



# NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Spring 2008

Vol. 36, No. 1

Hurricane Katrina overshadowed the 2008 LAS meeting. Dr. Richard A. Gould, author of *Disaster Archaeology*, was the keynote speaker and many members took a tour of Katrina's devastation on Sunday, February 10. Scenes of the destruction in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans contrasted with the comfort of the meeting hotel in Metairie.



LAS Newsletter printed courtesy of  
R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates, Inc.  
New Orleans

## Awards and Recognition at the 2008 LAS Meeting



LAS outgoing president, Ellen Ibert, gives the LSU student, Dena Struchtemeyer, the Marie Standifer Award for student research.


LAS treasurer, Joesetta LeBoeuf, makes a special presentation to Maureen Downey for her years of service to the LAS as the organization's secretary.



Nathanael Heller, one of the 2008 meeting's organizers, presents a certificate of recognition to Lindsey Caldwell, of LSU, as the winner of the 2008 student paper.


LOUISIANA DIVISION OF  
**ARCHAEOLOGY**

**Louisiana Archaeology Month**  
**October 1–31, 2008**



Do you have an exciting idea or event for Archaeology Month,  
but don't have the money to make it happen?

Check out the Louisiana Passport Grant opportunities from the  
World Cultural Economic Forum at [www.wcefculture.org](http://www.wcefculture.org)!



Applicants may be individuals, organizations, institutions, businesses, or other entities interested in conducting a community event that promotes any of Louisiana's cultural disciplines during the month of October. Events may involve one activity or a series of events.

Applications are due on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> and may be for amounts between \$500-\$6,000!

For more information or assistance regarding the application form contact  
Kathleen Sarsfield at (225) 342-8200 or [ksarsfield@crt.state.la.us](mailto:ksarsfield@crt.state.la.us).

For information about Louisiana Archaeology Month contact  
Meta Pike at (225) 342-8179 or [mpike@crt.state.la.us](mailto:mpike@crt.state.la.us).

### Editor's Notes

From what I experienced and heard from others, the 2008 LAS meeting was a great success. All who were involved with organizing the meeting, especially George Riser and Nathanael Heller, did a great job. Thanks are also in order for the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH), which provided funding for our keynote speaker, Dr. Richard Gould, as well as other organizations such as the Jefferson Parish Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc., Rex Fine Foods, the McIlhenny Company, and the Community Coffee Co. Members of the LAS should also recognize that R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates, Inc. produced and organized the program for the meeting, as well as sponsored the 2008 Student Paper Competition. The session was well attended and the variety of the subjects addressed by the presentations indicates the variety and extent of archaeological research going on in the state.

Speaking of the extent of research, two items in this newsletter report on recent archaeological investigations on the grounds of the Louisiana State Capitol in Baton Rouge where Louisiana State University was located for decades before it was moved to its current spot in the late 1920s. Rob Mann, the regional archaeologist for southeast Louisiana, reports on excavations that relocated portions of the old LSU President's Residence that he conducted in the summer of 2007. Doug Wells provides a great synopsis of the monitoring efforts done by Coastal Environments, Inc. for a new chill water line placed around the current capitol grounds. CEI found not only remains of LSU era occupation, but also evidence of Civil War fortifications.

On a sadder note, I have included information about the unexpected passing of J. Richard Shenkel, the longtime archaeologist at the University of New Orleans. His work at the Big Oak Island (16OR6) and Little Oak Island (16OR7) sites provided important information about the prehistoric occupation of what is now New Orleans.

Finally, I look forward to our next LAS meeting, which will be a combined meeting with the Mississippi Archaeological Association (MAA). Experimenting with this joint meeting for the next two years, the 2009 LAS/MAA session is scheduled for Greenville, MS near the famous Winterville Mounds Site. Details about the meeting will be forthcoming in later issues of the LAS newsletter and on the website and everyone should plan on attending in order to visit one of the most interesting prehistoric sites in the Lower Mississippi Valley.

Finally, finally, thanks to Kellye Cummings for proofreading this newsletter - *Dennis Jones*

## LAS CHAPTER AND MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### Remembrance of Donita Burton

I know that all of us are sad to hear of the passing of Donita Burton. The LAS owes a great debt to her for the many years she served the LAS as secretary. She kept the Society running and never complained. Whenever something needed to be done, Donita did it, and she always did it with a smile!

When I first met Donita Burton, I thought, "What a beautiful and gracious person she is!" After associating with her in the LAS, I became aware of what an extremely competent and efficient person she was. But most important, as the years passed, I realized what a really nice person she was. Donita Burton will be missed. -Maureen Downey

### Baton Rouge Chapter-BRLAS

From Dennis Jones-President

The Baton Rouge Chapter of the LAS meets at the Bluebonnet Branch of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library at 7 pm the last Wednesday of every month, except November and December.

Our January speaker was Lindsey Caldwell who gave us a preview of the paper she gave at the state meeting: *Dental Wear and Caries in Prehistoric Skeletons from the Goldmine Site (16RI13)*.

We were very fortunate to have Dr. Brad Shaefer of the LSU Dept. of Physics and Astronomy make a presentation about archaeoastronomy from an astronomer's point of view. A large turnout with a lot of new faces heard Dr. Shaefer note the uses and abuses of archaeoastronomy for the study of the past. (And yes, Norm Davis came to meeting and provided interesting input into the discussion.)

In March, members of the BRLAS met at the Archaeology Laboratory in the Gym Armory Building to help LSU graduate student, Holley Tunkel, with the cleaning and sorting of various artifacts recovered from the L'Hermitage Plantation site (16AN24). Holly is excited about having found what she thinks is the plantation's hospital that would have tended to the ills of the workforce.

Our April meeting will have a presentation by Ms. Amanda Evans, currently working toward a Ph.D. at LSU's Department of Geography and Anthropology. Her topic is *A Needle in A Haystack?: Investigating the Gulf of Mexico's Submerged Cultural Landscapes*. An underwater archaeologist, Amanda will discuss the possibilities remote sensing techniques provide for detecting once coastal prehistoric sites that are now submerged.

### Northeast Louisiana Archaeological Society

From Claire Davis-President

Thursday, March 20, the Northeast chapter's meeting featured a talk by Poverty Point Station Archaeologist Dr. Diana Greenlee, entitled "Looking for the 'Lost' Ridges at Poverty Point".

On Saturday, April 19, we caravanned with Joe Saunders as our guide, on a tour of a portion of the Louisiana Mounds Trail. We visited such sites as Jonesville, Filhiol Mound, Wade Landing, Booth Landing, and Alexander Mound.

### West Louisiana Chapter News

From Johnny Guy-President

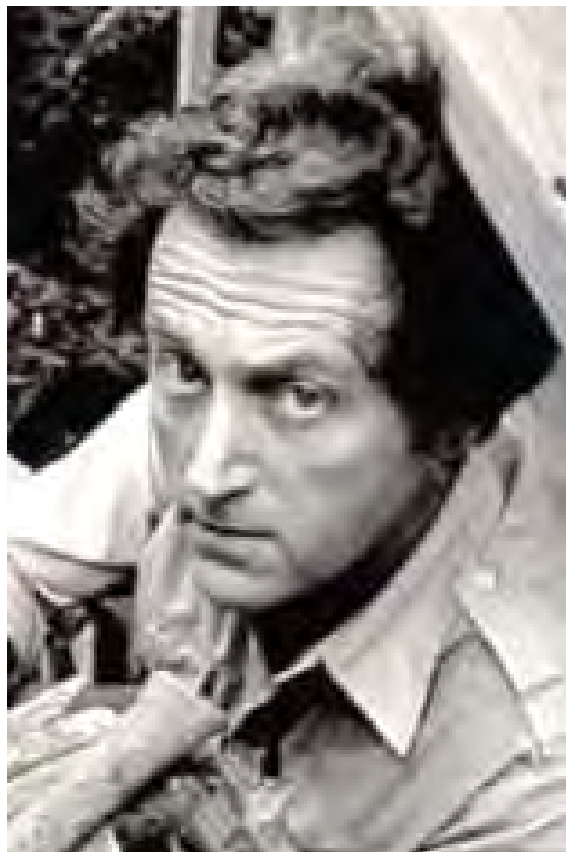
Most of our club members work at the rotations at Fort Polk, so last month they were working there and we didn't have a meeting. In May we are having a joint meeting with the Lake Charles chapter with Scott Warner as the speaker. We will be meeting at the War Museum in Deridder Louisiana on May 15th, at 6:00 pm

Also the Work we were doing at Holley Grove Cemetery is just about complete. This is an update of the Cemetery record from 1853 to present. The booklet should be out by the end of May or early June.



## Dr. J. Richard Shenkel -April 18, 1941 - January 25, 2008

Dr. J. Richard Shenkel grew up on the beaches of Sarasota, Florida helping his parents and sister Jo run the family restaurant and hotel while playing the string bass at night. He graduated from Florida State University and eventually earned his Doctorate in Anthropology from SUNY Buffalo in 1968. Moving back south, Rick accepted a faculty position at the University of New Orleans where he continued to teach for 36 years. Much loved by thousands of students over the years, he taught archeology specializing in Native American cultures of the Mississippi delta, human evolution and cultural anthropology dealing with the rise of civilization in the western world. His honors include: Who's Who Among America Teachers, Teacher of the Year Award at UNO. His research into Indians of Louisiana has greatly increased the knowledge of many different cultures, most notably the Moundville Indians of the Mississippi River. When he was not teaching, Rick was an avid chef and a tremendous lover of classical music and performed for many years with the NORD Civic Orchestra on the string bass. He raised a son during his first marriage and remarried to help raise two more children. He is survived by his wife, Patricia Shenkel; sister, Jo Shenkel; son, Christopher Shenkel; and his two sons and stepdaughter: Bonney Chatellier and her husband and daughter; and stepson, Bret Chittenden and his wife and daughter. The family would like to invite friends to join them for a celebration of Rick's life at LAKE LAWN METAIRIE FUNERAL HOME, 5100 Pontchartrain Blvd. (in Metairie Cemetery) on Sunday, January 27, 2008 from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the SPCA. To sign and view the Family Guestbook, please visit [www.lakelawnmetairie.com](http://www.lakelawnmetairie.com). (Published in *The Times-Picayune* on 1/26/2008-Editor)




---

Rick Shenkel was a kind and caring teacher. He was always there to help the willing student with encouragement and advise. I had the privilege of working with Rick on several occasions at Big Oak Island starting with field school in the summer of 1973 through 1982. Rick was always there to discuss various topics regarding the archaeology of southeast Louisiana, taking trips with students to Lafayette to discuss Tchefuncte pottery with Jon Gibson and to Biloxi to look at collections from Mississippi and Alabama.

Most memorable were trips to the Southeastern Archaeological Conference and to meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society where he loaded up the Department van with students and kept us entertained with his views on archaeology in general and the state of Louisiana archaeology. One very memorable time was the return trip from the Southeastern Archaeological Conference in Atlanta through peasoup fog.

