

Native American Studies Quarterly



Native American Studies Center
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA LANCASTER

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Contemporary Artist-in-Residence Alex Osborn finished his contemporary snake mural installation in the Five Points Gallery in late August. Photo by Ashley Lowrimore.



Basket maker Faye Greiner creates a split bamboo basket while speaking about her creative process. In her presentation, Greiner also spoke about making dyes for her baskets, her experiences in a Cherokee boarding school where she learned to make baskets, and the tradition of basket making in Catawba Nation. Photo by Elisabeth Avelar.



In early June, Osborn was joined by Catawba Nation Chief Bill Harris for a conversation about Catawba pottery traditions at the Center. Here, the two discuss vases made by Chief Harris and his grandmother, Georgia Harris, that are from the Center's Special Collections. Photo by Elisabeth Avelar.

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It is a bittersweet time for us at the Native American Studies Center. We're welcoming back old friends and saying goodbye to others.

Beckee Garriss has rejoined the NASC staff after a brief absence. Beckee has been working with programming and has been transcribing our recent online programs. Beckee was also part of our July Catawba traditional arts online programming—both as an organizer and a demonstrator. We also welcome Sharon Simmers-Norton back to USCL. Sharon is working part-time with Chris Judge and his archaeology lab and providing additional staff support. We're delighted to have these two helping us as we move toward our 10th year!

We are also saying goodbye to friends and colleagues—or just perhaps, see you soon! This summer, Dr. Brooke Bauer, our Co-Director and Assistant Professor of History, was offered a wonderful opportunity at the University of Tennessee. Brooke has been a joy to work with and immensely helpful with guiding our work. While pursuing a fellowship in Philadelphia last year, she helped lead us through the complicated 2020-2021 school year. We will miss her presence and her expertise, but we know she will be very successful at UT as both a scholar and a representative of the Catawba Nation. I want to personally thank Brooke for all she has done for Native American Studies at USCL and for her unwavering collegiality.

Fran Gardner has moved on to a new phase in her professional life, retiring from USCL and now developing projects for the Lancaster Arts Council. Fran was instrumental in the development of Native American Studies (She is directly responsible for my position!) and has remained actively involved as we have grown. We look forward to continuing to work with her on a variety of projects. Again, I want to express my gratitude to Fran for bringing me to USCL, supporting me and my family in tough times, and her mentorship, friendship, and great sense of humor.

Finally, we are saddened by the retirement of Brent Burgin but delighted that he will continue to serve as the NASC archivist on a part-time basis. About 15 years ago, Brent took on the monumental task to creating an archive from the lifework of Dr. Thomas J. Blumer. As of today, he has created a dozen separate archives for Native American Studies and has become the archivist for USCL. He has helped countless scholars, students, and researchers over the years. It seems that each one was delighted with his help based on the donations, cards, and letters he regularly receives. Brent also started our Lunch and Learn Series and shepherded it into an often (pre-COVID) standing-room only event. He was also the force behind the Native American South Carolina Archive. There would be no Native American Studies at USCL without Professor Brent Burgin. More, though, than his academic achievements and his awards, I want to celebrate Brent's friendship, his generous nature, his wit, and his love of Lancaster and of Native American history and culture in our state. Brent was not a Native American archivist when

he started out, nor was he a native of Lancaster. But he has left a lasting impact on both Native American Studies in South Carolina and our small city and is beloved by all who have spent time with him. I am so grateful for having Brent as a colleague and a friend. We look forward to watching him shape his already-remarkable legacy in the coming days.

~Stephen Criswell

Center Now Reopen to Visitors

By Ashley Lowrimore

After a year of being closed to the public and almost five months of being open on a limited basis by appointment only, the Native American Studies Center reopened its doors to visitors on a normal operating schedule on Tuesday, Aug. 24. The Center is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m., and on Thursdays from 10 a.m.- 7 p.m. The Center is open by appointment only on Mondays and closed on Sundays.

Per university policy, masks or face coverings are required for entry. Guests are encouraged to make use of the hand sanitizing stations located at the building entrances and to maintain a distance of 6-feet between their party and others. Guests are also encouraged to stay home if feeling unwell. In order to maintain social distancing and safety protocols, tour groups may call the Center at [\(803\) 313-7172](tel:8033137172) to schedule an appointment time to visit. Walk-up tour groups with no appointments will be limited to 10 people.

