

IN MEMORIAN

ARLENE FRADKIN (1951–2020)

Contributed by Elizabeth J. Reitz

Arlene Fradkin passed away on October 10, 2020 after a brief illness. Arlene was an enthusiastic teacher, a generous member of interdisciplinary teams, a dedicated member of the global community of archaeozoology, and an active member of the International Council of Archaeozoology (ICAZ).

Born and raised in New York City, Arlene received an undergraduate degree in anthropology from the State University of New York at Albany in 1973. After joining the graduate program at the University of Florida, she earned a Master's degree in 1976 and a Ph.D. in 1988, both in Anthropology, studying under the direction of Dr. Elizabeth S. Wing at the Florida Museum of Natural History. In 1998 she joined the faculty of the Department of Anthropology at Florida Atlantic University and was promoted to Professor in 2017.

Arlene specialized in environmental archaeology and archaeozoology but her interests extended to folk zoology, history, and Native American studies. Much of her research focused on the use of fish in ecological and economic contexts, especially ethnogenesis, foodways, seasonality, and trade. Her temporal and spatial interests ranged from pre- to post-Columbian sites in the Americas, especially Florida, to Roman and Byzantine sites in the Middle East.

Arlene was an active member of ICAZ, attending her first ICAZ meeting in 1990 (Washington, DC), but she is perhaps best known as a member of the ICAZ Fish Remains Working Group (FRWG). She co-edited the 2013 and 2016 FRWG proceedings and was editing the 2019 FRWG proceedings at the time of her passing.

Arlene's colleagues remember her as a helpful, enthusiastic, warm, thoughtful, clever, and cheerful friend and colleague, as well as a dedicated scholar. Her passion lives on in the students for whom she was an inspiration and to whom she was devoted. She was welcoming and supportive to early career researchers, making their first experiences at meetings and in the field great fun. She also was committed to sharing archaeological insights with the public, receiving grants from the Florida Humanities Council for exhibits and public programs on Florida history. Her enthusiasm for science and ICAZ, her caring support and mentoring, her boundless energy, and her infectious laugh will be greatly missed.



Arlene at the 9th ICAZ Congress, Durham, England.
Photograph courtesy of Sorayya Carr.