

President's Letter

Jennifer McGlinchey Sexton

I know I join the rest of the WAAC community in sadness with the news of Scott Carrlee's passing. A former WAAC president, Scott was a conservator at the Alaska State Museum in Juneau, where he was responsible for a robust intern program, among other important projects. In this issue, you will find an article about Scott penned by Nancy Odegaard.

Scott introduced me to WAAC in 2009 when I was an intern in Juneau and he was WAAC president. He described WAAC as a small, unique community of conservators without the formality of AIC. All this while he was trying to recruit me to speak at the upcoming meeting. I was more than a little reluctant because I had never spoken at a professional meeting. He assured

me that WAAC was a great place to get your feet wet and that the group would be supportive and interested. He was right, of course. Giving that talk was not only painless, but it helped me gain confidence for more "formal" venues. I have many fond memories of my internship in Juneau, particularly of traveling around Alaska with Scott. He encouraged me to take risks, both personally and professionally, a strategy that worked for him and has paid off many times over in my life. I will continue to be inspired by his dedication to cultural heritage, community, and living life to the fullest without apology.

I hope we all have the opportunity to share stories at the upcoming (September 26-30th) meeting at Ghost Ranch. The local planning committee in New Mexico has been diligently working on logistics. Since we are without a local president this year, their role in planning and executing this meeting is especially crucial. So far, their efforts include evening events, an Angel's project, and giving us the insider's scoop on local activities. For example, our meeting overlaps with some interesting local events, particularly the San Geronimo Feast Day at Taos Pueblo. If you are still in professional development mode, there are numerous museums and cultural sites in the region for every specialty and interest. Additionally, there is an Artisan Materials Expo at Rolling Thunder Resort & Casino just north of Sante Fe.

O'Keeffe themed events are also in the works that may give opportunities to tour some of her private homes. Regardless, we will have plenty of opportunity to explore and appreciate the landscape around Ghost Ranch that inspired much of O'Keeffe's work in New Mexico. There are numerous hiking trails at Ghost Ranch, as well as other nearby locations like Abiquiu lake, Christ in the Desert Monastery, the Dar Al Islam Mosque and local archaeological sites. If you are looking for something more luxurious, Ojo Caliente is nearby, offering hot springs and spa services.

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Schedule at a Glance

WAAC Conference	Wednesday September 26	Thursday September 27	Friday September 28	Saturday September 29
Morning	Angels Project: storage improvement at Ghost Ranch Museums	Conference Program at Agape Center	Conference Program at Agape Center/Tours of GOK home-studio at Ghost Ranch	Conference Program at Agape Center
Afternoon		Conference Program at Agape Center	Conference Program at Agape Center/Tours of GOK home-studio at Ghost Ranch	
Evening	Welcome Reception at the Art Center (s'mores and hot chocolate)	Reception at O'Keeffe Welcome Center/ Tours of GOK home and studio in Abiquiu	Banquet in the Agape Courtyard	

President's letter, continued

Don't miss the opportunity to visit the nearby cities of Sante Fe, Taos, and Albuquerque. Each offer unique character that is difficult to describe or find elsewhere. I have had some opportunity to explore the area since moving to the region in 2016. By far, my favorite discovery has been Meow Wolf, an experiential artist-driven installation in an old bowling alley in Santa Fe. It truly defies description, so I will just implore you to go (and bring the kids).

In this issue, you will find a call for nominations. Member participation in WAAC is vital to our organization, and I encourage you to speak up to make your voice heard either as Member at Large, VP, or by nominating a worthy colleague. I have enjoyed my tenure on the board as a MAL and hope to continue to do my part to keep our unique WAAC community thriving.

Jennifer McGlinchey Sexton, MAL

Angels Project

September 26, 2018, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Do you like fossils and archaeological materials?

Then please join us for this one-day storage improvement project at the Florence Hawley Ellis Museum of Anthropology and the Ruth Hall Museum of Paleontology, the onsite museums at Ghost Ranch!

This will be the first time that the museums have the opportunity to work with professional conservators. The work will include preparing fitted, padded storage containers for individual fossils. Ghost Ranch is the top dinosaur fossil site in the world for the Triassic period, and the Ruth Hall Paleontology Museum highlights dinosaurs found on-site. The size of this museum belies the importance of its collection.

Gretchen Gürtler with assistance from Axel Hungerbeuhler, both from the Mesalands Dinosaur Museum in Tucumcari, NM, will lead the project, with Susan Barger as Angels Coordinator.

Due to the limited size of the working spaces at the museums, participation will be limited.

Angels will receive a 50% discount on Ghost Ranch accommodation Tuesday night. The Angels Project is generously supported by an FAIC grant and Ghost Ranch. Details on how to sign up will follow.



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Deadline
Contributions for the January Newsletter should be received by the Editor before **August 15, 2018**.