

# Eastern New Mexico University

## Department of Anthropology and Applied Archaeology

**2024 - 2025  
Newsletter  
Issue 5**

### Contact Us

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### Faculty and Staff

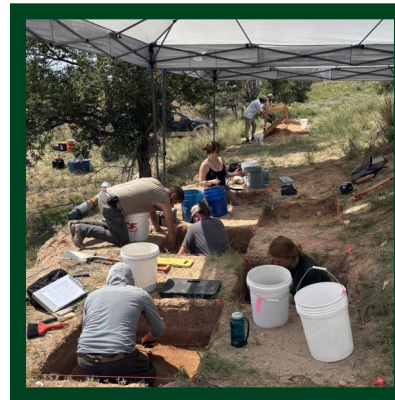
Dr. Brendon Asher  
Ms. Kylie Colvill  
Ms. Cenetria Crockett  
Dr. Kathy Roler Durand, Emerita  
Dr. Janet Frost, Emerita  
Dr. Averi Jones  
Dr. Elizabeth Lynch  
Dr. John Montgomery  
Ms. Barbara Senn  
Dr. Erik Stanley  
Dr. Chelsea Starr



## 2025 Archaeological Field School at Blackwater Draw



Our 2025 summer field school was held at the Blackwater Draw National Historic Landmark site north of Portales. Eleven undergraduate and graduate students and Blackwater Draw Director Dr. Brendon Asher worked in the northern portion of the site at a possible Agate Basin camp that could be around 11,000 years old.



## Scholarship Recipients

The [Cheryl L. Wase Memorial Scholarship for the Study of Archaeology](#) is administered by the Society for American Archaeology. It provides funding for undergraduate and graduate women who are residents of New Mexico and are pursuing a degree from Eastern New Mexico University, New Mexico State University, New Mexico Highlands University, or University of New Mexico. Three of our graduate students were awarded this scholarship for the 2025-2026 academic year: Caitlyn Streseman, Jaimie Adams, and Tara Larson.

The [Archaeological Society of New Mexico](#) offers scholarships to full-time students studying anthropology at Eastern New Mexico University, New Mexico Highlands University, New Mexico State University, and University of New Mexico. Three of our graduate students were awarded an ASNM scholarship for the 2025-2026 academic year: Jaimie Adams, Scott Jones, and Tara Larson.

A variety of scholarships are awarded each year through the [ENMU Foundation](#). Anthropology students who received Foundation scholarships for the 2025-2026 year include:

- Caitlyn Streseman - Stephen R. Durand Anthropology Graduate Scholarship
- Cayla Totten - Anthropology Faculty Scholarship
- Yubitzy Truong - Stephen R. Durand Anthropology Graduate Scholarship

## Student Awards

Each year, we recognize outstanding students in our department. Awards were presented at the annual Hands-On History day event in May. Award recipients for the 2024-2025 academic year are:

- Elizabeth Brandt - Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Forensic Anthropology
- Matthew Tharp - Outstanding Graduate Student in Anthropology
- Yubitzy Truong - Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Anthropology

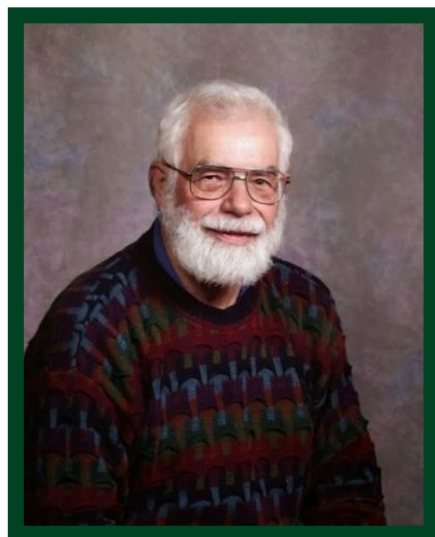
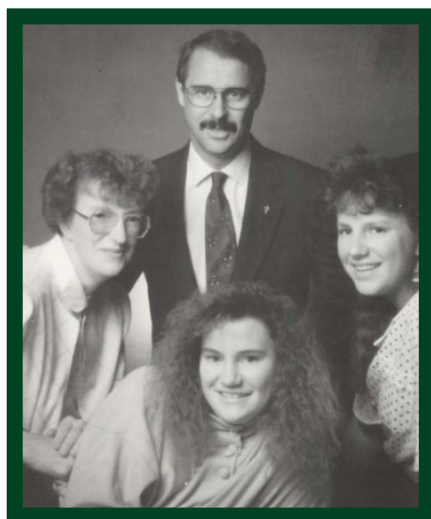


