

The stated goal of my Spring 2025 sabbatical leave was to create an ArcGIS StoryMap of the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC)'s Home Cemetery, in order to synthesize the findings of our ongoing, multi-year, community-based research project in a way that is publicly accessible and addresses stakeholder interests. I am pleased to report that I have completed the StoryMap and accomplished much more.

Being on sabbatical afforded me a significant amount of time to build and strengthen relationships with the state employees and community members who are so integral to my research project. I met with Dept. of Developmental Services (DDS) Facilities Director Becky Zyskowski on 31 Jan, and emailed with her multiple times subsequently, to discuss the StoryMap and ensure that its contents would meet with DDS's approval. I also strengthened my relationship with the Glen Ellen Historical Society (GEHS). This included meeting with two members who shared with me thousands of digital files (documents, photos, etc.) relating to the SDC's history, and attending a Board of Directors meeting (on 20 Feb) to explain my research.

Due to the impending hand-off of the SDC campus from DDS to a private developer, I have been heavily involved in helping document archives and artifacts related to the institution's history. I visited the SDC storeroom on 31 Jan, 17 March, and 5, 9, 14, 15 May to catalog, review, pick up and/or return archival materials and artifacts in consultation with DDS and GEHS. Between visits, I continued the process we had begun in previous semesters to digitally document these materials via high-resolution photography and scanning - with the support of Hilary Smith, Special Collections librarian at the SSU Library. Hilary and I met twice to discuss the potential for developing a new Special Collection devoted to the SDC at the SSU Library, and I have identified a CHRM graduate student who will start this process in the Fall. My efforts to support the GEHS were mentioned in the local press three times:

- 2025 Salcedo, Tracy. "Saving the historical Eldridge Library." *Kenwood Press* 1 February 2025.
- 2025 Johnson, Dan. "[Historical society urgently seeks storage area for Sonoma Developmental Center artifacts.](#)" *The Press Democrat* 10 May 2025.
- 2025 Johnson, Dan. "[Eleventh-hour effort rescues historic items from Sonoma Developmental Center](#)". *The Press Democrat* 20 May 2025.

I also worked with three Spring 2025 courses so that students could conduct research related to the SDC. These courses were ANTH 328: New Technologies in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (taught by Dr. Tom Whitley), ANTH 591: Technology in Cultural Resources Management Practicum (taught by Michael Konzak), and HIST 500: Historical Methods (taught by Dr. Steve Estes). To lay the groundwork, I delivered guest lectures to the students (7 Feb for ANTH 328/591 and 12 Feb for HIST 500). I then went to the SDC campus three times with the ANTH 591 students (on 20 Feb, 6 March, and 3 April), and one time with ANTH 328 students (28 March) to conduct research with ground-penetrating radar, GIS, and drones. I also stayed in contact with Dr. Estes and students to facilitate the scheduling and execution of oral history interviews, and well as to review the resulting transcripts. The oral history transcripts will become part of the new SDC Special Collection at the SSU Library mentioned above.

I also gave several presentations about my research project. The first was part of the Rabbi's Tisch dinner and lecture series at Congregation Shomrei Torah on 14 Feb. Entitled "Commemorating Past Lives from the Sonoma Developmental Center Cemetery with Archaeology and Archives," the presentation focused on Jewish residents buried in the SDC cemetery, and how commemorating their lives - and honoring those of disabled people generally - is consistent with Jewish values and ideals. In March, at the Society for California Archaeology (SCA) meetings in Burlingame, I presented a poster focusing on SDC research with my six undergraduate research assistants. The poster, "Diagnosis, Education, & Productivity: Medicalized Life & Death at the Sonoma Developmental Center (1914-1920)" generated excellent feedback and led to the students being featured on the SCA's Facebook page as an example of collaborative research. Finally, in April, I delivered a paper about the SDC research project at the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) meetings in Denver. Written with six faculty, staff, and community member co-authors, the paper was entitled "Collaborative approaches to restoring agency for residents of the Sonoma Developmental Center's 'Home Cemetery.'" It was part of a half-day long symposium that was co-sponsored by two interest groups and held during a prime timeslot.

The ArcGIS StoryMap that I created is entitled "[The Sonoma Developmental Center's 'Home Cemetery': Recognizing and Remembering Lives and Deaths, 1892-1960](#)". It introduces the SDC and its Home Cemetery, describes their geographic setting and temporal contexts, gives an overview of life at the institution during the period of the cemetery's use, details practices related to death and burial, and discusses the status of the cemetery in recent decades. The highlight is an interactive GIS map of the cemetery in which visitors can click on each of the 47 rows of burials to see a list of residents buried there and read some of their biographies. The StoryMap concludes with directions for visiting the cemetery and a list of further reading and additional resources. On 19 May, I "soft launched" the StoryMap, sharing it with community members, colleagues, and students with whom I've worked on this project, and asking for their feedback before I share it more widely. Once this comment period has passed and I have made any requested changes, I plan to send the StoryMap link to a contact at *The Press Democrat*, and publicize it on social media, next week.

During my sabbatical, I have also stayed engaged with my broader discipline. At the SCAs, I participated in a half-day long session called "California Archaeology Collaborative and the Future of Archaeological Practice in the State," which was organized by a working group to which I belong. I was one of four people who spoke on a panel about educating future archaeologists in California, and I also participated in a larger discussion and Q&A with the rest of the working group and audience. At the SAAs, I was the invited discussant for a symposium (consisting of 13 bioarchaeology papers) entitled "(De)Pathologizing the Past: New Perspectives on Intervention and Modification as Care in the Americas." I also have been part of a nationwide working group devoted to cultural resources management. In this capacity, I am a co-author on an article called "Aligning Education with Industry: Strategic Paths to CRM Workforce Readiness" that will soon be submitted to *The SAA Archaeological Record*.

In sum, I am very proud of all that I have accomplished during my Spring 2025 sabbatical leave. It has enabled me to build a more solid foundation for continuing research on the SDC and its Home Cemetery, and will surely result in many more collaborations and publications in the years to come.