The conference in Santa Fe was exciting and busy, and with close to 300 members in attendance, our largest so far. The conference was held at Buffalo Thunder Resort with the blessing of the Pueblo of Pojoaque and the support of an extraordinary local organizing committee of nearly two-dozen organizations. A robust program of concurrent sessions, and a full slate of evening museum and gallery receptions were augmented by pre and post conference tours that allowed participants to visit Albuquerque and its art scene, and to gain deeper insight into Pueblo culture and the New Mexico landscape.
Highlights continued…

The 2015 NAASA conference was opened by a blessing and welcome offered by the Pueblo of Pojoaque in the Hilton Tewa Ballroom which was the location of many of the sessions. The keynote speaker was Bob Haozous who prefaced his thoughts by warning the audience that he wished to be provocative. His inspirational call to purpose for those studying or making Native American art was accompanied by beautiful readings. There were two Plenary sessions. The Plenary on “Artists” and artistic practice was moderated by Karen Kramer with speakers Jamison Chas Banks, David Gaussoin, Roxanne Swentzell and Christine McHorse.

Ryan Rice moderated the Plenary on “Museums and Collections” which featured Manuelito Wheeler, Tatiana Lomaftewa Singer, Karl Duncan and Ken Williams. On Thursday, Buffalo Thunder and NAASA were host to an artist market. In addition to twenty eight concurrent sessions held over three days, lunchtime roundtables were part of the program, including a particularly well-attended discussion on the “State of the Field – Journals and Publishing Opportunities” moderated by Ruth B. Phillips and following from the recent cessation of American Indian Art Magazine (see a link to this report on the NAASA website).

Evening activities included a gallery walk in central Santa Fe with receptions at the Museum of Contemporary Native Art and SITE Santa Fe, and open doors at a number of downtown galleries. On Friday night, buses ran to Museum Hill, namely to the School of American Research, the Museum of Art and Indian Culture and the Wheelwright Museum. In addition to the feast for the eyes, they provided a three course picnic over three sites. The conference finished in the usual fashion with a banquet during which the Lifetime Achievement Award was held. The Pueblo of Pojoaque generously donated buffalo, and the Pueblo of Pojoaque Youth Dancers set the scene, following the blessing and welcome provided by John Garcia, respected community leader from Santa Clara Pueblo. Finally, the museums in Santa Fe provided free access for those remaining in town on Sunday declaring it Museum Day for NAASA members. The program and abstracts book is available online at naasa-gokm.org.

Thanks go to all those who helped secure such a dynamic conference, especially Rob Kret, Carolyn Kastner and the local organizing committee. We are grateful to all the sponsoring organizations, NAASA members who have joined at the Patron level, and those individuals who gave travel awards.
Honor Award:
Ann Fienup-Riordan

Anthropologist and writer Ann Fienup-Riordan was honored with NAASA’s Lifetime Achievement Award at the NAASA Banquet. Ann was nominated by Bernadette Driscoll Engelstad who gave a warm and expansive tribute to Ann’s work:

“I am honored to be here this evening to recognize and pay tribute to one of the most talented and accomplished anthropologists of our time, Ann Fienup-Riordan. As a doctoral student at the University of Chicago, Ann worked closely with Marshall Sahlins, David Schneider, and the Arctic anthropologist, Jim Van Stone (whom Ann refers to as ‘an elder among elders’) -- and throughout her publications, she acknowledges the generous mentorship of Yup’ik elder, Paul John. Her career spans over four decades, a period of critical change for Yup’ik communities. Ann’s work is keenly marked by an awareness of the passage of time – not only of historic changes in the Arctic, but also of the pending loss of individual and community knowledge. Her writing has contributed in a significant way to stem that loss: recording, documenting, and thereby preserving Yup’ik knowledge and language for future generations. As well, her publications have brought attention and insight to the challenges faced by Arctic peoples – hunters and harvesters – across national borders and within the global community. I should mention here that Ann is among the most modest of anthropologists. In a group picture with elders at the Berlin Museum, she is the one in the background – a visual reflection of her way of working. Not one to claim the limelight, Ann is one to build a strong structural framework that allows the voices of others to be heard. Working closely with the Calista Elders Council and Yup’ik colleagues, Marie Meade and Alice Rearden, Ann’s focus on respectful collaboration has ensured a meaningful and indelible legacy of Yup’ik cultural knowledge. Much of Ann’s research is published bilingually in the Yup’ik language. The comprehensive scope of her publications would make an impressive resume for an entire faculty, let alone a single individual.”

