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## Allendale 2001 Season Successfully Completed

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# Allendale 2001 Season Successfully Completed

By Albert C. Goodyear

The Allendale Paleoindian Expedition returned again to the Topper site from May 1-June 2, 2001, opening up a 5 by 10-meter unit adjacent to last year's pit. There were over 100 registrations for this year's dig consisting of enthusiastic, hardworking volunteers coming from Florida to North Dakota. The volunteers are the heart, soul, and muscle of this research program and the reason we can do so much work each year. The donor-volunteers will be listed and the scientific results of this season will be discussed in detail in the next issue of *Legacy*. Our goal this year was to extend the pre-Clovis excavation of last year by adding an additional contiguous 32 square meters to the south. More obvious flake tools were found in the deepest zone above the Pleistocene terrace. And more of the spatially clustered chert concentrations were found, which appear to be lithic working areas.

To continue to increase the scientific scrutiny of the pre-Clovis findings, various archaeological, geological, and paleobotanical experts were brought in during the



Excavation of the 5 x 10 m block unit during the 2001 season at the Topper site. (SCIAA photo by Daryl P. Miller)

last week to view the excavations, stratigraphy, and remains. Returning for a third year were Dr. Michael Waters of Texas A&M University and Dr. Thomas Stafford of Stafford Research Laboratories, Boulder, CO. Waters and Stafford are reconstructing the geochronology of the Topper site along with Dr. Steve Forman of the University of Illinois-Chicago. (Project Soil Morphologist Dr. John Foss was unable to attend due to his work in Hungary). Dr. Marvin Kay of the University of Arkansas, a noted expert on microwear analysis of stone tools, was brought in to

examine the geoarchaeological context of the artifacts. Using his special microscope in an initial pilot study, Dr. Kay found three lithic artifacts definitely used as tools. As expected, the heavily weathered chert is proving problematic to a straightforward microwear analysis. Dr. Lucinda McWeeney, a paleobotanist at Yale University and now currently at Harvard, was brought in through a research grant from SCIAA's Archaeological Research Trust. She came to collect sediment samples from Topper to analyze for phytoliths and to sample sediments from the vibracores taken from a nearby Pleistocene river bed. Dr. McWeeney is examining the vibracores for plant remains, for paleoenvironmental reconstruction, and radiocarbon samples. Dr. Rob Bonnicksen, Director of the Center for the Study of the First Americans at Oregon State University, also came to provide insights into the pre-Clovis flake tool technology. Previously Dr. Bonnicksen's Center has published articles on the Allendale Paleoindian sites in the Mammoth Trumpet and Current Research in the Pleistocene. The accompanying



Visiting scientists at the Topper site June 1, 2001: Left to right: Al Goodyear, Rob Bonnicksen, Lucinda McWeeney, Marvin Kay, Mike Waters, and Tom Stafford. (Photo by Daryl P. Miller courtesy of David G. Anderson)

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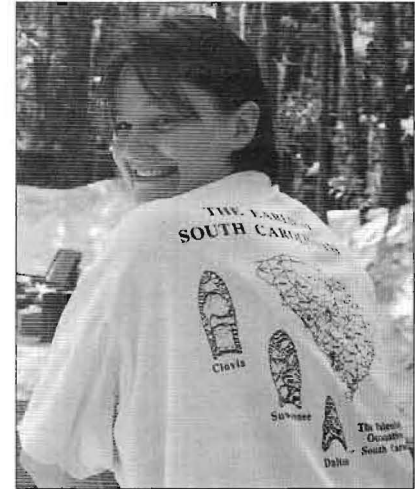
photo of the visiting scientists was taken on the last Friday night of the dig at David and Jenalee Anderson's home in Williston on the occasion of the seventh annual Paleocarnivore party, which they host for the Allendale dig each year.

The Topper site and its implications for human settlement in the western hemisphere received considerable attention in the print and television media. CNN television spent a few hours on site filming and interviewing us and ran a 2:40 minute news piece, which aired several times in late May. Coincidentally, Nena Rice was touring archaeological sites in Egypt on the Sinai Peninsula on June 1st and saw the CNN piece in her hotel room! And, as of June 2001, South Carolina Educational Television has taken on

the Topper site as an official project to be developed for state programming. Given the hemispheric level of interest in this topic, it is hoped that eventually it might be aired on PBS.

There is much unpacking of equipment and sorting of artifacts to be done for now. The artifact lab will run all year long starting this summer, and volunteers are welcome and needed to help sort the bags of material. You will be taught how to recognize the various artifact types. Contact Kenn Steffy at (803) 777-8170, if you would like to work in the Topper lab at SCIAA. The various scientists hope to pull their findings together this fall and assess where we are with respect to stratigraphy, dating, and artifact analysis. Naturally we plan to go back to Topper next May. Previous participants

receive first notice of the sign up, which occurs in January. If you'd like to be placed on the notification list, please contact me at SCIAA or email me at goodyear@sc.edu and provide a mailing address.



Holly Norton, Week III volunteer, is sifting in her Earliest South Carolinians t-shirt. (SCIAA photo by Albert Goodyear)

## TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY TO EGYPT AND JORDAN By Nena Powell Rice

On November 1-16, 2001, I have made special arrangements to lead an archaeo-



Nena Rice in foreground of Sphinx and the Great Pyramid at Giza. (Photo courtesy of Nena Powell Rice)

logical tour to Egypt and Jordan, including the Jordan Valley and Petra. The itinerary has been set up through South Sinai Travel in Cairo and Adventure Travel in Summerville, SC. I have arranged for local archaeologists to meet us in Giza, Petra, and Luxor, and will also have a full time Egyptologist and Jordanian specialist to accompany our small group throughout both of these respective countries.

There will be opportunities for seeing several different areas of Egypt and Jordan starting at the Giza Plateau, Coptic Cairo, and the Egyptian Museum, then to the Jordan Valley including Madaba, Mt. Nebo, and a full-day at the lost Nabatean city of Petra. We then depart for Aqaba and a ferry to Nuweiba on the Sinai Peninsula enroute to St. Catherine's Monastery, Rock of the Inscriptions, and Sharm El Sheikh. We then fly to Luxor and board the cruise ship, Sun

Goddess, visiting Karnak, Valley of the Kings and Queens, Temple of Hatshepsut, the Tomb of Nefartari, Colossi of Memnon, Edfu, Kom Obo, the Aswan quarries, the unfinished obelisk, the Temple of Philae, a felucca ride to Elephantine Island and museum, and the Nubian Museum, then a flight to Abu Simbel to tour the Temples of Ramses the Great and Queen Nefartari, then the last two days visiting Islamic Cairo. Anyone interested in receiving a day-by-day itinerary, please contact me at (803) 777-8170 or nrice@sc.edu.

The price of this trip includes all air travel from New York and within Egypt and Jordan, overnight accommodations, all meals, visa fees, entrance fees, and services of English speaking Egyptian and Jordanian guides.

*NOTE: This trip is not SCIAA/ART sponsored, but is a non-business tour that I am personally organizing for the benefit of archaeology.*

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