

Native American Studies Quarterly



NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA LANCASTER

Contents

- Director's Column2
- A Eulogy for W. Brent Burgin3-5
- Catawba Tribal Preservation Officer Wins State Award5-7
- Native American Studies Center Archives Named for Archivist8-9
- PURE Award News9-12
- Native Americans Join Archaeologists at Florence County Excavation12-14
- 10th Anniversary Preview15
- Native American Studies Celebration15-16
- Recent Events16-18
- Upcoming Events18-20
- Center's Exhibitions20
- Center's Information21



In June, the UofSC Board of Trustees approved the naming of the W. Brent Burgin Archives at the Native American Studies Center. Burgin, who passed away in June, helped establish the Center's Archive, create the USCL University Archive, and curated the papers of the Archaeological Society of South Carolina. Photo by Chris Judge.



Pee Dee Indian Tribe citizens (from left to right) Michael Dunn, John Lentz, Marcus Dunn, and David Webb dance and sing during Media Day at an archaeology dig site. Photo by USCL Student Robert Thomas.

News and Photo Editor:
Christopher Judge
Design and Production Editor:
Elisabeth Avelar
Feature Writer and Copy Editor:
Ashley Lowrimore

Follow The Center on Social Media!



In lieu of my usual column, I would like to share the following letter from our departed colleague, Professor Brent Burgin:

-Dr. Stephen Criswell

A Letter from Professor Burgin

I don't want platitudes or preachers who didn't know me saying all sorts of stuff about me. I hate that sort of thing and don't want it at whatever sort of gathering there is.

I lived a great adventure and I hate it has to end. Yet, when our time comes, we must follow the Creator's lead and return to his realm.

I don't want sorrow or tears, although that's unfortunately part of the deal – but if you want to honor me then hoist a glass in my memory and have a laugh. Have a walk in the woods and look at the stars. Go to Forty Acre Rock and wander far off the paths. Paddle the river and learn to listen to a world many of you do not know. There is so much magic in this world and it's there for whomever looks for it hard enough.

It was the great joy an honor of my life to work with South Carolina's Native people. To create a repository of knowledge that did not exist before. To create and preserve ancestral remembrances. It was an honor to help restore the Cultural Arts Center and the historic cemetery. A part of my heart will always be there.

I loved being a college professor and educator so much. No words to describe the joy I found in my career.

And I'm so glad I found my way here to Lancaster. I was never happy in this life until I found my way here. There is a great contentment in life that comes from finding what you were meant to do. It took a long time, but all the travails and joys of my being led me here. I truly hope that all of you listening to my little epistle here – find such contentment and peace in your lives.

A life of service is what we all should aspire to.

A Eulogy for W. Brent Burgin

By Christopher Judge

Read July 10, 2022 at Burgin's Celebration of Life

"We are all born in the same way, but we all die in different ways," wrote the Irish novelist and poet James Joyce in his epic masterpiece "Ulysses." I would add Brent lived his life in a different way, too.

At 4:05 a.m. Monday, June 20, a small earthquake was recorded near Dorchester County, S.C., one of many recently. At 4:13 a.m., Brent moved on to the next trailhead on his journey. To all of us who knew Brent, none could have imagined him leaving quietly. The moon was in Taurus (his sign on the zodiac), the planets were aligning as his time drew near, and the Rocky Shoals spider lily bloom for 2022 had just ended. He was in tune to the earth and the universe and apparently it was all in tune with him as well. His time had come, and he was ready.

Now for a rhetorical question: why are we all gathered here today? I will answer, and I will tell you, we are all here because Brent Burgin loved us with great passion, each and every one of us. Life had not always been as kind or fulfilling as it was for him here.

Brent loved Lancaster, the University, the town, its history and most importantly he loved the people of Lancaster. You all loved him back and he relished in this, and he prospered here because of you.

To give you a sense of his impact, once we were at The Craft Stand across the street and a woman approached our table and proceeded to talk with Brent for 10 minutes or more on various topics- work, family, and current events. When she left, Brent turned to me and said, "Who is that?" I said, "I have no idea, Mr. Lancaster."

Brent was born to be forever inquisitive.

Soon after he was born his curiosity with the world around him began, according to his mom Susan Kelly. She had a musical clock and Brent could tell time by age two. Soon he began checking books out of the local public library. Quickly, he was checking out 20, the maximum his library allowed, and he read all of them. When his mom was sick, he would lay with her in her bed and read to her. She told me he taught her many lessons in life. Once his mom asked him, "If we could wish for anything in the world what would it be?" His mom went first and said, "Oh, a new house and a new car." She asked him and he responded that his wish was that everyone in the world would live in peace and have enough to eat.

Over the past six months we have had an opportunity to get to know Watson Burgin, Brent's father, much better (Mr. Burgin interjected "seven and half months" much to the delight of the crowd assembled).

Mr. Burgin stayed by Brent's side until the end, slept next to him in the living room where both were, and looked after him. It was wonderful to watch the love they had for each other. And in you Mr. Burgin, we get to see what Brent would have been like if he had lived to be 86.

"Life is the great teacher," wrote James Joyce in "Ulysses."

Brent was often apologetic as someone who took on college late in life and only became an academic in his early 40s. But he had been learning from his earliest days, and he remembered so much of what he had read, experienced, or been told. Life had been his teacher and he was a model pupil.

A Eulogy for W. Brent Burgin

Irish poet William Butler Yeats, a 1923 Nobel Prize winner for literature, wrote “Education is not the filling of a pail, but rather the lighting of a fire.”

