

effort that will probably take many months to complete once the renovations to the new building are completed. If the Smithsonian is “the nation’s attic” SCIAA is certainly South Carolina’s basement—with thousands of artifacts, reams of invaluable research writing and tons of stuff collected by archaeologists inside and outside of the Institute

over the last 44 years. Unlike my basement, where there are hundreds of things of which I have long ago forgotten the purpose, SCIAA’s collections are the physical history (and prehistory) of South Carolina and of North America, and their scientific and historical integrity are essential to all of us. I will keep you posted as we near the time when we

begin packing up—and we may well call upon many of you to help us carry out this monumental task.

It is going to be an exciting and productive spring, and I am very grateful to so many of you who have participated in our programs, assisted with our search and supported us this year.

Lora Holland Joins the Maritime Research Division to Manage the Sport Diver Archaeology Management Program (SDAMP)

The Sport Diver Archaeology Management Program (SDAMP), located out of the Charleston Office, has a new manager. Maritime archaeologist Lora Holland took the reins of the sport diver education and licensing program in early November 2006. Lora is the fourth manager of the program since its inception in 1990.

Lora has a bachelor’s degree in history from Salem College in Winston-Salem, NC, and a master’s degree in anthropology from the University of Western Florida in Pensacola. Her master’s thesis centered on her research into an early 20th-century schooner converted to a barge. The thesis is appropriately titled “Maritime Technology In Transition: Historical and Archaeological Investigations of the Schooner Barge *Geo. T. Lock*.”

While at the University of Western Florida, she also participated in a remote sensing survey of the Pensacola waterfront, an archaeological survey of the Old County Court House in downtown Pensacola, and a remote sensing survey of Cape Romano, FL, for the Florida Bureau of Historic Resources.

She came to Charleston in March 2006 to work with the *H. L. Hunley* project as a graphics intern.

Her work there focused on the application of three-dimensional digital technology, including creating scans of the crewmember’s skeletal remains.



Lora Holland. (SCIAA photo)

Lora will be working out of SDAMP’s offices located near Charleston at the Fort Johnson Marine Resource Center on James Island. The sport diver program is part of SCIAA’s Maritime Research Division directed by South Carolina State Underwater Archaeologist Christopher Amer.

An outgrowth of the South Carolina Underwater Antiquities Act of 1991, SDAMP functions as a connection between the sport diver community and professional archaeologists. Through talks, seminars, field schools, and avocational projects, SDAMP shares archaeological principles with

interested members of the public, both divers and non-divers.

“We hope our efforts will lead to a renewed appreciation of the cultural heritage of South Carolina through the study of the state’s maritime resources,” states Lora. “It is through public awareness that these will be preserved for future generations.”

In addition to educational programs, SDAMP issues and monitors South Carolina Hobby Diver Licenses. These licenses allow divers to collect artifacts and fossils from state waters on a recreational, non-commercial basis, provided the licensees report the items and the locations of their finds. They must also report any shipwreck or underwater structure they encounter on their dives.

“The information the divers provide through their reports, about the artifacts and the submerged archaeological sites they are finding, is invaluable in helping us manage these resources,” Lora said.

“Perhaps three-quarters of the known shipwrecks in state waters have come from information reported to us by sport divers.”

For more information about the program, you can contact Lora at (843) 762-6105 or at hollanlk@gwm.sc.edu.