We are delighted to announce that our doctoral program continues to bear fruit. At this month’s graduation ceremony, the department will award its PhDs number two and three to Ashley Dumas and Erica Gibson. Dr. Dumas’ dissertation is titled “The Role of Salt in the Late Woodland to Early Mississippian Transition in Southwest Alabama.” Her research was an examination of the techniques of prehistoric salt making in an effort to understand its importance to late prehistoric cultures in that region. Ashley has accepted a position at the University of South Alabama as Assistant Director of the Center for Archaeological Studies.

Dr. Gibson’s dissertation is titled “The Effects of Practitioner Choice on Birth Outcomes of Women and their Infants.” She compared women’s models of pregnancy and birth with those of their doctor or midwife to see if a match between client and practitioner contributed to better birth outcomes for the women and their infants. A high match predicted better infant birth weight. Erica is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Comprehensive Center for Pain Research at the University of Florida, studying health disparities, pain and aging.

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Three Doctoral Students Receive NSF Dissertation Improvement Fellowships

It is with no small measure of pride that we announce that Toni Copeland, Meredith Jackson, and Sarah Szurek each received NSF Dissertation Improvement grants in the Spring of 2007. The three awards were the second largest number received by any university. The University of Chicago which has 56 anthropologists to our 16, and 214 graduate students to our 35, received four awards. Only 50 were awarded nationwide.

Toni Copeland received a grant to conduct research for her dissertation, “Poverty and HIV-Positive Women in Nairobi, Kenya: Cultural Models of Managing HIV/AIDS in the Absence of Biomedical Treatment.”

Sarah Szurek received a grant for her dissertation project, “Cultural Models of Food and Social Networks among Mexican Immigrants in the Southeast United States.”

Charles and Janis Nuckolls Depart for Brigham Young University

With sadness the department bids a fond farewell to Professors Charles and Janis Nuckolls. This past summer they accepted new posts at Brigham Young University in the departments of Anthropology and Linguistics, respectively.

Charles arrived at UA from Emory University in 1999 as the founding director the Blount Undergraduate Initiative of the College of Arts and Sciences. In 2000, both Charles and Janis became full-time members of the Anthropology faculty.

Charles is a specialist in psychological anthropology and cultural theory with ethnographic interests in India, Japan, the United States and New Zealand.

Janis Nuckolls is an anthropological linguist with extensive fieldwork in the Amazon region of Ecuador. She is recognized as a foremost expert in the Quecha language.

We are grateful for their years of service to the department and for their great collegiality. The faculty, staff, and students of UA anthropology will miss them and their children, William, Margaret, and Catherine. We wish them the very best at BYU.
NEW M.A. STUDENTS FOR 2007-2008

The Department extends a warm welcome to the new students in our Masters program. Those who enrolled in fall, 2007 include Andrea E. Adams, a native of Dearing, Georgia who received her undergraduate degree from the University of Georgia. Andrea’s subdiscipline is archaeology. Michelle Azevedo-Urv is a native of Birmingham, Alabama who received her Batchelors degree from the University of Washington in Seattle. Michelle will be doing research in cultural anthropology. Daniel A. LaDu is a native of Asheville, North Carolina and did his undergraduate work at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Daniel’s subdiscipline is archaeology. Anna L. Rich is a native of Madison, Alabama who received her undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama. Anna is an archaeologist. Brian Robbins is a native of Hamilton, Alabama who did his undergraduate work at the University of Alabama. His subdiscipline is physical anthropology.

CSI ALABAMA EXHIBIT

The Alabama Museum of Natural History has opened “CSI Alabama,” an exhibit created by Associate Professor Keith Jacobi that gives visitors a hands-on look at crime scene analysis and forensic investigations. Jacobi, who serves as a resource for the state’s forensics laboratories, notes that TV shows such as CSI: Crime Scene Investigation “try to make it as accurate as they can, but they have to tell a story.”

The exhibit focuses on the science underlying crime scene investigation, with displays that illustrate a crime scene, an autopsy, ballistics, and facial reconstruction, among others. Interactive components allow visitors to take their own fingerprints, and to recreate a suspect’s image using computer software.