As school policies around our region vary regarding field trips, educators are encouraged to check back with the Center in the coming months to determine availability for field trips.

The Center continues to work on arranging both in-person and online exhibits. Fresh off this summer's residency, the work of Contemporary Artist-in-Residence Alex Osborn will be featured in the exhibit, "Identity and Color," located in the Five Points Gallery. Catawba heritage and culture

are shown through a contemporary lens in the photographs, digital collages, drawings, and mural installations that Osborn created this summer.

Want to hear more about the completed exhibit from the artist himself? Osborn will tentatively give an in-person artist talk during November's Native American Studies Week (see our article on NAS Week activities for more information).

This work is supported by a RISE grant from the Office of the Vice President for Research at the University of South Carolina.

Later this fall, the Center also looks forward to bringing back in-person signature events, such as the W. Brent Burgin Lunch and Learn Series and the annual Native American Studies Week.

Follow the Center on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn for the latest news or updates to programs and events. For more information, call the Native American Studies Center at [\(803\) 313-7172](tel:8033137172) or send an email to usclnasp@mailbox.sc.edu.



Thanks to Program Assistant Sharon Simmers-Norton, the Center's faculty and staff have stylish new masks to wear! Thank you Sharon for making these cool coverings! Photo courtesy of Sharon Simmers-Norton.

Come fly with us! [Click here](#) for a drone tour of the Center!

Native American Studies Week 2021

By Ashley Lowrimore

S.T.E.A.M. is the theme!

USC Lancaster is hosting its 16th Annual Native American Studies Week, bringing together Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics in a focus on the S.T.E.A.M. curriculum, beginning Monday, Nov. 15 and concluding on Friday, Nov. 19.

The five-day event will include a lecture about medicine and health practices among the Aztecs, a talk analyzing the chemical make-up of Catawba pottery, an artist talk from the Center's summer Contemporary Artist-in-Residence Alex Osborn, and a reception for an exhibit exploring the inventions and innovations that Native Americans have contributed to the field of S.T.E.A.M.

A talk on Indigenous foodways, "Indigenous Science and the Three Sisters Diet," will wrap up the week in a presentation from Chef Dave Smoke-McCluskey (Mohawk). Based in North Augusta, McCluskey is the owner of Corn Mafia Hominy, specializing in small batch hominy, and has been the Chef-in-Residence for the Chickasaw Nation's children's art program for two summers now.

Originally from upstate New York, Chef McCluskey is a forager who has been in foodways for over 40 years. He's also a culinary educator, teaching others about Indigenous foodways, hominy, and nixtamalization, the process by which corn is treated and softened in order to make hominy.

McCluskey joined the restaurant business at age 12 as a dishwasher on Cape Cod and found it to be an exciting, dynamic business. He recalls reading Anthony Bourdain's book "Kitchen Confidential," and reading about the experiences of the chefs that were 30 miles away from where he grew up. It wasn't until he was in college that he seriously considered a career in the culinary arts.

"I was majoring in juvenile justice when Mario Cuomo cut 800 jobs out of the juvenile justice system in the late '80s and early '90s," said McCluskey. "I thought that I would have to score at the top of my class and then score at the top of any other exams that they'd give if they were going to hire again anytime soon, so I just went to do this. The cool thing about the restaurant business is it's constantly changing and what was different yesterday is very different today."



Culinary educator and Chef Dave Smoke-McCluskey will give a lecture concluding Native American Studies Week 2021. Photo courtesy of Dave Smoke-McCluskey.

Growing up with elders who wanted his generation to know about the Mohawk's rich history of agriculture, the chef says that his focus lately has been more on historical foodways Pre-European Contact.

In his talk, McCluskey will discuss the Three Sisters, referring to the Native American agricultural practice of growing corn, beans, and squash in the same mound.

"All three of them are vehicles for whatever else we have on hand," he said. "The Three Sisters weren't something that were here in the southeast or referred to in the southeast. Iroquoian people, that's our thing and it's part of our creation story."

A loss of traditional foodways within Indigenous communities is another topic that the chef discusses in his talks.

"I tend to look at a lot of things and go, 'what do we do with this?'" said McCluskey. "I know it's edible but I don't find any written record of it, so I pair things together because I've got a lot of decades of tasting food and so you get the gist of what goes together and what doesn't go together. Some of what I talk about is not losing our foodways for the sake of decolonizing our diets when we don't really know what our diets were."

