

IN THIS ISSUE

Lead Stories	1-2
Special Announcements	2
Congratulations to Our Graduates	2
Alumni Updates	2
Museum Blog	2

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The winds of change are blowing at the Sam Noble Museum. Starting at the top, the search for a new museum director is near completion and we could have a new colleague by the end of the summer. In addition, during the spring semester, the museum hired a new curator of vertebrate paleontology (Dr. Jacqueline Lungmus) and two new curators of invertebrate paleontology (Selina Cole and David Wright). On a more bittersweet note, we bade farewell to Heidi Davis, who has served as the NAGPRA Research Fellow in our department since 2019. She will be missed and we wish her the best moving forward. Enjoy the summer and stay cool!



Marc Levine
Associate Curator of Archaeology

LEAD STORIES

Sam Noble Student Volunteer of the Year!



Lauren Gastineau

Congratulations to Lauren Gastineau, winner of the inaugural Sam Noble Museum Student Volunteer of the Year Award! Lauren Gastineau was honored at the annual volunteer presentation. Since September of 2021, Lauren has volunteered over 100 hours and played a big role in recent digitization efforts. All this while carrying a full course load. Way to go Lauren!

We recently hired Lauren to work with us over the summer as a collections assistant and she will be continuing with us in the fall.

The Art of Box Building

Although many of the collection's artifacts reside in standard archival boxes, there are times when custom boxing is necessary. Typically, this is to accommodate something oversized or abnormally shaped to provide greater security for the object.

In these situations, the artifact is first measured to get an idea of how much space is needed.

With these measurements, a blueboard box can be drawn, cut and glued to meet those dimensions while also allowing for additional clearance. A corresponding lid is then made to keep the contents safer from lights and pests. Once the box is made, an Ethafoam mount is usually carved to the shape of the artifact, padded and covered in muslin to provide a stable nest.

This process provides not only secure housing for unique artifacts in the collection, but also an opportunity for staff to exercise their creativity. It is essentially a collections-minded arts and crafts project.



Kian Steppe

CONGRATS TO THE GRADUATES!



Kara Johnson

Kara Johnson graduated with a bachelor of science degree in anthropology and a minor in Japanese from the University of Oklahoma. Kara was an intern and later served as a collection assistant for Bureau of Reclamation Collections at the museum.

In May, former intern and current Collections Assistant Marcos Rodriguez graduated with an MA in Museum Studies from the University of Central Oklahoma.



Marcos Rodriguez

ALUMNI UPDATES

Former collections assistant Noah Place will be attending graduate school in anthropology at the University of Arizona.



Noah Place

Michael Hopper, former intern, will attend graduate school in anthropology at the University of New Mexico.



Kim Wright

Former intern and collections assistant Kim Wright has been accepted to attend the graduate program in Cultural Resource Management at St. Cloud State University, Minnesota. She is currently a staff archaeologist at McLain Environmental Consulting (now Stantec), in Oklahoma City.



Emily Andrews

Former intern Emily Andrews graduated from Dartmouth College in June of 2022. She will spend next year working at the cultural heritage institutions on campus at Dartmouth College and then plans to apply to graduate school to obtain a degree in Museum Studies.

NAGPRA Publications

The archaeology department has been working diligently on NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act) projects at the museum. The following notices of inventory completion were recently published in the Federal Register:

- 2/11/2022 [Federal Register, Vol. 87, No. 29, pp. 8036-8037.](#)
- 4/8/2022 [Federal Register, Vol. 87, No. 68, pp. 20882-20883.](#)
- 4/8/2022 [Federal Register, Vol. 87, No. 68, pp. 20884-20885.](#)

Going Digital

The archaeology department curates 483 linear feet of documentation that include field notes, photographs, oversized maps and administration files reaching back to the 1930s WPA excavations. To anticipate future needs, we have begun digitizing the records from sites with shared ownership. These sites are typically those located on lands that have changed hands over time. This project also prompted a reassessment of our digital asset management procedures.

Susie Fishman-Armstrong and Lauren Gastineau drafted an updated procedure manual after researching best practices. As a test case, Susie and Lauren scanned all of the documentation associated with 38 archaeological sites included in our recent NAGPRA Documentation/Consultation grants from 2018 to 2020. In total, 45 linear feet of NAGPRA administration files were scanned and updated with new protocols. One of the great benefits of this project is that it has greatly enhanced our ability to share information with our Tribal partners during consultation.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS!

In April, Susie Fishman-Armstrong, Marcos Rodriguez and Sally Shelton served as guest presenters for the Mountain Plains Museum Association webinar on “It’s internship Time.” Marcos is a former intern and current staff member. Sally is associate professor and associate chair of the Heritage and Museum Sciences Program at the Museum of Texas Tech University.

MUSEUM BLOG UPDATES

See museum blog updates here:

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