As a Research Associate with the Smithsonian’s Arctic Studies Center, Ann has worked closely with the Center’s directors, Bill Fitzhugh (in Washington) and Aron Crowell (in Anchorage), both of whom added their congratulations. NAASA presented Ann with a necklace by Navajo/Hopi potter Nathan Begaye (1969-2010). Ann noted the gift was singularly appropriate as she trained as a potter and this is what took her in 1974 to Toksook, changing her career and life’s course.

_Yuungaapialllerput / The Way We Genuinely Live: Masterworks of Yup’ik Science and Survival:_
Ann Fienup-Riordan, 2007
Business Report

President Kathleen Ash-Milby led the biennial business meeting on Friday, October 2 at Buffalo Thunder Resort. Ash-Milby thanked the membership, donors, patrons, local organizing committee and supporting local institutions before reporting on her work as NAASA President over the past four years.

Membership
Alex Marr, NAASA Secretary, reported on conference attendance and membership figures. 306 members registered for the Santa Fe conference. Of this total, 27 members signed up at the patron level, 159 registered at the standard level, and 80 enrolled at the basic membership level (the Association offered 40 complimentary memberships to keynote and plenary speakers as well as travel awardees). The Association counts 318 active memberships.

Financial
Rebecca Head Trautmann, NAASA Treasurer, reported on NAASA’s finances. Santa Fe was our most expensive conference to date (estimated expenses $60,000), but also our best attended as noted in the Secretary’s report. Thanks to the volume of registrations, the number of members who joined at the Patron level, and the impressive fundraising efforts of our local organizing committee, we will end the conference cycle with a surplus of approximately $9000.

Our use of PayPal and Eventzilla to manage conference and event registrations (including payment for lunch orders, tours, banquet, etc.) cost about $2100 in fees, however, those services have become ever more necessary, with nearly 90% of our payment transactions occurring through PayPal.

Over the course of the last three conferences, NAASA has continued to maintain a healthy rolling balance in our accounts. One of the charges of the NAASA Board in the coming off-conference year will be to discuss appropriate use of the surplus generated by the Santa Fe conference.

Elections
Nominations Committee Chair Emil Her Many Horses oversaw the elections for President, Vice President, and Board members (three four-year positions). Kate Morris was elected President and Henrietta Lidchi as Vice President; they will serve two-year terms (2015-2017). Ryan Rice was re-elected for a second four-year term, and Joe D. Horse Capture and Amy Lonetree were elected as new Board members.

Travel Awards
Because of the generosity of NAASA members, the travel award committee was able to grant a total of seven travel awards this year. Each award consisted of a cash prize of $750 (US) to offset the cost of conference travel, in addition to complimentary registration, banquet entry, and membership.

The following individuals were honored with NAASA 2015 Travel Awards:

Wahsontiio Cross (Allan Houser Prize)
Jordan Wilson (Richard Conn Prize)
Megan Smetzer
Jonathan Malindine
Kristina Myer
Jean Merz-Edwards
Katherine Swanson

Given the rising costs of travel, in 2014 the board decided to raise each award from $650 to $750 for greater impact. The purpose of all travel awards is to encourage greater participation by students, emerging and established scholars, and Native American artists who have limited or no institutional support.
The Travel Award Committee would like to especially thank our NAASA members who renewed at increased membership levels, and those who donated specifically to the Travel Award Fund, including:

W. Jackson Rushing, III (Alan Houser Award), Denver Art Museum (Richard Conn Award), Friends and Colleagues of Kate Duncan, American Indian Art Magazine, Bill Anthes, Kathleen Ash-Milby, Janet Berlo, Katie Bunn-Marcuse, Annette de Stecher, Patricia Eames, Elizabeth Hutchinson, Pamela Jardine, Loren G. Lipson, America Meredith, Nancy Marie Mithlo, Emily Moore, Kristine Ronan, Charlotte Townsend-Gault, Rebecca Head Trautmann, Robin Wright, Susan Kennedy Zeller.