Events include (Please note whether events will be held in-person at the Center or virtually via Zoom.):

- Monday, Nov. 15, 12:15 p.m.- "The Chemistry of Catawba Indian Pottery." Art Greenberg, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at the University of New Hampshire, discusses the science of art in this presentation analyzing the chemistry of Catawba pottery. Presented via Zoom.
- Tuesday, Nov. 16, Noon- "Medicine among the Aztecs." Dr. Kim Richardson, USC Lancaster Associate Professor of History, explores the complexities of medicine, childbirth, sanitation, diseases, and other issues within the Aztec Empire to discover what can be learned and applied to current concerns. Presented in person and via Zoom.
- Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2 p.m.- "Scientific Discoveries: Indigenous Inventions Through Time" Special Reception. Learn more about Indigenous inventions, innovations, and other contributions to the field of S.T.E.A.M. in this new exhibit. Presented in person and via Zoom.

- Thursday, Nov. 18, 6 p.m.- Artist Talk. Alex Osborn (Catawba), the Center's summer Contemporary Artist-in-Residence, will present a talk about his work with photography, digital collage, and drawing, as well as his completed art installation in the Center's Five Points Gallery. Presented in person and via Zoom.
- Friday, Nov. 19, Noon- November Lunch and Learn: "Indigenous Science and the Three Sisters Diet." Cod Chef" Dave Smoke-McCluskey (Mohawk) will discuss the science of nixtamalization and its impact on the agricultural Indigenous diet. Presented in person and via Zoom.

Events held in conjunction with Native American Studies Week will be held both virtually and in-person. Zoom registration links will be announced on the Center's webpage and Facebook page. For more information, visit www.sc.edu/Lancaster/NAS or visit the Center's [social media pages](#).



NAS Faculty Contributes to USCL-Arras Foundation Summer Internship

By Ashley Lowrimore



Native American Studies Director Dr. Stephen Criswell (second from left) was just one member of the NAS faculty who made presentations to the interns. Photo courtesy of Stephen Criswell.

This summer, USC Lancaster joined with the Arras Foundation to host a virtual Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access summer internship, giving students an opportunity to connect with community members and local experts while researching and learning more about best practices in DEIA.

“USC Lancaster is proud to collaborate with the Arras Foundation to serve as the knowledge partner for the 2021 Virtual DEIA Internship Program,” said Dr. Walt Collins, Dean of USC Lancaster. “USC Lancaster faculty and staff have much expertise to share with participating interns through facilitated sessions and direct mentoring. By all accounts, the interns have been challenged and have been exposed to new insights related to issues associated with DEIA. This has been a very positive growth experience for all involved.”

Due to COVID-19, this is the second virtual summer internship presented by the Arras Foundation, but the first internship focused on diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

Since the university and the foundation have collaborated several times in the past, Elizabeth Howe, Youth Development Coordinator with the Arras Foundation, said that USCL felt like a natural fit to partner with for this summer’s focus.

“As an organization, we are very interested in diversity, equity, inclusion, and access, and we realize we’re not the experts,” said Howe. “It’s important for us to open ourselves up to learn from community members and partners, and USC Lancaster is just a natural leader in that space. Dr. Collins has a similar interest in DEIA and, through conversations, we landed on the notion of how cool it would be to have these interns focus on these very special and important topics.”

Twelve interns were selected for the eight-week virtual internship, which attracted students from communities around Lancaster County, Great Falls, and Fort Lawn, as well as from all areas of the state. In undergoing the selection process, Howe said that it was important to build a team comprised of diverse perspectives.

“It brought so much value and richness to the program to have those different experiences,” said Howe. “We really believe in young people and the power that they have to help make decisions and make positive change in the communities where we all live, work, play, and pray. It’s really important to not only provide experiences for young people to learn, but also to provide experiences for them to teach and share their lived experiences with other people.”

The internship included panel discussions and presentations led by community members and regional experts.

“Each week we scheduled different sessions, whether it was with community partners or with professors who are experts in the field at USCL,” said Savannah Crosby, the Arras Foundation’s Community Project Assistant. “We’ve tried to make it as eclectic as possible and cover every scope of DEIA.”

Several seminars were given by Native American Studies faculty. Former Co-Director Dr. Brooke Bauer presented “Catawba Indian Society and Culture,” where she introduced Catawba social structure and cultural practices in the 18th century, following with the continuities of these traditions in the 21st century.