Brent had a very robust fire lit in his core. He had a passion for his work and that of others, and he strove to assist others from the archival focus, whether they be scholar, student, or member of the public. In my research on the late precontact Native American period in the Wateree Valley, I began researching an avocational archaeologist who dug an Indian mound in 1917 now underneath Lake Wateree. I was curious why the head of the New York Mercantile Association with a Central Park West address in New York City was digging in S.C. My efforts to learn more proved rather futile. Brent took up the research and found a photo of his grave and the fact that he was part of a kennel and hunting club near Ridgeway, S.C. Brent wondered out loud might the Duke family have been trying to get this guy, William de Forest Haynes, interested in helping finance the Wateree Power Company, now Duke Energy, and the efforts to dam the Catawba and Wateree Rivers.

To that end, Brent arranged for us to visit the Duke Energy Archives in Charlotte. I will jump ahead in this story and tell you we did not find anything that day. The archives there are massive, almost as big as the warehouse they placed the arch of the covenant in at the end of the first Indiana Jones movie. Unfortunately, this trip was the harbinger of what was to come. We drove to Indian Land and took the light rail into downtown Charlotte. As I fumbled with my debit card to get my light rail ticket, Brent forged ahead on the platform as the train rolled into the station and I noticed something odd about the way he was walking. As we settled into our seats, I asked him what was up with his left foot. He said, “What do you mean?” I said, “When you walk, it’s not coming up off the ground; it sort of just slides.” He said, “I don’t know,” and we moved on to other topics.

To end this story on a funny note, as we made our way back to the light rail station, we stopped at a hotel and had a beer in the bar in the lobby. I left a fifty-dollar bill to pay for the two beers and went to the restroom. When I came back, Brent was by the door. I said, “You have my change,” and he gave me a funny look of surprise. It went without saying that a rather underserving bartender had just made a \$32 tip.

William Butler Yeats wrote, “Sometimes my feet are tired and my hands are quiet, but there is no quiet in my heart.”

As the disease progressed, his heart was certainly not quiet, nor his mind, nor his soul.

These progressive phases were hard to watch as he would jovially navigate each day from the Center’s back door to the archives, first with his right hand sliding along the wall for support, then with a cane, then two canes, then the first of several ever more technically-engineered walkers, then wheelchairs. Brent never seemed to let all of this bother him, at least not on the outside. ‘Twas all of us that were deeply saddened by the unfair fate of this lousy hand of cards he had been dealt.

Through thick and thin Brent Burgin kept his head up; he looked this horrible disease in the eye, put up his fists, bent his knees a little, and bravely dared it to take the first punch. Those punches came and Brent fought back until the end of the 15th round, fighting like a proud and seasoned prize fighter.

“I might have had a tough break; but I have an awful lot to live for,” stated Lou Gehrig.

In 1939, when the longtime Yankee first baseman was diagnosed with ALS, now known as Lou Gehrig’s disease, he uttered the famous words at a home plate ceremony at Yankee Stadium, “For

A Eulogy for W. Brent Burgin/ Catawba Tribal Preservation Officer Wins State Award

the past two weeks you have been reading about a bad break. Yet today I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth.”

Brent had the same outlook on his fate. I recall once asking him how he kept his head up and maintained such a great attitude. He responded, “When you get a diagnosis like I did, all of a sudden you have 20/20 vision on life.”

So today as I stand before you all, I consider myself among the luckiest people on the face of the earth to have known Brent Burgin for the last 16 years as a dear friend.

In “Dubliners,” James Joyce wrote, “Better pass boldly into that other world, in the full glory of some passion, than fade and wither dismally with age.”

Brent passed boldly and in fully glory. It will be a long time, if ever, before someone like the incomparable Brent Burgin darkens our door and brightens our lives the way he did. His legacy lives on in a named fund for the Archives, the W. Brent Burgin Lunch and Learn Lecture Series, and the Archives at USC Lancaster’s NASC now bears his name, and soon in a newly begun effort to raise funds establishing a scholarship in his name.

“Rather upsets a man’s day a funeral does,” wrote James Joyce, but now that we have mourned and his family has placed his ashes in the Old Presbyterian Church graveyard, our upset for the day is over; let us now celebrate his life and his spirit. Brent lives on in our memories and they are wonderful memories of a life well lived with long lasting impacts for the future.

Catawba Tribal Preservation Officer Wins State Award

By Ashley Lowrimore

Congratulations to Dr. Wenonah Haire, winner of this year’s Governor’s Award, given as part of the 28th Annual South Carolina Historic Preservation Awards and presented in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Preservation South Carolina, and the Office of the Governor.

Haire won the award for her efforts in preservation in her role as Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) for the Catawba Nation. She was nominated by one of the Center’s own faculty members, seeking to honor her for her work in preservation.

“I nominated Wenonah for this award because I can’t think of anyone else more deserving and for the fact that only a small handful of people in S.C. know what she has accomplished over the years, preserving Native American archaeology and historical resources,” said Center Archaeologist Christopher Judge.

Elizabeth Johnson, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) with the S.C. Department of Archives & History’s State Historic Preservation Office that was part of a group that handed out the award in May, has known Haire for over a decade and has worked closely with her throughout the years.

“We’ve had a variety of people receive this award through the years- architects, professors, leaders of preservation organizations- but I don’t think we’ve ever had anyone receive the award for tribal work,” said Johnson. “The ultimate recognition is the Governor’s Award, which is for an individual and is a recognition of lifetime achievement and commitment to preserving historic places and sites.”

Catawba Tribal Preservation Officer Wins State Award

According to Johnson, the National Historic Preservation Act- a federal law adopted in 1966 designed to provide protection to historic buildings, landscape, and archaeological sites- created the positions of State Historic Preservation Officers. In 1992, the act was amended to create Tribal Historic Preservation Officers within federally recognized tribes, giving THPOs legal standing to consult and interact with federal agencies regarding projects possibly impacting historic properties significant to the Catawba Nation.