NAASA Host 2017: Tulsa, Oklahoma
After a presentation by Christina Burke the membership voted unanimously to approve the bid for NAASA 2017 to be hosted by the Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa, Oklahoma.
NAASA 2015 Conference Tours

Before the 2015 NAASA conference began at Buffalo Thunder, attendees had the opportunity to tour sites in Albuquerque, New Mexico, that are active in supporting Native art. Starting at the Tamarind Institute, a lithography studio, attendees enjoyed a breakfast of coffee, fruit, and burritos, before being shown some of the works by noted Native artists, including Fritz Scholder, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, and Emmi Whitehorse.

Moving on to the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology at the University of New Mexico, the group was shown around the permanent exhibition and given access to the private vaults to see their collection. At the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center (IPCC), the tour was joined for lunch by speakers Raven Chacon and Kade Twist from Postcommodity, who later presented an overview of their work, including a discussion of their Repellent Fence along the US-Mexico border. The head of the IPCC Travis Suavo led the group on a tour of the facilities. The tour highlighted Albuquerque as an energetic stage for Native arts.

Post conference attendees spent the day immersed in the indigenous cultures of northern New Mexico. Our boots on the ground experience began with a hike and viewing of the Tewa village of Tsankawi with Tewa guide Porter Swentzell. Though a well-worn trail, Porter pointed out features only knowable to Tewa people, emphasizing the complexity and beauty of the village and its potential meanings.

We were then treated to a Pueblo feast day meal at the home of Isabel Gonzales located in San Ildefonso Pueblo. Isabel and her family prepared a sumptuous feast for all - no one left hungry; and all were satiated with wonderful green and red chile traditional foods.

Finally, the group headed back to the Pueblo of Pojoaque's, Poeh Cultural Center. Participants were treated to a hands-on explanation and demonstration of Pueblo pottery.

Special thanks to Suzanne Fricke, Bruce Bernstein and the many other local volunteers and hosts who worked so hard to create these two memorable experiences.
Message from the President
Kate Morris

It is with great pleasure that I find myself at the helm of this organization that has meant so much to me personally and professionally. From the first NAASA conference I attended as a graduate student in 1993 to the conference we just concluded (both in Santa Fe, interestingly enough), NAASA has been a continuing source of support and inspiration to me, and I am excited to work with the NAASA community as we move toward Tulsa in 2017.

Before looking to that future, I want to pause to acknowledge the people who have made the past few conferences such an incredible success. On behalf of our entire organization, I wish to thank our outgoing president, Kathleen Ash-Milby, for her years of dedicated service. As president, Kathleen shepherded us through two conference cycles: Denver (2013) and Santa Fe (2015). Under her leadership, both conferences ended up in the black financially, despite the rising cost of nearly every aspect of event planning, from catering to audio visual to transportation.

There was better catering and new and new bags, but one of the most important aspects of Kathleen’s legacy has been the overall financial health of our organization, not only reflected in our bank balance but also in improvements to our auditing procedures and bookkeeping practices. This gives us a strong position on which to go forward with a growing organization, ironing out the idiosyncrasies of the past, and ensuring continued transparency on accounting and board procedures in future. As president, Kathleen worked to extend the avenues of support to young scholars and artists without recourse to institutional funding, something that we will continue to develop. There are more and healthier travel awards. The last two conferences had an unprecedented level of board sponsorship for plenary sessions and artist panels such as those organized in Santa Fe this year by the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation and Elysia Poon of the School for Advanced Research.

