

Summer/Fall 2008

UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

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Armstrong with Dr.
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The Lab's Mission:

**"....preserving and
promoting heritage as
a key cultural resource
for education and
empowerment of all
community residents
and visitors."**

The Heritage Researcher

Newsletter of the USF Department of Anthropology Heritage Research Lab

USF gets National Recognition—

Students from the USF Department of Anthropology present papers at the 2008 Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) Conference in Memphis, TN and Dr. Jackson receives a Federal Appointment

The month of October took heritage preservation to a new level as President Bush signed the National Heritage Areas Act of 2006. The law instructed the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to establish a commission that would oversee funding and develop a management plan for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor. The Gullah/Geechee culture, named one of the 11 Most Endangered Sites in America by the National Trust of Historic Preservation, consists of a network of communities that stretch along the coastline from northern Florida through Georgia and South Carolina, and into Wilmington, North Carolina. Recognizing the contributions the Gullah/Geechee communities that inhabit those areas have made to American culture and history, President Bush allocated \$1 million per year in funding to preserve and protect the lands and people.

On October 29, 2007, Dr. Jackson was officially appointed by the United States Department of the Interior and the National Park Service to represent the state of Florida on the esteemed 15 member commission.



**SfAA panel members from L to R:
Courtney Spillane, Kelly Scudder, Alisha
Winn, Juan Ruiz, Dr. Antoinette Jackson,
Dr. Cheryl White, and Racine Brown.**

Her anthropological knowledge and expertise in communities and culture along the southeastern coastal United States was recognized as an important asset for the commission.

Over 200 people traveled to Charleston, South Carolina to attend the induction ceremony and press conference, including U.S. House member Henry Brown (SC-1) and U.S. House majority whip James E. Clyburn (SC-6).



**Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor
Commissioner, Antoinette Jackson (rt)
and U.S. Congressman James E. Clyburn
(South Carolina) October 29, 2007**

What an exciting time—faculty and students affiliated with the Heritage Research Lab participated in events that brought national attention to heritage studies at USF.

Graduate and undergraduate student researchers rose to the challenge set this year and produced some interesting publication-ready papers. These papers focused on Heritage Lab research projects that they participated in with local area communities such as Sulphur Springs, Spring Hill, and Seminole Heights. In addition, graduate students, Juan Ruiz, Alisha Winn, and USF graduate Courtney Spillane presented heritage research papers at the Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) conference in

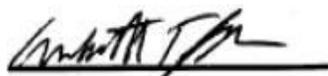
Memphis, Tennessee. Also, graduate students in my Fall 2008 *Issues in Heritage Tourism* course continued the tradition of conducting and completing applied research projects defined by, and coordinated with specific businesses and community organizations in the Tampa Bay area. This year, projects were completed for the Tampa Bay History Center, the Sulphur Springs Museum and Heritage Center, and the Moses House. The Moses House project was part of a special tribute for the late, great and highly acclaimed artist and Spring Hill community resident, Mr. Taft Richardson.

My appointment by the United States Department of the Interior to represent the state of Florida on the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission is an exciting honor on a personal and professional level. It gives me an opportunity to work with the Gullah/Geechee community stretching from Jacksonville, Florida to Wilmington, North Carolina, and to help share a rich and important American story on a national scale.

According to Congressman James E. Clyburn (Sixth District, South Carolina), who spearheaded the effort to establish the corridor, "Now that the Gullah-Geechee Cultural Corridor is a reality, the hard work begins. There is little time to waste to preserve, protect, and promote this endangered culture."

Enjoy this Issue!

Antoinette



Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) Panel Presentations

On March 26, 2008, graduate students and faculty primarily from the University of South Florida presented papers at the SfAA conference in Memphis on a panel chaired by Dr. Jackson. Entitled *Issues in Heritage Tourism, Preservation, and Resource Allocation: Challenges and Opportunities for the Applied Anthropologist*, these papers embodied the Heritage Lab's 2008 goal of community preservation support and presentation and publication of research findings.

