

# OU researchers study diabetes

NORMAN, OKLA. — Researchers in the anthropology department at the University of Oklahoma have completed the first round of field work in an effort to discover the causes of diabetes among American Indians — a disease that is rapidly increasing among some Indian people.

While no diabetes at all was reported for Indians before 1950, the present incidence of the disease among elderly in some tribes is nearly 100 percent, said John Moore, an OU associate professor of anthropology who is directing the research with Kenneth Weisa of Penn State University.

A \$70,000 grant for the study was received from the American Diabetes Association based on the results of a pilot project conducted in the summer of 1985 by a group of undergraduate anthropology majors at OU, Moore said.

The strategy of the study is to compare rural and urban Creek Indians in the hope of finding the genetic component of diabetes and the environmental factors which trigger it, Moore explained. On the average, rural Creeks have a higher proportion of traceable Indian ancestors and depend less on canned and preserved foods.