



# *NewsMAC*

**Newsletter of the New Mexico Archeological Council**

**P.O. Box 25691  
Albuquerque, NM 87125**

*NewsMAC*  
**Spring 2025**  
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**PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**

Greetings to the NewsMAC readership!

I hope the beginning of the year has treated everyone well. I will be the New Mexico Archaeological Council (NMAC) president for the year, and I am excited to build on our past successes. We ended 2024 with a highly successful Annual Meeting, and the 2025 meeting is being planned as we speak. More details will be forthcoming in future NewsMACs and on the organization website. The success and high participation in last year's meeting means that NMAC is financially well-equipped to tackle the new year.

The NMAC executive committee held their first quarterly meeting in early March. NMAC is still working with various agencies to create workshops useful for archaeological professionals in New Mexico, and more details will be provided as plans are solidified for workshops later in the year.

I know many archaeological professionals in New Mexico are concerned about the impact the new federal administration might have on archaeological compliance nationwide, and the NMAC Legislative Committee is closely monitoring new developments in, and changes to, federal guidance and policy. The NMAC executive committee will discuss any developments that might have adverse effects on the profession and individuals within it.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of NMAC and participation in NMAC events.

Sincerely,

Evan Giomi  
2025 NMAC President  
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## David V. Hill, PhD (1952-2024)



*Selected photo provided by David Hill (right), Renee Lewis (center), and Deni Seymour (left) discussing ceramics in the field.*

David could not help but be an archaeologist. David grew up in a home with National Geographic magazines dating into the nineteenth century. His father spent World War II as an aid to one of General Patton's doctors while the general was in Cairo. He took courses in Egyptology at the Cairo Museum and took hundreds of photos of archaeological sites in Egypt for the Cairo Museum.

From a young age, David's parents left him every summer with his aunt in Albuquerque. She was the first Art Therapist at the BIA Hospital. She took her nephew on her home visits to all the northern and western Pueblos and to several Navajo communities over many years. Weekends were spent visiting various places including excavations around northern New Mexico or attending Pueblo feast days. After completing his undergraduate degree at the University of Tulsa in 1975 it was on one of these outings that David became aware that the University of New Mexico had an archaeological field school near Albuquerque.

Between 1984 and 2023, David participated and led numerous contract archaeological projects in New Mexico and Texas, especially as a principal investigator for APAC after 2011 and as a consultant and expert witness to the Pueblo of Acoma. As part of these, and other actions, David made

tremendous contributions to Southwestern archaeology. These include David's expertise in petrographic analysis, highly specialized geochemical compositional analysis, and sourcing methods (e.g., electron microprobe, LA-ICP-MS, neutron activation analysis), and ceramic analysis. David has collaborated with international researchers, government bodies, tribal entities, and doctoral students, among many others as part of his and their research projects.

During his career, David presented 39 conference papers and published 25 articles, 23 chapters in edited books and significant technical reports, and was an author or contributing author of two books. Several of these papers are foundational to current research and thought in southern Jornada Mogollon archaeology, historic El Paso and nearby Spanish Colonial sites' ceramic assemblages, and an understanding of 'protohistoric,' semi-nomadic populations in the Four Corners area. As an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Metropolitan State University of Denver, David taught several courses and mentored numerous students interested in an array of topics from late prehistoric Plains ceramics to historic mummification of individuals in West Virginia and managed to place several students into graduate programs across the US. A recent collaboration between David and a student that stands out to me is the student's collaboration with a University of Colorado doctoral candidate investigating Pueblo II-III period ceramics in the Tewa Basin.

David believed in always trying to expand his boundaries. In the 1990s he spent three months excavating caves with Richard M. MacNeish. These excavations produced evidence of early rice agriculture and some of the world's oldest ceramic vessels. After working in China, he returned to the University of Texas at Austin to complete a dissertation in Anthropology focusing on instrument-based archaeological science to identify the glaze technology and sources from Mesopotamia.

It is this international experience that presented opportunities for Dr. Hill. He served as visiting professor in the Department of Archaeology at Masaryk University and the National Institute for Archaeology both in Brno, Czech Republic and the Dipartimento di Scienze Psicologiche, della Salute e del Territorio Università di Chieti (Italy). He most recently served as the material culture specialist in the investigation of Madayi, an eighth century trade port located on the coast of the Kerala State, southwest India, where his prior experience with Chinese and Mesopotamian ceramics proved invaluable in documenting the international trade carried out at this community.

David's accomplishments and specialty in the petrographic analysis of ceramics in southeastern New Mexico and western Texas are highly regarded by fellow Southwestern archaeologist colleagues, yet few are aware of his diverse global background, expertise, and contributions. For those of us who had the privilege of meeting David and partook in his enthusiasm about this or that brownware or poorly known historic type, he will be missed.