Student Award Recipients Elizabeth Brandt and Matthew Tharp with Dr. Averi Jones



## Dr. Everett Frost

Our professor, colleague, and friend Everett Frost passed away in Portales on October 21, 2024 at the age of 82. Everett came to ENMU in 1970 as an Assistant Professor of Anthropology and over the years served as Assistant Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Dean of Academic Affairs and Graduate Studies, Vice President for Planning and Analysis, and then the university's eighth president. As Vice President, he oversaw the establishment of the Ruidoso Instructional Center which led to ENMU-Ruidoso becoming a branch campus of ENMU in 2005. During his presidency, ENMU received the prestigious Pew Leadership Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Education which led to the establishment of the university's freshman seminar program, which continues today. Other highlights of his presidency included starting the process to develop a BSN-completion program at ENMU and restarting the social work program. After his retirement in 2001, he continued to teach occasional classes and remained active in the department. He is survived by his wife Jan, Professor Emerita of Anthropology, and daughters Noreen and Joyce.



## Matthew Hillsman

Former Blackwater Draw Museum Curator Matthew Hillsman passed away in Portales on June 2, 2025 at the age of 89. After taking early retirement from the Naval Underwater Systems Center in Connecticut, he moved to Portales and earned his M.S. in Anthropology from ENMU in 1992. His thesis was titled *Evaluation of visible and ultraviolet-excited attributes of some Texas and macroscopically similar New Mexico cherts*. Shortly thereafter, he began a second career when he was hired as curator of the Blackwater Draw Museum and continued in that position until retiring in 2014. He is survived by his son Ian and daughter-in-law Carla.

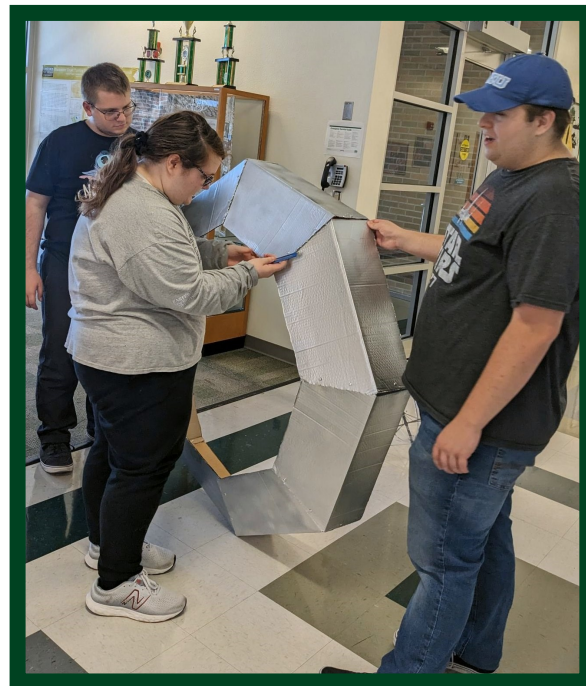
## Blackwater Draw on KENW-TV

Dr. Brendon Asher, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Blackwater Draw Director, was featured on an episode of the KENW-TV show *You Should Know* in April. Brendon talked about the history of Blackwater Draw, discussed why it's so important, and showed a small sample of artifacts from the site. The episode can be watched online on the KENW YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/@KENWPBS](https://www.youtube.com/@KENWPBS)

