

Native American Studies Quarterly



Native American Studies Center
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA LANCASTER

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As I write this piece, it's the first week of November, Native American Heritage Month. I am sometimes asked why we don't do more for November here at the Native American Studies Center. On the one hand, our faculty are often busy during the month giving talks and presentations around the region. On the other hand, for us at the Center, every month is Native American Heritage Month!

Of the many happenings around the Center this November, we were pleased to welcome UofSC President Bob Caslen and First Lady Shelly Caslen for a quick tour of our galleries, Special Collections, and Archives. We enjoyed touring the Caslens around our one-of-a-kind facility and we hope they will visit us again in the future.

As you'll see in the pages that follow, the coming months will be busy ones here at the NASC. In addition to Nancy Basket's on-going artist residency, our annual holiday art and craft sale is coming up in December, new exhibits will be complementing current ones in our galleries, and Lunch and Learn lectures and Professor Judge's public archaeology lab continue.

We are also looking forward to our 15th Annual Native American Studies Week, March 20-26. Our theme this year is Humor, Satire, and Parody in Native American culture. We've invited two Native artists, Christopher Olszewski and Tom Farris, to share and discuss their work. Both artists are known for their satirical artwork that offers commentary on Native and non-Native issues from a place of humor and wit. Farris is a past NAS Week guest whose paintings satirizing Andrew Jackson, Donald Trump, and Indian motorcycles were quite memorable. I met Chris Olszewski at a Native American art event at UofSC's McKissick Museum several years ago and have been looking for an opportunity to bring him to Lancaster. His work is delightfully irreverent yet quite enlightening. We will also be screening "Powwow Highway," the landmark 1989 film starring A. Martinez and the incomparable Gary Farmer, and I'll be talking about trickster tales and will be inviting long-time friend of the NASC Beckee Garris to share some stories with us. We hope you will be able to join us for some or all of these events.

So stop by and visit for Native American Heritage Month or December or January or anytime of the year!

- Stephen Criswell

Save the Mastodon!

Now until March 1, 2020

This event will be extended depending on the results on March 1.



\$ 1.00 donation = 1 vote
\$ 500 saves the Mastodon for a month
\$ 1,000 saves him for two months
\$ 6,000 and the Mastodon lives for a year

All proceeds will go to funding the gallery exhibits and programs including the upcoming 2020 Children's exhibit in the Duke Energy Gallery.

All sponsors and donors will have your name or business name listed in the acknowledgements for the Children's exhibit in the Duke Energy Gallery.

With a donation of \$50:

- Your name or business name will also be placed on the screen behind the NASC front desk for 1 month

With a donation of \$100:

- Your name or business name will also be placed on the screen behind the NASC front desk for 3 months

With a donation of \$200:

- Your name or business name will also be placed on the screen behind the NASC front desk for 6 months

With a donation of \$350:

- Your name or business name will also be placed on the screen behind the NASC front desk for a year!



Native American Studies Center
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA LANCASTER

For more information,
contact us at:
Phone: 803-313-7173
Email: usclnasp@mailbox.sc.edu
Or visit:
sc.edu/lancaster/nas

The Diversity of Representations at the NASC

By Ashley Lowrimore

Housed in a 15,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility, with 6,500 square-feet of exhibit and gallery space bringing together art, archaeology, Archives, folklore, history, and language, the Native American Studies Center is not only a resource for USCL students but also for the community.

Throughout the year, one can see numerous school groups, clubs, or civic organizations touring the galleries or visitors attending our special events that are free and open to the public.

One can volunteer for the community Archaeology Lab that's held weekly during the school semester; study an Archive full of books about Native American peoples, hear hours of oral histories, and view numerous photographs if needed for research; and explore five galleries highlighting Indigenous art and history.

The Center also is home to the world's single largest collection of Catawba Indian pottery, but there's so much more to see and experience.

Special Collections and Campus Art

The Center is home to Special Collections, USC Lancaster's Art Collections, and beginning in December, will house the campus' Paleontology Collection.

Special Collections holds scholarly collections for USCL's Native American Studies that highlight Indigenous artists, artwork, and regalia. There are many artistic treasures to be found in Special Collections, including the largest institutional collection of Catawba Indian pottery; Catawba regalia, quilts, woodcarvings, stonework,

beadwork, basketry and jewelry; Cherokee pottery and beadwork; Pamunkey pottery, woodcarvings, and relief sculpture; contemporary paintings; drawings; and much more.



Deer skin and turkey feather cape donated by Michael Dunn and Malery Oxendine. Top photo by Elisabeth Streeter. Bottom photo by Brittany Taylor-Driggers.



"We have worked for the last few years to focus on building the representation of artists within Special Collections," said Brittany Taylor-Driggers, Curator of Collections

and Galleries and USCL Assistant Professor of Art. "As we add new pieces and fill gaps within our collections, it is important for Special Collections to represent and be relevant, when possible."

A large part of the growth within Special Collections is due to donations from artists and collectors.

