



Moundville Archaeological Site
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Web Newsletter

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Department of Anthropology The University of Alabama

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Dept. of Anthropology

The University of Alabama

19 ten Hoor

Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

Phone: (205) 348-5947

Fax: (205) 348-7937



anthro@tenhoor.as.ua.edu



<http://www.as.ua.edu/ant/>

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email addresses, etc.**



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A New Ph.D. Program

In the fall of 2002 the department launched a course of study leading to the Ph.D. in anthropology, the first new doctoral program at UA in over a decade. This program is characterized by two distinct emphases: 1) The Archaeology of Complex Societies, pertaining to the emergence and spread of early civilizations in the Americas, and 2) Biocultural Medical Anthropology, the study of the influence of social relations and culture on psychological and biological adaptation.

The archaeological component of the Ph.D. program focuses on the emergence, spread, and organization of complex societies. From an archaeological perspective, complex societies are the consequence of the transformation from hunting and harvesting to food production, from an economy that moves people to food to one that moves food to people. The social, political, and economic effects of this transformation produced social orders classified by archaeologists as chiefdoms, kingdoms or early states. At the time of contact with Europeans, chiefdoms were found in the Southeastern U.S. and the Caribbean, kingdoms and early states in Mexico and Central America. Our archaeology interests center on North America, primarily the Southeastern U.S., and Mesoamerica, two areas of the New World where ancient complex societies evolved. Core faculty members for this track are: [Ian Brown](#), [Richard Diehl](#), [Jim Knight](#), and [Richard Krause](#).

The biocultural medical component of the doctoral program examines the interactions between sociocultural and biological determinants of adaptation, especially with regard to physical and psychological health states. Within the subfield of medical anthropology, a biocultural approach strives to understand how people grow and develop as they do, and why they may be at risk for certain health problems. Biocultural anthropologists attempt to use research findings for the benefit of communities as well as care providers. It is part of the largest and fastest-growing subfield within anthropology and is increasingly relevant to research and training across a number of areas, from applied health sciences and transcultural psychiatry to epidemiology and community health development. The central feature of our approach is an effort to combine the biological and cultural aspects of medical anthropology. This biocultural perspective on health and illness is essential to the study of the topics in which the department specializes: culture change and lifestyle influences on health, gender and mental health, fetal and childhood growth and development, and paleopathology, among others. Core faculty members for this track are: [James Bindon](#), [William Dressler](#), [Keith Jacobi](#), [Charles Nuckolls](#), and [Kathryn Oths](#).

For additional information about the doctoral program and its requirements please visit our [web site](#) and/or contact [Dr. Ian Brown](#), Director of Graduate Studies.

The Three Amigas: UA's First Anthropology Doctoral Students



Ashley Dumas

Ashley Dumas received a B.A. (in Anthropology and French) from the University of South Alabama in Mobile in 1996. She worked for three years at the Center for Archaeological Studies in Mobile and was put both of her majors to good use while assisting in numerous prehistoric and historic excavations in southwest Alabama, particularly colonial French and British sites. She moved to Moundville in 1999 to pursue an M.A. in anthropology while also working for the Office of Archaeological Research. During the summer of 2000 Ashley worked with Dr. Ian Brown as assistant director of excavations of the original, 19th century Tabasco sauce factory on Avery Island, Louisiana. That work provided data for her thesis, in which she examined the efficacy of the piece-plotting method of excavation as applied to the Tabasco site. She returned to Avery Island during the following summer where she served as field director for a second season of Tabasco archaeology.

After considering several tempting offers from other Anthropology programs, Ashley decided to remain at UA to pursue her Ph.D. She will complete coursework in May 2003 and thereafter begin her dissertation research full-time. She plans to study the topic of the prehistoric use of saline springs of Clarke and Washington Counties in southwest Alabama.

Ashley Dumas has won the Southeastern Archaeological Conference Book Award (2001), the Graduate Council Fellowship (2003-04), National Alumni Association Fellowship (twice: 2000-01 & 2001-02), and The College of Arts & Sciences Award for Excellence in Research by a Masters Student (2001), one of the University's highest award for student scholarship.



Jennifer Myer

Jennifer Myer was born in Miami, Florida and pursued her B.A. at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. Taking a class from Prof. T. R. Kidder convinced her to focus her studies on archaeology. She worked for Bob Carr, Dade County Archaeologist, and for the Historical Museum of Southern Florida and the Dade County Historic Preservation Office at the Brickell Point site, now known as the Miami Circle. During her senior year at Tulane, Jennifer wrote an honors thesis entitled "Late Woodland Ceramic Technology in Northeastern Louisiana" and she graduated with honors in May, 1999.

