BENJAMIN A. STEERE

# Department of Anthropology University of West Georgia

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(Updated November 1, 2013)

**EDUCATION**

University of Georgia, Athens, GA

2011 Ph.D., Anthropology

Dissertation: *The Archaeology of* *Houses and Households in the Native Southeast*

Committee: Stephen Kowalewski, David Hally, Bram Tucker, and Mark Williams

Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC

2003 B.A., Anthropology, Minor in Spanish, Minor in Studio Art

2002 Foreign Study: Universidad de Salamanca, Salamanca, Spain

**PRINCIPAL FIELDS OF INTEREST**

Southeastern Archaeology

Household Archaeology and Anthropology

Cherokee Archaeology

Indigenous Archaeology

Regional Settlement Pattern Studies

**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

Department of Anthropology, University of West Georgia

2012 – present Assistant Professor

Coweeta Long Term Ecological Research Program, University of Georgia

2011 – 2012 Post-Doctoral Research Associate

University of Georgia, Department of Anthropology

2006 – 2011 Graduate Assistant

Wake Forest University Study Abroad Program, Salamanca, Spain

2002 Student Assistant

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Published**

Steere, Benjamin A.

2013 Swift Creek Paddle Designs as Tattoos: Ethnographic Insights on Prehistoric Body Decoration and Material Culture. In *Inscribing the Body Sacred: Ancient Tattoo Traditions of Eastern North America*, edited by Aaron Deter-Wolf and Carol Diaz-Granados, pp. 73-94. University of Texas Press, Austin.

Steere, Benjamin A., Paul A. Webb, and Bruce S. Idol

2012 A “New” Account of Mound and Village Sites in Western North Carolina: The 1913 Travels of Captain R. D. Wainwright. *North Carolina Archaeology* 61:1-37.

Steere, Benjamin A., and Stephen A. Kowalewski

2012   Wealth Stratification in Ancient Mesoamerica. *Social Evolution and History* 11(1):20-48.

Kowalewski, Stephen A., Luis A. Barba Pingarrón, Jorge Blancas, Marisol Yadira Cortés Vilchis, Gabriela García Ayala, Leonardo López Zárate, Agustín Ortiz, Thomas J. Pluckhahn, Benjamin A. Steere, and Blanca Vilchis Flores

2011 Dos Ciudades Prehispanicas en Coixtlahuaca. *Cuadernos del Sur* 16(30):93-111.

Kowalewski, Stephen A., Luis A. Barba Pingarrón, Jorge Blancas, Marisol Yadira Cortés Vilchis, Gabriela García Ayala, Leonardo López Zárate, Agustín Ortiz, Thomas J. Pluckhahn, Benjamin A. Steere, and Blanca Vilchis Flores

2010 La Presencia Azteca en Oaxaca: La Provincia de Coixtlahuaca. *Anales de Antropología* 44:77-108.

Steere, Benjamin A.

2009 Review of *Architectural Variability in the Southeast*, edited by Cameron H. Lacquement. *Early Georgia*, 37(1):133-135.

**In Press**

Steere, Benjamin A.

2013 Review of *The Cherokees of Tuckaleechee Cove*, by Jon Marcoux. Journal of Alabama Archaeology.

**Under review**

Steere, Benjamin A.

2014 *The Archaeology of Houses and Households in the Native Southeast*. University of Alabama Press. (Book manuscript under review with advance contract for publication.)

Steere, Benjamin A.

2014 Collaborative Archaeology as a Tool for Preserving Sacred Sites in the Cherokee Heartland. In *Indigenous Revival and Sacred Sites Conservation*, edited by Fausto Sarmiento and Sarah Hitchner. Berghahn Book, New York.

**Technical Reports**

Steere, Benjamin A.

2013 The Western North Carolina Mounds and Towns Project: Results of 2011-2012 Archival Research and Field Investigations in Buncombe, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, Swain, and Transylvania Counties, North Carolina. Report on file, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Office.

Deter-Wolf, Aaron, Benjamin A. Steere, and Andrew Gillreath Brown

2013 Pit Features. In *The Fernvale Site (40WM51): Late Archaic and Multicomponent Occupations Along the South Harpeth River in Williamson County, Tennessee,* edited by Aaron Deter-Wolf, pp. 29-48. Research Series No. 19, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Archaeology, Nashville.

