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Dear Colleagues & Friends,



The Archaeology Department has been humming with activity over the last several months. A small army of Graduate Research Assistants and volunteers have been processing incoming collections and working on older ones in need of updating. Our

staff is also making great progress on collections subject to federally mandated legislation under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). I want to thank all of our students, staff, and volunteers for their diligence. In particular, I want to thank Sarah Bess and Megan Dudley for two excellent years of service.

Hoping this newsletter finds you well,

Marc Levine, Asst. Curator of Archaeology

## WELCOME TO NICOLE PALMETER



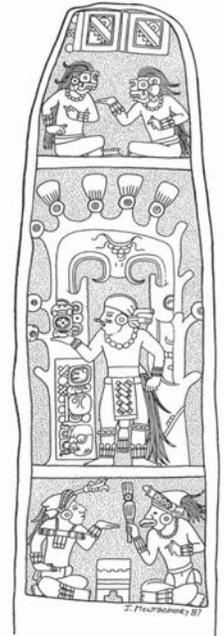
Nicole Palmeter, summer collections assistant

## LEAD STORIES

### Maya at the Museum

The image at right is a carved stone monument or “stela” from the Maya site of Seibal—located in the Pasión region of Guatemala. We are lucky enough to have a plaster cast of this stela in our collection. In October 2016, the Museum will welcome a traveling exhibit on Maya archaeology entitled “Mystery of the Maya Medallion.” Don’t miss it!

Seibal, Stela 3: from the John Montgomery Drawing Collection; courtesy of the Foundation for the Advancement of Mesoamerican Studies, Inc.



### Bureau of Reclamation Data Capture

The archaeology department cares for collections owned by the Bureau of Reclamation, many of which were donated by private citizens or were the result of WPA projects in the 1930s. In an effort to bring these collections up to current standards, a graduate and an undergraduate assistant were hired. These assistants entered catalog information for 48 collections containing over 38,557 artifacts. The next step will be to inventory and rehouse the collections to ensure that they will remain in good condition well into the future.



Sarah Luthman and Samantha Hayes updating the BOR catalog

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



Congratulations to Susanna Pyatt who has been accepted into the Master of Arts Folk Studies at Western Kentucky University.

Ashlie Velton completed her Master's thesis about Fort Sill from the Fort Sill Collection and created an online exhibit. [See the exhibit online here.](#)

Congratulations to Sarah Bess on publishing a poem in the Matrix Magazine, Concordia University, and Dr. Paul Sandberg for his paper accepted for publication in *American Journal of Primatology*, entitled: "The Stable Isotope Ecology of Pan in Uganda and Beyond."

Congratulations to Susanna Pyatt, Kaitlyn Feterly, and Savanna Cometa on graduating with their undergraduate degrees.

Congratulations to Anthropology Department Associate Professor Lesley Rankin-Hill and Oklahoma Archaeological Survey Archaeologist Marjy Duncan on their retirement.

Michael Walters and Meghan Dudley presented their independent research at the Society for American Archaeology meeting in Orlando, Florida.

Gabby Schneider has been accepted to study abroad at the University of Aberdeen, in Scotland. Michael Walters is a finalist in the National Eagle Scout Association World Explorers Program for a paleoanthropology expedition in South Africa.

Congratulations to Nicole Davis on her marriage.

## FAST FACTS

- 24 volunteers worked over 1034 hours since April 2015.
- Catalog information for 219,067 artifacts and 127 collections entered in the collections database since August 2015.
- 9 new accessions with over 37,562 artifacts processed since August 2015.

(Lead Stories cont.)

## Fort Sill Collections

The Fort Sill Collection Rehabilitation and Repackaging Project has nearly completed its second year. Sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, this project involves the cataloging and stabilization of collections from Fort Sill, Comanche County, Oklahoma. Since beginning this project two years ago, three graduate students, one intern, and 17 volunteers have worked on 25 collections and have processed over 57,000



Artifacts in the Fort Sill Collection, including a toy wheel, military button, bullet casings, doll head, and a toy car.

artifacts. These collections span the history of what is now Comanche county, from millennia of Precolumbian inhabitation to the establishment and maintenance of Fort Sill itself and including everything from building materials to military uniform buttons to children's toys.

## 2015 NAGPRA Documentation/Consultation Grant

Our first Notice of Inventory Completion was recently published in the Federal Register. The notice describes human remains and funerary objects that are slated to be returned to the Chickasaw Nation. This is an important milestone in our ongoing NAGPRA work. We are also making great progress in our efforts to streamline NAGPRA compliance goals while maintaining high collections management standards.

## ARCHAEOLOGY BLOG UPDATES

Check [here](#) for stories and departmental updates of collections and projects.



Misc. tools, Elmer Craft Collection (A/2008/002)