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Dear colleagues and friends,

Another semester has flown by, and there is much great news to share. Our staff, students and volunteers continue to make progress on a number of projects, especially those related to our long-term NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act) efforts. In this newsletter, you will learn about our current projects and the people who make this work possible. In particular, this issue highlights our undergraduate interns who have made great contributions this semester. As always, our volunteers also play an important role in helping us move our department initiatives forward. If you would like to volunteer with the archaeology department, please get in touch!

Wishing all of you a happy and healthy 2018!



[Marc Levine](#), assistant curator of archaeology

ARCHAEOLOGY DAY 2017

In what has become an annual event, we celebrated Archaeology Day at the Museum on Oct. 8. Kids of all ages enjoyed a variety of activities, including



Tom Luczycki teaching kids how to throw an atlatl

a flintknapping demonstration by Neil Garrison and an atlatl throwing station manned by Tom Luczycki, the museum's head of exhibits.

LEAD STORIES

NAGPRA News

In August, the archaeology department was awarded its third [NAGPRA](#) Grant for \$90,000. These funds will ensure that we can continue to create a formal inventory of our collections in compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act



Emily Wagnon organizing a NAGPRA collection

of 1990. In October, Susie Fishman-Armstrong and Marc Levine traveled to Denver to attend the Mountain Plains Museum Association Conference and present a NAGPRA workshop. The workshop was intended to educate and help other museums professionals who are also engaged with NAGPRA-related work. Finally, archaeology department members also are happy to announce the publication of our second Notice of Inventory Completion, and we thank the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes for their collaborative efforts on this project.

Intern Perspectives

This fall, we hosted two undergraduate interns to assist with NAGPRA projects. The interns inventoried collections, were involved in tribal consultations, explored museum career options, learned new skills and developed professional relationships with staff and fellow students. When asked what she liked about her experience, Emily Wagnon responded, "I'd recommend an internship to anyone interested in museum studies because I'll be able to draw on this experience for the rest of my life. I'm really grateful that OU offers these types of opportunities for students to gain real-world work experience." Interested students should contact [Susie Fishman-Armstrong](#) (sfishman@ou.edu) for more information.



NAGPRA collection interns Ash Boydston (left) and Emily Wagnon (right) at work

GOOD LUCK, SARAH LUTHMAN!



Sarah Luthman visiting Chaco Canyon

Sarah Luthman is moving on from the museum after working with us since 2015. She began as a volunteer and then became a graduate research assistant working on Bureau of Reclamation collections. She was instrumental in cataloging over 38,000 artifacts. After defending her master's thesis in August, Sarah began the Ph.D. program in OU's [anthropology department](#) this fall. We would like to thank Sarah for all her hard work.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pam Leader is serving as president and Kim Wright as secretary of the Cleveland County Chapter Oklahoma Anthropology Society,

Susie Fishman-Armstrong was re-elected to the board of the [Mountain Plains Museum Association](#) as chair of the Registrar's Committee.

Marc Levine was named to the Society of American Archaeology's Repatriation Committee.

Paul Sandberg presented papers at meetings for the [Society for American Archaeology](#) and [American Association of Physical Anthropologists](#).

Susie Fishman-Armstrong and Alyssa Giles attended the [Oklahoma Museum Association](#) conference.

Michael Walters defended his master's of art's thesis and began a new job as assistant museum scientist at UC Davis, where he is working on NAGPRA projects.

Sarah Luthman presented a paper at the [Southeastern Archaeology Conference](#).

We wish to thank all of our volunteers this semester: John Baugher, Mary Brinkley, Bill Bell, Lauren Carroll, Meghan Dudley, Gerald Franklin, Maura Hogan, Sally Johnston, Pam Leader, Cara Monroe and Erika Robinson. We also thank our part-time collections assistants: Alyssa Giles, Kim Wright and Gabriella Schneider.



Volunteer Sally Johnston labeling artifacts

(Lead Stories cont.)

Legacy Collections

Legacy collections refer to unprocessed collections and returned loans that need to be put back with their associated collections. This fall, undergraduate intern Wynne Clark created an inventory to keep track of legacy collections, including their location, associated information and collection processing status.



Intern Wynne Clark inventorying legacy collections



Scott Hammerstedt, Marc Levine, Alex Badillo and Amanda Regnier in the field at Monte Alban (Oaxaca, Mexico)

Monte Albán Geophysics Project

Last summer, Marc Levine teamed up with Scott Hammerstedt and Amanda Regnier of the [Oklahoma Archeological Survey](#) to carry out fieldwork at Monte Alban — a prehispanic capital and [UNESCO World Heritage](#)

site located in Oaxaca, Mexico. The team used geophysical prospection techniques, including ground penetrating radar, electrical resistance and gradiometry to “see below” the surface of the site's Main Plaza. While much work has focused on the pyramids, platforms and palaces surrounding the Main Plaza, this project is the first to carry out a systematic study of the plaza itself. In collaboration with Alex Badillo, a doctoral candidate at Indiana University, the project also used a drone to create a digital map of the site using photogrammetry. Stay tuned for results from the project!

ARCHAEOLOGY BLOG UPDATES

Interns Wynne Clark, Ash Boydston and Emily Wagnon did a great job for us this semester and wrote some great [blog posts on their experiences](#). Check [here](#) for more stories and departmental updates.



Volunteer Gerald Franklin uses a homemade contraption to view partial eclipse on Aug. 21