Kathleen also made the enlightened decision to split the duties of the Secretary/Treasurer into two positions, bringing significant structural improvement to the organization. Alexander Maar and Rebecca Head Trautmann brought their endless effort, enthusiasm, and inexhaustible good cheer to these roles. They have now stepped down, and it would be impossible to fully thank them for their four years of volunteer service. Alex handed on to Rosanna Nicolson who is already providing great Secretarial support from Scotland (as this newsletter would attest).

Along with Alex and Rebecca, we say goodbye to board member Norman Vorano, who was first elected to the board in Fairbanks in 2007, then re-elected to a second four-year term in Ottawa. Norman chaired every committee at some point in his tenure on the board, but as he will tell you, his biggest triumph was in getting the Ottawa conference off the ground in 2011. All of the new and continuing NAASA board members and officers – myself, Vice President Henrietta Lidchi, Ryan Rice, Sherry Farrell-Racette, Heather Igloliorte, Amy Lonetree, Joe D. Horse Capture and Secretary Rosanna Nicolson – will continue to draw on the expertise and friendship of these extraordinary people. We can’t thank them enough for all that they have done for NAASA.
Message from the President continued…

As we look to the future it is clear that the issue before us is growth. Santa Fe was the largest conference yet, and the Program Committee was moved to extend the use of triple concurrent sessions piloted in previous conferences and to explore new models of discussion to take full advantage of the incredible community of artists, scholars, curators, and museum professionals brought together under the aegis of this organization. Fostering the growth of NAASA will entail the further expansion of our membership and activities in Canada, and an increase in our presence internationally. As we move forward, we remain committed to increasing the amount of support that NAASA can offer to young scholars and artists, while also keeping conference registration fees as low as possible. Finally, as part of our ongoing commitment to fostering communication between members at all levels, we will continue to appoint members at large to board committees and promote the use of the NAASA list serve (available to all members through a link on the NAASA website). We welcome your comments and feedback in any medium and look forward to seeing you in Tulsa in 2017.
New Travel Award Established

In Honor of Dr. Kate C. Duncan and her Contributions to the Study of Native American Art

We are pleased to announce the creation of a new travel award in honor of Professor Kate C. Duncan, who has recently retired from Arizona State University. This award, generously funded by a group of Dr. Duncan’s friends and colleagues, will support selected recipients at each of the next six NAASA conferences. Preference will be given to scholars of Native American art (any field) who are pursuing an academic career and are presenting a paper.

This award recognizes the many contributions that Dr. Duncan has made to the field of Native American art studies, especially her twenty years of service as a professor of Native American art at ASU. A dedicated scholar of traditional arts in the Far North, Dr. Duncan is the author of numerous books, catalogs, and articles including Some Warmer Tone: Athapaskan Bead Embroidery (1984), Northern Athapaskan Art: A Beadwork Tradition (1989), Out of the North: the Subarctic Collection of the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology (1989), A Special Gift, the Kutchin Beadwork Tradition, with Eunice Carney (1997), and 1001 Curious things: Ye Olde Curiosity Shop and Native American Art (2000). Perhaps Dr. Duncan’s greatest contribution to the field has been her unfailing commitment to working in collaboration with Native artists and communities, beginning with Bering Sea Yupik basketmakers in the early 1970s, and continuing through her fieldwork in Athapaskan communities in the 1980s, to her recent collaboration with Dena’ina elders in Kenai Alaska.

Dr. Duncan has also given generously of her time in service to this organization, having served as a member of the NAASA Board of Directors from 1996-2007, including her years as Vice President (1999-2003) and President (2003-2007).

Today, Dr. Duncan remains an active researcher and member of the Board of the Bill Holm Center for the Study of Northwest Coast Art at the University of Washington. We are delighted that Dr. Duncan’s friends and colleagues have chosen to pay tribute to her through the establishment of this award which will provide ongoing support to scholars of Native American art in the decades ahead.

