EDITOR'S COMMENT

With this issue I complete my six-year tenure as SEAC Newsletter editor. During this time I have had the pleasure of working with three outstanding SEAC presidents (Vic Steponaitis, Ian Brown, and Patricia Galloway) and two very talented editors (Steve Davis and Ken Sassaman). One of the greatest rewards of this position is that I have become friends with many SEAC members I did not know before becoming Newsletter editor. I appreciate the support of the SEAC membership and I wish the new Newsletter editor success.

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ELECTIONS FOR SEAC OFFICERS

The SEAC Nominations and Elections Committee has selected the following individuals as candidates for three SEAC offices:

President-Elect:
J. Vernon Knight
Elizabeth J. Reitz

Secretary-Elect:
Michael Russo
Kenneth E. Sassaman

Executive Officer II:
T.R. Kiddier
Claudine Payne
Rebecca Saunders

The membership should have received a ballot and is encouraged to vote for these important positions. Many thanks to the Nominations and Elections Committee--Michael Nassaney (Chair), James Brown, and Ruth Troccoli--for obtaining such a fine slate of candidates.

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1996 SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

The 1996 SEAC meeting will be held November 6-9, 1996 at the Sheraton Civic Center, Birmingham, Alabama. Please check the April, 1996 Newsletter for details and registration material.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mid-South Archaeological Conference

The 18th Mid-South Archaeological Conference will meet at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas, on June 7 and June 8, 1997. Central themes are: Native American Resistance to Archaeology; History of Archaeology, and Current Research in the Mid-South. Contact Dan or Phyllis Morse (dmorse@osage.astate.edu) for additional information.

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Louis Berger & Associates, Inc.

The Richmond office of The Cultural Resource Group of Louis Berger & Associates, Inc., is relocating effective May 31, 1996. New address is: 1001 E. Broad Street, Suite 1140, Richmond, Virginia 23219. Telephone & Fax numbers remain the same: Tel: (804) 225-0348; Fax: (804) 225-0511. New e-mail address: 103063.427@compuserve.com

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Society of Ethnobiology

THE 20TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF ETHNOBIOLOGY will be held at the University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia from March 26-29, 1997. For information contact Laura Ryan, Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-1619, (706) 542-1433.

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1996 SEAC Public Outreach Award

The winning proposal in the 1996 SEAC Public Outreach Grant competition was submitted by Linda Derry, Alabama Historical Commission (SHPO), Selma, Alabama. The SEAC funds ($1,000) will be used to support a teacher’s archaeological workshop to be held in conjunction with the SEAC meeting in Birmingham this November. This workshop is part of an ongoing effort in Alabama to train school teachers to become educated students about archaeological resources and the proper ways to use and protect these resources.

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CURRENT RESEARCH

Coastal Carolina Research Inc., Tarboro, North Carolina

Survey in Columbus County

In the summer of 1995, Coastal Carolina Research, Inc. conducted an intensive survey of approximately 200 acres along the Cape Fear River in Columbus County, North Carolina. The project director was Lorena Lautzenheiser. During this survey, 48 archaeological sites were recorded, although only 79 sites had been previously recorded for the entire county. Of the newly recorded sites. 21 had only prehistoric components, 9 had only historic components, and 18 had both prehistoric and historic components. The tract surveyed was remarkable not only in the high density of sites it contained but also in the excellent preservation of the sites. Nearly 50 percent of the historic sites recorded appear to retain significant information.

Some of the prehistoric sites with apparently intact deposits contained White Oak
ceramics dating to the Late Woodland period as well as fine-sand tempered ceramics that do not fall into a type previously identified for the south Coastal Plain of North Carolina. Three sites, one of which appears to warrant additional investigations, contained evidence of contact period occupation.

