

NOTE FROM ASSOCIATE EDITOR KURT DONGOSKE

In June of 2000, the SAA's Committee on Native American Relations organized a pilot workshop designed to promote a dialogue between the SAA and Native American tribal representatives on archaeology-related issues to identify areas in which the SAA and Native Americans are in general accord and those areas in which there is disagreement. The pilot workshop was also designed to act as a test case to evaluate whether holding similar workshops across the U.S. would be useful in defining regional similarities and differences between Native American groups regarding archaeology. The pilot workshop, held at Arizona State University, consisted of Arizona Native American Tribal representatives and representatives of the SAA. Tribal representatives present were from the Tohono O'odham Nation, the San Xavier District of the Tohono O'odham Nation, the Navajo Nation, and the Hopi Tribe. Representing the SAA were Jeffery Altschul, Keith Kintigh, and Kurt Dongoske. Dr. Rebecca Tsosie, Associate Professor from the College of Law at Arizona State University and Director of the Indian Legal Program, facilitated the workshop.

The pilot workshop clearly identified many aspects of archaeology that Native Americans want to see changed and most of these points are ones that Native Americans have reiterated for the past decade. What became apparent, however, was that in order to build a productive and collaborative relationship with the Native American community, it would be necessary for archaeologists to define what it is they want and expect in return from the Native American community. What archaeologists, as a collective group, want from a relationship with Native Americans, to the best of my knowledge, has never been clearly defined or articulated. The Committee on Native American Relations believed that defining these expectations would and should extend beyond recognizing the Native American community as an important constituency of the SAA.

In an effort to understand and define what archaeologists want from a relationship with Native Americans, Larry Zimmerman and Kurt Dongoske organized a forum, entitled "Do Archaeologists Really Know What They Want from a Relationship with Native Americans?," that was held at the 2003 SAA Annual Meetings in Milwaukee. The forum was specifically designed to present a diverse range of perspectives that characterized the SAA membership regarding what archaeologists expect, if anything, from a collaborative relationship with the Native American community. The forum assembled a diverse and distinguished panel of discussants who courageously agreed to present their personal and professional perspectives on the issue. Each discussant was asked to provide a short presentation designed to stimulate thought and promote discussion between the panel and the audience. The goal was to provide direction to the Committee on Native American Relations on what the overall SAA membership expects from a relationship with the Native American community. As one can imagine, many of the perspectives offered by the panelists were on differing ends of the spectrum, which contributed to a polarized discussion with the audience. In an attempt to bring this issue before the SAA membership, I have asked several of the panel discussants to present their perspectives through the Working Together column. Hopefully, the publication of these perspectives will stimulate responses from the SAA membership through letters to the editor of *The SAA Archaeological Record*. The following article is the first to be published in the Working Together column, and I personally would like to thank George Nicholas for his willingness and courage to present his professional and personal perspective on this issue. Thank You George! 📧