PRITZKER, DECARO, AND PEDERSON RECEIVE NSF GRANT TO STUDY LINK BETWEEN COMMUNICATION AND STRESS

Department of Anthropology professors Sonya Pritzker and Jason DeCaro, together with Department of Communication Studies collaborator Josh Pederson, are receiving a major National Science Foundation (NSF) award to perform the first ever biocultural-linguistic study of emotion communication in everyday life. This $315,000 award will permit them to work with 50 couples, examining real-time, bi-directional relationships between communication and biological regulation in stress-response systems. They will combine nine hours of in-home video ethnography with moment-to-moment monitoring of activity in the autonomic nervous system and in-depth couple interviews to understand how emotion communication "gets under the skin" and how stress responses "get back out." The NSF Cultural Anthropology Program and NSF Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) jointly recommended this innovative work for funding because of its transformative potential for embodiment theory and its major implications for understanding how intimate relationship quality translates into differences in health and well-being over the lifespan.

The research team has also received a grant of $20,000 from the Wenner-Gren Foundation to hold a workshop entitled "Embodying Language in the Context of Culture: Developing Biocultural-Linguistic Anthropology through Research on Interaction." The workshop, which will be held at the University of Alabama over four days this summer, will bring together researchers from the United States and Europe to examine how the human body affects and is affected by everyday communication in the context of culture.

This University of Alabama team’s research project is truly pioneering. "This project is one of only a few studies in the world to combine linguistic methods from anthropology and communication studies with psychophysiological methods in biocultural medical anthropology," said Pritzker. "It is complicated, and a huge part of the pilot research consisted in figuring out how best to do this in a way that will offer the most insight into how the way we speak to one another in specific moments affects the body." Their ultimate goal is to advance theory and method in the interdisciplinary study of language and embodiment.

The study will use monitoring technology, saliva test kits and video recording to analyze emotion communication and physiological responses of couples.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK UPDATE

MOUNDVILLE FIELD SCHOOL - RIVERBANK EXCAVATIONS

For the past two years, the University of Alabama Moundville field school excavations, led by Dr. Elliot Blair, have concentrated on an area along the rapidly eroding shoreline of the Black Warrior River at the northeast edge of the site. Research efforts targeted this location because approximately 25 meters of shoreline have eroded over the past 15 years. Previous excavations in this area have recovered human remains, architectural debris, and numerous archaeological features. Additionally, a 1930s topographic map of the site indicate a possible mound, designated Mound Z (and not shown on any previous or subsequent map), in this area (figure at right). As such, the 2017 field season entailed conducting shallow geophysical surveys on approximately 1,800 square meters in the immediate vicinity and excavating three 2 x 2 meter units directly adjacent to the eroding bluff. The three units were placed in an upsloping area that Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data indicate could be the northeastern edge of the elusive Mound Z (see figure below). Geophysical work included an electrical resistance survey, a magnetic gradiometry survey, and a ground penetrating radar survey. However, these surveys were constrained by a gravel road, an elevated wooden boardwalk, ravines, and the eroding riverbank. The surveys revealed numerous geophysical features in the area that will be evaluated during future Moundville field schools. Test unit excavations revealed significant differences among the three virtually adjacent units. The two easternmost units were uniformly comprised of coarse sands and gravels, while Unit C, the unit located upslope and closest to Mound Z, was unique in being characterized by a thick deposit of clay, overlying the coarse sands and gravels found in units A and B. This clay deposit was preliminarily interpreted as comprising the lower edge of Mound Z.