“This long span of time allowed me to focus on the diversity of S.C. Natives,” said Bauer. “I emphasized that South Carolina’s Indigenous people struggle for equity, inclusion, and access. These themes overlap and need to be approached simultaneously to make improvements to the lives of Native people.”

Bauer continued her presentation in discussing Catawba kinship practices and the shift from tracing ancestry through the matrilineal line of a Catawba mother to tracing ancestry through a

Catawba mother and/or father in the 1900s. She also explained the significance of the Catawba pottery tradition and how potters display over 4,000 years of continuity in their craft. Bauer ended her presentation to the interns by emphasizing that Native Americans are not relegated to the past.

“Catawbas and other South Carolina Indigenous people are still here, alive, and well in the 21st century,” said Bauer.

USCL student Zoe Byrd was a Summer 2021 Intern with the Arras Foundation, focusing her research in the DEIA education cohort. Byrd will graduate Palmetto College this semester with a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies, studying English, Sociology, and Business. She’s also part of USCL’s peer advisor group and is pursuing Graduation with Leadership Distinction in the Diversity and Social Advocacy track.

“Once I found out that this year’s internship was going to be focused around DEIA, that really aligned with my interests and passions, so I immediately applied,” said Byrd.

Several moments from the internship stood out to Byrd over the course of the summer, including a talk from USCL Professor of African American Studies and History Dr. Adam Biggs on systemic forms of discrimination in medicine, and a session from Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina Research and Policy Director Chynna Phillips on the state’s poverty report, which Byrd says guided her individual research in equity in education this summer.

“This was a great opportunity to come into a safe space where you’re with other people who share your passions, because that can make learning and working together even just that much more enriching,” she said. “This has been a great way

NAS Faculty Contributes to USCL-Arras Foundation Summer Internship; Center Wraps Summer of Artist Demos

to spend my summer; I wouldn't choose anything else and I think many other interns would say the same."

"I think it's so timely," said Crosby. "It just felt right this was shared community learning, that we didn't try and take authority on these topics, and that we made those connections and engaged in this really intentional learning. Reflecting on current events, I think this summer was the best time to offer this, and I think our community was really hungry for that, as well."

Center Wraps Summer of Artist Demos

By Ashley Lowrimore

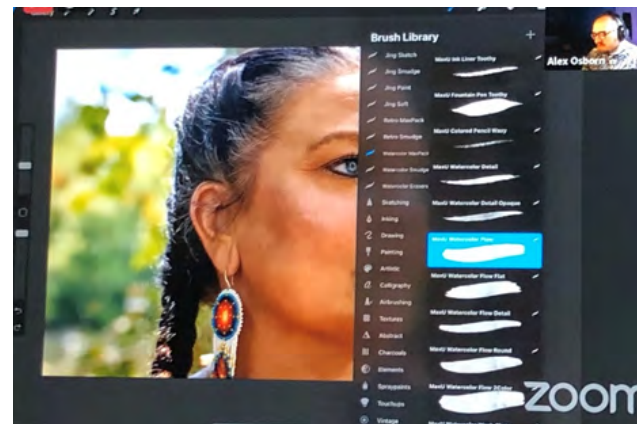
This summer, the Center was pleased to host not one, but two artist series, featuring the Contemporary Artist-in-Residence summer program that began in late May, followed by the Catawba Traditional Artist Online Series in July. The Contemporary Artist-in-Residence work is supported by a RISE grant from the Office of the Vice President for Research at the University of South Carolina.

This visiting traditional artist series was made possible through a 2020-2021 South Carolina Arts Commission Folklife and Traditional Arts Grant. Programs are available to watch now via the Center's [YouTube page](#).

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!



*Working both remotely and at the Center, Contemporary Artist-in-Residence Alex Osborn demonstrated his work with photography, digital collage, and drawings.
Photo by Crystal Melton.*



In one of his first presentations in residence, Osborn demonstrated his digital work starting from a photo he took of Catawba citizen Erica Pursley. Screen capture by Ashley Lowrimore.



Special thanks to the South Carolina Arts Commission for funding the Center's Summer Traditional Artist-in-Residence program!



Catawba Tribal Archivist Ensley Guffey kicked off the week of demonstrations and talks as part of the Catawba Traditional Arts Online Series. Here, Guffey gives an overview of the history and culture of Catawba Nation. Screen capture by Ashley Lowrimore.



