

NAS^{NEWS}

Winter 2025 Edition
Vol. 15 Issue 4

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



**20th Annual NAS
Celebration Wraps in Nov.**

**Newest Exhibit
Features Prints,
Paintings by
Sierra Cauthen**

**ECSIUT Becomes
10th Official State
Recognized Tribe in S.C.**



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DIRECTOR'S COLUMN



Barbara MorningStar Paul, pictured at the 2023 Spring Arft & Craft Festival.

Greetings from the Director:

As I write this column, we are wrapping up our Native American Heritage Month activities. Recognizing that this was the 20th year that we have offered Native American-focused programming at USCL, we wanted to invite back some previous presenters. After over a decade, attorney Jay Bender returned to Lancaster to talk about the Catawba Nation's successful efforts to regain their federal recognition in the early 1990s. Bender presented this history as a crime story with villains, heroes, and crimes going back to 1492. It was a wonderfully informative and engaging talk. We also brought back our old friend, Vincent Schilling, Native American journalist, who talked with us over Zoom, about journalism, what it means to be a Native American journalist, and how anyone can break in the journalism. Looking back to one of our earliest events in Lancaster when we invited tribal leaders from all of the state tribes to join us in a conversation about our new Native American Studies offerings, we brought Edisto Natchez Kusso Chief, Reverend Dr. John Creel for a book signing and lecture. Dr. Creel shared the fascinating history of his people and neighboring tribal communities. Dr. Creel's talk will soon be posted, along with Jay Bender's lecture, on our YouTube channel. Vincent Schilling will be posting his lecture

on his social media, and we will provide a link to that soon. We also had some great tours, an informative artifact ID session, and a few other events, culminating in our annual Native American arts and craft sale and show.

This year's holiday sale was bittersweet as we were reminded of the absent friends that we lost this year. I have written about Caroleen Sanders' and Faye Greiner's passing, and unfortunately, we also recently lost our dear friend Barbara Morningstar Paul. I first met Barbara over two decades ago when she was the Coordinator of the Native American program at the Commission for Minority Affairs. And in more recent years, she has been a fixture at the NAS Center's sales. I always looked forward to picking up a couple of jars of her homemade pickles! She was a kind, sweet, generous person with a delightful sense of humor. Our hearts go out to her husband, John.

On a happier note, we had a few new faces at our sale this year, and we look forward to working with these artists, and we will continue to feature Native artists at our monthly pop-up sales. Read more about these in the pages that follow. You'll also read about the wonderful work our faculty and staff have been doing and what we have planned in the near future.

As always, we invite you to visit us in person and online. Keep an eye out for announcements about 2026 events, such as professor Claudia Heinemann-Priest's gardening project, our monthly lunch and learn series, and upcoming programming and exhibits. Wishing you all a healthy, happy, and prosperous, 2026! Hope to see many of you in the new year.

Stephen Criswell



CONTENTS

- 06. South Carolina Humanities Festival 2025 at the NASC
- 07. Native American Studies Celebration 2025
- 11. ESCUIT Becomes 10th Official State Recognised Tribe
- 13. In Memoriam: Barbara MorningStar Paul
- 14. Center Welcomes New Palmetto College Chancellor
- 15. Fred “Henry” Shute Archaeology Lab
- 16. Nooe Wins Francis B. Simkins Award
- 17. Filming for Great Falls Project at the Center
- 18. Paintings, Digital Photos Featured in Center’s Newest Exhibit
- 20. Tour Our Galleries!
- 21. Scarecrow Showdown
- 21. Yap Ye Iswa Festival
- 22. Events Calendar
- 24. Center Exhibitions
- 25. PCAM 299 Course Available!
- 26. Cultivating Connections Coming Soon!

ABOVE CAPTION:

We were pleased to partner with Andrew Jackson Middle School in Kershaw, S.C. in early September for a presentation of drumming, dancing, and storytelling by WarPaint Singers for 8th grade students! Here, dancers perform the Smoke Dance. Thank you to the S.C. Arts Commission for supporting the arts in our community schools!

FRONT PAGE CAPTION:

Rev. Dr. John G. Creel, Chief of the Edisto Natchez-Kusso Tribe of South Carolina, presented an author talk and book signing at USC Lancaster’s Medford Library as part of the 20th Annual Native American Studies Celebration in November. Thank you to Medford Library for your invaluable partnership!

