

REGISTER OF PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY

2023 VOTING BALLOT NOMINEES

PRESIDENT ELECT

SARA AYERS-RIGSBY

Hi, I'm Sara Ayers-Rigsby. Currently, I serve as the Director for the Southeast/Southwest Regions of the Florida Public Archaeology Network. I am a dedicated public archaeologist responsible for designing a public outreach program for Florida's southernmost countries which have a combined population of 8 million people. In this role, I work to assist Florida's Bureau of Archaeological Research as well as local governments throughout the region. I am frequently sought after as a subject matter expert by the media in the region. In 2023, I coordinated with the Bureau of Land Management to run an RPA certified field school for students unable to access a traditional field school. Sara has also served as a subject matter expert for the South Florida Regional Climate Change Compact Regional Climate Action Plan 3.0.

Prior to the Florida Public Archaeology Network, I spent 10 years working as an archaeologist throughout the United States, with a regional focus on the archaeology of the southeast and Mid Atlantic. I earned my M.A. in Archaeology for Screen Media from the University of Bristol, UK, and her B.A. in Classical Archaeology from Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland. I am certified as a member of the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA). My research interests include public outreach and archaeology, resiliency, archaeological compliance legislation, and industrial archaeology in Florida. I love visiting state parks, historical sites, and house museums in south Florida and am always thrilled to talk to others about them.

The Register of Professional Archaeologists includes numerous archaeologists who work in a variety of professional settings. These archaeologists all agree to adhere to standards and ethics. As President-Elect, I will work with RPA's President and Board, as well as with members, to encourage existing practitioners as well as new archaeologists in the field to incorporate these standards into their practice.

We are at a critical time in our field where terrestrial and underwater archaeologists are in high demand. The RPA can play a critical role in ensuring students have the practical skills and ethical framework to continue their careers in archaeology. As the director of an RPA certified non-traditional field school, I understand the need for creative training opportunities in practical archaeological techniques for both students and early career professionals alike. As the President-Elect, I would continue to work with the RPA board to expand and promote these opportunities.

As a former CRM archaeologist who now works in public education and outreach, I know that it can be challenging for early career professionals to navigate the career options available to them. Accordingly, as President-Elect I would work with the Board and members to assess the potential for creating a voluntary system whereby private sector companies, universities, governmental organizations, and others, could demonstrate their commitment to both archaeological ethics and the well-being of their employees by

submitting basic employment and benefits information. This will help archaeological professionals ensure they are entering ethical workplaces where they will not be exploited. I will also be committed to raising awareness about workplace safety—as an archaeologist based in South Florida, I know that issues like heat can be serious if they are not addressed early. I would encourage RPA continuing education focus on these issues like workplace safety.

As a large professional organization, the RPA has a critical role to play in advocacy—both advocating with our partner organizations like ACRA, SAA, SHA, and others to raise awareness about the role of archaeological research, compliance, and public outreach at the national level, and also advocating for the rights of the archaeologist as an individual who deserves a safe working environment. As President-Elect, I will work the President and the Board to ensure this remains a key priority for RPA. Thank you for your consideration.

STEVEN PTOMEY

Born in Porterville California, Steven received his B.A. in Anthropology from Cal State University Bakersfield in 1998, and a M.A. in Archaeology and Heritage from the University of Leicester, UK in 2006. He served as a District Archaeologist for the Sequoia NF (1991-2000). In 2000 he started with California State Parks as an Associate State Archaeologist, for the Central Valley District. In 2001-2007 as an Associate Environmental Planner (Archaeology) with CalTrans and returning to Parks in 2007 as a Park Interpreter II at Colonel Allensworth SHP. He was promoted to Park Interpreter III in 2009 after the Allensworth Centennial and served as the Acting Tejon Sector Superintendent (2013-14), then later as the Sector Manager and District Interpretive program manager. He served on several key committees during his time with parks; the 150th Anniversary of Parks, the 50th Anniversary of the Off Highway Vehicle division, the State Parks “Transformation” effort on several sub-committees.

Currently Steve is the Cultural Resource Program Manager at the Great Basin District, of California State Parks. He has built the current program from the ground up; with a staff consisting of a Museum Curator III, Curator I, Associate State Archaeologist, and several seasonal archaeologists. In addition to managing the cultural resources program he also runs the special events, filming, and concessions programs.