Monty "Hawk" Branham plays the drum as part of his presentation during the Catawba Traditional Artist Online Series. Branham also played songs on the flute and discussed different processes of creating flutes and drums. Photo by Elisabeth Avelar.



Catawba potter and storyteller Keith "Little Bear" Brown pauses a moment from working with a clay turtle effigy to tell "The Story of the Big Head Turtle," a tale in which rabbit and fox attempt to outsmart turtle for water. Photo by Ashley Lowrimore.



Long leaf pine needle basket maker Beckee Garriss concluded the Traditional Catawba Arts Online Series, discussing how she learned to make baskets and how she recently has branched out into making long leaf pine needle earrings and jewelry. Here, Garriss compares long leaf pine needles and short leaf pine needles, as well as their pine cones. Photo by Ashley Lowrimore.

Like, subscribe, and ring that bell!
Now you can find us on [YouTube](#),
where you can watch previous virtual
Lunch and Learns, our Columbus Day
Controversy Panel Discussion, drone
tour of the Center, and more!

Blumer Collection Completed

By Brent Burgin



*Director of Archives Brent Burgin pictured in the Center's Archive after the 2012 move from USCL to Main Street.
Photo by Chris Judge.*

Dr. Tom Blumer was a prolific author, researcher, photographer and compiler of Native American information. He was interested in literally everything relative to the Catawba Nation and the large body of work he amassed has taken nearly 15 years to process. Dr. Blumer's efforts ensured the preservation of much knowledge that might otherwise have been lost.

It began in 2006. I came to USC Lancaster as a graduate assistant after completing internships at then-USC Spartanburg and the South Caroliniana Library. I had a basic understanding of archival practice and was eager to learn. A paid internship was available at USCL for a student willing to travel. I knew relatively little about South Carolina's Native American people. Thus began a life-changing journey and the great work of my life.

During the first five years, stacks of documents arose in my processing area. Legal material and lawsuits were broken into a separate series and the 40-ft of topical items were sorted out and began to take form. Oral histories had to be

remastered (and rescued) from deteriorating cassettes and scattered transcripts assembled. All of Dr. Blumer's lectures, articles, publications and manuscripts also had to be arranged. There were also 3,000 + photographs and 5,700+ letters to rehouse and create finding aids for.

It was a heck of a lot of work, and I loved every minute of it. Yet always there was one area; my bugbear- the slides. As time progressed there was much other work to do. Our collections tripled in size and, if placed in a continuous line, are now longer than a football field. I created a USCL university archive and, before a curator was hired, was responsible for accessioning, housing, and describing the 1,000+ Thomas John Blumer pottery collection. The papers of the Archaeology Society of South Carolina also came to live and be processed at Lancaster. I began work on the slides, but progress was slow piecemeal.

Slides are obsolete today; perhaps last done on a large scale in the 1990s. The majority of our students have never seen them, only knowing the word "slide" from their contemporary PowerPoint lectures. They are cumbersome and take a long time to scan. Slides are, however, one of the most reliable forms of long-term preservation. A slide properly stored can easily last 50, even 75 years. Contrast that with today's constant loss of digital information despite having so many ways to save it.

The Thomas John Blumer slide collection consists of 5,275 slides. An index has been created with four major sections. The largest section by far is simply titled "People." Within this section all slides relative to an individual are collected in a single place. Take noted Catawba potter Georgia Harris for example; there are slides of her making pottery, firing pottery, sitting on the front porch, at the Smithsonian, and demonstrating at various craft fairs and shows. There are also numerous

slides of her pieces that are held at different museums throughout the country.

Other sections of the index are devoted to places, museum collections, and miscellaneous materials. The TJB pottery collection now owned by USCL is featured in these sections, along with collections photographed by Dr. Blumer at various locations during his travels. Places consist largely of various sites around the Catawba Nation.

Of course, there are still things to be tweaked, but the Thomas John Blumer collection, after 15 years, is now complete. Dr. Blumer was an amazing compiler of Native American information, and all that knowledge is now available for interested parties. This collection significantly increases the collective history of South Carolina.

A special note of thanks is due to our Visitor Coordinator Katelyn Shull, who has trudged through the pandemic by my side completing the slide index. It could not have been done without her help.

Staff News

By Ashley Lowrimore

As the Center reopens to the public on a normal basis, two new staff members are ready to help welcome visitors back to our building.

Visitors may remember Beckee Garriss, who has worked previously at the Center as Visitor Coordinator and Collections Assistant, back in a new role as Program Assistant.