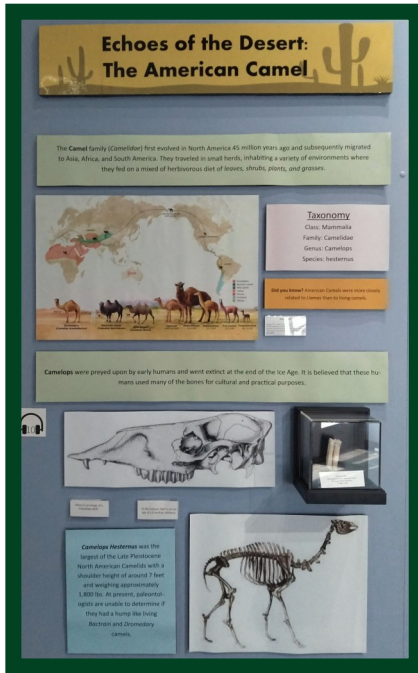


## Out of This World

The 2024 Homecoming theme was “Out of This World”. Mu Alpha Nu Anthropology Club, Culture Club, and the History Guild worked together to create a parade entry with a colorful banner, a moving UFO, walking aliens, and more. They received the Most Outstanding award.



## New Museum Exhibits



Three new exhibits are now up at the [Blackwater Draw Museum](#), located in Lea Hall on the ENMU Portales campus. Visitors can now enjoy *Echoes of the Desert: The American Camel*, *Ancient Footprints: The Folsom Connection*, and *Two Mammoths, Two Different Worlds: Comparing the Columbian to the Woolly*.



The museum is open to the public Wednesday - Saturday 9-12 and 1-5 and Sunday 12-5. It is closed Monday and Tuesday and whenever ENMU is closed.

## Blackwater Draw Grants

Blackwater Draw was awarded a \$78,000 Save America's Treasures grant by the Institute of Museum and Library Services in August 2024. The purpose of this three-year grant is to rehouse, digitize, and inventory a number of small collections of artifacts and photos. The grant provides employment for several ENMU students.

Blackwater Draw received a \$10,000 grant from the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division's Cultural Properties Restoration Fund program. This purpose of this grant is to complete a stabilization project at the Blackwater Draw site involving the oldest hand-dug well in North America.

## A Day In the Life of an Anthropology Student

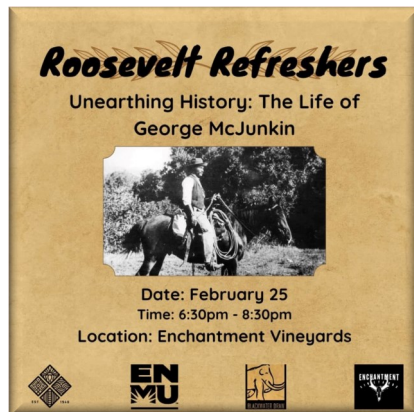
In June, Blackwater Draw Museum participated in a virtual film festival hosted by archaeology content creators Milo Rossi (@miniminuteman773) and Flint Dibble (@Archaeology with Flint Dibble). Their 2.5 minute entry titled "A Day in the life of an undergraduate anthropology student doing field school and working part time as a curation technician at the Blackwater Draw National Historic Landmark and Museum" featured anthropology student Aiden Gamble. The film can be seen on Flint Dibble's YouTube channel (@FlintDibble) as well as on Blackwater Draw's [Facebook](#) (BlackwaterDrawSite) and [TikTok](#) (@blackwaterdraw\_museum) pages.

The museum also recently posted a TikTok video about George McJunkin, the Black cowboy who discovered the Folsom type site in New Mexico.



## Calvin Smith Visits

New Mexico archaeologist Calvin Smith donated his collection to the Blackwater Draw Museum in 2016. He visited the museum in January and was able to see the exhibit about him and the Lea County Archaeological Society that was created by a student intern in 2023. In the photo, he's speaking on the phone with the exhibit creator who is now in graduate school in another state.



