

# Native American Studies Quarterly



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

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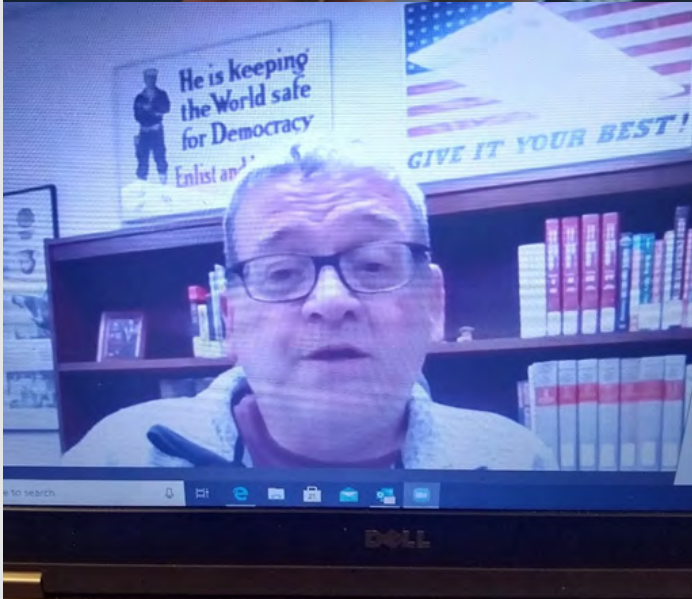
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Fall 2020 has been a busy time for Native American Studies faculty and staff, albeit in alternative virtual formats. In August, we took our monthly W. Brent Burgin Lunch and Learn Lecture Series to a virtual format and will continue offering these via Zoom each month for the near future. And we moved our annual Native American Studies Week to November, and, at least for this year, online (see below).

Perhaps most exciting has been the launch of three online exhibits that bring the galleries of our Center to a wider audience while our doors are locked shut. Professor Brittany Taylor-Driggers led this effort; be on the lookout for more virtual exhibits in the future from the Center.

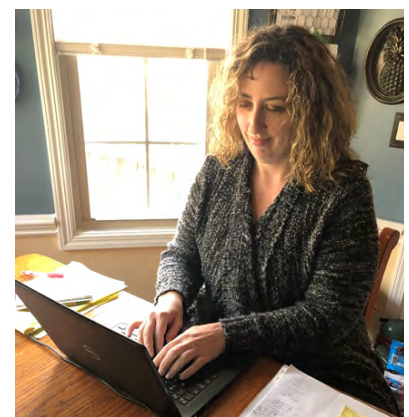


*Participants from the Columbus Day Controversy panel discussion. Photo courtesy of the USCL Research Club.*

On Oct. 12, we held a virtual Press Conference and Panel Discussion on Columbus Day Controversies. Our Co-Director Brooke Bauer was the keynote. She was joined on the panel by Chief Michelle Wise Mitchum of the Pine Hill Tribe, Chief Buster Hatcher of the Waccamaw Indian People and Professor Adam Biggs of USCL. Unexpected outcomes emerged during the post panel discussion between the panelists and our engaged audience. Two committees were formed and are currently meeting. The first is a committee led by Waccamaw Vice Chief Cheryl Sievers-Cail and Professor Sarah Rich of Coastal Carolina University to address changes to existing social studies curriculum standards in K-12 schools in South Carolina. The second

committee, led by Marcy Hayden of the Pee Dee Indian Tribe, targets the establishment of a South Carolina Indigenous Peoples Day to be held annually on Oct. 12.

Finally, we have ramped up our social media via the efforts of our Public Relations Coordinator Ashley Lowrimore. Since Spring Break 2020, we have introduced the popular weekly “What Do YOU think?” column on Facebook, where we post a photo and ask folks to answer a question each Tuesday, and the weekly archaeology postings on Thursdays (in lieu of our weekly Volunteer Archaeology Lab). Our social media also highlighted in last Spring, each of the 13 state-recognized tribal entities in South Carolina. Our social media postings have also ramped up as we connect our patrons with national, regional, and local Native American news, events, online exhibits, and programs. In addition, we have



*Public Relations Coordinator Ashley Lowrimore works on a post for the Center's social media pages.*

expanded the scope of our “Native American Studies Quarterly” newsletter to engage, educate, and inform but most importantly to retain you, our NASC patrons.

*- Dr. Brooke Bauer & Dr. Stephen Criswell,  
Co-Directors of Native American Studies*

## Virtual NAS Week Wrap-up

*By Ashley Lowrimore*

With the global pandemic postponing Native American Studies Week in March, the week went virtual in November with a lecture discussing trickster figures, storytelling, artist talks and more as part of the theme, “Native American Humor, Satire, and Parody.”



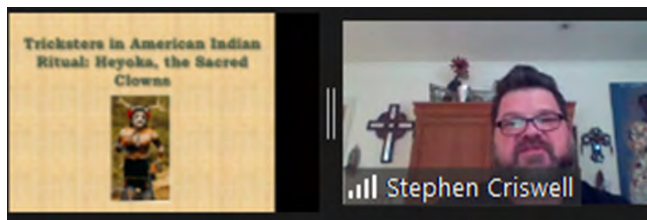
*Catawba artist and guest storyteller Beckee Garris appeared on day one of Native American Studies Week, telling stories as part of the “Tricksters” lecture with Co-Director of Native American Studies Dr. Stephen Criswell. Garris began the program with a story about how chipmunk got his stripes. Photo by Ashley Lowrimore.*

Kicking off the week’s events was the “Tricksters” storytelling and lecture, presented by Co-Director of Native American Studies Dr. Stephen Criswell and guest storyteller Beckee Garris (Catawba). Garris began the program, telling the tales of first woman and how chipmunk got his stripes.