Steere, Benjamin A., and Aaron Deter-Wolf

2013 Postholes and Structures. In *The Fernvale Site (40WM51): Late Archaic and Multicomponent Occupations Along the South Harpeth River in Williamson County, Tennessee,* edited by Aaron Deter-Wolf, pp. 49-66. Research Series No. 19, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Archaeology, Nashville.

Steere, Benjamin A., and Paul Webb.

2012 Archaeological Survey for the Haywood EMC WLOS Rebuild and Pisgah Inn Rebuild Project, Pisgah National Forest, Haywood County, North Carolina. Report Submitted to Haywood Electric Membership Corporation, Waynesville, North Carolina.

Steere, Benjamin A.

2011 Preliminary Results of Archival Research for the Western North Carolina Mounds and Towns Project: Documentary Evidence for Known and Potential Mound Sites in Buncombe, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, Swain, and Transylvania Counties, North Carolina. Report on file, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Office.

Kowalewski, Stephen A., Luis A. Barba Pingarrón, Jorge Blancas, Marisol Yadira Cortés Vilchis, Gabriela García Ayala, Leonardo López Zárate, Agustín Ortiz, Thomas J. Pluckhahn, Benjamin A. Steere, and Blanca Vilchis Flores

2008 *Proyecto Urbanismo Temprano y Tardío en Coixtlahuaca, Oaxaca: Informe Técnico Final*. Submitted to Consejo de Arqueología, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, México, D.F. Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia, Athens.

**SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS**

**Organized symposiums**

Steere, Benjamin A.

2012 New Research Directions in Western North Carolina. Symposium organized for the 69th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

**Papers and posters presented at professional meetings**

Steere, Benjamin A., and Beau Carroll

2013 Cherokee Archaeology at Stecoe Town. Paper Presented at the 70th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Tampa, Florida.

Steere, Benjamin A.

2013 The Changing Nature of Archaeological Research in the Cherokee Heartland. Paper Presented at the 28th Annual Interdisciplinary Conference in the Humanities, University of West Georgia, Carrollton, Georgia.

Steere, Benjamin A.

2013 Platform Mound Distribution in the Cherokee Heartland. Paper Presented at the 2013 Fall Meeting of the Society for Georgia Archaeology, Athens, Georgia.

Steere, Benjamin A.

2013 New Discoveries in Thomas Valley: Cherokee Archaeology at Stecoe Town. Paper Presented at the 3nd Annual Cherokee Archaeology Symposium, Cherokee, North Carolina.

Steere, Benjamin A.

2012 Revisiting Mound Distribution in the Cherokee Heartland: Initial Results of the Western North Carolina Mounds and Towns Project. Paper Presented at the 69th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Townsend, Russell, and Benjamin A. Steere

2012 The Western North Carolina Mounds and Towns Project: Lessons Learned from Public Outreach. Paper Presented at the 69th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Webb, Paul, A., Bruce S. Idol, and Benjamin A. Steere

2012 A “New” Account of Mound and Village Sites in Western North Carolina: The Travels of Captain R. D. Wainwright. Paper Presented at the 69th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Steere, Benjamin A.

2012 The Western North Carolina Mounds and Towns Project: Using Archaeology to Relocate Important Places on the Cherokee Landscape. Paper Presented at the 2nd Annual Cherokee Archaeology Day, Cherokee, North Carolina.

Steere, Benjamin A.

2012 Mapping Mounds and Towns in the Cherokee Heartland: The Western North Carolina Mounds and Towns Project. Poster Presented at the 2nd Annual Cherokee Archaeology Day, Cherokee, North Carolina.

Steere, Benjamin A.

2012 Results of the Western North Carolina Mounds and Towns Project, 2011-2012. Poster Presented at the Coweeta LTER Summer Science Symposium, Otto, North Carolina.

Steere, Benjamin A., and Russell Townsend

2012 Collaborative Cherokee Archaeology: Preliminary Results of The Western North Carolina Mounds and Towns Project. Poster Presented at the 77th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Memphis, Tennessee.