Of the 27 sites with historic components, two date to the seventeenth century and 24 date to the eighteenth century, including an archaeological district. The two sites dating to the seventeenth century may be associated with the settlement of Charles Town, occupied between 1664 to 1667. Very little is known of this time in the lower Cape Fear region’s history, and only one archaeological site dating to this period has been minimally investigated. If the sites are not associated with Charles Town, however, they date from a slightly later time during which European settlement of the region is entirely undocumented. One historic site dating to the first quarter of the eighteenth century is likely associated with settlers from Barbados and may provide valuable information concerning the permanent European settlement of the Cape Fear.

Additional research at 21 of the sites is scheduled to begin during the spring of 1996.

--Loretta Lautenbecher
Coastal Carolina Research, Inc.
Tarboro, North Carolina

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Frank H. McClung Museum University of Tennessee, Knoxville

In December, 1995, the Frank H. McClung Museum began an inventory of the museum’s extensive holdings of archaeologically recovered maize. This ongoing project, funded by a generous grant from the Baker Endowment through the Iowa State University Foundation, is aimed at organizing and stabilizing thousands of maize elements recovered from some 60 sites in six states. The collections cover a time frame ranging from the second century AD into the 19th century AD.

A database format has been designed which will allow researchers and educators to retrieve any or all available information on cultural/temporal context, site recovery context (e.g., feature form/type), structure affiliation, excavation unit/level, radiocarbon dates, recovery technique (e.g., flotation, waterscreen, etc.), size (volume) of processed sample, numbers of material elements such as kernels, cupules, detached glumes, embryos, or cob sections, whether any analyses or reports have been done, and the name(s) of analysts. A bibliography of written reports (published "on file") is also being prepared. A "notes" section in the database will provide some basic morphological information on selected samples of maize. All material will be stored in new curation cabinets and accessioned by cabinet, drawer, and individual box number. The inventory process will be completed by the end of November, 1996, and will be available at the museum on hard copy and in an electronic format (Microsoft Access).

--Gary D. Crites
Ethnobotany Laboratory

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Arkansas Archeological Survey

In June, 1996, the Arkansas Archeological Society Training Program was held in northeast Arkansas. Fieldwork was conducted on two sites in Cross County. Work at the Graves #3 site (JCS270) was supervised by Timothy S. Mulvihill (Arkansas Archeological Survey). The Survey’s Parkin Research Station had conducted excavations
here in 1992, investigating a large trash-filled pit that was thought to date from Emergent Mississippian times. Goals were to finish excavating this pit, search for evidence of an aboriginal structure, obtain samples for radiocarbon dating, and to gather information about subsistence, artifact types, and relationships to earlier and later occupations in the region. The 1996 work revealed a number of fire-hardened clay-lined pits, three additional large trash pits, and features from an early 20th-century sweat house which once stood on the site. No evidence of an aboriginal structure was found, and preliminary findings suggest that the site probably dates from Late Woodland times.

Excavations were also conducted at the Neely's Ferry site (3CS24), a Parkin phase village several miles north of Parkin. Supervisors were Kelly J. Jensen, Robert C. Mainfort, Jr., and Jeffrey M. Mitchell (all AAS). Delay of harvesting wheat planted on the site meant that only one week was spent here. Two areas were investigated. A trench at the northern edge of the site revealed a sweat 14 m wide and 1.1 m deep (from present ground surface). The trench also intersected 6 postholes running parallel to the moat, probably from a defensive palisade. These findings are similar to research on the moat and palisade at the Parkin site (3CS29), but about half as wide and deep. Excavations in a concentration of daub atop one of the mound remnants revealed the floor of a large (ca. 6 x 7.5 m) structure. A pit inside contained a plain vessel, a section of charred basketry, a concentration of daub, and charred botanical remains. The relatively good preservation of this floor was probably due to its originally having been deeper in the mound, much of which has been plowed away in recent decades. Plans are to obtain radiocarbon dates on organic remains from this floor. Lack of time meant that one of the other mounds could not be investigated, and plans to determine the southern boundary by taping were abandoned. The landowner plans to level adjacent property, but will preserve the site.

