

University of South Alabama

JagWorks@USA

Archaeology Museum Newsletters

Archaeology Museum

4-25-2024

USA Archaeology Museum Newsletter - April, May, and June 2024

Jennifer Knutson

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In this edition of the museum's newsletter,

On Exhibit Until Friday, May 2 at the Archaeology Museum:

- "Unwritten: Archaeology & Oral History of Jim Crow Mobile"
 - News Coverage about the exhibit in this issue!

Documenting the Africatown Cemetery Volunteer Opportunities:

- Watch "[Documenting the Historic Plateau/Africatown Cemetery](#)," Alexandria Jones, Ph.D.
 - Find out how to volunteer with us in person on May 25 and June 17-21.

Exhibit Opening: "Growing Up Down The Bay," April 26-May 31 at the Ben May Library

- Exhibit Open House, 2-3 pm, Saturday, April 26

Delta Woods & Waters Expo at the 5 Rivers-Alabama Delta Resource Center

- This Saturday, April 26 learn Prehistoric Hunting Techniques by throwing atlatls and flintknapping with us.

Archaeology Video Game: Bijou

- Game Preview, Thurs., May 2, 11 am - 4 pm at the Archaeology Museum
- Rhiannon Black, B.F.A. in Animation from the University of South Alabama, May 2024

Black History Underground

- Alabama Archaeological Society Southwest Chapter Meeting
- 3:30 pm Tuesday, April 30
- Tracy Neely, Mobile Creole Cultural Historical & Preservation Society (MCCHPS)

Migration on the Delta

- Mobile Creole Cultural & Historical Preservation Society Reunion and event, June 14-16

Upcoming Exhibit: Now Accepting Submissions for the INTO Light Project

- National Initiative Coming to Mobile and Exhibited at the USA Archaeology Museum
 - Now accepting submissions from those who have lost a loved one to Substance Use Disorder. Portraits by professional artists are given to each family after the exhibit.
 - Exhibit Opening: USA Student Center, Thursday, Aug. 29

Alabama Archaeological Summer Meeting & Florida Anthropological Society 76th Annual Meeting hosted by the Pensacola Archaeological Society

- May 10 -12, Pensacola, Florida

Giving to the Archaeology Museum

- Thank you for your support, please help us to continue our to [mission](#).

Dates and Events to Plan Ahead**Summer Closing**

- The Museum's last day before our Summer Close is **Friday, May 3**. Reopening for Fall will be announced as our summer exhibit install is coordinated in the next few weeks.

Save the Dates

- ***Africatown Cemetery Volunteer Opportunities***
 - May 25
 - June 17-22
- ***INTO Light Exhibit Opening Reception***
 - Thursday, Aug. 29
- ***Alabama Archaeology Day***
 - Saturday, Oct. 5
- ***Halloween at the Museum***
 - Saturday, Oct. 19

Teachers! Project Archaeology Investigating Rock Art Professional Development Workshop

Update

- Discover the past through evidence from a rock art site in Alabama! Applications are closed, but there's always next summer!

Dear Museum Supporters,

There have dozens and dozens of new subscribers and I haven't been able to keep up with them all! Welcome to all of you and thank you for your interest in the Archaeology Museum's programs and events. Make sure you see the "Unwritten: Archaeology & Oral History of Jim Crow" exhibit in person before it AND the museum closes for the summer on **Friday, May 3rd**. The exhibit opened late August last year and I'm grateful to all of you for the support, especially to the Center for Archaeological Studies, African American Studies, Departments of English, History, Communication, Media Relations, Marketing, Sponsored Projects-the list could go on for some time for our campus community (Go Jags!) and then there's the support from our community organizations including The Clotilda Descendants Association, the Association of the Study of African American Life and History Mobile Branch, the Dora Franklin Finley African American Trail. Thank you to each and every one of you!

There are two fun events happening this Saturday. The Museum will be at the 5 Rivers Alabama Delta Resource Center demonstrating Prehistoric Hunting Techniques: atlatl throwing and flintknapping. Also on Saturday, the USA Museum Studies class will have an opening reception for their exhibit, "Growing Up Down the Bay," at the Ben May Library from 2-3 pm.

If you missed the "[Documenting the Historic Africatown Cemetery](#)." Talk at the Museum or via Zoom you can now watch it on YouTube. Find out how to volunteer this summer at the Africatown Cemetery this summer in this newsletter.