Johnson says that because the Catawba are the only federally recognized tribe in the state, her office and other state agencies often rely on Haire's expertise. She says that out-of-state agencies also often consult with Haire.



Dr. Wenonah Haire serves as Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Catawba Nation. Photo from the [Catawba Cultural Preservation Center website](#).

"She is somebody that our office can count on and rely on in our mutual responsibilities in preservation," said Johnson. "I know she has a tremendous amount of respect for this office and for others around South Carolina who interact with her on projects. Even the fact that she does this on a part time basis shows incredible commitment that she works hard at two jobs."

Haire not only serves as THPO, but also works part-time as a dentist in Rock Hill, as Director of the Catawba Cultural Center, and as Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

Officer for the tribe.

Center Program Assistant Beckee Garris has worked with Haire in several capacities, serving with Haire as a Board Member of the Catawba Cultural Center Board, coordinating with her on programming, and accompanying her to archaeological dig sites. She says that even though Haire may leave the building and lock the door, she's constantly on the job.

"She is a fantastic lady and friend, loves her people and her culture, and she grew up with always being part of the family life," said Garris. "She's a good leader, and if something's happening, you want to be there with her."

As THPO, Haire is an appointed officer of the United States, designated by tribal government. According to Haire, there are about 200 THPOs in the United States now, with four or five tribes up for consideration. The Catawba Nation were among some of the first tribal nations to receive a THPO designation when they were approved.

After attending United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) meetings, an organization comprised of 33 federally recognized tribes from the east and southeast, tribes that had established THPOs kept stressing how important it was that the Catawba Nation seek the designation. Haire learned from mentor Robert Thrower, who at the time was THPO of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

The Catawba Nation wrote their preservation plan and submitted it to the National Park Service for approval in the early 2000s. They were one of a handful of tribal nations to have a THPO when they came aboard.

"Part of that process involved other federally recognized tribes reviewing the plan to make sure that we were all on the same page, and then we became an official Tribal Historic Preservation Office," said Haire. "We assume all or part of the duties that the SHPO does on tribal lands; therefore, the authority is in our hands for our lands, so we do our own reviewing of our process."

Catawba Tribal Preservation Officer Wins State Award

Unless we invite the SHPO in, they do not come onto our lands.”

Haire says that this gives the nation a voice at the table to weigh in on sites located on the reservation, as well as away from the reservation.

“The SHPO is the lead agency, but the National Park Service, according to the Historic Preservation Law, gives us a voice to be able to say what happens to or give our opinion on those off-the-reservation lands,” said Haire. “This is important because before this National Historic Preservation Act was passed in 1966, most tribes had to stand at bay and not be a consulting party. That was hard because there were a lot of important sites that didn’t get protected the way we felt they should. And just because something has a National Historic Preservation designation does not mean that it’s ‘hands off;’ it just means it gives it a higher status and it’s harder for those types of properties to be destroyed because they’ve got a lot of scrutiny and considerations must be taken into effect.”

When it comes to projects across the state that may disturb the ground, whether it’s fence posts or cell phone towers, Haire’s office weighs in on how a project might impact sites that are significant to the Catawba Nation and to Catawba culture. Her office also handles federal laws regarding cultural resource protection.

“Last year, we reviewed probably in the neighborhood of 5,800 Section 106 projects that came in from everybody from HUD to FEMA to the Navy, the Army Corps, USDA, and people wanting to get federal loans,” said Haire. “We get a wide variety of projects in, and it keeps us extremely busy.”

Whether on or away from the reservation, the Catawba THPO is just as concerned with what happens above ground as what happens below.

“Old house sites that would be the Chief’s former house site or the home of one of our elder potters that’s no longer living, those type of things are

very important to us, as well as medicinal plants and traditional food plants,” said Haire.

As THPO, there is no typical day for Haire. She works with the tribe’s own archivist, environmental department, natural resource department, and traditional food sovereignty and traditional medicine departments. She also works with archaeologists, historians, archivists, preservation officers, and other professionals, maintaining partnerships with statewide partners.

“I’m very happy that our tribe does have a THPO; I think that is very important,” said Haire. “I’m very proud that we have had a THPO office for these many years and if the Lord’s willing, we’ll continue to have for many, many more and that I think that’s very important.”



Dr. Wenonah Haire accepted this year’s Governor’s Award at a ceremony held at the S.C. State House in July. Dr. Haire is pictured third from left, with (from left to right) Governor Henry McMaster, First Lady Peggy McMaster, and Bill Fitzpatrick of Preservation SC. Photo by Christopher Judge.

Native American Studies Center Archives Named for Archivist

Native American Studies Center Archives Named for Archivist

By Ashley Lowrimore



Thanks to the donation we mentioned in a previous newsletter given by Susan Kelly, mother of the Center's first Archivist Brent Burgin, the office area containing the Native American Studies and USC Lancaster archival holdings, the archivist's office, and the reading room at USC Lancaster's Native American Studies Center is now designated as the W. Brent Burgin Archives.

The University of South Carolina Board of Trustees officially approved the naming of the archives at their June meeting.

Burgin, who passed away June 20, 2022 after battling ALS, helped establish the Native American Studies Center's Archive and create USCL's University Archive. He also curated the papers of the Archaeological Society of South Carolina, also located at USCL.

At the time of his retirement last August, Burgin was the only archivist within Palmetto College and was presumed to be the only one within Lancaster County. Burgin also developed the Center's monthly Lunch and Learn Lecture Series, coordinating the popular public outreach program since its introduction in 2013. Over 100 Lunch and Learn programs have been presented to date.