Since January 2019, several objects have been added to Special Collections. Some recent additions include a large fish trap created by Chief Pete Parr, Chief of the Pee Dee Indian Tribe, and a deer skin and a turkey feather cape donated by

Malery Oxendine and Michael Dunn; both artists and citizens of the Pee Dee Indian Tribe (Dunn created the cape and materials were donated by Oxendine). This summer, Collections acquired a poplar flute designed and created by the late Chief Howard (Gene) "White Bull" Norris, from the Piedmont American Indian Association Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation of South Carolina, as well as donations of two full sets of regalia- one by Elaine Langley and one by Patrick (Pat) Langley- from the Eastern Cherokee, Southern Iroquois, and United Tribes of South Carolina, Inc.



*Flute by Chief Howard (Gene) "White Bull" Norris.
Photo by Elisabeth Streeter.*

One new acquisition recently added to Special Collections further expands the number of paintings the Center owns. Created by Otoe-Missouria-Cherokee artist Tom Farris, "Oppression Since 1492" references Native oppression in a pop art parody of the Indian Motorcycles logo. The painting, on display in the Native American Studies Week 2018 exhibit "Tradition, Family, & Pop Culture: The Artwork of Jessica Clark and Tom Farris," will be on display next year in the Five Points Gallery.

USCL's Art Collections highlights local and regional artists, with works of fine art, folk art, fiber art, photography, and more. Next year, Collections will add works from the Center's sixth and current Artist-in-Residence, Nancy Basket, who appears in the annual residency program through a South Carolina Arts Commission Folklife and Traditional

Arts Grant. The new items, along with other pieces created during her residency, will be on display from February 2020- February 2021.

Special Collections is grateful for the support from donors, artists, and area collectors.



*Regalia pieces donated by Elsie Goins.
Artists: Pat Langely and Elaine Langely.
Photos by Elisabeth Streeter.*



*Quilt by Catawba artist DeAnn Beck.
Photo by Elisabeth Streeter.*



*Fish trap created by Pee Dee Chief Pete Parr.
Photo by Brittany Taylor-Driggers.*



Recently updated ranges in the Archives allow for a more user-friendly way to find documents. Photo by Elisabeth Streeter.

Archives

Another important component to the Center is the Native American Studies Archives, which holds both Native American, USC Lancaster, and local history materials. Founded with the acquisition of the Thomas J. Blumer Research Collection in 2003, the Archives contains the largest grouping of Native American materials in South Carolina. Current holdings donated by Native American and academic researchers comprise about 5,500 letters, 6,500 slides, 4,000 photographs, over 170 hours of recorded oral histories, and nearly 1,000 monographs. Historical materials document Native American groups present in South Carolina.

While the Archives does not prepare genealogies, Director of Archives Brent Burgin says that family research is a popular topic of inquiry.

“I get many requests where individuals want me to help find their Indian heritage, but little or no information to go on,” said Burgin. “It helps to know when the family member died and where they are buried. Occasionally I’ll have people searching for their Catawba heritage and I can definitely assist with that. We have extensive Catawba genealogical materials.”

The [Archives’ website](#) lists genealogical resources for those interested in researching family history among certain South Carolina and Southeastern Indian nations. The Archives contains monographs, Census information, family records, newspaper clippings, and more information on Catawba, Cherokee, Edisto Natchez Kusso, Santee, Sumter Tribe of the Cheraw, and Wassamasaw ancestry. It also has some information on the Monocan Indian Nation and Pamunkey Indian Tribe of Virginia.

Come experience all the Center has to offer!

15th Annual Native American Studies Week

By Ashley Lowrimore

Plans are underway for an exciting 15th Annual Native American Studies Week, featuring an art and craft festival, film screening, art exhibit opening, interactive painting demonstration, storytelling, a talk on the trickster character from various oral traditions, and more. The 2020 event, themed “Native Humor, Satire, and Parody,” begins on Friday, March 20 and ends Thursday, March 26.

“There’s a wicked sense of humor in Native culture and there’s a lot of subversive, anti-European, anti-colonial, anti-U.S. government humor, but there’s also a lot of self-deprecating humor,” said Native American Studies Director Dr. Stephen Criswell. “I think there is that stereotype of a never-smiling, solemn Indian and that’s not a good representation. Part of the Native American Studies’ mission is to dispel stereotypes and I think that’s a big one- to show people that Indians are just as funny as anyone else. It’s a unique style of humor that comes from the historical, social, political experience, as most humor does.”

This year, visual artist Chris Olszewski of the Savannah College of Art and Design will start the week’s activities off with the presentation of the March Lunch and Learn. The Center also is pleased to welcome back an artist who joined us for Native American Studies Week 2018, Tom Farris; Farris will present an interactive painting program in the Center’s galleries.

Both contemporary artists’ work will be featured in an exhibit opening at the end of Native American Studies Week, where Farris will be on hand to speak to visitors about his creations.

During the week, Criswell himself will present the lecture, “Tricksters,” a subject featured in his own folklore and Native American oral traditions classes.

“The talk is about the trickster figure that’s so prominent in Native culture,” said Criswell. “There’s coyote, tortoise, rabbit, and a human-like figure called Nanabush that has other names from the Great Lakes/Midwest tradition. A trickster tends to be neither good nor evil; they’re sort of outside the binaries of the way we see the world. The best example we have in American culture is Bugs Bunny.”

Those who attend the “Tricksters” talk will be treated to storytelling from Catawba artist and former Center Visitor Coordinator Beckee Garris.