During his program, Criswell spoke about the trickster figures that are prominent in Native American culture, such as Raven from tales of the Pacific Northwest, the flute-playing Kokopelli from

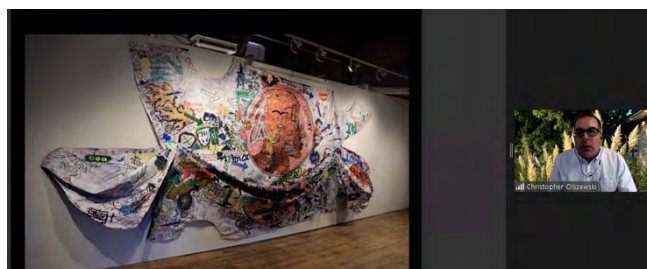
the American Southwest, Iktomi the Spider from Lakota tales, Nanabush from Midwestern tales, Heyoka from some Southwest tribal tales, and more.

Criswell also spoke about trickster figures from religion and popular culture who “fall outside of the binaries of the way society traditionally sees the world,” such as Bugs Bunny, Br’er Rabbit, Krishna (from the Hindu tradition), and Anansi the Spider (from African folktales).



*Co-Director of Native American Studies Dr. Stephen Criswell discusses one trickster figure, Heyoka, as part of his talk that kicked off Native American Studies Week. Photo by Chris Judge.*

The second program of the week was presented by Savannah College of Art and Design Professor and artist Chris Olszewski (Chippewa), who discussed his interactive performance art blending his half-Polish, half-Native American heritage traveling in Polish-built cars from his hometown in Detroit, touring and researching sites significant to Native American history. Olszewski calls his work “a connection with the Native American experience.”



*“No Active Warrants,” a talk by artist Chris Olszewski (Chippewa), was held on the second day of Native American Studies Week. Olszewski showed designs from his sketchbooks, car wheel covers art, and interactive “performance art” canvas car covers. Photo by Chris Judge.*



Feeling that there was a larger calling for him as an artist 12 years ago, Olszewski, who has a background in painting, was encouraged by a friend to go for a grant and pursue his dream of traveling the open road. He received a \$7,000 grant and purchased a 1992 Jeep Cherokee for his journey, making the connection between the land of the Cherokee Nation and one of the last cars built in Detroit. Olszewski drove along the Trail of Tears in his first trip to Oklahoma, starting in the Cherokee Nation's former eastern capital in New Echota, Ga., and ending in Tahlequah, Okla.

Olszewski discussed his creative practices in creating car wheel cover designs, sketchbook artwork, and canvas automobile covers. The covers serve as an interactive mobile art studio, with repurposed material from Lamar Advertising's billboards creating what he calls a "soft monument," or a mobile message board that can be moved or changed out for another cover.



*Savannah College of Art and Design Professor Chris Olszewski discussed his work with interactive car coverings and wheel covers, as well as his sketchbook art during his Native American Studies Week presentation. Photo by Chris Judge.*

In his most recent, pre-COVID travels, Olszewski has driven a 1998 Cadillac DeVille around the United States and Canada, having the public interact with the canvas covers. Olszewski calls the DeVille a Mobile Spiritual Renewal Center and once created a caution tape medicine wheel where participants could write prayers or positive thoughts, collecting messages for future exhibition.

Though COVID-19 has put a stop to Olszewski's road trips for the moment, he says he's had more time to get in the studio and create. Some of the works the artist has created during this time of quarantine can be seen on his [website](#).

For the third and fourth days of programs, the Center was pleased to welcome back artist Tom Farris (Otoe-Missouria-Cherokee), who participated in Native American Studies Week 2018. Joining from Oklahoma, Farris first presented "Humor and Activism: an artist Talk with Tom Farris," where he discussed his works taking established icons from Native American culture and combining that with humor and pop culture. Farris said that humor often opened proverbial doors for Non-Native audiences to become more receptive to hearing issues affecting Native Americans.



*Presenting two programs during Native American Studies Week, Otoe-Missouria-Cherokee artist Tom Farris first presented an artist talk, discussing some of his recent paintings and the stories behind them. Photo by Chris Judge.*

Raised by parents he called "passionate art collectors" of Native artwork, Farris says he never saw himself getting into the art world. A curator and gallery manager/ owner for 20 years currently working in the Chickasaw Nation, Farris says that he is influenced by comic books, 1980s pop art, and the works of artists Roy Lichtenstein, Andy Warhol, and Patrick Nagel.

One of the paintings Farris spoke about was entitled, "If Ya' Don't Know, Now Ya' Know,"

incorporating graffiti-style references and hip-hop lyrics with the Cherokee syllabary. Farris said it's not uncommon to see the Cherokee language used in his creations and that in some cases, he's introducing the language to an audience that may not know that it exists.



*Farris' painting, "If Ya' Don't Know, Now Ya' Know," incorporates graffiti-style references and hip-hop lyrics with the Cherokee syllabary. Photo by Ashley Lowrimore.*

Farris also discussed his work with larger 3D pieces and pop culture themes with "a Native twist": feathered fans made with light saber handles, a "Here's Johnny!" war club with a tie-in to "The Shining" film, and painting that imagines if a ledger artist happened to document the moment that a DeLorean suddenly appeared among a group of Native American horseback riders.

For his second program, Farris led an interactive painting session fueled by audience participation. Inspired by a question from the previous day's talk about how Native American voter turnout in Arizona and Wisconsin may have influenced this year's election, Farris began with a sketch based on a news item about how Navajo Nation voters rode horseback to polling places on Election Day. While he painted the piece, entitled "Here We Come to Save the Day," Farris explained his process of using ledger paper and satire in his paintings.

Farris said that his works are "concept-based, but funny," designed to spark conversations with his audience. Though Farris hasn't been able to interact face-to-face with audiences at in-person markets for some time now, he says he has had time to create some very personal pieces without any pressure to produce work under deadlines. Viewers can see more of Farris' work at his [website](#).

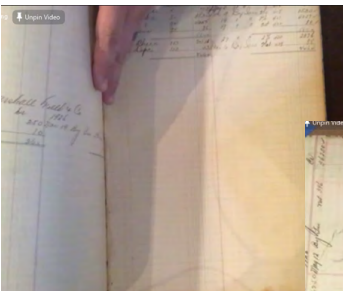
Take a look at the new online exhibit, "Humor, Parody, and Satire: The Artwork of Tom Farris and Chris Olszewski, featuring work from our Native American Studies Week 2020 guest artists! [Click here](#) to view this incredible exhibit of contemporary art!

