NAS News

Fall 2026 Edition
Vol. 16 Issue 3

The Center for the study of South Carolina's Native American peoples, their histories, and their cultures.



Native American Studies Center

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University of South Carolina Lancaster

Director's Column

Greetings from the Director:

I would like to personally thank all of you who came out to see the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit "Americans." If you missed it in Lancaster, it will be touring the state for a little while. Brittany Taylor-Driggers, her assistant Sharon Simmers-Norton, and our colleagues did an amazing job setting up the exhibit and developing programs around it. We invite you to come see an additional Smithsonian exhibit, "Why We Serve: Native Americans in the US Armed Forces," currently at the Center.

We will be hosting some complementary programming for the exhibit, including a talk by Kimberly Mason, an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation and the State Chair for the South Carolina Daughters of the American Revolution American Indians Committee on Friday, Nov. 13 at noon, and Joshua Shumak of the Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians on Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 3 p.m. We also will host a reception for the exhibit on Nov. 4 following the lecture. I would like to officially invite any veterans (Native and non-Native American) to join us to give us the opportunity to show our appreciation for your service.

Hope everyone has a great Native American Heritage Month. As always, come see us at the NAS Center, visit our website, and check out our YouTube page and other social media.

Stephen Criswell

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Visit NASCA to learn more about South Carolina's Native Communities and access images, videos, timelines, an interractive map, and more!

Keep up with all of the Center's recent events on our Social Media!

Front Page Caption:

Shane Tucker appears as Artist-in-Residence at the Center through early December.

Hours

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: Closed

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Learn more about our Native American Studies Faculty and Staff **here!**

Follow the Center on **social media!**

Native American South Carolina Archive: **nativesouthcarolina.org**

NAS News Staff

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Did you know that one recent acquisition holds the distinction of being the longest full-clay pipe in our Special Collections? Measuring 19 inches in length, this King Hagler pipe (2026, USC Lancaster Special Collections) made by Catawba potter Shane Tucker is also the longest pipe that Tucker has made so far to date. The pipe was produced using a King Hagler head mold originally made by Tucker's grandfather, Catawba potter Earl Robbins.

Americans Wraps at NASC

Thanks to all you joined us during the run of the *Americans* exhibit at the Native American Studies Center!

The exhibit opened on Saturday, Aug. 22 with a special vendor market, a traditional drum and dance performance by Marcus Dunn and Katenuaka Steve, and "The Trail of Tears & Indian Removal in U.S. History" lecture by Dr. Evan Nooe, USC Lancaster Assistant Professor of History and Native American Studies Center Historian.

More programs held in conjunction with the exhibit continued, with special lectures that can be viewed in our **"*Americans* Exhibit Lectures 2026"** playlist. The exhibit wrapped up on Saturday, Oct. 3, with a special vendor market and the program "Catawba History 101," presented by Kassidy Plyler of the Catawba Cultural Center.

Americans was developed by the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. The exhibition was adapted for travel by Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and state humanities councils across the country. Support is provided by the Smithsonian's Our Shared Future:250, a Smithsonian-wide initiative commemorating the nation's 250th.

Americans has been made possible in South Carolina by South Carolina Humanities.

The exhibit continues to tour around



Center Historian Dr. Evan Nooe presents "The Trail of Tears & Indian Removal in U.S. History" on the exhibit's opening day.



In September, Communal Pen, a partnership between The Athenaeum Press at Coastal Carolina University and the South Carolina Arts Commission, collected audio, written, and video stories in response to a collection of prompts. Here, the group speaks with Catawba artist Alex Osborn, who presented the artist talk "Envisioning Sally New River" earlier in the day.



Joshua Shumak (Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians) at the August vendor market



Keith Brown (Catawba Nation) at the August vendor market.

Watch our previous virtual programming on the Center's Youtube Channel! Be sure to like, subscribe, and ring the bell for notifications!

communities in South Carolina, now on display at the Marlboro County Museum in Bennettsville, S.C. through Nov. 21. Click **here** to see the rest of the touring schedule in the state through 2027.



Dr. James Brooks, Professor of History at the University of Georgia, was the last visiting historian in the *Americans* lecture series, presenting "From the Red River to the Little Bighorn."



A visitor reads about the Battle of Little Bighorn on *Americans* opening day.

Second Smithsonian Exhibit Honors Veterans

Organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service in collaboration with the National Museum of the American Indian, the exhibit "Why We Serve: Native Americans in the United States Armed Forces" takes a comprehensive look at Native American military involvement and military service from its origins to the modern day.

Opened last month in the Center's North Gallery, the exhibit features 16 banners with information about conflicts and veterans through historical and contemporary photos and a short video with stories from Native American veterans from across the U.S. Armed Forces.

The exhibit coincides with November's 21st Annual Native American Studies Celebration.

Look for programming in conjunction with the exhibit later this fall and see "Why We Serve" now on display through Nov. 28, 2026.

