

Archaeologist shares insight into American-Indian cultures

Louisiana State professor speaks on artifacts found in Southeast

BY ALLYSON BIRD
THE GAMECOCK

A Louisiana State University archaeologist spoke Friday at USC about the discovery of 4,000-year-old shell rings off South Carolina's coast.

Rebecca Saunders, associate curator of anthropology at the Museum of Natural Science and adjunct professor of geology and anthropology at LSU, spoke at Gambrell Hall on Friday and was the featured speaker at the 29th annual Conference of South Carolina Archaeology, held Saturday in the Capstone Conference room.

The shell rings she has studied are places where ancient cultures "gathered seasonally to perform ceremonies, exchange information, select mates and to feast," Saunders said Friday.

Tools, bones, pottery and other evidence were left behind by these cultures, which Saunders dated as older than the 4,000 years radiocarbon testing has revealed. These artifacts, often made of shells, give the rings their name.

According to Saunders, these gathering American Indians left remnants of their festivities behind that help explain their culture.

"The frat guys on our campus take the beer cans and pile them up. It's the same phenomenon," she said.

Saunders said many links can be made between the creators of these rings and modern culture.

"Around LSU, we talk a lot about politicians having an 'edi-

rice complex,'" she said. "The desire for monumental architecture is very pervasive in society." She said monumental architecture is the manifestation of power.

Because of these structures, Saunders thinks the cultures she has studied were more advanced than previously thought.

Saunders said she studied mounds along the Southeastern coast, including those on Edisto Island, which illustrate activities from trade to burial.

At such sites as Poverty Point, a prehistoric American-Indian settlement in what is now Louisiana, Saunders said the mounds yield evidence of the beginning of trade.

According to Saunders, about 30 mounds exist off the coasts of Florida, Georgia and South Carolina that belonged to several distinct cultures.

The rings were not only created for feasting but also by feasting,

as the Native Americans constructed the rings with the food remaining after their ceremonies.

Saunders named two categories of feasting: celebratory and competitive. Celebratory feasting was simply a festive event, but in competitive feasting, certain participants would come to manipulate the gatherings to their own advantage.

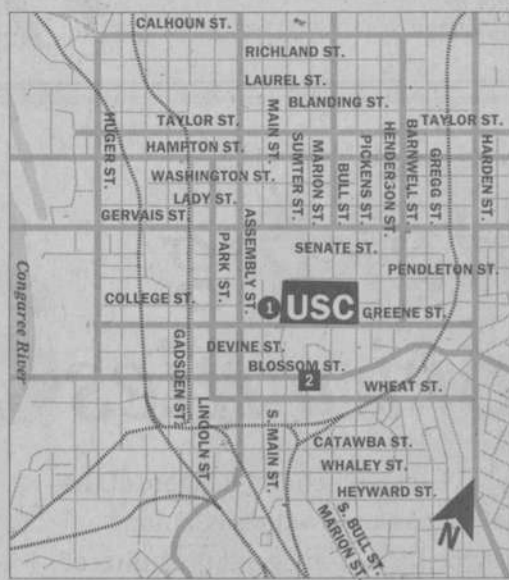
Citing one theory, Saunders said, "feasting, which turns into competitive feasting, is the engine for cultural evolution."

In studying the sites of the feasts, Saunders finds the shell mounds to be a typical example of human life.

"They did what folks do whenever they come together — gossip, dance, check folks out and eat. That's what we do in Louisiana," she said.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockudesk@hotmail.com

POLICE REPORT



These reports are taken directly from the USC Police Department. Compiled by Wendy Jeffcoat.

Thursday, February 20

1 MALICIOUS INJURY TO PERSONAL PROPERTY, S-LOT, BURGER KING, 104 COLLEGE AND MAIN STREETS.

The victim said someone broke out the right passenger-side window of his vehicle. He said nothing appeared to be missing at the time. Estimated damage:

\$150. Reporting officer: C. Taylor.

2 SIMPLE ASSAULT, EAST QUAD, 1400 BLOSSOM ST.

The victim said Matthew Thomas placed his hands on her and threatened her. Reporting officer: Nu Beza.

Victims' families visit R.I. nightclub

Death toll rises to 97 after body discovered in charred rubble

BY MATT APUZZO
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEST WARWICK, R.I. (AP) — For days, they've lived with the video images of their relatives jammed in the doorway of a burning nightclub, many screaming in terror as they struggled in vain to break free.

On Sunday, for the first time, the parents, siblings and children of the dozens of victims who couldn't escape were allowed to walk up to the charred rubble of The Station nightclub to pray and say goodbye.

Their visit came as the death toll from the tragedy was raised to 97 after the governor announced that yet another body had been pulled from amid the debris.

They stepped off buses into the rain outside the club, where firefighters had left dozens of roses for them to hold or place at a makeshift memorial, already piled high with cards and flowers.

At least one person was overcome and taken to an ambulance.

