

SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE BUSINESS MEETING 2020
AWARDS CITATIONS

2020 Charles Hudson Award

The purpose of the endowed Charles Hudson Award is to expand understanding of the long human history of the southeastern region of the U.S. by supporting excellent student research using ethnohistory, archaeology, history, linguistics, and/or oral traditions.

This is the first year of making the award. The Southeastern Archaeological Conference is pleased to make this award to Grace Riehm, a graduate student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Riehm is investigating the development and organization of the Natchez polity in the Lower Mississippi Valley through the lenses of archaeology and ethnohistory. Her dissertation, supported by clearly defined research questions, will explore the origins and chronology of construction of Grand Village (the Fatherland site), and undertake a regional examination of the distribution and organization of Natchez towns in the early 1700s. The Natchez polity persisted as a chiefdom well into the colonial period, serving as a refuge for other communities fleeing European colonialism, while never undergoing significant political coalescence as occurred elsewhere. Riehm is using GIS to integrate regional archaeological evidence of known Natchez sites with ethnohistorical records, including a recently rediscovered 1723 French map and associated documents. Riehm will use the Hudson award funding to complete a reanalysis of pottery and trade goods from Grand Village with the goal of refining the sequence of mound construction in the context of the community's rise to political prominence. Riehm's research captures the spirit of Dr. Hudson's work, with an emphasis on southeastern social history, the employment of multiple lines of evidence, and reliance on multiple diachronic and synchronic scales of analysis.

Congratulations, Gracie.