Stay up to date on all of our upcoming events on our website!



Assistant Curator Sharon Simmers-Norton installs a banner as part of "Why We Serve."



"Why We Serve" is on display through Saturday, Nov. 28.

Catawba & Cherokee American Revolution Symposium

What a fantastic weekend of presentations as part of the Catawba & Cherokee American Revolution Symposium!

Dr. Joshua Catalano of Clemson University began the two-day symposium on Friday, Sept. 25 with his lecture, “Unearthing Fort Rutledge” as part of the Center’s monthly W. Brent Burgin Lunch and Learn Series, co-sponsored by Lancaster County SC250.

That evening, Lancaster County SC250 Co-Chair Gina Bobo welcomed the crowd as Jonah Trimnal (Catawba Nation, pictured) of the Hampton Plantation State Historic Site presented “Mapping Catawba Movement During the American Revolution” during a special reception sponsored by Nutramax Laboratories.



Dr. Joshua Catalano presents the September Lunch and Learn.



Jonah Trimnal (Catawba Nation) presents the lecture “Mapping Catawba Movement During the American Revolution” during the symposium’s welcome reception.



Ann Christie registers visitors at the welcome reception.



Dr. Brooke Bauer (Catawba Nation) presents the lecture "Catawba Women in Revolutionary Conflict" during the Saturday symposium.



Dr. Jamie Myers presents the lecture "A War Woman's Efforts for Peace during The American Revolution: The Historic Memory of Nanye'hi."

On Saturday, Sept. 26 at USC Lancaster, scholars from the Catawba Nation, Marquette University, Western Carolina University, Clemson University, UNC Chapel Hill, the National Park Service, and more discussed Native American experiences, perspectives, and communities during the Revolutionary era in the program moderated by Dr. Evan Nooe of USC Lancaster.

Pictured on stage during Saturday's event are Dr. Brooke Bauer (Catawba Nation) of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville presenting her talk, "Catawba Women in Revolutionary Conflict: Violence, Disruption, and Resilience," and Dr. Jamie Myers of UNC Pembroke presenting her lecture, "A War Woman's Efforts for Peace during The American Revolution: The Historic Memory of Nanye'hi."

Special thanks to Lancaster County SC250, South Carolina 250, America250, Catawba Cultural Center, Nutramax, and USC Lancaster!



A symposium attendee visits the NASC information table.

Artist-in-Residence Underway through December

Giving an up-close look at a family tradition spanning multiple generations, Catawba potter Shane Tucker demonstrates his pottery skills as Artist-in-Residence at the Center this fall.

Recognized for his attention to detail and his clean, defined edgework, Tucker's pottery reveals his precision and craftsmanship. His work highlights traditional forms and effigies, with him often studying and researching his subjects to create realistic snail effigies and angular snake forms.

"We are very excited to have Shane Tucker as our artist-in-residence this year," said Dr. Stephen Criswell, USC Lancaster Director of Native American Studies. "Shane inherited the amazing skills of his grandparents Earl and Viola Robbins and his mother Margaret. Like his forebearers and teachers, Shane is committed to creating beautiful pieces of Catawba Nation pottery, while at the same time, teaching the next generation of potters."

Tucker will demonstrate his work from 1-5 p.m. at the Center on the following days:

- Wednesday, Oct. 14
- Saturday, Oct. 17
- Saturday, Oct. 24
- Saturday, Nov. 7
- Wednesday, Nov. 25
- Wednesday, Dec. 2
- Saturday, Dec. 5
- Wednesday, Dec. 9

Shane Tucker's residency is made possible through a 2027 South Carolina Arts Commission Folklife and Traditional Arts Grant.

For residence updates, please visit the Native American Studies Center's **website** or **social media platforms**.



Catawba potter Shane Tucker demonstrates his skills as the Center's 2026 Artist-in-Residence.



Catawba Summer Youth Pottery Program

In early July, we were honored to host the Catawba Summer Youth Apprenticeship Program at the Center! Pictured below at our White Street entrance sign, the group received a tour of our galleries and is pictured again here in our Fred “Henry” Shute Archaeology Lab with Visitor Coordinator Katelyn Shull-McManus, holding an atlatl.

Supported by the Taproot Fellowship and the Georgia Harris Foundation, the pottery program allows for young adults to meet over an 8-week period during summer to learn the art of making traditional Catawba pottery. The program is led by Bill Harris with participation from Elizabeth Harris. Click **here** to learn more about the foundation.



Events Calendar

OCT. 14, 17, 24 (1 - 5 P.M.)

Artist-in-Residence

Center Artist-in-Residence Shane Tucker demonstrates his work with Catawba pottery.

OCT. 15

Exhibit Opening

First day to see the exhibit, "Hands That Remember: Artwork by Cody 'Great Bear' Parks."

OCT. 17 (10 A.M. - 4 P.M.)