Steere, Benjamin A.

2012 Collaborative Archaeology as a Tool for Preserving Sacred Sites and Enhancing Cultural Identity for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Paper presented at the International Conference: Indigenous Revival and Sacred Sites Conservation, Athens, Georgia.

Steere, Benjamin A.

2011 Preliminary Results of The Western North Carolina Mounds and Towns Project. Poster Presented at the 68th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Jacksonville, Florida.

Burgess, Brian, Benjamin A. Steere, and Russell Townsend

2011 The Western North Carolina Mounds and Towns Project: A Preliminary Overview. Paper Presented at the 68th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Jacksonville, Florida.

Steere, Benjamin A.

2011 House Segmentation and Household Economy in the Native Southeast. Paper Presented at the 76th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology Sacramento, California.

Steere, Benjamin A.

2010 House Size at Large and Small Mississippian Sites. Paper Presented at the 67th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Lexington, Kentucky.

Benyshek, Tasha, Benjamin A. Steere, Paul Webb, Joel Jones, and Hannah Guidry

2010 Finding, Delineating, and Recording Structure Patterns: Recent Excavations in Western North Carolina. Paper Presented at the 67th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Lexington, Kentucky.

Steere, Benjamin A.

2009 Swift Creek Paddle Designs as Tattoos. Paper Presented at the 66th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Mobile, Alabama.

Hally, David, Emily Beahm, Sarah Bergh, Dan Bigman, Carol Colaninno, Ben Steere, Keith Stephenson, Karen Smith, and Frankie Snow

2009 Characterization of Swift Creek Vessel Assemblages. Paper Presented at the 66th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Mobile, Alabama.

Steere, Benjamin A., and Stephen A. Kowalewski.

2009 Mesoamerica Was a Middle Class Society. Paper Presented at The Fifth International Conference “Hierarchy and Power in the History of Civilizations,” Moscow, Russia.

Steere, Benjamin A.

2007 Comparing Woodland, Mississippian, and Cherokee Houses. Paper Presented at the 64th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Knoxville, Tennessee.

**Invited presentations, public lectures, and public archaeology**

2013 Cherokee Mounds and Towns in Western North Carolina prior to Removal. Meeting of the North Carolina Trail of Tears Association. Remembering the Removal Symposium & Trail Pilgrimage: Commemorating 175 Yrs. Cherokee, North Carolina.

2013 Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in Native Georgia. Invited guest speaker for the Native American Heritage Month Program, Center for Diversity and Inclusion, University of West Georgia, Carrollton.

2013 Cherokee Archaeology: The View from Georgia. History Beneath Our Feet: Cherokee Archaeology and the Trail of Tears. Funk Heritage Center, Reinhardt University, Waleska, Georgia.

2013 New Directions in Cherokee Archaeology. The Cherokee: Ancient Trails, Talking Leaves, Broken Treaties, The Eighth Annual Jan Wyatt Symposium. Cashiers Historical Society, Cashiers, North Carolina.

2013 Panel Member, Anthropology Careers Roundtable, Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia, Athens.

2013 Navigating the Academic Job Search. Future Faculty Program, University of Georgia, Athens.

2012 Chiefs, Farmers, Ice Age Hunters: A Long Term View of Native American Culture in Georgia. Invited guest speaker for the Native American Heritage Month Program, Center for Diversity and Inclusion, University of West Georgia.

2012 The Archaeology of Northwest Georgia: A Long History and a Bright Future. Meeting of the Board of Directors, Reinhart College, Waleska, Georgia.

2012 Regional Settlement Archaeology in the Cherokee Heartland. Meeting of the Anthropology Society, University of West Georgia, Carrollton, Georgia.

2012 The Archaeology of Houses and Households at the Ravensford Site. University of Tennessee Cherokee Archaeology Field School, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Cherokee, North Carolina.

2012 The Western North Carolina Mounds and Towns Project: New Perspectives on Human Settlement in the Southern Appalachians. Zahner Conservation Lecture, Highlands Biological Station, Highlands, North Carolina.

