



# PETROGLYPHS

Archaeology Newsletter

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Dear Colleagues and Friends,



We have some important news to share about leadership at the museum. On Feb. 13, Janet Braun, Ph.D., was named director of the Sam Noble Museum. Dr. Braun had been serving as interim director since 2020 and actually began her career at the museum in 1984. We

look forward to working with Dr. Braun, especially with our important Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act compliance work.

The Archaeology Department is also pleased to announce our participation in some exciting collaborative research in this issue. These collaborative investigations demonstrate the incredible research value of the collections at the Sam Noble Museum. Wishing you a happy and healthy summer!

*Marc*

Marc N. Levine,  
Associate Curator of Archaeology - Sam Noble Museum

## WELCOME



Maddie Niblett

Former OU undergraduate volunteer Maddie Niblett was hired as a part-time NAGPRA collections assistant. Maddie says she has “learned so much in a short amount of time about archaeology museum curation and is honored to be working in the back of the house, which the general public does not often get to see.”

## LEAD STORIES

### New Publication Highlights Collaborative Research at OU



Tarvi Honap, LMAMR

The Wichita Archaeology Metagenomics Project is a collaborative effort among researchers from the Sam Noble Museum, OU’s Laboratories of Molecular Anthropology and Microbiome Research, and the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes. This partnership recently led to the publication of an article in the American Journal of Biological Anthropology. The new article is titled “[Oral metagenomes from Native American Ancestors reveal distinct microbial lineages in the pre-contact era.](#)”

### Sam Noble Museum Participates in Horse Research



Horse Bone Awl (A1197619, 34Ka51189)

Sarah Trabert, Ph.D. of the Department of Anthropology in the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences and Brandi Bethke, Ph.D. of the Oklahoma Archeological Survey participated in a recent study focusing on the when, how and why domestic horses were reintroduced to North America during the Contact Era.

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This study, recently published in *Science*, included collections from the Sam Noble Museum. To read more about how OU researchers are contributing to a better understanding of horses in the West, see “[The Untold History of the Horse in the American Plains.](#)”

## New Oklahoma Archaeology Journal

The Oklahoma Professional Archeology Network recently launched a new online magazine: *The Community Archaeologist*. [Check it out!](#)

## INTERN PROFILE



Intern,  
Blaine Stejskal

Blaine Stejskal joined the department as an undergraduate intern in the spring semester. From his time here, he has learned the tasks and processes associated with collections management, museum anthropology and NAGPRA compliance. As a freshman, he says, “This internship gave me valuable experiences that I will take into my future at OU and beyond.”

## CONGRATULATIONS

OU undergraduates and archaeology collections assistants Lauren Gastineau and John Taliaferro will be attending the [OU Mediterranean Archaeology Field School](#). The project will be directed by Sue Alcock, Ph. D., and Joey Williams, Ph.D. of the Department of Classics and Letters in the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences, both of whom recently joined the faculty at OU. Welcome! The research will focus on the site of Pian de Mealla, near the town of Ficulle in Umbria, Italy.



Lauren Gastineau

Lauren Gastineau, OU undergraduate and archaeology collections assistant, published her honor’s research in *The Honors Undergraduate Research Journal*. Her article, titled “The Circle of Pomegranate: Finding Religious Syncretism Through Fruit,” examines Bronze Age trade routes through the lens of this fruit. By connecting the pomegranate to multiple spatial and symbolic categories, she shows how ancient civilizations display religious syncretism.

Elisif Dorsey graduated this May with a bachelor’s degree in anthropology. Elisif is a former intern of both the Ethnology and Archaeology departments at the SNOMNH. They were hired as a undergraduate collections assistant in archaeology in the spring of 2023. They also serve as accessibility coordinators with the Oklahoma Public Archaeology Network, working to create their accessibility manual and design with accessibility in mind. This summer, they will continue working with the archaeology department and OKPAN.



2023 OU Graduate  
Elisif Dorsey

Regan Crider, OU undergraduate and archaeology collections assistant, received a fellowship for an internship through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to work at the Red River Wildlife Refuge in Bossier City, Louisiana. She will be researching and assisting the production of a video for their website.



Emily Andrews

Emily Andrews (Dartmouth College), who completed a summer internship at the Sam Noble Museum, was recently [credited](#) with discovering the remains of Native American ancestors forgotten in the Department of Anthropology at Dartmouth College. Her discovery resulted in an external review and they are now working to re-inventory human skeletal remains in their possession.



From the left, Susie Fishman-Armstrong, Maddie Niblett, Blaine Stejskal, Lauren Gastineau, Hannah Christensen, Elisif Dorsey (with service dog).

FIND MUSEUM BLOG UPDATES AT  
<https://samnoblearchaeology.wordpress.com/>