

NAS NEWS

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Fall 2023 Edition Volume 13 Issue 3

Photo by Ashley Lowrimore.



Catawba Nation Chief William “Bill” Harris, shown here with Native American Studies Director Dr. Stephen Criswell as part of the Native American Studies Center’s 10th Anniversary celebrations last year, will appear at the Center this fall as Artist-in-Residence, demonstrating and discussing his craft as a Catawba potter. Chief Harris’ residency is made possible through a 2024 South Carolina Arts Commission Folklife and Traditional Arts Grant. More information about the residency will be announced later this month.



Native American Studies Center
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA LANCASTER

Greetings from the Director!

Earlier this summer, I received a text from my daughter, Magdalene. She is a student at UNC Asheville and was shopping at a local Goodwill. The text read, “Look what I found!” and was followed by a picture of the pottery piece shown. She recognized it as Catawba. The picture showed a price tag with an eight followed by two zeroes. I asked, “\$800?” She said, “no, \$8.” I said, “BUY IT!” She did and will be donating it to the Center. It’s an older piece, unsigned, and is very well made. If anyone has thoughts on who might have created it, please [reach out to me](#). I’d love to identify it better. But I could not have been prouder of my daughter (and of my own role as an educator and father) knowing that she can recognize Catawba pottery.



King Haigler effigy pot. Photo by Ashley Lowrimore.

Speaking of Catawba pottery, the exhibit “Resurgence and Renaissance: Art of the Catawba Nation Since 1973” at the Columbia Museum of Art recently closed. We were delighted to work with Jackie Adams and her colleagues at the CMA. Our colleague Professor Brittany Taylor- Driggers, her assistants Alex Osborn and Sharon Simmers-Norton, Beckee Garris, and the folks at the Museum did an amazing job creating a beautiful and informative exhibit. We look forward to working with the CMA in the future.

As we move toward Native American Heritage Month, I would like to remind everyone that in addition to our own programs examining Native Americans in sports (see the pages that follow), a number of tribes will be hosting powwows and festivals—including the upcoming Santee powwow, the Piedmont American Indian Association powwow, the Catawba Yap Ye Iswa festival, the Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown’s first ever powwow, the Sumter Tribe of Cheraw’s Cultural Celebration, and the Waccamaw Indian People’s Cultural Arts Festival and Pauwau. We hope to see you at these events! And as always, we invite you to visit us at the Native American Studies Center. New exhibits are up or will be soon, former Catawba Chief Bill Harris will be here all semester demonstrating Catawba pottery-making, and we have some great programs for November. Come see us!

Stephen Criswell

**NOTE
FROM THE
DIRECTOR**

Hours and Location:

Monday: Closed to the public
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.

119 South Main Street
Lancaster, SC 29720

To visit our website [click here!](#)

Contact Information:

Phone: [\(803\) 313-7172](tel:(803)313-7172)

Email: usclnasp@sc.edu

**Learn more about
Native American Studies
Faculty and Staff [here!](#)**

NAS News Staff:

Feature Writer and Newsletter Editor:
Ashley Lowrimore

Design and Production Editor:
Elisabeth Avelar



New artwork featured in the exhibit, "Backyard Vines: Artwork by Nancy Basket."

Follow the Center on social media!



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In August, Center Program Assistant Beckee Garriss presented a bowl she created to S.C. Lieutenant Governor Pamela Evette at the “She Means Business” event, hosted by the Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce. Garriss was commissioned by the Chamber to create a piece of pottery for Lt. Gov. Evette and present it during the event, celebrating female business owners and entrepreneurs. Photo by Sharon Simmers-Norton.

10 Recent Events

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Catawba artist Hanna Rogers speaks with a guest during “Atkuade: A Contemporary Catawba Art Gathering,” held at the Columbia Museum of Art in late August. The event, held in conjunction with the exhibit “Resurgence and Renaissance: Art of the Catawba Nation Since 1973,” featured artist and maker demonstrations, a panel discussion, exhibit tours, and short film series. Photo by Sharon Simmers-Norton.



In June, the Center officially unveiled the W. Brent Burgin Archives signage by Lancaster artist Bob Doster. Photo by Christopher Judge.

NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES WEEK 2023



This stamp of Olympic gold medalist Jim Thorpe will be on display in the exhibit, “More than a Game: Indigenous Sports and Athleticism.” Photo by Sharon Simmers-Norton.

Save the date for our 18th Annual Native America Studies Week, “Indigenous Athletes and Athleticism: Vital Contributions to a National Passion,” beginning Wednesday, Nov. 1 and continuing through Friday, Nov. 10.