Rick's presence at the University of New Orleans will be sorely missed. - **Gary DeMarcay, New Orleans District, US Army Corps of Engineers.**

## The Capitol Grounds Chilled Water Loop Project, Baton Rouge

Douglas C. Wells  
Coastal Environments, Inc.

The State of Louisiana Office of Facilities, Planning, and Control (FPC) began construction of a chilled water loop for the Capitol Complex in September of 2007, employing the services of Coastal Environments, Inc. for archaeological monitoring. The loop, consisting of intake and outflow pipes, is designed to enhance the air conditioning systems already in place at the Capitol. This construction consisted primarily of excavation of a six foot deep by eight foot wide trench, running from Third Street up the north side of the Capitol Building, south on Fifth Street, turning east on Spanish Town Road, and then south on Third Street again, terminating near the southeast corner of the State Library (Figure 1). FPC is required by state law to adhere to the guidelines laid out by Section 106 of the National Historical Preservation Act. These guidelines make the government agency responsible for the protection and preservation of historical and archaeological sites within the area of impact.

The project area lies within the boundaries of the State Capitol Grounds (16EBR79) site and the Old LSU Campus Site (16EBR155). Both sites have strong nineteenth century components, having been the site of an early American- and Civil War/Reconstruction-era military post centered on the Pentagon Barracks, as well as an early campus of Louisiana State University. The stretches of trench along the west and south edges of the Capitol Plaza are located in particularly sensitive areas. The Civil War-era Fort Williams earthworks, built prior to the Battle of Baton Rouge, occupied much of the western edge of the plaza, and crossed Spanish Town Road at the south edge of the plaza just west of Fourth Street. Residential structures were recorded on Fifth Street near Spanish Town Road at the turn of the twentieth century. The Commandant's House (the structure that would later house the LSU newspaper, *The Reveille*) and another officer's quarters, both built in the early nineteenth century, were standing at the west end of what became Spanish Town Road near Third Street. Several LSU structures were built between 1870 and 1920 near the southern edge of the plaza.

Monitoring began initially on an "on call" basis; however, it quickly became apparent after a while that frequent inspection of the trench was necessary, particularly in the latest stages of the project. Monitoring was hampered by the rapid pace at which the digging proceeded and by the fact that roughly 90% of the excavated earth was immediately put into a truck and hauled out of town. Work proceeded unevent-

fully until the first week in November, when the trenching began near the junction of Spanish Town Road and Fifth Street. Below three to four feet of fill, a burned layer of late nineteenth and early twentieth century trash and rubble, including concrete walkways and retainer walls, stretched for much of the length of the trench between Spanish Town Road and the Capitol parking lot on Fifth Street. A similar layer was noted in the trench on Spanish Town Road (Figure 2). This burned layer apparently represents the ca. 1930 ground surface, sloping gently away from the Spanish Town-Fifth Street intersection to the north and west. Several houses were depicted near this intersection on Spanish Town Road and Fifth Street, apparently razed during construction of the modern Capitol and Plaza in the 1930s.

Moving east down Spanish Town Road, the trench hit a massive deposit of coal and coal cinder just west of Fourth Street, followed by the concrete foundations of the LSU Machinery Building or Powerhouse (See Figure 3). Built around 1906, the structure once housed dynamos, gasoline engines, gas producers, laboratories and classrooms. Several pieces of unidentified machinery were found on the concrete floor of the structure.

Although overlays of Civil War-era maps suggest that the earthworks of Fort Williams occupied the east edge of the Capitol Grounds in the area of the trench, no sign of mid-nineteenth century activities or construction were noted in this area, apart from a stray sherd of transfer-printed pearlware. However, just west of Fourth Street, a distinct area of fill was encountered, running northeast to southwest, probably representing the defensive ditch that fronted the earthworks (Figure 3). Unfortunately, little military hardware was found in the area; a single gunflint and a small piece of shot were the only possible military items noted. However, the distinctive orientation of the 7-m wide trench (northeast to southwest) sets it apart from other features in the project, and the feature closely follows the line and location of the historically recorded earthworks. The earthworks were leveled by the time of the 1880s LSU campus occupation.

As the trenching moved west down Spanish Town Road toward the River, the concentration of artifacts began to increase rapidly, dominated by

## Capitol Grounds (continued)

early nineteenth century ceramics. Most artifacts appeared to have originated from a layer of brick rubble about 110 cm below surface near the trench, rising to today's ground surface (sidewalk level) just east of Third Street. This layer of trash yielded dozens of pieces of pearlware, early whiteware, imported Chinese porcelain, and even creamware. Blue- and green-edged plainwares were common, as were hand-painted and transfer-printed ceramics. Well-preserved faunal remains, primarily pork and beef bones, were recovered. Several large pieces of brandy and wine bottles manufactured of olive glass were also collected. Overall, the collection suggests the presence of a relatively high-status household, and may largely date from the occupation of the two Officers Quarters (Figure 4). Later ceramics, dating to the LSU era, were also recovered from this area. Two privies were excavated, one from the early nineteenth century and another from the 1870s (Figure 5), yielding bottle and container glass, ceramics, wood, and plant remains. A preliminary examination of the botanical materials revealed hot pepper, passionflower, and grape. Both privies were lined with wood, probably cypress.

The Capitol Grounds Chilled Water Loop construction was among the most extensive excavations conducted downtown since the construction of the Capitol Grounds, and yielded a large amount of material, as well as intact deposits. It is a rare opportunity to examine Baton Rouge's early American past, as well as that of LSU's early Baton Rouge campus. However, no further analysis has taken place on the artifacts or floral and faunal remains, as FCP has no plans to fund any further work, including a full report for the Division of Archaeology or curation of the artifacts.

### References Cited

Casey, Powell

1983 *Encyclopedia of Forts, Posts, Named Camps, and other Military Installations in Louisiana, 1700-1981*. Claitors Publishing, Baton Rouge.

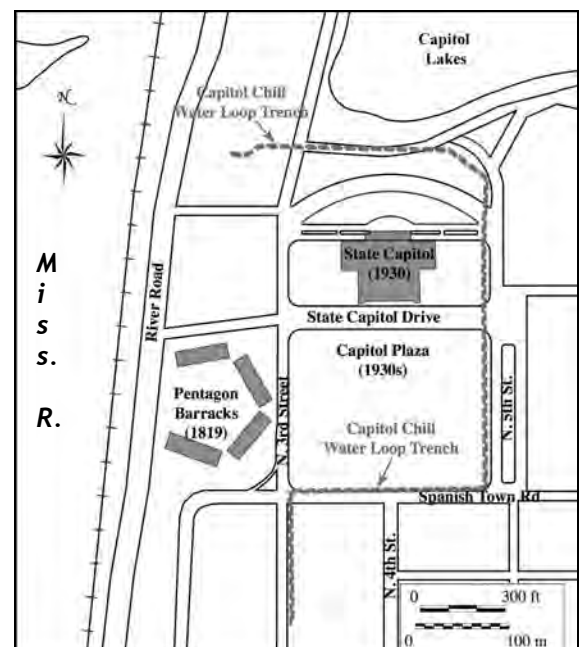
Gill, Michael

1855 *City of Baton Rouge: The Capital of Louisiana*. Photographic copy of map on file, Coastal Environments, Inc., Baton Rouge.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company

1923 *Fire Insurance Map of Baton Rouge, Louisiana*. Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, New York. On file at Cartographic Information Center, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.

**Figure 1. The Capitol Grounds Chill Water Loop Project Corridor around the State Capitol in Baton Rouge.**



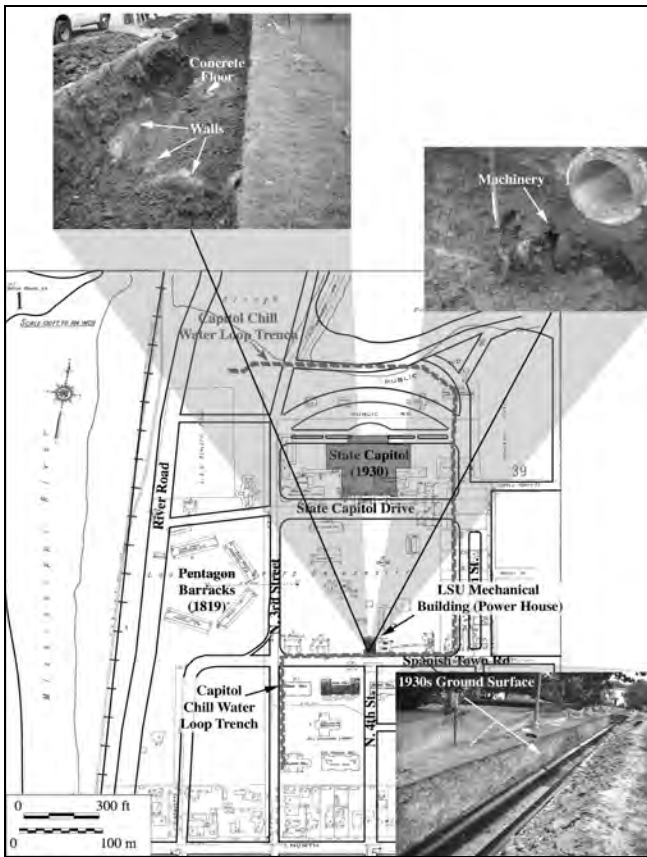
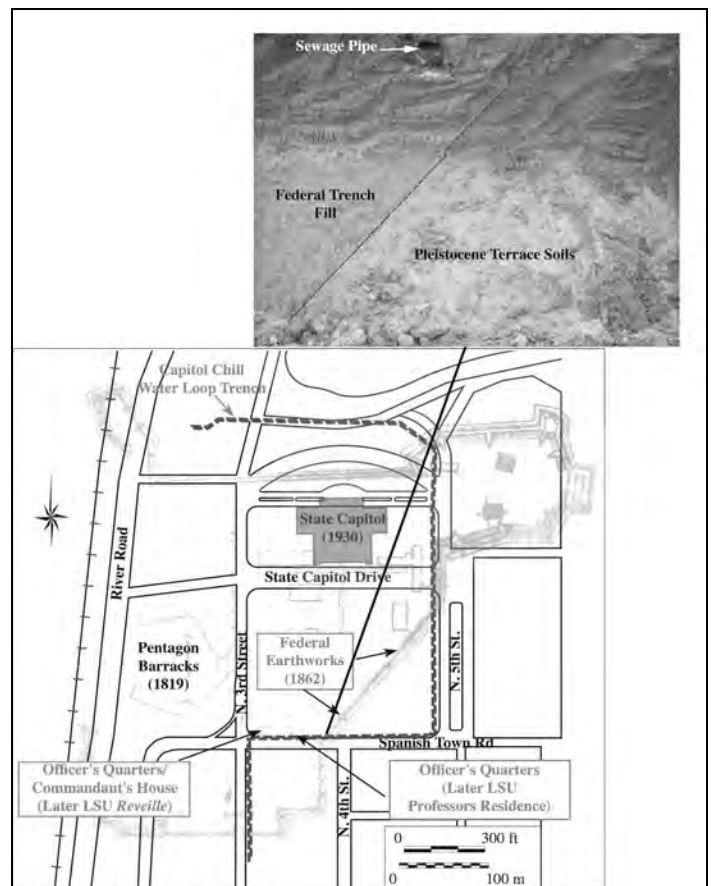


Figure 2. Overlay of 1923 Sanborn Insurance map showing the location of the LSU Mechanical Building (Power House) as well as structures near the corner of Fifth Street and Spanish Town Road (Sanborn 1923). Inset, clockwise from top, are photos of the remains of the LSU Mechanical Building, machinery found on the building’s floor, and the 1930s ground surface as exposed in the north wall of the trench.