*Catawba pottery from artist JoAnn Bauer featured at a previous art and craft festival.
Photo by Ashley Lowrimore.*

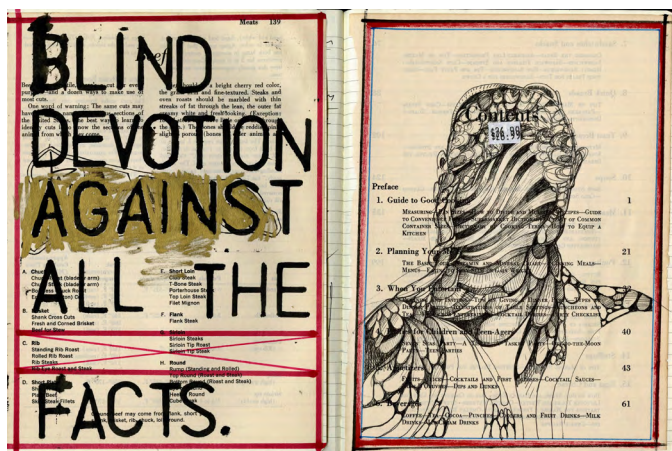
All events will be held at the Native American Studies Center. Native American Studies Week 2020 special events include:

- Friday, March 20, Noon- 1 p.m.- March Lunch and Learn- Native American Studies Week kicks off with a Lunch and Learn program presented by Chippewa visual artist Chris Olszewski of the Savannah College of Art and Design.
- Saturday, March 21, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.- Native American Art and Craft Sale- Find a selection of beautiful, unique arts including baskets, jewelry, pottery, and much more from an array of talented Indigenous artists. Visitors also can enjoy stories from storytellers throughout the day in the Center's galleries (storytelling times to be announced).
- Monday, March 23, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.- "Powwow Highway" Film Screening- Running 87 minutes long, this drama/comedy follows two Cheyenne friends on a road trip and the adventures they face as they journey to Santa Fe in a 1964 Buick Wildcat named "Protector." The screening will be followed by a Q&A session, facilitated by USCL Professor Claudia Heinemann-Priest.
- Tuesday, March 24, 4 p.m.- 5:30 p.m.- "Tricksters" Lecture and Storytelling- Folklorist and Director of Native American Studies Dr. Stephen Criswell presents a talk about Native American trickster figures. Criswell will be joined by Catawba artist and guest storyteller Beckee Garris.
- Thursday, March 26, 9:30 a.m.- 10:45 a.m.- Interactive Painting Session- Join Otoe-Missouria-Cherokee artist Tom Farris as he creates a work based on audience participation in the Center's North Gallery.

- Thursday, March 26, 4 p.m.- 7 p.m.- Exhibit Opening- This exhibit features the work of artists Tom Farris and Chris Olszewski; visitors will have the opportunity to speak with Farris during this exhibit opening.

Native vendors interested in vending at the March 21 art sale may call (803) 313-7173 to learn more.

The 15th Annual Native American Studies Week is free and open to the public. For more information, call (803) 313-7172.



Artwork by Chippewa visual artist and SCAD Professor Chris Olszewski. Courtesy of Chris Olszewski.



Otoe-Missouria-Cherokee artist Tom Farris speaks about his painting, "Oppression Since 1492" during Native American Studies Week 2018. Photo by Ashley Lowrimore.

Lunch and Learn Series Ends Year on "Frosty" Note

By Ashley Lowrimore



Folklorist and Director of Native American Studies Dr. Stephen Criswell researched the artistry of holiday decorations while taking a class on family traditions and decorative arts during graduate school. Photo courtesy of Stephen Criswell.

Growing up near McAdenville, N.C., a.k.a. "Christmas Town USA," it may be no wonder that Native American Studies Director and folklorist Dr. Stephen Criswell developed an interest in the artistry of Christmas decorations. While taking a class on family traditions and decorative arts during graduate school in Lafayette, La., Criswell was inspired to research the artistry of holiday decorations as part of a class assignment.

"One of the things I started noticing were homes with a sleigh being pulled by alligators or a pelican elf, so there was a lot of local color to it," said Criswell. "I was fascinated with the choices people made to decorate their yard."

At noon on Friday, Dec. 13, Criswell will present the final Lunch and Learn of the year, "Jesus, Mary, and Frosty: The Art and Artistry of Christmas Yard Art," focusing on the creation, assembly, and display of those one-of-a-kind Christmas yard decorations.

"There's a term from anthropology and art studies called bricolage, which is similar to collage, but the art is in taking found objects or whatever materials you have and how you arrange them and juxtapose them to each other," said Criswell.

Since graduate school, Criswell says he's on the lookout for bigger, gaudier Christmas lights.

"My late wife and I, before we were folklorists, were always particularly fond of the garish, large Christmas lights," said Criswell. "Now it seems like every year there are new stories about a house that you can see from space, but this is going back before it's quite so commonplace."