In his spare time Steve also serves on the board of the California State Park Rangers association as a director (3rd term) and as the social media manager (since 2013). Steve is also active in the motorcycle charity the “Distinguished Gentleman’s Ride” to raise money and awareness for men’s prostate cancer research and mental health. He also enjoys kayaking, mountain biking, fishing, and motorcycle riding.

REGISTRAR

GEORGE CALFAS

My name is George Calfas and I have been an RPA member since 2011. I hold a PhD from the University of Illinois (UIUC) with research emphases on the African Diaspora, industrial slavery, and pottery production. Since 2016, I have served as adjunct faculty at UIUC in the departments of Anthropology, Center for African Studies, and Collaborative for Cultural Heritage Management and Policy. Within the

Anthropology Department, I recently accepted the role as co-chair for the development of a professional Master's degree in Cultural Resource Management, along with a 5thyr Master's for continuing students. I am looking forward to using my professional experience to create archaeological course content that explores current best practice for project design, execution, and delivery as well as creating space for future innovations in this domain.

Currently, I am the Dean of Operational Science and Engineering Division with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE-CERL) in Champaign, Illinois. In this role, I lead three departments with approximately 150 multidisciplinary research faculty, which includes a thriving department of cultural resource management professionals. Our CRM faculty hosts a wide range of professionals that include archaeologists, Native American Grave Protection specialists, historic architects and preservationists, landscape geographers, and historians. The CERL CRM team conducts research for the Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, National Park Service, and many other federal and state government agencies. Recently, my research has expanded to include a focus on non-invasive techniques to cemetery protection and maintenance. This expanded focus aligns well with my leadership role in providing oversight to ensure all CERL projects and report findings meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archaeology.

I am excited for the opportunity to be considered for the RPA Registrar and actively supporting the critical function in ensuring that our members have been trained and are prepared to serve as Professional Archaeologists. I believe that the duties and responsibilities are integral to our profession and more specifically to my day-to-day roles at both CERL and UIUC. In both capacities, I strive to embody, practice, and teach strong ethics and be a model professional conduct. As Registrar, I would employ an experienced and keen eye toward the evaluation of those requesting to enter the Association to ensure the undeterred progression of our core function and goal.

ALICIA HEDGES

My name is Alicia Hedges and I am a California-based archaeologist. I became a Registered Professional Archaeologist in 2019 after receiving my Master's degree the same year in Applied Anthropology with a focus in Archaeology from San Jose State University. My graduate research focused on place-based narratives and oral histories of Muwekma Ohlone people from the greater Bay Area in order to triangulate pre-Columbian settlement and territorial patterns as compared to prominent archaeological sites listing one or more of their members as the Most Likely Descendant. Currently, I am a Lecturer in the Anthropology Department at San Jose State University as well as De Anza College. I work in CRM during the summer months with my most recent work including excavation of human remains and cultural assessment report writing. I am also the current Chair of Accessibility and Inclusion Committee for the 2024 Society for Historical Archaeology conference.

I am excited about the possibility of getting more involved with the Register as I am deeply committed to ethical conduct and fostering inclusivity in our field. As archaeologists, I believe we are not only obligated to the interpretation of the past, but to the various stakeholders associated with our projects as well as to each other as we aim to build community. I am interested in the position of the Registrar as I have experience meticulously reviewing documents through my experience teaching and report writing, and I am excited about the potential opportunity to welcome applicants to the Register that identify with our ethical code of conduct.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR

K MICHAELA CONWAY

K. Michaela Conway attended the University of Arkansas (Fayetteville) where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology with a minor in Sociology, and she received her Master of Arts in Archaeology from the University of Tulsa. Michaela's research focused on observing changes within precontact ceramic and lithic artifact assemblages for rates of cultural evolution in North America. She has significant experience in cultural resource management, conducting fieldwork in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Illinois. She is a member of the Register of Professional Archaeologists, the Society for American Archaeology, and previously served as the Ozarks Chapter President of the Missouri Archaeological Society. During her time at the University of Tulsa, she assisted with implementing digitization of native cultural objects with the Gilcrease Museum. Before joining the Osage Nation, Michaela was a Research Archaeologist with Missouri State University where she conducted Phase I-III fieldwork, reporting, and assisted with writing and receiving a federal NAGPRA Consultation and Documentation grant. Michaela joined the Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office in January 2023. She is proud to advocate for the preservation and protection of Osage cultural resources.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR

DANIEL F. CASSEDY

- AECOM (Senior Consulting Archaeologist)
- B.A., Anthropology, University of New Hampshire
- M.A., Anthropology, State University of New York at Binghamton
- Ph.D., Anthropology, State University of New York at Binghamton

I am excited about the opportunity to contribute my experience and ideas to the Standards Board of the RPA. Since my first job as a field technician in 1979, I have had a broad spectrum of experience at private sector consulting firms, SHPOs, and university applied-research facilities. I have been with AECOM (formerly URS) since 2000, where I am one of the managers of a large CRM group that includes over 300 archaeologists, historians, and architectural historians in 23 US states as well as Canada, Australia, and the UK. While my academic training focused on the prehistory of Northeastern North America, I have a broad range of experience with cultural resources across many time periods and regions from Alaska to Florida.

