# Sam Noble Museum
### THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

# PETROGLYPHS
*Archaeology Newsletter*

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## IN THIS ISSUE

Dear Colleagues & Friends, I'm happy to report that we're making great progress in our work to comply with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). We published our first notice of inventory completion and returned our first set of Native American human remains and associated funerary objects to one of our local tribal partners. These are important milestones for the Archaeology Department, the Sam Noble Museum, and the University of Oklahoma as a whole. Last May, we received a second NAGPRA grant, which will fund our work through 2017. I want to take this opportunity to also thank our Collections Manager—Susie Fishman-Armstrong—who has done an incredible job in moving all of our departmental initiatives forward.

May your holiday season be filled with cheer!

*Marc*

Marc Levine, Asst. Curator of Archaeology

## CONGRATULATIONS SAMANTHA HAYES

Samantha Hayes is graduating with a bachelors of arts in anthropology. She plans to work in cultural resource management and is looking to persue a museum studies degree.

## LEAD STORIES

### Archaeology Department Awarded $90,000

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) was enacted on Nov. 16, 1990, to address the rights of lineal descendants, Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations to Native American cultural items, including human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects and other objects of cultural patrimony. The archaeology department was awarded a Consultation/Documentation Grant from National NAGPRA to facilitate repatriation of approximately 381 individuals and 1,265 associated funerary objects from 35 archaeological sites in Oklahoma. This is the second grant in a multi-year project to complete NAGPRA compliance at the museum.

### New $152,789 5-Year Agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

The BOR manages Lake Thunderbird, the Tom Steed Reservoir, Lake Altus, Lake of the Arbuckles, and Foss Lake in Oklahoma. The archaeology department is responsible forcurating archaeological collections recovered frommany of these locations. We will digitize, archive, and rehouse archaeological materials and associated documentation from all 49 collections owned by the BOR. Sarah Luthman, Graduate Research Assistant, has almost completed archiving, scanning, and entering the documents into a searchable database, including photographs, letters of correspondence, oversized maps, excavation records, field diaries, and contracts for archaeological work. For the next few years, the museum will continue to inventory the artifacts and stabilize them with new bags, tissue paper, and proper artifact identification labels.

BOR Collections

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



(left-right) Susie Fishman-Armstrong, Jameka B. Lewis (Head of Special Collections/Curator, Langston University Libraries), and former graduate student Andrew Gourd (Assistant Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Citizen Potawatomi Nation), present together at the Mountain Plains Museum Association. Conference in Oklahoma City.

Michael Walters and Sarah Luthman presented a poster at the 1st Annual Oklahoma Archaeology Conference.

Paul Sandberg published a book chapter, a paper in the *Journal of Archaeological Science,* and presented 2 posters at the American Association of Physical Athropology.

Michael Walters and Sarah Luthman attended the Southeastern Archaeology Conference in Athens, Georgia.

Congrats to Nicole Kusnierz, former Arch. Dept volunteer for defending her master's of arts thesis in August.

Gerald Franklin and Sarah Luthman participated in the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey excavation at Fort Washita.

Sarah Luthman was a crew chief for the University of Georgia's field school at the Singer-Moye site in Southwest Georgia.

Marc Levine was awarded a National Geographic Society/Waitt grant and a Faculty Investment Program grant to carry out fieldwork at Monte Alban in Oaxaca, Mexico. The project is a collaborative effort with the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey and will utilize geophysical prospection to investigate below Monte Alban's Main Plaza.



Monte Albán, Main Plaza

## FAST FACTS

- 31 volunteers worked over 1506 hours since January 2016.

- Catalog information for 428,850 artifacts and 162 collections were entered in the collections database since January 2016.

- 2 new accessions with 5721 artifacts accepted since January 2016.

## International Archaeology Day

On Sunday, October 16, the archaeology department organized Archaeology Day at the museum in celebration of International Archaeology Day and Oklahoma Archaeology Month. Activities included flint-knapping and atlatl demonstrations, learning traditional cordage, archaeologist-led tours and archaeo-scavenger hunts in the Hall of the People of Oklahoma, sandbox excavations, arts and crafts. Over 300 people attended the event, and 48 people enjoyed a behind-the-scences tour of the department.



Neil Garrison demonstrating flint knapping.

## Update on 2015 NAGPRA Grant

The archaeology department is on schedule to present a notice of inventory completion for 49 sites. The project is funded by a NAGPRA Documentation and Consultation Grant awarded in 2015. This includes the inventory and analysis of well over 100 individuals and thousands of associated funerary objects. To date, the department has assessed 72 collections containing 187 archaeological sites containing over 120,122 artifacts.

In July, Marc Levine, Susie Fishman-Armstrong, Paul Sandberg, and Michael Walters attended the NAGPRA Review Committee Meeting in Missoula, Montana to present an update of the department's progress. The success of this project is due in large part to the hard work and dedication of our staff, graduate students, and volunteers, and fruitful collaborations with tribal representatives.



Marc Levine, Susie Fishman-Armstrong, Paul Sandberg, and Michael Walters, Missoula, MT.

## ARCHAEOLOGY BLOG UPDATES

Check here for stories and departmental updates of collections and projects.