JASON DECARO RECEIVES RESEARCH GRANT FROM WENNER-GREN FOUNATION

In November, Assistant Professor Jason DeCaro was awarded a grant by the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research in support of his new research project, “Physical Activity and the Architecture of Daily Life Among Alabama Mexican-Americans: A Biocultural Investigation.” Wenner-Gren is the only private foundation dedicated specifically to the support of anthropological research across all subfields. They fund approximately 15% of the grant proposals they receive.

Physical activity is often viewed as one of the most important “lifestyle” factors affecting long-term health. DeCaro’s research will compare cultural beliefs about physical activity to actual daily routines. This work will place special emphasis upon barriers that stand in the way of putting beliefs into daily practice, and the strategies that are used to overcome them.
We are pleased to announce that Cameron Lacquement is the recipient of the 2007 Stephen and Christine Wimberly Scholarship Award from the Alabama Archaeological Society. This award recognizes an exceptional student of archaeology in Alabama that exhibits the potential to make permanent, significant contributions to the field of archaeology.

Erin Phillips is the 2007 recipient of the AAS research grant. Her project is to make a record of engraved art on Moundville pottery housed both at Moundville and at the Smithsonian.

**Recent Publications by Graduate Students**

Publications are the coin of our academic realm and a number of our graduate students have been very productive of late. Cameron Lacquement (doctoral student) published an edited volume, Architectural Variability in the Southeast, with the University of Alabama Press. This is the first comprehensive study of late prehistoric Native American architecture in the southern states. Professor Paul Welch of Southern Illinois University states that the volume will “become a standard reference for Southeastern archaeologists by filling a void in our knowledge of Mississippian domestic architecture.”

Doctoral student, Mary Spanos co-authored “Osceola’s Garter: An Analysis of a Nineteenth Century Native American Textile,” which was published in *The Florida Anthropologist*. Andrea Adams, first year MA student, published “Revisiting Arthur Kelly’s 1951 Field School and the Corra Harris Cave from Bartow County, Georgia” in *Early Georgia*.

**Lost Alumni**

This newsletter is not being sent to the people listed below because we have lost track of them. If you are in contact with one or more of these folks, please forward the newsletter to them. If you have any knowledge of their whereabouts, please let Michelle Wrenn know (mwrenn@tenhoor.as.ua.edu).

- Jerry Ernsberger
- Stacey McGrath
- Lynette Nyman
- Allison Palmer-Evans
- Rebecca Ann Pitts
- Eugene Augustus Renfroe
- Pamela Jean Richardson
- Ben Shields
OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

We humbly invite you to consider making a tax-free donation to one of the following initiatives:

*The Anthropology Field School Gift Fund* goes to the support of our undergraduate field schools in archaeology. Our field schools receive no budget from the University, and depend heavily on these gifts for supplies and operating expenses. Our most recent major purchase from this fund was a work truck that has proven invaluable to faculty and graduate student research. Our annual field schools for undergraduates date back to 1956. Traditionally they are among the most memorable experiences of our alumni.

*The Anthropology Lectureship Fund* goes to support distinguished guest speakers from outside the University. We try to have at least four guest speakers per year. These speakers greatly enrich our undergraduate and graduate programs by exposing our students to prominent ideas by the leading lights in our discipline.

*The David and Elizabeth DeJarnette Endowed Scholarship in Anthropology* is awarded to support graduate student research on Moundville or Moundville-related topics. Each spring, the award is made during the popular DeJarnette Barbecue, held at Moundville Archaeological Park during the Saturday of Honors Week. Since it was founded in 1993 by Sarah and James Caldwell, the endowment has steadily grown. In recent years our DeJarnette Scholars have received awards of as much as $6,000.

*The Richard A. Krause Award* is given for academic excellence at the graduate level in anthropology. The recipient of this annual award is chosen by the Graduate Studies Committee of the Department based on classroom performance and the promise of the student’s proposed thesis or dissertation research project.

*The C. Earle Smith Award* is given for academic excellence at the undergraduate level in anthropology. The annual award goes to the graduating senior in anthropology having the highest overall grade point average. Names of former “Smitty” award winners are prominently displayed on a plaque in the Department.

*The Bob Work Award* is a graduate student paper competition with a monetary prize of $100. Each January, archaeology graduate students submit papers for review by a faculty committee. The winner receives recognition during Honors Week.

Checks directed to any of these initiatives should be made out to the UA College of Arts and Sciences and mailed to the Department at Box 870210, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487. If you would like to discuss a contribution, please contact Jim Knight, Director of Departmental Development.