2019 Candidates for the Board of Directors of the Plains Anthropological Society  
(listed in random order)

**Kelly J. Pool**  
Principal Investigator  
Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc.,

*Candidate’s Background:* Kelly J. Pool is a Principal Investigator at Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc., where she started in their Bismarck office 29 years ago. Now based in Eagle, Colorado, she serves as a senior staff archaeologist, a member of the Metcalf Board of Directors, and a project archaeologist across the Rocky Mountains and Plains. Kelly received her MA from Washington University-St. Louis in 1990, focusing on the history of amateur archaeology in the St. Louis area. In addition to the history of archaeology, her interests include Wyoming Basin house pits and post-1600 occupations in Wyoming, spurred by data recovery excavations she led on numerous sites in Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah. Many of these excavations included public outreach, resulting in Kelly’s assistance with Project Archaeology’s field school for teachers and her contributions to their curricula. She has also worked on projects in the Midwest, on the Columbia Plateau, and was a member of two long-term archaeological research projects in Jordan. Kelly is currently Vice President for the Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists and Publications Committee Chair for the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists.

*Statement of Interest:* If elected, I would provide the perspective of a long-term CRM professional to the Board, helping to maintain a diverse representation of interests among our leadership. I could also contribute lessons learned from serving in various state professional society roles to our broader regional organization. Finally, one of my goals would be to develop a means of highlighting the long history of Plains archaeology and archaeologists through regular posts on the society’s digital platforms.

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**Adam S. Wiewel**  
Archeologist  
National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln, Nebraska

*Areas of Interest:* Plains Village archeology, agricultural production, remote sensing, geophysics, aerial photography, UAVs, photogrammetry, GIS, cultural resource management

*Candidate’s Background:* Over my career as an archeologist, I’ve participated in excavations, geophysical surveys, and UAV-based investigations in most Plains states. As an undergraduate, I was introduced to Plains archeology and geophysics during a University of Missouri field school led by W. Raymond Wood. Despite having numerous potential research topics at the University of Wyoming, where I received my MA, I was urged by my advisor, Danny Walker, to make geophysics a focus of my thesis because of opportunities that emphasis would open. My academic career came full circle when I earned a PhD at the University of Arkansas with the guidance of Ken Kvamme, whom I first met during that University of Missouri field school.
With Ken serving as my advisor, my methodological and regional interests were further developed, and I made Northern Plains village storage pits and agricultural production a focus of my dissertation research. I’m currently employed by the National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, where my primary role is to perform geophysical surveys to facilitate the identification and preservation of archeological resources in Midwestern parks. This work often occurs outside the Plains, although I’ve continued to collaborate with other Plains archeologists on more regionally relevant projects. Besides many technical reports, I have published in *Plains Anthropologist*, *Journal of Archaeological Science*, and *Advances in Archaeological Practice*. I’ve also been a member of the Plains Anthropological Society and regular attendee of the Plains Anthropological Conference and annual meetings for the SAA and SHA for several years.

*Statement of Interest*: I’d be privileged to contribute to the society in an active way as a member of the board. While the benefits of professional memberships and meeting attendance are obvious to us, I distinctly recall questioning these as an undergraduate, and I suspect many students and young professionals share such thoughts. As other board nominees have suggested in recent years, growing our membership among these groups is crucial for the future of the Plains Anthropological Society. However, doing so will be increasingly difficult in an era of fewer academic positions for Plains anthropologists and declining anthropology programs. We might consider various ways more tangible benefits (e.g., travel grants; career development workshops; mock interviews; and a more active role in PAS business, perhaps with a board position reserved for a student) can be provided to students and young professionals as additional incentives for membership.

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**Todd M. Ahlman**
Assistant Professor of Practice, Department of Anthropology
Director, Center for Archaeological Studies
Texas State University

*Areas of Interest*: Southern and Central Plains, historic-period sites, public archaeology

*Candidate’s Background*: Currently, I am Director of the Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS) and Assistant Professor of Practice in the Anthropology department at Texas State University (TSU). At CAS I obtain grants and contracts to provide undergraduate and graduate students applied experience in cultural resource management (CRM). CAS has a robust public outreach program that reaches a wide audience of professional archaeologists and the general public across Texas and around the world. Within the Anthropology department at TSU, I teach an undergraduate historical archaeology course and mentor undergraduate and graduate students. Prior to 2014, I spent 20-plus years in the public and private sectors, mostly doing CRM, and developed a solid foundation to understand the business of CRM, client needs, and CRM regulatory requirements. I have spent time in the academic sphere at the University of Tennessee, University of Montana, and Texas State University where I have taught classes and mentored undergraduate and graduate students.
Statement of Interest: The Plains Anthropological Society was the first professional association I joined, and it has been an important part of my professional growth over the past 25-plus years. My career straddles the private, public, and academic spheres and over time it has become clear there is a need for more funding and time for archaeological projects as shrinking budgets, and threats to preservation laws restrict our ability to be effective teachers and heritage preservation managers. Student training continues to be impacted by rising college tuition and fewer training opportunities as universities cut anthropology funding. As a member of the Board, I would work with the rest of the board to advocate for stronger heritage laws, stronger funding for archaeological projects and research, and more training opportunities for students. In addition, I would seek to promote a diverse and inclusive membership that can fulfill the PAS mission of promoting the “study of the peoples and cultures of the North American Great Plains.”