Mini Pop-Up Art Market

Held on the third Saturday of each month, these monthly mini pop-up art markets feature two Native American artists working in different mediums. This month's market features jewelry and baskets by Tonda Medlin (Catawba Nation), custom cups by Amanda McGraw (Catawba Nation), and beadwork by Daryl McGraw (Catawba Nation).

OCT. 17 (NOON - 3 P.M.)

"Cultivating Connections" Garden Program Series: Heritage of the Harvest

This new initiative brings together the community, faculty, staff, and students to learn hands-on skills while exploring traditional Indigenous ecological knowledge through presentations and hands-on activities. This family-friendly event covers the botanical history of pumpkins, their nutritional profile, and the folklore of the jack-o'-lantern; email usclnasp@mailbox.sc.edu or call (803) 313-7172 to sign up.

OCT. 23 (NOON)

Lunch and Learn: "Feeding Cherokee Country: Food, Change, and Colonialism"

Lecture by Gabby Purcell, Research Assistant Professor, S.C. Institute for Archaeology and Anthropology.

NOV. 2026

21st Annual Native American Studies Celebration

This annual event celebrates the contributions of Native American military veterans and service members. Dates to be announced.

NOV. 7, 25 (1 - 5 P.M.)

Artist-in-Residence

Center Artist-in-Residence Shane Tucker demonstrates his work with Catawba pottery.

NOV. 7-8 (TIME TBD)

Waccamaw Indian People Pauwau

Join the Waccamaw Indian People for the 34th annual pauwau in Aynor, S.C. Click here for more information.

NOV. 14 (11 A.M. - 4 P.M.)

Sumter Tribe of Cheraw Indians' Cultural Celebration

The Sumter Tribe of Cheraw Indians host a day of flute demonstrations, dancing, artifacts, and more in Sumter, S.C. Click here for more information.

NOV. 20 (NOON)

Lunch and Learn: "'Our' Story: How the Wampanoag Village of Patuxet became Plymouth Colony and the Thanksgiving Myth"

Lecture by Paula Peters (Mashpee Wampanoag), Co-owner of SmokeSygnals

NOV. 21 (10 A.M. - 7 P.M.)

Yap Yè Iswà Festival

Join the Catawba Nation at the Catawba Cultural Center in Rock Hill, S.C. Click here for more information.

NOV. 28

Exhibit Closing

Last day to see the exhibit, "Why We Serve: Native Americans in the United States Armed Forces."

DEC. 2, 5, 9

Artist-in-Residence

Center Artist-in-Residence Shane Tucker demonstrates his work with Catawba pottery.

DEC. 3

Exhibit Opening

First day to see the exhibit, "Robbins Family Reunion."

DEC. 5 (9 A.M. - 4 P.M.)

Winter Native American Art & Craft Festival

Held in conjunction with Christmas in the City, shop for jewelry, Catawba pottery, baskets, quilts, and more one-of-a-kind artwork at the 13th Annual Winter Native American Art and Craft Sale!

DEC. 9 (1 - 5 P.M.)

Final Artist-in-Residence Day

Last day to see Shane Tucker, Artist-in-Residence.

DEC. 18 (NOON)

Lunch and Learn: "The Importance of Enslaved Native People in Early South Carolina"

Lecture by Dr. D. Andrew Johnson, Historian, South Carolina Department of Archives.

Center Exhibitions

D. Lindsay Pettus Gallery:
Currently under refurbishment.

Five Points Gallery: "Hands That Remember: Artwork by Cody 'Great Bear' Parks."
Experience the creative style of Cody 'Great Bear' Parks in this exhibit that blends his own artistic vision with traditional Catawba pottery techniques. **Opens Oct. 15, 2026. Through Jan. 30, 2027.**

North Gallery: "Why We Serve: Native Americans in the United States Armed Forces."
Organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service in collaboration with the National Museum of the American Indian, this exhibit takes a comprehensive look at Native military involvement and explores Native American military service from its origins to the modern day. **Through Nov. 28, 2026.**

Red Rose Gallery: "The Work of Our Hands: Celebrating the Catawba Artists Who Honor the Clay with their Work."
This exhibition highlights award winning Catawba artists and advocates of the Catawba Nation- particularly winners of South Carolina's Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Award and the National Endowment of the Arts Folk Heritage Award. The NASC partnered with the Georgia Harris Foundation to honor these artists and the legacy they leave behind. **Through Dec. 15, 2026.**

Duke Energy Gallery: "Clay and Play!"
This educational children's exhibit includes traditional Native American folktales, colorful displays and wall murals, pottery displays, an interactive Three Sisters Garden where guests can "pick" corn, beans, and squash, and other props for immersive play. **Through Dec. 15, 2028.**

Back Gallery: "Growing Through Donations."
This exhibit highlights donations from our Special Collections. **Semi-permanent Exhibit.**