- **Nov. 1, Noon**
Author Talk
Pulitzer-Prize winning author David Maraniss discusses his new book, “Path Lit by Lightning: The Life of Jim Thorpe.”
Presented via Zoom.
- **Nov. 2, 5-7 p.m.**
“More than a Game: Indigenous Sports and Athleticism” Special Reception
This exhibit highlights Indigenous athletes, some with Carolina connections, and their contributions to competitive sports such as hockey, football, wrestling, track and field, the Olympics, and more.
Presented in person.
- **Nov. 10, Noon**
Lunch and Learn: “From Traditional Lacrosse to Olympians: How Native American Athletes Have Made Their Historical Mark”
Lecture by Vincent Schilling, Founder and Editor of Native Viewpoint, CEO and President of Schilling Media, Inc.
Presented via Zoom.

For a complete schedule of events, which will be announced soon, please visit our [website](#) or [social media platforms](#).

Thank you to OceanaGold/ Haile Operation, for a generous donation that will be applied toward the purchase of the Art Greenberg Collection.

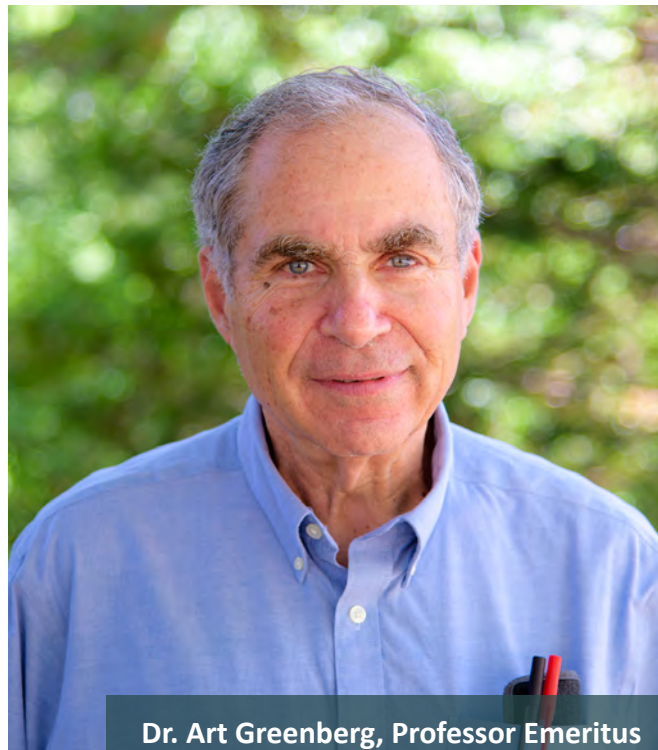
With the purchase, USCL Special Collections receives 106 pieces of Catawba pottery, pamphlets, magazines, and photos. Pottery pieces- such as candle holders, pipes, wedding jugs, bowls, jars, animal effigies, and more- represent work by Earl Robbins, Nola Campbell, Doris Blue, Sarah Ayers, and many more potters.

Dr. Art Greenberg, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at the University of New Hampshire, began collecting Catawba pottery in the mid to late 1990s while teaching at UNC Charlotte. In 2021, Greenberg presented, "The Chemistry of Catawba Indian Pottery," discussing the chemistry involved in the process of creating Catawba pottery as part of the 16th Annual Native American Studies Week. His lecture can be viewed on our [YouTube channel](#).

"Professor Greenberg is one of the only scholars in the sciences to look at the chemistry of Catawba pottery," said Director of Native American Studies Dr. Stephen Criswell. "His approach to examining art from a chemist's perspective is unique and offers future researchers a starting point for further investigation. We are excited about acquiring the collection that informed his scholarly research. It's a wonderful assortment of beautiful and important pieces."

Thank you, OceanaGold/ Haile Operation!

THANK YOU, OCEANAGOLD!



Dr. Art Greenberg, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at the University of New Hampshire. Photo courtesy of Dr. Art Greenberg.



NEW FALL EXHIBITS

Take an in-depth look at Indigenous sports and athleticism and see a display of artwork made from vines and natural plant materials in two new exhibits at the Native American Studies Center this fall.

“Backyard Vines: Artwork by Nancy Basket,” featuring long leaf pine needle baskets, kudzu

paper art, and other organic woven wonders made by traditional artist Nancy Basket, opens to the public on Tuesday, Sept. 12.

Curated by Center Assistant Curator and Catawba artist Alex Osborn, the exhibit will feature new works by Basket, as well as items that have previously been on display at the Center.

