



2015

ALICE HAMILTON SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



The 2015 Colorado Archaeological Society Alice Hamilton Scholarship Award Committee awarded \$7,000 this spring to a field of seventeen Scholars consisting of seven undergraduate students, six Masters Candidates and four PhD Candidates.

All of this year's applicants were well qualified and were supported with Letters of Recommendation from top archaeological educators and researchers around Colorado and elsewhere. The Scholars were from six institutions across the state, and projects involved research from Paleolithic through Modern periods.

The Scholarship requirement is that students be enrolled with at least half-time load at a Colorado institution of higher education in archaeology or related field. Awards are made on the quality of the application and worthiness of the project as it pertains to the enrichment of the field of archaeology, with an emphasis on Colorado, Southwestern or Rocky Mountain archaeology.

The Scholarship fund monies are generated by donation and through fund-raising activities at the State and local Chapter levels. \$750 is the maximum award allowed to any one student. Since Scholarship inception in 1987, CAS has awarded \$85,625 in scholarships to 240 students.

The 2015 Alice Hamilton Scholars are:

Jessica Balkin, Doctoral Candidate, University of Colorado, Boulder \$750

For dissertation fieldwork: Funding for expenses during three months survey and laboratory work in Oaxaca, Mexico. This is the final phase of Ms Balkin's research into settlement patterns in the lower Rio Verde Valley.

Sara Cullen, Doctoral Candidate, University of Colorado, Boulder \$650

For dissertation labwork: Partial funding for examination of existing collections from Late Precontact sites in Southeastern Colorado and Northeastern New Mexico. The goal is to make the first broad analysis of trade patterns at relatively small sites in the region.

Rachel Egan, Doctoral Candidate, University of Colorado, Boulder \$700

For dissertation labwork: Partial funding for two Optically Stimulated Luminescence dates from samples collected last year at Tierra Blanca Joven volcano in El Salvador. Its last major eruption has been dated to AD 540 +/- 100 years by radio-carbon dating of buried perishables. It is hoped, that by more precise OSL dating, the eruption can be tied to the AD 536 "year without a summer" world-wide climate disaster.

Pascale Meehan, Doctoral Candidate, University of Colorado, Boulder \$700

For dissertation fieldwork: Partial funding of two months of fieldwork at Zacatepec (Yucu Satuta), Oaxaca, Mexico. The work will consist of full-coverage pedestrian survey and three meter-square test pits. The site of is an example of pre-Hispanic colonialism, established by highland Mixtecs in this lowland Amuzgo region.

Jacquelyn Bonavia, Masters Candidate, University of Colorado, Boulder \$475

For thesis fieldwork: Partial funding to document the southwestern pottery collection of Nobel laureate Murray Gell-Mann for its accession by The Museum of New Mexico. She will also produce guidelines for private collectors to make their collections more attractive for museum acquisition.

- Kaitlyn Davis, Masters Candidate, University of Colorado, Boulder \$400**
 For thesis fieldwork expenses: Partial funding to analyze the artifact collection at Pecos NHP to determine the correlation of ritual pipe smoking with trade activity. Of particular interest is the interaction between Plains groups and the Pueblos of the Northern Rio Grande.
- Jones LeFae, Masters Candidate, University of Colorado, Denver \$250**
 For thesis labwork expenses: Partial funding for analysis of grave goods from the Guachimontón site in Jalisco, Mexico. The goal is to identify gender differences in the quality, quantity, and type of goods, as well as the conditions and placement of the burials.
- Halston Meeker, Masters Candidate, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins \$475**
 For thesis labwork: Partial funding for radiocarbon dating of bone and charcoal samples from Killdeer Canyon and T-W-Diamond sites in Larimer County, Colorado. The goal is to assess the possibility of contemporaneous occupation.
- Laura Vernon, Masters Candidate, University of Denver, Denver \$250**
 For thesis fieldwork: Partial funding for fieldwork at the Industrial Mine Camp in Superior, Colorado. There will be pedestrian survey, GPR and Magnetometer survey, and excavation of selected domestic deposits.
- Aaron Whittenburg, Masters Candidate, of Colorado State University, Ft. Collins \$400**
 For thesis labwork: Partial funding for protein residue analysis of lithic artifacts from the Rollins Pass game drive sites, Grand County, Colorado. The goal is to definitively identify the species hunted.
- Jesse Bain, Undergraduate, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins \$300**
 For fieldschool expenses: Partial funding to attend the CSU Archaeology Field School.
- Morgan Dreesbach, Undergraduate, Metropolitan State University of Denver \$300**
 For school expenses: Partial funding toward a graduate certificate in Geographical Information Systems at the University of Denver.
- Nicole Fulton, Undergraduate, University of Denver, Denver \$200**
 For tuition: Partial funding to pay undergraduate tuition at University of Denver.
- Christa Jones, Undergraduate, Western State Colorado University, Gunnison \$250**
 For fieldschool expenses: Partial funding to attend the Western State Colorado University field school in Belize. This will be Ms Jones' second season at the site, and she will hold a junior staff position.
- Heather McDonough, Undergraduate, Western State Colorado University, Gunnison \$250**
 For fieldschool expenses: Partial funding to attend the Western State Colorado University field school in Belize.
- Aaron Trumbo, Undergraduate, University of Colorado, Boulder \$325**
 For travel expenses: Partial funding to attend the SAA meeting in San Francisco to present a poster titled *Experimental Archaeology: Insights from the Construction of an Adobe Room*. This poster follows from a 2014 University of Arizona/Archaeology Southwest field school at Mule Creek, New Mexico.
- Lisa Yeager, Undergraduate, Metropolitan State University of Denver \$325**
 For fieldschool expenses: Partial funding to attend the University of Wyoming undergraduate field school.

A heartfelt thank-you is extended to all students who applied, and to the 22 educators and other professionals who wrote letters of recommendation for the applicants. It is very interesting and rewarding for the committee members to read and rank the applications. The decisions were, as always, quite difficult. Scholars are encouraged to apply in subsequent years, if they still meet the eligibility requirements.

C.A.S. requires that the Scholars submit a short written summary on how the monies were used. They are also strongly encouraged to present their research findings or a progress report at the C.A.S. annual meeting, or at a local Chapter monthly meeting or newsletter, as appropriate. Completed papers may also be submitted for publication in C.A.S.' respected quarterly journal, Southwestern Lore. This dissemination of our funded research results is of significant benefit to the C.A.S. membership, to the individual Scholar and to the profession.

This report is being sent to all Scholars, their references, C.A.S. Chapters and to various Colorado public and educational entities as a press release. C.A.S. members who are interested in reading applications may contact the Committee via email, phone or mail.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip C. Williams

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