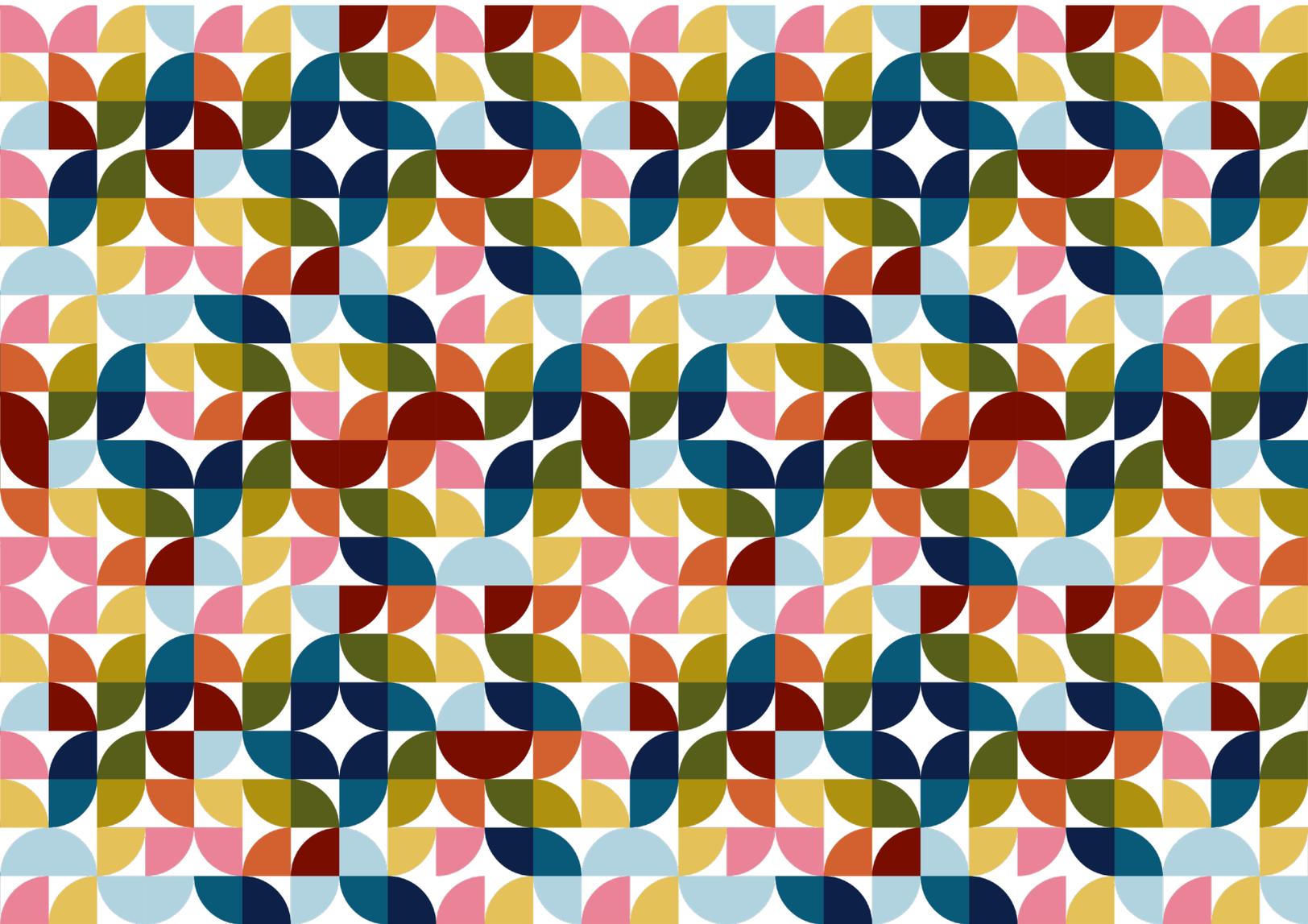




Oklahoma Archaeology
Conference 2026

ARCHAEOLOGY *in* FUTURE TENSE



OU Norman Land Acknowledgment

Created by LAS Working Group

Long before the University of Oklahoma was established, the land on which the University now resides was the traditional home of the “Hasinai” Caddo Nation and “Kirikir?i:s” Wichita & Affiliated Tribes.

We acknowledge this territory once also served as a hunting ground, trade exchange point, and migration route for the Apache, Comanche, Kiowa and Osage nations. Today, 39 tribal nations dwell in the state of Oklahoma as a result of settler and colonial policies that were designed to assimilate the Native people.

The University of Oklahoma recognizes the historical connection our university has with its indigenous community. We acknowledge, honor and respect the diverse Indigenous peoples connected to this land. We fully recognize, support and advocate for the sovereign rights of all of Oklahoma’s 39 tribal nations. This acknowledgement is aligned with our university’s core value of creating a diverse and inclusive community. It is an institutional responsibility to recognize and acknowledge the people, culture and history that make up our entire OU Community.

Additional Resources for learning about the land, a guide to acknowledging land and an Ally Toolkit:

native-land.ca/ AND www.whose.land/en/
nativegov.org/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment/
segalcentre.org/common/sitemedia/201819_Shows/ENG_AllyToolkit.pdf



Conference Overview

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Registration Open
Poster Session, Room B (CRB)

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

8:00 AM – 4:45 PM
9:00 AM – 4:45 PM

Registration Open
CRM Fair, Rooms B2 & B4
Native Artist Vendors, Rooms B1, B3, & B5

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Registration Open
CRM Fair, Rooms B2 & B4
Native Artist Vendors, Rooms B1, B3, & B5

TOMMAS PACE

Program Committee Chair, *Oklahoma Department of Transportation*

KAYLYN MOORE

Program Committee Member, *University of Oklahoma*

BONNIE PITBLADO

Program Committee Member, *University of Oklahoma*

PATRICK LIVINGOOD

Program Committee Member, *University of Oklahoma*

KRISTINA WYCKOFF

Program Committee Member, *State Historic Preservation Office*

KIM HINSON

Program Committee Member, *Choctaw Nation*

JESSIE BOYD

Program Committee Member, *Alpine Archaeological Consultants*

TIFFANY ELMORE

Program Committee Member, *University of Oklahoma*

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

STUDENT POSTER CONTEST ABSTRACTS

Conference Room B (CRB)

Evaluating the Distribution of Casas Grandes Polychromes and Symbolic Content

HELEN FULLERTON
University of Oklahoma

The Casas Grandes ceramic tradition included a variety of striking polychrome types with both geometric and rarer figurative motifs. Researchers invoke the presence of these ceramics and in some cases specific motifs as key lines of evidence in evaluating the socio-political character of the central site of Paquimé and the larger Casas Grandes World. The content of designs is also employed in reconstructions of specific beliefs and ritual practices known from regional ethnographic records. Despite this central place in interpretations, we have a very limited understanding of the actual frequency of polychrome ceramics and essentially no quantitative data on the commonality of the most relevant iconic motifs across the Casas Grandes region. This poster begins to fill that gap by collating data on recent and legacy excavations and attempting a quantification of symbolically laden motifs.