## Roosevelt Refreshers

Two members of our department recently gave presentations to community members as part of the [Roosevelt County Historical Museum's Roosevelt Refreshers](#) series. Blackwater Draw Museum Manager Cenetria Crockett talked about "Unearthing History: The Life of George McJunkin" in February. In June, Blackwater Draw Director Brendon Asher shared updates about the 2025 field school. We thank the Roosevelt County Historical Museum and Enchantment Vineyards for sponsoring these great public events.

## Do You Remember?

For a look into our past, here's a photo of the 1997 Mu Alpha Nu Anthropology Club, taken from the ENMU Silverpack yearbook. Students pictured are (front) Kristen Wenzel, Eleanor Williams, Andrea Field, Kari Millet, Lara Rooke and (back) Jana Ekholt, Gavin Smith, Vernice Munoz, Michael J. Proper, Douglas Anderson, Daylene Myers.



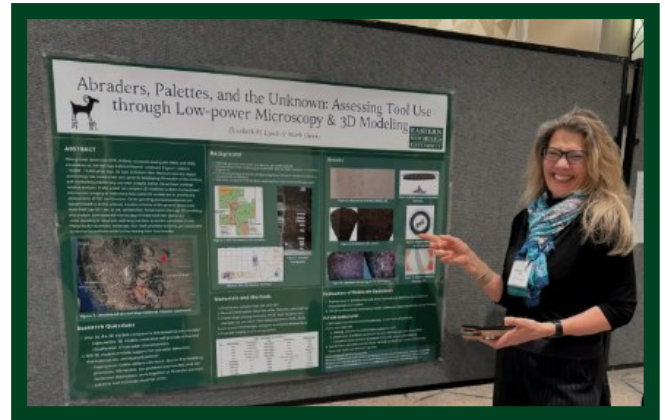
## Blackwater Draw Newsletter

The Blackwater Draw newsletter, *The Draw*, was recently redesigned and reactivated. The new monthly publication is led by undergraduate student Saphira Laughter. To be added to the newsletter mailing list, email them at [bwdarchaeology@enmu.edu](mailto:bwdarchaeology@enmu.edu). The most recent issue is shown on the last two pages of this newsletter.

# Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting

Our department was well represented by faculty, staff, students, and alumni at the 2025 [SAA](#) meeting in Denver. The highlighted presenters listed below are current faculty members or students or recent alumni.

- **Averi Jones** and **Caitlyn Streseman**—Rattlesnake Jake and Longhaired Owens: Uncovering the Truth of Lewistown, Montana's, Infamous Fourth of July Shoot-Out
- **Caitlyn Streseman**—Wear and Tear: Preliminary Use-Wear Analysis of a Hematite Core from Hell Gap National Historic Landmark
- **Collin Charette**—Successes and Setbacks in 3D Modeling: Developing Lab Protocols for Modeling Ground Stone Artifacts
- **Elizabeth Lynch** and Mark Owens—Abraders, Palettes, and the Unknown: Assessing Tool Use through Low-Power Microscopy and 3D Modeling
- **Jaimie Adams**—The Role of Ground Stone Artifacts in Ancient North American Cultural Adaptation: Insights from the Hell Gap Site
- **JoAnna Schultz**—Macro-Micro Use-Wear on Hell Gap Ground Stone Tools by Characterizing Wear Traces
- **Kelly Cresci-Fulmer**—Analyzing Ancient Ground Stone Tool with a Modern Tool Kit: A Summer Lab Project
- **Scott Jones**—Does It Measure Up? An Experimental Study of Hell Gap Ground Stone
- **Tara Larson** and **Emily Cole**—Grooves of the Past: Photogrammetric Study and Digital Analysis of a Folsom Period Stone Tool
- **Yubitz Truong**—Digital Archaeology: The Hell Gap National Historic Landmark and the Ergonomic Use of Manos



While at the conference,, the group was able to meet up with some ENMU Anthropology alumni and some of our online graduate students. Some students also took advantage of the audience of their peers at the rental house to practice their upcoming prospectus presentations.