Panel Abstract

In this panel, participants—including the Heritage Research Lab team at USF—will report on a variety of heritage research projects in which they are working with community partners, government organizations, and/or businesses to document, preserve, and promote heritage as a key cultural resource. What do such initiatives entail? Who determines what stories are told and how? Papers presented critically profile issues in heritage tourism, preservation, and management including disparities in resource allocation from an applied anthropological perspective through an examination of the impact of social-cultural issues such as race, gender, class, and economic status on politics of representation.



Above: Juan Ruiz's Sulphur Springs PowerPoint presentation slide.

The following papers were presented:

RUIZ, Juan G. (U S Florida) Oral History in Tampa: Agency, Racialized Perspectives, and Urban Renewal.

SCUDDER, Kelley (U S Florida) Identifying Archaeological Landscapes: Marginalized Communities, Archaeologists, and NGOs: Whose Opinion Really Matters?

SPILLANE, Courtney (U S Florida) Reconstructing The Past: Heritage Research And Preservation Activities In Tampa Bay Communities.

TRUBEE, Heather (Independent) Amazing Thailand: Exploring the Motivations For and Impacts Of Cultural Heritage Preservation Projects in Northern Thailand [paper read by Racine Brown].

WHITE, Cheryl (University of Florida) Decisions Made: Inter-American Court Judgment for Saramaka Maroon Control, Access and Use of Ancestral Land in Central Suriname, SA

WINN, Alisha R. (U S Florida) Historic Preservation in Shared Spaces of a Southern Community: Sulphur Springs/Spring Hill, Florida -Whose History, Whose Story?

History and Heritage Day



Left: Residents engaged in community roundtable discussion session. Right: Promotional banner for the Sulphur Springs Museum and Heritage Center.



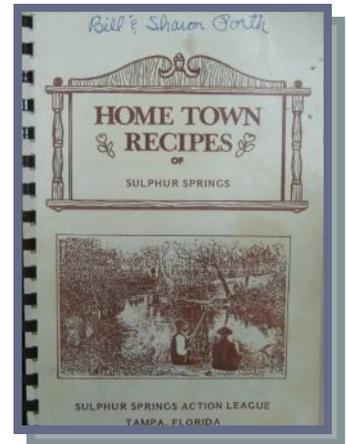
April 12, 2008, kicked off the third official Sulphur Springs History and Heritage (H & H) Day. This time around, Sulphur Springs residents met with USF students and faculty at the Sulphur Springs Museum and Heritage Center for a day of listening and learning about the area's rich and diverse history. Residents from every corner of Sulphur Springs and Spring Hill stopped by the center throughout the day and participated in a variety of history oriented activities. Guests were able to peruse collections of photographs and informational



Resident looks through photograph collection.

posters compiled by USF affiliates, participate in an ongoing community roundtable centered around sharing memories of the old neighborhoods, view a short film about

Sulphur Springs and Spring Hill history featuring lifetime residents, and much more. Some guests brought in their personal artifacts and family heirlooms with connections to the communities, including an original Sulphur Springs cookbook and a piece of art. Others



Porth family cookbook, "Home Town Recipes of Sulphur Springs."

agreed to on-camera interviews with USF personnel about the Sulphur Springs topics of their choice.

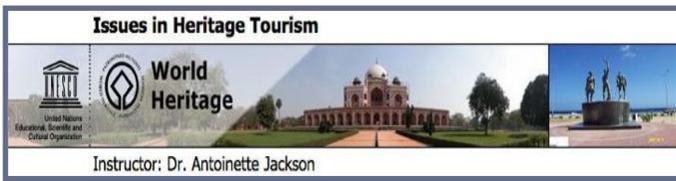
The event was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended and participated into the late afternoon. As guests began to trickle out of the center, they



Poster comparing Sulphur Springs Theatre past and present

personally thanked the people from USF that worked to put the event together. Those interested in following future Heritage Lab activities also provided their contact information, creating for the lab and for USF even stronger ties with the surrounding community. History and Heritage Day was yet another successful event put on by the Heritage Lab and a fine indicator of the interest in future H & H Days to come.

Issues in Heritage Tourism: Fall 2008



Promotional banner for Issues in Heritage Tourism course.

