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# Native American Studies Quarterly



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#### **Native American** Studies Center

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA LANCASTER

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### Co-Director's Column



Almost every American school child was taught to celebrate Christopher Columbus' "discovery" of the Americas. However, Columbus was not a hero in the late 1400s, nor should he be idolized in the 21st century. In fact, for Native Americans across the nation, Columbus is remembered as perpetrator of immense violence. In 1937, Columbus Day became a federal holiday. But, Columbus never set foot in North America. So, why does the U.S. celebrate a violent man who got lost in the Caribbean, instead of the people who have loved and protected this land for longer than the existence of America? In recent weeks, South Carolinians and Americans across the country witnessed the powerful manifestations of the Black Lives Matter Movement. Last month, the RNC passed a resolution to preserve Columbus Day that encouraged "public educational institutions to celebrate Columbus' unparalleled contributions to human connectedness, role in the creation of America." However, Columbus', whose travel was restricted to the Caribbean, left a legacy of enslavement, brutality, and death of Indigenous people. It is a critical time in America that requires us to (re)focus on the racial and ethnic inequalities in our society. In this moment, we must emphasize that Black and Indigenous fights for justice and equality are intertwined and should not be treated as separate struggles.

Native Americans in South Carolina and across the continent, including my own nation, the Catawbas, have long suffered violence at the hands of Anglo-Americans. Today, Native Americans experience police brutality at a higher rate than other racial or ethnic group in the US. Violence against Native women and girls is a crisis in our nation, with Native American females being ten times more likely to be killed compared to the average national murder rate. Federal and state governments continue to take Native children from their Native families and communities. These disparities are especially urgent right now as Native communities grapple with COVID-19.

Central to Native American's struggle for justice is our fight to be visible to the general public so that we can begin to address these many crises. Most of S.C.'s Native people are largely ignored in discussions of violence, incarceration, voting rights, and healthcare data. We are treated as "invisible" because we are the 1% minority. The combination of being a minority population and the pervasive stereotypical representations of Native people make it hard for many to recognize contemporary Native folks. Thus, we are often overlooked. Major agencies do not produce data about our populations, which in turn

### Co-Director's Column

decreases awareness of the systemic effects of health, criminal justice, food insecurity, economic development, and educational attainment.

Even more, the marginalization of S.C.'s Native Americans makes it harder for us to get state leaders to hear us because we do not have the numbers or the data to make our voices heard. So, let's fix this invisibility by helping provide public commemorations of Native people instead of reserving space only for great, and not so great, white men.

After all, the Indigenous people in S.C. contributed to the creation and development of this state. Our rich history began long before European encroachment and settlement. Thousands of years before contact with Europeans, Indigenous peoples built vast empires that had functioning governments, agriculture, commerce, and diverse cultures. Most people never learn about this history. We've changed over the centuries, but, we are still here and we still love and contribute to this land!

All across the country there have been calls to remove statues and monuments to oppressors and to rethink the way we commemorate history. Here, we have an opportunity to do this, and to support a public commemoration of the true values of South Carolinians. Let's replace Columbus with a commemoration of Native people that showcases the vibrant and beautiful contemporary Native communities that make this state great. In Columbia, S.C., the Columbus statue was temporarily removed on June 12, 2020. In Virginia and other states, Columbus statues have been destroyed or removed. At least eight states and over 130 cities across 34 states have adopted Indigenous Peoples Day. South Carolina, let's not be left behind. Instead of celebrating a false hero and a man who never even came to mainland North America, a man who murdered, stole, and started the genocide of millions of Indigenous

people, let's pick something truly worth celebrating. We should memorialize the history of this land and its First Peoples and call on the State of South Carolina to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day. South Carolina, let's learn some new history and erect a new monument on the State House grounds to recognize the contributions of Native American people to our state.

-Brooke Bauer Co-Director of Native American Studies

## A Press Conference and Panel Discussion on Oct. 12, 2020

To further elaborate on these issues, educate the public at large, and raise awareness, the University of South Carolina Lancaster's Native American Studies Center will hold a press conference and panel discussion on the growing controversy over Columbus Day celebrations and statues on Oct. 12, 2020. Pre-registration for this Zoom event is required. Registrants will receive Meeting ID and Passcode 24 hours before the event. Press kits will be made available to the media on Leif Erickson Day 2020.

