

## Nomination of Nancy Arendt for the KAA Lifetime Achievement Award

Nancy is a lifelong resident of Colby, Kansas. She graduated from Colby High School in 1973, attended Colby Community College, and in 1977 became a Licensed Practical Nurse II. She dedicated her skill and compassion to the medical field in her community for 46 years, retiring in 2021.

When the Kansas Archeology Training Program (KATP) field school excavated at Cottonwood Ranch in Sheridan County in 2002, Nancy learned of the project and joined the Kansas Anthropological Association (KAA). Once involved, she wholeheartedly embraced all facets of the KAA. After the 2003 field school officially ended, Nancy was on the crew that worked into the fall to complete investigation of the upper component at the Claussen site in Wabaunsee County. Thereafter she consistently was invited by Kansas Historical Society (KSHS) archeologists to serve on the KATP field school volunteer staff. She has acted as record keeper (2006), total station operator (2007), techniques instructor (2007, 2019, 2022, 2023), crew chief (2008-2013), and site supervisor (2015-2018). She contributed to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nomination of the Estep site in Montgomery County, the location of the 2010 KATP field school. At the 2013 field school, she was in charge of a metal detection survey crew on Smoky Hill Trail sites that required close coordination with the Smoky Hill Trail Association (SHTA). In all these responsible positions, she conscientiously kept thorough daily notes and effectively instructed inexperienced participants. While exhibiting a fine sense of humor, she is entirely serious about the study of Kansas' cultural resources and is highly ethical. She is a keen observer and brings a logical and practical approach, asking perceptive questions and making insightful suggestions.

Nancy served two, two-year terms (2012-2016) as KAA President. Prior to that, she was second vice-president (2008-2012) and KAA Certification Chair (2008-2012). As Past President (2017-2019), she remained a valuable part of the KAA Executive Committee. She was appointed by subsequent KAA presidents as the Northwest Area Representative and then as a KAA Ambassador (2021-present). She established the KAA High Plains Chapter in 2005 and was its president for 14 years. Under her leadership the chapter integrated the KAA library into the H. F. Davis Memorial Library at Colby Community College, where it is accessible through interlibrary loan. She organized KAA Annual Meetings in Colby in 2014 and in Abilene in 2022.

In 2015 Nancy joined an exclusive group of individuals who have completed all categories of the KAA Certification Program: Basic Archeological Crew Member, Advanced Archeological Crew Member, Basic Archeological Surveyor, Advanced Archeological Surveyor, Basic Archeological Laboratory Technician, Advanced Archeological Laboratory Technician, and Outreach Specialist. In every case, she exceeded the program requirements. She credits the Certification Program with helping her realize the full scope of the discipline of archeology and broadening her view of human history. In 2018 and 2023, she and Virginia Wulfsuhle revised the KAA Certification Program guidelines. She headed the KAA Media Committee for a time, and she and Wulfsuhle

revamped the KAA website in 2017. She participated on other standing and ad hoc committees. She rarely misses a KAA field, lab, or class opportunity.

On her own initiative Nancy has met with landowners and collectors and has recorded 66 sites in western, central, and north-central Kansas. She does not have a personal artifact collection but has documented several private collections in Ellis, Hamilton, Rawlins, Sherman, Thomas, and Wallace counties. Under the auspices of the Kansas Antiquities Committee, she organized metal detection surveys of 14EL411, 14EL428, and 14EL430, kept meticulous records, and turned over the artifacts to the KSHS Archeology Lab. From 2022 to the present, she has been a SHTA board member. As head of the Mapping and Marking Committee, she is documenting the current status of trail markers from Ellsworth County to the Colorado state line.

In promoting the KATP, KAA, and archeology/historic preservation in general, Nancy has collaborated with the Fort Wallace Museum, High Plains Museum, Prairie Museum of Art and History, and other organizations. She has distributed informational brochures, promoting the KAA, Professional Archaeologists of Kansas (PAK), SHTA, and Fort Wallace Museum. Each spring she participates in the Prairie Fair for Colby-area school children, sponsored by the Prairie Museum of Art and History. She created a mock excavation site on the Prairie Museum grounds and instructed a basic excavation class for a Colby Community College forensics course. Since then, the mock site has been used for other public education events. In January 2023 Nancy presented Kansas Day programs at the Atwood Elementary School.

Nancy participated in extensive volunteer and paid fieldwork with the late Dr. Donna Roper. She was instrumental in establishing the Plains Anthropological Society's (PAS) Donna C. Roper Research Fund and has served on the Donna C. Roper Research Fund Committee from its inception. She was a member of the PAS board from 2020 to 2023, chairing the student travel grant committee.

Nancy's skills continue to be sought after by professional archeologists. She worked with the Nebraska Archeological Survey in 2004 on a survey for Colby's sewer plant and was drafted into crew chief duties on a short-term project for the Nebraska Archeological Society in 2017. She volunteered to assist Dr. Jack Hofman, University of Kansas Associate Professor of Anthropology (now emeritus), with the KU Archaeological Field School at the Kansas Monument site in 2006, with a student excavation in the Concordia area, and with a project at the Burntwood Creek locality in Rawlins County. She participated in excavation of a mammoth site in Cheyenne County under the direction of Hofman and Dr. Steve Holen. Nancy ran a metal detection crew and gathered data for then-State Archeologist Dr. Bob Hoard that resulted in the NRHP nomination of Cheyenne Hole in Rawlins County.

Nancy became a docent at the Fort Wallace Museum in 2021. She learned the Library of Congress cataloging system and the PastPerfect software to bring order to the museum's library and archival and artifact collections. She is now part-time collections manager. Also, since 2021

she has been a temporary KSHS employee, conducting individual field checks and functioning as a crew member on Kansas Department of Transportation projects.

In April 2021 Nancy was recognized with the rarely bestowed PAK Public Service Award.

This nomination of Nancy Arendt for the KAA Lifetime Achievement Award is submitted for consideration by the KAA Executive Committee in spring 2024 by Virginia A. Wulfkuhle, KAA Editor.