As part of the applied aspect of this fall's offering of Dr. Jackson's Issues in Heritage Tourism course, students participated in one of three community focused projects, including:

The Tampa History Center (TBHC) "History Explorers Backpack" Project (developed by **Alejandro J. Figueroa**, **Whitney A. Goodwin**, and **Noemi Creagan** in consultation with **Julie Matus**, Curator of Education, TBHC).

The "History Explorers Backpack" program goes hand in hand with the ongoing expansion of the TBHC, which includes moving to a new, 60,000-square-foot building, intended to house three floors of interactive exhibition galleries, theater experiences, and resource and research facilities. Based on the elements proposed in the background research phase of the project, students designed two pilot backpacks that will introduce children and their parents to two unique ways of experiencing the museum's exhibits—as either an archaeologist or a cultural anthropologist. Preliminary trials of the backpacks have proven extremely favorable.

The Sulphur Springs Heritage Sites Virtual Tour Project (developed by: **Wanda-ël Antoine**, **Gaëlle Bernard**, **Vanessa Hein**, and **Pete Watson**, in consultation with **Joseph** and **Norma Robinson** of the Sulphur Springs Museum and Heritage Center Board and **Ann McDonald** of Old Seminole Heights Neighborhood Association).

The team collected new information and incorporated previously documented historical and cultural information collected and organized by previous participants in the USF Heritage Research and Resource Management Lab, such as archival research, oral histories, interviews, videos

and photographs in their design of a virtual tour proposal that consisted of a historical overview of sites and landmarks in the Sulphur Springs community of Tampa, Florida (i.e., Josiah Richardson's Center Hill, Purity Springs, The Water Tower, The Gazebo, The Harbor Club, The Springs Theatre, Rivercove Park, The Sulphur Springs Pool Complex, and the Robles House and Cemetery).



Image of the Tampa Bay History Center, courtesy of <http://www.tampabayhistorycenter.org>.

The Moses House History, Heritage, and Webpage Design Project (developed by: **Mabel Sabogal** in consultation with **Lance Arney**, Executive Director Moses House Inc.)

The applied project included the design and structural organization of the Moses House website, which functions as a place to document and represent the history and heritage of the Moses House museum, Moses House artists, and Moses House social projects with disadvantaged youth. The Moses House is a grassroots, not-for-profit community organization that has been in existence for about twenty-five years. The Organization works to develop educational outreach programs for children and youth from disadvantaged backgrounds. It operates in the Spring Hill, Sulphur Springs, and East Tampa neighborhoods of Tampa.

All three projects were well received by community clients and many of the students plan to continue working on these projects beyond the semester.

Summer 2008 Research Experience for Undergraduates

Summer 2008 kicked off a third installment of Dr. Jackson's Heritage Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU). Following the success of last year's program, it seemed only natural that the trend would continue for another productive summer. For this year's session, graduate mentor Lance Arney directed returning undergraduate researcher Clayton Flotz and newcomer Erika Westfield in developing a virtual museum featuring the collection of the late local artist Taft Richardson. Lauren served as a mentor for the applied research methods component of the program.



Summer REU 2008 program participants. (From L to R) Erika Westfield, Clayton Flotz, Lance Arney, Lauren Johnson.

Using qualitative research methods, ethno-historical research methods, and ethnographic field work, Clayton and Erika conducted research for the Moses House Museum and Heritage project. The goal of the Moses House, established almost 25 years ago by brothers Taft and Harold Richardson, is to help youth learn heritage through art. Also, according to Lance, "...they wanted to create opportunities for social change and transformation in the youth and the local community [and] to explore creative impulses to direct their energies towards creative transformation." Erika commented on the aims of the

summer REU as well, noting that they sought to "...show the importance of the Moses House to the community."

After six weeks of total immersion in directed research, it was time for Erika and Clay to present their highly anticipated findings and results. On June 20, 2008, the undergraduates presented final papers to a small group in the heritage lab. Clay and Erika used power point presentations to share their papers entitled "Ways of Using Leisure as a Cultural Outlet in Sulphur Springs (Tampa, FL)" and "Connections of Religion—Taft Richardson," respectively. The papers were composed of information from archival research and ethnography. Erika, displaying an affinity for the latter method, commented on the importance of ethnography by noting that "...it helps you go out [into the field] with a clear slate and helps you get a better feel for the people and the culture that you're studying." By the end of the project, the undergraduates had developed a command of both anthropological field techniques. Looking back on the success of the project, Lance recalled that both Clay and Erika "...really showed an engagement with the whole learning process of using qualitative methods as a form of research."

