

Fall 2021

OKPAN QUARTERLY

Volume 4 (Issue 1)

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LETTER FROM OKPAN'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



DR. BONNIE PITBLADO

Dear OQ Readers,

Summer got away from us, and fall nearly did as well, but if the 2020 Olympics can be held in 2021, then we can deliver our summer and fall 2021 *OKPAN Quarterly* content to you in December.

In the pages that follow, please enjoy first a splendid article by OKPAN summer intern Reagan (Rea) Ballard, one of ten talented high school students who collaborated to produce the 2021 Oklahoma Archaeology Month poster (which we also feature). Rea shares what it meant to her to learn about archaeology and the Tulsa Race Massacre, and then to design a poster commemorating the 100th anniversary of that horrific event, victims of which archaeologists continue to work to locate in unmarked graves.

When you finish Rea's piece, next check out reports by the University of Tulsa's Miriam Belmaker and Naomi Martisius and the University of Oklahoma's Matt Pailes who discuss their summer 2021 research in Israel, Jordan, and Mexico, respectively. We love to report on archaeological and heritage stories that unfold within Oklahoma's borders, but we also enjoy high-

lighting the great work Oklahoma archaeologists are doing around the globe.

The issue wraps up with a hearty welcome to the recently reinstated Oklahoma City chapter of the venerable Archaeological Institute of America, and finally with introductions to new OKPAN contributors Jace Hill and Kaylyn Moore. It always makes us happy to welcome new folks to the OKPAN family.

Happiest of holidays to all of you from all of us at OKPAN. We wish you peace and prosperity in 2022, and we look forward to sharing more archaeology and heritage content with you in the months to come.

Warmly,

Bonnie Pitblado

OKPAN Executive Director
Robert E. and Virginia Bell
Professor of Anthropological Archaeology
University of Oklahoma

Fall Events Calendar

(Scroll down to see full list of events)

December 18, 1:00pm

Pawnee Bill Ranch Holiday Open House

Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum,
Pawnee

December 21, 11:00am

Winter Solstice Walks

Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center,
Spiro

January 13, 1:00pm

Oklahoma Capitol Restoration Project
presentation by Trait Thompson

Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma
City

January 29, 1:00pm

The Jefferson Highway in Oklahoma:
The Historic Osage Trace author's
review by Jonita Mullins

Honey Springs Battlefield, Checteah

Oklahoma Archaeology Month

**Thank you for helping us celebrate in
October 2021!**



OKLAHOMA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH 2021

BLACK WALL STREET TULSA MASSACRE CENTENNIAL



On June 1, 1921, the Greenwood District, an affluent Black community in Tulsa, Oklahoma was looted and burned by white rioters. As many as 300 people were killed. No one was held accountable.

In 2021, archaeologists are working to uncover the story of Greenwood's destruction and renewal. Ongoing excavations at Tulsa's Oak Lawn Cemetery are searching for the mass burials of the Greenwood community members who were killed. Researchers are working to restore these victims to their families.

Events such as the Tulsa Race Massacre are often omitted from the pages of United States history. The archaeological findings enrich the narrative of this community's resilience in the face of systematic oppression. Our mission as science communicators and students of history is to convey the realities of the past and lift up the stories of those who have gone unheard.

This poster was designed by high school students participating in the Voices of Greenwood internship, a program for communities directly affected by the Tulsa Race Massacre.



CHEROKEE NATION



OKLAHOMA
Public Archaeology Network



Voices of Greenwood

By Reagan Ballard

The 2021 Oklahoma Archaeology Month poster was designed by students participating in the Voices of Greenwood internship. This program, for students from communities directly affected by the Tulsa Race Massacre, was designed as a pilot for presenting archaeology as heritage to historically oppressed groups. Over the course of five weeks, students learned how archaeologists reconstruct the past from the materials people have left behind and explored ways in which history often plays into politics and complicated ethical dilemmas. They also looked at ways in which the archaeological project at the site of the Tulsa Massacre is restoring the voices of those who have been silenced. You may also access the 2021 poster by visiting our website (okpan.org).

"What if we added an airplane dropping a bomb?"

