Greetings from the Center

Special Points of Interest:

Images from Ag+Art Festival 2014

Summer Research at the Center

Things to brag about

Fall Courses

Lunch and Learn Series

School Group Summer 2014
IMAGES FROM AG + ART TOUR 2014
Images from our Native American Inspired Garden 2014

Sponsored by Leaf and Petal Garden Club of Lancaster

With the assistance of the City of Lancaster
SUMMER RESEARCH

DIFFERENCES IN DIRT:
A RESEARCH OF CLAY RELATIONSHIPS
WITHIN NAS SPECIAL COLLECTION
GRANT FUNDED BY THE USC LANCASTER RESEARCH AND
PRODUCTIVE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
BY BRITTANY TAYLOR-DRIGGERS

INTRODUCTION

Search, sift, dig, clean, strain, grind, pound, mix, repeat—processing clay is a labor-intensive process for any ceramic artist not using commercial clay in their art-making process. For Catawba potters, this process is integrated into their culture and pottery tradition, adding a layer to their already complex identities as Native Americans, artists, and individuals. As part of the pottery tradition, clay is dug from the same clay holes used for generations. Protected from “outsiders,” the locations of the holes are known only to tribal members (with the exception of a few select individuals). Although the exact locations are not typically known outside of the culture, it is suggested that many clay holes currently used are located off the Reservation and are privately owned by non-tribal members. Because of the sacred nature of clay holes within the Catawba tradition, this project will not attempt to record their location, on or off the Reservation, only to make connections between the pottery pieces within our Collection and the potters who made them. These connections will be explored through the use of a Bruker handheld XRF scanner—a spectrometer that analyzes the elemental properties of materials.

SUMMARY OF INTENT, PURPOSE, AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

This project is meant to gather and compile information about the property make-up of objects within the Native American Studies Special Collection. This information will hopefully allow us to answer our question (i.e., what is the pottery made of), as well as tie together relationships between the pottery properties and the relationships of pedagogy within the Catawba pottery tradition. Because the clay is mixed together from two sources (for now we will label them clay 1 and clay 2), I hope to connect the relationships between pedagogy (who learned pottery making from whom), between the mixture formulas (the ratio between clay 1 and clay 2), and the oral histories about which clay holes certain potters used. As a base line for the comparisons, I am using clay samples from our collection (which are part of the Thomas J. Blumer Collection), and samples from the tribe. This project will also allow us to add research records to the collection files, records for our archive that can be helpful to researchers, as well as background information for more than a few pieces in the collection.
SUMMER RESEARCH (CONT’D)

SOUTH CAROLINA NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY, PHASE 1
FUNDED BY THE USC PROVOST SOCIAL SCIENCES GRANT
BY DR. STEPHEN CRISWELL

INTRODUCTION

The region we today know as South Carolina has a long and complex history of Native American and European/Euro-American relations. As one of the earliest points of contact between European explorers—Allyon, DeSoto, Pardo, etc.—the state’s indigenous population was, consequently, among the first to suffer the destructive effects of colonialism and genocide. For nearly five centuries, South Carolina’s Native groups have struggled to preserve their identities and maintain their traditions. Those groups who did manage to hold on to their heritage—the Cherokee, the Catawba, the Pee Dee, the Waccamaw, and a handful of others—did so, to a large degree, by maintaining cultural traditions. The University of South Carolina Lancaster’s Native American Studies Program has attempted, over the past eight years, to provide assistance to South Carolina’s Native groups in their efforts to maintain and preserve their heritage and has offered students, scholars, and visitors a resource for better understanding these surviving cultures and those that were lost. Through on-going research and scholarly activities, often funded by internal and external funds, USCL’s Native American Studies faculty members have collaborated to develop a unique center of study combining interdisciplinary research and curricula with public service to the local communities and the state as a whole. As we move to expand our work, I am leading an initiative to develop a research inventory of documents, artwork, artifacts, individuals, and other materials focused on South Carolina Native American arts and cultures. Through the identification of art and artifact collections; museum, university, state and local library, and local history society holdings; community resources such as individual local artists, genealogists, and tradition-bearers; as well as influential private collections of documents and materials, this project will create a clearinghouse for researchers seeking information on all aspects of Native American history, culture, art, archaeology, language, and folkways in South Carolina.