I derived great joy from my repeated interactions with David at nearly every single archaeological conference I attended, wherein we would both start a conversation discussing this or that Jornada Mogollon or Casas Grandes ceramic type and then veer off into recent findings, old investigations, and missed opportunities. Although I never quite got the 'petrography bug' so to speak, I always had a grand time and was left better informed and intrigued by what David knew and saw through the

Southwest (let alone his global knowledge and expertise). Even when unwell, David always had an infectious smile and a cheerful attitude, and that understated attribute will too be missed. Below I provide a selection of significant publications demonstrating his extensive, global contributions with a focus on those of New Mexico.

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### Select Publications by David Hill

- 1994 Technological Analysis: Making and Using Ceramics on Black Mesa. In *Function and Technology of Ceramics from Anasazi Black Mesa*, edited by Marion F. Smith, pp. 23-53. Occasional Paper No. 15. Center for Archaeological Investigation, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.
- 2005 A Historic Red-on-brown Vessel from Nuestra Señora del Socorro, Socorro, Texas. In *Inscriptions: Papers in Honor of Richard and Natalie Woodbury*, edited by Regge N. Wiseman, Tom C. O’Laughlin, and Cordelia T. Snow, pp. 67-74. Papers of the Archaeological Society of New Mexico Vol. 31. Archaeological Society of New Mexico, Albuquerque.
- 2005 Change and Continuity in the Technology of Glazed Ceramic Production in Mesopotamia in Late Antiquity. PhD dissertation, Department of Anthropology, University of Texas, Austin.
- 2006 *The Materials and Technology of Glazed Ceramics from the Deh Luran Plain, Southwestern Iran: A Study in Innovation*. BAR International Series No. 1511. British Archaeological Reports, Oxford.
- 2012 Variability in the Production of Ceramics by Athapaskans. In *From the Land of Ever Winter to the American Southwest: Athapaskan Migrations, Mobility, and Ethnogenesis*, edited by Deni J. Seymour, pp. 225-240. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.
- 2015 The Importance of Undergraduate Education to Southwestern Archaeology. In Special Issue: Notes for the Next Century. *Kiva* 81(1-2):148-158.
- 2016 Tewa Red and the Puebloan Diaspora: The Making of Ledbetter Red. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 6:148-159. Third author with Margaret Beck, Sarah Trabert, and Matthew E. Hill, Jr.
- 2016 Following a Glittering Trail: Geo-Chemical and Petrographic Characterization of Micaceous Sherds Recovered from Dismal River Sites. *American Antiquity* 81(2):364-374. Third author with Sarah Trabert, Sunday Eiselt, Jeffrey Ferguson, and Margaret Beck.
- 2017 Theoretical and Methodological Approaches to the Study of Ceramics of Protohistoric Hunter-Gatherers. In *Fierce and Indomitable: The Protohistoric Non-Pueblo World in the American Southwest*, edited by Deni J. Seymour, pp. 154-160. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.
- 2017 A Numic and Ancestral Pueblo Ceramic Assemblage at 42UN5406 in the Uintah Basin. In *Fierce and Indomitable: The Protohistoric Non-Pueblo World in the American Southwest*, edited by

Deni J. Seymour, pp. 221-222. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City. Second author with James A. Truesdale and Christopher James Truesdale.

2018 The Circulation of Prehistoric Ceramics in the Eastern Extension of the Jornada Mogollon. In *Late Prehistoric Hunter-Gatherers and Farmers of the Jornada Mogollon*, edited by Thomas R. Rocek and Nancy A. Kenmotsu, pp. 158-176. University Press of Colorado, Louisville.



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\$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed for \_\_\_\_\_ copies of publication #6 ***The Archaeological Record of Southern New Mexico***, rev 2001. NM HPD. Contributors: Steve Lekson-Southwest; Human Systems Research-South Central; Susana R. and Paul Katz- Southeast @ \$25 per copy + \$5 s/h

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed for \_\_\_\_\_ copies of NMAC Publication: ***Highway Archaeology and Creative Mitigations: Celebrating 60 Years of CRM*** (NMAC 2014 Fall Conference Papers) @ \$18 per copy + \$5 s/h

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\$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed for \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the CD, *Metal, Glass and Other Materials, NMAC Historic Artifact Workshop, Part 1*, 2005 @ \$12.50 for each CD

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**NMAC** is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to maintain and promote the goals of professional archaeology in New Mexico. NMAC's goals are to:

- promote archaeological research within New Mexico and disseminate knowledge arising from that research
- promote awareness of New Mexico's cultural resources among public agencies, corporations, and members of the public.
- encourage the legal protection of cultural resources, and encourage high standards for professional archaeology



## 2025 NMAC Contacts

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