Sounding equal parts historian and conspiracy theorist, a fellow intern added to the ever-growing list of ideas for the Oklahoma Public Archaeology Network's (OKPAN) annual contribution to Oklahoma Archaeology Month: a poster that honors the vibrant heritage and history in the state. As students in the Voices of Greenwood internship, we were responsible for putting forward a design for the 2021 celebration to commemorate the Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial and the survival of the Greenwood community. It was an imposing task to be sure. How does a gang of high schoolers create a poster that is informative, interesting, and respectful of the communities involved?

But where there's a will, there's a way.

This past summer, I joined forces with nine other Oklahoma high school students from across the state to complete a virtual internship sponsored by Cherokee Nation and the University of Oklahoma. In the project, "The Voices of Greenwood," we were introduced to the field of archaeology and learned how experts apply this knowledge to help marginalized communities. Much like a virtual concurrent enrollment class, we were exposed to a diverse collection of readings and guest lectures that we then discussed each Friday via Zoom. My favorite anthropological discussion derived from a *Nature* article exploring the need for a protection and repatriation act for historic African-American gravesites ([read it here](#)). Although the burial grounds of Black people have been pillaged for centuries, there is still no legislation protecting either the deceased or their living descen-

dants. Only an archaeologist's own moral compass guides how these individuals will be treated. This is by no means sufficient protection for an already marginalized demographic. Although the topic is fraught, I appreciated the opportunity to openly discuss these issues with my peers and professor. The significance of our discussions only became more pronounced as we learned the details of June 1. To say that the Massacre has affected me - a young, Black adult with deep familial roots in Tulsa - is an understatement.

All it takes is a casual drive down Peoria Avenue to see the residual effects of the Massacre. Just north of Brookside Drive is an idyllic community of well-kept businesses spilling onto the newly paved roads. However, these same pavements take on a state of disrepair the farther north they travel, and the scene quickly shifts from a thriving business center bustling with organic food markets and local restaurants to the occasional

car repair shops and gas stations. This stark difference is the direct result of the destruction of Greenwood and history of negligence toward the district. By learning about the community and applying it to our lived experiences, we gained not only an appreciation of historical context but also the power of archaeology. Oklahoma archaeologists bring new insight to help the community reclaim the boundaries of Greenwood and fight against its gentrification and erasure. This internship has given me the confidence and knowledge to talk about archaeology's role in helping minorities.

After five weeks of learning about archaeology and Greenwood, the interns were tasked with bringing all our newfound information together for the 2021 OAM poster. To be honest, I was weary of this process being virtual. Zoom fatigue is real, and the dread of sorting through 10 diverse opinions over a call felt like an insurmountable challenge. Happily, I was proved

The Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921

On June 1, 1921, a group of white rioters attacked the residents, businesses, and homes in the Greenwood District, an affluent Black community in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In what is one of the worst incidents of racial violence in America, the mob looted and burned buildings over 35 city blocks and killed as many as 300 people. No one was held accountable, and there was a deliberate effort to erase the event from history. It wasn't until the 1990s and the establishment of the 1921 Race Massacre Commission that the events surrounding the Greenwood District have started to come to light. Today, affected communities continue to fight for recognition and to restore the victims of the massacre to their families.

wrong. Zoom ended up being the perfect platform to discuss ideas in a centralized manner. We began by looking at photos taken immediately after the Massacre and during the reconstruction of Greenwood. We saw pictures of women smiling defiantly at the camera wearing Sunday's best while standing atop broken pipelines that once ran into their homes. Seeing that resilience after such a dark moment sparked the realization that we wanted to honor the community's spirit rather than the district's destruction. We wanted to emphasize that the heart of the community, the *real* Greenwood, was fireproof.

The internship was an unforgettable experience that allowed me to give back to my beloved Greenwood. North Tulsa is an integral part of the woman I am becoming, so I am blessed to have had the chance to share its story. Per our namesake, I will do my best to continue being a Voice for Greenwood. ■



Reagan Ballard is a senior at Booker T. Washington High School in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She is an avid reader and wants to pursue pathological medicine and research. She loves comic books, travelings, and all things North Tulsa!