## Annual Events at the Site

The annual Atlatl competition was held in October 2024 at the Blackwater Draw site. People of all ages participated in the competition and enjoyed several other activities. Competition winners were: Tyler (distance), Grayson (young adult), Abram (child), and Heather (adult and overall).

The Hands-On History Day event was held at the site in May. A variety of demonstrations and activities were provided by The Roosevelt County History Museum; Blackwater Craftsmen, LLC; flintknapper Tommy Hefflin; the ENMU Runnels Gallery; and Mu Alpha Nu Anthropology Club.



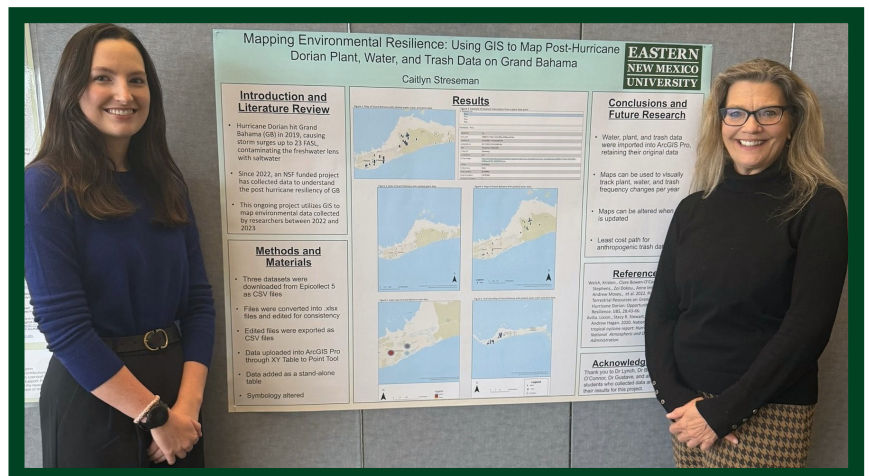
## Alumni Notes

**Michael Jeu** received his M.S. in Anthropology from ENMU in 2020 and now works for the Tennessee Department of Transportation as a Senior Archaeologist. In this position he manages Section 106 projects, does fieldwork, and works closely with CRM consultants and architectural historians. He uses his GIS skills making topographic maps for projects sent to the State Historic Preservation Office for review.

**Chandra Scifres Allred** received her B.S. in Anthropology from ENMU in 1997. She's currently Program Manager with the US Forest Service, Regional Office, Rocky Mountain Region.

## Student Research and Creativity Conference

Our department was well represented at the 2025 ENMU [Student Research and Creativity Conference](#) in April. More than 20 anthropology undergraduate and graduate students presented papers or posters. Anthropology award recipients were: Alison Davis, Caitlyn Streseman, Emily Cole, Emma Johnson, Kyle Montgomery, Saphira Laughter, and Yubitzy Truong.




Yubitzy Truong and Caitlyn Streseman with Dr. Elizabeth Lynch

## Cynthia Irwin-Williams Lectureship

The ENMU Department of Anthropology and Applied Archaeology and the Mu Alpha Nu Anthropology Club present the 26th Annual Cynthia Irwin-Williams Lectureship

### THE CIW EXPRESS

Cynthia Irwin-Williams and North American Archaeology in the 20th Century



**GUEST SPEAKERS**  
Stephen E. Nash, Ph.D.,  
President and CEO of  
Archaeology Southwest  
Paul Reed,  
New Mexico State Director  
and Preservation Archaeologist  
at Archaeology Southwest

Cynthia Irwin-Williams (CIW) enjoyed a remarkable profile archaeological career that was cut short at the age of 54. Her career touched a wide range of topics important to North American archaeologists in the 20th century. In this presentation, Steve Nash and Paul Reed of Archaeology Southwest will critically engage CIW's varied contributions to North American archaeology while examining the challenges posed by the sociopolitical and historical milieu in which she worked until her untimely death in 1990.