Figure 3. The Federal earthworks of Fort Williams, as depicted in 1865 (source: Casey 1983:330), crossed the project corridor near the intersection of Spanish Town Road and Fourth Street. The inset photo, facing north, shows the boundary between the natural Pleistocene terrace soils and the fill of the Federal trench fronting the earthworks. The sewage pipe trench above this level crosses the trench at an opposing angle, northwest to southeast. No traces of the earthworks were noted in the northern sections of the Chill Water Loop trench.



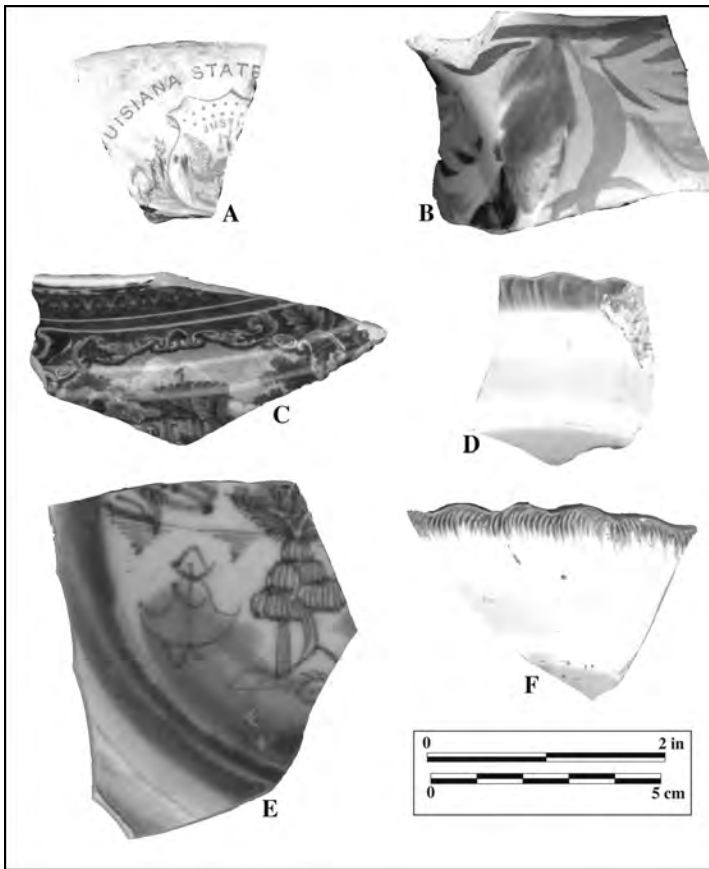
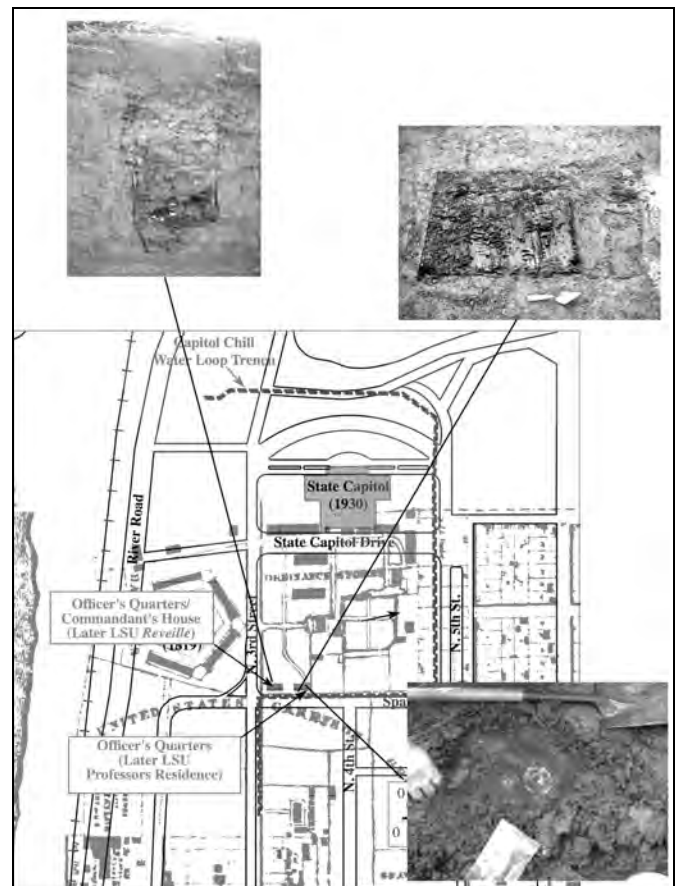


Figure 4. Selected artifacts from the Spanish Town Road stretch of the Chill Water Loop trench. A) Ironstone plate fragment, bearing what appears to be an early LSU seal; B) Hand-painted (yellow, orange, blue and brown) pearlware pitcher mouth; C) Blue transfer printed early whiteware; D) Green-edged pearlware; E) Imported Chinese porcelain; F) Blue-edged pearlware.

Figure 5. The United States Garrison Grounds, shown in 1855, are the earliest depictions of the structures near the intersection of Spanish Town Road and Third Street (source: Gill 1855). These Officer's Quarters were used by LSU until the construction of the Capitol Plaza in the 1930s. Shown clockwise from the top: the late nineteenth century privy recorded in the south wall of the trench, the base of an early to mid-nineteenth century privy found in the floor of the trench, and a stemware base recovered from this privy.



## A Very Special 50<sup>th</sup> Caddo Conference in Natchitoches

by Dayna Lee, Jeff Girard, and Pete Gregory

The 50<sup>th</sup> Caddo Conference was held at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana, March 6-8, 2008. The Williamson Museum, the Louisiana Regional Folklife Program, and the Regional Archaeology Program hosted the conference. The history of the conference, early participants, changes in theoretical approaches, and the importance of participation by the Caddo were topics of discussion at the conference. The conference also honored Caddo Tribal Chairperson La Rue Martin Parker for supporting the conference and for promoting Caddo cultural conservation.

The Caddo Conference began with an informal meeting in 1942 at the home of Dr. Clarence H. Webb in Shreveport. That meeting included Webb and Walter Beecher from Louisiana, Alex Krieger and Perry Newell from Texas, and David Baerreis and Rodney Cobb from Oklahoma. The first formal conference took place at the University of Oklahoma in 1946 with approximately 25 in attendance. In 1950, Webb hosted an area-wide pottery typology conference that is considered the second Caddo Conference. Participants were Alex Krieger, Robert Stevenson, Lynn Howard, John Cotter, and William Haag.

Conferences were held in 1952 and 1958, and became regular annual meetings beginning in 1962. Initially, the meetings were informal and involved a limited number of participants with much "hands-on" examination of artifacts. Primary concerns were artifact classification and the definition of temporal and spatial units. As participation increased, the meetings gradually transformed into the more familiar conference format. Since 1973, members of the Caddo Nation have regularly attended, and have sometimes hosted the conference. The conference moves between the four state Caddo Area (Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma), and will be held at the University of Oklahoma in 2009.

This year's conference was preceded by the re-interment of human remains and associated grave goods excavated by Winslow Walker at the Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery Site in 1935. At the same time, the Caddo Cultural Preservation Office and Caddo Nation returned associated human remains from the Dormon Collection at the Williamson Museum, as well as a burial with accompanying grave goods from Parkway Drive immediately across Cane River. These re-burials were effected under the terms of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and the curation agreement between the Williamson Museum and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology.

The U.S. Wildlife and Fisheries, under an agreement with the Caddo Nation, created a keep safe cemetery that can accommodate Caddo remains from a two-mile radius of the hatchery site. The Fish Hatchery also dedicated a memorial plaza honoring the Caddo village that once occupied the site and designating the area as Sacred Ground. Members of Caddo Nation and guests attended the re-interment. The memorial plaza dedication was open to invited guests and Caddo Conference attendees.



**Caddo Culture Club President Doyle Edge and Dr. Pete Gregory at reception for the Caddo Conference.**



**Stirrup dance led by Caddo tribal members LaRisha Waubanasee and Travis Threlkeld, Dr. Dorothy Lippert (National Museum of Natural History) and Dr. Butch Lee (Earth Search, Inc.), Elspeth Dowd (University of Oklahoma)**

LOUISIANA DIVISION OF  
**ARCHAEOLOGY**

## The First Galena at Marksville

By Chip McGimsey, State Archaeologist

The Marksville site (16AV1) is one of the classic Middle Woodland Hopewell sites in Louisiana and the Lower Mississippi River valley (Toth 1974; McGimsey et al. 2005). One of the diagnostic characteristics of the Hopewell cultural expression is an extensive network for moving raw materials and artifacts across much of the eastern U.S. This network transported obsidian, marine shells, copper, and many different kinds of chert from their sources to sites across the Midwest and Southeastern U.S. In Louisiana, copper from Michigan, quartz crystals and novaculite chert from Arkansas, cannel coal from Ohio, and cherts from Illinois have been found at several Hopewell period sites, including Marksville, Crooks, Coral Snake Mound, Big Oak Island, and Veazey (Gibson 1994; Jensen 1968; Shenkel 1984; McGimsey 2005; Ford and Willey 1940).

Galena (raw lead ore) is one of the Hopewell trade materials. It occurs naturally in northwestern Illinois and in east-central Missouri (Walthall 1981). In Louisiana, galena has only been reported from the Crooks mound, where two large tubular beads were found with the burials (Ford and Willey 1940).

During Archaeology Week, I was at the Marksville site to give a walking tour along with presentations by Norm Davis and Glen Rechs. Doyle Jennings, site manager, had mentioned that a cluster of artifacts had been observed on the east slope of Mound 2, so we decided to go take a look. Doyle and I, along with Elizabeth Pierite, a high school student from the Tunica Tribe, walked out to Mound 2. In a 2x1 m bare area, there is a noticeably darker patch of earth eroding from the mound and a dense concentration of sherds and flakes was evident in this area. While looking at the sherds, Elizabeth picked up a small rock and asked me what it was. To my surprise, the 'rock' was a very small cube of galena.

The galena cube is only 7x6x5 mm in size, and weighs 1.2 g. It does not exhibit any evidence of rubbing or abrasion. It was found amid a scatter of artifacts within a pocket of dark earth that appears to represent a basket load of midden incorporated into the mound fill. The Park subsequently collected all the artifacts from this exposed scatter and it includes 20-25 Citronelle gravel flakes and perhaps 100 Baytown Plain sherds. The few decorated specimens include typical Marksville decorative styles, including Marksville Stamped, *var. Marksville*, Marksville Incised, *var. unspecified*, Mabin Stamped, *var. Crooks*, and one cross-hatched rim.