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!](#)

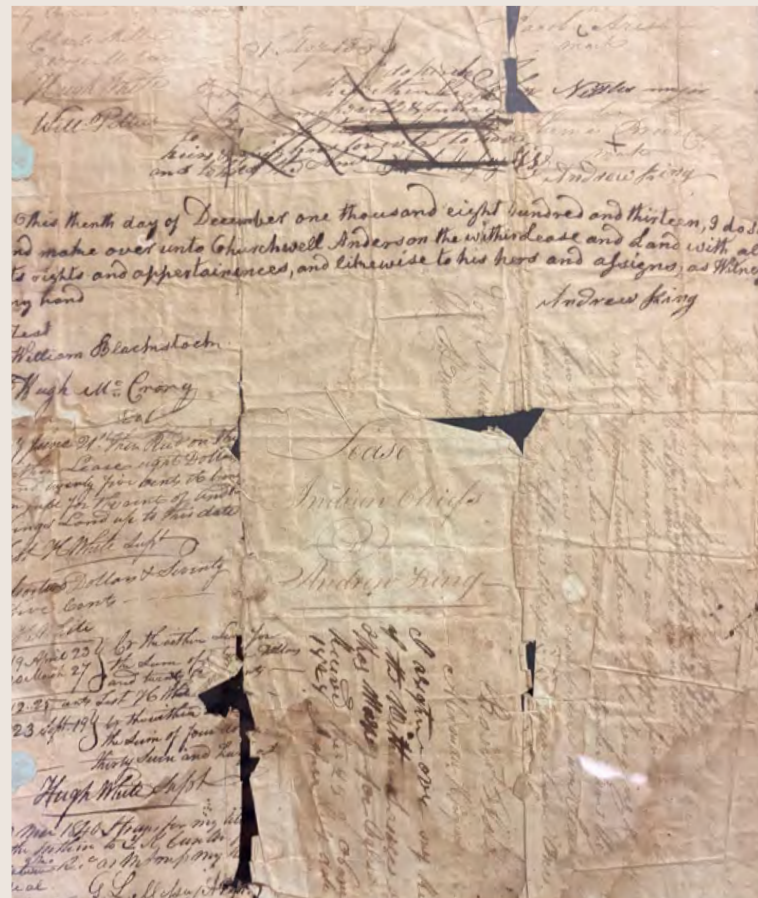
Follow the Center on [social media!](#)

Native American
South Carolina Archive:
nativesouthcarolina.org

NAS NEWS STAFF

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Elisabeth Avelar



Did you know that the oldest known document held in our W. Brent Burgin Archives is this early 19th century land lease between the Catawba and a white settler? A closer look at the document shows spots where the paper has been stitched together to repair small tears.



SOUTH CAROLINA HUMANITIES FESTIVAL 2025 AT THE NASC

What a great turnout for events at the Center in conjunction with the 2025 South Carolina Humanities Festival!

Events began at the Center on Friday, Oct. 17 with The Third Place: A Humanities Happy Hour, a community conversation designed to strengthen connections, unleash creativity, and foster prosperity, facilitated by South Carolina Humanities Executive Director Dr. Jennifer Gunter (pictured above).

More events continued Saturday, with a mini pop-up art market with Catawba artists Hanna Williams and Beckee Garris, take-and-make corn husk doll kits, a Native American artifact ID session led by Center Archaeologist Chris Judge (pictured below), a lecture about sites and artifacts telling the story of the state's Indigenous peoples prior to the arrival of Europeans given by Judge, and a longleaf pine needle basketry workshop led by Garris (pictured below).



Thanks to the Lancaster County Council of the Arts and South Carolina Humanities for sponsoring the archaeology-themed lecture, "Native American Archaeology in South Carolina," which is now available to watch on our [YouTube channel](#).



NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES CELEBRATION 2025

The 20th Annual Native American Studies Celebration “Celebrating Native American Music,” began Saturday, Nov. 8 with a special behind-the-scenes tour given by USCL Native American Studies Director Dr. Stephen Criswell.



On Monday, Nov. 10, Rev. Dr. John Creel, Chief of the Edisto Natchez-Kusso Tribe of South Carolina, spoke about his new book, “The Plight of Southeastern Native American Indian Tribes: Fighting Systemic Eracism,” followed by a book signing. Special thank you to USCL’s Medford Library for hosting Chief Creel’s author talk and book signing!