BACKGROUND

In September 2012, USC Lancaster, in partnership with the City of Lancaster, relocated its Native American Studies Archive, its thousand-plus piece Catawba pottery collection (the largest in existence), its Native American Studies administrative offices, and classes to a recently restored building on Main St. in the heart of Lancaster. The USCL Native American Studies Center includes four galleries for exhibitions, an archive and reading room, a collections processing and holdings area, archaeology, language, and folklife/oral history labs, and office and classroom spaces.
The opening of the Center was the culmination of years of work. Since 2005, USC Lancaster and its Native American Studies faculty have worked closely with the leaders of our state’s Native communities, scholars of Native American history and culture in South Carolina, state arts and culture agencies, and students to develop plans for bringing greater attention to the history and culture of our state’s Native people.

Currently, the USC Lancaster Native American Studies Center hosts exhibits featuring Native American art and culture, with a special emphasis on South Carolina’s Native peoples. These exhibits are curated by our art professor Brittany Taylor. Our linguist, Claudia Y. Heinemann Priest, is developing her language lab materials in order to teach the Catawba language. Our archaeologist, Chris Judge, is cataloging over 200,000 artifacts from his nearly twenty-year project at the Kolb site in Darlington County. Our archivist Brent Burgin, is currently organizing a collection of papers from a local tribal leader, and I am continuing an ongoing documentation project collecting oral histories and narratives from our state’s Native communities.

The Center recently hosted its eighth annual Native American Studies Week, featuring invited lectures from local experts on Native American legal issues. And at least three times a year, the Center hosts Native American arts and crafts festivals.

SIGNIFICANCE

Since 2008, USC Lancaster has hosted an annual meeting of tribal leaders and regional scholars to develop strategic plans for serving our state’s Native American communities. Often mentioned by participants has been the need to “tell the true story” of South Carolina’s Native peoples through research documents, artifacts, artwork, and first-hand accounts from Native peoples. However, identifying these materials and resources often proves to be challenging. Resources for studying the history and culture of Native Americans in South Carolina are scattered across museums, libraries, historical societies, tribal offices, state agencies, private collections, historical societies, and other locations. To facilitate access to the widespread and diverse holdings and resources around the state, a clearinghouse is needed where scholars can access locations, descriptions, availability, and other pertinent information regarding resources. The South Carolina Native American Arts and Cultures Collections Inventory Project will attempt to create such a clearinghouse.

OBJECTIVES

My and my colleagues’ ultimate goal will be to create a research inventory of documents, artwork, artifacts, individuals, and other materials focused on South Carolina Native American arts and cultures that can be accessed through a web portal. This initial stage of the project will focus on identifying the varied and scattered resources throughout the state, cataloging these resources, and creating descriptive inventory. The second phase of the project will involve creating the web portal that will serve as an online clearinghouse for locating and using these materials.
We will be working with USC Lancaster Assistant Librarian Kaetrena Kendrick during the second phase. Professor Kendrick, whose background includes work with digital humanities initiatives and Omeka-based web development, will assist our faculty with migrating our inventory to the web.

Each Native American Studies faculty participant will engage in research appropriate to her or his discipline and will create one component of the inventory. As project director and principal investigator, I will coordinate all activities, develop the final inventory list, and coordinate activities with Prof. Kendrick as we move into the second phase of the project. I will also contribute to the inventory by including individual tradition-bearers in the state, community members identified through my previous fieldwork and through additional fieldwork, who might serve as repositories of lore and local knowledge. Professor Brittany Taylor will identify art collections in the state where Native American art can be found. She will create a list of all topic related collections in the state, with contact information, institutional or collector background information, and photos. For each piece identified, Prof. Taylor will include the items location, a photo, a collection identification number, the name of the artist (if known), the title (or a descriptive title) of the piece, creation date, its history (if known), and any additional pertinent comments. Archivist Brent Burgin will identify Native American documents and materials scattered through the state’s archival repositories. These “hidden collections” will be inventoried by location, scope, and content. Those with available digital forms will eventually be linked to our web portal. Professor Christopher Judge, our NAS Center archaeologist, will locate and identify Native American cultural and historical artifacts in our state’s museums and historical society collections. Such realia will be cataloged by location and type will be accompanied by a description. Prof. Judge will also identify artifacts held in private collections where provenance can clearly be shown (objects clearly illegally or inappropriately acquired by collectors will not be included in our inventory). Professor Claudia Y. H.- Priest, English instructor and linguist for the Catawba Nation will locate, identify, and describe resources on Native American languages.

