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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friends of Crow Canyon Lecturer to Discuss the Serendipitous Discovery of Chocolate at Chaco

(CORTEZ, Colo.)—May 17, 2011—On Friday, May 20, Dr. Patricia Crown will present “Science and Serendipity: The Discovery of Chocolate at Chaco Canyon.” The event will be held at the Dolores Community Center and begins with wine and appetizers at 7:00 p.m., followed by the lecture at 7:30. The lecture is presented as part of the Distinguished Lecturers Series, organized by the Friends of Crow Canyon advisory board.

Dr. Crown had long been fascinated by cylinder vessels excavated from Pueblo Bonito in Chaco Canyon when, in 2003, she began research into their use. She thought about how the Maya drank chocolate from cylinder vessels, and wondered whether the cylinders found at Chaco might have been used in the same way. In her talk, Dr. Crown will discuss her serendipitous discovery of cacao residue on pottery sherds found in Pueblo Bonito trash middens—the first identification of prehispanic cacao north of the Mexican border. Dr. Crown will present new evidence emerging from her groundbreaking research and what it means for our understanding of interactions between the Southwest and Mesoamerica.

Dr. Crown is a distinguished professor in the department of anthropology at the University of New Mexico (UNM). She holds a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Arizona. From the beginning of her career, her principal areas of expertise have been Southwestern studies and pottery analysis. Most of her research has focused on pottery production and exchange and the economic basis for the emergence of communities in the American Southwest. She has conducted materials analyses of pottery at Los Alamos National Laboratory and the Smithsonian Institution and is currently involved in a study of cacao exchange in the American Southwest with Hershey’s scientist Jeff Hurst with funding from the National Science Foundation.

Tickets for the lecture are \$30. Crow Canyon members at the \$100 or more level receive a 10% discount. For more information or to purchase tickets, call Alicia at 970-564-4395 (toll-free 800-422-8975, ext. 135), or e-mail her at aholt@crowcanyon.org. Proceeds from the Distinguished Lecturers Series help underwrite the participation of local students attending Crow Canyon programs.

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