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Brandi Bethke  
Laboratory Director and Research Faculty  
Oklahoma Archeological Survey, University of Oklahoma

Areas of Interest: Culture contact; zooarchaeology; cultural landscapes; GIS; collaborative research; Indigenous archaeologies; collections management

Candidate’s Background: Brandi Bethke is from Sioux Falls, SD where she completed her BA in Anthropology, History, and Classics from Augustana University (2010). She then went on to receive her MA degree in Classical Archaeology from the University of Exeter (2011) and PhD in Anthropology from the University of Arizona (2016). Brandi currently serves as Laboratory Director and Research Faculty at the Oklahoma Archeological Survey, University of Oklahoma. Her research focuses on understanding interactions between humans, animals, and the landscape in the North American Plains from the late precontact period to the present day through the integration of zooarchaeology, ethnohistory, computer modeling, and Indigenous knowledge. Her dissertation research examined the extent to which the adoption of the horse altered landscape uses, bison hunting practices, and worldviews of the Blackfoot people in the US and Canada. Building off this research, Brandi is currently part of a team of researchers studying the introduction, spread, and impacts of horses on Indigenous communities across North America. Since starting her position in Oklahoma, Brandi has begun collaborating with local researchers and descendent communities on field and collections-based projects in the Southern Plains. As the Laboratory Director Brandi oversees the organization and management of collections and laboratory facilities, student internship and public volunteer opportunities, and public outreach initiatives.

Statement of Interest: While a graduate student I served as one of the earliest members of the Student Affairs Committee. During this time, I was heavily involved in the development of the Student Poster Competition and Student Workshop Series now held annually at the conference. I am committed to continuing this initiative, specifically working with the committee and other members to offer programs and incentives focused on increasing the involvement of students and young professionals in the PAS. I currently manage the Plains Anthropologist back issues for the Society. As part of this position I spearheaded efforts to initiate the donation of sets of Plains
Anthropologist journals to tribal offices across the region. If elected to the board I would continue to explore ways that the Society could give back to those communities who have been a vital part of our profession and the PAS since its inception. I believe the Society should work to identify the needs and interests of Indigenous communities to increase their interest and involvement in the PAS and as a board member would be committed to working toward this goal. Finally, I believe that it is critical that the PAS review and update its sexual harassment and misconduct policies and as a board member would fully support these efforts by our newly formed task force. Overall, if elected I would work towards developing initiatives for making the Society and conference more accessible, such as working with conference organizers to offer reduced registration fees for student, Native American, and First Nations members, continuing our efforts to increase our social media presence and improve our website, and insuring that the PAS and conference offers a safe and professional environment for its participants.

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**Richard Meyers**  
Oglala Lakota College  
Faculty/Interim-Director of Graduate Studies

**Areas of Interest:** Social-Cultural Anthropology; Economic Anthropology; Sociolinguistics; Identity; American Indian Policy; Applied Anthropology; Education

**Candidate’s Background:** I am currently a faculty member and the interim director of graduate studies at the tribal college that serves my reservation in South Dakota—Oglala Lakota College (OLC). I am also the chair of the IRB for OLC. I have had a long and satisfying journey off of the reservation pursuing my education and anthropological experiences prior to my return home to teach. I have a B. A. from Amherst College, M. A. and Ph.D. degrees in Anthropology from Arizona State University, as well as an M. A. in English from the Breadloaf School of English at Middlebury College. Formerly, I served as Director of Tribal Outreach to the President, Program Coordinator of American Indian Studies, and was Assistant to the Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences on Making Excellence Inclusive: Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity at South Dakota State University (SDSU). Prior to that post, I was a writer for the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs under both the Bush and Obama Administrations, fellow at the Smithsonian’s Anthropology Department, and a fellow and faculty member at Middlebury College. Most recently, I am the past-president of the Association of Indigenous Anthropologists (AIA).

**Statement of Interest:** Having served previously as the head of a subsection to the American Anthropological Association (AAA), I wish to become more grounded and familiar with the flagship organization for anthropology of the plains—Plains Anthropological Society (PAS). The board nomination was introduced to me by a colleague who is an Iowa Tribal member and practicing anthropologist. I have attended a few of the conferences over the past few years and think that it would be great to collaborate, network, and help represent Native issues from a more insider aspect.

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Timothy A. Reed
Research Archaeologist
State Historical Society of North Dakota

Areas of Interest: Great Plains, Middle Missouri subarea, earthlodge villages, historical archaeology, Geographic Information Systems, public education/outreach, cultural resource management, zooarchaeology, applications of UAVs in archaeology

Candidate Background: I’ve been employed as a research archaeologist at the State Historical Society of North Dakota since 2002. I earned a M.A. in anthropology from the University of Iowa (1997) and a B.A. in History from St. Ambrose University (1991). Initially, I worked on numerous cultural resource management projects for the Office of State Archaeologist of Iowa, in both the General Contracts and Highway Archeology programs. Later, before joining the Society, I was active in the cultural resource management and education programs at the Center for American Archeology in Kampsville, Illinois. I’m a long-term member of the Plains Anthropological Society (PAS) and served on the conference committee of the 75th Annual Plains Anthropological Conference held in Bismarck. Also, I’m a member of the North Dakota Archaeological Association, having served as a past secretary/treasurer and an ad hoc scholarship committee member. Lastly, I’ve given presentations at annual meetings of the Plains Anthropological Society and the North Dakota Archaeological Association, at Bismarck State College, and the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

Statement of Interest: I consider it an honor to have been nominated as a candidate for the PAS Board of Directors. I’ve been a member of the PAS for over 20 years, and am excited about our Society’s future. We are a diverse and vibrant group, with academic, professional and avocational member representation. We’ve seen tremendous growth over the last few years, and while membership is up and our financial outlook is bright, much still remains to be done to ensure our Society continues to grow and prosper. I look forward to seeing the PAS continue to celebrate the contributions of our long-term members, while reaching out to attract new members. We need to continue to respectfully engage and strengthen our bonds with Native American communities, to develop and encourage student participation, and to celebrate the diversity that is one of the many strengths of our membership.