Engaging the Public with the Past: Archaeology Education Practices in the U.S. and Mexico

**SAM JENSEN
KAYLYN MOORE**
University of Oklahoma

This poster compares and contrasts archaeological education outreach in the United States and Mexico. Its goal is to highlight the strengths and weaknesses of each country's approach to archaeology education outreach. The presenters will emphasize key initiatives designed to educate the public about archaeology, examining how these efforts are developed, implemented, and received. The poster focuses exclusively on outreach to the general public. Examples of archaeology education initiatives include museum exhibits, informational pamphlets and brochures, supplemental school curricula, public archaeology days, and programs offered through national parks and other heritage sites. By analyzing these diverse strategies, the poster aims to encourage dialogue about best practices, and to inspire more effective, inclusive, and engaging archaeology education in international and bilingual contexts.

Clovis in the Cabinet: Collector–Archaeologist Collaboration in Colorado's Upper Gunnison Basin

NOAH POWELL
University of Oklahoma

Collaboration between archaeologists and collectors can significantly strengthen the archaeological record—especially in regions dominated by private land. This poster uses Colorado's Upper Gunnison Basin (UGB) as a case study showing how collector–archaeologist partnerships can recover critical Paleoindigenous data that formal surveys often miss. By working directly with local residents and their private collections, I verified two Clovis projectile points and established their proveniences. At present, they constitute the only evidence of a Clovis occupation in the area. The same collaborative survey documented numerous later Paleoindigenous points with at least basic locational information, allowing private and public collections to be integrated into a more complete regional record. The UGB case study demonstrates that private collections can provide data that reveal rare signatures, improve our understanding of the archaeological record, and encourage shared stewardship. This model is directly applicable to Oklahoma, where a substantial avocational community could serve as a valuable research partner for archaeologists.

“Hand-Grenade or Hoax?”

LILIANNA LANEY
University of Oklahoma

During my time as a student last semester I was awarded a Research Assistantship from the Honors College at OU. Under the guidance of Dr. Joey Williams, I spent part of this research assistantship drawing, identifying, and analyzing a Byzantine ceramic hand-grenade. This hand-grenade was confiscated by the Department of Homeland Security in Oklahoma, which then became a recent acquisition by the Sam Noble Museum here at the University of Oklahoma. The Sam Noble then turned to the Classics Department for someone to research the piece more in depth, which is exactly what I was given the privilege of doing as well as authoring an article on the piece that I am currently working on with Dr. Williams. I would love to share my passion for the history I have pieced together about this unique artifact and my ongoing research concerning its possible origins and authenticity! Thank you!



**A High Schooler’s Experience with Archaeology:
The Yuchi Tribe and How Archaeology Can Help Uncover Their Past**

MAESYN LITTLEHEAD
Edmond Memorial

KAYLYN MOORE
University of Oklahoma

The Yuchi Tribe is a small tribal nation residing in Oklahoma. This poster builds on an academic project I completed during the Voices of Oklahoma archaeology internship this summer. My original poster presented a timeline of the tribal nation, summarized what I already knew, and highlighted a few points about artifacts and the tribal school, but it lacked archaeological research. The main hope from this poster is to learn how archaeology and archaeologists can help smaller tribal nations learn more about their own culture. Rather than a traditional poster showcasing completed research, I will present my current findings and pose several questions to professional archaeologists. I hope their feedback will guide my future path as an incoming undergraduate student and researcher. My central questions are: What advice would you give? What should my next steps be? How can I ensure this work is ethical?

**Signals of Civil War: Tracking Information
Networks in the Vitellius–Vespasian Transition through ORBIS**

ELLA FRIED
University of Oklahoma

The political crisis known as Rome’s Year of the Four Emperors in 69 CE culminated in the displacement of Vitellius, Governor of lower Germany, whose authority depended on slow mobilization western armies. Soon displaced by Vespasian, the eastern commander whose power lay in Egypt, Judea, and Syria. This paper argues that Vespasian’s usurpation was achieved through communication networks. Using the Stanford Geospatial Network Model of the Roman World (ORBIS)—grounded in archaeological research on Roman roads, shipping routes, travel speeds, and more—alongside Tacitus’ Histories, three case studies are presented. The first two establish a methodological baseline, demonstrating that ORBIS can accurately reconstruct movements when the historical record preserves geographic clarity, and that its limitations align directly with narrative breakdown. This foundation enables the third case study, which shows that the eastern proclamations of Vespasian cannot be explained as a sequential reaction and instead reveal prior coordination across provincial power centers.

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

GENERAL POSTER ABSTRACTS
Conference Room B (CRB)

**2026 OU Archeological Field School: Archeological
Investigations at Three Stone Ring Sites in Black Mesa, Oklahoma**

BRANDI BETHKE
JENNIFER HANEY
LEE BEMENT
Oklahoma Archeological Survey

The stones used to anchor lodge covers survive as circular “tipi rings” across much of the Plains and are commonly used by archaeologists to identify camp locations. While these features have been intensively studied in the Northern Plains and Rocky Mountains, they remain poorly documented in the Southern Plains, particularly in Oklahoma. Pedestrian surveys conducted over multiple field seasons in Cimarron County documented fourteen open camps with stone circle architecture. This poster presents the results of survey and test excavations at three stone circle sites in the Black Mesa region (34CI510, 34CI521, 34CI526). Our initial findings demonstrate the potential of these sites for addressing questions of chronology, mobility, and interaction, while also highlighting ongoing challenges related to cultural affiliation, contemporaneity, and household organization. Work will continue at these sites during the 2026 University of Oklahoma Archeological Field School, where expanded excavation and regional comparison will further refine our interpretations.

How Old Is Pre-Clovis in Oklahoma?