Oklahoma Archaeology Month Proclamation for October 2021. Click to enlarge.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:

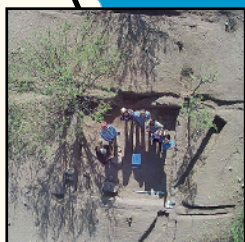
Oklahoma Archaeologists Research Abroad



ISRAEL
Miriam Belmaker
University of Tulsa



JORDAN
Naomi Martisius
University of Tulsa



MEXICO
Matt Pailles
University of Oklahoma

Miriam Belmaker

University of Tulsa

My research focuses on ecosystems of the past by studying small mammals. My methods include analyzing the environmental preferences of different species by looking at what they ate. I can track their diet in the archaeological record by examining the angles, scratches, and pit patterns left on teeth after eating different types of food. I analyze these using a white light confocal microscope that can visualize the surface of teeth in three dimensions. Because small mammals' diets reflect what vegetation is available in the environment, we can use diet shifts as a proxy for environmental change. I am currently looking at changes in climate that may have affected sites in Israel (3000 BCE - 1000 CE). These sites include Bronze and Iron Age sites mentioned in the



Dr. Belmaker sorts and examines faunal remains from her project.

Hebrew Bible and the New Testament as well as later Byzantine and Medieval sites. In my research, I examine environmental changes and relate them to habitation and abandonment periods at sites. I also try to identify whether humans used the land for pasture, agriculture, or horticulture. Excavations included sifting dirt through a fine mesh (1 millimeter), which resulted in the recovery of bones of rodents, insectivores, and small birds. I spent summer 2021 at the sites of Kedesh, Hazor, and Abel Beth Maaca on the northern border of Israel, sorting through sieved material to retrieve the small bones. These have now been exported to Tulsa, where I can analyze them in detail. I look forward to the project ahead here in Tulsa!



Small mammalian tooth under high-power magnification.

Naomi L. Martisius

University of Tulsa

During the summer of 2021, I analyzed the notched bone assemblage from the Epipalaeolithic site of Kharaneh IV, Jordan. This 20,000-year-old site is being excavated by University of Tulsa (TU) professor Danielle Macdonald, and it represents a location where hunter-gatherers got together and interacted during the period just prior to when groups began to permanently live in one place. At the time of occupation, the area was a lush wetland with faunal remains of many animal species, including gazelle, aurochs, horse, fox, hare, and tortoise. We can tell the site was intensively occupied by the wide diversity of material culture, such as stone tools and shell beads and a set of enigmatic bone objects with intentionally notched lines. This notched bone assemblage includes modified and unmodified skeletal elements from multiple



Dr. Martisius examines faunal remains using a high-powered microscope.



Intentionally notched faunal remains from Jordan.

species, especially gazelle. Similar objects from earlier Paleolithic deposits in Eurasia and Africa have been interpreted as notation devices or artistic expression; however, the cultural function of these items during the Epipalaeolithic is unknown. To further explore these bone objects, I conducted microwear analysis using light-microscopy and confocal microscopy to image and measure the manufacturing traces used to make the notches. Continued research on this assemblage focuses on identifying patterns of notching to assess whether these objects were notational devices, potentially linked to tracing movements, interactions, or events at the aggregation site of Kharaneh IV, or served other purposes.

Matthew Pailes

University of Oklahoma

In summer 2021, two University of Oklahoma graduate students and I joined our Mexican collaborators from the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) for a month of fieldwork in Fronteras Sonora, Mexico. We were joined by five undergraduates and one graduate student from Mexican institutions. The Fronteras Valley is a very interesting place. Compared to surrounding regions, there is little sign of large-scale demographic or political “collapses.” Many societies in the US Southwest and Mexican Northwest in the time period from AD 1200 to 1500 underwent tremendous changes. These changes often included the depopulation of previously inhabited areas. Some of these movements may have been partially caused by environmental factors such as droughts, but most archaeologists suspect social factors were

a larger contributor. We think that one of the reasons the Fronteras Valley avoided such tumultuous reorganizations is because it had a unique social organization that facilitated interaction between culturally diverse peoples. Our research attempted to both verify the broad outlines of this story and to seek evidence for how the different groups in this valley interacted. Ultimately, we hope our results will be relevant to larger questions about the benefits of diversity to societal stability.



Dr. Pailes, collaborators, and students excavate over the summer of 2021 in the Fronteras Valley.

