

Introduction

These proceedings represent a sample of some of the excellent papers and posters presented at the 45th annual Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology (CAA) conference. This marked only the third time the CAAs had ventured across “The Pond” to the United States, and we think we were successful in attracting many first time CAA participants, which speaks to the vibrancy and relevance of the field. The week started with 12 workshops that covered a range of topics. The conference itself had over 350 papers and discussion sections along with over 20 posters spread across almost 40 sessions. These numbers also attest to the continued importance of the CAAs as a venue where cutting-edge ideas get shared. We experimented with novel session formats giving organizers options on how participants would share their research and interact. There were hybrid sessions with posters and discussions, as well as sessions like “Everything Wrong With...” that asked authors to contribute short, 10-minute papers, which then provided lengthier time for discussion. These accompanied more traditional session formats along with discussion sessions and roundtables.

The theme of the conference, as reflected in the title of this volume, was “Digital Archaeologies, Material Worlds (Past and Present).” We chose this theme to highlight the varying ways in which digital archaeologies are now practiced and how these practices are leading to new and exciting ways to share our data with interested publics. That diversity is reflected in the overarching themes we used to organize the papers in the conference and to structure the papers that make up this contribution. Those themes are 3D Acquisition – at the object level and the structure and site level, Broader View – Digital Archaeology and the Humanities, Collaborative Data Management, Critical Reflections, Education and Dissemination, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Geophysics and Remote Sensing, Networks and Modeling, and Virtual Reality. The thematic focus on the present was also represented in a series of sessions focused

on ethical issues, both as a field of practice and as an organization. These Critical Reflections are a sign of disciplinary maturity as we can turn our critical gaze on ourselves. There was a “Women in CAA” session, the first of its kind, as well as a “Decolonizing Digital Archaeology” session along with a discussion forum on a CAA Code of Conduct.

The conference started with an “ice-breaker” at the lovely Carlos Museum on Emory University’s campus. On the way to Emory, everyone got to “enjoy” some of Atlanta’s famous traffic, and although we arrived a bit late, everyone had time to explore the collections with the tasty snacks and cold beverages. On the first morning of the conference, we were treated to a keynote address by Dr. Ken Kvamme who provided his reflections on the historical trajectory of digital archaeology and where we, as practitioners, could grow as we move forward. The first full day of the conference ended with a poster session, that involved lively conversations fueled by some of Atlanta’s finest local beers. While the temperatures outside were unseasonably cold, that did not stop folks from enjoying each other’s company and the lunch options provided by local food trucks on Wednesday. Following the AGM was the conference dinner at Piedmont Park, Atlanta’s version of New York City’s Central Park. We had delicious BBQ (something us southerners pride ourselves on) and some traditional, Americana music. While there were not organized social events on Thursday, by that time people had learned their way around the city and were able to find warm spots to gather and continue the conversation after the conference had officially ended. While the conference was a blur for us, it was an honor to host everyone in our hometown, and we truly hope that everyone enjoyed themselves and took new ideas and new friends away with them from the conference.

Jeffrey B. Glover, Jessica Moss, and Dominique Rissolo

Acknowledgements

As we reflect back on the planning that led up to the conference, the work at the conference itself, and then the effort that has gone into getting these proceedings to press, it is a daunting task to try and thank everyone for the work they did in making all of this a success. We will try and do this roughly chronologically. The vetting of sessions and papers was a major task, and we owe a great debt to Paul Reilly and the other members of the CAA Scientific Committee. Glover and Reilly got to spend many an hour together on skype, which was an enjoyable unanticipated consequence of this process. A special thanks also goes to Hembo Pagi who helped with all things website-related, of which there were many. We are also indebted to Tommy Byrd for his expertise with Airtable and for automating the generation of a usable Conference Program.

A special thanks goes to members of the informal Conference Organizing / Advisory Committee. We did not get to thank y'all publicly at the conference, for which we apologize. Listed alphabetically, this group involved a mix of CAA "veterans" along with local colleagues: Michael Ashley, Geoff Avern, Robert Bryant, Jeff Clark, Lisa Fischer, Sarah Gale, Alan Greene, Ian Johnson, Scott Madry, Tim Murtha, Michael Page, Brian Seymore, and Tom Whitley. Special thanks go to Tom Whitley who helped plan and lead the coastal post-conference excursion and to Geoff Avern. Geoff gets special props for getting off a plane from Europe and going directly to the opening game of Atlanta United (our new soccer / football club)

and then burning the midnight oil helping get things ready for the conference.

During the conference we would like to thank Jeannie Cho and the staff of the GSU Student Center for helping things run smoothly. We are also grateful for Elizabeth Horner and the folks at the Carlos Museum at Emory University for their help in organizing the "ice-breaker" event. Thanks to James Miles for dealing with the bursaries, which make such a big difference for our younger attendees. We are also grateful to Ken Kvamme for agreeing to deliver the keynote address. Along with the Georgia Coast post-conference excursion, we offered a one-day excursion to the Etowah Indian Mounds site north of Atlanta, and Adam King, by sharing his time and expertise, played a key role in making that a success.

When it comes to the publication of these proceedings, we first want to thank all of the authors for their patience and for the CAA members who did their reviews in a timely manner. This is not a simple or easy task. We are extremely grateful for the tireless work of Arianna Traviglia. We have also been assisted by a number of people at the University of Tübingen Library. Axel Braun helped us navigate the intricacies of OJS while Sandra Binder and Susanne Schmid have assisted greatly in getting these papers into their final shape as seen here.

We hope we have not forgotten anyone, but if we have, our apologies. We hope you enjoy the following papers and are inspired by the ideas presented here, and more importantly we hope you take that inspiration and share it with all of us at a future CAA conference.