### Precontact Archaeology among the Pandemic



Author's Note: On the day I visited the site, two other volunteers and I sifted soil through a mesh screen to sort artifacts dug up from the soil. In a matter of minutes, Archaeologist Chris Judge rinsed the findings and laid out these eight fragments of Native American pottery determined to be around 600-700 years old. Photo by Ashley Lowrimore.

## Precontact Archaeology among the Pandemic

By Ashley Lowrimore

Washed out pathways. Ticks. Snakes. SARS-CoV-2? Archaeology digs have their share of hazards to watch out for, but the virus that causes COVID-19 is a first.

For another consecutive summer, Center Archaeologist Chris Judge and his team have excavated mounds along the Wateree River; thankfully, COVID-19 hasn't loomed too largely over the project due to the remote location of the site. New safety protocols were implemented in the field, including increased availability and use of hand sanitizer, disinfection of fields tools at the

end of each day, and the wearing of face coverings for all workers and volunteers while on site during the June dig.

The site is believed to have been within Cofitachequi, a chiefdom level society visited by three Spanish expeditions between 1540 and 1628. Previously, recovered artifacts included a bone fish hook, arrow points, and fragments of broken pottery vessels.

This summer, students from the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, Camryn Brown, Gracie Floyd, and Emily Geraghty, participated in a six-week remote internship at the Center. The students have been helping Judge review data from the Johannes Kolb Site in Darlington, where

### Precontact Archaeology among the Pandemic

he is trying to situate two burials dating back to the mid-17th century. The interns have collected data on Native American burial practices from the Carolinas, Georgia, and Tennessee as part of their work and also got a chance to get hands-on experience at the dig. environmental factors, how those factors are impacting the site, and what techniques are used in the excavation process.



South Carolina Governor's School of Science and Mathematics student Camryn Brown sifts soil through a mesh screen, looking for any artifacts. Photo by Chris Judge.

Camryn Brown, a rising GSSM senior from Fort Mill, is researching the history, significance of, and the making of shell beads for this summer's research project at the GSSM. Brown worked remotely with the other interns, who also worked on individual projects.

"It was a lot of adjusting because I go to a math and science school, so I had to get used to this type of research where it's really fluid and there's not always an answer," said Brown.

Brown is planning to study environmental science after she graduate from GSSM and is thinking about taking some archaeology courses in college. She says she really enjoyed the day she spent working at the dig site, where she learned about

"I thought archaeology was this gentle, careful, sometimes tedious work done with brushes, but when it got down to it, we were shoveling dirt with shovels and putting it in screens," she said. "What also really amazed me was that we found a lot of potential artifacts. I thought it was amazing; it's something not everyone is able to do in their lifetime."

Come fly with us! Click here for a drone tour of the Center!

### Precontact Archaeology among the Pandemic



South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics student Emily Geraghty (left) and Dr. Gail Wagner record data at the archaeology dig site near the Wateree River. Geraghty is one of three students from the GSSM who interned at the Center this summer. Though they mostly worked remotely, the students did have the chance to volunteer and get hands-on experience at the site. Photo by Chris Judge.

Emily Geraghty, a rising senior at GSSM, worked at the site and spent the day helping the crew by assisting with equipment and checking for color changes in the soil that might show any clues of previous post holes, molds, or artifacts. For her summer project, Geraghty researched commingled mortuary practices.

"My goal is to go into forensic sciences," said Geraghty. "This was the closest I could get to a crime lab without being in an actual crime lab."

Though she would have preferred to work on-site at the Center this summer, Geraghty is making the best of this summer's unique situation.

"I've read a lot of books these past weeks and I've been putting together what I've found out about mortuary practices from those resources," said Geraghty. "We are doing a heavy focus on southeastern Natives and lot of them are in the Carolina area, some in Georgia, and some in other places. It's a lot of remote learning."

