Dear colleagues and friends,

I want to thank Susie Fishman-Armstrong for expertly managing projects in the archaeology department this fall semester while I was away in Mexico working as a faculty in residence for the OU in Puebla program. We also have some great news to share: we recently obtained another grant (our fourth) to support our important repatriation efforts at the museum. This repatriation work, done in collaboration with Native American tribes, has become one of our core missions. Furthermore, we recently established an Archaeology Department Endowment Fund at the OU Foundation that will eventually generate interest to support research, student training and curation. Please consider donating to this fund (see more information herein).

Wishing you a happy and healthy 2019!

Marc Levine, assistant curator of archaeology

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Sally Johnston has been volunteering with us since January 2016. She adores listening to audiobooks while tediously labeling thousands on thousands of artifacts. When asked what she likes best, she wrote a poem which includes, “I explore learning from those before, of wonders never seen.”

NEW AND RETURNING ACQUISITIONS

The archaeology department has been busy with new and returning collections. Since June, approximately 165 cubic feet (approximately 201,717 artifacts) were transferred to the museum, with the majority being returned after a loan for processing by the United States Army Corps of Engineers by the Veterans Curation Program, St. Louis, Missouri. (con’t page 2)
GOOD LUCK, PAUL SANDBERG!

Paul Sandberg has left to become a postdoctoral research scientist at the Center for the Advanced Study of Human Paleobiology at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

He is studying the microstructure and chemical composition of bones and teeth of wild baboons and great apes from East Africa to better understand how changes in the physical and social environment affect growth and development, life history milestones like weaning age and dietary variability.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

-Paul Sandberg and Susie Fishman-Armstrong participated in the annual Oklahoma Museum Association Smarties event at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City.

-Alex Chudak, graduate research assistant, completed fieldwork for his thesis research on Native Christianity, remembrance and heritage (re)production and participated in a 100-year commemoration of the Native American Church in Concho, Oklahoma. He will present a paper in an international Americanist symposium at the Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography in Saint Petersburg, Russia, in December.

-Ella Crenshaw, museum intern, attended the Oklahoma Museum Ethnography in Saint Petersburg, Russia, in December.

- Sarah Stice, volunteer, was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa at Rose State College.

In addition, the department received over 56,452 artifacts from Camp Gruber, Oklahoma National Guard. These artifacts mark the beginning of a curation agreement in which the museum becomes the new home to collections recovered on CGTC property.

NAGPRA NEWS

The archaeology department has made significant progress in inventorying and re-housing human remains and associated funerary objects subject to NAGPRA. Since June, we have published one notice of inventory completion for 118 individuals and 1,590 AFOs and submitted two additional notices of inventory completion for an additional 134 individuals and 15,196 AFOs. These submissions bring our total to 461 individuals and 20,244 AFOs from 86 sites inventoried from over 778,990 artifacts entered in the collections database.

We were recently awarded $89,999 for a Consultation/Documentation grant from the National NAGPRA Program to inventory collections containing 202 individuals and 507 AFOs. We wish to thank the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma, Cherokee Nation and United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Osage Nation and Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (Wichita, Keechi, Waco and Tawakoni), Oklahoma for their efforts on these projects.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION UPDATES

The archaeology department began its third year in a five-year agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation to catalog, inventory, rehouse/repackage, tag and stabilize their collections held-in-trust at the museum. Alex Chudak, Fulbright grantee, assisted by volunteer Sarah Stice, announced that 45 collections (190 cubic feet) with 38,143 artifacts are cataloged, 38 collections are inventoried and 17 are completed.

ARCHAEOLOGY BLOG UPDATES

Check here for more stories and departmental updates.