

OBITUARY: DARLENE R. MOORE (JANUARY 19, 1938 TO JUNE 22, 2024)

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Darlene R. Moore (Figure 1) was born in Eugene, Oregon, but moved to the U.S. Territory of Guam in 1976, where she resided until her recent death. Almost immediately after her arrival, Moore went to work at the Guam Territorial Archaeology Laboratory (now State Historic Preservation Office) of Department of Parks and Recreation. One of her first projects involved excavation at Ypao Beach on Tumon Bay, Guam, the former location of one of the largest traditional settlements on the island. Moore earned her Bachelor’s degree at the University of Guam (UOG) in 1979 and later attended an archaeological field school at the University of Utah under the direction of Dr. Jesse D. Jennings. In 1983, Moore received her Master’s degree at UOG in 1983. Her thesis supervisor was Dr. Hiro Kurashina, and the title of her M.A. thesis is “Measuring Change in Marianas pottery: The Sequence of Pottery Production at Tarague, Guam.” Moore’s thesis remains a resource for all subsequent studies of ceramics on Guam and in the Mariana Islands.

Moore is notable as the first locally trained female archaeologist on Guam who then devoted 40 years working as a professional archaeologist in the Mariana Islands. She made significant contributions to her field in the study of ceramics and agriculture, mentored a number of archaeology students, and ran one of the most successful archaeological consulting firms in the western Pacific.

With Dr. Michael Graves who was then on the faculty at UOG, she co-authored the Tumon Bay Area Overview Report (Graves and Moore 1984), one of the first large scale systematic surveys done under contract on Guam. Moore continued to work on projects for the UOG and others, including Dr.

Michael J. McNerney and Dr. Brian Butler of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, and Dr. Frank McManamon from the National Park Service. In 1987 Moore established her own sole proprietorship consulting company, Micronesian Archaeological Research Services (MARS), to conduct contract archaeology in the Mariana Islands for historic preservation compliance. At the beginning of 1992, the sole proprietorship was converted into a non-profit corporation, MARS, Inc. The non-profit corporation was founded and governed by four women, a rarity among archaeological companies: Darlene Moore, Dr. Rosalind Hunter-Anderson, Judith R. Amesbury and Eleanor Wells. Later, after Hunter-Anderson and Wells stepped down, Robin Olmo was added to the Board.

Moore was the President of MARS for the entire 30 years that the non-profit organization existed (1992–2022). In that time, she and her colleagues at MARS completed over 200 projects in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, as well as Palau and Yap. In her professional career, Moore was the author or co-author of 170 technical reports produced by MARS and other archaeological consultants working in Guam and the Mariana Islands; she was senior author on nearly 100 of these. Moore and her colleagues at MARS were committed to original research in the Marianas, and many of the reports are the source of data that subsequently were employed in published research. A listing of Moore’s publications and a selection of her reports is shown here.



Figure 1. 2018 Photograph of Darlene Moore in the field on Guam (courtesy of Jacy Moore-Miller)

Among the most important of the contract projects completed by MARS was the multiyear, large regional scale survey and data recovery project at Manenggon Hills in the interior of Yona, Guam. This work culminated in four volumes edited by Hunter-Anderson and provided the first systematic survey of an inland area of more than 400 ha in southern Guam, and the integration of paleo-environmental data along with archaeologi-

cal remains. Moore authored or co-authored major chapters in each of these volumes (Hunter-Anderson *et al.* 1994a, 1994b; Moore 1994; Hunter-Anderson and Moore 1994; Moore and Hunter-Anderson 1994a, 1994b). One of the significant contributions of this project led to Moore's (2005) synthesis of plant microfossils and wood charcoal identified on Guam, including cultivars such

as taro (*Colocasia esculenta*, *Cyrtosperma chamissonis*), sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum*), bananas (*Musa* sp.), coconut (*Cocos nucifera*), yams (*Discorea* sp.), and ti (*Cordyline fruiticosa*) as well as the reconstruction of farming practices in interior locations on the island. Earlier, MARS archaeologists (Hunter-Anderson *et al.* 1995) identified rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) grains embedded in locally produced pottery at several sites on Guam dated to precontact times and suggested its use was reserved for special occasions. It was the first archaeological documentation of rice remains in Micronesia. Moore (2015) also synthesized traditional CHamoru foodways drawing on macrobotanical and microfossil materials as well as, buried archaeological features to reconstruct aspects of traditional CHamoru planting and harvesting practices of native and introduced plants in the Mariana Islands.

Moore's specialization was the pre-contact CHamoru ceramics of the Mariana Islands, where she became the world's foremost expert in that subject. She was often hired by other archaeological firms to complete their analyses of pottery collections from sites elsewhere on Guam or in the Islands. Again, Moore's published papers on ceramics from the Mariana Islands incorporated data from a number of technical reports completed by MARS and often employed geochemical data of pastes and rock tempers, as well as residue analyses of plant remains contracted by MARS as part of those projects.

Moore's (1983) original research for her Master's degree established a detailed chronology of ceramic production at a deeply stratified site on Tarague Beach, northern Guam, from earliest occupation estimated to ca. 1400 BC to the later *latte* period ca. AD 1000–1600. This work, along with specialized technical analyses were incorporated into a later volume (Moore 2002) prepared for the Department of the Navy. In these and other publications (e.g., Moore and Hunter-Anderson 1999), she demonstrated the continuity in ceramic production across what were formerly seen as distinct archaeological traditions. Additionally, Moore's technical analyses of ceramics from many other sites in the Mariana Islands helped to identify regional aspects of: 1. clay procurement and tempering agents for pottery production at different locations (Dickinson *et al.* 2001; Glascock *et al.* 2023; Graves *et al.* 1990); 2.

geographic differences (Moore 2012) among pottery made in the Mariana Islands; 3. changes over time in pottery-making, including vessel morphology, rim shape and form, and function (Moore 2012), as well as decoration (Moore and Hunter-Anderson 1999; Hunter-Anderson and Moore 2001; Moore 2002, 2012, 2013a); and 4. the distribution of pottery from different locations via transport and exchange of pots (Graves *et al.* 1990; Glascock *et al.* 2023).

Moore contributed to the advancement of Mariana Islands archaeology for more than 40 years, publishing 30 scientific papers in a variety of journals, edited volumes and online websites, as well as authoring a large number of reports that provide crucial data for our understanding of the prehistory of the Mariana Islands. She gave presentations at professional meetings (including several Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association Conferences) in Guam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, Vanuatu, and in the United States. She collaborated with local archaeologists from Guam and, also an array of international archaeologists from Micronesia, the U.S., Japan, Australia, and England. In Guam, she served on the Board of Directors, not only of MARS Inc., but also of the Guam Preservation Trust and the Guam Audubon Society.

In 2013, Moore received the Distinguished Alumni Award for the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, UOG. When Moore retired at the end of 2021, the Guam Legislature passed a Resolution commending her for the work she did on Guam and her contributions of CHamoru history. A scholarship has been established in her name at UOG.

Darlene is deeply mourned and will be sorely missed by her family members and by archaeological colleagues in Guam and the Northern Marianas, in other parts of Micronesia, and across the international community of researchers who study the prehistory of the Indo-Pacific.

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