Welcoming the Oklahoma City Chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America

By Ella Crenshaw





ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE of AMERICA

Excavate • Educate • Advocate

Founded in 1879, the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) is the world's oldest archaeological organization dedicated to promoting public archaeology and preservation across the United States and world. To advance this mission, the organization has more than 100 local societies, including one in Oklahoma City that was founded in 1997. The OKC chapter was briefly dormant in 2020, but renewed interest, particularly from local colleges, has led to its revival this year.

Ensuring AIA stays in Oklahoma benefits the archaeological community in many ways. Dr. Joey Williams, an archaeologist specializing in Mediterranean archaeology at the University of Central Oklahoma, has been a driving force for the chapter's reinstatement. According to Williams, "Having an active OKC chapter of the AIA will help us to bring more archaeological programming, lectures, and events to central Oklahoma and the surrounding region. We will be able to host national and international scholars sponsored by the AIA, and we plan to stream all of our events so that our far-flung

membership can attend even if they are not near campus." Prior to disbandment, the OKC Chapter hosted presentations by world-class archaeologists including Dr. Emilia Oddo who presented on Minoan frescos at Knossos during Oklahoma Archaeology Month in 2019.

As a graduate student and emerging professional in the field of archaeology, I have found professional organizations such as AIA to be invaluable resources. Local events provide diverse and innovative perspectives from across the field and offer essential networking opportunities. Some of the best mentorship experiences I have had and connections I have made at the University of Oklahoma have come from involvement in organizations including [OKPAN](#) (which publishes *OKPAN Quarterly*), [the Oklahoma Anthropological Society](#) (OAS), and [the Oklahoma Museums Association](#) (OMA). The newly reinstated chapter of AIA will foster these same sorts of connections worldwide.

All members of the OKC chapter receive a subscription to *Archaeol-*

Keep up with new AIA events and resources!

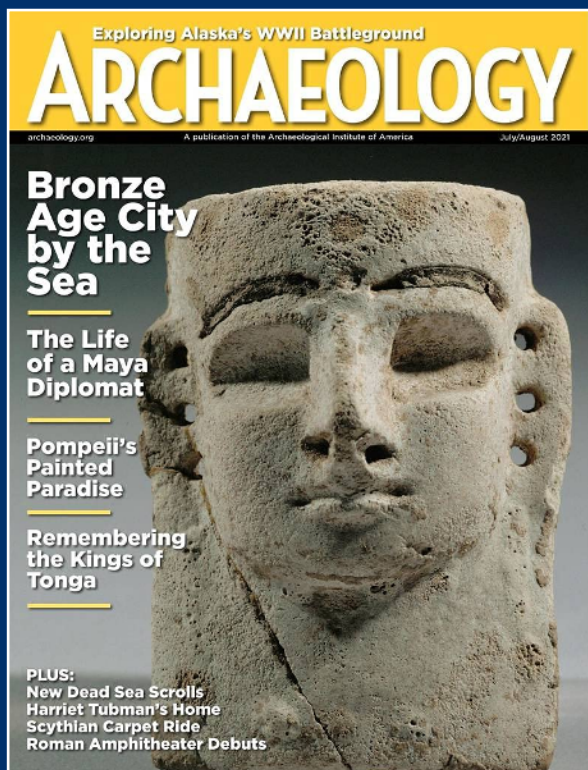


Please click on the icon to visit each link.

ogy, a popular magazine that makes archaeological discoveries across the world exciting and accessible to everyone. *Archaeology* and [archaeology.org](https://www.archaeology.org) publish articles, videos, and podcasts, and members receive full access to current and back issues. A membership also provides discounts on travel, books, meeting registration; JSTOR access to scholarly journal articles; and archaeological site tours at sites across the world. Student and professionals can join AIA at a discounted rate and access exclusive fellowship, grant, and

scholarship opportunities to participate in fieldwork and research. There are also job placement services and professional networking opportunities.

AIA seeks and supports a diverse membership of professionals, students, avocationalists, and others interested in archaeology. To join the OKC Chapter, visit <https://www.archaeological.org/join> and list “Oklahoma City #380” as your local chapter. ■



The magazine *Archaeology* has been introducing the public to diverse research projects and archaeological sites across the world for more than 70 years. For more information, check out your local newsstand, visit [AIA's website](https://www.aia.org), or stop by [archaeology.org](https://www.archaeology.org).