2012 Prehistoric Mounds and Towns of Western North Carolina. Jackson County Public Library, Sylva, North Carolina.

2012 New Insights on the Archaeology of the Little Tennessee River: Results from the Western North Carolina Mounds and Towns Project. Clarks Chapel Community Center, Prentiss, North Carolina.

2012 Long Term Settlement Pattern Research in the Cherokee Heartland: Results of the Western North Carolina Mounds and Towns Project. Coweeta LTER Monthly Meeting, Athens, Georgia.

2012 The Western North Carolina Mounds and Towns Project: Developing a Broader Understanding of the Cherokee Cultural Landscape through Archival Research, Archaeology, and Public Outreach. Qualla Public Library, Cherokee, North Carolina.

2012 The Western North Carolina Mounds and Towns Project: Developing a Broader Understanding of the Cherokee Cultural Landscape through Archival Research, Archaeology, and Public Outreach. Student Association for Archaeological Sciences, University of Georgia, Athens.

2012 The Western North Carolina Mounds and Towns Project: Developing a Broader Understanding of the Cherokee Landscape through Archival Research, Archaeology, and Public Outreach. Cherokee Speakers Meeting, Western Carolina University Cherokee Center, Cherokee, North Carolina.

2012 The Western North Carolina Mounds and Towns Project: Developing a Broader Understanding of the Cherokee Landscape through Archival Research, Archaeology, and Public Outreach. Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina.

2012 The Jasper Allen Mound: Archaeological Research on Scott Creek in Jackson County, North Carolina. Town of Sylva Commissioners Meeting, Sylva, North Carolina.

2011 Cherokee Mounds and Towns in Western North Carolina. December Meeting of the North Carolina Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association, Franklin, North Carolina.

2011 The Western North Carolina Mounds and Towns Project: Research, Preservation, and Public Outreach. Coweeta Brown Bag Seminar Series, Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory, Otto, North Carolina.

2010 Documenting and Enhancing Your Graduate Teaching Experience: What the Center for Teaching and Learning Can Do for You, for Dr. Elizabeth Reitz’s ANTH 9005, Doctoral Graduate Student Seminar, University of Georgia, Athens.

2010 Houses, Households, and Agriculture in the Southeast, for Jackie Saindon’s Introduction to Anthropology, Piedmont College, Athens.

2010 Household Archaeology at the Ravensford Site, for Dr. Stephen A. Kowalewski’s ANTH 3031, Introduction to Prehistoric Archaeology, University of Georgia, Athens.

2009 Old Houses, New Research: Household Archaeology in the Southeast, for Dr. Susan Tanner’s Honors ANTH 1102, Introduction to Archaeology, University of Georgia, Athens.

2008 Postclassic Urban Sprawl in the Valley of Coixtlahuaca, Oaxaca. Student Association for Archaeological Sciences, University of Georgia, Athens.

2008 With Stephen A. Kowalewski, Findings of the 2008 Pilot Study in Coixtlahuaca, Oaxaca. Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia, Athens.

**PEER REVIEW**

Manuscripts peer reviewed

*Southeastern Archaeology* x1

**GRANTS AND AWARDS**

2014 Presidential Grant Assistance Program, University of West Georgia. Collaborative Archaeological Research with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians – Equipment ($5,000).

2013 Student Research Assistant Program 2013-2014, University of West Georgia. Rediscovering the Archaeology of Carroll County: A Reanalysis of Dr. Lewis Larson’s 1974 Archaeological Survey of Carroll, Haralson, and Paulding Counties, Georgia ($2,000).

2011 Cherokee Preservation Foundation (to Russell Townsend, project administrator, and Benjamin A. Steere, principal investigator). The Western North Carolina Mounds and Towns Project ($20,000).

2011 Duke Energy Foundation (to Russell Townsend, project administrator, and Benjamin A. Steere, principal investigator). The Western North Carolina Mounds and Towns Project ($15,000).

