



Department of Anthropology

The College of Arts & Sciences

The University of Alabama



Newsletter

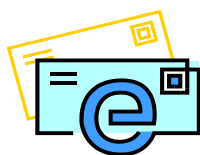
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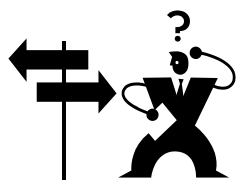
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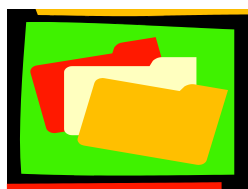
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Department Location



Newsletter Archive

Note from the Editor

The long delay since our last issue is in part the result of changing to a new software that will allow us to publish in Adobe pdf format. This change will give us more flexibility and will allow us to reach more potential readers. We hope you enjoy the format.



New Graduate Students for 2005-06

We were pleased to recruit a talented new group of graduate students for 2005-06. Shown here relaxed and ready to tackle SPSS in Dr. Oths's "Methods" class are (L-R, rear row) Alissa Lamb (med. anth.), Casey Barrier (arch.), Mandy Edwards (arch.), Blakely Brooks (med. anth.), Ami Ross (arch., UAB), Paul Noe (arch.), Rick Brown (med. anth.); (L-R, front row) Jayur Mehta (arch.), Katy Groves (med. anth.), Claire Nanfro (arch.), and Sonia Williford (phys. Anth.). Not shown: Brad Lieb (arch.) and Toni Copeland (med. anth.).



Rowand-Johnson Hall, site of our new archaeology lab

New Archaeology Lab on Campus

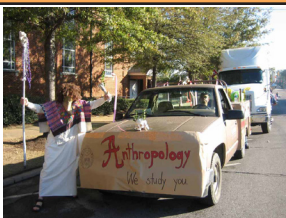
The size of our anthropology faculty, graduate students, and programs have long since outgrown the original space allotted to us on the ground floor of Marten ten Hoor Hall. Recognizing our need to expand laboratory facilities for archaeology, especially given the addition of our recent Ph.D. program, we were recently favored with new space on the ground floor of Rowand-Johnson Hall across the street from ten Hoor. We are currently in the process of converting this space into an active lab with sinks, shelving, tables, artifact storage, equipment storage, and offices for graduate students.



Dr. C. Earle Smith

Dr. Smith's Papers go to National Anthropological Archives

Dr. C. Earle Smith was a UA faculty member in Anthropology from 1970 until 1987, and was chair of the Department between 1981 and 1986. The Harvard-educated anthropologist and ethnobotanist traveled extensively, with field work in Colombia, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Panama, Peru, Kenya, Finland, and South Africa. He worked with archaeological remains of the earliest domesticated plants from Mexico, Peru, and the Southwest. We recently learned that Dr. Smith's professional papers are being cataloged for inclusion in the National Anthropological Archives in Washington, D.C. The availability of Smitty's papers, records, and correspondence in this prominent repository will benefit new generations of ethnobotanists. Dr. Smith was a key figure in the development of modern paleoethnobotany, and in the history of our Department. Our annual C. Earle Smith Award recognizes his contributions.



The Anthro Truck rode proudly last fall in the 2005 Homecoming parade



Ethnography in Poland

Dr. Marysia Galbraith was in Poland from July to December of last year, conducting ethnographic research on what it means to be Polish in the modern European context. She is recording how Poland's membership in the European Union affects people in their everyday lives, in both urban and rural settings. Marysia has re-connected with people she first interviewed in the early 1990's. She describes her two-year-old son Ian, who accompanied her, as her "field assistant." Ian reportedly enjoyed visiting farms and seeing cows and tractors. Shown here is Dr. Galbraith (at right) and her son Ian (third from left) visiting with a Polish family.



UA Undergraduate Research in the Virgin Islands

After taking a UA class in Caribbean archaeology, two of our undergraduate majors spent the summer of 2005 excavating a prehistoric site on Botany Bay, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. Working for UA alumnus Carlos Solis of Soltec International, Inc. were Brady Jackson and Raven DeMonia. Raven, shown here in the pit preparing a measured drawing, is currently preparing a paper on the pottery from this important Taino site.