While Criswell concludes the 2019 series, several Lunch and Learn lectures are lined up to start the new year:

- Jan. 17- "Cherokee Woman- Invincible Spirits"- Dr. Alice Taylor-Colbert, Public Historian, returns to present her fourth lecture using Cherokee myths, visual images, and artifacts to explore the lives of Cherokee women from before the time of European contact to the twenty-first century.
- Feb. 21- "The Legacy of Community in History of the Barr Street School"- USCL History Professor Dr. Ernest Jenkins presents a lecture on the development, history, and significance of Lancaster's Barr Street School in conjunction with Black History Month.
- March 20- "No Active Warrants"- Savannah College of Art and Design Professor and artist Chris Olszewski will discuss his work turning automobile skins into interactive canvases, held in conjunction with USCL's 15th Annual Native American Studies Week.



Student Worker Crystal Melton and Visitor and Project Coordinator Elisabeth Streeter set up for a Lunch and Learn held this summer. Photo by Ashley Lowrimore.

- April 17- "Home Front in World War I South Carolina"- Dr. Fritz Hamer of the Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum will discuss how the South Carolina Council of Defense pursued citizens thought to be disloyal, even covering an incident that occurred between the Council and the headmaster of Lancaster schools in 1918.
- May 15- "The State of the River"- Brandon Jones, Catawba Riverkeeper with the Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation, will lead an interactive discussion about the threats to and strategies for protecting one of our most important resources.

Later on in the year, USC Lancaster Professor of English Dr. Lisa Hammond presents the Aug. 21 Lunch and Learn, "'We Were Not Woke': A Scout Mom's Observations on a Decade of Good Intentions in Boy Scouts." In October and November, the Center looks forward to announcing programs in conjunction with South Carolina Archaeology Month and Native American Heritage Month, respectively.

Other upcoming Lunch and Learns are still being planned, so look for more great programming to be announced soon!



The Center was pleased to host Trey Adcock, Assistant Professor at UNC Asheville, as he presented the November Lunch and Learn, "InDigitizing Stories of the Cherokee Snowbird Day School." Held in conjunction with Native American Heritage Month, the lecture was sponsored by OceanaGold/ Haile Operation. Photo by Chris Judge.



[Click here](#) to view
our upcoming
Lunch and Learns!

Center Hosts Seventh Annual Winter Art Festival

By Ashley Lowrimore

Still shopping for that perfect gift? Look no further! On Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Center, guests can shop for jewelry, Catawba pottery, baskets, quilts, and more one-of-a-kind artwork at the seventh annual Native American Art and Craft Sale. Held in conjunction with the City of Lancaster’s annual Christmas in the City event, the event will feature a broad range of work from South Carolina Native American artists showing and selling their handmade creations.

The event also offers guests an opportunity to speak with the artists about their creations and their artistic processes.

At time of press, participating artists include JoAnn Bauer, pottery; DeAnn Beck, watercolor paintings and quilts; Keith Brown, pottery; Cindy George, beadwork and jewelry; Faye Greiner, basket making and pottery; Ericka Pursley, organic canned goods; Fred Sanders, soapstone pipes and pottery.

Crafts, decorative items, mixed media artwork, and more will be featured from several Native American tribal groups.

“This is one of the most highly-anticipated art sales that we host and we look forward to having another great event featuring some very talented artists,” said Dr. Stephen Criswell, Director of Native American Studies.



Artist-in-Residence Nancy Basket shows Ethan Lowrimore how to make a basket. Photo by Katie Shull.



Artist DeAnn Beck will be at this winter’s art and craft sale, selling her watercolor paintings. Photo by Ashley Lowrimore.

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!

Center Hosts Seventh Annual Winter Art Festival



Traditional artist Nancy Basket, who has appeared this fall as the Center's Artist-in-Residence, also will be on-hand demonstrating basket making techniques and discussing her work with kudzu, wisteria, and other natural materials. Visitors also will have the opportunity to purchase baskets, kudzu paper art, and other works from Basket, a traditional pine needle basket-maker who helped form the first basketry guild in North America. For decades, she has made baskets and other folk art creations and has researched and shared her basketry and storytelling skills. Basket's residency is made possible through a 2020 South Carolina Arts Commission Folklife and Traditional Arts Grant.

The Center's next art and craft sale is planned for later next spring, so don't miss your chance to own some incredible Indigenous artwork now!



Top to bottom: Ericka Pursley offers organic canned goods for this seasonal sale. Photo by Elisabeth Streeter. Catawba potter Keith Brown demonstrates his technique at a previous art sale. Photo by Chris Judge. Jewelry is among many unique items sold by artist Cindy George. Photo by Ashley Lowrimore.

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

New and Upcoming Exhibits

By Ashley Lowrimore

Early next year, the Center will say goodbye to the exhibits “Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians: One Community, One Family,” “Share a Little of that Human Touch: The Prehistory of South Carolina,” and “Evolving: The Artwork of Beckee Garris, Artist-in-Residence.” The good news is that more exciting exhibits are scheduled to open as 2020 unfolds; even the permanent “The Story of Catawba Pottery” exhibit in the D. Lindsay Pettus Gallery will soon receive a fresh new look.

Opened in October, the exhibit “Proximity: Photography by Alex Osborn,” displays the untitled photos of cityscapes, portraits, and natural elements captured by the Catawba artist. Osborn, Digital Engagement Specialist for the Catawba Nation, has had an interest in photography since he was a child, taking photos of subjects that are important and aesthetically pleasing to him.