After Chief Creel’s lecture, the Center hosted tribal officials and special guests for an annual tribal leaders’ luncheon, with thanks to Smokin Butts BBQ for catering the event. Pictured here from left to right are Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians Tribal Council Member Janie Shumak, Catawba Nation Executive Committee Member Quinlan Canty, Beaver

Creek Indians Vice Chief Helen Jeffcoat, Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians Vice Chief Joshua Shumak, USCL Director of Native American Studies Dr. Stephen Criswell, Center Program Assistant Beckee Garris, Center Linguist Claudia Y. Heinemann-Priest, Center Archaeologist Chris Judge, Edisto Natchez-Kusso Tribe of South Carolina Chief Dr. John Creel, and Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians Chief Lisa Collins.



We were honored with a visit from Lancaster Mayor Alston DeVenny on day two of our 20th Annual Native American Studies Celebration! On Tuesday, Nov. 11, Mayor DeVenny read a proclamation from the City of Lancaster in recognition of November as Native American Heritage Month, presenting it to Catawba artist and Center Program Assistant Bekee Garriss. Garriss then gifted the mayor with a long leaf pine needle basket she recently created. We're grateful to Mayor DeVenny for his time and of the city's support of the Center!

Garris joined USCL Director of Native American Studies Dr. Stephen Criswell and Criminal Justice Instructor Deborah Rowell for a screening and discussion of Hulu's "Blood & Myth." Thanks to all who attended!

Special thanks to Smokin Butts BBQ for catering the event!



Our Native American Studied Celebration continued on Thursday, Nov. 13 with the Native American Artifact ID Session with Center Archaeologist Chris Judge, pictured displaying spear points on a chart for a visitor.





On Saturday, Nov. 15, Lisa Lindler (Waccamaw Indian People) and Kathleen Sahtunkin (Caddo Nation) highlighted our last mini pop-up art market of 2025, also creating pottery and beadwork on site!



Retired University of South Carolina professor and attorney for the S.C. Press Association Jay Bender returned to the Center to discuss his role as former attorney for the Catawba Nation and his involvement in the tribe regaining federal recognition. The lecture can be viewed [here](#) on our YouTube channel.



In the virtual November Lunch and Learn, Vincent Schilling (Akwesasne Mohawk), Founder and Editor of Native Viewpoint, CEO and President of Schilling Media, Inc., discussed tips for being a successful journalist and shared stories from his own career.

NAS
Celebration
2025 *Thank you to
our sponsors!*



If you are interested in contributing to the work of Native American Studies at USC Lancaster, please consider a financial donation at the link below. We appreciate your support!



<https://bit.ly/4ohdMO4>

THANK YOU to all who attended or presented a wonderful series of lectures and discussions held as part of our 20th Annual Native American Studies Celebration! Recorded lectures will soon be available on our [YouTube Channel](#).

We'd like to extend a very special **THANK YOU** to OceanaGold/Haile Operation, the S.C. Arts Commission, South Carolina Humanities, and USC Lancaster for their generous support of the 20th Annual Native American Studies Celebration.

If you are interested in supporting this program or other work presented by the Native American Studies at USC Lancaster, please consider a financial donation [here](#). We thank you for your support!

ECSIUT BECOMES 10TH OFFICIAL STATE RECOGNIZED TRIBE

Congratulations to the Eastern Cherokee, Southern Iroquois and United Tribes of South Carolina (ECSIUT), which became the 10th official state recognized tribe in South Carolina in August.

After a unanimous vote to award recognition in mid-August, ECSIUT Chief Lamar Nelson was awarded a plaque of recognition by Dr. Delores Dacosta, Executive Director of the South Carolina Commission for Community Advancement and Engagement, formerly the South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs. He says the event is one of the most joyous occasions for both he and his tribal citizens.

“Dr. Dacosta called me and said, ‘we’re going to give you state status, we’ve got 100% approval of the commissioners,’” said Chief Nelson. “We set up a meeting, and on the way to Columbia, I was riding on air. The feeling of being able to stand with her and accept that plaque and tell my tribal members that we are now a state tribe was unbelievable.”

The new status will provide the tribe with more opportunities for grants and scholarships and aid in their search for land.

Chief Nelson says that petitioning the state for recognition has taken three years, with strenuous preparation gathering information to meet requirements. Among some of the criteria required in applying for state recognition, tribe had to show its presence in South Carolina for 100 years, have at least 100 tribal members, and show records of established schools, churches, and graveyards.