Laboratory work from both sites was performed at Parkin Archeological State Park. About 150 Society members participated in the project over a two-week period, supervised by Arkansas Archeological Survey staff and experienced Society members. The project was under the overall direction of Jeffrey M. Mitchell (AAS).

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MINUTES OF THE SEAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE, NEW ORLEANS, APRIL 12, 1996

A special mid-year meeting of the SEAC Executive Committee was held at the SAA Conference in New Orleans. The meeting began at 7:10 PM in President Galloway's room at the New Orleans Marriott Hotel. The following were present: Hester A. Davis, Eugene M. Futato, Patrica K. Galloway, Albert C. Goodenough, Richard W. Jeffries, David B. Kelley, Jeffrey M. Mitchell, Kenneth E. Sissaman, Rebecca Saunders, C. Margaret Scarry, Lynne F. Sullivam, Richard A. Weinstein, and Paul D. Welch.

Plans for the 1997 SEAC meeting in Baton Rouge were discussed by Rich Weinstein and David Kelley, local arrangements chair. It will be held November 8-11, 1997 at the Radisson Baton Rouge. Room rates will be $75.00 for single/double rooms, $85.00 for triple/quad rooms. Rebecca Saunders will be program chair.

Ken Sassaman then proposed that the 1998 meeting be held at the Hyatt Regency in
Greenville, South Carolina, with support from the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology and the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program. Ken noted that Greenville is actively soliciting convention business, and would give us very good rates. Paul Welch made a motion that we meet in Greenville in 1998. Margie Scarby seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Memphis, Tennessee was mentioned as a possible site for the 1999 meeting. Treasurer Paul Welch noted that a profit of $2,271.40 was made at the Knoxville meeting (1998).

Hester Davis reported that she had contacted many people about improving relations with Native American groups, and all had expressed interest. She will continue studying and developing ideas for this initiative. When Hester becomes President, Pat Galloway will chair of the committee on relations with Native Americans.

A presentation about long-term investments was then made by Paul Welch, representing the ad hoc committee formed at the 1995 Executive Board meeting. The committee, composed of Paul, Al Goodyear, Lynne Sullivan, and Jeff Chapman, was formed in response to a 1995 proposal by AI that SEAC should invest some of our funds in stock mutual funds, rather than in CDs, Treasury Strips, and money market funds. The potential return from mutual funds is much greater than current investments, especially when compounded over a 10- to 20-year period. The committee had discussed various aspects of such a plan, and developed a specific proposal.

One issue they discussed was whether to invest solely in environmentally/socially responsible funds. After reviewing performance of such funds, they decided that it did not make good financial sense at this point, primarily because most such funds are relatively new and do not have good track records. They suggested that the Executive Committee may wish to review this issue in a few years when the various funds have grown and established more solid track records.

The decision was made to invest $30,000 from the Restricted Fund, which currently stands at about $32,000. This money should be invested for long-term growth, but is currently earning only 1 to 2% more than the inflation rate. The committee noted that our Unrestricted Fund currently stands at roughly $70,000, well above expected operating expenses for the next two years, and these monies are invested in low- or no-risk assets. Because of this situation, the committee feels that putting 30% of our total assets in diversified stock funds is within tolerable levels of risk.

The committee proposed buying shares in three categories of mutual funds. 2/3 of the money will be invested in an index fund that holds stock in the large U.S. "blue chip" companies that constitute the S&P 500 index. Such an investment is conservative. The other two categories are small-company stocks and international stocks. These investments are less conservative, with potentially greater return from growth, but also more risky. Small-company stocks have much potential for growth. International funds have potential for growth, and also typically don't mimic the U.S. stock market, so they are useful to diversify our investments. The committee suggests $5,000 investments in each of these categories.

