McKissick Museum Folklife Resource Center
Project Listing

**African-American Celebrations in South Carolina, 1863-1960**
In 1993, McKissick Museum produced an exhibition accompanied by a catalog entitled *Jubilation! African-American Celebrations in the Southeast*. This exhibition explored the origin, scope, and meanings of African-American celebratory events staged in the southeastern United States between emancipation and the Civil Rights movement.

**Considerable Grace Traditional Music Series**
Initially funded by The Humanities CouncilSC in 2003, the FRC continues to produce audio recordings featuring the rich folk music of South Carolina. Past volumes include the music of the Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Awards and African-American musical traditions. The project is largely student-driven, with most of the planning, design, and research development undertaken by both undergraduate and graduate students. Volume III is due to be released in late 2012.

**Crossroads of Clay: The Southern Alkaline-Glazed Tradition**
In 1983, McKissick Museum initiated a study of the development and diffusion of the southern alkaline-glazed stoneware pottery tradition. These research materials constitute the largest consolidated collection of information on southern ceramics in the United States. Based on this research, McKissick produced an exhibition with a catalog entitled *Crossroads of Clay* and published the seminal book *Great & Noble Jar: Traditional Stoneware of South Carolina*. McKissick continues to be a leader in contemporary research of the alkaline-glazed pottery tradition.

**The Dave Project**
A project involving in-depth research of approximately 160 pots attributed to Dave Drake, an enslaved African-American potter from South Carolina. A traveling exhibition and catalog “*I Made this Jar...* The Life and Works of the Enslaved African-American Potter, Dave” were developed from this original research. An ongoing project, a revised and updated catalog is being produced with a late 2012 release date.

**Digital Traditions**
In 2003, McKissick Museum was awarded a major federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This grant served as the catalyst in a multi-year project designed to
accomplish two major goals: 1) transfer and digitize the materials held in the Folklife Resource Center and 2) develop a comprehensive website that would provide access to these digital materials. Through a partnership with South Carolina Educational Television, the website was launched in late 2006. Digital Traditions contains hundreds of images, video and audio clips, and information on over two hundred different folk artists. A "living" project, new information is added to the site on a monthly basis. Access Digital Traditions at www.digitaltraditions.net.

**Folklife Documentary Video Program**

Since 1998, McKissick has worked closely with independent filmmakers like Woodward Studio, Ltd. to produce a variety of documentaries. Several projects have focused on traditional foodways throughout the region. Recent work includes *The Sheep Stew of Dundas: A Gastronomical Delight* (2001), *Carolina Hash: A Taste of South Carolina* (2001), and *Burgoo! The Mythical Stew of Kentucky* (2007). In addition, several years of fieldwork resulted in the exhibition *Southern Stews* and companion film *Southern Stews: A Taste of the South* (2002).

**Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Award**

The South Carolina Folk Heritage Award was created by the South Carolina Legislature in 1987 to recognize lifetime achievement in folk art. In 1997, the name was changed to the Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Award in memory of Harris' long-time support of South Carolina's cultural heritage. The program is co-administered with the South Carolina Arts Commission and the awards are presented annually by the General Assembly.

**Jugtown Pottery**

Working with the Folklife Section of the North Carolina Arts Council, McKissick studied the impact of the Jugtown Pottery on traditional pottery in Moore County, North Carolina. From this research emerged the exhibition and catalog *New Ways for Old Jugs: Traditions and Innovations of the Jugtown Pottery*.

**Quilt History Project**

From 1983 through 1986, McKissick documented approximately 2,765 quilts. This research led to the publication of *Social Fabric: South Carolina's Traditional Quilts* (1985) and *Glorified Patchwork: South Carolina Crazy Quilts* (1989). The FRC will be working through 2012 to update the information and incorporate the images into a variety of digital venues.

**Quilts Like My Mama Did**

As a follow-up to the *Quilt History Project*, the Folklife Resource Center produced both a video and a slide/audiotape program featuring African-American quilters from the Pawley's Island area.
Row Upon Row: Sea Grass Baskets of the South Carolina Lowcountry

Archival research and extensive fieldwork with contemporary basketmakers resulted in an exhibition and publication that serves as the definitive history of the sweetgrass basket tradition in South Carolina. The Folklife Resource Center maintains the documentary materials associated with the project.

Rural Arts Initiative

The Rural Arts Initiative was supported by the South Carolina Arts Commission and focused on the development of cultural awareness in rural communities. Interviews were conducted in Charleston, Georgetown, and Williamsburg counties with a focus on the coastal village of McClellanville.

Rural Humanities Project

Through a collaboration with the Humanities Council SC, the folklife traditions of Oconee, Anderson, Pickens, Abbeville, Greenwood, McCormick, Colleton, Jasper, Chesterfield, and Marlboro Counties were surveyed between 1987 and 1990. Collection includes extensive field notes, audio, color and black and white photography.

Stout Hearts: Traditional Oak Basket Makers of the South Carolina Upcountry

A traveling exhibition and catalog, the Stout Hearts project investigated the traditional and contemporary practices of split-oak basketmakers in the South Carolina Piedmont. These strong, light, and versatile baskets have been a part of South Carolina folk culture for over 300 years.

Survey of South Carolina Tradition-Bearers

In 2010, the South Carolina Arts Commission (SCAC) contracted with seven graduates of SCAC’s Institute for Community Scholars (ICS) to identify traditional artists in thirteen South Carolina counties. The daily work of the ICS grads was managed by a professional folklorist. This survey work was the impetus that developed into the Survey of South Carolina Tradition-Bearers. Fieldwork has been completed and will continue to be conducted, covering as many counties per fiscal year as the program budget allows, until all 46 South Carolina counties have been surveyed. A joint project between The Folklife Resource Center at McKissick Museum and the South Carolina Arts Commission, this is the first comprehensive survey initiated in the state in over twenty years.