“We’re very excited to become a state tribe,” said Chief Nelson. “We applied and became a state group in 2005, but in last few years we decided to move up status to a tribe instead of a group. I’ve been told South Carolina is one of the hardest states in the nation to become a state tribe. I attended dozens of meetings and turned in binders of information and thumb drives. We had hundreds of documents and three years of hard work in applying for it.”

According to the [Native American South Carolina Archive](#), the last tribe to gain state recognition in South Carolina was the Piedmont American Indian Association/Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation (PAIA) in 2015.

“It unbelievable, the number of emails and calls from my tribal members and from all the chiefs in the state congratulating us on becoming a state tribe; they’ve been so supportive,” he said.

Among state recognition being awarded, ECSIUT has been engaged with other exciting projects. Chief Nelson says he works seven days a week and traveled over 3,000 miles around the state last year. He travels to every powwow that he is able to attend, serves as tribal archaeologist, teaches classes and gives lectures on Cherokee and Native American history, and more.

In early November, the tribe hosted a public ceremony at Mile Creek Park in Pickens County, S.C., honoring Cherokee ancestors buried under the water of Lake Keowee. Participants took a boat out to the location, near the underwater site of where Fort Prince George is believed to be, and performed ceremonies, singing and drumming in honor of the ancestors.

Next year, ECSIUT is sponsoring an inaugural [intertribal powwow](#) raising awareness for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives movement, scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 22 in Lexington, S.C. Chief Nelson says the free, public event will be different from a traditional powwow.

“Native woman are the most sought after people in the U.S. per capita and it’s unbelievable how many Native woman and children are abducted,” he said. “My Vice Chief, Judy Noe, is heading up the powwow, which will be the very first intertribal powwow in the Southeast. We have several federal tribes coming to South Carolina, and when we walk in for grand entry, I want them to post every tribal flag around the circle.”

To learn more about ECSIUT, Chief Nelson encourages the public to contact him at Lnelson952@yahoo.com or [\(864\) 978-9525](tel:8649789525).

“We have a tribe of over 400 members and Cherokee history and culture is very important to us,” he said. “People can support us by attending a powwow, helping us gain additional members through genealogy, helping us find land for our tribe, or financially making donations to tribe.”



Eastern Cherokee, Southern Iroquois and United Tribes of South Carolina Chief Lamar Nelson stands with Executive Director of the South Carolina Commission for Community Advancement and Engagement Dr. Delores Dacosta upon receiving state recognition for the tribe. Photo courtesy of Chief Lamar Nelson and the SCCAE.



Do you have an interesting object you'd like to know more about? Whether it's a stone tool, pottery sherd, or something mysterious, Center Archaeologist Chris Judge is available for appointments to help identify Native American artifacts!

Contact Judge at judge@sc.edu to set up an appointment to learn more.

IN MEMORIAM: BARBARA MORNINGSTAR PAUL

In September, we were saddened by the loss of friend to the Center and Lakota artist Barbara MorningStar Paul, who participated in the Center's art and craft festivals each year since their inception.

"Barbara Morningstar Paul combined sweetness with a wicked sense of humor. I was always delighted to see her at her table during our arts and crafts sales behind her table displaying her wonderful creations and those delicious pickles! We'll miss her so much," said Dr. Stephen Criswell, USCL Director of Native American Studies.

Hear Barbara talk more about her work during this December 2024 appearance with Criswell on [WISTV](#), held as part of a promotion for the 2024 Winter Native American Art & Craft Festival.

View the obituary [here](#).



CENTER WELCOMES NEW PALMETTO COLLEGE CHANCELLOR



Center faculty and staff had the honor of welcoming University of South Carolina Palmetto College Chancellor Dr. Craig Wilson and distinguished guests to our galleries in October. Chancellor Wilson was gifted a pine needle basket made by Catawba artist and Program Assistant Beckee Garriss (pictured) and received a tour of the galleries from Native American Studies Director Dr. Stephen Criswell, the Fred "Henry" Shute Archaeology Lab with Center Archaeologist Chris Judge, the language lab with Center Linguist Claudia Y. Heinemann-Priest, the classroom with Center Historian Dr. Evan Nooe, and Special Collections with Assistant Curator Sharon Simmers-Norton.



Visit [NASCA](#) to learn more about South Carolina's Native Communities and access images, videos, timelines, an interactive map, and more!

