

Director's Note

By Charles Cobb
SCIAA Director

Legacy is the magazine of the SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina. *Legacy* was published three times in 2007.

Charles Cobb, Director
Nena Powell Rice, Chief Editor, Layout, Design, and Production

Editorial Board

Christopher F. Amer, State Underwater Archaeologist
Christopher Öhm Clement, Applied Research
Charles Cobb, Director
Chester B. DePratter, Research
Adam King, Savannah River Archaeological Research Program
Jonathan Leader, State Archaeologist
Carl Naylor, Maritime Research, Charleston Office (Copy Editor)
Nena Powell Rice, Archaeological Research Trust, Archaeological Society of South Carolina
Steven D. Smith, Applied Research

Archaeological Research Trust Board of Trustees

William A. Behan, Chair, Callawassie Island, SC
Edward Kendall, MD, Vice-Chair, Eastover, SC
Nena Powell Rice, Secretary, Columbia, SC
David G. Hodges, Past Chair, Columbia, SC
Charles Cobb, *Ex-Officio*, Columbia, SC
Priscilla Harrison Beale, Columbia, SC
George Bell, Greenville, SC
Gillespie G. "Lep" Boyd, Jr., Georgetown, SC
David N. Brown, Lexington, SC
Russell Burns, Laurens, SC
Jonathan Leader, Columbia, SC
B. Lindsay Crawford, Columbia, SC
Antony C. Harper, Greenville, SC
Ira Miller, Columbia, SC
Bob Mimms, Pawleys Island, SC
Francis H. Neuffer, MD, Columbia, SC
Charles Peery, M.D., Mt. Pleasant, SC
William H. Sullivan, Callawassie Island, SC
J. Walter Wilkinson, Darlington, SC

Administrative Staff to ART Board
Nena Powell Rice (nrice@sc.edu)

SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology
University of South Carolina
1321 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29208
(803) 799-1963 / 777-8170 / 777-8172
(803) 254-1338, FAX
<http://www.cla.sc.edu/sciaa>



It is with considerable humility and pride that I assume the reins as the Director of SCIAA effective July 1. Although many in the readership may know my work or me, there may still be many who do not, so a brief bio is in order. To go way back in time, I'm not sure what really pushed me in this direction, but my first exciting encounter with southeastern archaeology occurred in northeastern Arkansas. There, my Cub Scout troop visited the Hampson Museum, at that time a privately owned facility that housed a fabulous collection from the Nodena site, a late Mississippian village. Not too many years after that my family lived about six years overseas because of my father's career in the U.S. Air Force. The opportunity as a teenager to visit such places as Pompeii and Rome certainly sparked my interest in the past, leading me to pursue an undergraduate degree in anthropology at the University of Arizona.

Following graduation, I spent nearly a year back in my home state working for the Arkansas Archeological Survey, a move which cemented my decision to pursue a career in archaeology (despite working at Toltec Mounds outside of Little Rock during the infamous summer of 1980, when temperatures surged above 100 degrees for about 30 days straight. I still don't think I've properly re-hydrated). I then moved on to Southern Illinois University at Carbondale where my interests focused on Mississippian-period archaeology. After receiving my PhD, I worked for New South and then Garrow & Associates, both Atlanta firms, for about 18 months.

It's during this period that I directed the Phase II archaeology related to the replacement of the Mt. Pleasant Bridge in Charleston. This was soon after hurricane Hugo struck, and I still remember my astonishment at seeing church spires scattered on the ground. Upon moving to South Carolina this June, I had my first chance to see the soaring Ravenel Bridge that now connects Charleston and Mt. Pleasant. While there may be those who miss the old bridge, I must confess that my healthy fear of heights made for some anxious moments over the water on what I remember as a very narrow and rickety structure.

The allure of a career in academia led me to the State University of New York at Binghamton, where I've been between 1990 and my return to the South this year. Despite (or because of) living in a climate where snowfall is measured in feet rather than inches, I continued to pursue my Mississippian studies, primarily in southern Illinois. The vigorous Mississippian cultures and sizable mound sites in that portion of the state reflect its very long-term southern connections. The



Charles Cobb, Director of SCIAA.
(SCIAA photo)