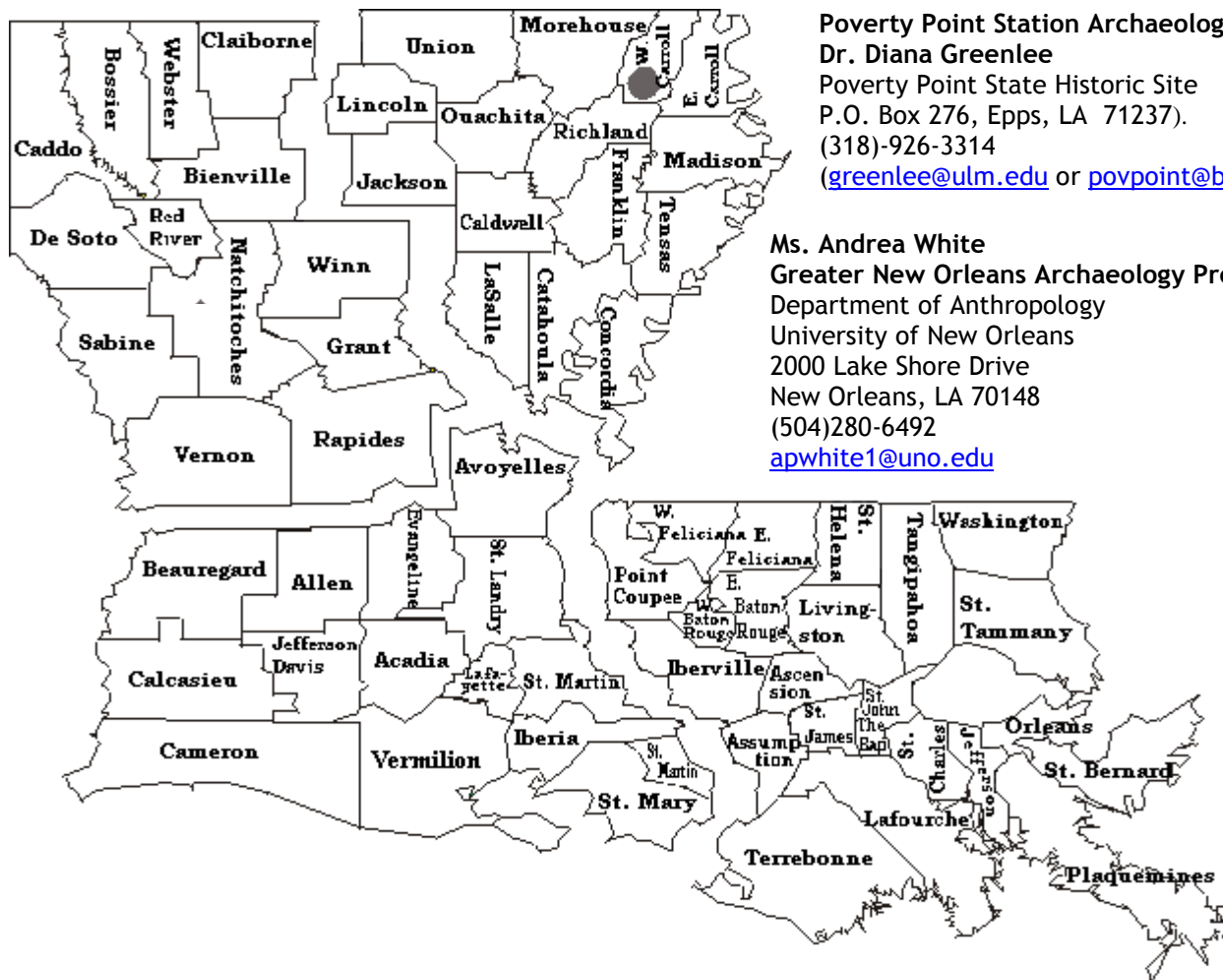
It is not surprising to find galena at the site, however, given its other Hopewellian connections. It is somewhat surprising to find this small fragment within what appears to be basket load of midden. One hypothesis would be that this material was a basket load of midden added to the mound after the initial occupation of the site. This idea would indicate that construction of Mound 2

continued after some Hopewellian exchange had occurred at the site and thus the mound was not completed during the initial stage of site construction and use. Alternatively, this artifact deposit could represent trash from activities on the top of Mound 2. This seems less likely given the small size of nearly all the artifacts, the presence of flakes and angular fragments, and the low frequency of decorated sherds; these characteristics are more typical of midden deposits across the site than ceremonial debris from mound-top activities. In either case, this new information provides yet another clue to the Hopewellian connections of the Marksville site and its fascinating history.

## References Cited

- Ford, James A., and Gordon Willey  
 1940 *Crooks Site: A Marksville Period Burial Mound in La Salle Parish, Louisiana*. Department of Conservation, Louisiana Geological Survey, Anthropological Study 3. New Orleans.
- Gibson, Jon  
 1994 Empirical characterization of Exchange Systems in Lower Mississippi Valley Prehistory. In *Prehistoric Exchange Systems in North America*, edited by Timothy G. Gaugh and Jonathan E. Ericson, pp 127-175. Plenum Press. New York.
- Jensen, Harold P., Jr.  
 1968 Coral Snake Mound (X16SA48). *Bulletin of the Texas Archaeological Society* 28(2):9-44.
- McGimsey, Chip  
 2005 An Exploration into Archaeology's Past: The 1926 Expedition of Henry B. Collins, Jr., in Louisiana. *Louisiana Archaeology* 26:17-54.
- McGimsey, Chip, Katherine M. Roberts, H. Edwin Jackson, and Michael L. Hargrave  
 2005 Marksville Then and Now: 75 years of Digging. *Louisiana Archaeology* 26:75-98.
- Shenkel, J.R.  
 1984 Early Marksville Burial Component in Southeastern Louisiana. *Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology* 9:105-134.
- Toth, Alan  
 1974 Archaeology and Ceramics at the Marksville Site. *University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology Anthropological Papers* 56. Ann Arbor.
- Walthall, John  
 1981 *Galena and Aboriginal Trade in Eastern North America*. Illinois State Museum Scientific Papers 27. Springfield.

# Regional Archaeology News



**Poverty Point Station Archaeologist**  
**Dr. Diana Greenlee**  
 Poverty Point State Historic Site  
 P.O. Box 276, Epps, LA 71237.  
 (318)-926-3314  
 ([greenlee@ulm.edu](mailto:greenlee@ulm.edu) or [povpoint@bayou.com](mailto:povpoint@bayou.com)),

**Ms. Andrea White**  
 Greater New Orleans Archaeology Program  
 Department of Anthropology  
 University of New Orleans  
 2000 Lake Shore Drive  
 New Orleans, LA 70148  
 (504)280-6492  
[apwhite1@uno.edu](mailto:apwhite1@uno.edu)

**Northwest Region**  
**Jeff Girard**  
 Regional Archaeology Program  
 Department of Social Sciences  
 Northwestern State University  
 Natchitoches, LA 71497  
 (318) 357-5471 [girardj@nsula.edu](mailto:girardj@nsula.edu)

**Southwest Region**  
**Dr. David T. Palmer**  
 Regional Archaeology Program  
 Department of Sociology and  
 Anthropology  
 University of Louisiana Lafayette  
 Lafayette, LA 70504  
 (337) 482-5198  
[dtpalmer@louisiana.edu](mailto:dtpalmer@louisiana.edu)

**Northeast Region**  
**Dr. Joe Saunders**  
 Regional Archaeology Program  
 Department of Geosciences  
 University of Louisiana - Monroe  
 Monroe, LA 71209  
 (318) 342-1899  
[saunders@ulm.edu](mailto:saunders@ulm.edu)

**Southeast Region**  
**Rob Mann**  
 Regional Archaeology Program  
 Museum of Natural Science  
 Louisiana State University  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70803  
 (225) 578-6739  
[rmann1@lsu.edu](mailto:rmann1@lsu.edu)

## Introducing the New SW Regional Archaeologist-Dr. David Palmer, University of Louisiana-Lafayette

Dr. David Palmer is our new regional archaeologist for the Southwest Region. Some of you may know Dr. Palmer from LSU or volunteering with him in the field, or you may have met him at the recent LAS meetings. Most of his archaeological experience and interests are in Louisiana, and he is happy to be back and in a position where he can pursue these interests while being of service to the public.

At LSU, Palmer worked under Professor Paul Farnsworth, and completed an M.A. thesis on the historical archaeology of African American plantation workers at Blythewood Plantation. Palmer went on to earn a doctorate at U.C. Berkeley under the direction of Professor Laurie Wilkie. His dissertation, *"Counterpunch the Devil with the Word:" African American Daily Life at Alma and Riverlake Plantations, Louisiana, 1870-1940* is based on archaeological, oral historical, and documentary research. While examining data about material life, Palmer found evidence of shifts in behavior that reflect the influence of racial uplift ideologies and changes in race relations during the Post-Bellum and Jim Crow eras. Palmer was assisted by many volunteers on these projects, including stalwart LAS members and the (then) Southeast and Southwest Regional archaeologists (Chris Hays and Chip McGimsey). He is grateful to them all, and vows to continue this tradition of service and working with volunteers in his new role as southwest regional archaeologist.

Prior to accepting the regional position, Dr. Palmer was a project director with the cultural resources consulting firm Statistical Research, Inc. (SRI). Among other projects, he worked on a large historical period cemetery excavation in downtown Tucson, AZ (the Joint Courts project). In addition to ensuring that the more than 1,000 individuals interred there were respectfully and scientifically excavated, Palmer also ran the excavation of several deep privy features that he says were "...as fascinating as they were logistically challenging to excavate." If you are interested in learning more about the Joint Courts project, you can go to the project website at <http://www.pima.gov/jointcourts>.

Dr. Palmer also has experience from work on projects in California, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and the Bahamas, and has taught archaeology and anthropology courses at LSU and UC Berkeley.

Dr. Palmer is primarily a historical archaeologist by training and interest, with a specialization in the African Diaspora archaeology. He does, however, have broader interests, which encompass both prehistoric and historic archaeologies. These interests include cultural contact and transformation, oral traditions, oral history and archaeology, and human-plant interactions.

In terms of his vision for the Southwest Regional program, he is adding an emphasis on recording and studying historical sites relevant to long-term regional research goals, and nominating potentially eligible sites to the National Register of Historical Places. He is also working with his colleagues at UL Lafayette to develop projects to document and interpret the role of the lugger boat in south Louisiana's historical culture and economy, and to locate sites related to Attakapas settlement and use.

Dr. Palmer wants to emphasize that he is available as a resource for you all. Please feel free to contact him with information about sites, invitations to give talks or workshops (or to attend them!), and questions related to archaeology. Also, he invites you to contact him if you are interested in volunteering in the field and/or lab or if you have particular expertise in an area and are willing to share this knowledge.

Dr. Palmer can be contacted at 337-482-5198 or [dtpalmer@louisiana.edu](mailto:dtpalmer@louisiana.edu).

