

12-2006

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Publication Info

Published in *Legacy*, Volume 10, Issue 3, 2006, pages 19-19.

<http://www.cas.sc.edu/sciaa/>

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Office of State Archaeologist

Site File Digitizing Project Nears Completion: Carmen Beard Joins the State Archaeology Office (OSA)

By Jonathan Leader

The South Carolina State Site File Digitization project is all but complete. The unique software program developed in conjunction with ESRI of Charlotte, North Carolina, has been produced, debugged, and is in process of being placed on the University of South Carolina servers. The capabilities of the program, which have resulted in the production of the most interactive site file in the United States to date, were demonstrated live at the Council of South Carolina Professional Archaeologists meeting held December 8, 2006. In attendance were archaeologists, city planners, engineers, federal agency representatives, the military, and others who will be benefited by our advance. The program will be installed, running and in use by the community by the end of March 2007. Final population of all the attribute fields that make up the database may take a little longer, but the most important elements will be available at that time.

There will be a more detailed discussion of the program in the next *Legacy* to bring our readership up to speed on capabilities and how to access the new database.

Running a program of this complexity and size requires significant oversight and staff time. The Office of the State Archaeologist is very pleased to announce that we have hired Carmen Beard as our full time permanent GIS analyst. Carmen

Beard's qualifications and background are very strong.

Originally from the western part of North Carolina, Carmen Beard pursued her undergraduate degree in anthropology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Upon completion of her B.A. in May of 1993, she began working in the Human Resources Department at



Carmen Beard at SCIAA. (SCIAA photo by Jonathan Leader)

UNC as the coordinator for the university's Shared Leave Program. She transferred to the UNC School of Social Work where she used the computer skills she had learned building and maintaining the Shared Leave Program database and worked as a computer programmer on the various research projects conducted by the Social Work faculty.

After nine years of employment with UNC Chapel Hill, Carmen returned to being a student as she pursued her Masters in Information Science at UNC's School of

Information and Library Science. During this time, Carmen was employed in the UNC Emergency Medicine Department as a computer programmer and GIS coordinator for the North Carolina Emergency Department Database (NCEDD) research project. The NCEDD project uses electronic information gathered from patients being seen in North Carolina's hospital emergency departments to monitor possible disease outbreaks, such as an influenza epidemic, or illnesses related to a bio-terrorism outbreak. Carmen worked with NCEDD until graduating from UNC in 2004 with a Master of Science in Information Science.

Carmen then moved to England to continue her studies in Information Science with a concentration on using computer technology in the field of Archaeology. To this end, Carmen pursued a Master of Science in Archaeological Information Systems in the Archaeology Department at the University of York. As part of the degree requirements, Carmen completed an internship working with the Archaeology Department's Information Technology staff. The work primarily involved digitizing archaeological site data for use in a GIS and experimenting with ways to make the information available via the Internet to allow researchers access to the research findings. Carmen completed her MSc in AIS in September 2005.