I have been a Registered Professional Archaeologist since 2003, and I am currently the President of the American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA). My term as President ends in September of 2023, but I will continue to support ACRA's Executive Committee as Past-President until 2025. During my tenure, ACRA has been collaborating with RPA on issues and initiatives of mutual concern, such as training and credentialing of the archaeological work force.

I would bring over four decades of experience as a professional archaeologist to the RPA Standards Board, and I welcome the opportunity to help promote and maintain professional standards in

archaeology. For consulting archaeologists, it is critical that we have skilled teams that provide our clients with the best service while fulfilling all ethical and professional commitments.

ADAM LEROY

- Registered Professional Archaeologist since 2014.
- Served as a Principal Investigator (P.I.) since 2012 and a Project Manager/coordinator since 2013 and formerly held state P.I. licenses and permits to conduct archaeological investigations recording historic and prehistoric cultural resources in North Dakota, Minnesota, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, Nevada, and Texas.
- Works closely with federal, state, municipal, and tribal governments, private sector clients, and academic entities throughout the United States.
- Provides technical assistance, consultation/coordination, management advice and guidance on state and Section 106 compliance, artifact collection/curation, tribal consultation, and overall cultural resource management techniques.
- Extensive experience in conducting, and overseeing others conducting, scoping/budgeting, planning, permitting, and performing archaeological record searches, Class I, II, and III Cultural Resource Inventories, Phase II testing and excavations, Phase III mitigations, construction monitoring, consultation and site evaluations, and site damage assessments related to archaeological looting and oil and gas development projects.
- Expert in the NHPA Section 106 compliance process.
- Extensive knowledge multiple state and federal cultural resource compliance regulations, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and their applications.
- Completed over 500 reports and 500+ site forms and site updates following fieldwork for survey, testing and mitigation projects in the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Arizona, New Mexico, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio and Texas.

JOHN TORRES

John A. Torres has been a professional anthropologist and archaeologist for over 30 years. The bulk of his research has been in Southern California, the Great Basin and the American Southwest, however he has worked across the Americas including the Yucatan, Bolivia, the Northwest Coast, the Great Plains, as well as parts of southern Europe and North Africa. He brings this experience to his teaching where he emphasizes a cultural-ecology approach. Professor Torres is of Chicano and Navajo descent and is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation. Professor Torres was born in Southern California but has spent much of his life in the FourCorners area of the American Southwest on and around the Navajo reservation. He completed his undergraduate and graduate work at UC Riverside. His teaching experience has been primarily in the fields of Biological Anthropology, Archaeology, Cultural Ecology, and Indigenous People of the Americas. Since his return to Southern California in 2014 he has been teaching in the Inland Empire and is currently full-time Associate Professor of Anthropology and American Indian Studies at Mt. San Jacinto College. He is also the Tribal Archaeologist for the Kizh Nation

HEATHER ADAMS

Heather Adams is a Pittsburgh-based cultural resources specialist with 20 years of professional experience working in various settings across the United States. She meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archaeology and is a Registered Professional Archaeologist (#17350). Heather has a master's degree in Cultural Resource Management. The majority of her career has been spent in the energy sector working with oil and gas, coal, solar, wind, and CO2. Ms. Adams has contributed report sections for more than 500 archaeological compliance reports. Additionally, she is well versed in the curation and collections processes. Non-professional based research conducted by Ms. Adams include lithic analysis and precontact replicative technologies.

Since becoming eligible to join the RPA in 2018 I have wanted to find some way to give back. I would love to run for one of the offices, but having only been a member for 5 years, I think it imperative to learn the operations side of the collective first. After a conversation recently with an RPA who has held a position in the past, I discovered there are several volunteer opportunities.