After graduation, she joined Archaeological and Historical Conservancy of Miami, a contract archaeology firm. After working as a field technician on several projects, she directed several others, including a Phase I survey and Phase III projects at the Cloisters site and the Deering Estate. Jennifer decided to pursue an M.A. degree at the University of Alabama and arrived in Tuscaloosa with cats, Felix and Coconut, in May, 2000. She immediately went to work on the second season of the Dept. of Anthropology's Black Warrior

Valley survey as Field Assistant to Scott Hammerstedt. She assumed the post of Field Director in the summers of 2001 and 2002. The goal of the survey was to help clarify our understanding of the settlement pattern of the Moundville Chiefdom. She finished her thesis, "Among the Fields: Mississippian Settlement Patterns in the Black Warrior Valley, Alabama," in the summer of 2002 and began her Ph.D. work in the fall. Plans to continue research on outlying Mississippian sites in the Black Warrior Valley for dissertation.

Jennifer has been awarded the Southeastern Archaeological Conference Book Award (2002), DeJarnette Scholarship (2001), the Bob Work Award (2002), and the University of Alabama and College of Arts & Sciences Award for Excellence in Research by a Masters Student (2002), one of the University's most prestigious awards for student scholarship.



Amanda Regnier

Amanda Regnier Originally from Columbus, Georgia, Amanda first developed an interest in archaeology in high school by working at sites in the surrounding area. She earned a B.A. in Sociology in May, 1999 from Oglethorpe University, a liberal arts college in Atlanta, Georgia. Oglethorpe did not have an anthropology program; however, throughout Amanda was able to work on archaeological excavations in northwest and east central Georgia. After joining the Masters program at Alabama in the fall of 1999 she specialized in the study of ceramics from the Protohistoric period in central Alabama.

After graduating with an M.A., in Dec. 2001 Amanda went to work for Panamerican Consultants, serving first as a Crew Chief at the Kasita Site, a Creek village that now lies under an airfield at Ft. Benning, Georgia, and later as Field Director of all of Panamerican's work at Ft. Benning. After enrolling in the Ph.D. Program in the fall of 2002, Amanda's research focuses on the Late Mississippian/Protohistoric transition on the Lower Alabama River Valley. Amanda was awarded a grant of \$19,000 by the Alabama Historical Commission to pursue research for her doctoral dissertation

Amanda has been awarded the DeJarnette Scholarship (1999-00), the Bob Work Award (2003), and a Graduate Council Fellowship (1999-00).

Upcoming Event: Tenth Annual DeJarnette Barbecue

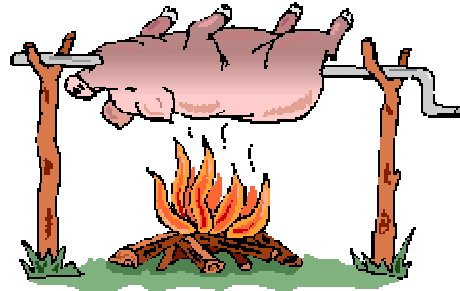
You are cordially invited to attend the 10th annual barbecue honoring the recipient of the David and Elizabeth DeJarnette Scholarship at Moundville Archaeological Park. The barbecue will be held Saturday, April 19, 2003 at 2:00 PM, at the Nelson B. Jones Conference Building, Moundville Archaeological Park. The event features, as always, chicken and pork barbecue prepared with the



David L. DeJarnette

traditional DeJarnette barbecue sauce. Please join us for this special reunion. RSVP to Ruby Howard, 205-348-5947, by April 4.

rhoward@tenhour.as.ua.edu



Addendum: The Barbeque was a raging success. Check out some [pictures](#) of the 2003 event and plan to attend the next one. mdm

Faculty Spotlight

[Dr. Bill Dressler](#) brought great honor to the department recently when he was named the 2002 recipient of The University of Alabama's most prestigious faculty honor, the *Burnam Distinguished Faculty Award*. This is just the latest recognition of Prof. Dressler's accomplishments in cultural, psychological and medical anthropology. He has received the *Stirling Award* of the Society for Psychological Anthropology (1979) and he has served as *John P. Kirscht Distinguished Lecturer*, School of Public Health, University of Michigan (2000) and the *Distinguished Lecturer*, Graduate Student Invitational Lecture at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine (2002). He has also been named as *University Research Fellow* of The University of Alabama (1984-1986). Prof. Dressler recently completed a term in office as President of the Society for Medical Anthropology.