“It’s always been about capturing a memory for me or preserving an event in my life or an interaction,” said Osborn. “A lot of my work, especially in the gallery, shows different points of time in my personal experiences, whether it be with friends or interacting in urban place; it’s a thread that pulls all of those together, a reflection of memories and that’s what I mean by proximity.”

Osborn said he recently attended a conference where one of the keynote speakers discussed the idea of being proximate to one’s own experiences, a concept which resonates with him.

“It sounds so cliché, but taking photos can be like breathing,” said Osborn, “In taking a moment to yourself or taking a moment to capture a person, it’s stepping back to appreciate that person, or plant, or whatever the subject is. It’s important to remember that in your artwork and be passionate about that.”

Prints from the exhibit are available for purchase for \$65; however, portraits displayed in the exhibit are not for sale. “Proximity” is on display through Jan. 30, 2020.

Below: Untitled work by Alex Osborn is shown in the new “Proximity” exhibit. Photos by Ashley Lowrimore.



*Proximity:
Photography by
Alex Osborn*

Other exhibits opening next spring include:

- “What Do You Have in Your Backyard?”: The Traditional Artwork of Nancy Basket- Opens February 2020. 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 15, 2021 in the Red Rose Gallery.
- “Roots of Wisdom: Native Knowledge. Shared Science”- Opens March 14, 2020. Whether restoring rivercane in North Carolina or raising organic foods in Northwest Washington, 18 banners in this exhibit from the Smithsonian tell the stories of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Tulalip Tribes, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and Native Hawaiians and the ecological revitalization efforts these nations are making. Through May 25, 2020 in the North Gallery.
- “Humor, Parody, and Satire: The Artwork of Tom Farris and Chris Olszewski”- Opens March 2020 in conjunction with the 15th Annual Native American Studies Week. This exhibit features the satirical and contemporary art of Otoe-Missouria-Cherokee artist Tom Farris and Chippewa artist Chris Olszewski. Through February 22, 2021 in the Five Points Gallery.

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



*The new exhibit featuring work by Artist-in-Residence Nancy Basket will showcase her work with natural materials like kudzu, wisteria, long leaf pine needles, and more.
Photo by Ashley Lowrimore.*



One collaborative piece shows Nancy’s basketry woven around Catawba pottery by Catawba scholar and USCL Professor Dr. Brooke Bauer. Photo by Katie Shull.

Student Volunteer Spotlight: Cynthia Curtis

By Ashley Lowrimore



USCL student and Archaeology Lab volunteer Cynthia Curtis investigates pottery patterns during Professor Chris Judge's South Carolina Archaeology class.

Photo by Chris Judge.

After attending the December 2018 Lunch and Learn presented by Center Archaeologist Chris Judge and hearing him extend the invitation for the public to join the Center's weekly community Archaeology Lab, Cynthia Curtis was interested in learning more. When she enrolled in courses at USC Lancaster, she felt it was a logical step to volunteer and get a first-hand experience washing and sorting artifacts.

"It helps me because with working full-time and not having an academic background in archaeology or anthropology, the physicality of it really helps me a lot," said Curtis.

Curtis is a non-traditional BLS student at USC Lancaster, studying Anthropology, Native American Studies, and English, and she holds a previous degree in Secondary English Education and Rhetoric, and certificates in Non Profit Management and TEFL. With a background in community and economic development, global human resources, grantmaking, and philanthropy, she moved to Lancaster last year to work at the J. Marion Sims Foundation as Community Investment Officer, also serving as Coach for Kershaw's Heart and Soul community program.

Curtis previously lived in Chester and worked as a

Grants and Community Development Coordinator for the City of Chester. Prior to moving to South Carolina, she lived in El Salvador for 21 years, working in international cooperation for development with Central American countries such as Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and El Salvador, and facilitating partnerships with Central and Eastern African organizations and networks. She moved to El Salvador after she was invited to work on a foreign aid monitoring project in Central America, tracking the role of the U.S. in the Salvadoran peace process and following investments around the reconstruction and democratization process at the end of the Cold War.

"One of the things that drew me to Lancaster, even while I still was in El Salvador, was the fact that Lancaster has the Native American Studies Center, and that we have such a close proximity to the Catawba Nation," said Curtis. "It was a gem of an opportunity for learning and trying to absorb as much as possible, I think particularly because I was working in Central America where, in El Salvador, the Indigenous population was exterminated in large part in 1932 by a dictatorship that accused them of communism, so there, you see less expression of Indigenous cultural identity. I was privileged to have the opportunity to accompany

Indigenous communities throughout Central American and facilitate intercultural cooperation and solidarity opportunities.”

Originally from the Midwest, Curtis grew up not far from Cahokia Mounds and moved to New York City to work in Harlem as a VISTA volunteer after graduating college. After that experience, Curtis stayed in New York, teaching English as a Second Language to Latin American refugee and immigrant communities; she also played flute and learned from the experiences of her Salvadoran bandmates.

“Most of them were from El Salvador and they had fled the war,” said Curtis. “Also, most of my students were from El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. I became aware of the reasons people had to flee their countries in Central America.”

Curtis says she became more immersed in the Salvadoran community and in solidarity work, participating in a group that walked from New York to Washington, D.C. at the time of Ronald Reagan’s election.