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

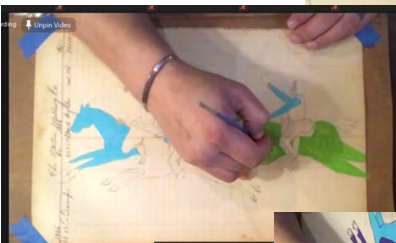
# Virtual NAS Week Wrap-up



Artist Tom Farris shares his desktop, showing his photo inspiration for the sketch he drew in advance of his second presentation during NAS Week, where he held an interactive painting session with audience participation. Photo by Chris Judge.



Farris shows viewers the ledger paper that he uses as canvas for his paintings.



Farris filled in his ledger paper with a sketch before he began his painting session.

Farris finishes details on his art during the interactive painting session.



Farris shows painting he completed during the interactive painting session. Photos by Chris Judge.

Closing out the week on Friday was DeLesslin George-Warren, a citizen of and consultant for Catawba Nation, with the presentation “Closing the Circle: Repairing Catawba Foodways.” While the talk may not have focused on the theme of humor or satire, the topic underscored an important issue this Native American Heritage Month: food sovereignty.



Catawba Nation citizen and consultant DeLesslin George-Warren discussed his work with Catawba Corn (pictured) as part of his food and seed sovereignty work during the last program held as part of Native American Studies Week, “Closing the Circle: Repairing Catawba Foodways.” Photo by Chris Judge.

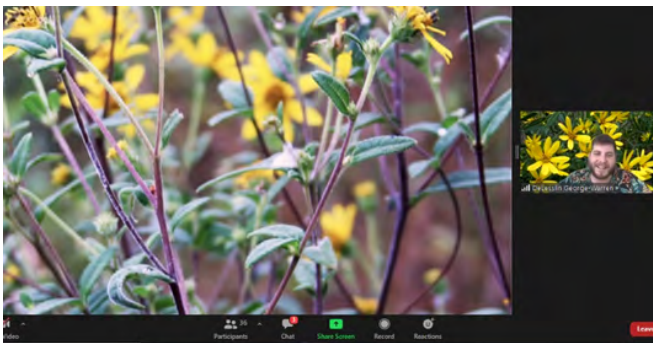
George-Warren discussed how in attempts to preserve lands, early conservationists pushed for removing people from lands, including the Indigenous peoples who inhabited those lands. In reality, George-Warren says that the lands that conservationists wanted to preserve were so bountiful because of Native American tribal management practices, such as controlled fire burns.

In thinking how society can move toward a more productive ecosystem, George-Warren discussed two plants in relation to the idea of abundance: Schweinitz's Sunflower, a sunflower with edible tubers commonly found by Carolina roadsides that is now the only sunflower classified as an endangered plant species; and Catawba Corn, a traditional variety “lost” between the 1970s and 1990s that has now been reacquired by Catawba Nation with the help of UofSC professor Dr. David Shields, who specializes in revitalizing heritage food varieties.



George-Warren also discussed his passion for seed sovereignty, having helped develop a seed library open only to the tribal community.

Also held during the week was a meeting with tribal leaders from across the state, including leaders from the Waccamaw Indian People, Santee Indian Organization, Edisto Natchez-Kusso, Pine Hill Indian Tribe, Eastern Cherokee, Southern Iroquois, and United Tribes of South Carolina.



*George-Warren discussed Schweinitz's Sunflower, a sunflower that is now the only sunflower to be classified as an endangered plant species. Photo by Chris Judge.*

Miss some of the events? Don't worry! Events have been posted to the Center's YouTube channel.

Planning is already underway for Native American Studies Week 2021, when the theme will bring together Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math in a focus on the STEAM curriculum. Look for more great programming coming your way next fall!

Special thanks to OceanaGold/ Haile Operation for their generous support of the 15th Annual Native American Studies Week!

## Pine Hill Indian Community Development Initiative

*By Ashley Lowrimore*



*The Pine Hill Indian Community Development Initiative, led by Chief Michelle Mitchum (center, dressed in orange) of the Pine Hill Indian Tribe, began a food distribution earlier this year. Photo courtesy of Chief Michelle Mitchum.*

While COVID-19 has stopped many in-person interactions, it has also innovated many community leaders to devise new ways in which to safely serve their communities.

The Pine Hill Indian Community Development Initiative (PHICDI), led by Chief Michelle Mitchum of the Pine Hill Indian Tribe, is one such group whose need to help its community not only stemmed from the pandemic, but also from a natural disaster.

“COVID-19 was announced as a pandemic on March 13, but on April 13, a tornado ripped through our tribal community and killed two people,” said Chief Mitchum. “The next day, we were out doing whatever we could to help people.”

**Thank you!**



Mitchum says the PHICDI began with \$650 to host one food distribution event, setting up under a pop-up tent on Highway 4 with permission from the Pine Hill Fire Department. The need grew and the organization filed grants with No Kid Hungry and NDN Collective and received both, allowing them to boost their program to a total of 22 food distributions over the summer. PHICDI also partnered with Senn Brothers Produce, who had received a grant from Farmers to Families, enabling them to expand their project.

Not anticipating the number of people that the event would draw, Mitchum says that pick-up lines sometimes stretched three to three-and-a-half miles long. There were no requirements to participate in the distribution program.

“If they needed food, they could come get it,” said Mitchum. “Considering we had just had a tornado, I thought it was silly to have requirements. I said that if we didn’t have to have them, then I wasn’t going to.”



*Helpers with the Pine Hill Indian Community Development Initiative sort through eggs and produce. The group hosted 22 weeks of food distributions over the summer, serving around seven tribal communities in the state. Photo courtesy of Chief Michelle Mitchum.*

PHICDI was able to support other tribal communities with food distribution, many communities coming from all corners of the state to pick up boxes from Orangeburg County. Mitchum called the South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs, asking if there were any other

tribes who were trying to start food distributions that she could connect with. Calls starting come in from tribal leaders around the state.