Submissions are still open for the upcoming INTO Light Project from those who have lost a loved one and would like them to be included in a national exhibit about substance use disorder awareness and prevention. Artist portraits are gifted at the exhibit's end. In collaboration with the USA Libraries Art Galleries, the [INTO Light](#) Project, a national exhibit that has chosen the University of South Alabama as its location host for our state, will open this August 29th at the USA Student Center.

Please join me and the Alabama Archaeological Society at their Summer Meeting and for the 76th Annual Meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society in Pensacola May 10-12 with paper presentations on Saturday, May 11th. There will be papers from Florida and Alabama archaeologists and an opportunity to see nearly 20 posters about archaeology including from right here in Mobile! [Register Online](#)

[Please consider giving to the Archaeology Museum or adding us to your end of the year donations list.](#) Your support is truly needed to fund student museum assistants, a new outdoor interpretive sign for the Native Plants Garden, and future exhibits.

I hope to see you at one of the Museum's events and/or volunteer opportunities this summer to help document the Africatown Cemetery.

Finally, I'd like to thank North Mobile County Middle School and Government Street Christian School for

visiting the museum this week!

Kind regards,

Jen

Now On Exhibit Until May 30

Unwritten: Archaeology & Oral History of Jim Crow Mobile

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM

[USA Hosting Special Exhibit on Archaeology and Oral History](#)

A new special exhibit, “Unwritten: Archaeology and Oral History of Jim Crow Mobile,” highlighting the lives of the Lewis, Owens, and Griffin families is open at the University of South Alabama [Archaeology Museum](#). The exhibit can be viewed now, during Black History Month, and until the end of April. The museum is open Tuesday-Friday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at 6050 USA South Drive. Admission is free and open to the public.

The exhibit will be on view exclusively at the USA Archaeology Museum, where people can view the amazing and inspiring stories and artifacts of these African-American families during segregation. “We are excited to offer a broader audience to these stories. The exhibit introduces three families who lived in different parts of Mobile but who shared much in common. As Black families, they endured Jim Crow segregation,” said Jennifer Knutson, assistant director of the USA Archaeology Museum. “They all owned homes at a time when many African Americans did not. And, archaeologists have excavated their homes. In the mid-20th century, development transformed their neighborhood, erasing homes, schools, and shops from the landscape. Although their homes are no longer standing, we can learn about their stories through Archaeology and Oral History in this exhibit.”

This exhibit is built on decades of past and current work by South scholars. USA Professor of Anthropology and the Chief Calvin McGhee Professor of Native American Studies, Dr. Philip Carr, also director of the USA Center for Archaeological Studies which also uncovered the home of the Owens Family, as part of the Down the Bay excavations during the Mobile I-10 River Bridge Project. The USA McCall Archives [Down the Bay Oral History Project](#) continues to record the stories of the community.

In the 1990s, South archaeologists excavated the Griffin Family's home before the Calloway-Smith Middle School construction near historic Davis Avenue. Their story is also featured in the “Unwritten” exhibit. The Lewis Family in Africatown is another family whose story is also highlighted. The College of William & Mary excavated the Africatown home site of Peter Lee as well as Lewis Quarters in 2010. Artifacts from these excavations can be seen by the public for the first time after their transfer to USA in 2021. South's Director of the African American Studies Program Dr. Kern Jackson, whose work documenting the stories of the Africatown community for decades also made this exhibit possible.

“[Part of a larger project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities](#) includes the in-person exhibit at the museum and an online one for virtual visitors,” noted Knutson. “People will be able to see the exhibit in their local communities as a traveling exhibit in addition to the virtual one, which will be available later this spring.” “Unwritten: Archaeology and Oral History of Jim Crow in Mobile” will be on exhibit until the end of April at the USA Archaeology Museum.