“We were 80 people, North Americans, and Salvadorans, who wanted to walk and say ‘stop U.S. military aid to El Salvador,’” she said. “Jimmy Carter froze the military aid when four U.S. nuns were murdered in El Salvador, but when Reagan took office, he unfroze the aid and started funding the war to about \$1.5 million a day in weapons and military advisors. Over 75,000 Salvadorans were killed in the war, and thousands were disappeared.”

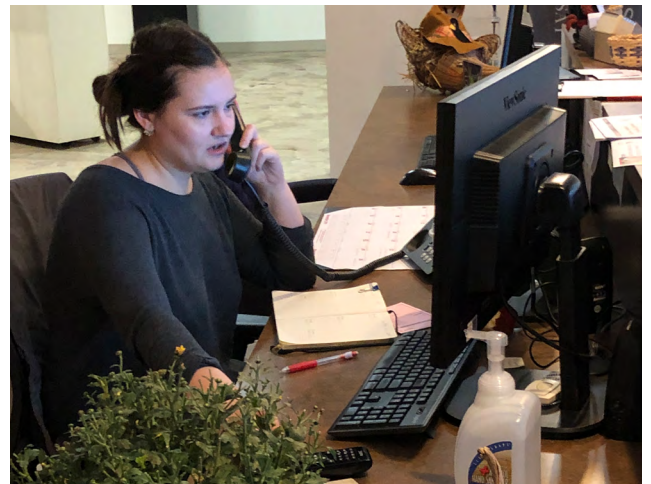
Curtis also assisted a Salvadoran human rights organization of mothers of the disappeared to open a U.S. office in Washington, D.C. and inform decision-makers about the impacts of U.S. policy, organize congressional, academic, and grassroots delegations and fact-finding missions, and work on public education projects.

Her rich travel experiences, her understanding of political processes, and her commitment to civic engagement are helpful in her roles at the Sims

Foundation and as a student and volunteer, where she sees new opportunities for lost voices to speak out and be heard.

“In general and in society, I think there’s still layers we’re not tapping when we’re talking about community, place-making, social justice issues, transformation issues, and development,” said Curtis. “There’s always that big, missing voice, so I see the Native American Studies Center as an oasis. I appreciate its stand-out role as one of the downtown Lancaster anchors and cultural assets. It is an honor to have this opportunity to collaborate and learn as a volunteer.”

Staff News



Visitor Coordinator Katie Shull helps a caller at the reception desk. Photo by Ashley Lowrimore.

It’s time for a staff update since our last newsletter! After Visitor Coordinator David Helwer left to explore new professional pursuits, Katie Shull accepted the Visitor Coordinator role full-time in September. Shull has been at the Center since 2017 and has worked part-time as Visitor Coordinator since her graduation earlier this spring. Not only does she have a welcoming disposition, but she also shares her many talents with us (If you’ve seen the chalkboard sign outside of the Center on the sidewalk, chances are you’ve seen Shull’s creative and artistic abilities). We look forward to seeing you around the Center, Katie!
(AL)