Photograph courtesy of mmurfolkstone.org



Mr. Taft with children from his neighborhood

Publications in the Making

SfAA Journal— Practicing Anthropology Special Issue

A proposed upcoming special issue of *Practicing Anthropology* will feature a collection of articles by Dr. Jackson and USF student researchers, as well as faculty and students from the University of Maryland's Heritage Program. The special issue, due for publication in Spring/Summer 2009, will be devoted to an overall theme of Heritage Research. According to Dr. Jackson,

“This issue focuses on a variety of community-based projects in which anthropologists are working with stakeholders within and outside the community to document, preserve, and market heritage as a key cultural resource, whether for the purpose of tourism; land rights protection; or community identity, education and knowledge. The submitted papers give a critical and diverse view of the wide range of issues faced by anthropologists and other professionals engaged in working with community groups on issues heritage and the business of heritage resource management in the U.S. and abroad. The goal of the issue is to contribute to the overall advancement of knowledge about heritage research and heritage preservation from an applied anthropological perspective” .

Dr. Jackson wins Vera Green Publication Award for contribution to Public Anthropology

Dr. Antoinette Jackson was awarded the Vera Green Publication Award at the 2008 American Anthropology Association Conference in San Francisco by the Association of Black Anthropologist. Her winning paper, entitled: “**Changing Ideas about Heritage and Heritage Resource Management in Historically Segregated Communities,**” will appear in a forthcoming issue of the journal, *Transforming Anthropology*.

As the premier scholarly publication for the Association of Black Anthropologists, *Transforming Anthropology* promotes the following as key ideals of pieces that it publishes:

“We seek contributions that reflect the dynamic, transnational, and contested conditions of the social worlds, and work that pushes the boundaries of discipline and genre. The publication interrogates the contemporary and historical construction of social inequities based on race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, nationality and other invidious distinctions. We remain committed to publishing material that generates dialogues among communities of scholars, activists, artists, and the people with whom they work.”

Coming Soon to the Heritage Lab...

SUMMER 2009 RESEARCH EXPERIENCE FOR UNDERGRADUATES

**HERITAGE RESEARCH & HERITAGE PRESERVATION IN
TAMPA BAY COMMUNITIES**

**REGISTER NOW!
CONTACT DR. JACKSON FOR APPLICATION
INFORMATION**

JOIN THE HERITAGE STUDIES CLUB @ USF!

**FOR INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN ANY AND ALL AREAS
OF HERITAGE WORK AND RESEARCH • ENGAGE IN
DISCUSSION WITH OTHER LIKE-MINDED STUDENTS ON
ISSUES OF HERITAGE RESEARCH**

**IF INTERESTED, CONTACT REBECCA R. TODD
RRTODD@MAIL.USF.EDU**

Saluting Heritage Lab Partners and Community Giants: Mentors and Leaders in Heritage Preservation



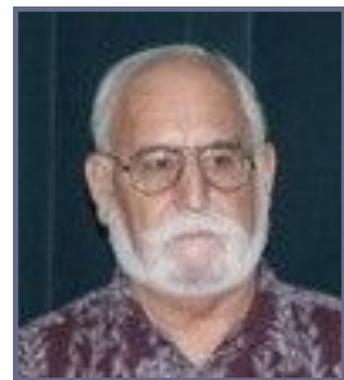
Photograph courtesy of www.folklore.org

Mr. Taft Richardson (1943-2008)