"Unwritten" on YouTube

- Did you miss some of the Speaker Series Talks? Check out [@USAArchaeology on YouTube!](#)

"Unwritten" in the Media

- [USA Archaeology Museum new exhibit includes finds from I-10 bridge excavations](#)
- [Perspectives: Jim Crow Period in South Alabama](#)
- [Archaeology in the Community Southeastern Archaeological Conference Partnership Update](#)
(Pages 6-8)
- Dora Franklin Finley African-American Heritage Trail of Mobile on Social Media

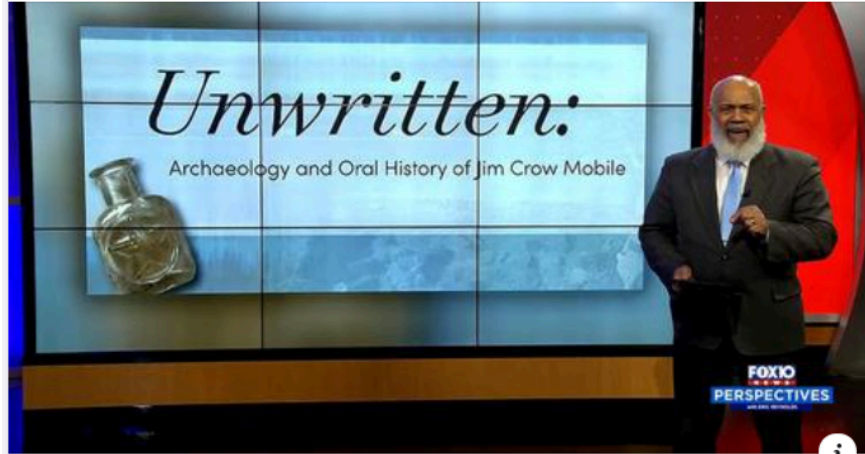


Dora Franklin Finley African-American Heritage Trail of Mobile



April 6 at 12:12 PM · 🌐

Thank you University of South Alabama Archaeology Museum and WALA Fox 10 for focusing on Mobile's unwritten history of Jim Crow and recognizing the DFFAAHT and the Finley family. We were Proud to assist you in the creation of this exhibit that will on display until April 30th. Clotilda: The Exhibition at the Africatown Heritage House The Clotilda Story - Clotilda Descendants Association Africatown Redevelopment Corp. Africatown Heritage Preservation Foundation CHES - Clean Healthy Educated Safe & Sustainable Mobile Environmental Justice Action Coalition - MEJAC Visit Mobile Adventure Earth The Middle Passage Ceremonies and Port Markers Project Karlos Finley Bishop State Community College Spring Hill College Historic Avenue Cultural Center 6th Annual Spirit of Our Ancestors Festival ALL Things Africatown FOX10 News Steppin Out Everyone



FOX10TV.COM

Perspectives: Jim Crow Period in South Alabama

We learn more about the Jim Crow Period in South Alabama.

Unwritten:

Archaeology and Oral History of Jim Crow Mobile



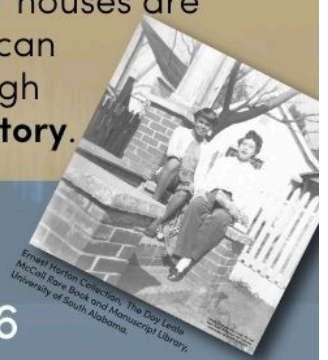
NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

Free Admission

On Exhibit Now
Until April 2024

Meet the Lewis, Owens, and Griffin families from Africatown, Down the Bay, and Davis Avenue in Mobile, Alabama.

In the mid-20th century, development transformed their neighborhoods, erasing homes, schools, and shops from the landscape. Though their houses are no longer standing, we can learn their stories through **Archaeology & Oral History.**



USA Archaeology Museum

6050 USA South Drive (251) 460-6106

southalabama.edu/org/archaeology/museum

Documenting the Africatown Cemetery Volunteer Opportunities

- To learn about this "Citizen Science" Project, watch "[Documenting the Historic Plateau/Africatown Cemetery](#)," with Alexandria Jones, Ph.D. on the @USAArchaeology YouTube channel.

Support the effort with us in partnership with the City of Mobile on May 25 from 9 am until noon to celebrate Historic Preservation Month. Join the Archaeology in the Community team on June 17-22. More updates will be announced as summer approaches. We hope to see you there, please park at the Welcome Center parking lot across the street to protect the road embankment on the side of the cemetery.

