



PETROGLYPHS

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WELCOME

Dear Colleagues and Friends,



The fall colors are on full display in Norman and there's lots of positive news to share from the museum. At the top of the list, we have hired several new staff members to assist with our NAGPRA work (see their bios in this issue) and we are already seeing great results. In fact, 2024 has

been a record-setting year in terms of progress made towards achieving compliance with NAGPRA. We have also expanded our internship program, placing a greater emphasis on providing training students in bioarchaeology. Wishing you a happy and healthy 2025!

Marc N. Levine
Associate Curator of Archaeology

ALUMNI UPDATES

Noah Place, former undergraduate collections assistant, recently published a paper titled "[Application of the Bioarchaeology of Care Framework to an Individual from an Early Agricultural Community in Sonora, Mexico](#)" in *Kiva*—a peer-reviewed journal focusing on the American Southwest and Northern Mexico. Place is currently attending graduate school at the University of Arizona.

LEAD STORY

Historic Year for NAGPRA

The totals are in, and we are happy to report that 2024 was a record-setting year for NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act) compliance at the Sam Noble Museum. In the past year, we published two Notices of Inventory Completion (see below) in the Federal Register that included at total of 751 ancestors (MNI or minimum number of individuals) and 857 associated funerary objects. This is the largest MNI total for any year in the history of the museum. This is a truly impressive amount of work, and kudos are in order for all of our staff. We are also grateful for the funding that has been provided by OU's Office of the Provost to complete this important work.

[7/1/2024: Federal Register, Vol. 89, No. 126: 54499-54501.](#)

[11/25/2024: Federal Register, Vol. 89, No. 227: 92971-92972.](#)

[12/30/2024: Federal Register, Vol. 89, No. 249: 106574.](#)

PHOTO CELEBRATIONS



Archaeology Day at the Museum (10/26/24)



Staff visit Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center

(cont. on pg. 2)

CONGRATULATIONS

Former collections assistants Chelsea Clark and Katelyn Riojas will graduate in December 2024. Congrats to both!

NAGPRA Collections Assistant Lindsey Jones presented a paper titled “Balancing Act: Preserving Collections and Relations while Discontinuing a Campus Loan Program” at the annual conference for the [Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists](#).

NAGPRA Postdoctoral Fellow Ricardo Higelin Ponce de Leon was invited to present a lecture titled “Zapotec Life History during Sociopolitical Transformations (Classic-Postclassic) in the Tlacolula Valley: A View from Skeletal Health and Funerary Treatment” at the [Institute of Mesoamerican Archaeology](#) at The State University of New York at Albany.

Archaeology Curator Marc Levine presented a virtual lecture titled “[La Orfebrería del Oro en la Mixteca: Evidencia Arqueológica en Tututepec en el Posclásico Tardío](#)” (Goldworking in the Mixteca: Archaeological Evidence from Late Postclassic Tututepec) as part of a lecture series focusing on prehispanic metallurgy that was hosted by the Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia del Norte de Mexico.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE



Carmen Frazier

daughters, playing piano, reading and traveling.

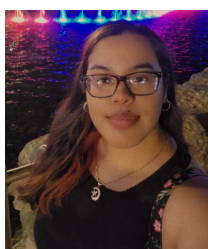
Carmen Frazier began volunteering as a collections assistant in June of 2024 and enjoys being involved with NAGPRA-related projects and organizing collections. She is currently enrolled at Oklahoma City Community College and plans to attend OU next fall to major in anthropology. When she isn't at the museum she enjoys spending time with her

WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Lindsey Jones, a master's student in the OU Online Museum Studies program, joined the department in July 2024 as a full-time NAGPRA collection assistant. She previously worked as a registrar the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art and has presented at conferences on the topics of database accessibility and campus loan programs. With a passion for cultural heritage stewardship and repatriation efforts, Jones is excited to be a part of the NAGPRA team!



Lindsey Jones



Drizella Valerio

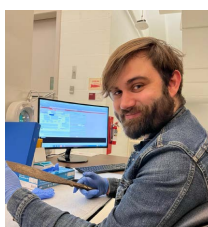
simply spending time with her parents.

Charithavya Mailavarapu joined the team as a part-time database assistant. Originally from India, she is a master's student in computer science at OU. When she is not coding, she loves designing, drawing and expressing creativity through her art. She also enjoys movies, racing and cricket for their thrill and excitement.

Mailavarapu says that for her “life is about enjoying the little moments in everything I do!”



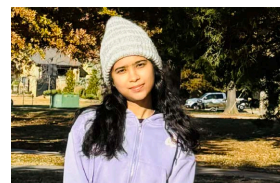
Charithavya Mailavarapu



Sam Whitten

Anthropology major and former volunteer Sam Whitten was recently hired as a part-time collections assistant. This position has given him wonderful hands-on experience in archaeology and the day-to-day tasks of managing and organizing a huge and diverse collection.

Chinni Sree Addagalla is an international student from India, pursuing her master's degree in computer science at OU. Addagalla's favorite hobby is drawing, where she can relax.



Chinni Sree Addagalla