October Events

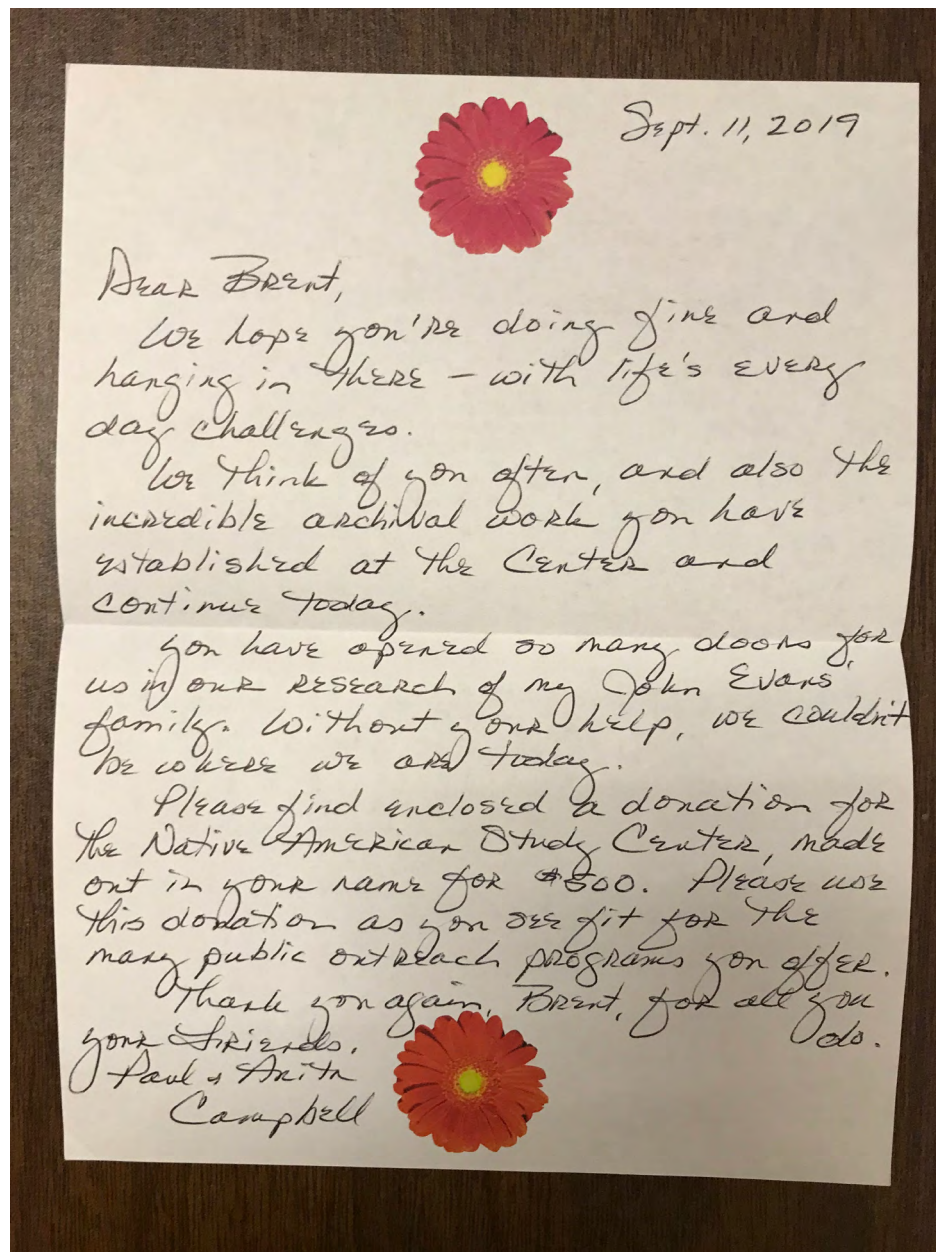
Saturday, Oct. 26 was a full fall day! In the morning, USCL Professor and Archaeologist Chris Judge identified artifacts for the public at the Archaeological Society of South Carolina's Fall Field Day in Cayce, S.C. Over in Kershaw that morning, Project Coordinator Elisabeth Streeter demonstrated watercolor painting at the annual Nature and Art Day in Stevens Park. That evening, visitors at downtown Lancaster's Boo Fun Fest event were treated to storytelling, basket making demonstrations, and treats from Artist-in-Residence, Nancy Basket (AL).



*Clockwise from left:
Fall Field Day in Cayce, S.C. Photo by Chris Judge.
Artist-in-Residence Nancy Basket with Jacob Driggers during Boo Fest.
Photo by Brittany Taylor-Driggers.
Elisabeth Streeter at Nature and Art Day in Kershaw. Photo by Omar
Avelar Martinez.
Basket tells a story during Boo Fest. Photo by Katie Shull.*

Recent Donations

The Center is thankful to be the recipient of two generous donations given this fall. The Leaf and Petal Club, stewards of the Three Sisters Garden in the Red Rose Park just across from the Center, donated \$250 after their September meeting. Michigan couple Paul and Anita Campbell, who visit the Archives yearly to research their line of descent from a Catawba Indian trader, donated \$500 after also visiting in September. We're grateful for these very generous donations, which will go toward the Center's endowment (AL).



Letter from the Campbells regarding their generous donation.
Photo by Elisabeth Streeter

Dec. 6 & 7, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.- Artist-in-Residency- Traditional artist Nancy Basket demonstrates basket making techniques and discusses her work with kudzu, wisteria, long leaf pine needles, and more at the Center.

Dec. 7, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.- Native American Art & Craft Sale- Held in conjunction with Christmas in the City, shop for jewelry, Catawba pottery, baskets, quilts, and more one-of-a-kind artwork at the seventh annual Native American Art and Craft Sale! Also, see Artist-in-Residence Nancy Basket discuss and demonstrate her basket making techniques during the day. The event is free and open to the public. To view the flyer, [click here!](#)

Dec. 13, Noon- Lunch and Learn: "Jesus, Mary, and Frosty: The Art and Artistry of Christmas Yard Art" Lecture by Dr. Stephen Criswell, Director of Native American Studies and Folklorist. The event is free and open to the public. To view the flyer, [click here!](#)

Dec. 20 & 21, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.- Artist-in-Residency- Traditional artist Nancy Basket demonstrates basket making techniques and discusses her work with kudzu, wisteria, long leaf pine needles, and more at the Center. The event is free and open to the public. To view the flyer, [click here!](#)

Jan. 17, Noon- Lunch and Learn: "Cherokee Woman- Invincible Spirits" Lecture by Dr. Alice Taylor-Colbert, Historian. The event is free and open to the public. To view the flyer, [click here!](#)

Feb. 21, Noon- Lunch and Learn: "The Legacy of Community in the History of the Barr Street School" Lecture by Dr. Ernest Jenkins, USCL Professor. The event is free and open to the public. To view the flyer, [click here!](#)

Feb. 2020- "What Do You Have in Your Backyard?": The Traditional Artwork of Nancy Basket" Exhibit Opening- 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, Nancy Basket.

March 14- "Roots of Wisdom: Native Knowledge. Shared Science" Exhibit Opening- Whether restoring rivercane in North Carolina or raising organic foods in Northwest Washington, 18 banners in this exhibit from the Smithsonian tell the stories of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Tulalip Tribes, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and Native Hawaiians and the ecological revitalization efforts these nations are making.

