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The Archaeology of the Recent African American Past

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**The Archaeology of the Recent African American Past.
South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology
University of South Carolina, Columbia
February 27-28, 2009**



The South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology and the Department of Anthropology at the University of South Carolina will hold their first annual Post-Doctoral Fellows Archaeology Conference in February 2009, organized by Jodi Barnes. *The Archaeology of the Recent African American Past* is a two-day conference to be held at the University of South Carolina in Columbia on Friday, February 27 (9am to 5pm) and Saturday February 28 (9am to 3:30pm). The central theme is the plurality of the post-emancipation experiences in the United States and how the archaeological record can provide insight into how African peoples experienced freedom in places such as James Island, South Carolina, Nicodemus, Kansas or New Philadelphia, Illinois. The presentations will focus on the painful histories of Reconstruction and Jim Crow and the more hopeful histories of the Civil Rights Movement and the building of Black communities, neighborhoods and universities.

Theresa Singleton, an historical archaeologist, foundational scholar in African diaspora archaeology, and faculty member at Syracuse University, New York, is the plenary speaker. The plenary will be held on Saturday afternoon at the Carriage House of the Robert Mills House & Park (a Historic Columbia Foundation property) with a reception to follow.

In addition, there will be a museum exhibit and reception at the McKissick Museum on the University of South Carolina campus on Friday night. A tour of African American Heritage sites in Columbia will also be available. Presentations at the conference include:

***Reaching for Freedom, Seizing Responsibility: Archaeology at the Phyllis Wheatley Home for Girls, Chicago*, Anna S. Agbe-Davies, DePaul University**

***Archaeology of Jim Crow Era African American Life on Louisiana's Sugar Plantations*, David Palmer, University of Louisiana at Lafayette**

Black History as Property: A Horizon of African American Memorialization,
Christopher N. Matthews, Hofstra University

The Cemetery as Focus of Community Identity and Resistance in the Past and Remembering and Reclaiming the Past in the Present, John P. McCarthy, S&ME, Inc.

Race, Displacement, and 20th Century University Landscapes: An Archaeology of Renewal and Urban Universities, Paul R. Mullins, Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis and Lewis C. Jones, Indiana University

What Means Gottes Acker?: The 20th Century Obliteration and Revival of an African-American Story, Leland Ferguson, University of South Carolina

Gibson Grove AME Zion Church Project, Alexandra Jones, University of California, Berkeley

Nicodemus, An Inspiration Beneath the Poppy Mallows, Flordeliz T. Bugarin, Howard University

Archaeological Perspectives on Structural Racism in the Jim Crow Era of the American Midwest, Christopher C. Fennell, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Life and Death on James Island: Exploration and Protection of the Dill Sanctuary, Ronald Anthony, Eugene Frazier, Martha Zierden, The Charleston Museum

Constructing Black "Childhood" in Reconstruction Era Dallas: Victorian Ideals and the Evolving Realities of an Engendered African-America, Megan Teague and James Davidson, University of Florida

An Archaeology of Urban Infrastructure and African-American Achievement in Annapolis, Maryland during the 20th Century, Matthew M. Palus, Columbia University, New York

From Slave to Citizen on James Island: The Archaeology of Freedom at Fort

Johnson, Carl Steen, Diachronic Research

White Privilege and Archaeology, Jennifer Babiartz, University of Texas, Austin

***Interpretations from African-American Cemetery Data, Christina Brooks,
Winthrop University***

***An Archaeology of Commodity Flow, Health, and Discourse Materialized During
the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century: A Case Study from Columbia,
South Carolina, Jakob D. Crockett, University of South Carolina***

***Excavating Inspiration: Archaeology at the Harriet Tubman Home, Auburn, New
York, Douglas Armstrong, Syracuse University***

***BaKongo Cosmograms, Christian Crosses, Or None Of The Above: An
Archaeology of African American Spiritual Adaptations into the 1920s, Kenneth L.
Brown, University of Houston***

**For additional information, check out the conference website at:
www.cas.sc.edu/SCIAA/postdoc_conf.html or contact Jodi Barnes at
JBarnes@mailbox.sc.edu.**