His office is in room 108 Mouton Hall at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and his mailing address is:

Southwest Regional Archaeology Program  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
P.O. Box 40198  
Lafayette, LA 70504-0198

He has also created a webpage that he encourages all to visit : <http://soci-anth.louisiana.edu/SRAP/>



**A recent photo of David Palmer at an archaeological site obviously not in Louisiana**

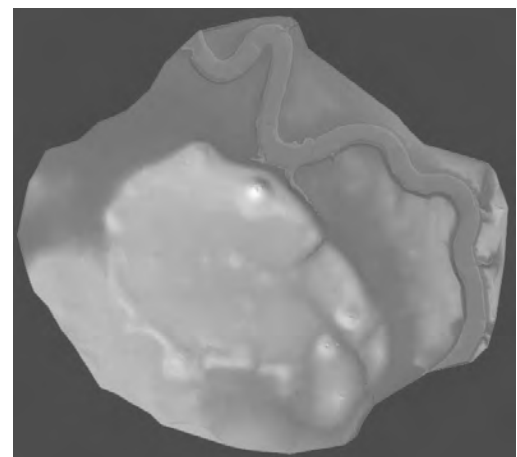
**Notes of the Northeast Regional Archaeology Program  
Dr. Joe Saunders, University of Louisiana-Monroe**

Volunteers and myself complete shovel testing around the southern perimeter of the famous Watson Brake site (16OU175). The purpose of the work was to define the limits of the artifacts associated with the Watson Brake earthworks. Previous surveys around the north half of the earthworks indicated that human activities were restricted to the mounds and ridges. The southern shovel tests produced similar results. Preliminary analysis of the contents indicates that 21 of 23 shovel tests either had no artifacts, or very few (1-5). The two "positive" shovel tests had many pieces of fire-cracked rock, and each unit was excavated near a possible 12th mound out side of the oval of earthworks.

I also submitted a submound (2Ab) soil sample from Caney Mound (16MO69), collected in 1993, for radiometric analysis. The site is believed to be an Archaic mound, based on the degree of soil development described by Thurman Allen. The sample returned an unexpected age of 7500 +/- 50 corrected radiocarbon years.

Recently, Thurman Allen, Jon Gibson, and Joe Saunders pulled three cores from the same site and each one confirmed the 1993 description. A possible "smear" of charcoal was recovered in the 2Ab horizon of the second core. Confirmation of the charcoal is pending and additional cores will be pulled near the base of the mound, in search of an intact pre mound surface covered by post mound construction alluvium.

A presentation on the Middle Archaic "mound hiatus" was made at the Louisiana Academy of Sciences, and the same presentation was given to a local archaeology chapter in Jigger, LA.



**Computer graphic showing the arrangement of mounds at the Watson Brake site (16OU175)**

## Introducing the Greater New Orleans Regional Archaeologist - Ms. Andrea White

Andrea White has recently joined the Regional Archaeology Program as the Greater New Orleans Regional Archaeologist, based at the University of New Orleans. She comes to us from Florida where she was the Training and Outreach Coordinator for the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research (the equivalent of the Louisiana Division of Archaeology). She completed her undergraduate education at the University of Florida and attended graduate school at the College of William and Mary where she earned a Master of Arts in Anthropology specializing in Historical Archaeology. Currently she is the Co-editor of *The Florida Anthropologist* and has been active on the board of the Florida Anthropological Society.

Andrea brings to the Greater New Orleans Archaeology Program multiple years of experience working in complex historic sites, in addition to prehistoric and submerged archaeological sites. She has an ongoing research interest in the development of urban colonial centers, including St. Augustine, FL, where she worked as an archaeologist for the City of St. Augustine Archaeology Program. In her new position she hopes to broaden her research and contribute to the understanding of New Orleans' unique history. She looks forward to educating the public about the importance of archaeological sites and being involved with the Louisiana Archaeological Society.

This June she will be leading several University of New Orleans students in excavating at the U.S. Mint in the French Quarter looking for evidence of Fort St. Charles, one of the five forts that surrounded the Vieux Carré in the colonial and early American periods. If you are interested in volunteering on the project please contact her at [apwhite1@uno.edu](mailto:apwhite1@uno.edu) or at 504 280 6492. Her mailing address is:

Ms. Andrea White  
Greater New Orleans Archaeology Program, University of New Orleans  
2000 Lakeshore Drive  
New Orleans, LA 70148



**Andrea White, the new archaeologist for the Greater New Orleans Archaeology Program**

## Poverty Point Update

By Diana M. Greenlee

Poverty Point Station Archaeology Program & University of Louisiana - Monroe

We learned in late January that our efforts to include Poverty Point State Historic Site on the U.S. World Heritage Tentative List were successful. The official Tentative List, submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre on 24 January 2008, included 14 properties -- nine are cultural properties, four are natural properties and one is a mixed property (Table 1). We have yet to learn which two properties will be nominated first; in late March, the National Park Service solicited comments through the Federal Register regarding potential initial nominations for Mount Vernon and Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

Mr. Lee Overby of the Oak Grove Field Office, Natural Resources Conservation Service, used the NRCS 4-wheeler (Figure 1) with an onboard differential GPS to conduct a topographic survey of a second tract at Poverty Point. The results are forthcoming.

The proposed impact area for a new maintenance building planned by the LA Office of State Parks was evaluated for cultural deposits. The building will be located north of Harlin Bayou in an area where little prehistoric material has been found previously. Shovel and auger tests did not reveal any prehistoric features. The screened materials have not been fully sorted; we can say, however, that they are dominated by concretions and historic debris associated with park maintenance activities.

Drs. Mike Hargrave and Berle Clay will be returning to Poverty Point in mid-April to continue their long-term surface geophysical investigations (*LAS Newsletter* 35(3):21). During this trip, they will focus their efforts on the plaza east of Hwy 577. Any individuals interested in assisting with the fieldwork during this or future research visits are encouraged to contact Diana Greenlee.

We have been assisting Dr. Kris Bovy (University of Rhode Island) with developing an interactive educational web page about Poverty Point to accompany her undergraduate course in archaeological method and theory. While it is not ready to “go public” quite yet, we anticipate that it will be of interest and value to other educators.

Any groups or individuals interested in volunteering at the site are invited to contact Diana Greenlee ([greenlee@ulm.edu](mailto:greenlee@ulm.edu) or 318-926-3314).

Table 1. Properties in the U.S. on the new World Heritage Tentative List.

Cultural Properties
Civil Rights Movement Sites in Birmingham and Montgomery, AL
Dayton Aviation (Wright Brothers) Sites, OH
Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks, OH
Jefferson (Thomas) Buildings (Poplar Forest and Virginia State Capitol), VA
Mount Vernon, VA
Poverty Point State Historic Site, LA
San Antonio Franciscan Missions, TX
Serpent Mound, OH
Wright (Frank Lloyd) Buildings in AZ, CA, IL, NY, OK, PA and WI
Natural Properties
Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary, American Samoa
Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, GA
Petrified Forest National Park, AZ
White Sands National Monument, NM
Mixed Property
Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, HI



Figure 1: Lee Overby using the NRCS 4-wheeler with onboard GPS to map the topography of the plaza and ridges at Poverty Point SHS.

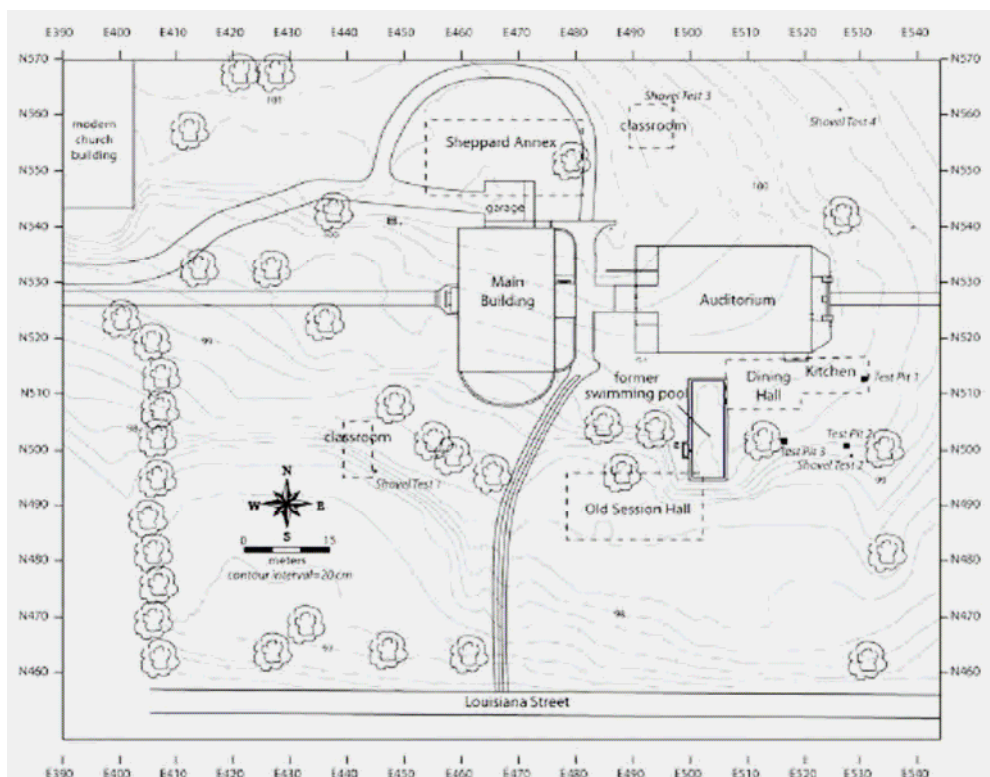
## Current Research in Northwest Louisiana: Investigations at the Mansfield Female College

Jeffrey S. Girard  
Northwest Regional Archaeologist  
Northwestern State University

During the fall of 2007, members of the Northwest Chapter of the Louisiana Archaeological Society assisted in mapping and test excavations at the former Mansfield Female College in the city of Mansfield, seat of DeSoto Parish. The facility is being developed by the Office of the Secretary of State as the Mansfield Female College Museum to commemorate women's education in Louisiana. The purpose of the investigations was to help assess the potential of the site for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1853, the Louisiana Conference of the Methodist Church purchased an existing institution, the Mansfield Female Seminary, for the purpose of establishing the female college, perhaps the earliest west of the Mississippi River. The beginning date of the seminary is not known, but it probably began shortly after founding of the city of Mansfield in 1847. During the first few years, students met in an existing frame building—probably a structure that later became the dining hall and kitchen (Figure 1). The main building was completed in 1857, and another building (probably the auditorium known as “Old Session Hall”) was completed in 1859. Until the early twentieth century, the college consisted of these three buildings, along with a couple of small outlying classroom buildings and a chapel. The college was closed for a few years during the Civil War, and was used as a hospital after the Battle of Sabine Crossroads. A large structure known as the Sheppard Annex was completed in 1905 for additional classroom and dormitory space. Over 100 students lived on the campus at various times. In 1918, Session Hall and the old dining hall were moved to the north, and a new brick building (Bobbitt Dining Hall and Epworth Auditorium) was constructed. A swimming pool and tennis courts were built in 1928. Mansfield Female College closed in 1930 due to financial difficulties stemming from decreasing enrollment.

