

# ANTHROPOLOGY AT ALABAMA

Newsletter of the University of Alabama Department of Anthropology  
College of Arts and Sciences

## INDIAN SCHOLAR PROF. KRISHNAYYA JOINS US WITH A FULBRIGHT

M.V. Krishnayya, retired professor and chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Andhra University (India), has been with us this year as a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence. Professor Krishnayya has divided his time equally between the University of Alabama and Shelton State Community College. In November, he was invited to deliver the annual "I Have a Dream" lecture series, and spoke on his research concerning Martin Luther King's trip to India in 1959.

Although trained in comparative philosophy, and mainly Existentialism, Krishnayya is well known as an ethnographer in South India.

*see Krishnayya, p. 2*



Professor M. V. Krishnayya

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# DICK DIEHL ANNOUNCES HIS RETIREMENT

Professor Richard Diehl, renowned Mesoamerican archaeologist and former chair of our department, has announced his retirement at the end of the current academic year. Prof. Diehl is one of UA's most prominent scholars, and after 21 years of service his presence among the full-time faculty will be missed. Fortunately, however, he will not be entirely absent from our hallways, as Dick and his wife Sue plan to remain in Tuscaloosa, where Dick will continue writing and some teaching.



Prof. Richard Diehl

Dick joined our department in 1986, when he was recruited as department chair from his former appointment at the University of Missouri in Columbia. He served as chairman until 1993. Other positions he has held since that time include a stint as Acting Director of Pre-Columbian Studies at Dumbarton Oaks, in Washington D.C. (1993-94), and six years as Executive Director of the University of Alabama Museums (1998-2004). After stepping down from the Museum's directorship, Dick returned full time to the Anthropology Department.



Dick Diehl (center) examining Olmec jade axes with colleagues Karl Taube and Stephen Houston

Among Dick's scholarly achievements are a number of highly regarded books, including such titles as *In the Land of the Olmec*, *Tula: The Toltec Capital of Ancient Mexico*, and most recently *The Olmec: America's First Civilization*. Dick's strong commitment to museums and museum exhibitions has always been a prominent part of his professional career. While Director of UA Museums, Dick made the upgrading of Moundville Archaeological Park a priority. His efforts there have paid off with the complete renovation of the Jones Archaeological Museum at Moundville, which is scheduled to begin very soon.

We all wish Dick a peaceful and productive retirement!

## KRISHNAYYA

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He has done extensive fieldwork on topics ranging from spirit possession to the practice of "sati," or widow-burning. When he returns to India in July, he will begin a major new project on Marian pilgrimage sites in his home state of Andhra Pradesh.

His colleague of thirty years, Charles Nuckolls, said that "the opportunity to host Professor Krishnayya this year has been a great opportunity for the department." He expects many fruitful collaborations to develop. And Professor Krishnayya himself has said he welcomes continued contact with Alabama students.

Professor Krishnayya can be reached (even after he returns to India) at this address: [mvkrishnayya@yahoo.com](mailto:mvkrishnayya@yahoo.com)



Dr. Krishnayya, at left enjoying barbecue with Charles Nuckolls and family at Moundville



# JEREMY DAVIS, DEJARNETTE SCHOLAR FOR 2007-08

We are delighted to announce Mr. Jeremy Davis as the winner of the 2006-07 DeJarnette Scholarship. The David and Elizabeth DeJarnette Endowed Scholarship goes annually to a graduate student whose research project deals with the archaeology of Moundville and related sites. Jeremy is currently a first-year student in the Masters program. His proposed research project is a test of the implications of models of economic control at Moundville, using collections of stone artifacts from small sites in Moundville's hinterlands. The award was presented to Jeremy at the annual DeJarnette Barbecue at Moundville Archaeological Park, on April 7, 2007.



Jeremy Davis (left) receives DeJarnette plaque from Dr. Jim Knight

## DEJARNETTE BARBEQUE 2007



Our annual barbecue in honor of the DeJarnette Scholars is a highlight of the year for students, faculty, anthro alumni, and friends of the Department. As usual, the barbecue was expertly prepared on the grill at the Nelson B. Jones Conference Building at Moundville, using the “secret recipe” DeJarnette sauce that has been a staple of department barbecues since time immemorial. A wonderful time was had this year, as always.