Through a collaboration between the Archive, the USC University Libraries Digital Collections, and the

USC Institute for Southern Studies, Burgin was also active in digital outreach through the development of the [Native American South Carolina Archive \(NASCA\)](#), a comprehensive digital archive for tribal histories, photos, correspondence, oral histories, and more.

"I am so pleased to know that the archive at USC Lancaster's Native American Studies Center will be named for our colleague Brent Burgin," said Dr. Walt Collins, USCL Campus Dean. "His efforts to establish the archive and then to develop and to build it to what it is today were enormous and impactful. Add to this his personal connections to so many in our community and on our campus and we have a dynamic influence who helped to promote the understanding of the history, culture, and traditions of Native Americans across South Carolina and the region. This archive naming will honor a dedicated individual whose work among us was simply transformative."

Donate Today!

Tax-deductible gifts to any of the Center's different funds may be given in person, online, by phone, or by mail to the Education Foundation of USC Lancaster. Here are the following ways donor may give gifts, as well as the codes by which to identify the fund so that gifts go directly into that fund:

- In person: When visiting the Center, guests may select an envelope at the front desk and may mark which of the five funds they would like their gift to go toward.
- Phone: Gifts may be given over the phone by contacting Shana Dry, USC Lancaster's Director of Public Information, at [803-313-7008](tel:803-313-7008).
- Mail: Checks may be written for the fund the gift is to be applied toward and mailed to the Educational Foundation of USCL, [476 Hubbard Dr. Lancaster, SC 29720](mailto:476_Hubbard_Dr_Lancaster_SC_29720).
- Online: Donations may be made online at <https://donate.sc.edu/direct-your-gift>, where visitors may complete all information, typing

in the fund number in the line for fund name
(example below):

Instructions:

Type the fund number in the line below:

Search funds by fund name

Results are loaded as you type

Numbers for the Center's funds:

- A31912- Samantha Criswell Memorial Fund- Named in memory of the late wife of Native American Studies Director Dr. Stephen Criswell, this undesignated fund supports programs, exhibits, and activities designed to improve the visitor experience.
- B12216- Native American Studies Center Endowment- This fund supports the Center's programs, research, and other activities.
- A32522- W. Brent Burgin Archives Fund- This fund is designated for the archives.
- A32521- Fred "Henry" Shute Archaeology Lab Fund- Named for Archaeology Lab volunteer Henry Shute, this fund is designated for the archaeological lab.

New W. Brent Burgin Scholarship Fund

In addition to the Archives, a scholarship fund has been named in memory of Brent Burgin. Burgin's mother, Susan Kelly, started the fund as a way of saying thank you to those in Lancaster County who were so kind and welcoming to Burgin, who originally hailed from Spartanburg.

Please consider a gift to this fund that will benefit a deserving USCL student in financial need. Gifts to the fund may be given either by check or online to the W. Brent Burgin Endowed Scholarship Fund (B12459).

To give to the scholarship fund by mail, checks may be written for the fund to the Educational Foundation of USCL and mailed to Shana Dry, USC Lancaster's Director of Public Information, at 476 Hubbard Dr. Lancaster, SC 29720. Online donations may be made at <https://donate.sc.edu/direct-your-gift>, where visitors may complete all information, typing the fund number (B12459) in the search bar to complete the online donation.

PURE Award News

By Ashley Lowrimore

Congratulations to Palmetto College BLS student Cynthia Curtis and Center Archaeologist and Instructor of Anthropology and Archaeology Christopher Judge for receiving a Palmetto Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE) Award, a research initiative now in its second year at Palmetto College that provides funding for faculty-student summer projects.

Curtis, who is studying Anthropology and Native American Studies, combined her PURE research with her summer ANTH 399 Independent Study class to elevate Indigenous women through her project, "The Sleeping Woman Speaks: Memory and Voice of the Women of the Guazapa Volcano, El Salvador."

Mentored by Professor Judge, Curtis conducted oral history interviews among 12 Salvadoran female war survivors whose lives have been impacted by structural violence and war. The goal of Curtis' research was to hone the craft of oral history to learn what the women knew about their Indigenous identities, what they knew about the archaeological site and history in their own backyard, and what more they would like to know of their Indigenous culture and roots. Curtis, who did education and advocacy work around El Salvador during the country's 1980-1992 civil war, lived in El Salvador from 1993 to 2013 and is fluent in Spanish. She recorded and translated the interviews.



Cynthia Curtis reviews her notes during a meeting with Center Archaeologist Christopher Judge. Photo by Ashley Lowrimore.

The project was centered around two women-focused sites in El Salvador: Cihuatan, the archaeological site seven miles away from the women's homes meaning "place of the woman" in Nahuat, and the Guazapa Volcano, referred to as "the sleeping woman" due to its silhouette.

The Guazapa Volcano, Curtis explains, was a water volcano that served as a base to the Salvadoran military during the war. The women that Curtis interviewed this summer were from the communities located at the foothills of the volcano that were attacked by the military.

"This community is called San Antonio del Monte, 'San Antonio of the Mountain' and it is a community where most of the folks were either guerilla fighters or the families of fighters, or they were displaced and fled as refugees across the border to Honduras," said Curtis.

Curtis explains that through decades of violence and oppression, Salvadoran Indigenous identities have been diminished and its Native cultures aren't expressed as they might be displayed in other Latin American nations.

"In El Salvador, it's a bit different than in Guatemala, for example, where there's a lot of Mayan expression," she said. "In Guatemala, there are Mayan languages, traditional dress, and about 60% of the population express Indigenous identity."

