



PETROGLYPHS

Archaeology Newsletter

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Dear colleagues and friends,

The archaeology department is humming with activity, thanks to the dedication of our outstanding staff, student interns and more than 10 volunteers. We continue to make excellent progress on our grant-funded NAGPRA projects, as well as our regular collections management activities. I want to extend a warm thank-you to Paul Sandberg, Ph.D., and our postdoctoral fellow, who is leaving the museum to pursue other opportunities. Sandberg made tremendous contributions to our NAGPRA program and we wish him the best. During the fall 2018 semester, I will serve as the faculty in residence for OU's program in Puebla, Mexico. Collections manager Susie Fishman-Armstrong will handle the day-to-day operations of the department in my absence.

Enjoy the summer!

Marc Levine, assistant curator of archaeology

ЗДРАВСТВУЙТЕ! (HELLO!)

Alex Chudak joined the department in 2018 to work with the Bureau of Reclamation's collections. Chudak is a Fulbright Scholar from Russia pursuing a master of arts degree at OU in the Department of Anthropology. He studies sociocultural anthropology on the Native American church in Oklahoma. Chudak believes in the four-field anthropology approach and that work at the museum facilitates his personal and professional growth.



Welcome, Alex Chudak!

LEAD STORIES

NAGPRA News



Kim Wright, updating the collections database.

The archaeology department has been working very hard to inventory and re-house human remains and associated funerary objects subject to [NAGPRA](#). As of April 26, 2018, more than half a million artifacts from 35 sites have been entered in the collections database. We are now in the process of comparing information in our database to the physical collections to prepare these materials for repatriation.

This semester, the archaeology department published a [Notice of Inventory Completion](#) for one individual and submitted a second notice of inventory completion for 118 individuals and 1,590 AFOs in the federal register. We wish to thank the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma, Cherokee Nation and United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma and Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (Wichita, Keechi, Waco and Tawakonie), Oklahoma for their efforts on these projects.

Monte Albán Research Update

OU research at Monte Albán in Oaxaca, Mexico, with team members Marc Levine, Scott Hammerstedt, Amanda Regnier and Alex Badillo, was featured in the “First Civilizations” television program, which aired on PBS on April 24, 2018. The episode, entitled “War,” can be streamed through the PBS webpage [here](#). Results from the geophysical survey and digital mapping project are also available on the project’s [new website](#). Don’t miss the [3D models](#) of the main plaza and [3D printed models](#) of the associated structures!



Screen capture of 3D model of Building J, Monte Albán

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES!

- Ash Boydston - Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, Native American Studies; minor in Non-Profit Organizational Studies
- Lexi Jovanovic - Bachelor of Arts in International & Area Studies - International Security Studies; minor in Russian, Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa.
- Gabriella Schneider - Honors - Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology; minor in History
- Rachel Thatcher - Master of Arts in Economics
- Kim Wright - Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology; minor in Art

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

-Renee Erickson defended her M.A. thesis on earspools from archaeological sites in Oklahoma and Arkansas.

-Alex Chudak, a Fulbright scholar from Russia, has joined us as a graduate research assistant.

-Former intern Lexi Jovanovic has accepted a job at Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming.

-Ash Boydson received the Outstanding Greek Senior Award from Fraternity and Soroity Student Life and will be working with the Boy Scouts of America at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

-For the fall 2018 semester, Marc Levine will serve as the faculty-in-residence for the OU Puebla program in Mexico.

-Former intern Wynne Clark was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa.

-Emily Wagnon gave a poster presentation at the Oklahoma Archaeological Conference

-Susie Fishman-Armstrong attended the Mountain Plains Museum Association mid-winter board meeting in Billings, Montana.

-Congratulations to the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes for the grand opening of the Wichita Tribal History Center in April.

Volunteer John Baugher celebrated his 90th birthday in January.

LEGACY PROJECTS

Legacy collections are the unprocessed materials and returned loans that are separated from their associated collections. They are a pervasive problem in museums today. There are far greater issues the museum world faces (e.g., funding, relevance, etc). This spring, undergraduate intern Ella Crenshaw completed an inventory of the legacy collections, keeping track of their location, associated information and processing status.



Ella Crenshaw cataloging
Class Period Stelae
(MEX00022/007.002)

INTERNSHIP UPDATES



Interns Jay Smith and John Repond, museum studies, so their internships consisted of understanding and implementing proper collections stewardship. When asked about his experience, Jay responded, "I have not only learned the valuable procedures and processes involved in archaeology collections, I have learned a large amount about archaeology in general." In turn, John shared, "I am honored to be able to be involved in the process of repatriating NAGPRA items back to the Tribes that have claimed them and show them the dignity and respect that is their due."

ARCHAEOLOGY BLOG UPDATES

Click [here](#) for more stories and departmental updates.

FAST FACTS

- 12 volunteers worked 590 hours since January 2018.
- Catalog information for 2,740,214 artifacts is now entered in the collections database.
- 13 new accessions have been accepted since January 2018.