Local businessman Reimer Calhoun Sr. purchased the grounds and remaining buildings in 1940 for his family residence. In 2003, the Calhoun family donated the property to the State of Louisiana. Act 592 of the 2003 State Legislature established the Mansfield Female College Museum, which remains under development. Twentieth century modifications to the existing structures (Main Building, Auditorium/Dining Hall) precluded nomination to the National Register of Historic Places based on architectural criteria. However, the possibility remained that the site could be placed on the National Register because it potentially contains archaeological data important to our understanding of local history. The purpose of the LAS project was to determine whether or not buried artifacts and architectural remains are present that significantly enhance our understanding of how the students at the college lived during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.



**Figure 1. Map of the Mansfield Female College. Locations of former structures are outlined in dashed lines.**

**Mansfield Female College (continued)**

Our first task was to obtain an understanding of the architectural history of the college as documented in historical records. An unpublished history of the college written by Henry Michael Stotts provides considerable information about the buildings including many dates of construction. Sanborn Insurance maps dating from 1899 to the early 1930s document changes in locations of buildings during the last three decades of operation. Our next task was to produce a topographic map of the site and plot the existing structures and other improvements. By overlaying the Sanborn maps onto our topographic map, we were able to determine that the original building, which served as the kitchen and dining hall until 1918, was situated adjacent to the existing Auditorium/Dining Hall in an area that appeared relatively undisturbed. We excavated three 1-x-1-m test units in this area and recovered a large number of artifacts, as well as brick paving that likely relates to the structure (Figure 2).

Most of the artifacts are fragments of glass jars and ceramic plates (undecorated whiteware/ironstone). A silver plated spoon and fork also were recovered (Figure 3). Architectural debris includes machine cut and wire nails, brick fragments, and window glass. An interesting array of clothing and personal items (buttons, shoe eyelets, buckles) was recovered as well (Figure 4). One particularly noteworthy item is a small gold pin with the name “Clio” inscribed on it. The name probably refers to the muse of History and Epic Poetry with the pin signifying membership in a club.

Artifacts or architectural remains were encountered in each of several shovel tests excavated in other portions of the former college grounds. The results of the project appear to demonstrate that significant data are present that will be useful in addressing several important research questions regarding late 19th century life at a major regional educational institution. A nomination to the National Register of Historic Places is being prepared for the site (assigned the number 16DS405 by the Louisiana Division of Archaeology).



**Figure 2. Members of the Northwest Chapter of the LAS excavating test units at the Mansfield Female College. Auditorium/Dining Hall constructed in 1918 is in the background.**

**Figure 3. Fork and spoon recovered from former kitchen/dining hall area**



**Figure 4. Pins, clasps, and buckles from test units**

**New Investigations at Old LSU: Uncovering the Past at the Louisiana State Capitol Grounds.**  
**Dr. Rob Mann, Southeast Regional Archaeologist, Museum of Natural Science, LSU.**

In June and July 2007 the LSU Museum of Natural Science Regional Archaeology Program partnered with personnel from the Louisiana Division of Archaeology to conduct an archaeological investigation of the Old LSU Campus located within the present-day bounds of the Louisiana State Capitol Grounds (16EBR79). The project involved the excavation four 1m x 1m units at what was known as the President's Residence during the LSU occupation of the site, ca.1886-1930. The project was open for public visitation and over 400 visitors signed our guest book during the nine days we were on site.

The history of the area now occupied by the Louisiana State Capitol Grounds and Pentagon Barracks stretches back to the earliest Euro-American settlement of the Mississippi River. During the American Revolution the British established a fort here, called Fort Baton Rouge or Fort New Richmond, to defend the area from the Spanish, who had allied themselves with the American revolutionaries. In 1779 the fort at Baton Rouge fell to the Spanish led by Bernardo de Gálvez. The Spanish renamed the fort Fuerte San Carlos (Fort San Carlos) and occupied the area until the West Florida militia captured it in 1810, which proclaimed the area to be part of the independent West Florida Republic. The West Florida Republic was short-lived and the area was subsequently turned over to the United States in December 1810. From 1819 until 1879 the Pentagon Barracks and Arsenal Grounds occupied the area. In 1879 the Pentagon Barracks and Arsenal Grounds were decommissioned and in 1884 they were transferred to U.S. Department of the Interior. Two years later the Secretary of the Interior gave the Pentagon Barracks and Arsenal Grounds to Louisiana State University (LSU). Many of the former military buildings that survived the Civil War and a hurricane in 1879 were taken over by LSU and used as dormitories, residences for University officials, classroom buildings, laboratories, and administration buildings. In 1902 LSU was given full title to the property and by the middle of the 1920s LSU occupied about 40 buildings in downtown Baton Rouge. By 1922 LSU had acquired a large tract of land south of town and began the process of transferring the campus from downtown Baton Rouge to its present location. The Louisiana State Capitol building was completed in 1932 and by 1940 the State Capitol Grounds had more-or-less assumed the appearance they have today.

Using an early twentieth-century LSU campus map overlain on a modern aerial photograph as a guide, our archaeological investigations were designed to determine if we could locate evidence of a building known as the President's Residence during the Old LSU occupation of the site, 1886-1930. This structure, however, pre-dates the Old LSU occupation and historic maps indicate that a structure was in this location by at least 1829. It may have served as quarters for Ordnance Officers and was perhaps built as early as 1825 (Hahn and Hahn 2001:44). Significantly, historic maps also depict a well just south of the Ordnance Officer's quarters. By at least 1895 the structure is being referred to as the President's Residence on maps of the LSU campus. Historic photographs of the President's Residence show that it was a Greek Revival style house, two-stories high with front and side galleries supported by square Doric columns, which appear to sit on brick piers (Figure 1). Historic photographs also show a small structure located on the south side of the President's Residence, in the area of the well denoted on earlier historic maps (Figure 1). It is possible that this small structure represents a well house, built over the well sometime after 1829. The historic photographs of the President's Residence also suggest that the well house was built on a chain wall foundation rather than raised on piers. Furthermore, the roof and wall angles reveal that the well house was constructed as multi-sided polygon, probably an octagon.

A small grid was established over the area selected for excavation and a trench measuring 1 m x 7 m was laid out. The map overlay suggested that a trench in this location would intersect the south wall of the President's Residence. Four 1 m x 1 m units within the trench were selected for excavation. Artifacts recovered from below the modern fill strata indicated that intact archaeological deposits dating from the early nineteenth century through the early twentieth century were present here. We subsequently defined seven cultural features during the course of our fieldwork at the site: the most significant being Feature 5 and Feature 7. Feature 5 is a brick pier, six courses high (Figure 2). Feature 5 is interpreted as a brick pier, which supported one of the six columns on the south wall of the President's Residence. Feature 7 is a portion of octagon (?) -shaped brick foundation (Figure 3). The foundation is three bricks wide and two courses high. Feature 7 is interpreted here as being the foundation for the well house associated with the President's Residence.

## Old LSU (continued)

In conclusion, our excavations at the location of the Old LSU President's Residence revealed the presence of intact archaeological deposits and structural features interpreted as being related to the structures known to have been present in this location since at least 1829. Future excavations may shed additional light on the daily lives of the soldiers, officers, cadets, students, workers, and administrators, who served, studied, lived, and toiled here during both the military and LSU occupation of the Louisiana State Capitol Grounds.

## References

Hahn, S. A. and T. H. G. Hahn

2001 *Pentagon Barracks (16EBR43): Cultural Resources Monitoring of Machine Excavations for Exterior Renovations and Site Improvements, Baton Rouge, Louisiana*. Report on file at the Division of Archaeology, Baton Rouge.



Figure 1. Circa 1895 photograph of the Old LSU President's Residence, LSU Special Collections, Photograph Collection (Digital File #A50000385).



Figure 2. Feature 5, brick pier for column support.



Figure 3. Feature 7, polygon-shaped foundation of well house.

# Official Business

**Executive Committee Meeting  
Louisiana Archaeological Society  
Baton Rouge, LA  
Saturday, December 15, 2007**

**Attendees:**

1. Rachel Watson, Secretary
2. Chip McGimsey, Bulletin Editor
3. Scott Wehner
4. Ann Wehner
5. George Riser, Vice President/President Elect
6. Joretta LeBoeuf, Treasurer
7. Rogers Serpas
8. Dennis Jones, Newsletter Editor

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m. by VP George Riser.

**Minutes:** George Riser made a motion, seconded by Rogers Serpas to accept the Executive Board Meeting minutes from August 4, 2007, meeting with minor corrections proposed by Ann Wehner. The motion passed unanimously.

## Reports

**President:** Ellen Ibert was not able to attend. On her behalf, Rachel Watson reported there were actually 45 VHS tapes that need to be transfer to DVD. Time span from 1990-2002. Ellen also posed several questions that she was looking for guidance or clarification on. Were there any nominations for the various LAS awards? Did she need to contact Universities about the Marie Standifer Award? Where were we on the service award for Maureen Downey?

**Vice President:** George Riser further discussed the organization of the annual meeting.

**Secretary:** Nothing to report.

**Treasurer & Membership:** Account Balance: \$10,267.54. Online banking has been setup for LAS that allows the President access to the accounts for extra security.

Current membership is at 224, with one new lifetime member. There are two lifetime members with no forwarding address information. Joretta LeBoeuf is looking into the situation.

**Website:** Junior Doughty was unable to attend. Joretta LeBoeuf reported on his behalf. The website is receiving an average of 120 hits per day. The sample newsletter that was posted on the website has been downloaded 76 times. The transfer of web host site was completely successful. The website is currently only using .05% of our bandwidth capacity.

**Bulletin:** There have been no submissions for the *Petit Anse* manuscript.

**Newsletter:** Dennis Jones reported that the next edition of the Newsletter would be out in early January. The deadline for submission was December 15, 2007. The Newsletter will contain information about the Annual Meeting and a small biography on the Keynote speaker, Richard A. Gould. The last newsletter mail out included 225 copies, some of which were hand delivered to save cost.

## Chapter Reports

**Baton Rouge Chapter:** Dennis Jones is the new president of the Baton Rouge chapter. Rob Mann is the Program Chair. Stephanie Perrault is the new treasurer. All financial business has been transferred from Joretta LeBoeuf to Stephanie Perrault. They are planning to initiate more activities into the meeting rather than just paper presentation. Average meeting attendance is about 12 people. The chapter meets the last Wednesday of every month.

**Central Louisiana Chapter:** No representative in attendance.

**Delta Chapter:** Rogers Serpas reported that the chapter is still trying to regroup. They are having some communication problems concerning meeting place and time. University of New Orleans is allowing the chapter to meet on the campus. However, the chapter is not currently holding regular meetings.

**Northeast Chapter:** No representative in attendance.

**Northwest Chapter:** No representative in attendance.

**LAS Executive Committee meeting (continued)**

**Southwest Chapter:** Scott Wehner is the president of the chapter. Ann Wehner is the Secretary/Treasurer for the chapter and is approved by the LAS executive committee to use the LAS tax id number. They currently have \$130 dues collected. Charlie Bollich recently conducted a workshop for the chapter members. The chapter meets on the third Thursday of the month on the campus of McNeese State University.