*“Gone but not forgotten...In Memory
of those who inspired us all.”*

In the Spring Hill community, Taft Richardson Jr. was a neighborhood superstar. He had established himself as well renowned artist, crafting masterpieces out of bones from animal remains he stored in his backyard. He had 35 biological grandchildren, but “Grand-daddy,” as he was so affectionately called, was loved by every child in the neighborhood and loved them back in return. He spent the last years of his life working with the USF heritage lab and other USF faculty to make his dream of opening the Moses House come true. He wanted to create a safe place for children of all ages to express themselves through an array of art projects, believing that every child had divine talents just waiting to be revealed. He volunteered a lot of his time at the community recreation center, devoting his Fridays to assisting the children with enjoying the creative outlets of their choice—including singing, modeling, boxing, and music performance in addition to art projects. He also served as mentor for USF anthropology student researchers, sharing the heritage lab’s commitment to heritage preservation for Spring Hill and Sulphur Springs. When in good health, he was always more than happy to talk about the rich history of the area while sprinkling in a few nuggets of life wisdom to all that wished to listen. He was a humanitarian in every way, and the Spring Hill and Sulphur Springs neighborhoods will never be the same because of his positive impact on the lives of the residents. Anyone who was fortunate enough to meet him should consider themselves lucky. Mr. Taft, you will be missed.

Dr. Steve Gluckman became involved with the heritage lab during its inception in 2006. Over the years, he worked closely with USF students as a mentor and project facilitator for cycles of undergraduate and graduate researchers. He was a man of all trades, dividing his time between serving as a board trustee for the Old Seminole Heights historic preservation committee, coordinating the yearly Seminole Heights library book sale, cataloging the Burgert Brothers pictures of Old Seminole Heights, and a host of other community centered activities. Dr. Gluckman was quite accomplished, boasting a PhD in archaeology and six years of teaching at USF under his belt. The dedication he had to historic preservation in Seminole Heights seemed to be contagious. Students enrolled in the summer 2007 heritage research program began their six week endeavor barely knowing the historical significance of the Seminole Heights neighborhood. After only a month and a half of Dr. Gluckman’s tutelage, the students found themselves imbued with a similar passion for preservation. We are reminded daily of the contributions Dr. Gluckman made to the University of South Florida and the Seminole Heights neighborhood. He will be missed not only as a professor, an activist, and a mentor, but also as a friend.



Dr. Steve Gluckman (1937- 2007)

Heritage Lab Alum: Where Are They Now?



Courtney Spillane successfully completed all requirements for her degree and graduated in December 2007 with a Masters in Applied Anthropology from USF. Her research, conducted in the Sulphur Springs and Seminole Heights communities, is captured in her thesis entitled: *Reconstructing the Past: Heritage Research and Preservation Activities in Tampa Bay Communities*.

In the November 2008 issue of the SfAA Newsletter, Courtney talked about her position as a Historic Preservation Planner for the city of Houston, Texas. Working on an interdisciplinary preservation team, she is the only anthropologist in her office—and she notes that collaborating with a diverse group of professionals has proved to be quite a learning experience. As the team anthropologist, she is charged with conducting copious amounts of archival research yielding data to be used in reports and briefings for the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission (HAHC).

In addition to the many hours of archival research and data interpretation experience she received during her graduate studies, Courtney recognizes the whole of her anthropology training for successfully equipping her with critical job skills. She writes that anthropology gave her a number of essential tools for

her career, including, “...acknowledging the perspectives of all people involved; focusing on challenges and opportunities presented by cultural diversity, ethnicity, gender, poverty and class; and addressing imbalances in resources, rights, and power.” Courtney also takes time to address anthropology students hoping to enter the workforce in the near future. She advises them to take a multidisciplinary approach to their education, urging them to take classes in other disciplines that align with their future career aspirations. She feels that the most effective way to communicate with professionals in a non-anthropology workplace is to “speak their language”—essentially, understanding how they think from personal experience in their fields.



Courtney Spillane's research site included Sulphur Springs and Old Seminole Heights, Tampa, FL USA

Courtney shared a number of insights about the world beyond academia, from an anthropologist's perspective. She will be reporting regularly in the SfAA Newsletter for the next year or so about finding a job in the field, the benefits of her training, and adapting to the world of work after graduation.



The Heritage Researcher— Newsletter of the USF Department of Anthropology Heritage Research Lab

—preserving and promoting heritage as a key cultural resource.

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