

# Director's Note

By Charles Cobb  
SCIAA Director

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In "This Land is Your Land," Woody Guthrie's lyrics evoked the geographic and cultural diversity that makes up the United States. I have found in my six months (already!) at SCIAA that South Carolina is a microcosm of this diversity. Through Archaeological Research Trust (ART) Board meetings and other venues, I've had the occasion to sample a wide spectrum of South Carolina, ranging from the Piedmont to the Lowcountry, and from swamps to sand ridges. Likewise, my remedial catch-up reading program aimed at elevating my knowledge of South Carolina history has led me on a fascinating tour through Gullah coastal cultures, Cherokee villages, and indigo plantations.

It's no wonder that South Carolina archaeologists are such a dedicated lot, and I'm taking great pleasure in becoming acquainted with the many directions of research being pursued in the state. Within SCIAA itself, we have recently made our biannual R. L. Stephenson research awards. The five winning proposals were an enlightening peek at what our own archaeologists are doing (as reported in this volume on page 17) on a wide range of issues, from Paleoindian adaptations to events surrounding the American Revolutionary War.

This fall season has been highlighted by two major events in archaeology. First, the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual South Carolina Archaeology Month culminated in the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Archaeology Field Day at Historic Brattonsville, and was by all accounts a big success. This year the theme was "Prehistoric and Historic Foodways." Alas, I missed the field day due to a business trip that had

been on the books, but I certainly plan to be in attendance next year. Annual archaeology celebrations are held throughout many of the 50 states, and they represent one of the most important forums that we have for public outreach. I'm pleased that SCIAA has taken such an active role in this event through the years, to complement the contributions of other archaeologists throughout the state. Nena Powell Rice at SCIAA deserves hearty thanks for her continued efforts to spearhead Archaeology Month in South Carolina, and I also have to congratulate the folks at Brockington and Associates for a great poster design, cleverly entitled "We Are What They Ate."

A second key event occurred at the December 7, 2007 meeting of the Council of South Carolina Professional Archaeologists (COSCAPA). Following the business part of the meeting, a number of representatives from various South Carolina Native American Tribes visited the membership to bring us up to date on issues their groups are facing, and to offer ideas about



Charles Cobb, Director of SCIAA.  
(SCIAA photo)