



School for Advanced Research

REPORT TO SAR SCHOLAR AND ARTIST ALUMNI 9/2018



AS I BEGIN MY FIFTH YEAR AS SAR PRESIDENT, I'm pleased to report that this 111-year-old institution continues to move forward on a number of fronts.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS. Last year we began the process of repositioning SAR as a regional leader in public discussions on issues of broad concern such as climate change, the social impact of new technologies, and efforts to revitalize Indigenous communities. Our Creative Thought Forum, as this initiative is called, also offers small salon-style discussions and a range of mini-courses, many focused on Southwestern themes. The spring 2018 program culminated in a public lecture on climate change and species extinction by the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Elizabeth Kolbert that drew a capacity crowd of over seven hundred at Santa Fe's largest venue. The impact on SAR membership and public visibility has been encouraging. This is part of a concerted effort to transform SAR's reputation as "Santa Fe's best kept secret" by raising its regional and national profile.

SCHOLARS AND ARTISTS. The Resident Scholar and Native Artist Fellowship programs continue to be extremely competitive: the acceptance rate for scholar fellowships hovers around 3 percent. And we are working tirelessly to raise funds that will allow us to increase the number of thematically unrestricted scholar positions in the future. Our Native artist alumni continue to win regional and national recognition for their works, a recent example being Loren Aragon's 2018 Couture Designer of the Year award at the Phoenix Fashion Week.

Our scholar alumni, staff, and senior scholars continue to publish compelling books, among them Paul Ryer's *Beyond Cuban Waters: Africa, La Yuma, and the Island's Global Imagination*, Dean Falk's *Geeks, Genes, and the Evolution of Asperger Syndrome*, and Margaret Bruchac's *Savage Kin: Indigenous Informants and American Anthropologists*. Forthcoming books facilitated by SAR scholar fellowships include Michael Messner's *Guys Like Me: Five Wars, Five Veterans for Peace* and David Treuer's *The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present*.

A particularly exciting project scheduled to debut in mid-November is SAR senior scholar Steven Feld's feature-length film *Voices of the Rainforest*.

Twenty-five years after producing a successful CD of the same name for Rykodisk, Steve has remastered his extraordinary audio tapes at Skywalker Sound and blended them with both old and new video images of the Bosavi people of Papua New Guinea. The world premiere of the film will take place on November 13 in Santa Fe as an SAR fundraiser.

The SAR board of directors, which has undergone significant changes in recent years, continues to benefit from the wisdom of such noted scholars as Jerry Sabloff, Ned Blackhawk, and two former presidents of the American Anthropological Association, Louise Lamphere and Don Brenneis.

In mid-September I traveled to Ann Arbor to present the J. I. Staley Prize to Jason De León (University of Michigan) for his remarkable book, *The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail*. On my frequent trips to colleges and universities, I typically devote time to meeting with administrators and faculty in anthropology, Latinx studies, and Native American studies to make them aware of the resources that SAR can offer to their institutions for seminars, study-away programs, and research on Southwestern Native American art. SAR offers a peerless platform for research in the Southwest, but even many of our alumni don't realize that we are actively collaborating with major research universities, including Stanford and Notre Dame, on programs of mutual interest.

THE IARC. It would be hard to overstate the impact of the IARC's recent programs under the direction of Brian Vallo (Acoma Pueblo). A multiyear project to formulate guidelines for the management of Native American collections, developed at SAR in collaboration with a range of public and tribal museums, is now completed, and its recommendations are being adopted by museums at the national and international level. The IARC also expects to launch a publicly accessible online version of its catalog by the end of 2018.

Perhaps the most exciting news is that the IARC has been invited to organize an exhibition for the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, where it would share space with the Charles and Valerie Diker Collection in the museum's American Wing. SAR will make a public announcement about the exhibition when the final arrangements have been worked out.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS ON CAMPUS. Many of you know that SAR has acquired an adjacent property that doubles the size of the campus. Working with a local architect, we have just completed a master plan for the



development of the property and are working on fundraising plans that will allow us to go forward with the first phase of this project.

By now many of you have seen our improved website, which launched last November. We expect to implement additional changes based on user experience and the advice of communication consultants who are helping us refine and clarify SAR's mission and public profile. The new WordPress-based site allows us to update news much more rapidly than in the past, and the site is more friendly to visitors using mobile devices.

Paul Ryer, the director of scholar programs at SAR, is working on strategies to enhance our communication with SAR alumni and provide them with a forum to publicize their research and professional achievements. The involvement of former scholars and artists is critically important to the continued success of SAR, both with respect to our financial sustainability and our national reputation. We welcome your ideas about how best to showcase the important scholarly and artistic work that SAR has made possible over the years.

I hope to see many of you at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association in San José and, better yet, on your next visit to Santa Fe.

Cordially,

Michael F. Brown

President

CAPTIONS (TOP TO BOTTOM)

Page 1: SAR Administrative Building, 2014; IARC Pottery Group, 2018; Andrew Harvier Santa Clara Basket weaver, 2017. Page 3: IARC Native American Blanket Collection; Lecture in the Dobkin Boardroom featuring Senior Scholar David E. Stuart, 2018; Member Field Trip to Jemez, 2018.