I have always been passionate about archaeology and feel that my 20 plus years of skills and knowledge can be utilized by the Register in myriad ways. As a volunteer, I would remain committed to assisting the RPA in maintaining the standards of professionalism and promoting the archaeological profession. I would love to contribute my time, effort, and skills towards this goal while also lifting up our community. I am excited about the prospect of volunteering and look forward to contributing to a valuable organization.

THOMAS BLABER

Thomas Blaber (he/him) is currently an Archaeologist employed with WSP in their Troy, New York office, focused on northeastern archaeology. He previously worked at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City where he spent the last ten years in a variety of positions from running the North American Archaeology internship program, analyzing artifacts, leading fieldwork, and all GIS analysis for the lab. He is also currently working on finishing his Ph.D. at CUNY Graduate Center, focused on the immediate pre- and post-Civil War populations on the Georgia Sea Islands. While his focus has most recently been on the southeastern United States, he has several years of experience in cultural resource management throughout the Northeast and Midwest.

CHARLES CISNEROS

"Charles Cisneros is a registered professional archaeologist with 19 years of experience in archaeological assessment and field experience in the American West; specifically, throughout California and Nevada. He has directed numerous field projects in support of compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Charles has managed a wide range of projects involving archaeological survey, testing, data recovery, monitoring, and laboratory analysis. His training and background meet the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) Professional Qualifications Standards for

precontact and historic archaeology, and he is a California Energy Commission (CEC) approved archaeologist for desert archaeology.

Charles holds a Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Anthropology from California State University, Los Angeles and a Master of Science in European Archaeology from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Charles is currently the Cultural Resource Lead for Psomas where he manages a group of archaeologists and paleontologists working on Cultural Resource Management (CRM) projects throughout the American West.

DAWN RUTECKI

PhD 2018, Indiana University. Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies, Grand Valley State University; RPA #17589. RPA Service: Field School Certification Committee (2019-2022). SAA Service: Committee on Curriculum (2019-2022); Intersectionality Task Force (2019-2022); Queer Archaeology Interest Group Organizer (2014-2017, 2019-2021); Board of Directors, Member-at-Large (2019-2020); Government Affairs Committee (2013-2016). Research interests: religion, food, and social complexity; identity and landscape; intersections of feminist, queer, and decolonizing practices in archaeology, applied ethics. My interest in serving on the Standards Board as an Alternate connects to my commitment to ethics in archaeological practice and training both towards archaeologists and archaeological resources. In addition to my work within academic archaeology, I have experience in CRM, lab analysis, and museum research, which provides me with a breadth of experiences from which to draw. Further, as outlined above, I have a long history of commitment to service work in archaeology and will bring my discernment skills to the work of the Standards Board.

WILLIAM SASSOROSI

Will Sassorosi is an adaptable and dependable marine archaeologist, with 10 years of field experience and cultural heritage services management. Prior to joining Gray & Pape, Inc. in October 2022, Mr. Sassorosi worked at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Monitor National Marine Sanctuary (MNMS). While there, he coordinated projects according to the mission of MNMS, as well as collaborating with multiple partners and agencies to conduct field operations in support MNMS goals. Mr. Sassorosi has extensive experience designing and implementing best practice research survey designs in compliance with regulations and policies, perform side-scan sonar and diver-based surveys, identifying and evaluating submerged cultural resources according to NHPA and National Register eligibility criteria. As a Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA), his extensive experience exceeds the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Archaeology and History. Mr. Sassorosi is a graduate of East Carolina University's Maritime Studies Program.

HUNTER WHITEHEAD

Hunter W. Whitehead, M.A., RPA joined SEARCH in 2023 as a Maritime Project Manager with 9 years of experience in maritime archaeology, cultural resource management, marine geophysics, and historical archival research. He is responsible for managing and conducting geophysical remote-sensing surveys, diver investigations, and underwater data recovery projects. Mr. Whitehead earned his bachelor's degree in Maritime Studies and his master's degree in Historical Archaeology from the University of West Florida. He holds certifications as an SDI Open Water SCUBA Instructor, Basic Offshore and Safety

Induction and Emergency Training (BOSIET), Further Offshore Emergency Training (FOET), American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) Scientific Diver, and Surface Supply Diver. His research interests include World War II history, coastal/beached shipwrecks, and aeronautical archaeology. He is listed on the Register for Professional Archaeologists (RPA), meets the Secretary of the Interior's professional archaeologist qualification standards, and has served as Principal Investigator for underwater investigations across the United States. And: Enjoys collecting rare maritime history and underwater archaeology books and reports to add to his extensive library.