To further assess whether this is indeed Mound Z, the 2018 field school season excavated three 1 x 1 meter units upslope of Unit C and a series of auger tests all the way up the slope to determine whether distinct mound stages could be discerned. While the clay layer does indeed extend upslope, it is still unclear whether this is definitely a formal mound. However, it is hoped that ongoing analysis of micromorphology samples can shed further light on the nature of these deposits. Additionally, the boardwalk that had constrained the 2017 field season’s geophysical surveys has since been dismantled and removed, so future geophysical surveys will be conducted in the area previously inaccessible because of the boardwalk, which passed directly over the purported mound. These data will not only help interpret the nature of this landform but also reveal archaeological features that can be tested during future field school excavations.
Dr. McClure, who earned her doctorate in medical anthropology from Case Western Reserve University, comes to the University of Alabama Department of Anthropology from Saint Louis University, where she was an Assistant Professor in the Behavioral Science Department in the College for Public Health and Social Justice. Dr. McClure's research centers on the body, identity, and health. She is interested in the ways that we know ourselves and are known, the historical and cultural contexts of that knowing, and the ways that our material wellbeing inform each. She seeks to apply the knowledge gained from these types of investigations to the development of theory and methods to address the social determinants of health and health disparities. Her current project involves the intersection of race and gender in ideas about physical activity engagement among African American adolescent girls.

10 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT DR. MCCLURE

1. She went alone to West Africa for six weeks when she was 28 – to both Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast (officially the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire). While there, she attempted to make foutou, a starchy West African staple made from banana or plantains. Stephanie describes the photo to the right: "I wanted to actually cook – specifically, I wanted to make foutou with the large mortar and pestle used for that purpose, but the women found it absolutely hilarious that I thought I could cook. So they agreed to a picture of me acting like I was cooking."

2. She was once the house manager for Washington University’s Edison Theatre in St. Louis.

3. She likes to refinish furniture, a skill she learned from her grandfather, who worked for a private antique dealer (specifically, Buckner antiques in Franklin, Tennessee).

4. She has a love of cooking and gardening that she inherited from her maternal grandmother. One of her specialties is biscuits.

5. She was a physical therapist at a Children’s Hospital in Saint Louis. There she worked with children who had undergone selective dorsal rhizotomy, which involves cutting sensory nerve fibers that lead from back muscles into the spinal cord. The surgery, paired with physical therapy, relieves stiffness in the legs of patients with disorders like cerebral palsy.

6. She was the first person in her St. Louis yoga class to be able to do a handstand.

7. She had a Master's degree in Public Health and worked in a research unit before returning to school to get her Ph.D. in Anthropology.

8. While in graduate school in Cleveland, she worked for a promoter who organized Latin dance events; she collected money at the door.

9. She loves driving manual transmission cars and is currently driving her first automatic. When she rented a manual car in Glasgow, Scotland, where she had to shift with her left hand, a mirror was sacrificed to a hedgerow during the learning process.

10. She has had to prove her citizenship on two separate occasions when reentering the United States from trips abroad.
DEFFENSES, TALKS, WORKSHOPS, AND INVITED LECTURES

Dissertation and Thesis Defenses


Undergraduate Workshops

Organized by the Anthropology Club (Cayla Colclasure, President), this workshop, "Getting into Grad School," paired undergrads with graduate students to answer their questions about the graduate school application process, 11/20/2018.

Department Friday Afternoon Brown Bag Lectures (FABBLS)


Medicine, Mind, Biology, and Culture (MMBAC)


Graduate Student Professionalization Workshops

Katherine Chiou and Stephanie McClure hosted guest speaker Karen Burns, who spoke about UA graduate resources on campus and "Curating Your Online Presence," 10/17/2018.

Julia Sponholtz is a junior majoring in Anthropology, Biology, and Spanish; and she has been a member of Dr. Lynn’s Human Behavioral Ecology Research Group (HBERG) for the past two years. She first learned about HBERG in the spring semester of her freshman year and applied to work in the lab at the beginning of her sophomore year. In HBERG, she helped design a study with doctoral student Mandy Guitar on whether humans can smell stress and wrote a successful grant proposal for the study within the first month of joining the lab. This study involves determining if humans can unconsciously detect stress through olfaction. Julia and Mandy collected data by recruiting participants to wear t-shirts for a weekend and then had other participants smell and rate the shirts. Julie then presented the research model at the Southeastern Evolutionary Perspectives Society (SEEPS) meeting, a regional conference dedicated to evolutionary studies. She also coded the data for an ongoing study on the effects of fire on absorption and presented two posters on the results of the study. This year, still as a member of HBERG, she has worked on the team conducting the Belongingness and Religious Ecology Study Tuscaloosa (BREST), which has entailed working with Dr. Earley in the Department of Biological Sciences to determine if the samples were still viable and obtaining the materials needed for DNA extraction and processing. Recently, she has been analyzing those samples along with Alex Sents, a master’s student in HBERG.

