission Officer. Presentations were given by Mark Varien, Susan Ryan, Liz Perry, Grant Coffey, Rebecca Hammond, Tayler Hasbrouck, Tyson Hughes, Kellam Throgmorton, Benjamin Bellorado, and Jonathan Dombrosky.

At the 87th Society for American Archaeology in Chicago, Throgmorton partnered with Erin Baxter, former Crow Canyon field archaeologist, to host the symposium “New Perspectives for Chaco Outlier Research and Advocacy.” Four out of fourteen papers were presented by Crow Canyon staff. “The outcome of a well-organized session can influence the direction of inquiry in the discipline,” explained Ryan. “Kellam and Erin are to be congratulated for this milestone, which was one of the best-attended sessions at the conference.”

The 82nd meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology, held in Salt Lake City in March, provided Crow Canyon an opportunity to share how our mission work is reflective of applied anthropology.

We are grateful for the opportunity to host 23 teachers who have come from all over the country to participate in this year’s National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Institute. In this two-week program, teachers are immersed in an exploration of human migration and identity.

Interpretations from the perspectives of both Pueblo scholars, including Theresa Pasqual and Lyle Balenquah, and Western scientists were examined to determine if and how the information is compatible, how multivocal interpretations of history may influence the understanding of human migrations, and how it is presented in today’s classrooms.

“I learned so much about the history and culture of the ancestral Puebloans. I will be more accurate, intentional and in depth with my teaching of the topics. I will also be able to explain the types of knowing and deepen my students’ knowledge and appreciation of different cultures.”

— Payton Dearborn

“A surprising number of symposium participants had a Crow Canyon connection, which is a testament to our impact on Southwest archaeology.”

— Kellam Throgmorton
Dear friends of Crow Canyon,

Given the nature of the challenges and opportunities ahead of us, it seems like the crafters of our vision statement had access to a crystal ball. The vision statement imagines a future world where conditions have improved from the present state, reveals the deeper purpose of our work, and inspires us to persevere in the face of hardship and disappointment.

During a time of tremendous and unpredictable disruption, we expanded the sphere in which we operated, both geographically and intellectually. Our staff were able to imagine a world where our mission reaches people in a constellation of ways, and they made it happen. When we reach people today, it is with a truly expansive and inclusive intellectual sphere. As the discipline of archaeology transforms, the sphere in which we operate captures our responsibility to reciprocate what we have gained from Indigenous people and communities, the practice of cutting-edge science and technology, and research that seeks to address urgent and intractable social and environmental challenges facing all of humanity. Crow Canyon has been and continues to be inextricably connected by our shared belief that archaeology can help build a healthier society and continue to have an impact in a world that needs connection, understanding, and appreciation of our shared humanity.

With love,
Liz