



PETROGLYPHS

Archaeology Newsletter

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Dear colleagues and friends,

We had a busy fall! Highlights include a trip to Alaska for a Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Review Committee Meeting and our first "Artifact Blitz" program at the museum. We're also happy to announce that we recently received another grant to support our NAGPRA work and have published four additional Notices of Inventory Completion in the federal register. In other news, the Sam Noble Museum will conduct a search for a new director during the spring 2020 semester. On a personal note, I will be on sabbatical this spring and will use this time to focus on my current and future research projects in Oaxaca, Mexico.

From all of us at the museum, we wish you a happy and healthy 2020!

Best,

Marc Levine

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Neil Garrison is an accomplished flintknapper who prides himself on using a traditional toolkit like those used by native people during the pre-contact era. For several years, he has carried out demonstrations for the museum's Archaeology Day and Spring Break Escape events. Some of his stone tools are featured in the museum's Discovery Room and in the educational trunks that travel to public schools across the state. We are very grateful to Garrison for sharing his knowledge with us and the public.



Neil Garrison

LEAD STORIES

Artifact Blitz

This fall, the archaeology department hosted its first Artifact Blitz with the Oklahoma Anthropological Society. Over two days, 16 volunteers assisted with labeling boxes and specimens, inventorying current collection items, preparing specimens for long-term storage, making box dividers and archiving documents. Many of the volunteers were local, but a couple of them traveled from Tulsa and one even traveled all the way from Arkansas (375 miles)!



Artifact Blitz Training

New Acquisitions

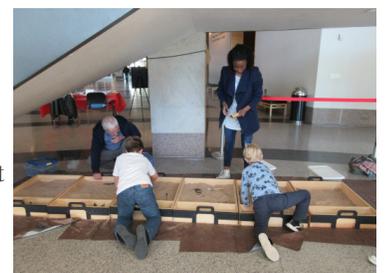


Ceramic Pedestal Bowl

We recently accepted a new collection of archaeological material from Panama that was formerly held in the McNay Art Museum in San Antonio, Texas. Highlights of the collection include whole vessels with polychrome painting and decorated stone metates. In conjunction with the National Museum of Panama, these artifacts were excavated by the Archaeological Society of Panama in the 1950s and 1960s. Thelma Bull, a member of the society, brought this material back to the United States prior to 1970.

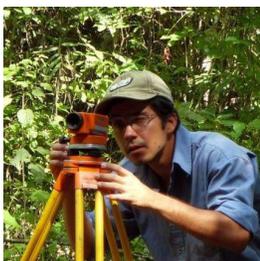
International Archaeology Day

We celebrated International Archaeology Day at the Museum on Oct. 12. The event featured pottery making, behind-the-scenes tours of the archaeology department, sandbox excavations, flint-knapping demonstration, atlatl throwing, and arts and crafts. With over 145 people attending, it was a great success.



Digging for artifacts in the sand boxes

WELCOME, RODRIGO VIVERO!



Rodrigo Vivero

In August, Rodrigo Vivero joined the department as a graduate research assistant to work on Bureau of Reclamations collections. Vivero is a Mexican archaeologist pursuing a master's degree

in anthropology at OU. His

main focus is tracing the social development of prehispanic northwest cultures in Mexico. He hopes to obtain more information about northwestern Mexico's socio-cultural development, to lead to a better understanding of the interaction between Mesoamerica and the U.S. Southwest.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

-Ella Crenshaw attended the Oklahoma Museums Association conference in Durant, Oklahoma, and presented a poster, "Taken for Granite: Rockshelters in the Lake Fork Valley of the Gunnison River," at the [Rocky Mountain Anthropological Conference](#).

-In September, Susie Fishman-Armstrong presented four talks at the [Mountain Plains Museum Association](#) annual meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

-Riza McClurkin presented a poster at the [Rocky Mountain Anthropological Conference](#) in October, and attended a field school in the Gunnison Basin in Colorado on the Miller Flats site. She will graduate this December and plans to attend graduate school in the fall. Congratulations!

-Having recently been awarded tenure, Archaeology Curator Marc Levine will be on sabbatical during the spring 2020 semester.

-Heidi Davis presented a poster titled "Work-related Pathology at Tell el-Amarna" at the 2019 British Museum Annual Egyptological Colloquium on "Amarna: the Lived City."

-Pam Leader, with the assistance of Sally Johnston, completed the processing of 7,117 artifacts in the Hannum collection. Started in 2014, each projectile point was individually labeled. Way to go!

ARCHAEOLOGY BLOG UPDATES

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

NAGPRA Travels to Alaska!

In August, Marc Levine, Susie Fishman-Armstrong and Heidi Davis traveled to Fairbanks, Alaska, to present an update to the National NAGPRA Review Committee. The meeting was held at the Museum of the North at the University of Alaska. Also in August, we were awarded a fifth NAGPRA Consultation/Documentation grant for \$90,000. In conjunction with our tribal partners, we will use these funds to prepare 209 sets of human remains and 1,161 associated funerary objects for repatriation. Since 2015, notices have been published or submitted for 700 sets of human remains and 23,322 cultural items in the federal register. Here is a list of our most recent NAGPRA notices:



From left: Scott Shirar giving a behind-the-scenes tour with Susie Fishman-Armstrong and Heidi Davis, Museum of the North, Fairbanks, Alaska

Notice of Intent to Repatriate (10/9/19), Vol. 84, No. 196, pp. 54166. <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-10-09/pdf/2019-22045.pdf>

Notice of Inventory Completion (4/1/19), Vol. 84, No. 62, pp. 12274-12277. <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-04-01/pdf/2019-06268.pdf>

Notice of Inventory Completion (3/18/19), Vol. 84, No. 52, pp. 9808-9809. <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-03-18/pdf/2019-04917.pdf>

Oral History Project with Don Wyckoff

Recently, Don Wyckoff, curator emeritus and former state archaeologist, recently came to visit the museum. Wyckoff shared his institutional knowledge and helped resolve outstanding questions we had about some of the older collections. It was very exciting to hear so much about his memories of both the Sam Noble Museum and the people affiliated with it.



Don Wyckoff reminiscing with Ella Crenshaw and Riza McClurkin

FAST FACTS

- Six volunteers worked 240 hours since July 2019.
- Catalog information for 3,002,969 artifacts are now entered in the collections database.
- 23 new accessions have been accepted since Jan 2019.
- Collection processing of more than 33 collections have been completed since July 2019.