As the global pandemic made remote learning the so-called new normal for many, GSSM also adjusted. The summer research requirement was made optional this year, though Dr. Karl Rohr, GSSM History Instructor, said connecting with the Center still provided opportunities for those students who wanted to conduct research.

"COVID-19 presented our entire GSSM community with significant challenges," said Rohr. "However, we transitioned to distance learning quickly and effectively. This shows that this new link between the Center and our school can present even more exciting opportunities when we return to a more normal environment."

GSSM students have been conducting mentored, in-person research for 30 years, says Dr. Josh Witten, GSSM's Director of Research and Inquiry; however, he notes there has been a silver lining among COVID-19's limitations.

"Because Mr. Judge was willing to work with GSSM

### Precontact Archaeology among the Pandemic/Volunteer Lab Spotlight

students remotely on projects, additional students who would not have been able to work at the Center due to the distance from home could now participate and benefit from the opportunity," said Witten. "So, while the COVID-19 pandemic has reduced the opportunity to work with the NASC in-person, it has also provided an opportunity to overcome geographic limitations to allow student participation to focus on their interests."

Witten is responsible for connecting students with research mentors, for research internships during their junior and senior years.

"I first interacted with Chris Judge and the Native American Studies Center as part of an interdisciplinary January interim course for GSSM about post-apocalyptic fiction writing and science," said Witten. "We toured the Center to learn about the impact of European colonialism on Native American peoples and cultures, which has led to on-going interactions between the Center and GSSM, for example, through field trips for our Native American history class with Dr. Karl Rohr. This summer, we were able to extend that relationship to have GSSM students work with Mr. Judge as research interns."

Rohr serves as faculty advisor for the students, helping them organize and prepare their research for papers and presentations throughout the year. He says the primary objective of the summer research program is to give students the opportunity to grow both intellectually and professionally.

"During our time of heightened awareness of diversity and more inclusive historical narratives, NASC builds effective bridges between the past, present, and future," said Rohr. "This is the mission of the Center, and it blends naturally with the mission of our school. Our students' passion for scientific research finds a human face with

these projects, and they need not steer away from their passions for social science and humanities. I want to see students discover more about South Carolina history, and then make greater connections to understanding our world today."

Visit NASCA to learn more about South Carolina's Native communities and access letters, images, videos, timeline, an interactive map, and more!

#### **Volunteer Lab Spotlight**

By Ashley Lowrimore

Ever since she was a child growing up in Charleston, Debbie Love has had a long-term appreciation for history.

"My mother would take me on outings to the old museum, which is no longer standing, and I still remember seeing many artifacts and prehistoric bones of earlier habitation there," said Love.

Love fondly recalls picnicking and walking the grounds of the Battery every Sunday with her family, and visiting friends in Sullivan's Island and exploring Fort Moultrie, the site where Seminole warrior Osceola was imprisoned and died in 1838.

## Volunteer Lab Spotlight



Archaeology Lab volunteer Debbie Love digs at the White Pond excavation site last year. Photo by Chris Judge.

"I was intrigued by the dark cell in which Chief Osceola was kept prisoner," said Love.

Immersing themselves in history away from South Carolina's Lowcountry, Love's family also would make annual visits to Cherokee, North Carolina.

"I was always moved by the fact that most of the descendants were from the group who hid in the mountains instead of being forcibly removed by the government," said Love.

Love moved to Lancaster in the 1950s and has mostly lived here since then. After attending UofSC, she taught U.S. History at Lancaster High School for six years before becoming a school counselor. As a counselor, she split her time between both Brooklyn Springs and Dobson Elementary Schools for four years before transferring to Indian Land Elementary in 1990. Love retired from the school in 2008.

Love's passion for history and learning led her to

the Center's weekly community Archaeology Lab. After finding a notice in the newspaper calling for volunteers for the weekly Thursday community lab led by Center Archaeologist Chris Judge, Love was eager to join. Volunteering for five years now, Love is the second-longest serving volunteer in the lab.

"I have made many friends coming to the lab while learning so much from Chris," said Love. "Some of us have gone on the digs with Chris and we have learned even more."

Some of the more challenging aspects of working in the lab have included learning how to handle and wash the artifacts, recognizing different types of spear points, and identifying different pottery patterns, though Love says she most enjoys learning about Indigenous cultures and how people may have used the implements they created.