2010 – 2011 University of Georgia Graduate School Dissertation Completion Award

2010 University of Georgia Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

2010 Department of Anthropology Charles Hudson Excellence in Teaching Award

2009 University of Georgia Office of the Vice President for Research Foreign Travel Assistance ($1400)

2008 University of Georgia Graduate School Dean’s Award ($2000)

2007 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Honorable Mention

2003 Wake Forest University Most Outstanding Anthropology Major

2000 – 2003 Wake Forest University Mullen Scholarship

1999 – 2003 Wake Forest University Poteat Scholarship

**COURSES TAUGHT**

**Instructor of record**

Human Evolution, Spring 2014, University of West Georgia

Cherokee Archaeology, Fall 2013, University of West Georgia

Indigenous Archaeology, Spring 2013, University of West Georgia

Indians of the Southeastern United States, Fall 2012, University of West Georgia

Introduction to Anthropology, Spring 2014, Fall 2013, Spring 2013, Summer 2013, Fall 2012, University of West Georgia

**Teaching assistant**

Paleoanthropology, Spring 2010, University of Georgia

Archaeology of the Southwest, Fall 2009, University of Georgia

Field Methods in Archaeology, Summer 2009, Summer 2010, University of Georgia

Laboratory Methods in Archaeology, Summer 2009, Summer 2010, University of Georgia

Senior Capstone Seminar, Spring 2009, University of Georgia

Introduction to Anthropology, Fall 2008, University of Georgia

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

2011 – 2012 Principal Investigator. The Western North Carolina Mounds and Towns Project. Coweeta Long Term Ecological Research Program, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.

2007 – 2011 Site File Technician. The Georgia Archaeological Site File, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.

2010 Research Assistant. Remote Sensing Survey of Macon Plateau Site, Ocmulgee National Monument (9BI1). University of Georgia Laboratory of Archaeology, Athens, Georgia.

2009 – 2010 Teaching Assistant. University of Georgia Archaeological Field School. Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.

2008 Research Assistant. Preliminary Regional Settlement Survey: Proyecto Urbanismo Temprano y Tardío en Coixtlahuaca, Oaxaca. Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.

2008 Research Assistant. Phase I Survey of the Tugalo Mound (9ST1). University of Georgia Laboratory of Archaeology, Athens, Georgia.

2004 – 2006 Archaeological Field and Lab Technician. TRC Garrow and Associates, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

2001 – 2002 Student Research Assistant. Wake Forest University Field School in Piedmont Archaeology. Wake Forest University Archaeology Laboratories, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

2000 Student Intern. Wake Forest University Archaeology Laboratories, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

**SPECIAL TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

2013 Online Course Development Training , College of Social Sciences, University of West Georgia

2011 University of Georgia Graduate School Teaching Portfolio Program

2010 – 2011 University of Georgia Future Faculty Program

**UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

University of West Georgia

2013 – 2014 Facilities and Service Committee

2013 – 2014 Faculty Senate

2013 – 2014 Co-Advisor, Anthropology Society

2012 – 2013 Co-Advisor, Anthropology Society

2012 – 2013 Department of Anthropology Committee for SACS Compliance

## WEBSITE MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

2013 – present Editor, Society for Georgia Archaeology *Profile* online newsletter

2008 – 2011 Webmaster. Coixtlahuaca Online Archaeological Database. www.shapiro.anthro.uga.edu/coixtlahuaca2008

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Society for American Archaeology

Southeastern Archaeological Conference

Register of Professional Archaeologists

Society for Georgia Archaeology

Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists

**REFERENCES**

Dr. Lisa Gezon

Professor of Anthropology and Department Chair

University of West Georgia

1601 Maple St.

Carrollton, Georgia 30118

(678) 839-6457

lgezon@westga.edu

Dr. Stephen Kowalewski (Major Professor)

Professor of Anthropology

# University of Georgia

# Department of Anthropology

# 250A Baldwin Hall, Jackson St.

# Athens, Georgia 30602

# (706) 542-1462

skowalew@uga.edu

Dr. Mark Williams

Senior Academic Professional and Director of Laboratory of Archaeology

University of Georgia Laboratory of Archaeology

# 110 Riverbend Rd.

# Athens, Georgia 30602

# (706) 542-8737

[jmw@uga.edu](mailto:jmw@uga.edu)

Mr. Russell Townsend

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Office

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Cherokee, North Carolina 28719  
(828) 554-6851  
russtown@nc-cherokee.com

Mr. Paul Webb

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TRC Environmental Corporation

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Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27517

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pwebb@trcsolutions.com