Garris was last seen demonstrating her skills in pottery and basket making as the Center's Fall 2019 Artist-in-Residence before she leaving later that year in pursuit of a new adventure.

"I moved to Florida because I was going to become a reverend in a metaphysical church but

COVID-19 put a screeching halt to that, and so I came back here," said Garriss.

Missing her family and friends, the mother of three and grandmother of six returned to Lancaster just in time to find out she would be a great-grandmother for the third time.

After returning home, Garriss was contacted by Native American Studies Director Dr. Stephen Criswell, asking if she'd like to work again at the Center. She was happy to accept his invitation and is glad to be back in her former workplace.

"You know that you miss places, but you don't realize how much you missed it until you get back," said Garriss.

Garris has been assisting Criswell with transcriptions of virtual programming that Center has presented during the past year. Later on, Garriss will assist Curator of Collections and Galleries Brittany Taylor Driggers in accurately identifying artwork in an updated Collections database.



Beckee Garriss works with clay during her time as Artist-in-Residence in 2018. Photo by Ashley Lowrimore.

After the last year and a half of closures, Garris has looked forward to catching up with her colleagues in-person once more.

"I'm most looking forward to just reconnecting with everybody," she said. "Between COVID and still not being fully open just yet, there are people I'm still looking forward to interacting with that aren't here yet."

A Catawba citizen, Garris is also a storyteller and artist in several realms, creating Catawba pottery as well as reed and long leaf pine needle baskets. Lately, Garris has begun to branch out from only making baskets with the pine needles.

"I know people make baskets out of the pine needles, but I thoroughly enjoy making jewelry out of it, especially earrings," she said. "It's long leaf pine needle jewelry, I just add different types of embellishments."

Garris' basketry and jewelry-making skills were featured this year during the Center's July Catawba Traditional Arts Online Series, where she discussed and displayed her talents creating long leaf pine needle baskets.

Catawba citizen Sharon Simmers-Norton also joined the Center this summer as Program Assistant, where she is assisting Archaeologist Christopher Judge with the sorting and cleaning of pottery in the Archaeology Lab.

If she looks familiar, Simmers-Norton has appeared in a series of videos created for the former "Share a Little of that Human Touch" exhibit, portraying a pre-European Contact Indigenous woman; the videos can still be seen on the [Native American South Carolina Archive website](#).

Like Garris, Simmers-Norton also has appeared as an art vendor at previous Native American art and craft festivals hosted by the Center.

"I make baskets, pottery, beadwork, dreamcatchers, chokers, and I make custom t-shirts," she said. "It depends on what's at hand and how much time I have."

The mother of three and grandmother of two graduated from USCL in 2019 with an Associate Degree in Science, studying Child Psychology. While still in school, she started a cleaning business, working around her class hours. Her small business bloomed, and Simmers-Norton continues her business today, working around her hours at the Center.



Sharon Simmers-Norton is one of two new Program Assistants hired at the Center this summer. Photo courtesy of Sharon Simmers-Norton.

"When Beckee told me that she was going back to work at the Center, I told her to see if they need some help; I would even volunteer!" she said. "I love it here. The Center is more home to me than the Longhouse and the Cultural Center. I don't know if it's because I went to school here, or if it's because I've already been around everyone here, but I love what's done here and this is where I want to be."

A self-described lover of history, Simmers-Norton says she is most enjoying being in the Center's atmosphere.

"I love my heritage and anything to do with being around it," she said. "I want to get the kids more involved, and the more I'm in and I know what's going on, the more I can get them involved, too."

"We're delighted to have Beckee and Sharon at the Center to assist with the variety of projects we're working on currently," said Director of Native American Studies Dr. Stephen Criswell. "It's wonderful to have Beckee back with us once more, and Sharon is a welcome new addition to our staff."

Be sure to say hello to our new staff when visiting the Center!

Bauer Receives Award

By Ashley Lowrimore



Congratulations to former Native American Studies Co-Director Dr. Brooke Bauer, who was awarded the Anne B. and James B. McMillan Prize by the editorial board of the University of Alabama Press earlier this year. Her manuscript, "Becoming Catawba: Catawba Indian Women and Nation-building, 1540-1840," is scheduled to be published

in fall of 2022. The annual prize is awarded to the manuscript chosen as "Most Deserving in Alabama" or "Most Deserving for Southern History or Culture." Photo courtesy of Brooke Bauer.