In 1932, Salvadoran military dictator General Maximiliano Hernandez wiped out Indigenous populations during a time of peasant uprisings, Curtis explains. Since then, Indigenous identity has continued to be suppressed.

"People who survived that genocide went underground almost," she said. "They were not speaking their language, they changed their names if they had an Indigenous last name, and they didn't use their cultural dress. There are tiny pockets in El Salvador where you can see cultural expression, and different governments have tried to recuperate the language, but the impacts of the terror caused by the string of military dictatorships after 1932 have continued to cause barriers for Indigenous cultural expression."

During the summer, project activities included interviews, a workshop on ancestral identity and structural violence, and a visit by the women to the Cihuatan archaeological site and museum accompanied by a Salvadoran archaeologist.

“This site is literally about seven miles from their homes,” said Curtis. “They’ve never been there and that’s very common in rural settings, especially in former war zones, because it was so dangerous for 12 to 13 years. This was a war battlefield.”

“Indian Land is 21 miles from here at the Center,” said Judge. “That’s three times the distance from where they live to the volcano that they’ve never been to. When I see the year 1932, I think how the Trail of Tears happened 100 years earlier; it’s a similar kind of political and governmental erasure. The cool thing is that Cynthia gets to interview people whose parents were there. It’s one generation removed, so they might have stories that their parents told the ladies that are first-hand accounts of that kind of erasure.”

Since the women work from early morning to late evening growing organic sugarcane and attending their homes, Curtis wanted to be very mindful in taking their time to speak about their experiences,

as well as being sensitive to the wounds of the war, which are still fresh. The women would take time from their days to travel into town to use computers and internet, communicating with her via Whatsapp and Zoom. As part of the interview process, the women made a special request.

“They asked me if we could include a coffee maker and a tank of gas you put on, as they call it, a portable kitchen there because they don’t have something like that and water’s the number one environmental problem in El Salvador,” said Curtis. “They have to either go buy water or go to the river and boil water, so if they had this tank of gas, they could boil the water on site and make their coffee while they meet and this would go on for their cooperative, as well. They’re very excited about that.”

With both Curtis and Judge receiving a financial stipend as part of the award, Judge donated a portion of his stipend to purchase the coffee pot and gas. Curtis donated her full stipend in support of the women.

Though Curtis coordinated the project from the United States, she had help on the ground organizing the trip to the volcano and providing other support to the women. Helping facilitate the project were a friend of Curtis’, a community development specialist and war survivor who



Cynthia Curtis, pictured in the upper left corner of the Zoom screen, translates a “meet and greet” between Chris Judge and the participants in her oral history project. Screen capture by Christopher Judge.

PURE Award News/ Native Americans Join Archaeologists at Florence County Excavation

fought on the volcano, and a social psychologist, who has a history of working with victims of trauma.

Judge says that Curtis' research this year is an outgrowth of her previous scholarship involving the Guazapa Volcano.

"In the first independent study that Cynthia and I did, she compared the archaeology of the volcano to the mound sites in the Wateree Valley with a similar time frames and similar complexities involved with them," he said. "She focused on the archaeology part, but now we're moving on to living, breathing people."

The public will soon be able to learn more about "The Sleeping Woman Speaks" project. Curtis will give a report on her completed summer research during next April's Discover UofSC event, an annual showcase of research and scholarship sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Research. She also will present her findings as part of a talk during the 2023 W. Brent Burgin Lunch and Learn Lecture Series (future details will be announced in an upcoming newsletter).

At the conclusion of this phase of the project, Judge had the opportunity to meet with the women of San Antonio and the local support team and hear them speak of their experiences in their own words. Curtis says the project has planted a seed and that the women want to continue to learn more about their Indigenous culture and history with language, rituals, and archaeology.

"This is a cultural anthropology project, but it definitely intersects with archaeology, and that interests me greatly," said Curtis.

At time of press, Curtis was completing transcriptions, translations, video editing and reporting. She is grateful that the Independent Study and PURE award provided this opportunity for research supporting the women of San Antonio in connecting or reconnecting with their Indigenous identity.

More than just having a scholarly interest in the subject matter, the people and country of El Salvador hold a special place in Curtis' heart.

"I think it's my duty," she said of the importance of telling the women's stories and generating opportunities with them to develop and lead their learning and sharing intergenerational process. "I think I consider El Salvador my first home. I have dual citizenship. I'm just thankful I've had El Salvador in my journey."

Native Americans Join Archaeologists at Florence County Excavation

By Christopher Judge



Flanking Chris Judge on the left is Tammy Ray Stevens, and Courtney Tice on the right, both Councilwoman of the Sumter Tribe of the Cheraw. On the far right is Cheryl Cail, Vice Chief of the Waccamaw Indian People. Photo courtesy of Courtney Tice.

For two weeks in May, I was part of a team conducting archaeological investigations at a site on the Great Pee Dee River in Florence County. These excavations were organized by the newly formed Archaeological Institute of the Pee Dee, a nonprofit organization. AIPD "was created and

Native Americans Join Archaeologists at Florence County Excavation



Harlen Chavis and Kevin Melvin of the Lumbee Tribe join the archaeology team. Photo by Christopher Judge.

exists to provide a locally directed, consistently funded, and broadly focused organization dedicated to exploring, interpreting, and protecting the archaeological resources of the Pee Dee region of South Carolina.” I am honored to serve as Secretary of the AIPD. Community Archaeology is a practice that allows non-archaeologists to participate in the field, lab, and narrative production process. In this way, we collaborate with numerous individuals and organizations to achieve a better understanding of past societies underrepresented in traditional written histories.