A special thank you and congratulations to Cheryl Shull, our fall issue cover photo contest winner!

Cheryl has worked for Robinett King Law Firm in Bartlesville for 34 years. In her free time, she enjoys photographing Oklahoma's wildlife while taking drives through Osage County in the evening and on weekends. Her favorite subjects are the wild mustangs on the Cross Bell Ranch, and she has developed a special fondness for these three in particular. Cheryl currently resides in Bartlesville with her husband Rick.

Join the Oklahoma Anthropological Society!

Need a little more culture in your life? The Oklahoma Anthropological Society welcomes anyone with a passion for Oklahoma history and heritage.



OKLAHOMA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Hello OAS member! November 2, 2010

It is time to renew your membership for 2011.

From advocacy for archeological preservation to support for public outreach events throughout the state, thanks to you, we are working hard to keep our society strong! Don't forget some of the rewards of membership, such as:

- o Society sponsored state meetings and archeological digs and surveys.
- o Members prepared for Oklahoma Archeological Field School of regional research.
- o Local chapter meetings with interesting workshops, demonstrations, and speakers.

Please fill out the membership form below, add your payment, and mail it to OAS, c/o Pam Lester, 1000 Lakeside Lane, Norman, OK 73072. **THANK YOU!**

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$20	Includes four e-books annually of <i>Thruout Words</i> , newsletter of the Society.
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$50	\$5 for each additional member of your household; \$10 for two or more.
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$10	Same benefits as individual, but limited to high school or college students. Include copy of student ID.
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$40	Includes four e-books annually of <i>Thruout Words</i> newsletter, and printed copies of any Bulletin, Memoirs, or journals published by the Society during the year.
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainer	\$100	Gifts the rights of a Contributing membership, and includes a non-refundable contribution.
<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$500	Gifts the rights of a Contributing membership throughout the lifetime of member.
<input type="checkbox"/> Institutional	\$500 (or more)	Includes four e-books annually of <i>Thruout Words</i> newsletter, and printed copies of any Bulletin, Memoirs, or journals published by the Society during the year.
<input type="checkbox"/> Print version of <i>Thruout Words</i> newsletter.	\$15	For non-members and members who want a print version of the <i>Thruout Words</i> newsletter.
<input type="checkbox"/> OAS New Member Handbook	\$5	Everything you need to know about the Society.
<input type="checkbox"/> Donation	\$	It would also like to make a tax-deductible donation to the Oklahoma Anthropological Society.

NAME (please print clearly): _____

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PHONE: _____

Fill out this form and send it with payment (check or money order made out to the OAS) to Pam Lester, 1000 Lakeside Lane, Norman, OK 73072. If you have any questions, please call (405) 555-0888 or email okla.anthro.society@gmail.com.

Please click on the flyer to enlarge and click again to minimize.

Contact okla.anthro.society@gmail.com with any questions!

OKPAN FACES

We're pleased to introduce you to the talented crew that helps inform the work we do at OKPAN.



JACE HILL

Intern

Jace is an undergraduate student at the University of Oklahoma double majoring in Anthropology and Psychology with a minor in French. He is a new addition to OKPAN. He's interested in the study of human behavior and is eager to share his love for anthropology with others. He plans to graduate in 2023 and will attend graduate school to pursue a career in academia.



KAYLYN MOORE

Director of Operations

Kaylyn is a current MA student at the University of Oklahoma. She graduated from the University of Arkansas with a BA in Anthropology and History in 2020. She is interested in public archaeology and educational outreach in archaeology. Please feel free to contact her with any questions at kaylyn.l.moore-1@ou.edu.

A photograph of two horses standing in a field at sunset. The horses are dark-colored, and the sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. A wooden fence post is visible between the two horses.

The Oklahoma Public Archaeology Network's Mission Statement:

Bridging communities with a passion for the past through public education and outreach, research and teaching partnerships, and professional development opportunities.

OKPAN Quarterly Staff:

Delaney Cooley - Editor-in-Chief

*~ Letters to the editor may be sent to ~
okpanquarterly@gmail.com*

Please follow us on **Facebook** and **Twitter** and visit
our website, **okpan.org**!