Mitchum says they served 10,010 meals this summer, serving 164 meals per hour.



*The Pee Dee Indian Tribe, the Piedmont American Indian Association - Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation S.C., and the Santee Indian Organization were just a few tribal communities involved in this summer’s food distribution. Photo courtesy of Chief Michelle Mitchum.*

“We had started with \$650 to do one food distribution and ended up going 22 weeks serving seven tribal communities in the state.”

Some of the communities served include the Pee Dee Indian Tribe, the Piedmont American Indian Association- Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation S.C., and the Santee Indian Organization, to name a few.

When PAIA Vice Chief Dexter Sharp was asked by the Commission of Minority Affairs Office if he had heard about the program, he connected with Chief Mitchum to let her know that he’d like to get involved with the program. For three weekends this summer, he and nephew Mark Williams would get up early and drive to Orangeburg County from Blair, S.C., located halfway between Newberry and Winnsboro, and help unload about 800 boxes of food from a tractor trailer. After the unloading



was finished, Sharp would collect around 100 boxes each week to distribute to PAIA citizens. He estimates he delivered up to 360 boxes around the state.

With tribal citizens located in 21 counties round the state, the two would then spend the rest of the day driving and delivering boxes in Columbia, Irmo, Blair, Walhalla, and in Gray Court, the PAIA's tribal grounds in Laurens County. He estimates that they traveled more than a few hundred miles, with an hour-and-a-half to two-hour travel times or more to most towns.

"When the day was done, you felt really good about yourself," said Sharp. "There were long days of travel, but you felt really good about it and you realized you helped a lot of people."

Through its outreach, the PHICDI was not only able to provide its members with food, but also PPE and face coverings, cookbooks, books for kids, and information on several topics like healthy nutrition, the Commission for Minority Affairs, a "veggie club" for kids, COVID-19 protection guidelines, SNAP benefits, voter registration, and Census resources.

"We're extremely pleased with the whole summer program, but the disappointing part was that it had to stop," said Mitchum. "This is a critical time for that. Even more so now because of COVID. We're seeing new spikes. It's almost winter and people are struggling enough trying to pay electricity in summer, so heating will be an issue. People have lost jobs and where are they supposed to live in an area that does not have that many rental homes to begin with?"

In their community outreach, PHICDI has created partnerships with SC DHEC, FoodShare SC, and more. Mitchum also credits the Commission for Minority Affairs office for providing them with the

support needed to continue their programs.

"Minority Affairs was really helpful in getting us in touch with the right people to get the right information," said Mitchum. "As the saying goes, they showed up and showed out. When the rubber hit the road, Minority Affairs really threw a lot of support towards this area and the people in this area know that."

Mitchum was told that the government had put food distributions on hold for now and that the distributions would begin again in November; she is still waiting for word on when they can restart the program.

"We took steps to save the community because our tribal members' problems are global," said Mitchum. "Everyone out here has same problem- poverty, generational poverty, no jobs, we're not in an opportunity zone or promise zone- we might as well crack. It's fair to say that Pine Hill Indian Tribe is trying to push the community out of that crack, and incidentally, it ended up being through food distribution. There's not just one tribe here that needs help, there's seven. It's us trying to just respond to a tornado and COVID and it turned into more than what we were aiming at."

Food distribution has not been the only program the PHICDI has coordinated to help the community. The organization has helped organize COVID testing, a nutrition education program, a Healthy Halloween program, and a Teen Talk youth program.

In October, the group was able to hold its Honor the Ancestors Powwow for awareness of domestic violence and for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, though this year, the powwow raised awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People to honor the family of Carl Alewine, a Native man who was murdered earlier this year in

Dorchester County.

Earlier this year, PHICDI promoted Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month in February, followed with Stay in your Lane, a program developed out of Teen Talk that partnered with Bamberg and Denmark law enforcement offices.

Currently, the PHICDI is finalizing preparations on the Pine Hill Health Network, a medical clinic focused on community programs, not emergency medicine. The clinic, located in North, S.C. at 4631 Savannah Hwy, will offer telehealth options, mental health services, a diabetes management program, and more.

“We’re developing a network of health programs and providers, almost like a one-stop shop,” said Mitchum. “We serve as an ambassador for the Community Health Worker Institute. It’s near and dear to all of us and is a very tribal approach that it’s up to the tribe to save the community.”

Mitchum says that the Pine Hill Health Network and the PHICDI are backed by Pine Hill Indian Tribe, but she prefers the tribe to stay out of the spotlight and put the focus on serving other communities.

“The whole point is that the tribe stays in the background and it has always stayed in the background—it’s not just about us,” said Mitchum. “It’s about these tribal communities.”

The PHICDI is not only helping the Pine Hill area, but reaching across the state to Marlboro County, where the Pee Dee Indian Tribe is located. Mitchum says that, like Orangeburg County, Marlboro County also has limited access to health care.

“We partnered with Pee Dee to start the Pine Hill Health Network Marlboro site,” said she said.

“We’re expanding to be able to help the Pee Dee Indian Tribe meet the needs of their tribal members.”

COVID-19 shut down any fundraising the group had planned and the PHICDI is helping to supplement by writing grants, but Mitchum says the group needs funding to maintain the new building and to continue to support community endeavors. The PHICDI is accepting donations via the “Donate” section on their [website](#).

“It’s mind-boggling,” said Mitchum, of how PHICDI has been able to serve its fellow communities. “This is a community in the state that generationally has been in this corner covered up, whether it be by law or societal means. We’re the first people, we’re the forgotten people. To be able to take these communities and put them in the forefront, that was amazing to me.”

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

## **Plans for Native American Studies Degree**

*By Ashley Lowrimore*

Through the University of South Carolina Palmetto College, USCL students can earn a Bachelor of Liberal Arts with either a major concentration of study or a cognate in Native American Studies. Classes offered through the program focus on Native art, archaeology, history, folklore, and language. But what if Native American Studies could be offered as a stand-alone degree?