A culmination of her four-month appearance as Artist-in-Residence during fall of 2019, the exhibit **“What Do You have in Your Back Yard?': The Traditional Artwork of Nancy Basket”** was open for a handful of weeks at the Center before the facility’s temporary closure in March 2020. Some of the artwork featured in the original exhibit, such as her large 8-foot sculpture like the Uktena (featuring motion-sensor eyes) and Thunderbird, will return, along with new pieces, like oversized kudzu chandeliers. Also included in the exhibit are thumb-sized miniatures, pine needle baskets, woven baskets, manikin floor lamps, and more.

In addition to working with pine needles, kudzu, and wisteria, Basket has woven with corn husks, rye straw, horsehair, and cat tails. She has worked with long leaf pine needles for over 40 years, helping form the first basketry guild in North American with friend Vi Phillips.

“I’m very excited to have another show after the first one was only open to the public two weeks during the Covid shutdown,” said Basket. “Come see what you, too, can do with pervasive vines. Got any in your yard?”

“Backyard Vines: Artwork by Nancy Basket” is on display in the Center’s North Gallery through Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024.



Traditional artist Nancy Basket installs a woven Uktena sculpture during her previous exhibition at the Center. Photo by Ashley Lowrimore.



From 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 2, the Center will host a special reception for “More than a Game: Indigenous Sports and Athleticism,” an exhibit opening in conjunction with the 18th Annual Native American Studies Week. This football bowl, included in the exhibit, was created by Catawba potter Earl Robbins. Photo by Sharon Simmers-Norton.

Opening on Thursday, Sept. 28, “More than a Game: Indigenous Sports and Athleticism,” is on display in the Center’s Five Points Gallery through Monday, Aug. 5, 2024.

Held in conjunction with the annual Native American Studies Week, “Indigenous Athletes and Athleticism: Vital Contributions to a National Passion,” the athletics-focused exhibit highlights information about Indigenous athletes—some with Carolina connections, such as Buck George, who played football for the Clemson Tigers and the team now known as the Washington Commanders— and their contributions to the Olympics and competitive sports such as basketball, hockey, football, wrestling, track and field, and more.

The exhibit was curated by Program Assistant and Assistant Curator Sharon Simmers-Norton, Special Projects Coordinator Elisabeth Avelar, Visitor and Project Coordinator Assistant Crystal Melton, and Visitor Coordinator Katie Shull.

“This year’s exhibit takes a look at a subject we’ve never covered before,” said Avelar. “The exhibit will cover a variety of sports and athletic-related Indigenous topics like women in athletics, historical firsts, the Oorang Indians with Jim Thorpe highlights, controversies with mascot names, and more. We also plan to showcase Indigenous art based on sports and athleticism.”

A special reception will be held on Thursday, Nov. 2 from 5-7 p.m. as part of Native American Studies Week.

For a complete schedule of exhibit openings and events, please visit our [website](#) or [social media platforms](#).

Opening Soon!

In our [last newsletter](#), we announced the opening of the exhibit, “Native American Archaeology in the Wateree Valley,” telling the story of Indigenous mounds in the Wateree Valley region through artwork and artifacts. The exhibit opens Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023 and will be on display through Monday, Aug. 5, 2024.

“LANGUAGE OF CLAY” NOW IN SHELBY

Visiting Shelby, N.C.? Visit our friends at the Earl Scruggs Center to see the “The Language of Clay: Catawba Indian Pottery and Oral Traditions,” the traveling exhibit created by USCL’s Special Collections.

On display through Friday, Nov. 24, 2023, the exhibit showcases the longstanding artistic tradition of the Catawba Nation and includes a variety of pieces created from the 1800s until today.

[Click here](#) for more information on planning your visit to the Earl Scruggs Center!



EARL SCRUGGS CENTER
MUSIC & STORIES FROM THE AMERICAN SOUTH

**Native American
Studies Center**
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA LANCASTER

**LANGUAGE
OF CLAY:
CATAWBA
INDIAN
POTTERY
AND ORAL
TRADITION**

**AUGUST 8-
NOVEMBER 4, 2023**

MORE INFORMATION:
WWW.EARLSRUGGSCENTER.ORG
704-487-6233



Image courtesy of the [Earl Scruggs Center website](#).

RECENT EVENTS



Archives Signage Unveiling

This June, the Center held an unveiling of the W. Brent Burgin Archives signage by artist Bob Doster in memory of USCL's first archivist, Brent Burgin. The event included remarks from Director of Native American Studies Dr. Stephen Criswell, USCL Campus Dean Dr. Walt Collins, USCL Palmetto College Chancellor Dr. Susan Elkins, and Burgin's friends, family, and colleagues. Photo by Shana Dry.