"When I hold a spearpoint or a piece of pottery I imagine what that person looked like, and how they used that particular item," said Love. "What is interesting to me is the many different patterns that were used to make pieces ornate. Some of the inhabitants were very artistic and some pieces were very plain."

Love's volunteer experience doesn't just stop at the Archaeology Lab. She has volunteered with "Kids Keep Charleston Clean," an organization created by her grandson that organizes periodic cleanups around the Charleston area. Closer to home, Love has volunteered in an afterschool reading program through a partnership between Clinton Elementary School and the church that she attends.

Several of Love's grandchildren have inherited her love of history and have expressed an interest in artifacts. She hopes their interest in the history

## Volunteer Lab Spotlight



Love not only volunteers in the weekly Archaeology Lab at the Center, but also has volunteered at numerous active archaeology digs. Here, Love digs at the White Pond excavation site last year. Photo by Chris Judge

and archaeology continues to grow.

When Love's granddaughter was in the third grade and studying the Catawba Nation, she asked Love to speak to her class and she agreed, showing the students pottery fragments and spear points and giving information on the Center. Interest in her talk was so great, Love ended up speaking with the entire third grade class at the school.

"Later I received a letter from the teachers saying that they soaked up everything I said," said Love. "Several students wrote me saying they wanted to come to see the Center. I often say that this is the jewel in Lancaster County and hope more and more people will come to visit."

The Center remains closed to the public this fall and it is uncertain when the community lab will meet again, but Love is looking forward to returning to lab this fall and picking up right where the group left off.

"Volunteering is not only giving your time, but it allows one to connect with the community and meet so many wonderful people," said Love. "You contribute something to posterity in a positive way."



Love and her grandchildren wash artifacts in the community Archaeology Lab, held weekly at the Center. Love has volunteered in the lab for five years now and is the secondlongest-serving volunteer in the group aside from Henry Shute, pictured right. Photo by Chris Judge in 2017.

If you are interested in supporting the work of Native American Studies at USCL, please consider a financial donation to the Samantha Criswell Memorial Fund or the NASC Endowment.
We thank you for your support!

#### **Virtual Visual Arts and Programs**

By Ashley Lowrimore

We're going virtual!

This August, we held our first virtual Lunch and Learn program and are pleased to announce that more great exhibits, programs, and presentations will follow throughout the year.

This September, "The Story of Catawba Pottery" will be the first Center exhibit to view online, followed by "Humor, Parody, and Satire: The Artwork of Tom Farris and Chris Olszewski," available online in October.

"With the Center's closure lasting until at least Spring, and with the number of cancelled exhibits, our current exhibit schedule is being revaluated," said Curator of Galleries and Collections Brittany Taylor-Driggers. "Stay tuned for updates around November for our updated 2021 exhibit schedule."

In other arts news, keep an eye on our social media pages for information about our upcoming Artists-in-Residence program. Thanks to the South Carolina Arts Commission, the Center was generously awarded \$6,000 to continue the annual visiting artist series virtually through 2020-2021.

This year's program will feature artists representing the cultural traditions of the Catawba Nation, presenting and discussing their work in basketry, pottery, storytelling, foodways, and more through online demonstrations. Some former Artists-in-Residence are returning to the program, including Beckee Garris, Faye Greiner, and Keith "Little Bear" Brown; new Artists-in Residence include Roo George-Warren and Monty "Hawk" Branham. The Center also will partner with the Catawba Cultural Preservation Project for the program.

In November, our 15th Annual Native American Studies Week- "Native Humor, Satire, and Parodyis set to go virtual after being postponed by the global pandemic in March. Special guest speakers include Otoe-Missouria-Cherokee contemporary artist Tom Farris and Savannah College of Art and Design Professor and Chippewa visual artist Chris Olszewski.

"Farris's work has been on display in the Native American Studies Center before; his visual commentaries on presidents, past and present, as well as corporate appropriation of Native culture, drew strong responses," said Dr. Stephen Criswell, Co-Director of Native American Studies. "Like Farris, Chris Olszewski's work is rich in satire and social and political commentary. He will join us to discuss his project involving painting car covers with powerful images and messages and traveling the country displaying them at unconventional sites."

