

ANTHROPOLOGY AT ALABAMA

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

NEW PhD PROGRAM PASSES KEY TEST

The PhD program, with its dual track emphases in biocultural medical anthropology and the archaeology of complex societies of the Americas, has passed a key viability test at the Alabama Commission for Higher Education (ACHE).

When the PhD program was established in 2003, the department agreed to four post-implementation conditions: an average enrollment of four doctoral students per year; eight PhD graduates by the conclusion of the 2007-2008 academic year; at least 75% success among graduates in acquiring related employment; and an overall assessment of the quality of the program. In Fall 2008, ACHE accepted the department's report outlining how each of these conditions has been met.

Our three graduates prior to 2008 were Amanda Regnier, Ashley Dumas, and Erica Gibson. In 2008, archaeologists Keith Little, Tom Lewis, and Brad Leib, and biocultural medical anthropologists Toni Copeland and Mary Campbell, successfully completed their doctoral dissertations.

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PHD PROGRAM

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Left to right: Brad Lieb, Keith Little, and Tom Lewis

Keith Little's dissertation, "European Artifact Chronology and Impacts of Spanish Contact in the Sixteenth-Century Coosa Valley," seeks to revise the timeline surrounding the Native response to initial European contact in a key region about which there has been much debate. This is the Coosa River Valley, where the Spanish expeditions of Hernando de Soto, Tristan de Luna, and Juan Pardo encountered the indigenous chiefdom of Coosa. The research was supervised by Ian Brown.

Tom Lewis's dissertation is entitled "Excavations at the Chittaloosa Site (22WR631): Exploration of a Late Prehistoric Frontier in the Lower Big Black Region of West-Central Mississippi."

In this research, Tom investigated the concept of "frontiers" and how these frontiers can be expressed in archaeological remains.

He continues the focus on the archaeology of the Big Black

River begun by his UA predecessors Tony Boudreaux and Hunter Johnson. Ian Brown directed the dissertation.

Brad Lieb's dissertation, "The Natchez Indian Diaspora: Ethnohistoric Archeology of the Eighteenth-Century Natchez Refuge Among the Chickasaws," examined the fate of an indigenous refugee group, the Natchez tribe, as they settled among the Chickasaws of Mississippi in the early eighteenth century. By investigating changes in pottery styles, Brad was able to track the process of Natchez assimilation into the larger group over time. The research was supervised by Ian Brown.

Toni Copeland's dissertation is entitled "Poverty and Sickness among Women in Nairobi, Kenya: Cultural Models of Managing HIV/AIDS in the Absence of Biomedical Treatment." Toni's research investigates the consequence of urban migration and variations in knowledge of a cultural model of managing HIV/AIDS on health outcomes among poverty-stricken HIV-positive women who are not receiving biomedical treatment in Nairobi, Kenya. Kathy Oths supervised Toni's dissertation.

Mary Campbell's dissertation, "Access to Healthcare Among Hispanic Immigrants in Memphis, TN: Consensus and Contention in Cultural Models," examined cultural models of proto-typical healthcare seeking behavior for Mexican immigrants living in Memphis. The results indicate that Mexican immigrant women agree on many aspects of healthcare seeking behavior yet demonstrate differences driven by age, years spent in Memphis, and Spanish language health literacy. This research was supervised by Kathy Oths.

Kudos to these first successful doctoral candidates for producing such excellent work on a tight timeline. We offer our special thanks to the members of the dissertation committees, and especially these eight students' advisers, who put in an extraordinary effort to make rapid review, revision, and approval of the dissertations possible.

The doctoral program also has been distinguished by very successful post-graduate employment, and the numerous publications, presentations and awards received by the students. Congratulations, all!



Left to right: Toni Copeland, Bill Dressler, Mary Campbell, Kathy Oths

WELCOME NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS!



Entering MA students, Fall 2008 (left to right): Paul Eubanks, Leah Williams, Amanda Owens, Merritt Smith, Dan Mullins, Carolyn Smith, Tina Thomas, Ann Marshall. Not pictured: entering doctoral student François Dengah.

WELCOME JESSICA MANSELL!



We are delighted to welcome Jessica Mansell, who replaces Michelle Wrenn in the Anthropology front office.

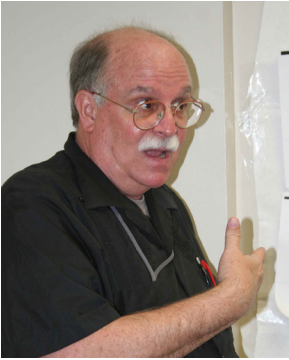
ASHLEY DUMAS RECEIVES OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AWARD, JOB OFFER

We are proud to report that our former doctoral student Ashley Dumas has received the University of Alabama College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Dissertation Award. Her dissertation is entitled, "The Role of Salt in the Late Woodland to Early Mississippian Transition in Southwest Alabama."

Dr. Dumas is currently a Research Associate with the Center for Archaeological Studies of the University of South Alabama. She has just accepted and will shortly begin a new position as Director of Educational Programming at the University of West Alabama Center for the Study of the Black Belt.

Congratulations, Ashley!

KENT REILLY BECOMES ADJUNCT FACULTY



We are delighted to announce Dr. Kent Reilly as Adjunct Professor in our department. Dr. Reilly is Professor and Director of the Center of Arts and Symbolism of Ancient Americas at Texas State University, San Marcos. He is an iconographer, with training in art history as well as anthropology, and he hosts the annual Mississippian Iconography Workshop in San Marcos. Dr. Reilly has served most recently as guest curator for the installation of exhibits at Moundville Archaeological Park. Welcome Kent!

THREE CURRENT OR FORMER STUDENTS RECEIVE SEAC AWARDS

Current doctoral student Jeremy Davis and MA alumni Tony Boudreaux and Eugene Futato received awards at the 2008 Southeastern Archaeology Conference.

Jeremy won the student paper competition, which carries a prize of \$6,000 in books. He joins previous UA anthropology winners Jenn Myer, Ashley Dumas, and Keith Little.

Tony Boudreaux received the C.B. Moore Award for excellence by a young scholar in Southeastern Archaeology. He is now an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at East Carolina University.

Eugene Futato received the SEAC Distinguished Service Award. He is the curator of archaeological collections for the Alabama Museum of Natural History.

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 Jessica Mansell know (jjmansell@as.ua.edu).

Jerry Ernsberger
Stacy McGrath
Lynette Nyman
Allison Palmer-Evans
Rebecca Ann Pitts
Eugene Augustus Renfroe
Pamela Jean Richardson

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.