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IN MEMORIAM

Kim Holanda Carpenter (1967–2019)

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KIM CARPENTER PASSED AWAY peacefully on July 4, 2019, after an eight-month battle with ovarian cancer. She leaves behind her husband Tim, her children Elsa and Ian, her father Vic Holanda, brothers Travis Bounsall and Jay Holanda and their families, as well as a wide community of co-workers and academic colleagues. She was important to people throughout the archaeological community as a scholar, leader, mentor, role model, and friend, and she will be missed deeply.

Kim was born in Montpelier, Idaho, in 1967, and spent most of her childhood in California. She graduated from CSU Long Beach in 1992 with a degree in anthropology. During her early years as an archaeologist, she worked at various cultural resources management firms, including Archaeological Resource Management in Anaheim and Biosystems Analysis in Santa Cruz. She returned to school in 1995, entering the graduate program at CSU Chico, working primarily under Frank Bayham; here she gained expertise in faunal analysis, which remained her primary research interest throughout her career. Upon completing her master's degree in 1997, she entered the Ph.D. program at the University of Utah under Jack Broughton, but ultimately decided to return to her career in CRM rather than finish the program.



Kim in the field.

Kim began working with her future Far Western colleagues in the late 1990s on the Tuscarora Pipeline and Alturas Intertie projects, two large data-recovery projects in northeastern California that served as training grounds for many archaeologists in her cohort. It was here, too, that she met Tim Carpenter, whom she would marry in 2000. She took a permanent job with Far

Western in 1998, and quickly distinguished herself as both a researcher and businesswoman. She became a principal at the company in 2004, serving as principal investigator and project manager on a wide variety of projects throughout California and the Great Basin.

While working as a full-time CRM professional, she made several important contributions to the theory and practice of archaeology in the western United States. With Bill Hildebrandt, she coauthored a chapter on California fauna in the *Handbook of North American Indians* (Hildebrandt and Carpenter 2006) and a chapter on hunting adaptations in California for another Smithsonian volume, *Indigenous Subsistence Economies of North America* (Hildebrandt and Carpenter 2011). She was integral to the debate regarding Middle Archaic hunting and costly signaling in the Great Basin. Her faunal data (the internally famous “Holanda table of Eastern California mammalian bone”) was the linchpin of the costly signaling argument; she contributed to two comments that factored into the debate (McGuire et al. 2007; Whitaker and Carpenter 2012). She authored or co-authored book chapters and articles focusing on Great Basin faunal assemblages and what they could reveal about prehistoric subsistence and intertribal interactions (Bayham et al. 2012; Holanda 2004). Her scholarly contributions were not simply limited to published research. She served as Associate Editor of the *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* (2007–2012), and was the Member at Large (2004–2008) and Treasurer (2012–2019) of the Great Basin Anthropological Association.

In a hierarchy of owners, supervisors, and staff typical of many CRM companies, Kim’s rise at Far Western was remarkable. A rare combination of research capabilities, managerial savvy, and interpersonal skills propelled her from backdirt to boardroom. In 2015, by unanimous acclaim, she was elected president of Far Western, and then re-elected for two more terms.

One of the most impressive things about Kim was the sheer breadth of her interests and imagination. Happy to review an invoice, discuss Human Behavioral Ecology, pitch a client, identify a bone fragment, edit a report, counsel a wayward tech, or serve on the Board of Directors of the Cache Creek Conservancy, Kim was unbounded. Companies need such a person; the world needs such people.

In the midst of her remarkable career, she also raised, along with her husband Tim, her two children, Elsa and Ian. The devotion and intensity she brought to her work didn’t miss a beat at home. It was not unusual to see Kim blow out of Far Western at 4:00 to make a soccer practice drop-off, return to work for more desk and screen time, and then make the 7:00 pick-up. All in a day’s work (along with stopping at the store on the way home to pick up dinner). This was Kim.

As tributes to Kim surfaced on social media and in condolences offered to her colleagues, a recurrent theme was obvious—Kim as mentor. As attested by many, Kim was an exemplary teacher and role model who had the unique capability to understand one’s strengths and weaknesses, perspectives, and personal challenges. Last summer she posted a picture of movie superheroes on her office wall with the text “Everyone has a super power.” Kim excelled at identifying and nurturing the super power in everyone. Those of us in the void left by her absence can only aspire to follow her example, by extending the same qualities of empathy and understanding to our own colleagues and friends.

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