Winter Courses – 2008
Desert Studies Center

The Art and Science of Flintknapping

DATES AND TIMES OF MEETING: February 22, 23, 24, 2008 beginning Friday at 7:00 P.M. and ending Sunday at 3:00 P.M.
INSTRUCTOR: Jeanne Day Binning, Ph.D.

Prior to the manufacture of tools from metal, tools were made of stone. This was done by using the ancient art of flintknapping (manufacturing tools by breaking rocks in systematic manner). Today, archaeologists, historic reconstructionists, teachers, and hobbyists flintknap, keeping the old techniques alive. Flintknapping is a great way for teachers to make the past come alive for their students, particularly for Native American curricula. For archaeologists this course provides information on debitage types associated with different technologies.

Astronomy and Space Science: A Field Introduction

DATES AND TIMES OF MEETING: March 7, 8, 9, 2008 beginning at 8:00 P.M. on Friday and ending at 3 P.M. on Sunday
INSTRUCTOR: Brian H. Day

This course will be a descriptive, non-technical introduction to astronomy and space science, featuring the exploration of the solar system and the Universe beyond. No previous coursework in astronomy will be assumed. The course will feature both classroom discussions as well as hands-on activities. The outstanding viewing conditions at the Desert Studies Center and the excellent telescope operated there will provide students with a unique opportunity to conduct astronomy in the field. Students in this course will be introduced to the broad, multidisciplinary nature of space science.

Botanical Illustration of Native Desert Flora

DATES AND TIMES OF MEETING: April 4, 5, 6, 2008 beginning at 8:00 P.M. on Friday and ending at 3:00 P.M. on Sunday
INSTRUCTOR: Donald Davidson

A creative interdisciplinary approach to understanding form, function and identification of flowering plants native to desert habitats: Participants will receive individual attention in developing their drawing and compositional skills for professional development, field experience and personal goals respective to their individual careers and interests. They will be also introduced to keeping a written journal of their learning experiences. Lectures cover botanical terms and how they are used to describe and help identify flowering plants. A demonstration of techniques in pencil, pen and watercolor, followed

by a discussion on the relative merits and history of schematic and interpretive illustration are included. Classroom exercises focus on hand-eye coordination and comprehensive line drawing stressing contour, volume and perspective to improve perception and interpretation of botanical form and function.