**Thursday, March 20, 2025 | 7 p.m.**  
Art and Anthropology Building (AA), Room 119  
Free and open to the general public

**ENMU** Department of Anthropology and Applied Archaeology  
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ENMUAnth@comcast | enmu.edu/Anthro

The topic of the 2025 [Cynthia Irwin-Williams Lectureship](#) was “The CIW Express: Cynthia Irwin-Williams and North American Archaeology in the 20th Century”. Guest speakers for the event were Dr. Stephen E. Nash, President and CEO of Archaeology Southwest, and Paul Reed, New Mexico State Director and Preservation Archaeologist at Archaeology Southwest. Together, they discussed Cynthia's myriad contributions to North American archaeology and examined the challenges posed by the sociopolitical and historical milieu in which she worked until her untimely death in 1990.

The annual lectureship was created in 1997 to honor the legacy of Dr. Irwin-Williams who taught at ENMU from 1964 to 1982.



## Conference Presentations by Faculty

- Asher, Brendon. *Blackwater Draw in the 21st Century: New Ways of Generating and Interpreting Data from an Old Archaeological Site*. 46th Annual Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference. Albuquerque, New Mexico. November 2024.
- Jones, Averi. *Transformative Approaches to Understanding the Escalation of Interpersonal Violence: An Examination of Skeletal Trauma and Tactics of Abuse*. Poster presented at American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL. November 2024.
- Lynch, Elizabeth, Andrew Laing, Nakira Wilchcombe, Scott Orr, and Clare Bowen-O'Connor. 2024. *Anthropological Praxis in Grand Bahama: An Analysis of Multi-Disciplinary Driven Recovery Efforts Post-Hurricane Doria*. Peer-reviewed abstract for the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 20-23, 2024, Tampa Bay, Florida.
- Lynch, Elizabeth and Mark Owens. 2025. *Abraders, Palettes, and the Unknown: Assessing Tool Use through Low-power Microscopy and 3D Modeling*. Poster presentation, Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting, April 23-27, Denver, Colorado..
- Stanley, Erik. *Translating and Reimagining: Indigenous Games in Digital and Analog Modernities*. Paper presented at the Annual Southwest Popular and American Culture Conference, November 2024.

## NSF Research on Grand Bahama



Dr. Elizabeth Lynch continued working on the second year of a three-year [National Science Foundation](#) research project titled “Post-Hurricane Recovery of Island Freshwater Lenses: Understanding the Impact of Social and Hydrological Dynamics through Stakeholder Modeling”. This collaborative project between several universities provides an opportunity for six students per year to participate in a six-week long international research experience hosted by the University of the Bahamas. This year, ENMU anthropology students Caitlyn Streseman and Yubitzy Truong participated in the program.



## Society for American Archaeology Ethics Bowl



The Society for American Archaeology annual meeting includes an Ethics Bowl. This debate competition features teams of undergraduate and graduate students from different universities debating solutions to the ethical dilemmas that archaeologists face in their day-to-day lives. Our students competed in this event for the first time at the 2025 SAA annual meeting in Denver, and their hard work paid off as they made it to the semi-final round. Congratulations to team members Caitlyn Streseman, JoAnna Schultz, Scott Jones, and Yubitzy Truong, their support team of Jaimie Adams and Emily Cole, and their faculty advisor Dr. Elizabeth Lynch.

## Career Opportunities

We collaborated with the Department of History, Social Sciences, and Religion to host a presentation for students in both departments titled “Marketing Research Careers for Anthropology and Sociology Majors”. Guest presenters Dr. Chelsea Starr and Dr. Ken Erickson discussed their experiences in marketing research and explained how a major in anthropology or sociology makes a student competitive for a variety of types of positions in the field. The presentation was presented in person on campus and livestreamed online.