Two Kings Casino Opens

By Ashley Lowrimore



Early in July, the Catawba Nation opened the first phase of the Two Kings Casino in Kings Mountain, N.C., just 35 miles west of Charlotte. Here, Catawba Chief Bill Harris gives opening remarks at the casino's ribbon cutting ceremony. Photo courtesy of Beckee Garriss.

Visit [NASCA](https://www.nasca.org) to learn more about South Carolina's Native communities and access letters, images, videos, timeline, an interactive map, and more!

Melton Recognized by S.C. House

By Ashley Lowrimore



Congratulations to Palmetto College student and Center student worker Teresa "Missy" Melton, who was recognized by the South Carolina House of Representatives earlier this summer for student excellence and dedication to the State of South Carolina by performing community services, and recognized her for anti-human trafficking efforts. Melton is pictured here with S.C. Rep. Tommy Pope, R-York, who introduced the resolution to the House floor.

"Ms. Melton is one of those students who seemingly has an insatiable appetite for learning and for new educational experiences," said USCL Dean Walt Collins. "She has found a way to take her personal passion—human trafficking education and prevention—to a new level through her 2020 internship at the Elrod and Pope Law Firm and through educational sessions she developed and shared over the past academic year. Her research and writing have turned into an awareness campaign with a critical and potentially life-changing impact. Her recent recognition by the South Carolina House of Representatives demonstrates the importance of her efforts to raise awareness."

Melton graduated in May, earning both an Associate in Arts and an Associate in Science. Melton earned Graduation with Leadership

Distinction and received an Excellence and Outstanding Achievement Award for her iPoster presented at Discover UofSC 2021. At USCL, Melton has been on the Dean's List, President's List, and has been part of Alpha Sigma Lambda, Phi Beta Lambda, and the Society of Collegiate Leadership Achievement. She plans to pursue her Bachelor's degree with a major in criminal justice, focusing on cybersecurity with the eventual goal of working in anti-trafficking.



Congratulations, Missy! Photos courtesy of Missy Melton.

Congratulations to our Curator

By Ashley Lowrimore

We're pleased to announce the arrival of baby Jace, son of Brittany Taylor-Driggers, Professor



of Art and the Center's Curator of Collections and Galleries. Baby Jace arrived earlier this summer; both mother and child are well. Congratulations, Brittany! Photo courtesy of Brittany Taylor-Driggers.

Sept. 17, Noon

[Lunch and Learn: "The Archaeology of Charraw Town in the Catawba Indian Nation"](#)

Lecture by Dr. Mary Bett Fitts, Assistant State Archaeologist, North Carolina Office of State Archaeology.

Sept. 25, 9 a.m.

[PAIA Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation SC Powwow](#)

Join the PAIA for the 14th Annual Powwow in Gray Court, S.C.

Oct. 15, Noon

[Lunch and Learn: "The State of the River"](#)

Lecture by Brandon Jones, Catawba River Keeper, Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation.

Nov. 15-19

[16th Annual Native American Studies Week](#)

["Indigenous Contributions in S.T.E.A.M."](#)

Events include an art exhibit opening, an artist talk, programs on Indigenous science and technology and the chemistry of pottery, a foodways lecture, and more. Events, both virtual and in-person, are free and open to the public!

Nov. 15, 12:15 p.m.

["The Chemistry of Catawba Indian Pottery"](#)

Professor Art Greenberg discusses the science of art in this presentation analyzing the chemistry of Catawba pottery.

Nov. 16, Noon

["Medicine among the Aztecs"](#)

Dr. Kim Richardson, USC Lancaster Associate Professor of History, will give a talk on Indigenous science and technology.

Nov. 17, 2 p.m.

["Scientific Discoveries: Indigenous Inventions Through Time" Exhibit Reception](#)

This exhibit explores the contributions of Indigenous inventors and innovators to the field of S.T.E.A.M.

Nov. 18, 6 p.m.

[Artist Talk: An Evening with Alex Osborn](#)

Alex Osborn (Catawba), the Center's summer Contemporary Artist-in-Residence, will present a talk about his work with photography, digital collage, and drawing, as well as his completed art installation in the Center's Five Points Gallery.

Nov. 19, Noon

[Lunch and Learn: "Indigenous Science and the Three Sisters Diet"](#)

Chef and culinary educator Dave Smoke-McCluskey (Mohawk) discusses the science of nixtamalization and its impact on the agricultural Indigenous diet.