Faculty News

Congratulations to Center Historian and USCL Professor of History and Native American Studies Dr. Evan Nooe, who was named a member to the Program Committee for the American Society for Ethnohistory annual conference (ASE). This November, Nooe will present a research paper and serve as a chair for a separate panel at the ASE annual conference in Tallahassee. Also, in November, Nooe will present a research paper at the Southern Historical Association's annual meeting in Charlotte. Previously, Nooe presented a paper in July at the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic's annual meeting in Philadelphia. Photo by Meena Nooe.



Resurgence & Renaissance Opening Day

The exhibit “Resurgence and Renaissance: Art of the Catawba Nation Since 1973” opened Saturday, June 10 at the Columbia Museum of Art with a presentation by Catawba drum group Women of the River (pictured) with dancer Travis Blue, and a discussion with Brittany Taylor-Driggers, USCL Director of Campus Collections and Galleries and Associate Professor of Art and Art History, and Jackie Adams, CMA Director of Art and Learning. The exhibit is presented in partnership with USC Lancaster. Photo by Christopher Judge.



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

Resurgence & Renaissance Podcast



Hear more about the “Resurgence and Renaissance” exhibit in the Columbia Museum of Art’s Binder podcast, available to listen to now [here](#). In late June, CMA Executive Media Producer Drew Baron interviewed Native American Studies Director Dr. Stephen Criswell, Assistant Curator and Program Assistant Sharon Simmers-Norton, and Assistant Curator Alex Osborn about Catawba art. The exhibit closed in early September. Photo of Simmers-Norton by Stephen Criswell. Photo of Osborn by Sharon Simmers-Norton.

Visit [NASCA](#) to learn more about South Carolina’s Native communities and access letters, images, videos, timeline, an interactive map, and more!

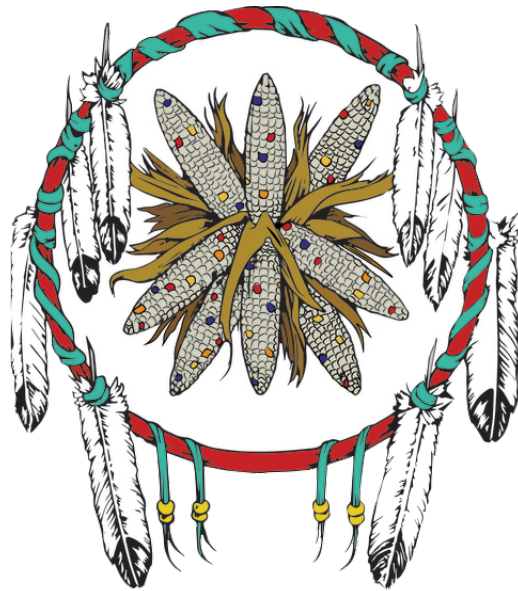


Tribal Archivist Visits Center

In July, Native American Studies Director Dr. Stephen Criswell gave a tour of the Center's galleries, Archives, Special Collections, and more to Catawba Nation Tribal Archivist Ensley Guffey. The Center holds the world's single largest collection of Catawba pottery. Photo by Ashley Lowrimore.

Wassamasaw up for Federal Recognition

A bill extending federal recognition to the Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians was introduced in late July to the U.S House of Representatives by Congresswoman Nancy Mace. The tribe joins the Edisto Natchez-Kusso Tribe, the Pee Dee Indian Tribe, and the Waccamaw Indian People, who are also up for consideration of federal recognition.



THE WASSAMASAW TRIBE
of VARNERTOWN
INDIANS

“She Means Business” Event

Center Program Assistant and Assistant Curator Sharon Simmers-Norton and Center Program Assistant Beckee Garris represented the Catawba Nation and Native American Studies Center in August at the “She Means Business” event, hosted by the Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce. South Carolina Lieutenant Governor Pamela Evette spoke at the banquet, which celebrated female business owners and entrepreneurs. Pictured from left to right are Beckee Garris, Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette, Zan Raymond (Garris’ daughter), and Sharon Simmers-Norton.

Photo courtesy of Sharon Simmers-Norton.



Upcoming Events

Sept. 12

Exhibit Opening

First day to see the exhibit, "Backyard Vines: Artwork by Nancy Basket."

Sept. 15-16, Time TBD

Santee Indian Organization Powwow

Join the Santee Indian Organization for the 10th Annual Powwow in Holly Hill, S.C. [Click here](#) for more information.