# The Draw

The Blackwater Draw National Historic Landmark & Museum *newsletter*



bwdmuseum



Blackwater Draw NHL and Museum



blackwaterdraw\_museum



Find the Clovis Point hidden somewhere on this page!

## Museum Spotlight

Historical archaeology reminds us that the past isn't always ancient. Mundane objects like a 1950s Pepsi-Cola bottle, found during Eastern in Action, and a potbelly stove, discovered after a fire at the site in 2006, shows how archaeology can happen anywhere. These simple items tell real stories and remind us that the past is always close by. Keep your eyes open. You never know what might be found next. Something from your own life could be part of history someday! Come see the exhibit and uncover the stories in everyday things.



## Curation Corner

Over the summer, field school student and museum intern, Adam, took on rehousing, tagging, and cataloging part of our collection from F.E. Green. Projects like this are important for maintaining accurate museum records and give students valuable hands-on experience working with real materials.

"The curation room taught me the importance of detailed field work."

~ Adam



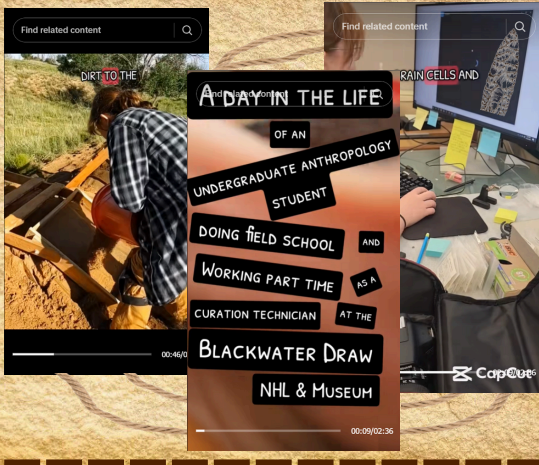
## From Our Archives

As part of Sunny Wood's 2003 thesis project, they created an introduction video for the history of the Blackwater Draw site. Held on a CD in the curation room, this project shows the love and devotion that our anthropology students have for sharing Blackwater Draw's history. This introduction video is still available on Youtube under ENMU Anthropology's page! We encourage you to check it out and appreciate all of Sunny's hard work!



# Archaeology Now

One of Blackwater Draw's TikTok's was recently featured on a film festival held by Flint Dibble and Milo Rossi (Miniminteman). The video featured our curation technician, Aiden, and was made by our Collections Specialist, Kylie. We are so proud of their hard work! See a day in the life of a field school student also working at the museum by checking out our TikTok page (@blackwaterdraw\_museum)!



## Paleo Puzzle







I N T E R N S H I P  
 H I S T O R I C A L  
 E B O T T L E G G U  
 U F C E C Q H F F M  
 M S T A U D E E L E  
 V H R M Q M I R D T  
 I O O W Y D Y G R A  
 D V W O F L A K E G  
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## Site Fun



June 2<sup>nd</sup> marked the beginning of ENMU's 2025 Field School. The team was incredible and we are so proud of all their hard efforts! Over the month, the team moved an impressive 29 tons of dirt; carefully excavating, sifting, and documenting as they gained real world experience in archaeological fieldwork. Field school is a unique opportunity for students to step beyond the classroom and engage directly with the process of archaeology. See more under the ENMU Anthropology section on our website!

   **Did you know? The BWD Site was found in 1929 by a 19-year-old Portales native!**   

### Upcoming Events

It's all quiet here this month, but keep an eye out for future opportunities!



### Museum Hours

Wed-Sat.....9am - 12pm; 1pm - 5pm  
 Sunday.....12pm - 5pm

### Site Hours

Summer (June - August)  
 Thursday-Sunday.....9am - 4pm

Free every 4th Sunday for all! Active-duty military and families free until September 1st!

1500 S. Ave K, Lea Hall Room 163  
 Portales, NM 88130

508 Route 467  
 Portales, NM 88130



computer  
 Clovis point location: Aiden's curation

[www.bwdarchaeology.com](http://www.bwdarchaeology.com)

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