Dec. 4, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

[Native American Art & Craft Sale](#)

Held in conjunction with Christmas in the City, shop for jewelry, Catawba pottery, baskets, quilts, and more one-of-a-kind artwork at the seventh annual Native American Art and Craft Sale! Also, this year's Contemporary Artist-in-Residence Alex Osborn will discuss and demonstrate his basket making techniques during the day.

Dec. 10, Noon

[100th Lunch and Learn Lecture: "'Really? You don't look like an Indian...': An Examination of Native American Representation through Mascots in South Carolina"](#)

Lecture by Hannah Bauer, South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs.

Please consider
donating to the Native
American Studies Center
[Endowment Fund](#) as part
of Give Local Lancaster,
coming up on Monday,
Nov. 15!

Current Exhibitions at the Center:

D. Lindsay Pettus Gallery: The Story of Catawba Pottery Virtual Exhibit. 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: TBA

North Gallery: TBA

Red Rose Gallery: TBA

Five Points Gallery: TBA

Digital Exhibitions from USCL and the Center's Galleries:

[Humor, Parody, and Satire:](#) The Artwork of Tom Farris and Chris Olszewski

[The Story of Catawba Pottery Exhibit:](#) An Exhibit from the Native American Studies galleries on the Catawba Indian pottery tradition

[Georgia Harris and Catawba Indian Pottery](#)

[USC Lancaster's 60th Anniversary Exhibit:](#) Highlights the campus's growth and community connections over the last sixty years

Upcoming Exhibitions at the Center:

Keep an eye on our social media pages and website for updates as we continue to install exhibits in our galleries in the coming weeks. Here's what guests can look forward to seeing this fall:

Duke Energy Gallery: Native American Tales and Traditions: Culture Passed through the Ages: Just for younger visitors, this exhibit offers colorful displays and murals, artifacts, pottery replicas, an interactive Three Sisters Garden, traditional Native American tales, and more. Sponsored by Nutramax.

Five Points Gallery: Identity and Color: See the photographs, digital collages, and drawings showing Catawba heritage and culture through a contemporary lens by Contemporary Artist-in-Residence Alex Osborn. This work is supported by a RISE grant from the Office of the Vice President for Research at the University of South Carolina.

Red Rose Gallery: Leading by Example: Catawba Traditional Artists in Residence: This exhibit highlights the creations by artists who participated in the Center's Catawba Traditional Arts Online Series, presented in July 2021. This exhibit features artwork from Catawba potter Keith "Little Bear" Brown, reed basket maker Faye Greiner, flute and drum maker Monty "Hawk" Branham, and long leaf pine needle basket maker Beckee Garis.

North Gallery: Scientific Discoveries: Indigenous Inventions Through Time: Learn more about the contributions of Indigenous inventors and innovators to the field of STEAM in this exhibit opened in conjunction with the 16th Annual Native American Studies Week.

Did you miss the last newsletter? Don't worry, just [click here!](#)

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:

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The Center's Faculty:

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The Center's Staff:

Elisabeth Avelar, Special Projects Coordinator
Helen Champion, Custodial Services
Samuel Farris, Collections, Galleries, and Studio Assistant
Beckee Garriss, Program Assistant
Edgar Guzman, Student Worker
Ashley Lowrimore, Public Relations Coordinator
Abby Martin, Student Worker
Crystal Melton, Visitor and Project Coordinator Assistant
Alex Osborn, Assistant Curator
Katelyn Shull, Visitor Coordinator
Sharon Simmers-Norton, Program Assistant

The Center's Advisory Committee:

Purpose: This committee advises the Native American Studies Director.

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

We've now returned to our normal operating schedule! Please note the following information before your visit:

- Masks or face coverings are required for entry to the Center.
- Guests are encouraged to make use of the hand sanitizing station upon entry.
- Guests are also encouraged to stay home if feeling unwell and to maintain a distance of 6-feet between their party and others.
- In order to maintain social distancing and safety protocols, advance reservations are required for large tour groups. Tour groups may call the Center at [\(803\) 313-7172](tel:8033137172) to schedule an appointment time to visit.
- Walk-up tour groups without appointments will be limited to 10 people.
- As school policies around our region vary regarding field trips, educators are encouraged to check back with the Center in the coming months to determine availability for field trips.
- In-person programming will return later this fall. Follow the Center on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn for the latest news or updates to programs and events.