JAMES C. HARTLEY

The pre-Clovis (before 13,400 CALYBP) human record in the Americas is a disputed topic in archaeology. Recent finds and analyses suggest a human present at least 24,000 CALYBP, with potentially older remains across both continents. Many pre-Clovis sites (especially before 24,000 CALYBP) are not widely accepted. Nevertheless, older sites are still found in North and South America, and comparably ancient (potentially, at least) sites have also been found in Siberia. In Oklahoma, three pre-Clovis sites (Bartow, Burnham, and Cooperton) have been found, one of which is older than 24,000 CALYBP. These sites are not widely accepted as valid due to a lack of stratigraphy or clear human artifacts. While many pre-Clovis sites in Oklahoma and elsewhere are likely erroneous, they still suggest possible human migrations prior to the ancestors of modern Native Americans. These sites should not be accepted or rejected automatically without further analysis.



The 1878 Wall Fight Battlefield

REBECCA HAWKINS
M. MILLER
C. BLACKBURN
C. WEBSTER
L. EADES
R. MCCLURKIN
Algonquin Consultants, Inc.

G. ROBINSON
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

On the night of 9 September 1878, led by Chiefs Little Wolf and Morning Star, over 80 Northern Cheyennes abandoned their camp along the North Canadian River, west of Fort Reno, where they had been forcibly resettled in 1877. Thence began a harrowing 1,200-mile long northward journey home. Along the way, the group's warriors engaged in seven major confrontations. The locations of the last three are well known and marked by annual commemorations. Those of the first four conflicts were almost lost to history, until archaeological survey in 2023 confirmed the location of the earliest of the four, the Battle of Turkey Springs. In 2024-2025, further survey identified the site of the fourth, the Wall Fight, in Meade County, Kansas. The sites of the two other skirmishes remain unconfirmed. This poster highlights findings at the Wall Fight Battlefield, interpreted with the help of military records, period journalism, and family memories.

Assessing the New OU Anthropology Course, “Introduction to Field Methods in Cultural Resource Management”

BONNIE L. PITBLADO
University of Oklahoma

At the 2024 Oklahoma Archaeology Conference, I used a poster presentation as a vehicle to solicit ideas for content for a new OU Anthropology course, “Introduction to Field Methods in Cultural Resource Management.” I sought through the course to address two challenges: (1) the gap in the skillsets of some students emerging from excavation-focused summer field schools; and (2) the lack of field methods training opportunities available to students during the regular school year. After the conference, I engaged with the many CRM professionals who offered content ideas, and together, we co-created a syllabus that we then co-taught in Spring 2025. With this poster, I present the final syllabus, discuss the experience of teaching the class, and share feedback received from CRM-professional co-teachers and students. I hope to engage those viewing the poster in discussions about how to improve the course when we offer it again in Spring 2027!

ArchaeoQuest

TINY TINKERERS
Edmond, Oklahoma

Developed by a team of middle school students participating in the FIRST LEGO League Challenge Competition, ArchaeoQuest is an educational initiative designed to address two persistent challenges in archaeology: public understanding and sustainable funding. ArchaeoQuest is a year-long subscription box program for students ages 8–12 that introduces the archaeological process through hands-on activities. The program aims to eliminate common misconceptions about archaeology while fostering an early appreciation for cultural preservation. The model also incorporates a philanthropic component, with proceeds designated to support archaeological research and conservation efforts.



Friday, March 6

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

OPENING REMARKS

Tommas Pace, CRB

9:00 AM – 10:10 AM

PRESENTATIONS

Oklahoma Archaeology, CRB

9:00 AM – 9:25 AM

Earth Ovens on The Red River

LAURA SHORT
HDR, Inc.

Earth ovens are well documented across the entire United States and through much of the world. In Texas, they are largely associated with the western and central portion of the state, where they are ubiquitous. This presentation looks outside that area, presenting a preliminary analysis of earth ovens in north-central Texas and south-central Oklahoma. In addition to examining the distribution of earth ovens across the landscape and their utilization by the people of the Southern Plains, a meta-analysis of our understanding of earth ovens will also be addressed. While the presence of piles of burned rock have been well known since early 1900s, these features only really began to be understood in the 1970s. Thus, another goal of this paper is to examine how reporting on these features has changed through time.

An Archaeological Predictive Model for portions of Stephens and Garvin Counties Oklahoma: What Does Field Data Say?

9:25 AM – 9:50 AM

ANDREW GOURD

Geoarchaeological studies in the state of Oklahoma can be referenced with readily available public data to build quick and simple predictive models. Andrew Gourd will present a predictive archaeological model he built using ArcGIS Pro for portions of Stephens and Garvin Counties and compare his model to soils data gathered from negative shovel tests in those counties. This paper presents methods for previously built predictive models created by others, compares their strengths and weaknesses, shares how models can be used as tools for making fieldwork decisions, and how models can be used as guides for possible regulatory action on projects run by CRM professionals for their clients.

9:50 AM – 10:15 AM

2025 University of Oklahoma Field School Excavations at Spiro Mounds

SCOTT HAMMERSTEDT
PATRICK LIVINGOOD
AMANDA REGNIER
University of Oklahoma

This paper summarizes results of the University of Oklahoma 2025 summer field school at Spiro Mounds. Excavations, which continued from the 2024 season, focused on three areas of the site identified during geophysical survey: a temporary structure on the Lower Terrace, a Harlan phase (AD 1100-1250) midden concentration at the interface of the Upper and Lower Terraces, and what we tentatively interpret as an Evans phase (AD 900-1100) house mound and midden on the Lower Terrace. Preliminary results are presented in this paper.

10:15 AM – 10:40 AM

Shedding Light on the Diverse Oklahoma Natural History Collections and How They Can contribute to Archaeological Research

MIRIAM BELMAKER
University of Tulsa

RACHEL JONES
University of Science & Arts
of Oklahoma

Oklahoma's natural history collections are abundant and represent a valuable, yet underused, resource for archaeology. These collections offer vital data on local and regional climate, ecosystem structure, and ethnobotanical, paleontological, and archeozoological resources over long temporal scales. Many collections are housed at regional universities and smaller museums rather than at well-known public institutions like the Sam Noble Museum. Despite their smaller size, they cater to a wide audience, including CRM professionals, scholars, and enthusiasts. Usually managed by a few faculty members, these collections often go unnoticed and are underutilized for research. This paper explores these collections, focusing on their contents, accessibility, and curatorial practices. It also presents case studies demonstrating how combining faunal, botanical, and geological collections can improve archaeological interpretation, support comparative studies, and inspire new research questions. The goal is to promote broader use of these natural collections in archaeological research and heritage management across Oklahoma.

10:40 AM – 10:50 AM

BREAK

Sponsored by Civil and Environmental Consultants, Inc.



