MOVING ‘THE ROCK’

Since 1968, a Native American petroglyph (known as “The Rock” by generations of Seton Hall students and the Jennings Petroglyph by the archaeology and anthropology community) was housed in the middle of the Fahy Hall lobby.

The petroglyph depicts human and animal figures and is said to be the work of the Lenni-Lenape, a Native American people who lived in what is now New Jersey, Delaware and eastern Pennsylvania.

The petroglyph was found, excavated and contributed by former Seton Hall Professor Herbert Kraft — a leading archaeologist and authority on the Lenni-Lenape tribe — who died in 2000. Found on the New Jersey side of the Delaware River across from Dingmans Ferry, Pa., the petroglyph was removed to Seton Hall, according to the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, to save it from being covered by a lake to be formed by a dam that was ultimately never built.

Unfortunately, the petroglyph’s glass showcase broke after long use, and a new protective module would have obstructed wheelchair access to Fahy.

So “The Rock” — roughly 4 feet wide and 5 feet long and weighing 1,500 pounds — was moved to a new permanent home in the Walsh Library. The move is part of a reorganization of the Seton Hall University Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology collection, which includes more than 26,000 pieces of Native American, Asian and African art and artifacts — as well as some Greek, Roman and Byzantine pieces.