Where: [Historic Plateau/Africatown Cemetery Parking Google Pin](#)
 Bay Bridge Cut Off Road, Mobile, Alabama 36610



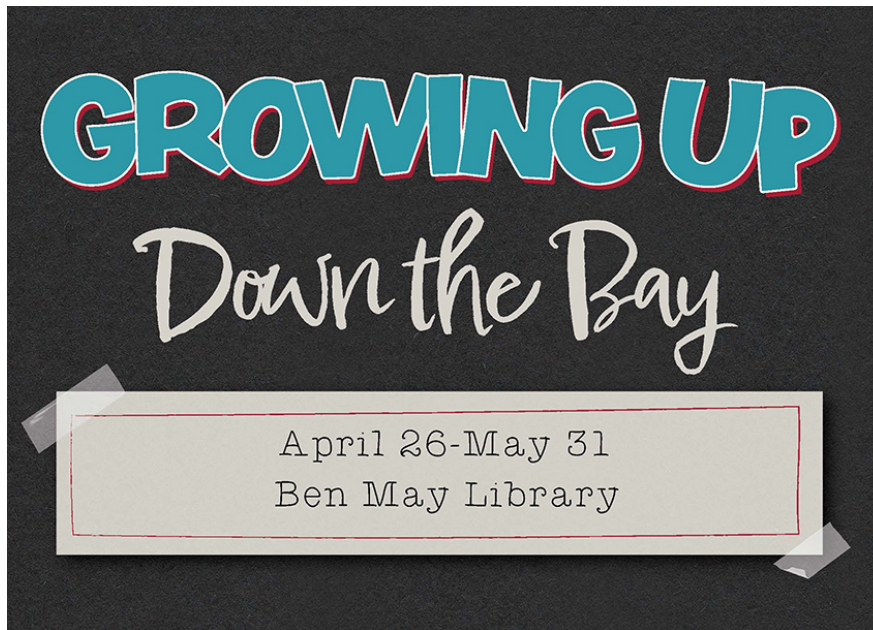
"Growing Up Down the Bay" Exhibit and Events April 26 - May 31

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
 CENTER FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES & MUSEUM STUDIES

BEN MAY LIBRARY
701 GOVERNMENT STREET

Children who grew up [Down the Bay](#), the area south of Government Street, have fond memories of the neighborhood. Learn more about growing up in the community through oral history interviews from the Down the Bay Oral History Project and artifacts from the [I-10 Mobile River Bridge Archaeology Project](#) and consider how childhood has (and hasn't) changed through time.

The exhibit is on display at the [Ben May Library](#) (701 Government Street) from April 26-May 31. Come to one of the events at the library and check it out while you're there!



Delta Woods & Waters Expo

CITY OF SPANISH FORT
5 RIVERS DELTA RESOURCE CENTER

Join the USA Archaeology Museum to try out Prehistoric Hunting Techniques (atlatl throwing and flintknapping) at the 13th Annual Delta Woods and Waters Expo, a free event sponsored by the City of Spanish Fort, in partnership with 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, to celebrate the beauty and diversity of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta.

Featuring a variety of informative presentations, exhibitions and interactive displays by experienced outdoorsmen, professionals, educators and enthusiasts, the Delta Woods & Waters Expo includes numerous fun and exciting hands-on demonstrations which allow attendees to learn and practice new skills with one-on-one instruction.

The mission of the Delta Woods & Waters Expo is to promote responsible and enjoyable outdoor recreational experiences

through a fun and educational event.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.deltawoodsandwatersexpo.com>,

Email DWWE@cityofspanishfort.com or call 251-626-4884.



BIJU Preview Archaeology Video Game

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM

"Biju"