Friday, March 6

10:50 AM – 12:00 PM

PRESENTATIONS

Student Paper Competition Part I, CRB

10:50 AM – 11:15 AM

Landscape, Object Agency, and Industry: The Archaeological Significance of Picher, Oklahoma

ANNA VASICEK
University of Tulsa

Post-industrial landscapes are often associated with toxicity, environmental exploitation, and obsolescence, yet they can be analyzed archaeologically to interpret the complex human-environment entanglements that emerge from industry. This paper examines the post-industrial mining landscape of Picher, Oklahoma through a synthesis of New Materialism, industrial archaeology, and landscape archaeology to explore how the site is continuously transformed through the agency of the chat piles. It argues for the value of interpreting Picher in ways which recognize the industrial waste as active agents within the landscape that shape ecological processes and preserve social memory. By recognizing their agency, Picher shifts from a post-industrial Superfund site to an archaeological landscape that materially contains the histories, environmental exploitation, and consequences of extractive industry.

11:15 AM – 11:40 AM

The Spanish Entrada in the Petatlan Region, Northwest México

JOSE R. VIVERO-MIRANDA
University of Oklahoma

This paper contrasts new archaeological data with ethnohistorical accounts regarding the Spanish entrada in the Petatlan region, Northwest Mexico, to better understand the side effects of the colonization process. The 16th-century Spanish entrada along the Americas profoundly disrupted the Indigenous world. While in its early stages, it is acknowledged the colonial regime employed forced migrations to relocate Indigenous populations for both missionization and economic exploitation, for northwestern Mexico, the limited archaeological data and sporadic Spanish accounts relegate post-contact Indigenous groups to passive actors in history. The recent recording of 92 Contact- and Proto-colonial period sites (AD 1536–1700) in the foothills of the northwestern Mexico's Sierra Madre, offers insight on Indigenous resilience in the face of the Spanish colonization. Sites' distribution suggests a decentralized pattern of reorganization prioritizing subsistence and occasionally security. These findings contribute to broader discussions of Indigenous agency during times of colonial instability.

11:40 AM – 12:05 PM

Writing About Native America for Archaeology: A Comparison and Contrast of Writing Styles, Elements, and Guidelines in Reference to Native America

SHELLEY PATRICK
Institute of American Indian Arts

The research focuses on the writing styles of three Archaeology magazines in reference to Native America (peoples, places, items, origins/history, culture/heritage that are accessible to the general public through online or library access: Archaeology, Popular Archaeology, and American Archaeology. I will compare and contrast recently published articles from issues covering the year 2025. Comparisons will include requirements for writing about Native America through submission guidelines, the "Editorial Policy, Information for Authors, and Style Guide for American Antiquity, Latin American Antiquity, and Advances in Archaeological Practice" (SAA Style Guide, revised December 2023), and "Elements of Indigenous Style: A Guide for Writing By and About Indigenous Peoples" by Greg Younging. This research will illustrate the varying degrees of writing styles about Native America, compare and contrast the elements of writing styles, and raise awareness about the impact these writing styles can have on the understanding of Native American existence.

12:05 PM – 1:30 PM

LUNCH BREAK

OKPAN ADVISORY BOARD LUNCH
Room C3



1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

WORKSHOP

Fiber in Our Hands: Working with Choctaw Textile Techniques, Room C3

Jennifer Byram, PhD candidate in archaeology at the University of Arizona, is the instructor for the 2026 conference workshop. Jennifer specializes in the study of Indigenous textiles of the Southeastern United States. Her workshop will introduce attendees to Indigenous textile manufacture, combining scholarly context with hands-on learning. Following an introductory weaving lesson, participants will utilize experimental archaeology to create their very own make-and-take activity.

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

PRESENTATIONS

Student Paper Competition Part II, CRB

3:30 PM – 3:55 PM

Environmental Determinism, Capacity Constraints, and Agency in Middle Holocene Southeast Oklahoma

ETHAN MOFIDI
University of Oklahoma

While it is clear that climatic conditions associated with the Hypsithermal (8,000-5,000 calibrated years before present [cal. BP]) significantly impacted the lives of those across North America, recent research has shown that there is much nuance to this environmental structure and it was not totalizing. In order to address this growing research gap, this paper critically engages with aspects of what archaeologists have named the Calf Creek Horizon (CCH) (~6,500-4,500 BP cal. BP) at the prairie-woodland interface in what is now southeastern Oklahoma. Understanding more about how past peoples navigated rapidly changing climates can help inform contemporary policy and practice to enhance socioeconomic resilience and sustainability in the face of a rapidly changing climate, especially as the effects of the Anthropocene become more pronounced. Archaeology is uniquely positioned to pursue this because of its anthropological base and the omnipresence of the climate as a setting.

3:55 PM – 4:20 PM

Paste Variability and Household Production in Late Classic Ka'kabish

ELI MULLER
University of Oklahoma

Located in northern Belize, Ka'kabish is an ancient Maya city occupied from the Formative through Postclassic periods. This paper examines household-level ceramic production and use during the Late to Terminal Classic period through analysis of potsherds from 20 utilitarian storage jars recovered from Chultun A-1, a subterranean feature commonly associated with household storage and refuse disposal. Multiple ceramic attributes were analyzed using statistical methods to assess whether vessels of the same type reflect shared household paste recipes. Results demonstrate that jars classified within the same formal type can be divided into distinct paste groups, suggesting production by multiple households rather than standardized workshop output. These findings support models of decentralized, household-based production and demonstrate how chultun assemblages can be helpful in the research of domestic economies and localized exchange practices.

4:20 PM – 4:45 PM

Reframing Legacy Lithic Collections Through Practice-Based Analysis

SAVANNA HENNING
University of Tulsa

Legacy lithic collections—excavated and documented under earlier methodological and theoretical frameworks—are often regarded as analytically limited due to incomplete provenience or inconsistent recording practices. As a result, they remain underutilized despite their abundance in museum, university, and cultural resource management repositories across the United States and abroad. This paper situates the interpretive potential of legacy lithic collections within the analytical questions and practice-based frameworks that guide their study. Through the application of lithic attribute analysis and chaîne opératoire, the paper demonstrates how legacy assemblages can be approached as records of learned, repeated, and socially embedded technological practices. By foregrounding technological decision-making, reduction strategies, and patterns of retouch, this approach brings into focus aspects of technological organization and tool use that are not typically emphasized by traditional classificatory analyses. This reframing underscores the continued relevance of legacy collections for archaeological interpretation, ethical stewardship, and archaeological training.