In addition to working at HBERG, Julia has also been cataloguing and analyzing a collection of Native American skeletal remains as a member of Dr. Keith Jacobi’s Human Osteology Lab. She traveled to the Human Biology Association Conference in Cleveland, Ohio to present on research she has done with Drs. Jacobi and DeVore, for which she received a special mention at the meeting.

Through her osteology classes and research, Julia has decided to pursue bioarchaeology in graduate school. This interest led her to enroll in a field school in Spike Island, a 19th-century Irish prison, where she performed fieldwork last summer. While there, she helped excavate the cemetery and one of the prison buildings, in addition to cleaning the recovered artifacts. This coming summer, Julia will participate in two field schools, one on St. Catherines Island off the coast of Georgia, through the University of Alabama, and one in Achill, an island off the northwestern coast of Ireland, where she will work as a trainee supervisor.

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CHECK OUT TWO PODCASTS PRODUCED BY UA ANTHROPOLOGISTS:
"Sausage of Science" by Drs. Christopher Lynn and Cara Ocobock
www.humbio.org/podcasts

"Speaking of Race" by Drs. Jim Bindon, Jo Weaver, and Erik Peterson
www.speakingofrace.ua.edu/podcast
CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIUMS, AND PRESENTATIONS


Chiou, K. Living without Plenty in Late Moche Times: “Low” Cuisine and Food Insecurity in the Hillside Settlement of Cerro Chepén, Jequetepeque Valley.


Cajigas, R.M., and E.H. Blair. Archaeological Investigations and Shallow Geophysical Surveys at the Bronson Strip Site, St. Catherine’s Island, Georgia.

Colclasure, C. Zooarchaeological Analysis of Mission-Era Shell Middens on St. Catherine’s Island, GA.


Funkhouser, J.L. When Death is an Essential Ingredient: Medicine at Moundville and Its Impact on Health in the Black Warrior River Valley.

Garland, CC., L. Reitsema, and E.H. Blair. Intracemetery Comparison of Childhood Stress Histories at Mission Santa Catalina de Guale, St. Catherine’s Island, GA.


Kowalski, J. Late Mississippian Ceramics from the Southern Yazoo Basin: A Functional Analysis.


Nelson, T.C. A Ceramic Attribute Analysis of the 17th-Century Kymulga Phase from Talladega County, Alabama.


Wright, K.P. X-rays, Lasers, and Ceramics: Using Chemical Characterization Analyses to Examine Ceramic Communities of Practice at Choctaw Sites in Kemper County, MS.

Yancy, K., N. Mooney, J.L. Funkhouser, A. Stewart, R.J. Else, A. McNeece, and C.D. Lynn. Emphasizing the Anthropological in Archaeology: Shifting the Focus from Materials to Methods and Culture at Elementary Schools in West Central Alabama.


Dressler, W. Culture in Biocultural Research: A Structural Constructivist Model and its Implications.

Guitar, A. Lost in Trans*lation: Inclusionary and Exclusionary Stances in Biomedical Research.


Monocello, L. Beauty and Brawn: Consensus and Variation in Masculine Body Ideals among Americans and South Koreans.


Pritzker, S. Anthropology has a Heart: Honoring the Work of Elinor Ochs in Linguistic/Psychological Anthropology.


Stein, M. Using Dynamic Network Analysis to Model Andean Migration and Health in Peru.


Tokovinine, A. Fragile bytes: 3D documentation and conservation in Maya Archaeology.
**PUBLICATIONS**


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Drs. Ian Brown and Keith Jacobi discuss what it’s like to be Department Chair.

