

I approach this assignment with respect and enthusiasm. In my more than 30 years at the University of South Carolina, I have come to know well the work of the Institute and its remarkable staff. In the past few days, I have been meeting with all of the SCIAA staff and coming to an understanding of the truly outstanding work that is being done by the Institute and its collaborators. Over the next few months the Institute will face some very important challenges as it prepares for the next phase of its future. We are all excited by discussions about moving into a new and much larger building that would accommodate all of the Institute's collections and make them more accessible to all South Carolinians, as well as providing more and better space for curation, research, and developing new programs. The search for a director will be a defining moment, as we intend to bring to South Carolina some of the most outstanding people in the field and from them choose a person to help us chart the future of SCIAA.

I do not come to SCIAA as a professional archaeologist. I do bring to this brief assignment a great deal of administrative experience in a wide variety of areas, from serving as Associate Dean of three colleges, to chairing the Department of Theatre, Speech, and Dance, managing the University's Bicentennial celebration, and a long period as Associate Director of the University's institute for Southern Studies. I also bring a life long interest in and commitment to the study of South Carolina and southern history and culture.

One of the reasons I was pleased to accept this assignment was because I believe that the Institute and the University have come to a real moment of opportunity in their

long relationship. The new College of Arts and Sciences has brought together into new collaborations disciplines that had grown in separately for many years. The Institute should be a key player in the growth of many of these collaborations. The Institute has long worked closely with the Department of Anthropology. The Department is now beginning a new Ph.D. program that will bring to campus some of the brightest students in the nation who will be able to learn and grow working with the Institute while contributing to its research efforts. The Institute has long had an outstanding underwater and maritime archaeology program. While it has collaborated in the past with the Marine Science program and the University's Baruch Center, under the new structure such collaborations will be strongly encouraged and fostered.

This year the University began a very aggressive program of faculty hiring with many of them to target building interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary collaboration. I believe that over the next decade the Institute will find itself to be the nexus of new and exciting research involving scientists and scholars from a variety of disciplines.

The Institute has long done all of those things that great universities are supposed to do—critical and cutting edge research, outstanding public programs and service, and teaching—with both university students and thousands of citizens who are interested in and committed to the study of their own history and culture. I am delighted to have this opportunity to work with an outstanding staff at a moment when the Institute steps off into its future.

All of us deeply appreciate the hard work and sacrifices Jon Leader

has made in carrying out his responsibilities with the Institute for the past two years. Jon's patience, good humor, and wonderful cookies sustained the Institute as his competence, commitment, and dedication carried it forward.

I look forward to talking with many of you over the next few months. Please e-mail me at tcompton@gwm.sc.edu or call me at 803 777-8170.

Clovis in the Southeast Conference, October 26-29, 2005

The Clovis in the Southeast conference was held in Columbia over a four-day period in late October ending with a field trip to the Topper and Big Pine Tree sites in Allendale County, South Carolina. Nearly 400 people attended with approximately equal participation by professional archaeologists and members of the public. The conference featured two days of scientific paper presentations by leading scholars on Clovis and pre-Clovis archaeological sites in the Southeast. A large exhibit of Paleoamerican artifacts were on display contributed by both professional institutions and privately owned collections. Thursday evening Dr. Dennis Stanford at the Smithsonian Institution presented in detail his views of how the European Solutrean culture may have ultimately been the origin of North American's Clovis culture. The Topper site was featured in two presentations by Albert Goodyear documenting the dense Clovis occupation on the hilltop as well as the deep pre-Clovis evidence found well down in the ancient Pleistocene terrace. A controversial paper presented by Richard Firestone dealt with evidence for a comet impact event, which may have occurred at the end of the Clovis culture potentially contributing to its demise, as well as certain animal species. On Saturday, buses took attendees down to Clariant where a tour was conducted of the Topper and Big Pine Tree sites. The 2006 Allendale Paleoindian Expedition will be offered May 2-June 3. Registration to participate in the Topper site dig will begin January 1, 2006. Please contact Al Goodyear at goodyear@sc.edu or (803) 777-8170.