8:00 AM – 9:15 AM

PRESENTATIONS

World Archaeology, CRB

8:00 AM – 8:25 AM

Results from 2024 and 2025 Seasons of Excavation at an Etruscan and Roman Site on the Pian di Mealla, Umbria, Italy

JOEY WILLIAMS
University of Oklahoma

Located between the Chiani River and the Via Cassia in Umbria, the riparian site on the Pian di Mealla is part of a complex but understudied regional economic network that linked Italy's northwest to the Tiber River Valley and Rome. Originally discovered in 1883, G. F. Gamurrini excavated there but his results (except a page of notes) are now lost. This paper presents the results of our recent fieldwork, including Etruscan architecture, the foundation of a mid- to late Republican press, a first century BCE kiln, and later structures including the furnace and hypocaust of a 1st to 3rd century CE bath. The artifact assemblage likewise suggests the robust occupation of a site with imports from sources as disparate as Spain and Egypt. These results demonstrate the changing nature of the site in relation both to the supply of Rome, the regional economic corridor, and the wider Mediterranean.

8:25 AM – 8:50 AM

Archaeological Ethnography with Traditional Textile Producers on the Coast of Oaxaca, Mexico

MARC N. LEVINE
University of Oklahoma

The Mixteca de la Costa region of Oaxaca is among the few areas of Mexico where Indigenous communities preserve a full-suite of traditional cotton textile production techniques. This includes growing native cotton, hand-spinning thread, and weaving on the back-strap loom. Scholars often focus on weaving and the finished products of such labor, including huipiles with colorful designs. Less attention, however, has been paid to the process of spinning cotton thread and the spindle-whorls or "malacates" utilized for this purpose. This paper reports the results of ethnographic research with the last malacate makers of Jamiltepec, Oaxaca. This project began as an effort to determine how research with textile producers could yield insights for interpreting the archaeological record at Late Postclassic Tututepec, where I have worked for over 20 years. Yet this collaborative work has prompted an "ethnographic turn" in my own research orientation and uncovered a host of new research directions.

8:50 AM – 9:15 AM

The 'Unpickable' Locks; A Victorian-era Case Study in the Anthropology of Security

TOMMAS PACE
Oklahoma Department
of Transportation

Wealth grew exponentially among corporations, manufacturers, and banks in Victorian-era London. However, roving gangs and rampant crime sprees gave rise to vast technological changes in lock and key technology to address growing instability. The need for improved security as the world approached a second Industrial Revolution drove manufacturers to develop the most sophisticated locking technologies of that period, including the first steel-plated safes and 'unpickable' locks. This paper delves into the history of an event that became known as "The Great Lock Controversy of 1851" and how a single locksmith became the catalyst for the collapse and renovation of the security industry within London, a security revolution that soon reverberated across the globe.

9:15 AM – 9:25 AM

BREAK

Sponsored by LJA Environmental Services



9:25 AM – 11:05 AM

PRESENTATIONS

Modern Communities and Communication, CRB

9:25 AM – 9:50 AM

Paving Florida with Sacred Shell Mounds

ASA RANDALL
University of Oklahoma

In northeast Florida, Indigenous communities terraformed the landscapes of the St. Johns River and Atlantic coast with shell mounds. These places had complex positions within Florida's Indigenous communities, ranging from settlements to sacred platforms and mortuaries. In the modern era, settler colonists targeted these same places as resources for a new terraforming project: the construction of roads to facilitate connection and commerce through Florida and beyond. In this paper I examine the archaeology of shell site destruction, and consider the legal, social, and historical contexts that enabled modern communities to pave a new future with sacred places.

9:50 AM – 10:15 AM

Local Legends, A Castle in the Woods and the Unsolved Mystery of Mary "Bobo" Shinn

LAUREN O'SHEA
Switchgrass Consulting

One challenge in cultural resources management (CRM) is whether to record a cultural resource outside the area of potential effect (APE). It takes time, is not billable, and can be located on property we do not have permission to access. These factors can limit our ability to conduct an initial assessment, further testing, and additional research. This presentation will discuss the actions that led to recording a building located outside the APE and how this building plays a role in local legends about an unsolved mystery of a missing woman from 1978. In addition, this presentation will discuss how communication with the client and local State Historic Preservation Officers can protect these resources while benefiting the public through demonstrating compassion and good faith effort.

10:15 AM – 10:40 AM

Update on the Interdisciplinary Search for 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Victims

KARY STACKELBECK
University of Oklahoma,
Oklahoma Archaeological Survey

PHOEBE STUBBLEFIELD
University of Florida, C.A. Pound
Human Identification Lab

BRENDA NAILS-ALFORD
Descendant & Community Liaison

RYAN PETERSON
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.

On June 1, 1921, a White mob from Tulsa, Oklahoma systematically looted and burned nearly 40 blocks of the African American community of Greenwood, killing an unknown number of residents in the process. An interdisciplinary team, including community members, was assembled in 2018 by then-Tulsa Mayor G. T. Bynum to conduct investigations to locate long-hidden burials of massacre victims among multiple potential locations across the city. The team was retained to continue the search under the current Mayor, Monroe Nichols. Among other findings, the team has exhumed the remains of eight individuals who suffered violent deaths from gunshot wounds, recovered the identity of one previously unknown Massacre victim, and documented numerous unmarked graves in the Colored Potter's field of Oaklawn Cemetery. Team representatives will discuss some preliminary results in the context of their ongoing investigation and the City's efforts to recover victims and restore them to their descendants.

10:40 AM – 11:05 AM

AI as a Pedagogical Tool in the Archaeology Classroom

EMILY R. SCHUMACHER
University of Science & Arts
of Oklahoma

Universities increasingly push for the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into the curriculum even as their faculty grapple with questions of ethics, plagiarism, and the potential effects on the brain. Within archaeology and other human-focused disciplines, the use of AI is often even more contentious. While some are reticent to adopt AI technologies or eschew them altogether, others have embraced them, integrating machine learning and generative AI into their research and pedagogy. However, one must not adopt AI without consideration.



Saturday, March 7

11:10 AM – 12:15 PM

PANEL DISCUSSION

Archaeology in Future Tense, CRB

A conversation examining the impacts of current affairs in archaeology in Oklahoma, featuring archaeologists representing diverse sectors of the statewide archaeological landscape.