The committee investigated a number of leading mutual fund companies, eventually deciding on Vanguard, a respected company with an excellent track record (consistent positive returns over the past 10 years) and very low management fees. Six specific recommendations were made:

1) Buy $20,000 of shares in the Vanguard Index 500 fund. The initial purchase would be of $5,000, adding the remaining $15,000 in 11 roughly equal monthly
installments to take advantage of "dollar cost averaging."

2) Make a lump-sum purchase of $5,000 in the no-load Vanguard Small Cap Fund. This recommendation satisfies a requirement by the fund company.

3) Make a lump-sum purchase of $5,000 in the no-load Vanguard International Growth Fund. There is little point in dollar cost averaging because the minimum initial investment is $3,000.

4) All dividends from these investments should be reinvested in their respective funds for a minimum of 10 years. The Executive Committee will have the power to alter this decision at any time if circumstances warrant a change, but the investments are regarded as long-term rather than to pay for operating expenses.

5) The fund companies require that the SEAC Secretary authorize one or more individuals to transact business in the funds. The committee recommends that the Executive Committee designate three individuals to act as our investment agents (Note: the Executive Committee appointed Lynne Sullivan, Paul Welch, and Al Goodyear). The Investment Committee, which will be considered a permanent committee, will review SEAC investments periodically, and will decide if rebalancing of the investments is necessary to maintain close to the original proportions in the three funds. The committee will make this decision in consultation with the SEAC Treasurer. It is expected that rebalancing would not occur more than once every year or two, and the Investment Committee will not engage in market timing. The Investment Committee will be required to get approval from the Executive Committee before making any changes.

6) The terms of the purchase contracts for the three funds selected are incorporated by reference into the minutes of this meeting, and the Secretary is authorized to affirm that the Executive Committee has approved these terms.

A motion was proposed by Jeff Mitchem that we accept the Investment Committee's recommendations, designate an Investment Committee (Paul Welch, Al Goodyear, and Lynne Sullivan), and invest. It was seconded by Margie Scary and, after extensive discussion, passed unanimously.

After additional discussion, President Galloway moved that each one of the three Investment Committee members would be authorized signers for the mutual fund accounts. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.

--Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey M. Mitchem, SEAC Secretary

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This SEAC MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY provides a listing of members paid as of July 11, 1996 (college libraries have been omitted). If your address has changed, if you wish to add phone nos. or an email address to your listing, or if you find any errors, please send the information to Paul D. Welch, SEAC Treasurer.

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'Fine Print: Student membership is open to graduate, undergraduate and high school students. A photocopy of your student ID must accompany payment. The SEAC membership year is November 1 - October 31. Members will receive the complete issue of the journal and the newsletter for the year. Back publications may be purchased from Eugene M. Putato, Associate Editor for Sales. If you are unsure of your membership status, check the mailing label. Your membership year is printed in the upper right. If you believe there is an error, please contact Jay Johnson.
FRANK H. MCCLUNG MUSEUM
EXHIBIT: THE CHEROKEE
INDIANS: TENNESSEE’S FIRST
CITIZENS, JUNE 29-DECEMBER 31,
1996

The Cherokee Indians called themselves “The Principal People.” They, and those before them, were Tennessee’s original citizens.

The history and culture of the Cherokees is an important part of the heritage of Tennessee. They were players in the struggle between the English, French, and Spanish for the control of eastern North America, and then between the English and the American Colonists for a nation. Much of their land ultimately became the state of Tennessee. Individuals such as Little Carpenter, Ocoochona, Atakulakilif, Drugging Canoe, Nancy Ward, and Sequoyah stand out in any list of Tennessee’s prominent leaders. In the early 19th century, the Cherokee were the first and only literate American Indian tribe. Their story is one of survival, perseverance, and adaptability against many forces of change. Their deplorable treatment is a low point in American history.

The Cherokee people did not, however, disappear with their forced removal from the site in 1838. They are today a proud and productive people to be found in the Cherokee Nation and the United Keuauwah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in western North Carolina. Many Tennesseans have Cherokee in their ancestry.

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