The site, now known as Copperhead Bluff, has multiple precontact era occupations including the Middle Woodland Period circa 2500-1500 years ago and the Mississippian Period from circa 700 to 500 years ago. Specifically, we targeted this latter period to better understand the final chapter in Native American history prior to the invasion by

Europeans, in an area of the state where we know little about the Native American cultures who occupied the Pee Dee Region at this time.

Our 2022 project was a research partnership with SCDNR’s Cultural Heritage Trust Program, funded by a generous grant from Florence County Council. The site is located along a high bluff on the west bank of the Great Pee Dee River in lower Florence County. Of note was the diverse participation in the excavations by members of five different tribes from two different states including the Eastern Cherokee, Southern Iroquois and United Tribes of SC (ECSIUT); The Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina; the Waccamaw Indian People; the Pee Dee Indian Tribe; and the Sumter Tribe of Cheraw.

Chief Lamar Nelson of ECSIUT, an avid avocational archaeologist for some 30 years, started the Foothills Chapter of the Archaeological Society of South Carolina, and served as its President for

Native Americans Join Archaeologists at Florence County Excavation

many years.

Harlen Chavis, Jr., Intern Archeologist, and Kevin Melvin, Historian and Culture Preservationist, both of the Museum of the Southeast American Indian at UNC Pembroke, joined us for several days during the first week of the project. Vice Chief Cheryl Cail of the Waccamaw Indian People joined us for two days, and Courtney Tice and Tammy Ray Stevens, Tribal Councilmembers of the Sumter Tribe of Cheraw also visited us in the field. During our Media Day at the end of the two-week dig, members of the Pee Dee Indian Tribe performed three dances, drumming and singing in regalia to the delight of our visitors.

This fall, the artifacts will be washed and analyzed, and a report of our findings will be completed by the end of the year. Lectures about our work are planned at the Florence County Museum and as part of the W. Brent Burgin Lunch and Learn Lecture Series in 2023. Our intent is to conduct our research as a collaborative project, involving descendants of those we study in every step. Combining insights from trained archaeologists with those of members of the Native American cultures under study, produces a more informed and meaningful anthropological interpretation of the past.



Pee Dee Indian Tribe Chief Pete Parr (front row, right in blue and red plaid shirt) stands with citizens of the Pee Dee Tribe, along with Florence County Councilman Roger M. Poston (far left), U.S. Congressman Tom Rice (center in blue oxford shirt), and Florence County Councilman Jerry W. Yarborough (pictured to the right of Congressman Rice). Photo by USCL Student Robert Thomas.

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

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

10th Anniversary Preview/ Native American Studies Celebration

10th Anniversary Preview

By Ashley Lowrimore



A 1981 photo shows the façade of what is now the Native American Studies Center. Courtesy of the Native American Studies Center Archives.

Celebrate with us! We're commemorating a decade in our facility at 119 S. Main St. in downtown Lancaster this fall with a 10th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, Oct. 8 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

The event, which will be free and open to the public, will feature traditional arts demonstrations, musical performances, the Smokin' Butts BBQ food truck, and more.

"We hope members of the Lancaster community, who have been so supportive over the past 10 years, will come out and celebrate this milestone with us," said Dr. Stephen Criswell, Director of Native American Studies at USCL.

Artist demonstrations and performances are sponsored in part by the S.C. Arts Commission's Folklife and Traditional Arts Program and OceanaGold.

Until the October event, we've already begun festivities for this special year with the recent opening of the exhibit, "This is Us: Native American Studies at the University of South

Carolina Lancaster." Opened in August, this semi-permanent exhibit celebrates the history 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.

Featuring a mix of photos, pottery, and artwork, the exhibit shows how Native American Studies began, follows its move from Medford Library on USCL's campus to Main Street, and explores the history of the building that now houses the Native American Studies Center.

A virtual exhibit is being planned for release on the [USCL website](#) later this year.

Keep an eye out on our [social media](#) links and [website](#) for more details on the celebration!

Native American Studies Celebration

By Ashley Lowrimore



Sandra Schulman, author, curator, and film maker, will present a talk on Native American music and musical artists Peter LaFarge and Redbone. Photo courtesy of Sandra Schulman.

Pop culture is the theme for this year's Native American Studies Celebration! What would be the 17th Annual Native American Studies Week presented by Native American Studies at USC Lancaster has expanded into a larger celebration, reflecting the big year for the Native American

Native American Studies Celebration/ Recent Events

Studies Center as it celebrates a decade on Main Street in downtown Lancaster as well as the big year for Indigenous representation in media and popular culture.

"In November, the Native American Studies Center will host several presenters discussing the theme of Native American Popular Culture," said Director of Native American Studies Dr. Stephen Criswell. "Recognizing the growing popularity of such films and shows as 'Prey,' 'Rutherford Falls,' 'Dark Winds,' and 'Reservation Dogs,' speakers will discuss films, television shows, video games, contemporary dance, and other topics related to Native American culture in the 21st-century."

Events, held both in person and virtually, include (Please note whether events will be held in-person or virtually via Zoom.):

- **Wednesday, Nov. 2, Noon- "Indigeneity in Gaming: Behind and On the Screen."** Writer, game designer, and journalist Chesley "Chez" Oxendine discusses the role of Indigenous developers in bringing game stories to life, as well as the slowly increasing prominence of Native characters in gaming culture. Held via Zoom.
- **Thursday, Nov. 3, Noon and 7 p.m.- "Native American Culture Can Be Pop Culture Too!"** Vincent Schilling, journalist, public speaker, and editor of Native Viewpoint, will explain the volatile road Indigenous people have had to traverse over the years in the media, film and television industry and discusses how the world still has a long way to go in pop culture in terms of Indigenous representation. Presented via Zoom.
- **Friday, Nov. 4, 11 a.m.- "Peter La Farge and Redbone: The Rise of Native Americana."** Author, curator, and filmmaker Sandra Hale Schulman speaks about the band Redbone and contemporary Native American music. Held in person and via Zoom.

