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Dear Colleagues and Friends,



We are pleased to announce that the OU Provost's Office has provided two years of funding for our NAGPRA compliance efforts at the museum. This fall we have been busy assembling a NAGPRA team with the hiring of Dr. Ricardo Higelin Ponce de Leon (Postdoc NAGPRA

Fellow), Maddie Niblett (full-time collections assistant), and Paige Lebs (part-time collections assistant). This is an exciting period of growth for us and we have already begun to make excellent progress.

Happy Holidays!

Marc

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

LEAD STORIES

Archaeology Day

We celebrated Archaeology Day at the museum on Saturday, Oct. 28, an event that has become an annual tradition at the museum. The



Paige Lebs;
making buttons

event was anchored by the always-exciting flintknapping and atlatl demonstrations by Neill Garrison and Tom Luczycki, respectively. Despite the rain, it was a great success with over 300 visitors and we hope to see an even better turnout next year!

Repatriation Conference



Left to Right (Back: Michael Walters, Maddie Niblett, Robert Cast, Ricardo Higelin Ponce de León. Front: Dawn Rutecki, Susie Fishman-Armstrong, Ash Boydston-Schmidt)

In November, the Sam Noble archaeology crew attended the 2023 Repatriation Conference in Shawnee, OK, hosted by the Association on American Indian Affairs (AAIA) and Citizen Potawatomie Nation. Congress is expected to approve major changes to NAGPRA in 2024 and this conference provided a valuable opportunity to learn more about these projected changes.

WELCOME



Ricardo Higelin

We are very pleased to welcome Dr. Ricardo Higelin Ponce de León, who recently joined us as a Postdoc NAGPRA Fellow. Ricardo earned his Ph.D. in Archaeology at Indiana University and the title of his dissertation was "Bioarcheology of Oaxaca: A View from Underrepresented Skeletons from the

Classic-Postclassic Period." The dissertation focused on skeletal health among vulnerable segments of the population during a time of sociopolitical transition in the Valley of Oaxaca (Mexico) between 500-1200 AD.

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Besides his 17 years of research in Oaxaca, Dr. Higelin Ponce de Leon has also taught a variety of courses at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and others in Oaxaca. His extensive bioarchaeological experience in the United States and Mexico will be put to good use in support of our ongoing NAGPRA compliance work at the museum.

CONGRATULATIONS



Intern, Chelsea Clark

In October, Intern Chelsea Clark attended the Society of Advancing Chicanos/Hispanic and Native Americans in Science's [2023 National Diversity in STEM conference](#) in Portland, OR. Chelsea notes "I had the opportunity to speak with many connected people from around the nation and learn about mentorship and social justice in STEM."



Regan Crider

Regan Crider, collections assistant, completed an internship last summer with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She was stationed at the Red River National Wildlife Refuge in Bossier City, Louisiana and assisted with the development of an exhibit of a 14th Century Caddo canoe that was excavated from the nearby Red River.

Regan also presented a poster with J. T. Lewis at the [Southeastern Archaeology Conference](#) in Chattanooga, TN entitled "Raw Material Procurement Among the Fourche Maline People in Eastern Oklahoma."

Lauren Gastineau, former intern and collections assistant, will graduate in December 2023 with a BA in Religious Studies (with honors) and Anthropology.

Intern Ashley Moelling was offered the opportunity to join a group of researchers studying the Sac and Fox Indian boarding school in Stroud, OK. Ashley is excited to lend a hand in sharing these untold stories and hoping that more boarding school history will make it into K-12 school textbooks in the future.



Volunteer
Mackenzie Flynn

Mackenzie Flynn has volunteered in archeology collections for just over a year and is currently working on an M.S. in Geology and an M.Ed. in Science Education at OU. As part of her research in the geology department, which focuses on dust flux in the state of Oklahoma, she has set up

dust traps across the state and plans to take soil cores to track variations in dust content and flux through recent history. Maddie Niblett was hired in August as a full-time NAGPRA Collections Assistant.

After graduating from OU in May with dual degrees in Anthropology and Acting, Paige Lebs was hired as a part-time NAGPRA collections assistant. Paige spent her summer as an interpretive park ranger with the National Park Service in New York at the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. Previously, she interned in the ethnology department where she discovered a passion for museum collections work.



Paige Lebs

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Hannah Christensen is a doctorate student in OU's History Department, and her research focuses on how Texans thought and talked about secession between the summer of 1860 and Texas's secession in 1861. She joined the archaeology department as a volunteer in Spring 2022, and enjoys spending time working in archives.

When Hannah is not doing something history-related, she likes exploring arts, crafts and photography.



Hannah Christensen

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