This is a question that faculty members around campus have been asking for several years now. Co-Director of Native American Studies Dr. Stephen Criswell said the idea was supported by then-Dean John Catalano when Criswell was hired

at USCL.

“At one point we talked about a Bachelor’s degree in Cultural Studies that had Native American Studies as one of its potential focus areas, along with African American and Latinx Studies, but having worked on it for a couple of years, it just seemed like there was just as much interest in a stand-alone Native American Studies degree,” said Criswell.

In the coming months, Criswell hopes the Native American Studies faculty can develop a proposal for a Native American Studies degree. The process could take an undetermined amount of time as it goes from the development process all the way up to the South Carolina Commission for Higher Education, with opportunities to revise the plan and address any concerns along the way.

Criswell says that one of the strengths of the interdisciplinary degree is the cost benefit in already having an established curriculum, faculty, and facilities, a reverse approach in the way that many other programs are developed.

“We already have the history professor, the folklorist, the archaeologist, so it’s not going to cost anything in terms of new hires and it’s not going to cost anything in terms of space,” Criswell said. “We have all of the infrastructure in place.”

In developing the degree program, Criswell says more courses would be added to the curriculum, as well as a practicum component such as an internship. He also would like to see the field expand to include courses in sociology, psychology, and legal studies, which would cover Native laws and governance.

“Indian law is very complicated,” said Criswell.

“There is the issue that federally recognized tribes are sovereign nations within the United States, but

they’re not really sovereign because they can’t do whatever they want. Even in situations where game wardens go to the reservation and knowing who controls the hunting ground, there are issues with that and this is where I think the degree is helpful.”

The degree would be the first and only one of its kind in South Carolina. With tourism as one of our state’s leading industries, Criswell says there is a diverse market for the degree.

“Within tourism, cultural tourism is a big thing now,” he said. “Part of my thinking is that the Native American Studies degree could be very helpful for someone going to work in history museum, natural science museums, or local history or science institutions.”

Whether students are state residents or live locally, the Native American Studies degree program available online through Palmetto College could also appeal to individuals halfway across the country, or even the world.

Criswell also hopes the program will appeal to students of all backgrounds, from the Native American Studies major interested in taking an art course focusing on their Native nation’s pottery tradition to the English major looking to read more Native authors in literature classes.

“It’s a very niche subject area, but we also fit a niche here by having the Center and having the resources, faculty, and expertise,” said Criswell. “It seems like a good way to utilize what we have in service to our constituency, which are our students. My hope is that as we build that, more students, even non-majors, might dip a toe in, so we’re supporting the full mission of the university.”

Center Visitor Coordinator Katie Shull graduated in 2019 with degree focus in English and Art and a



cognate in Native American Studies. Shull pursued the cognate after deciding to delve deeper into learning about Native cultures.

“It seemed that everything lined up really well for me to do Native American Studies and I know it was a very good decision for my education,” she said. “Another factor that played into my decision was that society is moving towards a more conscious and accepting place and it’s becoming more important to understand other cultures from every angle. My stepfather is also Native American so that also helped me make my decision, as it was something that was close to me personally.”

Shull says that she had a very positive experience with Native American Studies and that her education will be an advantage to her no matter what field she is in.

“I find that the skills I’ve learned have helped me form a way to view all cultures and connect with people easier,” she said. “I think this will open doors for me because in many industries, it’s important to be able to connect with people and relate to them. We’re coming to a place in the U.S. where we want to be better and there is an increased desire for people to recognize the importance of different cultures.”

Center Student worker Crystal Melton graduated in early December with a degree in History and Native American Studies and a cognate in Anthropology. After coming to USCL with plans to major in Astronomy, she changed her mind after taking the Primates, People, and Prehistory class with Professor Christopher Judge. That’s when she says she “decided to listen” and learn all she could about Indigenous cultures around the country.

“I find the idea of a stand-alone NAS-degree to be a fantastic option for future students,” said

Melton. “I find Native American Studies to be rich in information of the people who inhabited this land long before First Contact. It is disheartening that society has ignored these people, their history, hardships, and culture. Native Americans deserve to be acknowledged since they are still here among us and are fully active citizens of South Carolina and the United States, as a whole. Had this been an option for me at the beginning of my college career, I would have jumped on the notion lightning fast.”

Melton says that studying Native American Studies has shown her just how little she previously knew about Native Americans as she was growing up. She thinks that a stand-alone degree could benefit students in a number of ways.

“Everything I thought I knew, I saw from the negative portrayals of Native Americans on T.V.,” she said. “My time at USCL and the Native American Studies Center opened my eyes and heart to the history and culture of Native Americans. I have met some phenomenal people of Indigenous backgrounds and I must say that their story, history, and culture are nothing short of a powerful survival story. I think the doors of this opportunity could open could be endless. Perhaps, if more students opted to take this path, then that is another step in the healing process.”

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

Interested in learning more about Native American Studies at USCL? These are just some of the courses offered through the Native American Studies major concentration and cognate curriculum:

- ANTH 209- Introduction to Folklore
- ANTH 219- Great Discoveries in Archaeology
- ANTH 317- American Indian Nations
- ANTH 321- South Carolina Archaeology
- ANTH 333- North American Prehistory
- ANTH 352- Magic and Religion
- ENGL 429C- Topics in American Literature: Native American Myth, Legend, and Oral Tradition
- ENGL 438A- Studies in Regional Literature, South Carolina
- HIST 401- The Development of the American People to 1789
- HIST 409- History of South Carolina, 1670-1865

## A Facebook Look

*By Ashley Lowrimore*

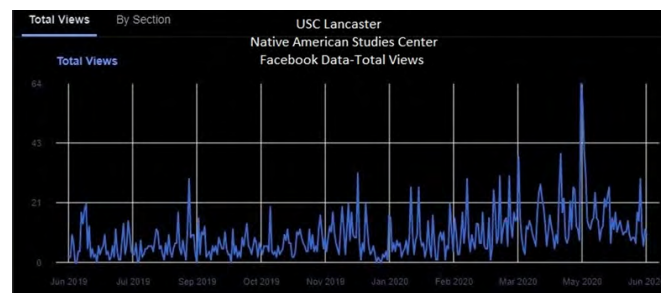
Thank you for following us on our Facebook page! As of 11/25, our Facebook page has over 4,200 followers!