12:15 PM – 12:20 PM

WINNER ANNOUNCEMENT

Student Paper and Poster Winners, CRB

12:20 PM – 12:40 PM

CLOSING REMARKS

Tommas Pace, CRB

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

WORKSHOP

Fiber in Our Hands: Working with Choctaw Textile Techniques, Room C3

Jennifer Byram, PhD candidate in archaeology at the University of Arizona, is the instructor for the 2026 conference workshop. Jennifer specializes in the study of Indigenous textiles of the Southeastern United States. Her workshop will introduce attendees to Indigenous textile manufacture, combining scholarly context with hands-on learning. Following an introductory weaving lesson, participants will utilize experimental archaeology to create their very own make-and-take activity.

4:00 PM

END OF CONFERENCE

Panel Discussion I Saturday, March 7

11:10 AM – 12:15 PM

CRB

Archaeology in Future Tense

The field of archaeology has become an evolving landscape that has posed significant challenges across different sectors of the industry. This panel discussion features a dialogue among a diverse range of professional archaeologists about how policy changes have impacted their institutions and what this means for the future of archaeology.

DR. PATRICK LIVINGOOD

Chair & Associate Professor, *Department of Anthropology, University of Oklahoma*

KIMBERLY HINSON

Tribal Archaeologist, *Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma*

DR. MARC LEVINE

Associate Curator, *Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History & Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Oklahoma*

CHRISTOPHER GOODMASTER

Senior Archaeologist, *Integrated Environmental Solutions*

KRISTINA WYCKOFF

Section 106 Coordinator, *Oklahoma Historical Society*

DR. KARY STACKELBECK

State Archaeologist, *Oklahoma Archeological Survey, University of Oklahoma*



Workshop with Jennifer Byram (Room C3)

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM
Friday and Saturday
Room C3

Fiber in Our Hands: Working with Choctaw Textile Techniques with Jennifer Byram

The OAC conference organizers are pleased to introduce Jennifer Byram, PhD candidate in archaeology at the University of Arizona, as the instructor for the 2026 conference workshop. Jennifer specializes in the study of Indigenous textiles of the Southeastern United States. Her workshop will introduce attendees to Indigenous textile manufacture, combining scholarly context with hands-on learning. Following an introductory weaving lesson, participants will utilize experimental archaeology to create their very own make-and-take activity.



Native American Artists/Vendors (Rooms B1, B3, & B5)



BARBARA ADAIR

Barbara Adair was named Cherokee National Treasure in Basketry in 2022. She has traveled often to instruct students in rural schools, Cherokee Nation Health Centers, even to Cherokee Nation at-large community groups as far as Washington state. In addition to round and flat reed baskets, Barbara's other specialties include making corn husk dolls, clay bead necklaces, clay medallions, twine bags and her favorite item, turtle baskets.



ASHLEY BOND

She's a crochet artist & indigenous Creator, brings Native American culture to life through textile pieces like 'Six Stomp Dancers'. Based in Norman, OK, she weaves stories with yarn and thread, blending tradition with handmade artistry and love, celebrating her heritage through every stitch.



REBECCA BRASHER

Rebecca Brasher is an airbrush bait artist creating custom fishing lures that blend artistic design with practical function. Inspired by local waters and Native motifs, her work focuses on color layering, pattern, and detail to produce unique, hand-painted pieces.



BRENT CHERRY

A Choctaw leather artist, craftsman, painter, and graphic designer based near Shady Point, Oklahoma. Renowned for intricate hand-tooled leatherwork blending traditional Choctaw motifs with expert techniques, he also creates fine art paintings in oil and acrylic. He has exhibited widely with award-winning work at the Choctaw Nation Annual Art Show and Red Earth Festival, plus shows at the Artesian Arts Festival, Cherokee Art Market, Hushtola Art Market, and Jacobson House Biannual Show. He holds an Associate's in Graphic Design from Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology and a Bachelor's in Studio Art from the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. Through Dead Cow Creations and Grow and Graze Farm Supply, he embodies the Chahtapreneur spirit of cultural pride, resilience, and economic self-determination in the Arkansas-Oklahoma region.



Native American Artists/Vendors (Rooms B1, B3, & B5)



ANNA FRYE

Oh Kíyo (Oh No) was formed in 2017 as a play on words while beginning to learn the Chickasaw Language as a teen. The brand was founded in 2022 and is located in Sulphur Oklahoma. We currently operate with one designer, Chickasaw Tribal Citizen Anna K.



KRISTIN HOOVER GENTRY

Kristin Hoover Gentry is a Two-Spirit Choctaw award-winning artist, curator, and cultural advocate. She creates spaces for urban Indigenous connection and healing. With expertise in Southeastern tribal iconography and community-based projects, she bridges ancestral knowledge, contemporary art, and cultural sovereignty, honoring Indigenous traditions while fostering creative innovation.



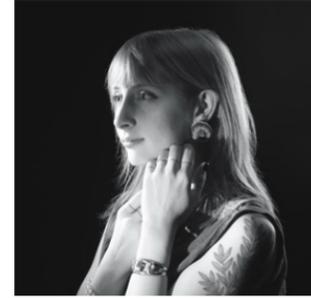
DEREK RYAN GREGORY

Derek Ryan is an Absentee Shawnee multimedia artist whose self-taught work rises from resilience, emotional healing, and self-reflection. His unique perspective of the world is revealed through everything he creates, resulting in art that challenges, comforts, and speaks to those that seek a deeper understanding of life.



GEORGE LEVI

George Curtis Levi is a Cheyenne artist who is well known in the Native American art world. He specializes in ledger art, parfleche, and beadwork featuring traditional Cheyenne designs. By incorporating these designs and historical events into his work, he uses his art as a tool to tell the story of the Cheyenne people.



CHRISTIAN LINDLEY

Christian Lindley is a Chickasaw artist from Stillwater, Oklahoma. She is attending East Central University, majoring in Native American Studies. She uses cultural research, dialogue, and experience to inform and inspire her art, which tends to focus on nature, self-reflection, language, and Chickasaw/Mississippian motifs.



ANDY MARION

Mr. Marion has been silversmith as long as I remember. He raised his family doing what he loved. He is an extraordinary designer with silver, and receives numerous awards including, the Santa Fe Indian Market, and Heard Museum. His father was a well-known silversmith, and he learned from his father. All his siblings are silversmith. Sold silver pieces to celebrities including Kevin Costner, Charlie Daniel, and Robin Williams, and also Sandra Day O'Conner.