Sept. 22, Noon

Lunch and Learn: "Only the Ball was White: A History of Native and Black American Baseball":

Lecture by Stanton Green, Monmouth University Professor Emeritus of Anthropology.

Sept. 28

Exhibit Opening

First day to see the exhibit, "More than a Game: Indigenous Sports and Athleticism."

Sept. 30, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

PAIA Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation SC Powwow

Join the PAIA for the 16th Annual Powwow in Gray Court, S.C. [Click here](#) for more information.

Oct. 7, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

36th Annual Fall Field Day

The Archaeological Society of South Carolina's Fall Field Day presents a family-friendly event featuring activities and demonstration at the 12,000 Year History Park in Cayce, South Carolina. For more information [click here](#).

Oct. 17

Exhibit Opening

First day to see the exhibit, "Native American Archaeology in the Wateree Valley."

Oct. 21, Noon

Wassamasaw Annual Powwow

Join the Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians for their powwow at Old Santee Canal Park in Moncks Corner, S.C. [Click here](#) for more information.

Oct. 27, Noon

Lunch and Learn: "Halloween: It's Nothing to Be Afraid of"

Lecture by Dr. Stephen Criswell, USC Lancaster Folklorist and Director of Native American Studies.

Nov. 1-10

18th Annual Native American Studies Celebration

This year's annual event, "Indigenous Athletes and Athleticism: Vital Contributions to a National Passion," celebrates Indigenous feats in sports and athleticism.

Nov. 1, Noon

Author Talk

Pulitzer-Prize winning author David Maraniss discusses his new book, "Path Lit by Lightning: The Life of Jim Thorpe." Presented via Zoom.

Nov. 2, 5-7 p.m.

Special Reception

Join the Center for a special reception for "More than a Game: Indigenous Sports and Athleticism," open in conjunction with the 18th Annual Native American Studies Week.

Nov. 4-5, Time TBD

Waccamaw Indian People Pauwau:

Join the Waccamaw Indian People for the annual pauwau in Aynor, S.C. [Click here](#) for more information.

Nov. 10, Noon

Lunch and Learn: "From Traditional Lacrosse to Olympians: How Native American Athletes Have Made Their Historical Mark"

Lecture by Vincent Schilling, Founder and Editor of Native Viewpoint, CEO and President of Schilling Media, Inc. Presented via Zoom.

Upcoming Events Continued

Nov. 11, 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. 18, 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.

Dec. 2, 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 10th annual Winter Native American Art and Craft Sale!

Dec. 8, Noon

Lunch and Learn: "It's Happening Here: The Epidemic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives in South Carolina"

Lecture by Terence Little Water, Chief Executive Officer South Carolina Indian Affairs Commission.

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.

Duke Energy Gallery: Native American Archaeology in the Wateree Valley: Artwork and artifacts tell the story of Indigenous mounds in the Wateree Valley region. Opens Oct. 17, 2023. Through Aug. 5, 2024.

Five Points Gallery: More than a Game: Indigenous Sports and Athleticism: Opening in conjunction with the 18th Annual Native American Studies Week, this exhibit highlights Indigenous athletes, some with Carolina connections, and their contributions to competitive sports such as hockey, football, wrestling, track and field, the Olympics, and more. Opens Sept. 28, 2023. Through Aug. 30, 2024.

North Gallery: Backyard Vines: Artwork by Nancy Basket: View the beautiful weavings and sculptures made of wisteria, kudzu, long leaf pine needles, and more from traditional artist Nancy Basket. Opens Sept. 12, 2023. Through Feb. 15, 2024.

Red Rose Gallery: Sounds of Religion: Choirs singing. Monks chanting. The reading of religious texts. These are religious sounds. But so too are the creaking of church pews and the clanking of pots during the preparation of a communal meal. “Sounds of Religion” is a poster exhibition that explores how rituals and gatherings of religious communities create a complex soundtrack of religions in the United States that teaches us how people behave, how they’re different, and how they’re alike. Through QR codes, viewers are invited to listen to eight contemporary recordings that serve as an audio portrait of the rich and dynamic differences that make religious life in the U.S. unique. “Sounds of Religion” is organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service in cooperation with the American Religious Sounds Project of The Ohio State University and Michigan State University and made possible through the generous support of The Henry Luce Foundation. Through March 31, 2024.

Back Gallery: This is Us: Native American Studies at the University of South Carolina Lancaster: This exhibit celebrates the history and 10th Anniversary of USCL’s Native American Studies, including artifacts and artwork from Collections, and a history of the building our Native American Studies Center calls home. Semi-permanent Exhibit.