



McKissick Museum
College of Arts and Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Under the Dome

McKissick Museum's Monthly Newsletter - February 2024

**Thank you
to our
Temporary Preparation Assistants
Aidan Anthony, Sona Hill-Liles, and
Emanuel Moreno!**

For the spring 2024 semester, we did a little something different. McKissick Museum hired three part-time undergraduates for one month to assist with mounting our current exhibitions. They learned new skills, shed some sweat, had a good time, and made the galleries look terrific.

Thank you also to our talented graduate assistants Jack Hadwin and Tazrin Tasnoba for their mentorship and hard work.

New Exhibitions

Voice on Cloth: Exploring the Quilts of Peggie Hartwell **January 20 through April 20, 2024**

South Gallery, second floor, McKissick Museum

Drawing upon her experiences growing up in rural South Carolina, Peggie Hartwell's quilts are largely autobiographical. While they detail her life and family, they also feature the lives of South Carolina farmers from whom she descended. Growing up during the 20th century, added inspiration comes from African American folklore and history that has happened over her lifetime. The color and movement in her quilts draw from her many years as a dancer in New York and abroad. As an artist and educator, she works with young people to tap into their memories and to express their voices on cloth. This exhibition weaves together a patchwork of places and people whose lives and lessons she believes are important to tell.

This program is co-sponsored by the South Carolina Arts Commission through a folklife partnership grant.



From Earth to Art: Alkaline Glazed Pottery in the American Southeast

January 27 through July 27, 2024

North Gallery, second floor, McKissick Museum

From Earth to Art: Alkaline-Glazed Pottery in the American Southeast highlights the rich legacy of stoneware masterpieces in McKissick Museum's permanent collection. The exhibition is a travel through time and tradition. A selection of functional wares made by southern hands between the 1840s and early 2000s are featured. Each object is a celebration of the distinctiveness of its maker and the artistry of the applied glaze.

This exhibition was curated by Abby Rivers, an art history major and former McKissick Museum intern.



Digging through the Past
February 1 through May 4, 2024
Second floor lobby, McKissick Museum

Anthropology Professor Dr. Kelly Goldberg is teaching a class for the SC Honors College this spring in which students will be conducting excavations at several locations on the historic Horseshoe. One of the focus areas is in front of McKissick Museum between the footprint of where the University President's House used to stand and where the McKissick Museum building is now. The goal of this research project is to provide evidence through archaeological remains of the lifeways of those working in the former President's House, its attendant buildings, and elsewhere on campus. The findings will be exhibited on the second floor of McKissick Museum as a pop exhibit. Every few weeks, students will add items and information to the small exhibit throughout the duration of the semester.

Pictured above: Dr. Kelly Goldberg (far left) and SC Honors College students are conducting shovel tests on the historic Horseshoe as part of the lab required for their class. Come rain or shine, you will find Dr. Goldberg and her students on the Horseshoe this semester.

Ongoing Exhibitions

From College to University **Ongoing** **Second Floor Lobby**

South Carolina College was founded on December 19, 1801, by an act of the South Carolina General Assembly. Enslaved labor played a fundamental role in the founding and construction of South Carolina College. The college closed in 1862 because of the Civil War. In 1865 it reopened as the University of South Carolina. For more than two centuries, the University has changed with the times, sometimes devolving, but ultimately evolving into the ranked institution that we are today. The artifacts in this small exhibit features highlights from SC College to today.

Recent Acquisitions, 2019-2023 **Ongoing** **Third Floor Lobby**

Natural Curiosity: The University of South Carolina and the Evolution of Scientific Inquiry in the Natural World **Ongoing** **Third Floor**

Explore your own “natural curiosity” in this exhibit that highlights the treasures of nature, and the evolution of the field of natural history. In the early years as South Carolina College, UofSC professors and students alike collected samples of animals, vegetables, and minerals to study and grow their understanding of the world around them. Today, visitors can still learn from these authentic objects to dive deeper into the collections and explore the work of Historic Southern Naturalists. Where will your natural curiosity take you?

Virtual Exhibitions

McKissick Museum is proud to present several online exhibits for you to explore from the comfort of your own home. Learn more about the Southern story through our diverse and engaging digital content. The following exhibits are currently available digitally:

Child's Play

A Laughing Matter? American Political Humor

[A Woman's Right, Part 1](#)

[A Woman's Right, Part 2](#)

[Piece by Piece: Quilts from the Permanent Collection](#)

[Natural Treasures: Connecting to the Natural World](#)

[The Shell Game: Unraveling Molluscan Mysteries](#)

[The Bug House: The Lepidoptera of Dr. Richard B. Dominick](#)

Digital Traditions

Established in 1985, the Folklife Resource Center (FRC) at McKissick Museum is a repository for photos, audio and video recordings, and archival print materials documenting South Carolina's traditional culture. The FRC's mission is to preserve and disseminate these materials. With the support of the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities over the past twenty years, McKissick Museum has undertaken important documentation projects related to sweetgrass basketry, alkaline-glazed stoneware, quiltmaking, and African-American celebratory traditions. **Digital Traditions** affords unprecedented access to the FRC's extensive holdings.

Historic Southern Naturalists

This online resource is the result of an Advanced Support for Innovative Research Excellence (ASPIRE) grant from the University of South Carolina and continued support through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). These archival collections not only document 19th-century investigations of the natural environment in South Carolina, but chronicle the establishment and advancement of the field of natural history. This project brings together collections and archives from A.C. Moore Herbarium, the Charleston Museum, McKissick Museum, and the South Caroliniana Library, all in one place. The material collections, including botanical, fossil, and mineral specimens, exemplify the natural world that existed two hundred years ago and are sometimes the only representatives of these specimens in existence due to extinction and loss of geologic localities.

PastPerfect Online

McKissick Museum's online collections live here. This online database allows students, teachers, and museum fans the opportunity to explore McKissick's diverse collections without leaving their couches. Try different keyword searches, or explore via the random images tab. You'll find everything from fossils to textiles, silver to art glass, and more.

Mission Statement

The University of South Carolina's McKissick Museum fosters awareness and appreciation for the diversity of the region's culture, history, and natural environment. The museum fulfills the university's mission by engaging in campus educational and enrichment activities, acting as a repository for relevant collections, and through its graduate museum certificate program. It accomplishes these aims through original research about southern life, material culture, natural science, and decorative and fine arts, holding exhibitions, issuing publications and offering public programming. It collaborates with the university community and outside constituents in documenting, collecting and interpreting the Southern experience.

Become a Member!

Annual membership will allow you to explore the history, art, folklife, and natural environment of the Southeast through McKissick Museum's diverse collections, exhibitions, and programs, while also supporting the museum.

McKissick has made becoming a member even easier with our online donation and memberships portal! Click the button below to explore and purchase memberships, and donate to the museum all in one convenient location.

Purchase a Membership Online

Membership levels

- **\$40 Single**
- **\$75 Household**
- **\$150+ Supporter**
- **\$300+ Benefactor**

Benefits for all membership levels include:

- Monthly e-newsletters and mailed invitations to exhibit previews, receptions, and events;
- Free admission to quarterly McKissick Mixers and other members-only gatherings;
- Discounts on ticketed events and publications; and
- Free Admission to over 80 museums in the Southeast as a participating member of the Southeastern Reciprocal Membership Program. Click [**here**](#) for a current list of participating institutions.

Memberships can be purchased over the phone by calling 803-777-2876, and by visiting our online donation and memberships [portal](#).



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