At the conclusion of the first phase of this project, we will have created an inventory of resource materials from around the state focused on Native American prehistory, history and culture. The list will include holdings from the largest university libraries to the smallest local history museums. The inventory will be listed by county and cross-listed by topic. For the second phase, we will migrate this inventory to the web and work to create a user-friendly, updateable portal. We plan to model our web clearinghouse on work completed by participants in the Council on Library and Information Resources “Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives” project, McKissick Museum and SCETV’s “Digital Traditions” site, and other online clearinghouses of information; however, our inventory will be unique in both its focus and content. We will also work with the South Carolina Digital Library, with whom we have established partnerships, and the USC Center for Digital Humanities, with whom we have had initial discussions as we move into the second phase of our project.
SOMETHING TO BRAG ABOUT

Business After Hours: Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and United Way July 17, 2014
GALLERY EVENTS
AT THE CENTER

October 24, 2014  6:00 – 11:00 p.m.
Catawba artist demos — Part of the Artoberfest
NASC Galleries

December 6, 2014  9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Native American Art and Craft Winter Sale
NASC Galleries

OTHER RELATED EVENTS

October 18 & 19, 2014
Native American Cherokee River Festival
Cayce Historical Museum: 1800 12th St. Ext. Cayce, SC
See the website below for more information.
http://calendar.powwows.com/events/native-american-cherokee-river-festival/

November 1 & 2, 2014
Waccamaw Powwow
http://waccamawindians.us/tribal-events/

November 12 – 15, 2014
Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Greenville, SC
http://www.southeasternarchaeology.org/annual-meeting/details/

November 15, 2015
Archaeology Field Day, Greenville, SC
http://www.assc.net/events/fall-field-day
FALL COURSES
AT THE CENTER

Fall (16 weeks)

ANTH 102 Understanding Other Cultures, 11:00am – 12:45pm T-TH, NAS Center, Prof. Judge

ANTH 102 Understanding Other Cultures, 1:00pm – 2:15pm T-TH, NAS Center, Prof. Judge

ANTH 101 Primates, People, & Prehistory, 1:00pm – 2:15pm M-W, NAS Center, Prof. Judge

ANTH 321 South Carolina Archaeology, 11:00am – 12:45pm M-W, NAS Center, Prof. Judge

ENGL 101 Critical Reading and Comp, 5:30 - 6:45 pm M-W, NAS Center, Prof. Criswell

ENGL 285 Themes in American Writing, 9:30 am – 11:45 am F, NAS Center, Prof. Heinemann-Priest

Fall I (1st 8 weeks)

ENGL 285 Themes in American Writing, 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm T-TH, NAS Center, Prof. Criswell

FALL ARCHAEOLOGY LAB
DATES

Volunteer Archaeology Lab:

Most Thursdays from 3-7pm. Always check our schedule. Call 803-313-7172 for updated schedule or email archaeologist Chris Judge judge@sc.edu
“Woodland Archaeology at the G.S. Lewis West Site, Aiken County SC”

Keith Stephenson has a B.A. in History from University of Georgia in 1981, an M.A. in Anthropology from University of Georgia in 1990, and a Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky in 2011. His main research interest are in the Woodland and Mississippian Periods.

Karen Smith is a southeastern archaeologist with a background in Woodland period and plantation-era research and archaeological curation. Karen holds a B.A. from the University of West Georgia (1996), an M.A. from the University of Alabama (1999), and a Ph.D. from the University of Missouri (2009).