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



FRED "HENRY" SHUTE ARCHAEOLOGY LAB

At the end of October, the Center held a naming ceremony in memory of the first regular volunteer in the community archaeology lab, unveiling the Fred "Henry" Shute Archaeology Lab signage by artist Bob Doster. Shute, who passed away in 2023, and wife Carol volunteered in the lab for over a decade.

The ceremony included remarks from Carol, USC Lancaster Campus Dean Dr. Courtney Catledge, and USCL Senior Instructor of Anthropology and Archaeology Chris Judge. Pictured above is the extended Shute family with the new lab signage. Pictured below are Catledge, the Fred "Henry" Shute Archaeology Lab volunteers, and Carol Shute.



Photo of Nooe, pictured seated at the far-right side at the “Distorted Pasts” roundtable, by Dr. Jeff Washbun (UT Permian Basin).



NOOE WINS FRANCIS B. SIMKINS AWARD

Congratulations to USCL Assistant Professor of History and Native American Studies and Center Historian Dr. Evan Nooe, who received the Francis B. Simkins Award for his book “Aggression and Sufferings: Settler Violence, Native Resistance, and the Coalescence of the Old South” (University of Alabama Press)!

The award, which recognizes the best first book by an author in the field of southern history over a two-year period, was presented to Nooe last week at the Southern Historical Association conference in St. Pete Beach, FL.

“Aggression and Sufferings” previously received the 2024 Best First Book Award from Phi Alpha Theta, awarded by the National History Honor McMillan Prize in Southern History, awarded by the University of Alabama Press.

In October, Nooe also attended the American Society for Ethnohistory Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, where he served as a discussant and chair for the roundtable “Distorted Pasts: Pioneers, Settlers, and Native Americans in American Memory,” and chaired the panel “More Than Lost Causes: Indigenous Memory in the American South.”



Photo by Meena Nooe.

FILMING FOR GREAT FALLS PROJECT AT THE CENTER



In early October, Center Assistant Director and Archaeologist Chris Judge and Catawba artist and Center Program Assistant Beckee Garriss were interviewed by NAS Director Dr. Stephen Criswell for a video that will be featured at the upcoming Great Falls Visitors Center. Special thanks Videographers Terry Roueche and Tim Champion and Great Falls Councilman William Gonzales for their time and effort in this project!

PAINTINGS, DIGITAL PHOTOS FEATURED IN CENTER'S NEWEST EXHIBIT



"Luna Month" screen print by Sierra Cauthen (2021).

From surreal landscapes to abstract compositions, the Center's newest exhibit "Blooming into Light: Artwork by Sierra Cauthen" showcases the paintings and digital photos of Catawba artist Sierra Cauthen. Opened in September, this is Cauthen's first exhibition at the Native American Studies Center, with all 13 pieces on display available for purchase.

The exhibit is a culmination of artwork Cauthen created while a student at Winthrop University. A Fine Arts major, she says she has always loved drawing and creating and that oil painting is her favorite medium.

"My favorite piece is the painting titled, 'Sierra,'" said Cauthen. "The process taught me a lot, as it is the biggest painting I've done by far, and it was a challenging and rewarding experience."

As pictured in "Sierra," as well as a few other pieces on display, Cauthen says nature is a common theme in her work, using natural elements as symbolism.

"I hope people get inspired by nature as much as I have," she said. "Nature is all around us, we just have to take the time to notice it and appreciate its beauty. I also wish it would inspire hope

for others who may resonate with my theme, those who crave a happier state of mind.”

In addition to nature, Cauthen’s work also features themes of light and renewal.

“I would like people to know my art is about transformation, and overcoming struggles,” she said. “My pieces are supposed to represent hope even when nothing feels possible. Personally, it represents my longing for a happier state of mind, with the use of recurring images as a reminder of my objective.”

While visitors can see Cauthen’s paintings, drawings, and printmaking on display, one medium she recently started working with is not on display. This summer, she was one of three participants in the Catawba Summer Youth Pottery Program, led by Catawba potters Bill Harris and Elizabeth Harris. Supported by the Taproot Fellowship and the Georgia Harris Foundation, the pottery program allowed three young adults to meet three days a week over a 7-week period over summer to learn the traditional art of Catawba pottery.

“Catawba pottery is rather new to me,” said Cauthen. “I started to get interested in creating pottery last year and started taking the pottery cultural classes. Then, an amazing opportunity came up for the youth pottery training program. The program not only taught me about making Catawba pottery, but also about the history behind it. I’ve grown to love it, and plan on doing more with pottery in the future.”

