

***SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE BUSINESS MEETING 2020
COMMITTEE/TASK FORCE ANNUAL REPORTS***

**2020 Report from the Southeastern Archaeological Mentoring Network
Submitted by Lindsey Cochran, Jennifer Green, Autumn Melby, and Rebecca Barzilai
October 7, 2020**

The Southeastern Archaeological Mentoring Network (SAMN) facilitates professional networks, strengthens resources, and provides guidance for student archaeologists. Developing mentoring strategies is a fundamental part of encouraging racial, ethnic, gender, ability, sexual, and religious diversity in archaeology.

A changing of the guard, so to speak, took place at last year's SAMN meet and greet. Lindsey Cochran (UGA), Rebecca Barzilai (UI), and Autumn Melby (UPenn) joined the driving committee, while Jennifer Green (UTK) continued in her leadership role. Autumn fills the role as the Student Affairs Committee (SAC) liaison to SAMN.

As with so much else this year, our outreach efforts were stymied by both our near-total change in leadership and, most prominently, the effects of COVID-19. While we realize that mentorship is critical during times of extreme uncertainty, we did not feel comfortable requesting faculty, postdocs, and senior graduate students to devote more time to SEAC mentorship duties while many faced difficult situations with family and friends falling ill, home-teaching for parents, financial uncertainty or stress, uncertain delays in academic/research timelines, and the list goes on.

However, now that we are all settled and comfortable in our new dystopic reality, we have planned multiple outreach events, albeit a bit different from SAMNs past outreach. On October 23 at 6:30 EST SAMN is hosting a Zoom social hour with the SAC. We seek to create an environment where people need not feel so alone. After an initial meet and greet, we will divide into groups of about six (e.g., scalar stress - Johnson 1982) to promote conversation and networking with a randomized sample of people. We will repeat the randomization process 2-3 times, and if people are comfortable, they can leave their contact information in the chat for future conversations. We ask participants to try to keep conversations light, positive, and supportive, as every single person is undergoing major struggles and life changes right now.

The majority of the SAMN Board for the 2020-2021 year remains consistent, and we will take advantage of this consistency over the next year to build and expand the SAMN program through our new social hour program and more inclusive mentorship offerings. Jennifer Green will cycle off. Everyone needs mentorship right now, and we seek to expand our offerings to not only include students as mentees but early career professionals as well.

We request an additional member to join SAMN, specifically an academic faculty member or a senior CRM/museum/curation professional. Currently, Lindsey and Rebecca are in post-doctoral positions, while Autumn is a PhD student. We feel that a more-senior member will help to round out the committee and provide a deeper insight for those engaged in academia which it seems that many in the network represent.