Rhiannon Black, USA Archaeology Museum Student Assistant

When: Thurs., May 2, 11 am - 4 pm

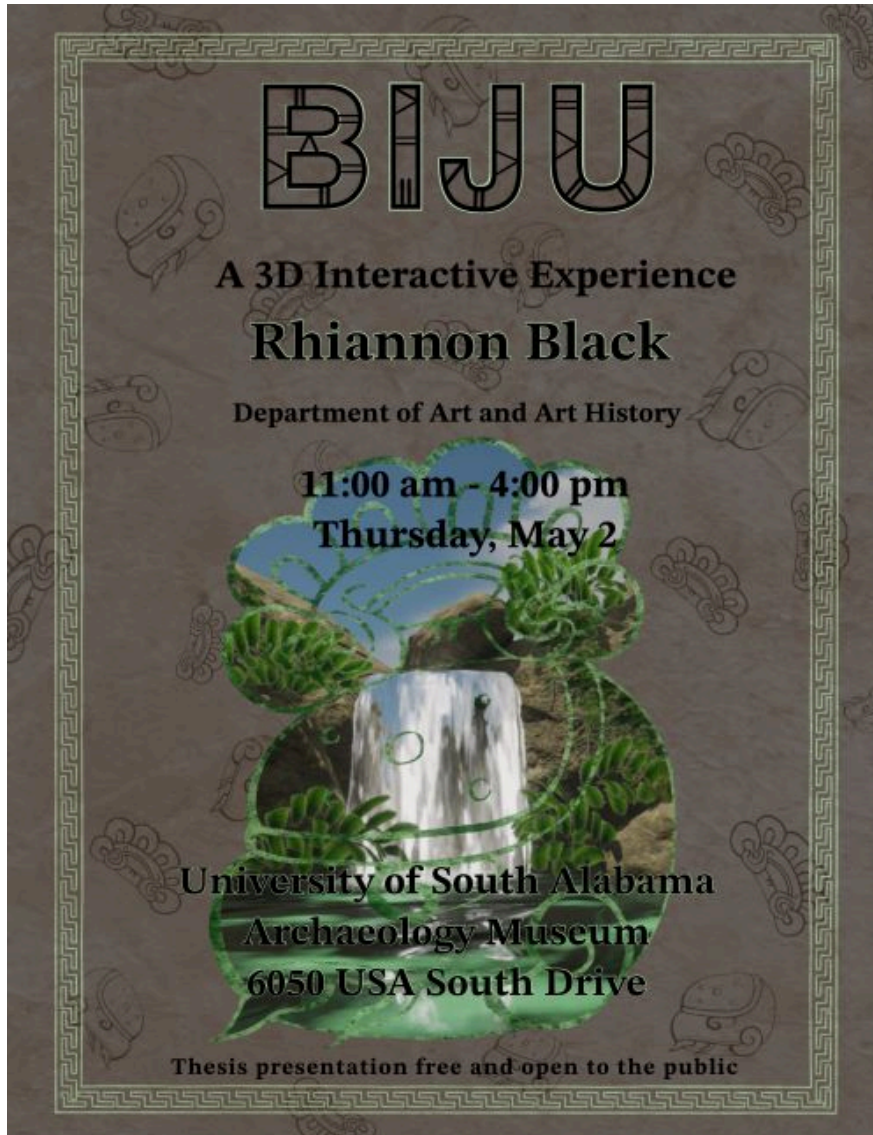
Where: USA Archaeology Museum
6050 USA Drive South
Mobile, Alabama 36688

Admission: Free & open to the public!

Biju is a 3D interactive experience set in South America. It explores the idea that an environment can provide the mood and story to a video game just as much as dialogue or an action scene. It is a one level game that showcases a hyper-realistic environment with archaeological and interactive elements. Biju is the result of a year and a half of hard work and a lot of love for video games, environments, and nature.

Rhiannon Black is a Bulgarian-American 3D artist. They received their B.A. in Linguistics from the University of

Mississippi and are graduating with a B.F.A. in Animation from the University of South Alabama in May 2024. They spent ten years teaching English in South Korea. Rhiannon has always had a passion for games, art, and 3D. In 2023, they began working on 3D imaging the Mrs. Perryman collection at the University of South Alabama Archaeology Museum as an intern for a traveling trunk project. Currently, they work in the Archaeology Museum as a contractor doing 3D imaging of the Africatown Artifacts for the Smithsonian. In the fall of 2024, Rhiannon Black will be attending the University of South Alabama for the Master of Fine Arts program in Creative Technologies and Practice.



Alabama Archaeological Society
Southwest Chapter/
Unwritten Speaker Series

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM

"Black History Underground"

