



Carol V. Ruppé Distinguished Service Award: Teresita Majewski

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The Carol V. Ruppé Distinguished Service Award was first presented in 1990 to recognize individuals who have given sustained and truly outstanding service to the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA). The Ruppé Award was created in 1988, and Carol Ruppé was the first recipient in 1990, when she was recognized for her long service to the society in creating and running the book room at the annual SHA conference. In January 2024, Teresita (Terry) Majewski (Fig. 1) received the Carol V. Ruppé Award at the annual SHA conference in Oakland, California.

Terry Majewski has served and supported the SHA for many years and in so many different areas. When completing her dissertation at the University of Missouri–Columbia on historical ceramics, she joined the SHA in the mid-1980s, attending her first SHA conference in Sacramento, California, in 1986, where she introduced herself to George Miller. George encouraged Terry’s research on ceramics and urged her to become more involved in SHA activities. Over the next decade, feeling that she had found a professional home in historical archaeology, Terry started volunteering for activities that benefited students and young professionals and began working to expand the reach and impact of historical archaeology nationally and internationally.



Fig. 1 Teresita Majewski. (Photo courtesy of Carol J. Ellick, 2024.)

Terry served a term on the SHA Board of Directors and was inaugural chair of the Academic and Professional Training Committee (APTC), which offered her the opportunity to work closely with students

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through the APTC Student Subcommittee. She was SHA president in 1999 (when SHA presidents served for one year). During that time the SHA was experiencing growing pains and internationalizing the society was becoming a focus, as were discussions of transitioning into a more formal society-management structure. As SHA president, Terry also promoted strengthening the ties between SHA and the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology (ACUA). After her term as president, Terry participated in the SHA Collections and Curation Committee and also the UNESCO Committee, which focused on efforts to protect underwater cultural heritage globally.

Terry has been involved with the Kathleen Kirk Gilmore Dissertation Award since it was originally established as the SHA Dissertation Prize and worked closely with James E. (Jim) Ayres in the early years of this award program. The first Kathleen Kirk Gilmore Dissertation Award was presented in 2001, and Terry continues to coordinate the Gilmore Award selection panel. Each year the authors of the top dissertations selected by the award panel are encouraged to prepare their dissertations for publication as part of the SHA Co-Publications Program. In her role as an associate editor for *Historical Archaeology* and a member of the Co-Publications Editorial Advisory Committee, Terry worked closely with several early career professionals to prepare their dissertations for publication.

The society taps past presidents to chair the SHA Awards Committee, and Terry served as chair from 2010 to 2018, following Mary Beaudry. During the time Terry was chair, the SHA Board of Directors created a number of new awards and prizes, and she worked closely with the awards committee, the coordinators of each award, and the SHA executive director to organize the awards program for each annual conference. SHA believes strongly in and is committed to its awards program, which is perhaps the most extensive of any professional archaeological society. The numbers of awards and recipients has grown so large that winners are recognized in three different events at the annual conference. While she was awards committee chair, Terry found a new source to craft the wooden boxes in which the J. C. Harrington Medal in Historical Archaeology is presented each year and has continued to facilitate fabrication and box engraving after stepping down as committee chair.

In January 2019, Terry cofounded, organized, and implemented, with Terry Klein, the “Careers in

Historical Archaeology” event held at the Past Presidents’ Student Reception during the annual SHA conference in St. Charles, Missouri. These career sessions have been held every year since then. When the annual SHA conference was held virtually in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the career event was also held virtually, and summaries of most of the conversations and discussions that took place during the event were posted on the SHA Blog afterward. Each year, mentors in six career paths in historical archaeology—academia, government agencies, museums and collections, private-sector cultural-resource management (CRM), public outreach and community engagement, and underwater archaeology—are available at the Past Presidents’ Student Reception to talk with students and answer their questions about how best to pursue a future in these career paths. The reception provides an opportunity for students and early career professionals to meet not only past SHA presidents but also established members of the discipline who can encourage and guide them in a venue that is informal and welcoming. Turnout at the event has been increasing every year, and Terry will continue to co-organize and run this event during future SHA conferences.

For years, Terry updated and prepared the “Guide to Graduate Programs in Historical and Underwater Archaeology,” which was originally published in the *SHA Newsletter* but moved to the society’s Website in 2009, and, from the mid- to late 1990s, she coordinated the “Teaching Historical Archaeology Forum” for the *SHA Newsletter*. Terry has organized and facilitated numerous forums, sessions, and workshops on multiple topics at the SHA’s annual conferences, including historical ceramics research and curation and collections management. She has also authored and coauthored articles in society publications, including *Historical Archaeology*, and was a co-compiler of one of the SHA Readers in Historical Archaeology, *Approaches to Material Culture Research for Historical Archaeologists*, published by the society in 1991.

Terry has written about historical ceramics for the SHA and other archaeological society and organization publications. She has also written on such topics as cultural-heritage management, colonialism, the historical archaeology of Native Americans, the archaeology of consumerism, the development of historical and applied archaeology, curation and collections management, the history of CRM, and women in CRM. The 2009 *International Handbook*

of *Historical Archaeology*, which she coedited with David Gaimster, features 35 articles on historical archaeology, most written by scholars that Terry came to know through her SHA relationships.

Beyond the SHA, Terry has demonstrated her service to the discipline of archaeology as a member of the board of directors and then president of the American Cultural Resources Association, as secretary of the Society for American Archaeology, and as a member of the executive committee of the Archaeology Division of the American Anthropological Association. Whenever possible, Terry took advantage of these leadership positions to introduce colleagues to the valuable contributions of historical archaeology to the overall discipline of archaeology.

SHA expresses its gratitude to Teresita Majewski for her long and impressive service to the society and to the discipline of historical archaeology. Teresita Majewski is indeed a worthy recipient of the Carol V. Ruppé Distinguished Service Award.

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