



Volume 4. No. 9, September 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.



Student Participants (back row) Tabatha Barlow, Erica Beasley; (middle row) Brian Bradley, Jasmine Morrison, Denzel Flenorl, Davarius Burton, Gerrod Allen; (front row) Angel Conway, Ashlee Banks.

The African American Cultural Heritage in Southwest Memphis

This summer, nine area high school students created and installed a new permanent exhibit at the C.H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa. The multi-media display traces the African American experience in the region from the 1800s to the present day. Join us as we celebrate the students' accomplishment!

Premiere & Reception

from

12:00 - 2:00 PM,

Saturday, September 11, 2010

The C.H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa

1987 Indian Village Dr.

(near T.O. Fuller State Park)

for more information: 901-785-3160



. . . . from the Director

As we head into the Labor Day weekend, the temperature is beginning to drop but the tempo of activity is picking up at Chucalissa. We continue to have an excellent turnout for our monthly Saturday Volunteer Day. At the most recent Volunteer Saturday, we launched the photographic digitizing project. When going through some of the black and white prints, volunteer Heather Baddley, a member of the Cherokee Nation, spotted a photo of her dancing in the Chucalissa plaza some 20 years ago! Our next Volunteer Day is set for **September 18 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM**. Ron Brister will continue his presentation exploring the types of lithic artifacts volunteers are processing.

And speaking of volunteers, we will hold our Annual Volunteer Appreciation and Friends of Chucalissa dinner on **September 11 from 5:30 - 7:30 PM** at the Museum. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Rachael South (901-785-3160, ext. 12) to be certain we have plenty of Central Barbeque on hand for all.

This morning I arrived at the Museum about 7:30 AM and did my weekly walk along our nature trail to be certain all is in order. The squash in our Three Sisters garden are doing quite well, as is the corn. The shaded nature trail was filled with the sounds of birds and the sights of a slumbering forest seeming to awaken after the record breaking heat of the summer months. Although tempted to turn right on the connector to the 6 miles of the T.O. Fuller State Park trail system, I made the quick half-mile loop back to the Museum - but still, a great way to start the day.

As always please do not hesitate to contact me with your comments, suggestions or questions at rcnnolly@memphis.edu or 901-785-3160.

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.

Museum Welcomes Graduate Assistants and Interns for the Fall

A tremendous benefit of the C.H. Nash Museum's relationship with the University of Memphis comes in the form of Interns and Graduate Assistants. These students help staff our facility and create many of the new programs and exhibits we have to offer. Our Fall 2010 group will surely continue that tradition, and here they are:

Graduate assistant **LaKenya Smith** is a first year graduate student in the Department of Anthropology and the Museum Studies Certificate Program. LaKenya worked part-time and volunteered at Chucalissa for the past three years. As a GA her project focus will be to follow-up with the development of our newly installed African American Cultural Heritage exhibit that premieres on September 11.

Graduate Assistant **Lauren Huber** is a first year graduate student in Art History with a focus in Egyptology. She is also a student in the Museum Studies Certificate Program. With an interest in collections preservation and conservation, Lauren will update our Museum's Collections Management Policy to assure we are following the best practices in the industry.

Samantha Gibbs is returning for her 4th semester as a Graduate Assistant at Chucalissa. Sam will graduate from the University of Memphis this December with an M.A. in Anthropology and a Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies. For her degree practicum Sam was the Coordinator for the African American Cultural Heritage Project that was funded by the Strengthening Communities Grant Initiative.

Curtis McCoy is a first year Graduate Student in the Department of Earth Sciences with a research interest in the prehistoric use of regional landscapes in North America. Curtis' work at the Museum is part of a three-year project funded by the Provost's Office to re-inventory archaeological collections currently curated by the University of Memphis.

Finally, **Natalye Tate**, a second year Graduate Student in the Department of Anthropology, is returning for her third semester as a GA at the Museum. Natalye's research focus centers on human rights advocacy work. She brings her previous archaeological experience from the University of Oklahoma to her role as the Coordinator for the archaeological collections re-inventory project funded by the Provost's Office.

We also welcome several Interns for the Fall Semester:

Emily Neal and **Scott Hadley** are both Undergraduates in the Anthropology Department. They will work jointly on a project to develop exhibits using a several thousand piece stone tool



Fall 2010 Graduate Assistants (left to right) Curtis McCoy, Natalye Tate, LaKenya Smith, Sam Gibbs, and Lauren Huber meet for orientation meeting at the new University Center.

surface collection donated to the C.H. Nash Museum by Robert Ford of Crittendon County, Arkansas. Emily and Scott will develop both virtual on-line and hands-on museum exhibits to educate visitors on the difference in form and function of artifacts often simply referred to as "arrowheads."

Brittany Sloan is a Senior Undergraduate in Anthropology whose internship initiates the photographic digitizing project at the C.H. Nash Museum. Presently, we curate many thousands of black and white prints, 35 mm slides, black and white negatives, and digital images taken over the past 50 years. We are keenly interested in not just digitizing these materials for preservation purposes, but also to allow greater public access. By researching current best practices and examining similar project at other museums, Brittany will develop the procedures to launch this long-term project at Chucalissa.

Finally, **Megan Keener**, also a Senior Undergraduate in Anthropology, is completing her internship by compiling an electronic database for the Museum library. This project is critically important to assure public access to our research holdings. Megan also plays an important role in the maintenance of our herb garden and our newly launched medicinal plant sanctuary.

In addition to the special projects noted above, all interns and graduate assistants play a pivotal role in serving our visitors through guided tours and programs. We are very pleased to live into our mission as an integral component of the University of Memphis. University students are able to benefit in their education process from the tremendous resources available at the C.H. Nash Museum and the Chucalissa site. At the same time, the Museum and Site benefit from the student contributions. A mutually beneficial and growing relationship, to be sure!