

SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE BUSINESS MEETING 2020 COMMITTEE/TASK FORCE ANNUAL REPORTS

Hudson Award Committee Report Submitted by Barnet Pavão-Zuckerman October 2020

Committee Membership

Barnet Pavão-Zuckerman (Chair), Term: 2019-2021
Rachel Briggs, Term: 2019-2022
Steve Kowalewski, Term: 2019-2020

2020 Activities

This was the inaugural year of the [Charles Hudson Award](#). Applications and letters of recommendation were due September 2, 2020. Six applications were received from graduate students from five institutions. The committee met on September 29th to deliberate. The committee used the description of the award to guide their discussion of the relative merits of the proposals received:

“The purpose of the Charles Hudson Award and its Fund is to foster and improve research on the long history of humanity in the Southeast by supporting student research projects. The Award is intended to recognize and support students who carry out high quality research on the social history of the Southeastern United States using ethnohistory, archaeology, history, linguistics, or oral traditions. Preference is given to proposals that draw on more than one of these methods or that link the people known only through archaeology to more recent indigenous people. Quality of research in this specified area (including significance, clarity of research design, and feasibility) is the sole criterion for judging proposals.”

2020 Recipient

The award committee unanimously selected Gracie Riehm as the first recipient of the Charles Hudson Award. 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.

Planning for the Future

Committee member Kowalewski will be rotating off the Hudson Award committee at the end of 2020; therefore, a replacement committee member is needed. SEAC should also encourage continued donations to the award fund to ensure a robust future.