“Blooming into Light: Artwork by Sierra Cauthen” is on display through Aug. 5, 2026.



“Sierra,” oil paint on canvas (2023).

TOUR OUR GALLERIES!



Looking to tour the Center with your school, church, civic, or special interest group? Book a guided tour with us today by contacting us at (803) 313-7172 or usclnasp@mailbox.sc.edu! Recently, just to name a few, we had the pleasure of touring (from left to right):

- **S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson, pictured with Center Archaeologist and Professor of Anthropology Chris Judge.**
- **Members of the USC Union Research Club, pictured with Visitor Coordinator Katelyn Shull-McManus.**
- **Staff from Discovery Place science, pictured with Native American Studies Director Dr. Stephen Criswell and Director of Campus Collections and Galleries Brittany Taylor- Driggers.**
- **Members from our behind-the-scenes tours in October, pictured with Director of Archives Logan Cocklin.**
- **Students and staff from Lee Central High School in Lee County, SC; pictured is chaperone Paula Sayers (photo courtesy of G. Kenneth Gary).**

SCARECROW SHOWDOWN



In October, the City of Lancaster held their annual Pumpkin Patch Scarecrow Showdown, highlighting comic book characters as this year's theme. Center staff created this year's submission, Marvel's Echo—a deaf Cheyenne Nation woman who uses American Sign Language and relies on her heightened sense of observation to mimic physical movements. Echo was assembled in front of the Center's main entrance by Center Visitor Coordinator Katelyn Shull-McManus and Visitor and Project Coordinator Assistant Crystal Angel-Melton.

YAP YE ISWA FESTIVAL

In November, the Center staff, faculty, and NASC Advisory Committee had the pleasure of staffing an information table at the Catawba Nation's Yap Ye Iswa Festival in Rock Hill, S.C. Thanks to the Catawba Nation for having us out!



EVENTS CALENDAR

Winter Native American Art & Craft Festival

DEC.
6
9 a.m. -
4 p.m.

Held in conjunction with Christmas in the City, shop for jewelry, Catawba pottery, baskets, quilts, and more one-of-a-kind artwork at the 12th Annual Winter Native American Art and Craft Sale!

Lunch and Learn: "The Invented Indigenous Histories of Appalachian Show Caves"

DEC.
19
Noon

Lecture by Dr. Chelsea Fisher, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of South Carolina.

Exhibit Closing

DEC.
20

Last day to see the exhibits, "By Way of Water: Reviving & Reimagining Catawba Art" and "As Long as the Waters Flow: Native Americans in the South and East."

Exhibit Opening

JAN.
15

First day to see the exhibit, "Guided Paths: Contemporary Catawba Potters and Their Mentors."

Mini Pop-Up Art Market

Jan.
17
10 a.m. -
4 p.m.

Support local Native American talent and discover unique, handcrafted treasures! 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 market highlights work by Beckee Garriss and Stephanie Peak.

Lunch and Learn: "Indigenous Carolinians: A History from Original Peoples to Present-Day Tribes"

JAN.
23
Noon

Lecture by David Rahahé-tih Webb (Tuscarora Indians of Kahtenuaka Territories), Author, Executive Director of Muddy Sneakers Outdoor Classroom.

Mini Pop-Up Art Market

FEB.
21
10 a.m. -
4 p.m.

Support local Native American talent and discover unique, handcrafted treasures! 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 market highlights work by the Blue Heron Group and Amanda Wilson.

"Cultivating Connections" Garden Program Series: Planning & Design

FEB.
21
Noon -
3 p.m.

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 session covers the foundational principles of sustainable landscape design. Reservations are strongly encouraged; email usclnasp@mailbox.sc.edu or call (803) 313-7172 to sign up.

MMIW- Red Dress Informational Powwow

FEB.
22
10 a.m. -
6 p.m.

This intertribal powwow raises awareness for the MMIW movement in Lexington, S.C. [Click here](#) for more information.

Lunch and Learn: "The Dark Side of Women's History: How Female Serial Killers Defy the Narrative"

FEB.
27
Noon

Lecture by Professor Deborah Rowell, USC Lancaster Criminal Justice Instructor.

MAR.
13-15

Catawba Powwow

Join the Catawba Nation for the Catawba Powwow in Rock Hill, S.C. [Click here](#) for more information.

MAR.
21
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Mini Pop-Up Art Market

Support local Native American talent and discover unique, handcrafted treasures! 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 market highlights work by Helen Jeffcoat and Dakota Little Hawk Simerly.

