



# PETROGLYPHS

Archaeology Newsletter

Vol. 1, Issue 1, July 2014

## IN THIS ISSUE

New Faces	1
Special Announcements	2
Visiting Research	3
New Acquisitions	3
Project Updates	3

Dear Colleagues & Friends,



We hope that you enjoy this inaugural issue of *Petroglyphs*, the archaeology department's new biannual newsletter. The newsletter should help keep you apprised of the various activities and projects underway in the department.

We're most excited to announce that we've hired two very talented members to our professional staff. Susie Fishman-Armstrong brings a wealth of experience to the position of collections manager. We also hired the multi-talented Alyssa Giles to serve as collections assistant (see more details on Fishman-Armstrong and Giles at right). Please be sure to introduce yourself, and feel free to drop by. Good luck to all of you planning fieldwork projects this summer, and stay in touch!

All Best,

Marc Levine, Assistant Curator of Archaeology



Textile fragment from Andean region of Peru or Bolivia, McGhee Foundation Collection (A/2014/2)

## NEW FACES

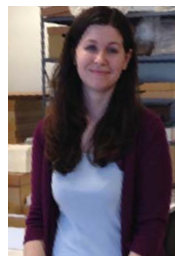
### New Collections Manager Susie Fishman-Armstrong, M.A.



Susie Fishman-Armstrong received her bachelor in arts in geology with a minor in biology from Fort Hays State University and her master in arts in museum science from Texas Tech

University. From 2001–13, she was the curator of collections at the Antonio J. Waring, Jr., Archaeological Laboratory at the University of West Georgia. At UWG, Fishman-Armstrong was in charge of registration, collections management, data management, archives, education outreach and volunteer coordination. She recently co-published an article in *Collections: A Journal for Museum and Archive Professionals*, titled “Considerations for Implementing a Bar Code System in a Museum,” and served as treasurer of the Southeastern Registrar’s Association. She is happy to be back in the Midwest with her husband, Andy Armstrong and daughter, Andrea.

### New Collection Assistant Alyssa Giles, M.A.



Alyssa Giles is our new collections assistant for the archaeology department. After growing up in Lawton/Ft. Sill, Giles attended the University of Oklahoma and earned a bachelor of arts in history in 2010. While at OU, Alyssa participated in the OU in Arezzo program and spent a year abroad in Tuscany learning the

Italian language. After graduating from OU, Giles ventured to Italy once again to study in Florence and earned a master of arts in museum studies from Marist College and the Lorenzo de’ Medici Institute in 2013. Last summer, Giles worked in the Discovery Room at SNOMNH, and she is very excited to be working at the museum again.

### New Volunteers Susanna Pyatt and Emily McKenzie

In March, the archaeology department welcomed two new volunteers, Susanna Pyatt and Emily McKenzie. Pyatt is a

## CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Simone Rowe on her dissertation defense!

**Paul Minnis and Pat Gilman** retired from the OU anthropology department in May.

Graduate student **Shawn Lambert** presented a paper on the SNOMNH Works Progress Administration illustrations at the 2014 Society for American Archaeology meeting.

**Andrew Gourd** will intern this summer at the Sequoyah National Research Center at the University of Arkansas.

Former intern **Laurel Lamb** has been accepted to the master of arts program at Georgia State University.

Volunteer **Emilie McKenzie** graduated in May with a bachelor of arts degree in anthropology.



WPA illustration of jar from Spiro Mounds



Marc Levine visits the Maya exhibit at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science

(New Faces cont.)

sophomore majoring in anthropology and history. McKenzie is an anthropology major who will graduate in May, and also is an intern at the Moore-Lindsay Historic House Museum in Norman.