Tracy Neely, Mobile Creole Cultural & Historical Preservation Society

When: Tues., April 30 at 3:30 pm

Where: USA Archaeology Museum

6050 USA Drive South

Mobile, Alabama 36688

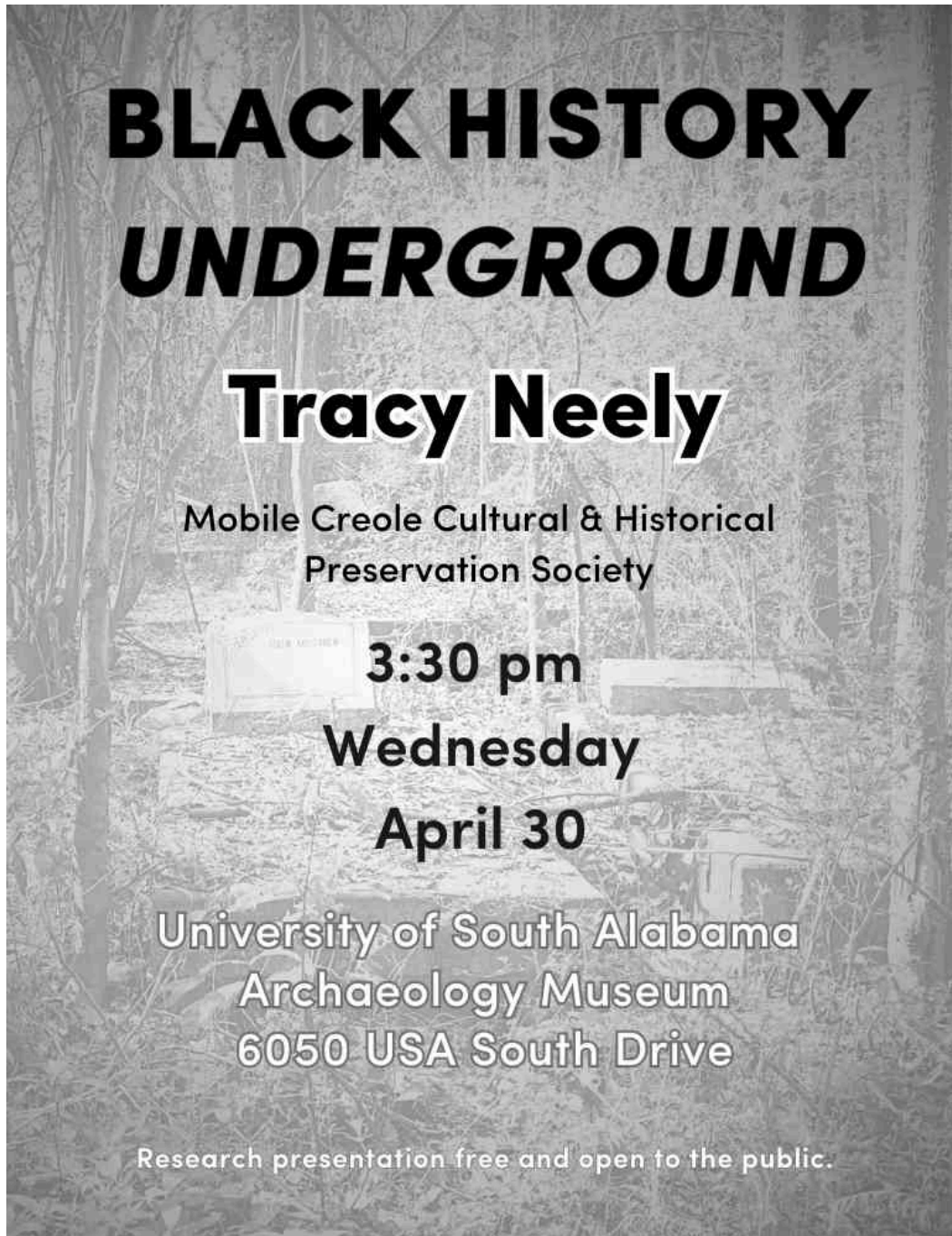
Admission: Free & open to the public!

***If all goes well, the talk will be recorded and hosted on [YouTube @USAArchaeology](#).**

While cemeteries are important to understanding history, it is the lives of the people buried in them that make them so. They tell us a lot about a particular society, a particular time in history and they whisper of life. If you listen. African American Cemeteries tell us even more. All cemeteries risk being lost to memory when there is no one left to care for them and the land they exist upon becomes a valuable asset to someone. We must care for and continue to document the lives of our deceased ancestors. Lincoln Cemetery and Saint Austin's Cemetery are two prime examples of this. This talk will be mostly about what Tracy does as a genealogist regarding African American Cemeteries. She will focus on the Lincoln Cemetery and Saint Austins Cemetery here in Mobile, the lives found there and why they are so important.