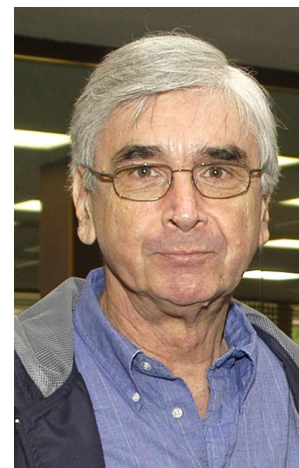
- **Wednesday, Nov. 9, 5:30 p.m.- "Roundtable on Native American Media with Wonderlore Studios."** Mato Standing High, Barth Chief Eagle Robinson, and Bert Hesse of Wonderlore Studios discuss their media company's new Native American initiative. Held in person and via Zoom.
- **Friday, Nov. 11, Noon- November Lunch and Learn: "Natives Dancing: The Presence, Practice, & Purpose of Dance in Native American Culture Today."** Columbia College Dance Education Specialist Jessica Moore discusses Indigenous representation in contemporary dance. Held in person and via Zoom.

Also, as part of the month's events, the Center is planning to host several Indigenous films on the Lancaster campus and at other sites. A complete schedule of films will be announced soon through the Center's social media platforms.

Zoom registration links will be announced on the Center's website and Facebook page later this fall. A schedule of events and more information on the 17th Annual Native American Studies Celebration will be available soon via the Center's website at www.sc.edu/Lancaster/NAS or on the Center's [social media](#) pages.

Recent Events Obituary of Don Rosick

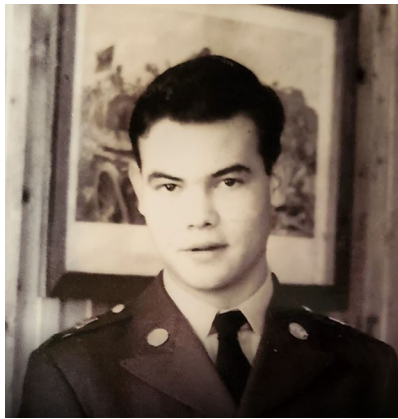
By Ashley Lowrimore



We send our condolences to the family of Don Rosick, friend to the Native American Studies Center and generous supporter of the W. Brent Burgin Annual Lecture Fund. Rosick volunteered for many years at the Mulberry and Johannes Kolb Archaeological Sites and took classes under Anthropology and Archaeology Instructor Christopher Judge at UofSC Columbia. View the obituary [here](#). Photo from Dignity Memorial website.

Obituary of Claude Douglas Hatcher

By Ashley Lowrimore



We send our condolences to the family of Claude Douglas “Doug” Hatcher (Waccamaw Indian People), brother of Chief Harold “Buster” Hatcher. View the obituary [here](#). Photo from the Richmond Observer website.

Pottery Scholars Visit Collections

By Ashley Lowrimore



Executive Director of the North Carolina Folklife Institute Sarah Bryan and potter and historian Hal Pugh, visited the Center in June as part of their research on Southeastern pottery from the late 16th to early 20th century. Here, Director of Campus Collections and Galleries Brittany Taylor-Driggers (right) shows them some of the Catawba and Pamunkey pottery pieces in Collections. Photo by Stephen Criswell.

Taylor-Driggers Awarded Tenure

By Ashley Lowrimore



Congratulations to Director of Campus Collections and Galleries Brittany Taylor-Driggers, who was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor by the UofSC Board of Trustees this summer. Photo by Shana Dry.

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, NAS Week,
and more!

Summer Exhibit Openings

By Ashley Lowrimore



Have you joined us for our recent exhibit openings? In August, we opened the traveling exhibit, “Resilience and Revolution,” which will close in late September, as well as “Unearthing Our Forgotten Past: Fort San Juan” and “Discussion with Elders: A Photographic Essay.” The exhibit “This is Us: Native American Studies at the University of South Carolina Lancaster,” a semi-permanent exhibit, also opened in the Back Gallery in August. Photos by Ashley Lowrimore.



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

Criswell Tours Educators from Queen University

By Ashley Lowrimore



In late July, NAS Director Dr. Stephen Criswell toured educators from the Holocaust Summer Seminar at Queens University’s Stan Greenspon Holocaust and Social Justice Education Center. Photo by Katie Shull.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 16, Noon

Lunch and Learn: “Home Front in World War I South Carolina” Lecture by Dr. Fritz Hamer of the Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum.

Sept. 17, 9 a.m.

Santee Indian Tribe Powwow Join the Santee Indian Tribe for the 9th Annual Powwow in Holly Hill, S.C. [Click here](#) for more information.

Sept. 24

Exhibit Closing Last day to see the exhibit, “Resilience and Revolution: Native Peoples in 18th Century South Carolina.”

Sept. 24, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

PAIA Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation SC Powwow Join the PAIA for the 15th Annual Powwow in Gray Court, S.C. [Click here](#) for more information.

Oct. 8, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

10th Anniversary Celebration Join the Native American Studies Center as we celebrate our 10th Anniversary in downtown Lancaster’s Cultural Arts District. Enjoy items from the Smokin’ Butts food truck beginning at 10 a.m.