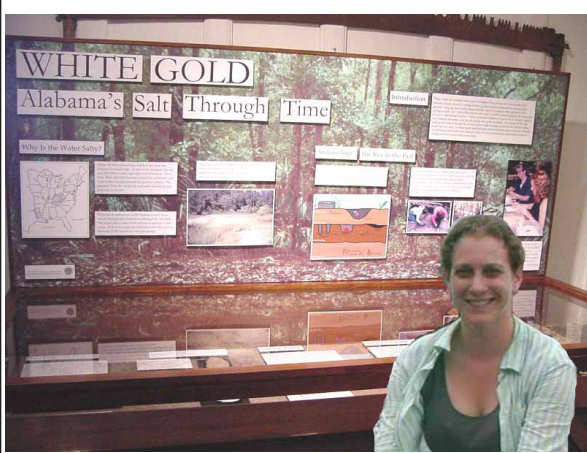
Grad Student Laura Minnich Wins Honors

Kudos to Laura Minnich for winning the 2005-06 student paper competition of the Sociology Aids Network. She was also the winner of the Outstanding Research by an MA Student for 2005-06 for the University of Alabama. Her research project utilized cognitive anthropological theory and method to identify the cultural model of HIV/AIDS in an ethnically diverse neighborhood of Port of Spain, Trinidad, and to discover if the two major ethnic groups represented share a cultural model of HIV/AIDS.



And More Honors for Sarah Szurek

As in Laura's case, reported above, our graduate students are living up to the Department's magnificent track record of recognition through honors, awards, and prize competitions. Congratulations to Sarah Szurek for winning the 2005-06 student paper competition of the Society for the Anthropology of Food and Nutrition. She is also the 2005-06 winner of the Outstanding MA thesis award of the College of Arts and Sciences at UA. Sarah's research examines the cultural models and eating habits of people of different social identities in the southeastern United States, to address the relationship between food choices, social roles, and self-presentation.



"White Gold" Exhibit on Salt Opens

Last October, Ph.D. student Ashley Dumas's exhibit, "White Gold: Alabama's Salt Through Time" opened at the Clarke County Museum in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Alabama Folklife Association. This exhibit, which is an outgrowth of Ashley's dissertation research on salt production, was funded through an educational outreach grant from the Southeastern Archaeological Conference.

Where Are They Now?



Periodically the Newsletter will feature short profiles on former students, bringing you up to date on their present circumstances.

Lynette Nyman

Lynette Nyman (M.A. 1996) pursued a career in communications, which included working as a reporter for Minnesota Public Radio. Currently, Lynette is the Press and Public Relations Manager at The Minneapolis Institute of Arts in Minnesota.





David Morgan

David Morgan (M.A. 1994) received his Ph.D. at Tulane in 2003. He recently took a new position as Chief of the Archaeology and Collections Program for the National Park Service's National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT), which is located in Natchitoches, Louisiana. One of his principal tasks at is to foster research that looks at new ways to use existing or cutting-edge technology to address archaeology and collections issues.



Shannon Rogers Flynt

Shannon Rogers Flynt (M.A. 1994) is Assistant Professor in the Department of Classics at Samford University, where she teaches a two-semester course called "Cultural Perspectives," no doubt with a good dose of anthropological content. Shannon earned her Ph.D. in Classics at the University of Missouri at Columbia in 2004. She regularly takes groups of students overseas to Europe and the Near East, and is currently planning a trip to Lebanon.



Julie G. Markin

Julie Markin (B.A. 1994) recently took a post with the Arkansas Archaeological Survey as head of the Toltec Mounds Research Station near Little Rock. Toltec Mounds is one of the largest and most complex archeological sites in the Lower Mississippi Valley and likely served as a religious or social center. The staff at the Toltec Mounds Research Station conducts research and helps the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism to interpret the park to the public. Julie hopes to defend her dissertation at the University of Georgia very soon.



Announcing the Richard A. Krause Award for Excellence in Graduate Studies



The Anthropology Department has established a new student award in honor of the distinguished career of Emeritus Professor Richard A. Krause over 31 years of teaching, research,

and administration. We are now making initial solicitations for the Krause Fund, to be administered by the College in support of a stipend to accompany the award. Please consider contributing to the Krause Fund in recognition of Dick's abundant contributions.

Scenes from Recent Anthropology Club Camping Trips



Giving Opportunities

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 each received an award of \$4,000.

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.