Eligibility requirements and application procedures for the Kate C. Duncan Travel Award will be announced in the March 2017 NAASA newsletter.
Introducing New Board Members

We welcome our two newly elected board members who will serve four-year terms through 2019: Amy Lonetree and Joe D. Horse Capture; and our new Secretary Rosanna Nicolson who will serve a term through 2017.

[Back L-R] Deana Dartt, Joe D. Horse Capture, Emil Her Many Horses, Sherry Farrell Racette, Amy Lonetree

[Front L-R] Kathleen Ash-Milby - Past President, Kate Morris – President, Ryan Rice, Henrietta Lidchi – Vice President

Amy Lonetree

Amy Lonetree is an enrolled citizen of the Ho-Chunk Nation and an Associate Professor of History at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She received her Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies from the University of California, Berkeley in 2002. Her scholarly research focuses on Indigenous history, visual culture studies, and museum studies, and she has received many fellowships in support of this work, most recently from the Bard Graduate Center, the School for Advanced Research, and the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum Research Center. Her publications include, Decolonizing Museums: Representing Native America in National and Tribal Museums (University of North Carolina Press, 2012); a co-edited book with Amanda J. Cobb, The National Museum of the American Indian: Critical Conversations (University of Nebraska Press, 2008); and a co-authored volume, People of the Big Voice: Photographs of Ho-Chunk Families by Charles Van Schaick, 1879-1942 (Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2011). Amy is currently working on two new projects. The first is a visual history of the Ho-Chunk Nation. This research explores family history, tourism, settler colonialism, and Ho-Chunk survivance through an examination of two exceptional collections of studio portraits and tourist images of Ho-Chunk people taken between 1879-1960. The second research project is a historical study documenting the adoption of Indigenous children throughout the twentieth century.
Joe D. Horse Capture

Joe D. Horse Capture is an Associate Curator in the Collections Research and Documentation department at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of the American Indian, since 2013. Joe’s areas of specialization are the Great Plains and Great Lakes/Woodlands regions. Prior to his employment at NMAI he served as Associate Curator of Native American Art at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. Some of the exhibitions he curated at the MIA include, “Woven and Worn: Textile Arts and Silverwork of the Diné” (2011–2012); “Young People’s Ofrenda: Expressions of Life and Remembrance” (2009-2012, Silver Award winner, Digital Communities, MUSE Awards, AAM 2013); and “Art of the Native Americans: The Thaw Collection.” Joe served on the Board of Directors of the Otsego Institute for Native American Art History at the Fenimore Art Museum in Cooperstown, NY (2005–2013 and as President, 2010–2013). He has also served as presenter, panelist, and moderator at many national and international conferences, and has contributed to the following publications: “Plains Regalia and Design,” in Indigenous Beauty: Masterworks of American Indian Art from the Diker Collection, edited by D. Penney (2015); “By The People, For The People: The Presentation of Native American Art and Culture,” in Beyond Modernity: Do Ethnography Museums Need Ethnography?, edited by Ferracuti et. al. (2013); and “Time-honored Expression: The Knowing of Native Objects,” in Shapeshifting: Transformations in Native American Art, edited by Karen Kramer (2012).

Rosanna Nicolson

Rosanna Nicolson is an Assistant Curator in the Department of World Cultures at National Museums Scotland in Edinburgh. She received an MA (hons) in Social Anthropology from the University of St Andrews and an MSc in Material Anthropology and Museum Ethnography from the University of Oxford. Prior to joining National Museums Scotland in 2014, she conducted research for the Penrose Collection, and held posts at the Pitt Rivers Museum and the Bodleian Library, Oxford. From March-August 2014 Rosanna was involved in project called ‘Material Encounters – Reassessing Military Collecting in North America and Tibet’ funded by the British Academy, which drew on both material culture and military history to reassess military collecting during these two campaigns.
Name:

Institutional Affiliation:

Street Address:

City, State, Zip:

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To pay by credit card:

1) Download form at [www.nativearts.org](http://www.nativearts.org)
2) Email form to [naasamail@gmail.com](mailto:naasamail@gmail.com)
3) You will receive invoice.
4) Follow instructions to pay with a credit card via PayPal.

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