ROSEANNA MOORE

Roseanna Moore is a retired elder originally from Ada Oklahoma. She designs and handcrafts unique indigenous jewelry with love. Through the cultural teachings offered by the Chickasaw Nation, she has won several ribbons for her beadwork. She participates in the Artesian and SEASAM festivals. View on Instagram @Indigenous_crafting_nani



ANNETTA NEAL

Annetta Neal's artistic journey is a remarkable tapestry woven with experience and a deep connection to her roots. Along with being an artist she raised kids, taught school, and opened a successful winery. Her chosen medium is pottery-mixed media. There are additions of antlers, copper feathers, and beads. These pieces resonate with traditional and contemporary artistry. Annetta is also known for her paintings in oils and acrylics using vibrant colors. Her paintings reflect homage paid to indigenous people. Annetta's talent is displayed in Cherokee Nation Spider Gallery, and is Artist in residence at the Canebrake Resort on Lake Fort Gibson.



Native American Artists/Vendors (Rooms B1, B3, & B5)



TERI SCROGGINS

Teri Scroggins was raised near Francis, Oklahoma. She received a BS in Biology and Master's of Education. She was a Legal Specialist and a Military Intelligence Officer in the US Army. She and served three combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. She began Humma Fichik Designs to help with PTSD.



BLAIR TILLERY

Blair Tillery is a Chickasaw/Choctaw artist based in Oklahoma. She is known for beadwork, feather-work, and other Native American arts and crafts. She's often found selling her work at powwows, art markets, stomp dances, and other like events. Outside of her creative life, she enjoys traveling, exploring the natural world, and spending time with her daughter. She values creativity, culture, and nature. And is always looking for new ideas to incorporate into her arts and crafts.

CHESTER COWEN

JERICO & LILA EAGLEWOLF

SHERRI GARZA

Sponsors



Sponsors



Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (Alpine) is a respected, full-service archaeological consulting firm headquartered in Montrose, Colorado, with an office in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Alpine was founded in 1988 and operates across the Southwest, Great Plains, Rocky Mountains, and Great Basin. The firm's projects range from small cultural resource inventories to large-scale data recoveries. Alpine's team of cultural resource specialists are experienced and skilled at providing support for a wide variety of projects, including feasibility studies, large-scale data processing, intensive cultural resource inventories, archaeological monitoring, data recovery, and public outreach. Alpine's work supports compliance obligations for various industries, including energy, transportation, mining, recreation and land management, and urban and rural development. Known for high-quality deliverables, Alpine had developed strong relationship with local, state, and federal government agencies, Native American Tribes, and State Historic Preservation Offices.

Alpine fosters a work-life balance and a welcoming atmosphere where employees enjoy collaborating on projects and taking part in community events. The company has 26 full-time archaeologists with a variety of specialties, including precontact and historical archaeology, geographic information systems, graphic design, curation, artifact and faunal analysis, and ethnobotany. Alpine's management team, data services department, and archaeologists all work together in a collaborative setting to ensure consistency and high-quality products during every project.



AR Consultants, Inc. (ARC) has a rich history dating back to 1977 when Dr. S. Alan Skinner, then a faculty member in the Anthropology Department at Southern Methodist University, founded the company. The company was first named Archaeology Resource Consultants. The sole proprietorship provided cultural resource services, including archaeological and historical surveys, to organizations in need.

The firm was active until 1979, at which point Dr. Skinner left SMU and joined a national environmental consulting company. During his four-year tenure, he established three regional offices and held the position of General Manager. However, his vision and commitment to Archaeology Resource Consultants prompted him to step down and reactivate the company. The services expanded to include: historic building studies, environmental baseline investigations, and cultural resources projects involving substantial testing and mitigation. With the service expansion, the name changed to AR Consultants. In 2000, the firm officially became incorporated.

AR Consultants' growth has been steady and consistent, with a steadfast commitment to service at its core. The company specializes in cultural resource surveys, site evaluations, and major site excavations while maintaining hands-on management practices. The team boasts a wealth of experience, with employees well-versed in projects spanning most of the United States and overseas.

The firm is versatile, taking on both small-scale projects and large-scale projects. AR Consultants collaborates with engineering firms, water districts, electric cooperatives, land developers, cities, and governmental agencies across the United States. The company is known for providing thorough, state-of-the-art investigations in cultural resources and the environmental field, prioritizing rapid response to meet clients' needs. AR Consultant's track record includes successful coordination with local, state, and federal review agencies, along with a portfolio of pipeline route studies for petroleum industries and water and transmission routes in Texas and neighboring states, serving numerous water districts and utility companies.



Sponsors



Civil & Environmental
Consultants, Inc.

Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. Combining a focus on client partnership and service excellence with decades of technical expertise, CEC's coast-to-coast team of Cultural Resources specialists offers a full range of integrated services to address compliance with Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and other federal, state, and local regulations. Our regulatory and permitting expertise includes established relationships with several federal agencies.



Sponsors



Hudson Prince Engineering & Inspection (Hudson Prince) is a primarily woman-owned engineering, inspection, and environmental consulting company. Our extensive understanding of compliance, environmental, and project planning positions us to provide comprehensive support to our teaming partners and clients. Hudson Prince has offices in Owasso, Oklahoma City, and Chickasha, Oklahoma and our team has decades of experience in managing cultural resources under the NEPA and Section 106 of the NHPA, as amended. Our experience includes background studies; site predictability assessments; archaeological surveys and Phase II and III excavations; NRHP evaluations; construction monitoring; data management; curation; and mitigation of adverse effects to historic properties. Additionally, our key staff have experience with supporting tribal consultations and tribal engagement.

Haley Rush is our Senior Archaeologist and has nearly 20 years of experience, primarily in Oklahoma and Texas and meets the SOI qualifications for archaeology. Her background includes field experience in archaeological reconnaissance, monitoring, survey, and excavation, as well as experience with historical research, artifact analysis of both historic-era and precontact materials. Haley also has lab and curation experience for most types of archaeological materials and records.

Katie Canavan is an Environmental Project Manager with experience throughout Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas. Beginning her career in cultural resources, Katie has field and lab experience in all phases of cultural resources management, most notably directing the processing of assemblages of over 50,000 artifacts and samples. With over 10 years of Lab Director experience, Katie has prepared hundreds of projects for curation in Oklahoma, Texas, and Arkansas. Katie has extensive experience with data and paperwork management.



Joe Deere Consulting, LLC. We are a Native American-owned, minority-owned small business comprised of staff with decades of experience in Oklahoma Section 106 compliance. Our Principal Investigator and staff are Secretary of Interior (36 CFR part 61) certified for Archaeology. We also work with sub-contractors from the University of Tulsa, the University Oklahoma, and independent contractors around the State of Oklahoma.