Tracy Neely is a native of Mobile. She received her B.A. in English and M.Ed. in Collaborative Teaching from the University of South Alabama. Currently, she provides private, full-time, residential care in her home. She is a direct descendant of the Chastang, Collins, LaFargue, Rabby, and Journee families. She began her genealogical adventure in 1993 to satisfy her curiosity regarding her father's lineage. In 2011, she created the Facebook group, Mobile, Alabama Creole Connections as a grassroots effort to cull more information about Mobile's Creole population. Since then, she has volunteered in the Mobile County Probate Court Archives with the late Coll'ette King and increased her momentum in genealogical studies. In 2017, she established and incorporated the Mobile Creole Cultural and Historical Preservation Society (MCCHPS) and began publishing "Mumbo Gumbo: A Journal of Coastal Creole Culture and History" She is a lifetime member of the Jamestowne Society and past Registrar and Librarian for the Needham Bryan Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution. She is also the Mobile County Representative for the Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance.

***Join us for an informal meeting after Tracy's talk to discuss what should happen next for some of Mobile's neglected cemeteries.



BLACK HISTORY UNDERGROUND

Tracy Neely

Mobile Creole Cultural & Historical
Preservation Society

3:30 pm

Wednesday

April 30

University of South Alabama
Archaeology Museum
6050 USA South Drive

Research presentation free and open to the public.

Photo courtesy of Georgeann Ellis.

Migrations: To & From the Delta

CITY OF SPANISH FORT
5 RIVERS DELTA RESOURCE CENTER

"Migrations: To & From the Delta" Mobile Creole Cultural and Historical Preservation Society, June 14-16.

What: "Migrations: To & From the Delta" Mobile Creole Cultural and Historical Preservation Society

When: June 14-16

Where: 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, on the Causeway

Admission: [Visit MCCHPS online for more information and registration.](#)

**Migrations:
To and From
the Mobile
Delta**

*June 14-16, 2024
Five Rivers Delta
Resource Center*

*Presented by
The Mobile Creole Cultural and
Historical Preservation Society*

mobilecreolesociety.weebly.com

*Dr. Ja'el Gordon
Historian/ Writer*

*John Sledge
Author*

*Jennifer Knutson
Archaeologist*

*Mary Jones-Fitts
Genealogist*

Upcoming Exhibit, Fall 2024: INTO Light Project

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

STUDENT CENTER, FALL 2024

ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM, SPRING 2025

The [INTO LIGHT](#) Project, a national non-profit organization, dedicated to educating the public about drug addiction and erasing stigma, is looking for the personal stories of individuals from the state who have passed away from a drug overdose/drug poisoning.

The USA Archaeology Museum, in coordination with the [USA Libraries Art Galleries](#) and the [University of South Alabama Biomedical Library](#), is helping to bring the INTO Light Project exhibit to [The University of South Alabama](#) campus and Mobile, Alabama. The INTO Light Project will be exhibited at the USA Student Center Fall 2024 & the USA Archaeology Museum Spring 2025.

Alabama

University of South Alabama
August 29, 2024 - June 27, 2025

submit your loved one

Application period
11/1/2023-2/29/24*
**or until filled*

sponsored by

INDIVIOR

USA
UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH ALABAMA

Local Archaeology Conference

Alabama Archaeological Society Summer Meeting
Florida Anthropological Society 76th Annual Meeting

PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

The [Pensacola Archaeological Society](#) will host the 76th Annual Meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society joined by the Alabama Archaeological Society Summer Meeting to be held in historic Pensacola, Florida, on the University of West Florida's Downtown Campus. Meeting spaces include the classrooms in UWF Historic Trust's Bowden Building , the Florida Public Archaeology Network's Coordinating Center classroom, UWF Historic Trust Museum of Commerce, and UWF Historic Trust Voices of Pensacola Multicultural Center . All meeting spaces are within walking distance of each other, as well as within walking distance of several hotels, restaurants, and local shops.

Email questions to Maranda Kles at 1vp@fasweb.org.

Register: <https://fasweb.org/annual-meeting/>

Giving to the Archaeology Museum

Your help is needed more than ever to support the USA Archaeology Museum's free public programs and giving to the museum is now possible online! Please visit <https://giving.southalabama.edu/archaeology> to make a secure, online donation to the museum. Every dollar counts! Some of our ongoing funding needs include K-12 supplies, paying student assistants (each student is about \$3k a semester), exhibit maintenance, and bringing new exhibits to campus.

Admission is Free!

Museum Hours: Tuesdays - Fridays, 10 am - 4 pm.

Phone: (251) 460-6106

Email: archaeologymuseum@southalabama.edu

Facebook: [@TheArchaeologyMuseum](#)

Instagram: [@SouthArchaeology](#)

YouTube: [@USAArchaeology](#)

Where To Find Us