Dr. John Blitz at the annual DeJarnette Barbecue.
Katie Chiou was awarded an Office for Research and Economic Development Small Grant, University of Alabama, $6,000.

Jason DeCaro and Theresa Wadas (co-PIs) were awarded a grant from the Southern Nursing Research Society for their research project, "Telomere Length, Cardiometabolic Risk, and Psychosocial Factors among African American Women," $7,500.

Mandy Guitar ($700), Mackenzie Manns ($420), Larry Monocello ($900), Clay Nelson ($768), and K. Pierce Wright ($595) received Graduate Research and Travel Funding awards.

Emily Mckenzie was awarded $750 for her research project, "What’s in a Seed? Identifying Archaeological Chili Pepper (Capsicum annuum L.) Remains from Mesoamerica" from the Undergraduate Creativity and Research Academy.

Sonya Pritzker, Jason DeCaro, and Josh Pederson were awarded a National Science Foundation/EPSCoR Senior Research Grant for their project, Embodying Emotion in Interaction: A Biocultural-Linguistic Study of Communication and Physiology, $315,860 (see front page story).

Sonya Pritzker was awarded a University of Alabama ASPIRE Research Semester to work on writing and research.

Alexandre Tokovinine was awarded a grant from the University of Alabama Research Grants Committee, $5601.

K. Pierce Wright was awarded a grant from the Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC) Native Affairs Speaker Fund, given by the SEAC Native American Affairs Liaison Committee, for him to travel to Oklahoma to present his research to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Jenna Hurtubise was awarded the Richard A. Krause Award, $500.

Claiborne Sea was awarded the Panamerican Consultants, Inc. Award, $300.

Ashley Stewart was awarded the Outstanding Service by a Doctoral Student award, $100.
ALUMNI UPDATE

DANIEL TURNER, FORMER UA M.A. STUDENT AND CURRENT PH.D. STUDENT AT LEIDEN UNIVERSITY

Currently I’m building a database of photogrammetric tomb models resulting from two summers of fieldwork in Greece. I took approximately 42,000 photos and 60,000 measurements covering a total of 94 structures, which primarily consists of chamber tombs from the Late Bronze Age cemeteries of Voudeni and Portes in Achaea and the monumental Tholos Tomb of Menidi near Athens. While many tombs are spacious, others trigger fears of small spaces, bats, spiders, and a monolingual site guard’s repeated warnings of “σεισμός” (from which we derive seismic), pointing at the crushing weights over our heads. Dull moments were rare. I’ve modified the labor cost models to which Dr. Blitz introduced me in 2009/10, focusing exclusively on earthmoving and with some added digital flair and UK spelling conventions.

I’ve been primarily concentrating on writing lately. I have roughly three-quarters of my dissertation monograph in draft form, which I hope to submit for a defense late next year. The Buzzfeed tagline would be “cheap tombs to remember your friendly neighborhood warlord by.” Apart from my dissertation writing, I have an edited volume paper coming out soon in which I revisit the Moundville palisade en route to some limited comments on expanding earthmoving labour rates. I also assist with teaching an ANT107 clone course called Past and Future and a master’s seminar on material culture studies (covering the earthmoving lecture, what else), and I sit on the editorial board for an in-house journal of undergraduate research.

On the personal side, I eloped in May of 2017 with my partner Bethany Startin, a Yorkshire-born poet turned financial analysis editor in Amsterdam, and we bought a house in the impossible-to-pronounce town of Oegstgeest. We extradited our two cats and dog from Alabama and have made a habit of taking walking holidays in the Low Countries - most recently, the Lake District haunts of John Ruskin and Beatrix Potter. Ik kon me geen beter leven voorstellen (I could not propose a better life).

My heart never left southeastern archaeology, my drive-by research in Europe notwithstanding, so any and all news of Alabama brings good memories of home. My best goes out to the Department. I would not be where I am without UA Anthropology.

