Introduction

Through the efforts of CRM archaeologist and NMHU graduate student, Jeremy Begay, Tamara Billie, senior archaeologist at the Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department (NNHHPD), and Victoria Evans, NMHU Laboratory Director, NMHU students were allowed to conduct archaeological research on a pre-Columbian pueblo site on Navajo Nation land. The pueblo has a strong Mesa Verde component, nearby farmsteads, and a neighboring great kiva. Diagnostic pottery includes Mesa Verde, Cibola Black-on-white, Chuska ware, and White Mountain Redware. Students also learned about the living culture of the Navajo people and their archaeological practices. In the future, the NMHU archaeological field methods class will continue working with the NNHHPD.

Sites

900 Years at Gadii’ahi: Investigations of an Anasazi BMIII-PIII Habitation Complex in the Gadii’ahi/To’koi Chapter, Navajo Nation

Jeremy Begay, Carrizo Archaeological Group, Victoria Evans MA NMHU Anthropology, Victoria Bibbs NMHU graduate student, Lily Ewing Anthropology graduate student, Elena Jimenez, NMHU graduate

Artifacts

Diagnostic ceramics found on all sites were used to roughly date the chronology of the site. These included Mesa Verde, Cibola Black-on-white and various corrugated ceramics. Out of all the ceramics identified, there were several trade wares including Tsegi Orange Ware, White Mountain Redware, and various types from the Chuska Valley. Ceramics dated from Basketmaker III through Pueblo III.

Drone Use

Katie Withnall, from the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute at NMHU flew a Fixed wing survey grade drone SenseFly eBee X with the S.O.D.A. 3D Camera. It was used with RTK (Real Time Kinematic) and a Geobase base station to get 3 centimeter accuracy (1.2 inches).

Eric Alarid, from DesertGate Internet also came out with their company drone, a Mavic pro 2.