

# Chucalissa Anoachi

C.H. Nash Museum  
Chucalissa  
THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MEMPHIS



Volume 4. No. 1, January 2010 - 1987 Indian Village Dr., Memphis TN 38109 - (901) 785-3160 - <http://www.memphis.edu/chucalissa>  
Hours of Operation - Tuesday through Saturday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM; Sunday, 1:00 - 5:00 PM; Closed Monday.



## *Chucalissa loves our Volunteers!*

*Our first Volunteer Day in 2010*

*Saturday, January 16, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM*

The C.H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa would like to sincerely thank all of the volunteers who dedicated their time, knowledge, and energy to the Museum in 2009. Our volunteers enabled us to hold successful events such as the Southeastern Indian Heritage Festival, provided assistance in processing thousands of artifacts, and helped with our increasing numbers of large school groups!

As the new year approaches, the need for volunteers in museums across the United States is stronger than ever. The American Association of Museums reports that the average number of paid employees in a U.S. museum is 7, but the average number of volunteers is 59! We encourage volunteers, both old and new, to consider the museum's many opportunities to volunteer in 2010! Our next Volunteer Days will be held on Saturday, January 16. Volunteer opportunities will also be open for special events like our annual Relic Run, held in March. Thanks again for all of your support! Contact Rachael South at 901-785-3160 or [resouth@memphis.edu](mailto:resouth@memphis.edu) for more information.



## *.....from the Director*

The New Year is starting off with a bang at the C.H. Nash Museum! We welcome **Sherye Price-Fairbanks**, our newest graduate assistant, to the Museum. Sherye is a former educator and interpreter for Memphis City Schools now enrolled as a Graduate Student in History and in the Museum Studies Certificate Program at the U of M. She will use her background to help in programming for our increasing number of school group visitors.

Our upgrade of **School Group activities** is complete. In addition to new programs on Musical Heritage, the Prehistory of Native Americans in the Midsouth, and additional craft activities, all of our offerings now are age-graded and tied to State Curriculum Standards. Download the Teacher Packet on our website ([www.memphis.edu/chucalissa](http://www.memphis.edu/chucalissa)) for more information.

Our **C.H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa Facebook Fan Page** is growing. We will continue to use this on-line resource to provide up-to-date information on all things Native American and Archaeological at the Museum and throughout the Midsouth.

Our **Family Day** activities continue on **Saturdays at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM** throughout the year. The approximately two-hour activity consists of a program on Native American Music, a tour of the hands-on archaeology lab, a scavenger hunt through the museum, and an opportunity to make a pottery bowl to take home.

As always please do not hesitate to contact me with your comments, suggestions or questions at [rconnolly@memphis.edu](mailto:rconnolly@memphis.edu) or 901-785-3160.

*- Robert Connolly*

Our Mission - As an integral component of the University of Memphis, the mission of the C.H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa is to protect and interpret the Chucalissa archaeological site for the benefit of the University community and the public, to provide high quality educational experiences on past and present Native American cultures of the Mid-South, and to pursue new knowledge of these cultures through research as part of the University's explicitly multicultural and multiethnic educational orientation.

## More and More To See and Do!

Over the past three years, the C.H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa has undergone many changes to create and foster the best experience possible for our visitors. Here are some of the highlights of those changes.

### Hands-On Archaeology Lab:

In 2008 staff and graduate assistants at the museum came together to turn a cluttered and unused laboratory into a core exhibit that provides all visitors with immediate interactive access to archaeological methods and interpretations. Since then, the lab has been expanded and upgraded several times in order to be as accessible and engaging as possible. And we have more upgrades planned for 2010!

### Representation of American Indian communities:

In late 2007 Museum staff and representatives from the Mississippi Band of Choctaw began discussing ways in which contemporary American Indian voices and stories could be used to tell the history of American Indian communities at Chucalissa. The results of those discussions include a Choctaw Heritage exhibit, banners that describe Choctaw culture and history, and a representation of Choctaw history at the Chucalissa site. In 2008 the discussion of representation was expanded to include the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma. These discussions resulted in the installation of a traveling exhibit on Chickasaw history in our auditorium, and two exhibits in our main hall highlighting different aspects of the Chickasaw Nation's Culture.

### Arboretum and Nature Trail:

In 2008 the Chucalissa site received Tennessee State certification as an arboretum through the efforts of the Southwind Garden Club. An initial arboretum guide was developed, and museum staff fostered a partnership with the Southwind Garden Club, who help to maintain our landscape. In 2009, our nature trail was connected with trails in T.O. Fuller State Park. Now visitors may easily hike the combined 6.5 miles of trails through both upland and wetland environments.

The connection of the nature trail between Chucalissa and T.O. Fuller State Park serves as an example for a key focus for our Museum in the coming years. We hope to work with T.O. Fuller State Park and the surrounding communities to foster partnerships that better engage the Museum and community with one another. Chucalissa is working on these partnerships in order to develop educational programming and exhibits that reflect a complete history of the cultural heritage of the Chucalissa site. Be sure to check in with us in the coming months as new exhibits and opportunities are created!