## New Graduate Assistant, Andrew Gourd

Andrew Gourd is a new graduate research assistant working with Don Wyckoff to organize and inventory the Hannum archaeological collection. Gourd is a graduate student in both anthropology and the library and information science program.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WPA Illustration selected for Top 10 Endangered Artifact Program

An illustration (see at left) from the archaeology collection has been nominated to compete with other objects from around the state to determine [Oklahoma's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts](#). This program is supported by the Oklahoma Cultural Heritage and Trust, and voting will take place later this spring. This remarkable illustration features an engraved pottery vessel from the Spiro Mounds archaeological site. Spiro was occupied by ancestors of the Caddo and Wichita from around A.D. 800–1450 and is one of the most significant archaeological sites in Oklahoma. The vessel was excavated by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) around 1940.

### Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed

Marc Levine co-curated the exhibit [Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed](#), which opened at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science in Feb. The exhibit will be in Denver through Aug. and then will travel to the Museum of Science (Boston) and the San Diego Natural History Museum.

## VISITING RESEARCH



Steponaitis examines a pipe

### Vin Steponaitis

Vin Steponaitis, professor of anthropology at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and David T. Dockery III, chief of the Surface Geology Division, Mississippi

Department of Environmental Quality, visited the SNOMNH Nov. 2013 to examine stone effigy pipes from Spiro Mounds.

## NEW ACQUISITIONS

### McGhee Foundation Collection

The archaeology department recently accepted a donation from The McGhee Foundation. The late Ambassador George Crews McGhee and his wife, Cecilia DeGolyer McGhee, had collected the material over many years. The acquisitions included a series of Peruvian textiles and several other artifacts that will enhance the scope of our collections.



Textile fragment from Andean region of Peru or Bolivia., McGhee Foundation (A/2014/2)

### John Bureman Collection

The archaeology department received a donation of two ceramic vessels from the [Chancay Culture](#) (1000–1470 CE) of central coastal Peru. This cultural group is not well known, so the pottery will have significant



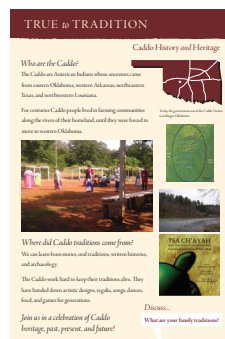
Jar from central coast of Peru, Chancay Culture, John Bureman Collection (A/2014/3/2)

research potential.

### Ed Hannum Collection

Ed Hannum was a geologist and a member of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society. The collection consists of an estimated 6,000 objects, including an extensive lithic type collection of real and replica projectile points, ceramics and groundstone.

(Visiting Research cont.)



### Elsbeth Dowd (Museum Registrar)

Elsbeth Dowd remains involved in various archaeology department projects. Dowd's interests in Caddo archaeology continues, but lately her focus has expanded to public outreach and language revitalization as avenues of cultural preservation. At the Caddo Festival held at the Oklahoma History Center in March, she presented an exhibit called *True to Tradition: Caddo History and Heritage*.

## PROJECT UPDATES

### IMLS Funded Collections Stewardship

Progress continues to be made with the \$149,956 Institute of Museums and Library Services grant. This grant was awarded to inventory, catalog, repackage and database artifacts and associated archives from the Spiro Mounds site and other sites excavated by the WPA from 1936–1942. Our staff has partially inventoried and rehoused over 272,995 artifacts.

### Aker's Site Projectile Points

Volunteer Pam Leader is analyzing contracting-stem projectile points from the Aker's Site in LeFlore County, Okla. She has been measuring the points and identifying sources of lithic material.

### Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)



Artifacts found during a survey to verify site locations

In January, BOR graduate assistant Sonya Beach and Susie Fishman-Armstrong accompanied Bob Blasing and Kate Ellison from the BOR to Lake Thunderbird to meet with a local avocational archaeologist to verify the location of archaeological sites he has discovered. Beach and the BOR hope to gain a better understanding of where these artifacts were recovered to record their site locations.

### Spiro Inventory

Master of arts student Jenna Domeischel has finished the basic skeletal inventory for her Spiro Mound project and is now busy updating the catalog information.