"These families are going through such a tragedy, such an emotional odyssey right now, and their hearts are broken, and they still don't know in many cases whether their loved one has been positively ID'd," said Gov. Don Carcieri, who met with the families several times in the days after a rock band's pyrotechnics turned The Station into a raging inferno.

On Sunday, he ordered a no-fly zone within five miles of the site to give the families privacy to mourn.

"The agony they've been going through for the last 48 hours almost has turned into what you'd expect, the kinds of questions: 'Why did this happen? Did it have to happen? What caused it to happen? Did some individuals cause it to happen?'" Carcieri said. "We're asking all the same questions."

The band was just getting into its first song Thursday night when sparks from the pyrotechnics ignited foam tiles in the ceiling and quickly spread flames over the crowd of more than 300. Fire officials said the entire building was engulfed in three minutes.

Little remains of the one-story wooden nightclub today but ashes.

Against one partial wall lean bouquets of flowers, stuffed animals and American flags that police had gathered from mourners, who had been kept behind a chain-link fence several yards from the site. Amid the growing makeshift memorial are high-school pictures, poems, and even an unopened can of Budweiser.

James Morris, 36, of Warwick, stood outside the fence where a steady stream of mourners stopped Sunday to pay their respects. He said he was supposed

to attend the concert Thursday, but didn't feel like going out that night. Six of his friends went without him and haven't been heard from since.

"It's unbelievable," he said, hugging his two sons. "It's just awful. They were all young guys in their 20s, early 30s."

A memorial service was planned Sunday night, described as "prayer unplugged," and mourners were encouraged to bring acoustic guitars to honor the victims.

Forty-two of the 97 people killed in the blaze had been identified by Sunday afternoon, Carcieri said. He said 80 survivors remained hospitalized, about two dozen of them in critical condition.

Williams

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

roommate for two years.

Williams had a penchant for practical jokes, Stokes said. "He would pass you a note as he was leaving to and from the organ to the piano that said, 'By the way, you're supposed to be singing the offertory today,'" Stokes said. "It wasn't true, but he loved to give you a little bit of anxiety. He loved to laugh."

Jason Flores, Carolina Alive president, had to sing for a wedding with Williams. The night before, they still hadn't practiced. Flores said Williams called him and said, "Hey, you slacker, I knew you'd call back tonight, and you are a big slacker, slacker, slacker."

From then on, Williams called Flores "President Slacker" and Jason "Slacker" Flores.

"We always called him Chip Daddy," said Renee Madden, a second-year music student.

Williams handed out nicknames spontaneously; even the Carolina Alive roster lists Flores and others by their nicknames.

But Williams was known as much for his warmth as for his sense of humor.

"This past month, my grandfather passed away," said Allison Skipper, a third-year public-relations student. "When it happened, the first thing I thought was that we had a retreat that weekend and I had to teach choreography. ... And he said that everything was OK."

Williams' funeral will be 11 a.m. today at Trenholm Road United Methodist Church, at 3401 Trenholm Road.

"He can't be replaced," Wilson said. "We'll get another organist and another really fine musician, but there will never be another Chip. He's one of a kind."

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockudesk@hotmail.com

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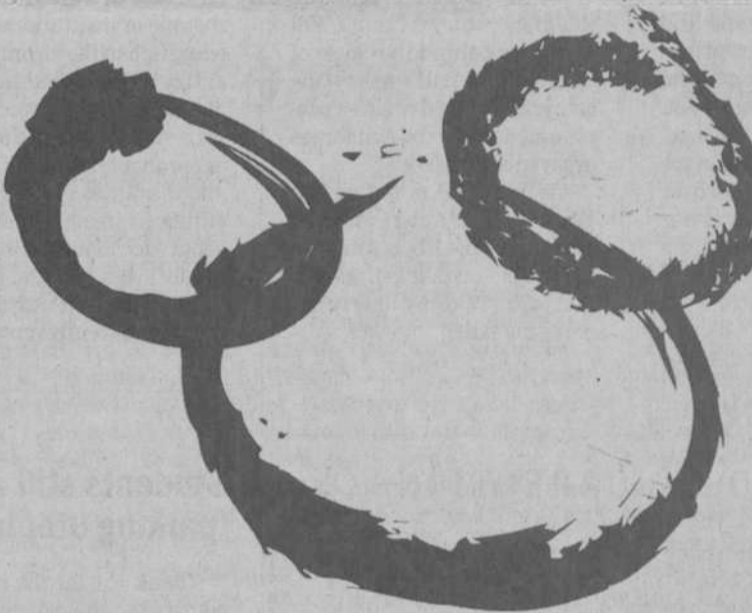
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Black History Month Events

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">February 24</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RH Ballroom 7pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">February 25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Movie Night</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Soulfood</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RH Theater</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Carolina Production</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">February 27</p> <p style="font-style: italic;">History of Jazz featuring Skipp Pearson and Jazzology</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RH Ballroom 7pm</p> <p style="font-style: italic;">Skipp Pearson will explain the origins of Jazz music and perform live.</p>	




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