**West Louisiana Chapter:** No representative in attendance.

**Old Business**

Ann Wehner will take over responsibility of grants writing for LAS. The Executive Committee will identify the need for a grant and then pass that information along to Ann.

Grant was submitted to LEH for the 2008 Annual Meeting and we will find out the result on Monday, December 17, 2007.

Scott Wehner needs to get one of the meeting VHS tapes to transfer to DVD so the Executive Committee can see the end product for approval.

2008 LAS Annual Meeting organization is going well. If the LEH funding does not happen there are other potential funding sources. The speakers cost are covered. The meeting announcement will be sent to Arkansas.

**New Business**

Ellen Ibert had posed some questions concerning the awards. There was some confusion as to what was advertised for each of the awards. Shannon Dawdy had suggested to George Riser that Betty Pendley would be a good choice for the Roger Saucier Award.

Josetta LeBoeuf is working on an award for Maureen Downey for her years of service to the LAS.

Need to nominate new LAS Vice-President candidates at the 2008 LAS Annual Meeting.

Next meeting Friday, February 8, 2008, at the 2008 LAS Annual Meeting.

Dennis Jones made a motion to adjourn and George Riser seconded with a unanimous passing.

**Louisiana Archaeological Conservancy  
Baton Rouge, LA  
Saturday, December 15, 2007**

Attendees: Anne Wehner, Scott Wehner, Stu Braud, Rogers Serpas, Dennis Jones, Josetta LeBoeuf, Rachel Watson

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 a.m. Stu Braud, V.P.

**Minutes:** No minutes. They will be reviewed and voted on at a later date.

**Reports**

Scott Wehner, Treasurer, reported a current balance of \$8,959.70 as of November 30, 2007. There was a discussion concerning ideas to increase membership. What are things that LAC can do? Suggestions included possible Mounds Trail maintenance or helping the regional archaeologist.

LAC could submit an item to the Louisiana Historical Society for their newsletter. Stu Braud recommended joining the Society.

**New Business**

Scott Wehner is interested in finding and documenting artifacts collected in the Toledo Bend area by locals. Dennis Jones suggested waiting until the SW Regional Archaeologist is hired to help.

Scott Wehner requested help reaching Carl Kuttruff for the old membership list to send out renewal announcements.

Scott Wehner requested information on the value of properties for tax deductions to the present to the landowners.

Highland Road Stockade has changed ownership. Josetta LeBoeuf recommended someone contact the new landowner to introduce the organization.

New President is needed since Kathleen Bergeron resignation. Dennis Jones suggested making an announcement in the newsletter about this and is has agreed to write this up.

Stu Braud made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 a.m. and Dennis Jones seconded with a unanimous passing.

## The Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission (LASAC)

The Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, December 11, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. in the Capitol Annex Building, 1051 North Third Street, Conference Room 238A, Baton Rouge, LA.

**Members Present:** Dr. Heather McKillop, Mr. Gregory DuCote, Mr. Marc Dupuy, Jr., Mr. James Fogleman, Dr. Chip McGimsey, Dr. Mark Rees, Dr. George Riser, LTC Michael Tarpley

**Members Absent:** Ms. Paige Ashby, Ms. Pam Breaux

**Others Present:** Ms. Jill Andrew, Mr. Ray Berthelot, Ms. Kellye Cummings, Ms. Jessica Dixon, Dr. Brooks Elwood, Dr. Diana Greenlee, Ms. Nancy Hawkins, Mr. Richard Holloway, Mr. Dennis Jones, Ms. Meta Pike, Ms. Karen Richardson, Mr. Duke Rivet, Ms. Sherry Wagener, Ms. Rachel Watson, Ms. Cheraki Williams

### Welcome & Introductions

Dr. Heather McKillop called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Ms. Paige Ashby and Ms. Pam Breaux were unable to attend the meeting. The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the Commission Meeting held September 11, 2007.

**MOTION:** *A motion was made by Mr. Marc Dupuy and seconded by Dr. George Riser, to accept the minutes of the September 11, 2007, Antiquities Commission Meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously*

### Old Business

#### Update on Filling Remaining Commission Vacancy

Mr. Duke Rivet reported that there is one remaining vacancy on the Commission. He suggested waiting until the new administration was in place before submitting any names to the Governor's Office for approval. Mr. Rivet requested that the Commission members forward their suggestions for candidates to Dr. Chip McGimsey and that the Commission discuss their suggestions at the next meeting.

#### Update on Archaeology Week 2007

Ms. Meta Pike informed the Commission of the success of Archaeology Week 2007 with over 1,500 visitors attending more than 50 events hosted by 40 cities and towns throughout the state. Next year the event will be expanded to last the entire month of October. Archaeology Month will provide a broader scope of activities, more flexibility for host venues and participation, and less scheduling conflicts for guests attending multiple events. The theme for the Archaeology Month 2008 poster will be the "Mardi Gras Shipwreck," a vessel that sank

off the coast of Louisiana approximately 200 years ago. Archaeologists from Texas A&M University and Minerals Management Service are currently examining the role of the craft in the economic development of the American South and maritime trade in the Gulf of Mexico. Additional information on the Mardi Gras Shipwreck can be found at

<http://www.flpublicarchaeology.org/mardigras/>.

### New Business

#### Promotion of LSU Campus Mounds

Dr. Heather McKillop addressed the Commission on the promotion of the LSU Campus Mounds (16EBR6). Radiocarbon dating showed that the mounds were built around 5,000 years ago at approximately the same time as Watson Brake. Dr. McKillop stated that Dr. Jeff Homburg did his thesis research on the campus mounds while attending LSU, and she had approached him on the subject of writing an article or booklet on the mounds that could be placed on the Division of Archaeology's website for the public to download. LSU will be celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010 and that would be another opportunity to publicize the significance of this important archaeological site. Dr. McKillop expressed her concerns over the security of the mounds that can be easily damaged by the public using the mounds as slides, particularly during football season. A suggestion was made that that State Archaeologist or the Native American Student Association approach the Chancellor of LSU about providing additional security for the mounds during special events.

#### Permit Request of Remote Sensing at the LSU Mounds (16EBR6)

A request to perform remote sensing at the LSU Mounds (16EBR6) was brought before the Commission by Dr. Books Elwood, a professor in the Department of Geology and Geophysics and an adjunct faculty member with the Department of Geography and Anthropology at LSU. Dr. Elwood's class, GEOL 4019, would perform a series of electrical resistivity experiments to evaluate the subsurface electrical variations within the mounds. In addition, a series of 1" diameter, short soil cores would be placed along two profiles in each mound, and associated with electrical anomalies, to evaluate the sedimentary character and recent disturbances of the mounds. The students would perform the work under the supervision of Dr. Elwood and the student papers would be written in the scientific format used by the Journal of Archaeological Science and made available to the Commission. This coring program will be minimally invasive to the LSU Mounds.

## LASAC meeting minutes (continued)

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Dr. George Riser and seconded by Mr. Marc Dupuy, to issue a permit for Dr. Brooks Elwood's GEOL 4019 class to perform electrical resistivity experiments and short, soil coring at the LSU Mounds in the Spring of 2008. The motion carried unanimously

### Annual Update-Poverty Point Station Archaeologist

Dr. Diana Greenlee reported to the Commission that she had submitted an application in March 2007 for Poverty Point State Historic Site to be on the U.S. World Heritage Site Tentative List. The goal is eventually for Poverty Point to be placed on the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage List of the world's most significant cultural and natural treasures. The owners or representatives of 35 American sites applied for inclusion on the Tentative List of U.S. World Heritage nominations. Sites on the Tentative List will be considered over the coming 10 years for formal nomination by the United States as World Heritage Sites.

The National Park Service's Office of International Affairs (OIA) staff, National Park Service specialists, and independent experts screened and reviewed the applications. OIA then compiled the draft Tentative List at the end of August 2007. In September, a subcommittee of the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO, including representatives of relevant federal agencies, reviewed the draft Tentative List. The full Commission approved the subcommittee's report on October 4. The Commission recommended 11 properties for listing on the Tentative List, and Poverty Point was one of them.

The Commission's recommendation to the U.S. government then went to the Department of the Interior, which posted the recommendations in the Federal Register for a 30-day public comment period during the month of November. Later, the Secretary of the Interior will determine the final U.S. Tentative List, which will be forwarded to the State Department to present to the World Heritage Committee. So far, Poverty Point is on the recommended list, and Diana expects that it will be on the final U.S. Tentative List that will be submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre by February 1, 2008.

Dr. Greenlee reported on other activities that have occurred at Poverty Point. The Army Corp of Engineers, Vicksburg District has completed the Harlin Bayou bankline stabilization project behind Mound B and the dormitory. No cultural deposits were found that could have been impacted by the project. Dr. Greenlee was contacted by Ms. Melissa Mariano, an artifact conservator currently based in Boston, who volunteered to clean and stabilize some of the copper beads from Poverty Point and she will be working with Dr. Greenlee on ways to better stabilize the remaining copper artifacts in storage and in the museum collection. The copper is not native

to Louisiana and has been assumed to come from the Great Lakes area.

Drs. Michael Hargrave and Berle Clay conducted magnetic gradiometry and electrical resistance survey of on the ridges and plaza at Poverty Point. An electrical resistance cart was used to collect data from the same areas where they had previously performed magnetometry research. The data were overlaid on a 1938 topographic aerial photograph, which in some areas clearly illustrated the subsurface structure of the ridges and revealed the existence of circular anomalies in the plaza. In October of 2007, Dr. Joe Saunders pulled 1" diameter cores from transects across the ridges and the circular anomalies, and Dr. Rinita Dalan conducted down-hole magnetic susceptibility studies in the core holes. She was able to identify different kinds of fill that corresponded to the magnetic signatures documented by Drs. Hargrave and Clay (e.g., one of the circular anomalies appears to be a prehistoric trench filled with PPOs). Dr. Dalan would like to excavate a small portion of an anomaly in the future to further explore these findings. The core samples are being curated for future analyses. In addition, the National Resources Conservation Service collected approximately 12,000 survey data points of the southwestern ridges at Poverty Point using an ATV equipped with GPS. The information helped to more clearly illustrate the currently less defined portions of the ridges.

Dr. Greenlee reported that she has begun work on reconstructing the original ecological landscape of Poverty Point. Through the use of past General Land Office (GLO) maps and soil surveys, she was able to plot some tree locations. She also discovered an 1848 GLO map that places a structure on the Poverty Point Plantation site.

### Poverty Point Paintings

Mr. Ray Berthelot displayed a number of original Martin Pate paintings on Native American life at Poverty Point. Martin Pate has been involved in many projects with the National Park Service and the National Geographic Society in the past as well as the renovation of the exhibits at the Marksville museum. The exhibits at the Poverty Point State Historic Site are nearly 30 years old and as more research has been performed, the exhibits have become more out-of-date. In a cooperative effort between the Office of State Museum, the Office of State Parks, the Division of Archaeology and the staff of the Poverty Point Historic Site, the existing exhibits will be updated. The Pate paintings will be digitally reproduced for the new panels and the exhibit text will be revised. Mr. Berthelot is in discussion with the Office of State

**LASAC minutes (continued)**

Museum about the possibility of creating a gallery of Mr. Pate's original works that would provide another venue for the public to become familiar with Native American life in Louisiana and the Southeast.