Please direct any questions or comments regarding the series to Brent Burgin at 803-313-7063 or wbburgin@sc.edu. Mr. Burgin welcomes suggestions and ideas for future talks and speakers.
Native American Studies Center
2014 Lunch and Learn Series

“A Conversation with Chief Bill Harris”

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER
21

All are invited to attend these free monthly lectures which usually cover topics related to local and regional culture and history.

12 noon to 1:00 pm

Participants are invited to bring a bag lunch.

Location:
Native American Studies Center

119 South Main Street, Lancaster, SC

Join us and the Chief of the Catawba Indian Nation for a very special hour.

Please direct any questions or comments regarding the series to Brent Burgin at 803-313-7063 or wbburgin@sc.edu. Mr. Burgin welcomes suggestions and ideas for future talks and speakers.

Native American Studies Center
FRIDAY
DECEMBER
19

All are invited to attend these free monthly lectures which usually cover topics related to local and regional culture and history.

12 noon to 1:00 pm

Participants are invited to bring a bag lunch.

Location:
Native American Studies Center

119 South Main Street, Lancaster, SC


Please direct any questions or comments regarding the series to Brent Burgin at 803-313-7063 or wbburgin@sc.edu. Mr. Burgin welcomes suggestions and ideas for future talks and speakers.

Native American Studies Center
Shamanism in the Tribal World:
A Cross-Cultural Perspective
A Lecture by Dr. Richard J. Chacon

This lecture will explore the multi-faceted world of shamanism. Dr. Chacon will draw from his decades of working with indigenous shamans (both in the Amazon Basin and in the Andean Highlands). Topics to be covered include the role of shamans as vast repositories of traditional knowledge, native belief and also of effective health care practitioners. Positive and negative aspects of shamanism will also be discussed. Lastly, how contact with the Western World threatens to destroy this form of traditional wisdom.

Please direct any questions or comments regarding the series to Brent Burgin at 803-313-7063 or wbburgin@sc.edu. Mr. Burgin welcomes suggestions and ideas for future talks and speakers.
ARtoberFest
Events at the NAS Center
Friday, October 24th, 2014
6:00 PM until 11:00 PM
Gallery Exhibits
Along with
Demonstrations by Catawba Potter and Basket Maker
Faye Griener
6:00 PM until 8:00 PM

The Native American Studies Center
119 S. Main St., Lancaster, SC

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Brittany Taylor,
Curator of Collections at 803-313-7173

A Palmetto College Campus
Hosted by
The Native American Studies Center
University of South Carolina
Lancaster

Native American Art & Craft Sale

Featuring works by established and emerging Native American Artisans from South Carolina and North Carolina

Saturday, December 6th, 2014

9:00 AM until 4:00 PM

The Native American Studies Center
119 S. Main St., Lancaster, SC

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Brittany Taylor, Curator of Collections at 803-313-7173
Are you on the List?

We Need Your Contact Information

We are working to compile a contact list of Native American artisans, tribal members, researchers, etc. If you would like to be added to our list, please forward the information listed below to uschnasp@mailbox.sc.edu or contact Brittany Taylor at 803.313.7036 or taylorbd@mailbox.sc.edu

NAME
TITLE/OCCUPATION
ADDRESS
PHONE #
EMAIL

Thank you for your support in helping Native American Studies grow!
The Native American Studies Advisory Committee

Purpose:

Native American Studies Advisory Committee advises the Native American Studies Program (NASP) in its mission and in fulfilling its vision plan.

Membership:

Stephen Criswell, Director
Chris Judge, Assistant Director
Brent Burgin, Director of Archives
Brittany Taylor, Curator of Collections and NASC Gallery Director
Claudia Priest, Linguist
Beckee Garris, Student representative
Rebecca Freeman, Assistant Librarian
Todd Scarlett, Math, Science, and Nursing Division representative
John Catalano, Humanities Division representative

Native American Studies Faculty

Dr. Stephen Criswell, Director
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Christopher Judge, Asst. Director and Director of the NAS Center
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Claudia Y. Heinemann-Priest, Linguist, Catawba language, Native American Literature
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Brent Burgin, Director of Archives
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Brittany Taylor, Curator of Collections and Gallery Director of the NAS Center
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