During that week, Criswell also will present a talk on Native American trickster figures and will be joined by Catawba artist and guest storyteller Beckee Garris.

For more information on Native American Studies Week or any of our other upcoming virtual programs, stay tuned to our social media as dates and times are announced!

#### W. Brent Burgin Lunch and Learn Lecture Fund Update

By Ashley Lowrimore

Earlier this year, we announced the renaming of the W. Brent Burgin Lunch and Learn Lecture Series in honor of Native American Studies Center Director of Archives Brent Burgin. A new endowment created for the series will fund an honorarium, hotel, and travel expenses for the speaker at the annual W. Brent Burgin Lecture.

A campaign with a goal to raise \$5,000 was quickly exceeded and a new goal has been set to raise \$15,000. Currently, the fund has raised \$11,745.

Even during these unprecedented times, you can still help us meet our goal! Donations can be made to the W. Brent Burgin Lunch and Learn Lecture Series Fund Account (# A32366) through the Educational Foundation of USC Lancaster and may be made <u>online</u>; the tax deductible gift may be earmarked for "Lunch and Learn."

Gifts also can be given by contacting Shana Dry, USC Lancaster's Director of Public Information, at 803-313-7008. Checks also may be mailed to the Educational Foundation of USCL, 476 Hubbard Dr. Lancaster, SC 29720.

## Criswell Part of Music-Focused Multimedia Experience

By Ashley Lowrimore



This summer, Co-Director of Native American Studies Dr. Stephen Criswell was featured in "The BEAT Multimedia Experience," presented by the Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage. Criswell is featured in the category of "The Native Beat Goes On," speaking in the film segments on "Native American Music Spirituality," "Native American Drums and Singing," "Contemporary Native American Music," and "Native American Music Collaboration." Criswell is also featured the "Playing the Blues" section of the site, speaking about the Piedmont Blues style of music and

South Carolina's Blues musicians. Follow the links to hear Criswell's segments:

http://www.morrisheritagecenter.org/the-native-beat-goes-on/

http://www.morrisheritagecenter.org/playing-the-blues/

#### Taylor-Driggers Artwork Featured in Publication

By Ashley Lowrimore



Photo by Ashley Lowrimore.

Congratulations to the Center's Curator of Collections and Galleries Brittany Taylor-Driggers! Her art works "Garden" and "Bubble of Protection," were selected for publication in Kakalak 2020, a national juried poetry and art publication by Main Street Rag Publishing Company. Her piece "Garden" also was awarded "Honorable Mention."

### Upcoming Events

#### September 18: Noon

## Lunch and Learn:"The Ripple Effect of Historical and Curatorial Research in Public Spaces"

Dr. Bauer and Professor Taylor-Driggers share their recent research about building connections with Native Artists deom the perspectives of a historian and a curator/artist. In this lecture, they will talk about some of their experiences and the project outcomes from traveling to Albuquerque, Chaco Canyon, Santa Fe, Acoma, Taos, Chimayo, and Bernalillo in New Mexico.

To view the flyer, click here!

#### October 9, 10, 11

#### Honor the Ancestors Pow Wow

Ness Sports Complex 381 Rhoad Park Street Bamberg, South Carolina To view the flyer, click here!

#### October 23: Noon

## Lunch and Learn:"Trustworthy, Loyal, Beleaguered: A Decade of Good Intentions in Boy Scouts"

Join us as USC Lancaster Professor of English Dr. Lisa Hammond interweaves her experience as a veteran Scout leader and the mother of an Eagle Scout with a discussion of BSA's difficult evolution.

Lecture by: Dr. Lisa Hammond, USCL Professor of English

To view the flyer, click here!

#### November 20: Noon

### Lunch and Learn:"Closing the Circle: Repairing Catawba Foodways"

DeLesslin George-Warren discusses the ways that Catawba Indian Nation is honoring its responsibility to past and future generations by turning towards traditional foodways as a way of creating economic, social, and cultural resiliency in a time of climatic chaos.