MAR.
21
Noon - 3 p.m.

“Cultivating Connections” Garden Program Series: Cultural Wisdom & Traditional Planning

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 session covers the history and techniques behind the Three Sisters and Medicine Wheel gardens. Reservations are strongly encouraged; email usclnasp@mailbox.sc.edu or call (803) 313-7172 to sign up.

MAR.
27
Noon

Lunch and Learn: “Gateway to the Carolinas Backcountry: Camden’s Wateree River Inland Port”

Lecture by Lon Outen, Historian.

APR.
18
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Mini Pop-Up Art Market

Support local Native American talent and discover unique, handcrafted treasures! Held on the third Saturday of each month, these monthly mini pop-up art markets feature two Native American artists working in different mediums. Artists TBD.

APR.
18
Noon - 3 p.m.

“Cultivating Connections” Garden Program Series: Soil Science & Container Gardening

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 session covers best practices for container growing and soil health; email usclnasp@mailbox.sc.edu or call (803) 313-7172 to sign up.

APR
24
Noon

Lunch and Learn: “The Wartime Experiences of Rev. William Martin”

Lecture by Robert Ryals, Public Historian and Reenactor.

MAY
16
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Spring Native American Art & Craft Festival

In conjunction with the annual Red Rose Festival, shop for pottery, jewelry, baskets, beadwork, and many more unique creations by Native American artists from around the region. This event is free and open to the public.

CENTER EXHIBITIONS

D. Lindsay Pettus Gallery: *“The Story of Catawba Pottery.”* This National Endowment for the Arts funded exhibit traces the art, culture and history of Catawba pottery, the oldest Native American pottery tradition in the United States. Permanent Exhibit.

North Gallery: *“As Long as the Waters Flow: Native Americans in the South and East.”* Featuring the striking images of photographer Carolyn DeMeritt in collaboration with writer Frye Gaillard for their book of the same title, this exhibit of over 30 portraits documents Native American tribal citizens from the Deep South, Mid-South, and Northeast. Through Dec. 20, 2025.

Five Points Gallery: *“Blooming into Light: Artwork by Sierra Cauthen.”* From surreal landscapes to abstract compositions, this colorful exhibit showcases the paintings and digital photos of Catawba artist Sierra Cauthen. Through Aug. 5, 2026.

Red Rose Gallery: *“By Way of Water: Reviving & Reimagining Catawba Art Forms.”* Featuring the work of four Catawba artists— Aaron Baumgardner, Teresa Dunlap, Roo George-Warren, and Alex Osborn— this exhibit shows traditional art forms through a contemporary lens. Through Dec. 20, 2025.

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 Aug. 5, 2026.

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

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

North Gallery: *“Guided Paths: Contemporary Catawba Potters and Their Mentors.”* Looking at family ties, mentorship, and cultural heritage, this exhibit highlights the connections between established Catawba potters and the contemporary artists they’ve guided in the traditional art form. The exhibit is held in conjunction with “Handwork: Celebrating American Craft 2026,” a national Semiquincentennial collaboration showcasing the importance of the handmade and celebrating the diversity of craft that defines America. Opens Jan. 15, 2026. Through May 1, 2026.