Did you know that we have more followers in Australia than in Charleston, S.C.? That we have more followers in Toronto, Canada than in Fort Mill, S.C.? We've been looking at Facebook statistics from June 2019 to March 2020, analyzing them to see what the data tells us.

According to our Facebook insights, 62% of our followers are female and 37% are male. Our two highest followers by age group are 45-54-year olds (15% Female, 9% Male) and 55-64 year olds (16% Female, 8% Male).

Out top ten followers by country include: USA- 3,468, Canada- 348, Australia- 51, United Kingdom- 13, Italy- 13, Germany- 12, India- 10, Brazil- 9, Algeria- 8, and France- 6.

Our top ten followers by city Lancaster- 301, Columbia- 113, Rock Hill- 97, Charlotte, N.C.- 85, New York, N.Y.- 56, Charleston- 30, Toronto, Canada- 27, Albuquerque, N.M.- 26, Los Angeles, CA- 24, Winnipeg, Canada- 23.



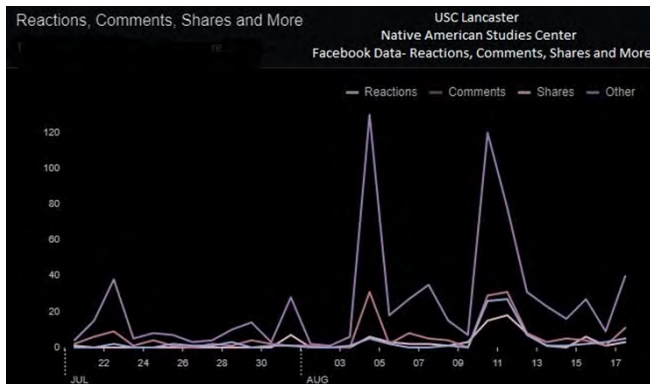
*In this graph from June 2019 to June 2020, the Center's highest total views occurred in May. Graph from Facebook.*

In 2019, the majority of our posts focused on our Lunch and Learn series, Artist-in-Residence program, downtown Lancaster revitalization, and faculty news and media appearances.

Our top five posts with the highest people reached for 2019 included posts about former Second Lady Jill Biden's visit to the Center in December (3,3,70 people reached), Catawba potter Caroleen Sanders' appearance on WBTV's QC@3 afternoon talk show to promote the Center's December art sale (1,946), Center Archaeologist Chris Judge's interview on WIS TV for a piece about Native American Heritage Month in November (1,876), a 2019 Ag + Art preview (1,789), and a holiday art and craft sale preview (1,709).

Other high-reach posts for the year included our Artist-in-Residence announcement, our creation for the Main Street Scarecrow Contest, our holiday art sale wrap-up, our announcement for free posters in conjunction with October's Archaeology Month, and our July Lunch and Learn preview.

Three of these (posts about Jill Biden, Caroleen Sanders on WBTW, and Chris Judge on WISTV) received the most total likes, along with a December post announcing artist Nancy Basket's residency days, as well an article from CNN.com about Cherokee Nation naming its first delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.



*This graph shows reactions, comments, and shares from July through August. Graph from Facebook.*

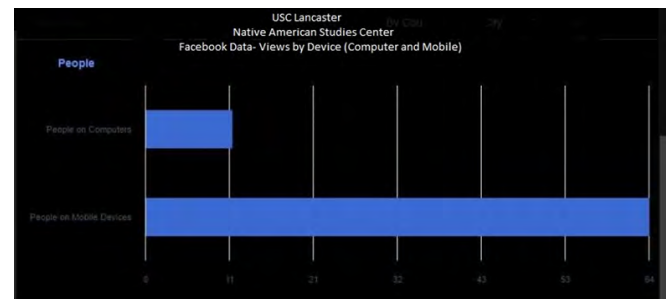
While we've only analyzed Facebook data through the first quarter of 2020, we can tell which posts have received the highest responses from followers.

For the first quarter of 2020, the majority of posts focused on Lunch and Learn, Artist-in-Residence news, the opening of the exhibit "What Do You Have in Your Backyard? The Traditional Artwork of Nancy Basket," and faculty news and media appearances.

Our top five posts with the highest people reached so far for 2020 included posts about Archaeologist Chris Judge presenting at the Archaeological Society of South Carolina's 2020 Annual Conference (1,584), the Lindsay Pettus "in Memorium" (1,452), Ice Age Archaeology in South Carolina, featuring Center Archaeology Lab workers assisting at the White Pond archaeology site (1,400), the "Save the Mastodon" mural fundraiser (1,225), and an invitation for guests to spend Leap Day at the Center.

Other high-reach posts for the year included our April Lunch and Learn preview, a preview of SCETV's "Making it Grow" host Amanda McNulty and team filming at the Center, promotions for our 15th Annual Native American Studies Week, an April COVID-19 closure update, and the South Carolina Arts Commission's "Canvass of the People" public forum.

Four of these (posts about Judge presenting at the ASSC Annual Conference, Ice Age Archaeology, Lindsay Pettus memorium, and the "Making it Grow" film day) received the most total likes, along with an article from www.sc.edu about UofSC law students helping craft legal code for Catawba Nation.



*At the time this graph was posted, more viewers were looking at the Center's Facebook page from mobile devices than from computers. Graph from Facebook.*

Have you liked our Facebook page yet? If not, follow us at [Native American Studies Center](#) for the latest in the Center's virtual programming and exhibits news, faculty news, COVID-19's impact on Native American populations, new or interesting finds in the field of archaeology, relevant webinars, and more educational information and updates as they happen.