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

March 20-26- 15th Annual Native American Studies Week- Celebrating comedy and humor, event include an art and craft festival, film screening, an art exhibit opening, an interactive painting demonstration, storytelling, a lecture discussing Native American trickster figures, and more.

Events are free and open to the public!

March 20, Noon- 1 p.m.- Lunch and Learn: "No Active Warrants"

Native American Studies Week kicks off with a Lunch and Learn program presented by Chippewa visual artist Chris Olszewski of the Savannah College of Art and Design.

The event is free and open to the public.

March 21, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.- Native American Art and Craft Sale-

Find a selection of beautiful, unique arts including baskets, jewelry, pottery, and much more from an array of talented Indigenous artists. Visitors also can enjoy stories from storytellers throughout the day in the Center's galleries (storytelling times to be announced).

The event is free and open to the public.

March 23, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.- "Powwow Highway" Film Screening-

Running 87 minutes long, this drama/comedy follows two Cheyenne friends on a road trip and the adventures they face as they journey to Santa Fe in 1964 Buick Wildcat named "Protector." The screening will be followed by a Q&A session, facilitated by USCL Professor Claudia Heinemann-Priest.

The event is free and open to the public.

March 24, 4 p.m.- 5:30 p.m.- "Tricksters"-

Lecture and Storytelling- Folklorist and Director of Native American Studies Dr. Stephen Criswell presents a talk about Native American trickster figures. Criswell will be joined by Catawba artist and guest storyteller Beckee Garris.

The event is free and open to the public.

March 26, 9:30 a.m.- 10:45 a.m.- Interactive Painting Session- Join Otoe-Missouria-Cherokee artist Tom Farris as he creates a work based on audience participation in the Center's North Gallery.

The event is free and open to the public.

March 26, 4 p.m.- 7 p.m.- "Humor, Parody, and Satire: The Artwork of Tom Farris and Chris Olszewski" Exhibit Opening-

This exhibit features the work of artists Tom Farris and Chris Olszewski; visitors will have the opportunity to speak with Farris during this exhibit opening.

The event is free and open to the public.

April 17, 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.

The event is free and open to the public.

May 15, Noon- Lunch and Learn: "The State of the River"

Lecture by Brandon Jones, Catawba Riverkeeper.

The event is free and open to the public.

Join us for these great events as we celebrate USC Lancaster's 60th Anniversary this academic year!

Current Exhibitions at the Center:

D. Lindsay Pettus Gallery: The Story of Catawba Pottery: This National Endowment for the Arts funded exhibit traces the art, culture and history of Catawba pottery, the oldest Native American pottery tradition in the United States. Permanent Exhibit.

Duke Energy Gallery: Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians: One Community, One Family: See beautiful regalia and contemporary art forms in this exhibit curated by the Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians. Through February 2020.

North Gallery: Share a Little of that Human Touch: The Prehistory of South Carolina: Archaeological artifacts tell the story of Native Americans from the last Ice Age 19,000 years ago until European contact in the 17th century. Hands-on opportunities for children of all ages. Through February 2020.

Red Rose Gallery: Evolving: The Artwork of Beckee Garris, Artist-in-Residence: The Center invites you to see the work of Catawba Artist-in-Residence Beckee Garris. The exhibit features baskets, pottery, and other artwork created by Garris. Through February 2020.

Five Points Gallery: Proximity: Photography by Alex Osborn: This photography exhibit displays the untitled photos of cityscapes, portraits, and natural elements captured by Catawba artist Alex Osborn. Through January 2020.

The Center's Faculty:

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

803.313.7108 criswese@mailbox.sc.edu

Dr. Brooke Bauer, Assistant Professor of History and Native American Studies

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

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W. Brent Burgin, Archivist, Director of Native American Studies Archives

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Brittany Taylor-Driggers, Artist, Curator of Collections and Galleries 803.313.7036 &

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Christopher Judge, Archaeologist, Assistant Director of Native American Studies

803.313.7445 judge@sc.edu

The Center's Staff:

Helen Champion, Custodial Services
Ashley Lowrimore, Public Relations Coordinator
Crystal Melton, Student Worker
Missy Melton, Student Worker
Makenzie Payne, Student Worker
Katelyn Shull, Visitor Coordinator
Elisabeth Streeter, Visitor and Project Coordinator

The Center's Advisory Committee:

Purpose: This Committee advises the Native American Studies Director.

Dr. Stephen Criswell, NAS Director, ex officio
W. Brent Burgin, Director of NASC Archives, NAS Director Appointee
Brittany Taylor-Driggers, Curator of Special Collections and Galleries, NAS Director Appointee, NAS Committee Co-Chair
Claudia Y. Heinemann-Priest, Catawba Linguist, NAS Director Appointee
Dr. Brooke Bauer, Humanities Division representative, NAS Committee Co-Chair
Fran Gardner, NAS Advisory Board Member
Todd Scarlett, Math, Science, and Nursing Division representative
Jerrod Yarosh, BBCE Division representative
Patrick Lawrence, Administrative Appointee

Location:

119 South Main Street
Lancaster, SC 29720

To visit our website [click here!](#)

Contact Information:

(803) 313-7172

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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