Since 2003, the Department of Anthropology at the University of Alabama has published this newsletter for students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the Department. Please send alumni news and correspondence to Dr. Christopher Lynn at cdlynn@ua.edu.
WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT

We humbly welcome tax-free donations to any of the following initiatives:

Endowments

**The Vernon James Knight Endowed Scholarship** in Anthropology is awarded to graduate students enrolled in the anthropology graduate program and who are conducting research on the anthropology of art and design, with a preference for iconography projects. Secondary consideration shall be given to undergraduate majors with the same research interests.

**The Allen R. Maxwell Endowed Anthropology Scholarship** is awarded to support graduate student research in the areas of ethnography or linguistic anthropology. Established through a bequest from Dr. Maxwell’s estate, it is our first award specifically dedicated to ethnographic or linguistic field research.

**The David and Elizabeth DeJarnette Endowed Scholarship in Anthropology** is awarded to support graduate student research on Moundville or Latin America-related topics. Each spring, the award is celebrated during the popular DeJarnette BBQ, held at Moundville Archaeological Park on the Saturday of Honors Week. Since it was founded in 1993 by Sarah and James Caldwell, the endowment has steadily grown.

**The John Cottier Endowed Scholarship in Anthropology** is awarded to graduate students who are studying Southeastern United States archaeology as defined by the Southeastern Archaeological Conference.

**The Dr. Milady Murphy Endowed Scholarship in the Anthropology of Health and Wellness** is specifically designed to support anthropology graduate students who are conducting research on the anthropology of health, illness, and wellness.

**The Anthropology Field School Gift Fund** supports our undergraduate field schools in archaeology. These field schools receive no financial support from the University and depend heavily on these gifts for supplies and operating expenses. Our annual field schools for undergraduates date back to 1956, and, traditionally, they are among the most memorable experiences of our alumni.

**The James R. Bindon Biocultural Anthropology and Health Endowed Lecture Series** was initiated in Fall 2015 to mark the significant contribution Dr. Bindon made to biocultural medical anthropology. This series emphasizes research that utilizes the biocultural anthropological perspective on human health.

**Gift Funds**

**The Anthropology Lectureship Fund** helps support distinguished guest speakers from outside the University. These speakers greatly enrich our undergraduate and graduate programs by exposing our students to prominent ideas by the leading lights in our discipline.

**The Anthropology Club Fund** supports the activities of the Anthropology Club, which includes camping trips, workshops, and guest speakers each semester. The opportunity to participate in Club activities is critical in fostering the ethic of collegiality and professionalism, which is so important to our Department.

**The Panamerican Consultants, Inc. Award** is a graduate student paper competition with a monetary prize. Archaeology graduate students submit papers for review by a faculty committee, and the winner receives recognition at our annual Holiday party in December.

**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, service, and the promise of the student’s proposed thesis or dissertation research project.

**The Hughes Prize** recognizes undergraduate students who have captured the imagination of the faculty by potential, intransigence, inventiveness, perseverance, insight, or a combination of those traits.

**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 who has the highest overall grade point average. Names of former “Smitty” Award winners are prominently displayed on a plaque in the Department.

**The Evolution Education Fund** supports evolution education activities at the University of Alabama, including the Alabama Lectures on Life’s Evolution (ALLELE) speaker series, Darwin Day activities hosted by the Evolutionary Studies (EvoS) minor and Club, the Speaking Evolution TV series and teacher resource site, and other evolution education-related programs and opportunities.

Checks directed to any of these initiatives should be made out to the University of Alabama and mailed to the Dept. address on the back page. If you would like to discuss a contribution, please contact Department Chair Dr. Keith Jacobi (kjacobi@ua.edu) or for Social Sciences Kelli Harris (kharris@ua.edu).
Top left: Graduate students dress up for a fancy night out.
Top right: Rain can’t stop Anthro Club members from exploring at Mammoth Cave National Park.
Center left: Larry Monocello has style.
Center: Entrance to Mammoth Cave.
Center right: Cayla Colclasure found a cat during the fall Anthropology Club trip and decided to keep him. He now goes by Onyx and is sometimes a very bad boy.
Bottom left: Graduate students along a hiking trail at Mammoth Cave National Park.
Bottom center: The old anthro truck was spotted in town!