**Our exhibits are going virtual! The Story of Catawba Pottery and USC Lancaster's 60th Anniversary Exhibit (featuring a segment on Native American Studies) are now available [here!](#)**



## Center Adds New Student Worker, Intern, Gallery Assistant

By Ashley Lowrimore



*Second-year USCL student Chloe Boone joined the Center as a remote student worker in October. Photo courtesy of Chloe Boone.*

We've had lots going on behind the scenes while we're closed to the public, and we'd like to introduce you to a new student worker, intern, and staff member.

Second-year student Chloe Boone joined the Center recently in October, working with Native American Studies Co-Director Dr. Stephen Criswell. Boone has been working remotely, transcribing videos and oral histories.

"I really enjoy making my own schedule at home and being able to balance my work and school life," said Boone.

Boone is studying Nursing in USCL's Associate Degree Nursing program and hopes to work for Piedmont Medical Center in Rock Hill. She will continue to work with the Center through the rest of the school year.

USCL Senior and Lancaster resident Katie Ayers is majoring in History and Native American Studies with a cognate in Philosophy and would either like to pursue a doctorate and become a college professor or work within museum studies, archives, or curation.

Since starting her internship at the Center in August, Ayers has been assisting Special Collections in developing a COVID-19 collection for USC Lancaster's campus, helping call for donations for the new exhibit.

"We're trying to capture the COVID-19 experience for everybody on the campus, including faculty, staff, administration, students, and alumni," said Ayers. "It's looking at how we've been impacted by the virus, whether it be the closure of community resources like the library or on-campus resources like the YMCA. We're also trying to look at the changes in everyone's mental health and this will be displayed through what donors submit."

Submissions for the exhibit will include artwork, journals, poetry, pictures, videos, social media posts- anything to show perspectives of everyday life during the pandemic.

"It's going to be a hodgepodge of stuff that's submitted, but overall, it's going to help future researchers understand what we were feeling and how we coped in this time because whenever you study history, you really only get some of the secondary sources."

Ayers has accomplished a lot in her few months, creating a website with a listing of what curators are looking to add to the collection, creating a landing page for donation submissions, converting files, and assigning metadata and categorizing. One of her favorite projects so far has been creating the website and social media

infographics.

“Just using my creative outlet has probably been my favorite part so far,” said Ayers.

Ayers says the project is planned to continue after her internship, which is somewhat unusual for internship requirements.

“It makes it odd for an internship, where assignments ask for reflections and wrap-ups, such as ‘where do you think this will end?’” said Ayers. “Well, there isn’t one, hopefully.”

Though her internship is being performed completely online, Ayers feels as though the remote arrangement will give her valuable knowledge in her future.

“This internship experience would be completely different than what it is right now if COVID wasn’t here and I feel like it’s for the better because it’s going to give me valuable experience within digital archives,” said Ayers. “I feel like whenever I graduate and go for my masters or doctorate, if I do end up doing archives and curation, I’ll have an upper hand because I’ll have a little bit of experience.”

In her spare time, Ayers enjoys hiking, painting with watercolors, and working with digital photography, but it’s hard to imagine when she has much of that. After finishing an eight-week course this fall, Ayers was contacted by the Arras Foundation, where she previously worked this summer, to work with them again as a research intern and help prepare for their 25th anniversary in 2021.

Sam “Smokey” Farris has been a familiar face around the Center, working in the facility for the summer of 2018. Did he ever imagine that he would one day work at the Center again?

“Not initially, no,” said Farris. “But once I started working on a regular basis at the Center, I honestly couldn’t imagine leaving. All of the professors I worked under pushed me out of my comfort zone so that each new task felt more rewarding than the last, and it’s still continuing today.”

Earlier this fall, Farris joined USCL, working as Gallery Assistant in Special Collections. His new role has him working in both the art department on campus and at the Center. Lately, Farris has been socially distancing himself at the Center, photographing pottery and working on creating new virtual exhibits. Recently, Farris assisted Center Curator of Collections Brittany Taylor-Driggers in developing the new online exhibit, “The Story of Catawba Pottery.”

“My role at the campus is currently to open the studio when needed and to make sure proper safety protocols are being followed,” said Farris. “Students often need extra time when working in the art studio, and given I was studio assistant as a student it’s only natural for me to continue that as well.”

As a non-traditional student, Farris graduated this May with a degree in English and History. During his time at USCL, he set personal goals of graduating with honors and making the Dean’s and/or President’s list each semester. While he accomplished those goals, nothing compares to what he considers his ultimate accomplishment of winning the Humanities Award during graduation.

“Winning the Humanities Award truly meant more to me than any other accomplishment or accolade I’d received during my education,” said Farris. “While I’m proud to have met my goals, the Humanities Award was the only thing, aside from hearing my name called at age 47 at graduation, that actually made me emotional. I felt incredibly honored to have been recognized by the

wonderful professors in the Arts and Humanities Department.”

Farris says his passion has always been art, whether collecting it or creating it. An artist himself, he enjoys working with mixed media pieces and stencil art.

“Anytime I get to work with art in any capacity it’s exciting,” said Farris. “It’s my passion, so whether it’s assisting in an exhibit of contemporary art or photographing older pieces in Special Collections, I feel like a kid at Christmas.”



*Sam “Smokey” Farris talks with Lancaster County Council of the Arts Executive Director Debbie Jaillette by Tqsi, this summer’s newest installation in the Center’s galleries. Farris joined USCL this fall as Gallery Assistant. Photo by Chris Judge.*

In addition to working at the Center, Farris has been hard at work designing and painting “Cleocatra” for the Lancaster County Council of the Arts’ Paws on Parade public art tourism project. Farris painted the sculpture solid gold, decorating her as a sarcophagus with painted eyes and a painted neck piece with hieroglyphic text that spells out “Paws on Parade.” The design for the sculpture came out of an idea from Farris’ Capstone project.

“My paper was on the history of graffiti and my assertion that’s it’s an often under-appreciated art form,” said Farris. “If you take away the

argument over legality, its origins as a means of mass communication and artistic expression can be traced back thousands of years. With examples I’d done ranging from more modern “tags” to cave art, I decided to do a cat based on ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics. With cats being held in such high regards to the Egyptians, it was too good to pass up.”