Oct. 8, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

35th 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. 21, Noon

Second Annual W. Brent Burgin Lunch and Learn: “Becoming Catawba: Catawba Indian Women and Nation-building, 1540-1840.” Lecture by Dr. Brooke Bauer, University of Tennessee Knoxville Assistant Professor of History.

November

17th Annual Native American Studies Celebration: “Native American Popular Culture”

Programming celebrates Native Americans in popular culture, with talks about Indigenous representation in contemporary dance, video games, television, music, and more. Speakers include Dance Education Specialist Jessica Moore of Columbia College; Chez Oxendine of Tribal Business News; Mato Standing High, Barth Chief Eagle Robinson, and Bert Hesse of Wonderlore Studios; Vincent Schilling, guest-host of NPR’s “Pop Culture Happy Hour” guest-host and former Indian Country Today Editor; and Sandra Schulman, author, curator, and filmmaker. Events will be held both virtually and in person.

Nov. 2, Noon

“Indigeneity In Gaming: Behind and On the Screen” Lecture presented by writer, game designer, and journalist Chesley “Chez” Oxendine. Presented via Zoom.

Nov. 3, Noon and 7 p.m.

“Native American Culture Can Be Pop Culture Too!” Lecture by Vincent Schilling, journalist, public speaker, and editor of Native Viewpoint. Presented via Zoom.

Nov. 4, 11 a.m.

“Peter La Farge and Redbone: The Rise of Native Americana” Lecture by Sandra Schulman, author, curator, filmmaker. Presented in person and via Zoom.

Nov. 5-6

Waccamaw Indian People Pauwau

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

Nov. 9, 5:30 p.m.

“Roundtable on Native American Media with Wonderlore Studios” Mato Standing High, Barth Chief Eagle Robinson, and Bert Hesse of Wonderlore Studios discuss their media company’s new Native American initiative. Presented in person and via Zoom.

Nov. 11, Noon

Lunch and Learn: “Natives Dancing: The Presence, Practice, & Purpose of Dance in Native American Culture Today” Lecture by Jessica Moore, Dance Education Specialist and Lecturer at Columbia College. Presented in person and via Zoom.

Nov. 12, 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, frybread, and more in Sumter, S.C. [Click here](#) for more information.

Nov. 19, 10 a.m. – 4 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. 3, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Winter 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 ninth annual Winter Native American Art and Craft Sale!

Dec. 16, Noon

Lunch and Learn: “How Indigenous People Helped Start and Win the American Revolution”

Lecture by Professor Woody Holton, Department of History at USC Columbia.

Dec. 20

Exhibit Closing Last day to see the exhibit, “Unearthing Our Forgotten Past: Fort San Juan.”

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.

Five Points Gallery: Discussions with Elders: A Photographic Essay: This exhibit displays the portraits of Catawba artists and elders as photographed by Catawba artist Alex Osborn. Through June 15, 2023.

Red Rose Gallery: Unearthing Our Forgotten Past: Fort San Juan: Developed by the Exploring Joara Foundation as part of the 450th anniversary celebrations of the Juan Pardo expeditions through Western North Carolina, this exhibit showcases the Spanish occupation of Fort San Juan and the lives of the native people who lived in the Joara area. Through Dec. 20, 2022.

Duke Energy Gallery: A People Once Lost, Now Found: The Sumter Tribe of Cheraw Indians: View regalia, photographs, artifacts, artwork, and more in this exhibit curated by the Sumter Tribe of Cheraw Indians. Through Feb. 15, 2023.

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.

Digital Exhibitions:

[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

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:8033137172)

Email: usclnasp@sc.edu

The Center's Faculty:

Dr. Stephen Criswell, Professor, Folklorist, Director of Native American Studies

[803-313-7108](tel:8033137108) criswese@mailbox.sc.edu

Claudia Y. Heinemann-Priest, Linguist, Catawba language, Native American Literature

[803-313-7470](tel:8033137470) chpriest@sc.edu

Christine Anderson,

Director of Native American Studies Archives

[803-313-7063](tel:8033137063) cda10@mailbox.sc.edu

Brittany Taylor-Driggers, Artist, Assistant Professor of Art, Director of Campus Collections and Galleries

[803-313-7036](tel:8033137036) [803-313-7173](tel:8033137173),

taylorbd@mailbox.sc.edu

Christopher Judge, Archaeologist, Assistant Director of Native American Studies

[803-313-7445](tel:8033137445) judge@sc.edu

Dr. Evan F. Nooe, Historian, Assistant Professor of History and Native American Studies

[803 313-7453](tel:8033137453) evan.nooe@sc.edu

The Center's Staff:

Elisabeth Avelar, Special Projects Coordinator

Michael Boone, Student Worker

Helen Champion, Custodial Services

Beckee Garris, Program Assistant

Ashley Lowrimore, Public Relations Coordinator

Crystal Melton, Visitor and Project Coordinator Assistant

Alex Osborn, Assistant Curator

Katelyn Shull, Visitor Coordinator

Sharon Simmers-Norton, Program Assistant and Assistant Curator

Christian Stines, Student Worker

The Center's Advisory Committee:

Purpose: This committee advises the Native American Studies Director.

Christine Anderson - BBCEL

Stephen Criswell, NAS Director, ex officio

Amy Gerald - Humanities

Claudia Heinemann-Priest - NAS Faculty committee co-chair

Pat Lawrence - Administrative appointment

Evan Nooe - NAS Faculty committee co-chair

Allan Pangburn - Administrative appointment

Todd Scarlett - MSNPH

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

- Masks or face coverings are strongly encouraged for entry to the Center.
- Guests are strongly encouraged to make use of the hand sanitizing station upon entry.
- Guests are also strongly 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.
- Follow the Center's [social media pages](#) for the latest news or updates to programs and events.