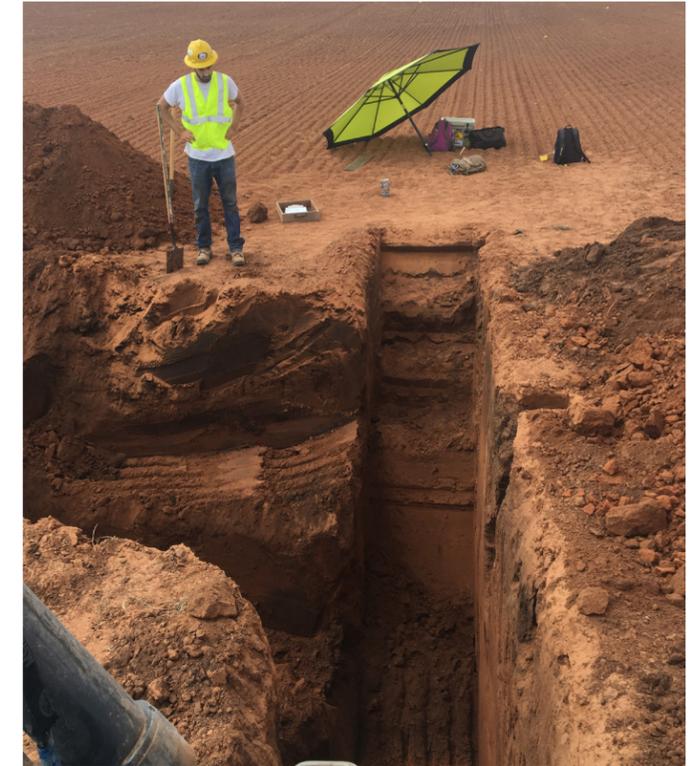
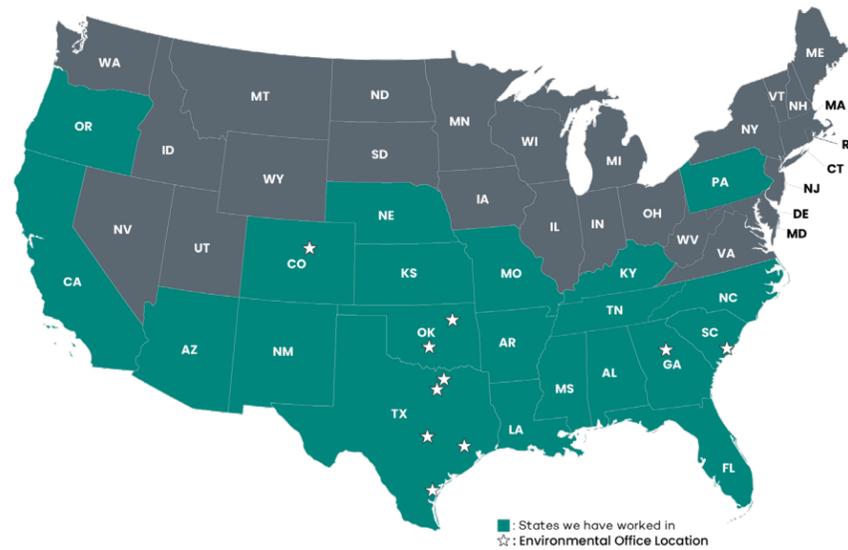
For 9 years, JDC Archaeology has initiated, conducted, and completed Phase I surveys for environmental firms, state agencies, and federal agencies, including the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), Environmental Consultants of America (ECA), CC Environmental (CCE), Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Indian Health Services (IHS or USDHHS), and US Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS). We have also worked with engineering firms and utility companies such as Aptitude Internet Solutions, Cimmaron Telephone Services, Wahzhazhe Connect, and Liberty Utilities. Additionally, we work directly with Tribes including the Osage Nation, Sac and Fox Nation, Pawnee Nation, and the Shawnee Tribe. JDC also has vast experience in evaluating National Register eligibility of properties, conducting Archaeological Monitoring, and providing Environmental Consulting Services compliant with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) standards.



Sponsors



LJA Environmental Services (LJAES) is a full-service environmental science and cultural resources consulting firm with a long-established presence across Oklahoma and the southern U.S., supported by offices in Moore, OK; Houston, Austin, and Arlington, TX; Georgia; Colorado; and South Carolina. With more than 38 years of experience, our Secretary of the Interior-qualified archaeologists, historians, and GIS specialists provide comprehensive archaeological surveys, NRHP evaluations, built-environment studies, Tribal coordination, and full compliance with federal, state, and Tribal preservation laws. LJAES strengthened its Oklahoma program in 2023 through the addition of Afendras Archaeology, bringing decades of regional field experience and strong working relationships with THPOs, the Oklahoma Archeological Survey, and federal and state agencies. Our team has completed thousands of cultural resource assessments with project experience spanning prehistoric, protohistoric, and historic-age resources across landscapes from alluvial floodplains to upland ridges. LJAES remains committed to scientific rigor, cultural sensitivity, and meaningful collaboration with Tribal Nations and community stakeholders.



Sponsors



SWCA Environmental Consultants. Founded on a commitment to sound science and creative solutions, SWCA Environmental Consultants is a leader in environmental and management consulting services. With a mission to be the best workplace and industry leader in sustainability, we combine scientific expertise and in-depth knowledge of the industries we serve to tackle global environmental challenges.

Our diverse team of experts collaborates across disciplines to deliver comprehensive solutions in environmental planning and permitting, cultural resources management, biological and ecological services, water resources management, climate-driven services, air quality planning, engineering, and sustainability consulting. Since 1981, SWCA has helped clients navigate the environmental compliance process and become more sustainable. As a 100% employee-owned company, all 1,700+ employees across 45 offices are invested in our collective success, driving excellence in every project we undertake. Learn more at www.swca.com and follow us on LinkedIn.



CRM Fair (Rooms B2 & B4)

The Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Fair is an opportunity for attendees to meet with participating firms that complete work within Oklahoma and surrounding States. Students are highly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to meet the companies that employ archaeologists and learn about the work they are doing, and what it takes to be an archaeologist full-time

ALPINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS

AR CONSULTANTS

CC ENVIRONMENTAL

CENTER FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH, MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

CULTURAL RESOURCE ANALYSTS, INC. (CRA)

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH GROUP (ERG)

HDR, INC

HUDSON PRINCE

INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS (IES)

JOE DEERE CONSULTING, LLC (JDC)

LJA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

REAGAN SMITH

STANTEC

SWCA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS



