

Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Archaeological Association University of Mississippi | March 29-31, 2019

Friday March 29

Reception at the Burns Belfry Museum and Multi-cultural Center, 6:00-9:00 pm

Join us for a reception at the location of an historic church that was organized by freed African Americans who settled in the part of Oxford known as “Freedmen Town” after the Civil War. The former church building, erected in 1910, is a Mississippi Landmark that is Oxford/Lafayette County’s first community heritage center. The Burns Belfry Museum is located at 710 East Jackson Avenue (<http://www.burns-belfry.com>). Parking is free and in front of the building. Hors d’oeuvres and drinks (water, soda, and beer) will be provided.

Saturday March 30

Paper Presentations, 129 Lamar Hall, 8:30 am-4:00 pm

Lamar Hall is located on the Grove on the University of Mississippi campus between the Inn at Ole Miss and Farley Hall. The address is 615 Grove Loop. Parking is free (no permit required) and will be available on the north and west sides of the building (the Grove is located south of Lamar). The doors to Lamar Hall will be open at 8:00 am. We will break from 11:40-1:20 so that folks can get lunch on their own. A representative from the University of Mississippi Press will be available in the lobby during the day selling archaeology-related titles. We will also have a display of the university’s archaeology collections in Lamar 114 open during the day.

Business Meeting, 129 Lamar Hall, 4:15-5:15 pm

Dinner and Keynote Address, Lamar Hall First Floor Lobby, 7:00-9:00 pm

This year’s keynote speaker will be H. Edwin Jackson, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Southern Mississippi. The title of his presentation will be *One Archaeological Journey*. This event will be catered by Taylor Grocery (You must have pre-registered for dinner. No dinners will be available for sale at the meeting).

Sunday March 31

Guided Tour of the Batesville Mounds, 9 am until around noon

Jay Johnson and Nikki Mattson will provide a guided tour of the Batesville Mounds (<http://trails.mdah.ms.gov/mmt/batesville/index.html>) which are now preserved as a park by the City of Batesville (<http://batesville.panolams.com/batesville-mounds/>). Meet in the parking lot behind Lamar Hall to depart at 9:00 am to caravan to the site. The site is located about 30 minutes west of Oxford just off of I-55, so it will be a good departure point for heading back home after the tour.

Saturday Schedule

8:00	Registration
8:30	Welcome
8:40	Jeff Mitchem , <i>Fertilizing the Fields at the Parkin Site in Northeast Arkansas</i>
9:00	Bo Pitts , <i>Archaeology at the Carson Mounds Site</i>
9:40	Ben Davis , <i>The Austin Site: Changing use of Space in the Early-Middle Mississippian</i>
10:00	Aileen Ajootian , <i>Finding Their Way: Late Classical Votive Reliefs at Ancient Corinth</i>
10:20	Break
10:40	Jacqueline DiBiasie-Sammons , <i>The Charcoal Graffiti of Campania: New Archival Research</i>
11:00	Bennie Roberts , <i>Anatomy of a Debitage Flake Feature at the Bob Mallouf Site (22CP858)</i>
11:20	Cindy Carter-Davis , <i>Disaster Archaeology on the Mississippi Gulf Coast: Post-Katrina FEMA Efforts in the Three Coastal Counties</i>
11:40	Lunch
1:20	Nicholas Glass and Jessica Kowalski , <i>Old Methods and New Interpretations: Mississippian Mound Center Spatial Organization in the Southern Yazoo Basin</i>
1:40	Jessica Kowalski , <i>Late Mississippian Ceramics, Ceremonialism, and Tradition: A Ceramic Functional Analysis</i>
2:00	Brian Flynt , <i>Using Refuse Disposal Patterning Methods to Discern Site Structure on an Antebellum Backwoods Plantation Site in Mississippi's Pine Hills</i>
2:20	Jay Johnson , <i>Archaeology of the Batesville Mounds</i>
2:40	Break
3:00	Nikki Mattson , <i>Community Connections: Public Outreach and Education at the Batesville Mounds Site</i>
3:20	John W. O'Hear, Vincas P. Steponaitis, and Ashley A. Peles , <i>Highlights of the 2017 and 2018 Seasons at the Feltus Mounds</i>
3:40	Jessica Fleming Crawford , <i>Efforts to Preserve the Last of One of the First Plantations in Mississippi</i>
4:15-5:15	Business Meeting
7:00-9:00	Dinner and Keynote Address Ed Jackson , <i>One Archaeological Journey</i>

Abstracts of Papers

Jeffrey M. Mitchem

Fertilizing the Fields at the Parkin Site in Northeast Arkansas

One of the questions that we are often asked by visitors (especially children!) at Parkin Archeological State Park is "Where did they go to the bathroom?" We estimate that between 1,000 and 2,000 people lived in the 17-acre site at any one time, and with that many people they had to have some sort of rules or customs to regulate sewage disposal. Despite extensive excavations at the site, we have never found any convincing evidence of latrine areas, and to my knowledge, such evidence has not been found at other Mississippian sites in this region. The most logical answer is that excrement was probably used in the agricultural fields as fertilizer. The fields would have also been a good place to dispose of ash from fire hearths, since it would provide needed potassium to the plants.

Brian Flynt

Using Refuse Disposal Patterning Methods to Discern Site Structure on an Antebellum Backwoods Plantation Site in Mississippi's Pine Hills

Archaeologists investigating historic backwoods sites of ephemeral log construction in Mississippi, from farmsteads to plantations, face unique challenges when confronting issues of site structure. Scant documentary evidence, lack of structural foundations, and the removal of structural elements all encumber attempts to discern site structure. This paper examines the site formation processes at work within the various stages of systemic development of a historic backwoods house lot, and seeks to combine various refuse disposal patterning methods into an archaeological model for use in Mississippi's Pine Hills.

Bo Pitts

Archaeology at the Carson Mounds Site

John Connaway retired Dec. 31, 2018 after working for over 50 years with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. During this tenure, he worked continuously at the Carson Mounds for over 10 years. This is a report of some of his findings at Carson.

Ben Davis

The Austin Site: Changing use of Space in the Early-Middle Mississippian

The Early-Middle Mississippian Austin Site in the upper Yazoo Basin contains the remains of approximately 50 houses, two separate stockade post rows, a single mound, and numerous pit features. It was occupied during a period of transition toward a more institutionalized inequality. I am investigating this transition by creating and analyzing a site map in GIS of these culturally significant features and deposits. This paper will present the preliminary results of this work and

allow me to interpret the changing use of space as well as the changing social organization at Austin within the context of the broader Yazoo Basin region.

Aileen Ajootian

Finding Their Way: Late Classical Votive Reliefs at Ancient Corinth

Over one hundred years of excavation at ancient Corinth have produced quantities of marble sculpture, but Archaic and Classical material is rare. One exception is a group of Classical votive reliefs. At least 90 examples include whole panels and many pieces. One fragment may date to the late fifth century B.C., but most are probably fourth century or early third. These dedications illuminate a period in Corinth's history underrepresented by buildings and marble sculpture. Types include banquet reliefs, equestrian scenes, cave reliefs, and just a few where devotees approach recognizable divinities. As for findspots, the marbles come from all over the site. Typically sculpture at Corinth is not found in situ but in a secondary or even tertiary setting. Some contexts reveal how marble votive reliefs were *not* used at Corinth. From the Asklepieion, northeast of the central Forum at Corinth, for example, only three votive reliefs have been recovered, even though they are common offerings at Asklepios sanctuaries elsewhere.

Between the 1930's and 1970's, over twenty-five fragmentary votive reliefs were recovered from trenches in the center of the site. Depending on the excavator, the findspots bear different names: Agora Southeast, Agora Southwest, Forum Southwest and South Stoa. A closer look at field notebooks reveals that many of these marbles can be located more precisely in late strata—middle Byzantine or later—over the South Stoa, a fourth-century B.C.E. installation on the south side of the Forum. Its construction absorbed the east wall of a little fifth-century precinct, the so-called Stele Shrine, at the west end of the Forum. It was built over an early sixth century structure identified as a storeroom because of transport amphorae in situ beneath its floor. The Stele Shrine continued to function for about a century, going out of use in the late third century B.C.E. While no votive reliefs come from this precinct, many fragments have turned up nearby and it is possibly that along with terracotta banqueters, horse figurines and other material, marble plaques were also dedicated there.

The deposition of fragmentary fourth century votive reliefs chiefly in Byzantine contexts in the Forum at Corinth suggests that the panels were removed from their original settings and broken up, but that the pieces remained available for use in nearby constructions many centuries after their primary use. The later history of some votive reliefs at Corinth may point to their first setting and function, but also to the later story of marble fragments as construction material filtered through a variety of later contexts.

Jacqueline DiBiasie-Sammons

The Charcoal Graffiti of Campania: New Archival Research

Graffiti in the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum, Italy were typically produced by inscribing into the wall plaster using a sharp instrument like a stylus or nail. In addition to these inscribed graffiti, several others were drawn onto the wall plaster using charcoal. Charcoal

inscriptions were likely ubiquitous in ancient Pompeii, Herculaneum, and the villas nearby, although almost none survive today. For example, at Herculaneum, 40 of the nearly 400 graffiti were produced using charcoal, though only one is extant. These inscriptions give us important insights into the people who produced them and the epigraphic habit of ancient Campania.

The delicate nature of charcoal graffiti has left many of these graffiti with uncertain readings as they had already significantly degraded when they first recorded by archaeologists. Many of them were drawn by early epigraphers, specifically Matteo Della Corte, but never subsequently published. For this reason, the drawings of these graffiti made during the excavations are incredibly valuable.

In this paper, I discuss this unique genre of ancient inscription and analyze the distribution of charcoal graffiti in Herculaneum. These graffiti appear in different spaces than inscribed graffiti, both because of the way they were produced and the preservation of the site since excavation. I analyze the types of messages, which do not differ considerably from inscribed graffiti. I close by discussing my archival research on the field notebooks of Matteo Della Corte, the epigrapher who documented Herculaneum's graffiti. His sketches and drawings provide our only glimpse into the layout, handwriting, design, and visual impact of these charcoal inscriptions. This archival research allows us to reconstruct these charcoal graffiti and understand their place in the urban landscape of Herculaneum.

Bennie Roberts

Anatomy of a Debitage Flake Feature at the Bob Mallouf Site (22CP858)

The Bob Mallouf Site is an Early Woodland lithic workshop (circa 2170 BP) located in Copiah County, Mississippi. It was discovered in 2014 with some limited excavations being carried out in 2016. In early 2017, numerousdebitage flakes were encountered during the digging of a post hole at the site. Now, two years and over 10,000 flakes later, a 3D movie of the feature has been created to show its true shape and extent. This and other findings from the site will be discussed.

Cindy Carter-Davis

Disaster Archaeology on the Mississippi Gulf Coast: Post- Katrina FEMA Efforts in the Three Coastal Counties

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina adversely impacted thousands of historic resources on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. As lead Federal Agency, FEMA's response to this disaster was unprecedented and often included developing novel mitigation strategies to address these impacts. This paper briefly presents the Federal response to Katrina and the development of the Secondary Programmatic Agreement between MEMA, FEMA, MDAH, and ACHP to address the adverse effects to historic properties in the region. Results of investigations in fulfillment of that Programmatic Agreement included Phase II CRS investigations on a variety of previously recorded archaeological sites across the Mississippi Gulf Coast. These investigations resulted in advancement of the archaeological record, identification of sites eligible for listing on the National Register, and refined the chronology of those coastal archaeology sites.

Nicholas Glass and Jessica Kowalski

Old Methods and New Interpretations: Mississippian Mound Center Spatial Organization in the Southern Yazoo Basin

Large Mississippian mound centers are diverse in spatial layout and population density. Mound centers in the Southern Yazoo Basin were originally characterized as vacant ceremonial centers because they produced relatively few surface collected artifacts during the 1940s Lower Mississippi Valley Survey. Recent controlled surface collections from two major sites, Arcola (22WS516) and Magee (22SH501), offer a chance to reexamine these ideas about spatial organization and population density in this region. These sites were neither vacant, nor were they the densely occupied Mississippian villages typical of other areas in the southeast.

Jessica Kowalski

Late Mississippian Ceramics, Ceremonialism, and Tradition: A Ceramic Functional Analysis

Recent archaeological work in the Southern Yazoo Basin has produced ceramics from primary contexts with radiocarbon dates allowing for an overdue examination of activity patterning. A ceramic vessel functional analysis of discrete assemblages from fifteenth and sixteenth-century contexts at the mound centers of Arcola (22WS516) and Rolling Fork (22SH506) is employed in an attempt to understand what activities went on at these sites, tackling the murky line between domestic and ritual refuse.

Hannah Zechman, Arianna Kitchens, and Tony Boudreaux

Archaeological Research at Rowan Oak

Students from the University of Mississippi conducted archaeological investigations in 2018 at Rowan Oak, a historic house museum that was once the home of William Faulkner. This paper reviews the investigations conducted at the home as well as a Public Archaeology Day that was open to the general public. Students sought to use archaeological methods to better understand the historical context of the enslaved people living at Rowan Oak during the time the home was built and occupied by Robert Sheegog (1840 – 1872). Results of the survey were presented to the public, serving to create a larger conversation of slavery research between the university and the city of Oxford.

Jay Johnson

Archaeology of the Batesville Mounds

This paper presents an overview of archaeological research at the Batesville Mounds, a multiple-mound, Early and Middle Woodland site located near Batesville, Mississippi. The site was investigated over the course of several seasons by the author and the late Janet Ford. Part of the site was recently preserved as a park by the City of Batesville.

Nikki Mattson*Community Connections: Public Outreach and Education at the Batesville Mounds Site*

This presentation is the result of a master's thesis project that assisted the City of Batesville, Mississippi in the opening of the Batesville Mounds site as a public park on November 21, 2017. The goals of this project were to provide park planners with historical information on the pre-contact Native American occupation as well as past archaeological investigations at the site and to make recommendations for the future of the park. In order to facilitate the City in this capacity, comparable mounds sites were visited, surveys and interviews were conducted, an inventory of Batesville Mounds artifacts curated at the University of Mississippi was created, and outreach to target audiences was administered. Analysis of the surveys assessed the public's interest in visiting a mound park as well as the probability that present and future amenities would be utilized. The preliminary artifact inventory consisted of 21,555 individually counted items and 2300 bags of artifacts needing further analysis. Combining these results with information collected through site visits, interviews, and past research allowed for the development of informed recommendations for public outreach and education at the Batesville Mounds Park.

John W. O'Hear, Vincas P. Steponaitis, and Ashley A. Peles*Highlights of the 2017 and 2018 Seasons at the Feltus Mounds*

The past two summers at the Feltus Mounds in Jefferson County represented our fifth and sixth full field seasons since 2006. The focus of both recent seasons has been on the summit of Mound B, with the goal of uncovering features associated with both the uppermost (Stage 5) and penultimate (Stage 4) summits. In 2018, the crew was large enough that everyone wouldn't fit on the summit of B, so we decided to excavate more of Feature 4. This is a 5-m diameter, midden-filled, basin-shaped pit that is part of a complex of large features at the south end of the Plaza near just east of where Mound D once stood. This paper reviews what was found, how the work increased our understanding of the site's construction history, and how it is informing plans for upcoming work in 2019.

Jessica Fleming Crawford*Efforts to Preserve the Last of One of the First Plantations in Mississippi*

This presentation will discuss the importance of the Terre Blanche Concession, one of the first two plantations established by the French in Natchez, during the early 1700's. I will also review the research that has been done at the site and The Archaeological Conservancy's effort to ensure its preservation.