**Other Business**

Dr. George Riser reminded the commission of the upcoming LAS meeting in Metairie on February 8-10, 2008, with Dr. Richard Gould from Brown University as the keynote speaker on the topic of "Disaster Archaeology".

Dr. Heather McKillop announced that applications for the position of Assistant Professor with an emphasis on historic archaeology in the Department of Geography and Anthropology at LSU in Baton Rouge would be open until December 21, 2007.

Dr. Chip McGimsey provided a brief update on the Southwestern Regional Archaeologist position. All three candidates declined an offer of employment. Another applicant has been scheduled for an interview next week.

LTC Michael Tarpley brought to the attention of the commission the large number of potentially eligible sites for listing on the National Register that have been identified by the Louisiana Army National Guard on their property in Louisiana. LTC Tarpley expressed his concern that many of those sites should be listed as ineligible and will be working to correct this in conjunction with the Louisiana Division of Archaeology and the appropriate tribes over the coming years.

There being no further questions, comments, or other business to bring before the commission, Dr. McKillop entertained a motion to adjourn.

**MOTION:** *A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. George Riser and seconded by Dr. Chip McGimsey. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.*

**The Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission, special session on Saturday, February 9, 2008, at 10 am, Marriott Lakeway Hotel, Metairie, Louisiana.**

**Members Present:** Mr. Marc Dupuy, Jr., Mr. James Fogleman, Dr. Chip McGimsey, Dr. Mark Rees, Dr. George Riser

**Others Present:** Mr. Orrin Duncan, Ms. Sandra R. Duncan, Mr. Edward N. George, Mr. Duke Rivet, Dr. Jeff Rouse, Mr. Ryan Seidemann, Ms. Rhonda Smith, Ms. Cheraki Williams

**Welcome & Introductions**

Dr. George Riser called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Paige Ashby, Ms. Pam Breaux, Mr. Gregory DuCote, Dr. Heather McKillop, and LTC Michael Tarpley were unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Pam Breaux and LTC Michael Tarpley authorized Dr. Chip McGimsey to vote their proxy.

**New Business**Permit Request for Katrina Memorial Corporation

Dr. Chip McGimsey spoke before the commission on the request by the Katrina Memorial Corporation for a permit to build the Katrina Memorial on the existing site of Charity Hospital Cemetery #1 (16OR175) in New Orleans. He stated that Mr. Ryan Seidemann from the Attorney General's Office had given an extensive presentation to the commission at the September 11, 2008 meeting. At that meeting the commission passed a resolution expressing their concern about the impact on the existing cemetery by constructing a new memorial on the site. Since that time, Dr. McGimsey and Ms. Cheraki Williams, both with the Division of Archaeology, and Mr. Ryan Seidemann have met with members of the Katrina Memorial Corporation and Ms. Rhonda Smith of Earth Search, Inc. (ESI) to discuss a detailed proposal of how the facility would be built. All of the commission members were sent copies of all the documents and permit requests that resulted from those meetings.

Mr. Orrin Duncan, Ms. Sandra Duncan and Dr. Jeff Rouse of the Katrina Memorial Corporation and Ms. Rhonda Smith of Earth Search, Inc., the firm that will be responsible for archaeological monitoring during construction of the memorial, were present to discuss the issue and answer any questions that the commission may have. Dr. George Riser asked if any objections had been raised over the construction of the memorial at that site. Dr. McGimsey stated that LTC Michael Tarpley had expressed concerns over the disturbance of the existing cemetery, but he would agree to the construction if appropriate measures were taken to preserve the burials at the site. Ms. Sandra Duncan told the commission that the corporation has received positive input from the public through direct contact and through their website. Dr. Jeff Rouse said that at the second anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, a public ceremony was held at Charity Hospital Cemetery #1 where it was announced that a memorial was planned for the site and the public raised no objections. Mr. Marc Dupuy wanted to know how much fill would be used to protect the existing site. Ms. Smith stated that monitors from Earth Search, Inc.

### Special LASAC meeting minutes (continued)

would be present throughout the project. GPS and grid maps would be used to limit disturbances to the site. Any markers that were uncovered would be returned to their original site and fully documented. Temporary plank roads would be put in place during rainy periods to lessen the impact of heavy equipment on the site. Dr. Mark Rees asked about the placement of the chain link fence around the area. Ms. Smith said that enough fill would be brought in so that the fence would not intrude on the original site. Mr. Edward George stated that the members of the corporation understood the sensitive nature of the situation and assured the commission that it was their intention to see that all phases of construction were done in the most appropriate and respectful way possible. Dr. Riser thanked the members of the Katrina Memorial Corporation for their input and for coming to the meeting. He then asked that a motion be made to put the issue of the permit before the commission.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Mr. James Fogleman and seconded by Dr. Chip McGimsey, to issue a permit to the Katrina Memorial Corporation to allow archaeological monitoring during the construction of the Katrina Memorial at the Charity Hospital Memorial Cemetery #1 (16OR175). The motion carried unanimously.

### Other Business

Dr. McGimsey stated that Ms. Williams would be responsible for drafting the permit. There being no further questions, comments, or other business to bring before the commission, Dr. Riser thanked everyone for attending and entertained a motion to adjourn.

**MOTION:** A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Chip McGimsey and seconded by Mr. Marc Dupuy. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

## Where Should You Be This Summer?



## Archaeology Field School (ANTH 490G) Avery Island, Iberia Parish

Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

June 2, 2008 through July 3, 2008

The Field School will meet M-F 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., June 2 – July 3, 2008. Transportation will be provided from the UL Lafayette campus. Permission of the instructor is required. There will be a \$20.00 activity fee. The co-requisite course, Archaeological Records (Anth 499G), will be offered during the Fall 2008 semester.

For more information, contact:

Dr. Mark A. Rees, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, 109A Mouton Hall,  
University of Louisiana Lafayette, LA 70504-0198; [rees@louisiana.edu](mailto:rees@louisiana.edu); 337-482-6045

**LAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND DUES RENEWAL**

Regular Membership	Annually \$20.00
Associate Membership	Annually \$5.00
Life Membership	\$200.00
Sustaining Membership	\$300.00
Student Membership	Annually \$12.00
Libraries & Institutions	Annually \$20.00

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Associate Members \_\_\_\_\_

All memberships are for the calendar year, January 1 through December 31. Regardless of the time of year during which you join the society, you will receive all publications for the year specified.

Back Issues of LAS Bulletins, \$15.00 each. Orders of 10 to 14 copies, \$13.50 each; orders of 15 or more copies, \$12.75 each. Available Bulletins are:

#1(1974), #3(1976), #7(1980), #8 (1981), #9 (1982), #10 (1983), #11 (1984), #12 (1985), #13 (1986), #14 (1987), #15 (1988), #16 (1989), #17(1990), #18(1991), #19(1992), #20(1993), #21(1994), #22(1995), #23(1996), #24(1997), #25(1998), #26 (1999).

Back Issues of LAS Special Publications:

SP #1 Stone Points and Tools of Northwestern Louisiana (1981, Reprinted 2000)	\$4.00
SP #2 LAS 10th Anniversary Issue (1984)	(out of print)
SP #3 Louisiana's Archaeological Radiometric Database	\$4.00

Optional Donation: Roger T Saucier Memorial Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ -

Make checks payable to:  
**Louisiana Archaeological Society**

Send payment to:  
 Joesetta LeBoeuf, LAS Treasurer  
 9364 Rainford  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70810

### Information for Subscribers

The Newsletter of the Louisiana Archeological Society is published three times a year for the society. Subscription is by membership in the Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS). Annual membership dues are \$20 for individuals, libraries, and institutions. \$5.00 for associates (relatives of individual members) and \$12 for students. Life membership dues are \$200 for individuals. Sustaining membership dues for individuals or institutions are \$300. In addition to the newsletter, members receive one issue per year of the bulletin Louisiana Archaeology. Membership requests, subscription dues, changes of address, and back issue orders should be directed to the Treasurer. Unless otherwise indicated, opinions stated herein are those of the Newsletter Editor and do not necessarily reflect society policy

### Information for Contributors

Send all notes, news, graphics and other communication to:

Dennis Jones-LAS Newsletter Editor

Snail mail: 1801 Ormandy Dr, Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Email: [archaeoman2003@yahoo.com](mailto:archaeoman2003@yahoo.com)

If possible articles should be submitted on computer disk or by email, preferably in Microsoft Word. Digital images are encouraged. Please send in JPG or TIFF format. Contact editor via email with all questions.

### LAS Web Site

[www.laarchaeology.org](http://www.laarchaeology.org)

#### LAS OFFICERS

**President:** Ellen Ibert, P.O Box 145, Anacoco, LA Tel 337 392 6104

**Vice President:** Dr. George Riser, Covington, LA.

**Secretary:** Maureen Downey, 103 Beaupre Dr., Luling, LA 70070 Tel. 504 785 25545

**Treasurer:** Josetta LeBoeuf, 9364 Rainford Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70810

**Bulletin Editor:** Charles McGimsey, Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, P.O. Box 40198, Lafayette, LA 70504 Tel. 337 482 6198

**Newsletter Editor:** Dennis Jones, 1801 Ormandy Dr., Baton Rouge, LA. Tel. 225 572 5464

**Webmaster:** Junior Doughty, 218 Major Doughty Road, Tullos, LA 71479. Tel. 318 534 6290

All officers can be contacted through the LAS website: [www.laarchaeology.org](http://www.laarchaeology.org)

## Louisiana Archaeological Society

9364 Rainford Rd.

Baton Rouge, LA,

70810

Description	Count
Flakes	1184 (24 novaculite)
Angular fragments	217 (1 novaculite)
Bifaces and biface fragments	387 (3 novaculite, 1 indeterminate chert)
Drills	9
Adzes (polish on the bits)	2
Cores and core/hammerstones	3
Retouched pieces	15 (1 novaculite)
Early Archaic lanceolate	1
Archaic side-notched point reworked into scraper	1
Bulverde points	2
Evans points	7
Marcos points	21 (1 indeterminate chert)
Yarbrough points	8
Williams points	4
Birds Creek points	1
Ellis points	1
Marshall points	2
Little Bear Creek points	3
Macon points	4
Late Archaic barbed points	6
Kent points	28
Gary points	19 (5 novaculite and 1 crystal quartz)
Gary/Kent points	1
Pontchartrain points	2
Late Archaic stemmed points	12 (2 novaculite)
Indeterminate dart points and fragments	72 (1 indeterminate chert)
Atba point	1
Indeterminate arrow points	5
Oversize cache blade (?)	1
Baytown Plain rim with lip notches	1
Marksville Stamped, var. <i>Manny</i>	1
Stone beads	9
Historic Kaolin pipe stems	2