Farris says he can’t discuss his Paws on Parade project or his job without expressing his gratitude to those who have supported him along the way, including the Center staff, Special Projects Coordinator Elisabeth Streeter, and Art Professors Fran Gardner and Brittany Taylor- Driggers.

“I look up to each one and see them as mentors,” said Farris. “They’ve been there to both assist and push me when needed and their guidance in this new chapter of my life can’t be understated.”

“During my first advising appointment with Smokey, his excitement about returning to school after working for several years was evident,” said USCL Art Professor Fran Gardner. “Though that was our first meeting, based on his enthusiasm I hired him that day to be the studio assistant, helping in classes for all of the art professors and keeping the studio clean and in working order. He demonstrated this same level of commitment in his classes, taking every assignment seriously with a deep engagement in his own learning.

If you went into the studio you would see him moving pottery wheels, or mopping the floor, or hanging an exhibition, or unloading the kiln. And he took pride in every task assigned, both in and out of class. And now, only a few months after graduation, Smokey is working with NASC and I couldn’t be more pleased. His excitement, enthusiasm, and dedication to learning make him a perfect fit for NASC and we are lucky to have him on board.”



## Recent Events

## Myrtle Beach Declares Oct. 12 Indigenous Peoples' Day

By Ashley Lowrimore



On Monday, Oct. 12, the Center held a panel discussion and press conference discussing the controversy over Columbus Day celebrations and statues (Miss the event? [Click here](#) to watch the discussion!). We were pleased to be joined by Chief Michelle Mitchum of the Pine Hill Indian Community Development Initiative and Chief Harold Hatcher of the Waccamaw Indian People. Chief Hatcher is pictured above, fourth from the left, at the Indigenous Peoples' Day declaration in Myrtle Beach with city leaders. Photo courtesy of [wistv.com](http://wistv.com).



## Archives

By Ashley Lowrimore



The Center is closed to the public, but the Archives have been busy! Archivist Brent Burgin is assisted by Visitor Coordinator Katie Shull as they work with materials related to the Archaeological Society of South Carolina. While the Center is closed to the public, the two have been working half days for a few days a week, processing materials and interfiling items into correct boxes. Photo by Ashley Lowrimore.

## Daryl Squatch

By Ashley Lowrimore

If you drove down Main Street in Lancaster this October, you may have seen the return of the Scarecrows on Main contest; maybe you even saw Darry Squatch, Halloween's "hide and seek champion," created by the Center's very own Gallery Assistant Sam "Smokey" Farris! Photos by Elisabeth Streeter.

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!

## W. Brent Burgin Lunch & Learn Lecture Series 2021

The W. Brent Burgin Lunch & Learn Lecture Series is just short of meeting its goal to raise \$15,000 and we need your help! According to Fund Raiser Committee Co-Chairs Carol Shute and Christopher Judge, the fund currently totals \$12,045.00. An endowment has been established at \$10,000.00 with these funds, with the current balance either available to be applied to the principal and continue to accrue interest or available to spend on an honorarium, hotel, and travel expenses for the speaker of the annual W. Brent Burgin Lecture.

Donations can be made to the W. Brent Burgin Lunch & Learn Lecture Series Fund Account (# B12328) through the [Educational Foundation of USC Lancaster](#) and may be made online; the tax-deductible gift may be earmarked for "Lunch and Learn." Gifts also can be given by contacting Shana Dry, USC Lancaster's Director of Public Information, at [803-313-7008](tel:803-313-7008). Checks also may be mailed to the Educational Foundation of USCL, 476 Hubbard Dr. Lancaster, SC 29720.

*Lunch and Learn events are free and digitally open to the public. To join the program, send an email to [usclnasp@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:usclnasp@mailbox.sc.edu) and we will send you the password and ID required to join the meeting.*

### WBB L&L 2021 Calendar

**January 15: Noon** *"Henry Woodward, the First Earl of Shaftesbury and St Giles Kussoe: Unraveling the Origins of South Carolina's Seventeenth Century Indian Trade"*

Lecture by: Dr. Andrew Agha, New South Associates.

**February 19: Noon** *"An Indigenous Analysis of the Grotesques of the Southeast"*

Lecture by: Dr. Maggie Spivey-Faulkner, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Alberta.

**March 19: Noon** *"Just Like an Animal? A Philosophical Examination of our Ethical Assumptions about Cognitive Disabilities and the Value of Animals"*

Lecture by: Dean Todd Lekan, Professor of Philosophy, USC Lancaster Associate Dean Academic & Student Affairs

**April 16: Noon** *"Madeira to Moonshine: A Drinking History of South Carolina"*

Lecture by: Dr. Faye Jensen CEO, South Carolina Historical Society

**May 19: Noon** *"Native American Fish Weirs"*

Lecture by: Dr. David Cranford, Assistant State Archaeologist, North Carolina Office of State Archaeology

**June 18: Noon** *"Indigenous Languages of The Southeastern United States – Past and Present"*

Lecture by: Prof. Claudia Y. Heinemann-Priest, USCL Native American Studies

**July 16: Noon** *"Applying Digital Image Analysis on Lowcountry Colonoware."*

Lecture by: Dr. Jon Bernard Marcoux, Clemson/ College of Charleston Graduate Program in Historic Preservation and Corey A.H. Sattes, Drayton Hall Preservation Trust

**August 20: TBA**

**September 17: Noon** *"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.

**October 15: Noon** *"The State of the River"*

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

**November 19: TBA**

**December 10: Noon** *"Native American Mascots"*

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

## 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: TBD**

**North Gallery: TBD**

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

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

## Location:

119 South Main Street  
Lancaster, SC 29720  
To visit our website [click here!](#)

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

Temporarily closed due to COVID. ←

## The Center's Faculty:

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

## The Center's Staff:

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

## The Center's Advisory Committee:

*Purpose: This committee advises the Native American Studies Director.*

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

## Contact Information:

(803) 313-7172  
Email: [usclnasp@sc.edu](mailto:usclnasp@sc.edu)  
Native American Studies Center Hours:  
Monday: By Appointment Only  
Tuesday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Thursday: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Friday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday: Closed