

# ANTHROPOLOGY AT ALABAMA

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

## PROF. IAN BROWN RECEIVES TEACHING AWARD

Ian has done us proud by winning the Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award of the National Alumni Association. The great benefit that students enjoy by attending a research university such as ours is that they have an opportunity to learn from active scholars who are pushing the frontiers of knowledge in their areas of expertise. Ian Brown is nationally recognized as one of the world's foremost experts on the archaeology of the southeast of the United States. Students both recognize and appreciate the fact that Prof. Brown brings deep expertise to the subjects that he teaches. Constantly revising and refining his lectures, presentations and seminar outlines, Ian Brown is a teacher who positions his students at the very cutting edge of his discipline. Congratulations, Ian!



Professor Ian Brown

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## ERIN DECARO RECEIVES ADJUNCT APPOINTMENT

Erin DeCaro has recently joined the department as an adjunct faculty member. Erin has extensive interests and experience at the boundary of public health and the social and behavioral sciences. Mentored by Michael Little, a biological anthropologist at SUNY Binghamton, she received her BS in Anthropology, and then completed a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology at Emory University. Throughout her 10 year career thus far in public health, she has worked at a community-based organization (Mothers and Babies Perinatal Network of South Central New York), at the Georgia state health department, and at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on wide-ranging topics including breastfeeding, HIV/AIDS prevention, injury prevention, physical activity and child health, and community health profiling. She recently concluded two years at UAB as a program manager for the CARDIA longitudinal study of cardiovascular health and its ancillary studies, and has now accepted a position with an epidemiological consulting company working in the area of injury prevention.



Erin DeCaro with Alexa and Becca

Erin has two children, Alexa (5) and Rebecca (4), and her husband Jason is one of our physical anthropology faculty. Erin looks forward to her interactions with faculty and students, and will be a great resource for the department and the biocultural medical anthropology program. Please give her a warm welcome!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO AWARD RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to Stephanie Cantu for winning the C. Earle Smith Award. The Smitty Award recognizes our most outstanding graduating senior in Anthropology.



Stephanie Cantu

Congratulations also to Amanda Regnier as the first ever recipient of the Richard A. Krause award. This award was established for excellence in research by a UA graduate student in Anthropology. Amanda was the first student to receive a PhD from our program, and now enjoys a position at the University of Oklahoma where she is currently teaching her first field school.



Amanda Regnier



# THRICE-HONORED ERIN PHILLIPS

Doctoral student Erin Phillips has distinguished herself by garnering three awards. The first is the Smithsonian Institution Graduate Student Fellowship, which involves 10 weeks of funded research at the Smithsonian working on ceramic collections from Moundville for her dissertation. Erin also earned the Bob Work Award for an outstanding paper on stylistic analysis of engraved pottery. Finally, she is the 2007-08 recipient of the David and Elizabeth DeJarnette Scholarship, recently presented to her at the annual DeJarnette Barbeque.



Erin Phillips receiving the DeJarnette Scholarship

## DEJARNETTE BARBEQUE 2008

This year the department celebrated its *15th Annual DeJarnette Barbeque*, our annual spring get together at Moundville. If you are not on the invitation mailing list and would like to be, please let us know. Award recipients by year are:

Erin E. Phillips (2008-09)  
Jeremy R. Davis (2007-08)  
Claire E. Nanfro (2006-07)  
Cameron H. Lacquement (2005-06)  
Pamela A. Johnson (2004-05)  
Cameron H. Lacquement (2003-04)  
Steven E. Barry (2002-03)  
Jennifer L. Myer (2001-02)  
Amanda L. Regnier (2000-01)  
Scott W. Hammerstedt (1999-00)  
Matthew D. Gage (1998-99)  
Judith Love (1997-98)  
Kevin E. Schatte (1996-97)  
Robyn Astin Sarrat (1995-96)  
Hyla L. Lacefield (1994-95)



## FOUR DISTINGUISHED GUEST SPEAKERS

We were pleased to welcome for our 2007-2008 colloquium series, or to co-sponsor, four distinguished guest lecturers. The intellectual experience of students and faculty alike is profoundly enriched by these colloquia.

Dr. Carol Stack of the University of California, Berkeley delivered “Welfare Reform, Citizenship, and Work: Ethnographic Critiques” on October 12, 2007. Dr. Stack spoke to us at the conclusion of her tenure as Visiting Faculty at the School of Law. An anthropologist, she known within and outside our field for her influential work on poverty, civic participation, work and education, as well as migration, race, gender and social justice.



Dr. Thomas Leatherman of the University of South Carolina delivered “Inequalities, Illness and the Genesis of Civil Conflict in the Southern Peruvian Andes” on February 29, 2008. Dr. Leatherman is Chair of the USC Anthropology Department, and is widely respected throughout applied, medical and biological anthropology for his work in political ecology.

Dr. Dean Falk of the Florida State University delivered “Hominin Brain Evolution: From Hand to Mouth” on March 14, 2008. Dr. Falk also delivered, as part of the Allele public lecture series on evolution, “What’s Up with Hobbit (*Homo floresiensis*)” on March 13, 2008. Dr. Falk is one of the few researchers who has had access to the recently reported “Hobbit” hominid specimen, and is a leader in research on the evolution of language and the brain.

Dr. Arjun Appadurai of The New School delivered, as part of the Religious Studies Department’s Aronov Lecture Series, “The Offending Part: Sacrifice and Ethnocide in the Era of Globalization” on March 11, 2008. The Anthropology Department co-sponsored this lecture and participated in other events associated with his visit. Dr. Appadurai is an internationally acclaimed and influential scholar of globalization.



Carol Stack



Dean Falk



Arjun Appadurai

## 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](mailto:mwrenn@tenhoor.as.ua.edu)).

Jerry Ernsberger  
Stacye McGrath  
Lynette Nyman  
Allison Palmer-Evans  
Rebecca Ann Pitts  
Eugene Augustus Renfroe

## 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.