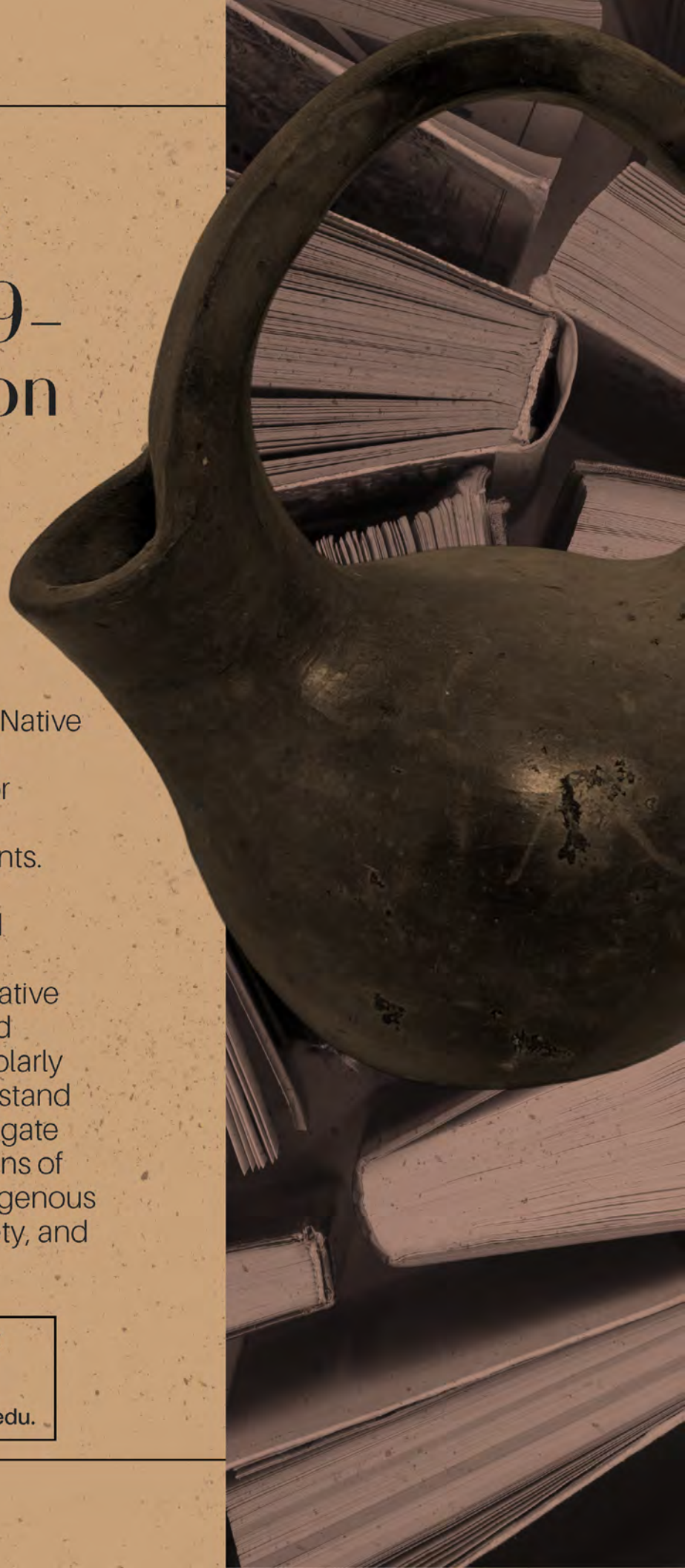
Spring 2026
Online, Asynchronous

PCAM 299– Introduction to Native American Studies

This course presents a multidisciplinary survey of Native American and Indigenous cultures, highlighting major historical, lifeways, and contemporary developments.

Students will compare and contrast the history and contemporary culture of Native American tribal nations and communities, analyze scholarly topics and trends to understand Native experiences, investigate the impact and contributions of Native Americans and Indigenous peoples of American society, and more.

To register for the course, contact
your advisor or USC Lancaster
Assistant Professor of History
Dr. Evan Nooe at Evan.Nooe@sc.edu.





Cultivating Connections

Garden Program Series

The Native American Studies Center is excited to launch the "Cultivating Connections" Garden Program Series this Spring 2026! This new initiative is designed to be a unique living classroom, bringing the community, faculty, staff, and students together to learn hands-on skills while exploring traditional Indigenous ecological knowledge.

The program will utilize the NASC's existing downtown Three Sisters and Medicine Wheel gardens and connect participants with new campus growing spaces being developed this spring. Attendees can expect high-quality presentations followed by hands-on activities, all scheduled during our popular Mini Pop-Up Art Market for maximum engagement.

Sat. Feb. 21 **Growing Grounded**

Planning & Design: Learn foundational principles of Sustainable Landscape Design. Session includes a hands-on activity where attendees apply design concepts to small growing spaces.

Sat. Mar. 21 **Rooted Relations**

Cultural Wisdom & Traditional Planting: Explore the history, philosophy, and practical techniques behind the Three Sisters and Medicine Wheel gardens, led by a Tribal Elder or Representative.

Sat. April 18 **Cultivating Connections**

Soil Science & Container Gardening: Dive into the best practices for container growing and soil health, focusing on the science necessary to maintain small-scale urban and campus growing spaces.

Tools and materials will be provided for all activities, but participants are welcome to bring their own small hand tools such as gloves, trowels, clippers if they prefer to use their own equipment.

Registration is strongly encouraged; email usclnasp@mailbox.sc.edu or call (803) 313-7172 to sign up.

Free and open to the public!