Lecture by: By: DeLesslin George-Warren, a citizen of and consultant for Catawba Indian Nation To view the flyer, click here!

Lunch and Learn

Lecture Events are free
and digitally open to the
public. To join the program,
please send an email to
usclnasp@mailbox.sc.edu and
we will send you the password
and ID required to join the
meeting.

Join us for our rescheduled
Native American Studies Week
2020! Our 15th annual celebration
will take place the first week
in November. Dates and details
coming soon!

### The Center's Information

#### **Current Exhibitions at the Center:**

**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: Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians: One Community, One Family:

See beautiful regalia and contemporary art forms in this exhibit curated by the Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians. Through TBD.

#### North Gallery: "Roots of Wisdom: Native Knowledge. Shared Science" Exhibit Opening-

This exhibit examines how Native communities are using traditional knowledge and Western science to solve modern-day environmental problems. Native peoples are restoring ecosystems, saving streams and wildlife, rediscovering traditional foods and crafts, and re-establishing native plants in many innovative ways. The exhibition describes Native communities' growing movement towards sustainability and the reclamation of age-old practices. Roots of Wisdom: Native Knowledge. Shared Science. was developed, produced, and circulated by the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, and the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. The exhibition was made possible with funds provided by the National Science Foundation. Through TBD.

Red Rose Gallery: "What Do You Have in Your Backyard?": The Traditional Artwork of Nancy Basket: Wisteria, kudzu, and long leaf pine needle baskets, kudzu paper art, and more beautiful weavings and sculptures are showcased in this exhibit featuring the work of the Center's fall Artist-in-Residence, traditional artist Nancy Basket. Through February TBD.

Five Points Gallery: Humor, Parody, and Satire: The Artwork of Tom Farris and Chris Olszewski-Opens March 26. This exhibit features the satirical and contemporary art of Otoe-Missouria-Cherokee artist Tom Farris and Chippewa artist Chris Olszewski. Through TBD.

#### Location:

119 South Main Street Lancaster, SC 29720 To visit our website <u>click here!</u>

Did you miss the last newsletter? Don't worry, just click here!

#### The Center's Faculty:

Dr. Stephen Criswell, Professor, Folklorist, Co-Director of Native American Studies 803.313.7108 criswese@mailbox.sc.edu Dr. Brooke Bauer, Assistant Professor of History and Native American Studies. Co-Director of Native **American Studies** 803.313.7440 bmbauer@mailbox.sc.edu Claudia Y. Heinemann-Priest, Linguist, Catawba language, Native American Literature 803.313.7470 chpriest@sc.edu W. Brent Burgin, Archivist, **Director of Native American Studies Archives** 803.313.7063 wbburgin@sc.edu Brittany Taylor-Driggers, Artist, Curator of Collections and Galleries 803.313.7036 & 803.313.7173, taylorbd@mailbox.sc.edu Christopher Judge, Archaeologist, Assistant Director of **Native American Studies** 803.313.7445 <u>judge@sc.edu</u>

#### The Center's Staff:

Helen Champion, Custodial Services
Samuel Farris, Collections, Galleries, and Studio
Assistant
Ashley Lowrimore, Public Relations Coordinator
Crystal Melton, Student Worker
Missy Melton, Student Worker
Katelyn Shull, Visitor Coordinator
Elisabeth Streeter, Visitor and Project Coordinator

#### The Center's Advisory Committee:

Purpose: This committee advises the Native American Studies Director.

Dr. Stephen Criswell, NAS Co-Director, ex officio Dr. Brooke Bauer, NAS Co-Director, ex officio Jerrod Yarosh, BBCE Division Representative Todd Scarlett, MSNPH Division Representative Tania Wolochwianski, Humanities Representative Fran Gardner, Administrative Appointment Pat Lawrence, Administrative Appointment Allan Pangburn, Administrative Appointment W. Brent Burgin, NAS Director Appointment Claudia Heinemann-Priest, NAS Director Appointment Brittany Taylor-Driggers, NAS Committee Chair, NAS Director Appointment

#### **Contact Information:**

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Email: usclnasp@sc.edu
Native American Studies Center Hours:
Monday: By Appointment Only
Tuesday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday: Closed