Probably uniquely in the long history of the University of Alabama, in his quarter century tenure here, Bill Dressler has been a faculty member in three different colleges: College of Community Health Sciences (1978-1996), Social Work (1996-2002), and Arts & Sciences (1996-present). After formally joining our faculty with a half-time appointment with Social Work in 1996, we are happy to report that the Anthropology now enjoys his full attention.

Prof. Dressler is currently pursuing NSF funded research in Brazil with colleagues from the University of São Paulo-Ribeirão Preto.

You may read Dr. Dressler's [Burnum Award Lecture](#) in pdf format.



Dr. Bill Dressler

Jeffrey Brown

2003 Smith Awardee

Jeffrey Brown Wins the Smitty

Jeffrey Brown won the C. Earle Smith Award for the Outstanding Senior in Anthropology for 2002-03. He is the son of Mike and Joe Ann Brown, and hails from Greer, South Carolina. Some highpoints of his UA career include working with Dr. Knight at Moundville for the field school of Fall 2000. He also participated in an archaeology dig at Tel Rehov, Israel which he characterized as "an unbelievable opportunity to participate with world renowned archaeologists from Israel and the U.S. and gain experience and insights into the various field practices used in archaeology." During his stay in Israel Jeffrey was able to visit many of Israel's historic sites, including the Western Wall, the Dome of the Rock, and other well known archaeological sites. While at UA, he also helped co-found *Alabama Friends of Israel*.

He plans to return to Jerusalem in June to complete a Master's Degree at Hebrew University in the "Politics and Society in Israel" program of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology. He hopes to use this degree as a springboard to do research about the Israeli populace in a policy institute or to pursue a Ph.D. and teach at the college level in Israel.

Catherine & Margaret Nuckolls

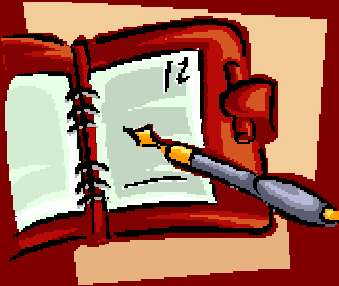
Our Tribe Increases

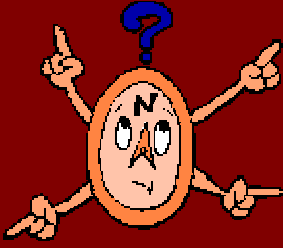
Professors [Charles](#) and [Janis Nuckolls](#) were blessed with the arrival of twin daughters, Catherine and Margaret, on September 14, 2002. Both babies are doing very well and are busy contributing to the lively ambience of the Nuckolls household.

The Nuckolls girls will undertake their first ethnographic fieldwork next winter when they journey with their parents and brother Will to southern India for research funded by the Fulbright program.

Planning for Fall 2003

Registration for Fall 2003 is just around the corner. Undergraduate majors and minors might wish to review [degree requirements](#) prior to consulting with faculty advisors. Download a [major/minor checklist](#) to keep track of your progress. To peruse course offerings available to both undergraduates and graduate students, please consult our [schedule for Fall, 2003](#).





Lost Alumni

This newsletter is not being sent to the people listed below, simply 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 [Pam Chesnutt](#) know.

Name	Degree/Year
Albritton, Mark	ab 1985
Barker, Michael	ab 1972
Browning, Lara F.	ab 1989
Bryson, Candace F.	ab 2000
Clayton, Timothy	ab 1975
Donisi, Michael P.	ma 1983
Gibson, Glenda	ma 1981
Green, Jewel C.	
Hoffman, Betty	ab 1997
Kirkland, Alan	ab 1985
Lane, Ruth	
Lovell, Andrew	ab 1995
Noe, Godfrey	ma 1999
Pate, III, James	ab 1974
Purcell, James	ab 1973
Scott, Ralph	ab 1984
Simons, Walter	ab 1973
Weedon, Kelly M.	ab 1997
Wiggin, Marcia	ab 1976
Williams, Cynthia	ab 1976



Keep in Touch

Don't hesitate to contact us with your questions, queries and suggestions. [Jim Knight](#) is our Chair. [Ian Brown](#) is Director of Graduate Studies and [Kathy Oths](#) is Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Our [web site](#) contains many resources for students, alumni, and folks who are just interested in anthropology.

Questions, suggestions, and submissions for future issues of this [web newsletter](#) will be cheerfully received.

This newsletter was edited by [Michael Murphy](#)