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Dear colleagues and friends,

Museum work in the COVID-19 era presents special challenges, and I'm proud of how our staff has worked through these issues. We also look forward to the return of our wonderful volunteers - hopefully in the summer of 2021. I will be on paternity leave until mid-March to spend some quality time with my newborn son, Reuben Wolf.

Stay safe,



Marc Levine
Associate Curator of Archaeology

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Spencer Lewis (OU undergraduate) has been volunteering for the Archaeology Department since last spring, when his part-time collections assistant job at the museum had to be put on hold. During this period, Lewis has been working with Susie Fishman-Armstrong to write the department's first database manual. The purpose of this document is to define and standardize the Archaeological Collections Management System to standardize data entry. The final goal of this project is to publish and share with other institutions as a guideline for archaeological data management.



Spencer Lewis

LEAD STORIES

Buried Buildings Discovered at Monte Albán



Main Plaza at Monte Albán, Oaxaca, Mexico (aerial photo taken by drone)

Dr. Marc Levine and collaborators Drs. Scott Hammerstedt and Amanda Regnier (Oklahoma Archaeological Survey) and Dr. Alex Badillo (Indiana State University) announced the discovery of three buried buildings found beneath the Main Plaza at Monte Albán in Oaxaca, Mexico. The team used non-invasive geophysical prospection techniques (ground penetrating radar, electrical resistance and gradiometry) to locate the buildings. In an article published in *Latin American Antiquity*, they argue that the largest building detected (18 X 18 meters) most likely represents the remains of a buried temple. The team's research has been featured on KOCO News 5 (OKC), [The Norman Transcript](#), *Archaeology* magazine and websites as far away as Mexico and Spain.

Places of Power: Painted Photographs of Sacred Landscapes by Corson Hirschfeld

This temporary exhibit featuring the works of late Oklahoma artist Corson Hirschfeld opens Jan 6 at the [Sam Noble Museum](#). Hirschfeld was the husband of Anthropology Department Professor Tassie Hirschfeld. To kick off the exhibit, Dr. Kelley Hays-Gilpin, professor and chair of the Anthropology Department at Northern Arizona University, presented a virtual lecture entitled "What Makes a Sacred Place Sacred? Petroglyphs, Paintings, and Ancient Dwellings in the Southwest and Hawai'i."

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Susie Fishman-Armstrong was nominated to serve as chair of the Archives Committee for the Mountain Plains Museum Association.

Susie Fishman-Armstrong and Heidi Davis obtained scholarships to attend the virtual Association of American Indian Affairs annual repatriation conference.

Alyssa Giles, former collections assistant, has moved on to a new job as a degree audit specialist in the OU Office of the Registrar. Good luck, Alyssa!

Former intern and collections assistant Kim Wright has been hired as a staff archaeologist at Cox McLain Environmental Services, a cultural resource management firm. Way to go, Kim!

Dr. Daniel Swan, curator emeritus of ethnology, and co-author Jim Cooley recently published their book, *Wedding Clothes and the Osage Community: A Giving Heritage*.

Louisa Nash, former intern, recently completed her master of arts degree at Cornell University. Her thesis was entitled, *The Cosmos in Clay: An Analysis of Avery Engraved Vessel*.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Kayci Owen, who graduated from OU with a bachelor of arts degree in Anthropology in December 2020.



Kayci Owen



Reuben Wolf Levine

Congratulations to Drs. Marc Levine and Ronnie Grinberg on the birth of their son, Reuben Wolf Levine.

RANDOM NOTES

Volunteering from Home

Volunteer Sally Johnston has found a way to help us out from home during the pandemic. She has even enlisted some help from her husband, Norman Johnston, who is also a museum volunteer, to cut ethafoam for the bottom of our curation boxes. Sally and Norman have replenished our supply of this foam, which is used to cushion and protect artifacts.



Sally and Norman Johnston

New Portable Box-Making Kit

With the help of Marlin Butcher, facilities manager, Susie Fishman-Armstrong created the department's first portable box-making kit. Butcher donated the unused case in his department that was retrofitted by Fishman-Armstrong to create the kit. The kit includes all the tools needed to work with ethafoam to create support mounts to protect artifacts and make custom-made boxes.



New Portable Box-Making Kit

FAST FACTS

441 collections with 3,040,363 artifacts and 558 linear feet associated documentation are entered in the updated collections management database

1,563,906 artifacts are currently out on loan for collections processing, research and exhibits

See museum blog updates here:

<https://samnoblearchaeology.wordpress.com/>