*Photos of DeJarnette Barbeque and captions are courtesy Dr. Ian W. Brown. All legends listed from left to right:*

*Top Left: Hyla Lacefield, the first DeJarnette Scholarship recipient*

*Top Center: Amelia Dodd, Joyce Oakley, Carey Oakley, Bob Clouse, Michael Murphy, Bev Curry, and Lisa LeCount*

*Top Right: Bob Olin (Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences) and Sarah Knight*

*Bottom Left: Jim Knight, Lin Olin, and Susan Olin*

*Bottom Center: Jean and Joe Vogel*

*Bottom Right: Sarah Szurek, Lauren Downs, and Erin Phillips*



## BRAD LIEB WINS OUTSTANDING M.A. THESIS AWARD

We've done it again! Our long list of students who have won outstanding Masters thesis and research awards is one of the Department's proudest accomplishments. In the last issue of our Newsletter, we reported that Brad Lieb's thesis research had won the Chickasaw National Heritage Preservation Award. We have now learned that Brad is the 2006-2007 recipient of the Outstanding M.A. Thesis Award for the UA College of Arts and Sciences. Brad's research project is entitled "The Village Is Silent: An Archaeological And Ethnohistorical Study Of The Natchez Indian Refuge Among The Chickasaws." This study uses archaeological data and ethnohistorical methods to examine the historically-documented, mid-eighteenth-century Natchez Indian refuge among the Chickasaws of northeast Mississippi. Brad is now enrolled in the Anthropology Ph.D. program here at UA.



Brad Lieb

## CHARLES NUCKOLLS APPOINTED TO CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION



Professor Charles Nuckolls has just received a presidential appointment to the United States Commission on Civil Rights. He will serve as a member of the Southeastern Regional Council of the United States Commission on Civil Rights, effective May, 2007. Congratulations, Charles!

## BEA HARRIS LOWERY

We regret to announce the passing of Bea Harris Lowery of Birmingham, a long-time friend and patron of the Anthropology Department. Together with her husband Milt Harris, Bea was an active volunteer in numerous archaeological excavations in Alabama during the 1960s and 70s, directed by David DeJarnette and sponsored by the Archaeological Research Association of Alabama, Inc. In recent years, Bea gave generously to the Department in support of archaeological training and student research. It was one of her gifts that allowed us to purchase our field vehicle, now affectionately known as AnthroTruck. We recently learned that Bea's will included a substantial, and unexpected, gift of approximately \$60,000 to our DeJarnette Scholarship. Bea's friendship and extraordinarily generous nature will not be forgotten.

## MEGAN BATCHELOR WINS THE SMITTY



Every year the Department bestows the C. Earle Smith Outstanding Senior Award (affectionately known as "the Smitty") to the student with the highest grade point average. This year we are proud to honor Megan Batchelor. Among Megan's many activities here at the Capstone, she has rowed with the Crew Club, been a member of the A-Team, worked with various archaeological projects, and spent a semester abroad in Italy. Megan is a member of four university honor societies: Golden Key, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Pi Eta Sigma, and Lambda Alpha. Her future plans are to work for a year, then continue on to graduate school in archaeology or museum studies. Congratulations Megan!

## 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 Michelle Wrenn know ([mwrenn@tenhoor.as.ua.edu](mailto:mwrenn@tenhoor.as.ua.edu)).

Rob Beck, Jr.  
Jerry Ernsberger  
Eric Gilliland  
Gregory Scott Hendryx  
Robert Karl Lusteck  
Jason Mann  
Stacy McGrath  
Lynette Nyman  
Allison Palmer-Evans  
Rebecca Ann Pitts  
Charles Redwine  
Eugene Augustus Renfroe  
Pamela Jean Richardson  
Tara Robertson  
Ben Shields  
Margaret Ann Toohey  
H. Riggs Wagenheim  
Rachel Windham

## 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.