

# ANTHROPOLOGY AT ALABAMA

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

## FUNDRAISING FOR 20TH DEJARNETTE SCHOLARSHIP ANNIVERSARY

Next spring marks an important event in our departmental history: the 20th anniversary of the David and Elizabeth DeJarnette Endowed Scholarship in Anthropology. Over the past two decades the DeJarnette Scholarship has grown to become one of the most substantial awards in the College of Arts and Sciences. Importantly, subject to approval by the Board of Trustees, the application criteria are currently being expanded to include graduate students working in the broader southeastern United States and all of Latin America. This change is being made to enlarge the pool of applicants, in line with the research interests of David DeJarnette himself, founding father of professional archaeology at UA. Accordingly, we need your help. We are currently asking for additional contributions to this fund to help sustain and secure the future of a key component of archaeological training in our department. And now we have a special incentive: in the spirit of the anniversary occasion Dr. Bob Olin, Dean of Arts and Sciences, has agreed to match every contribution to the DeJarnette fund in the coming year, up to \$10,000. Please consider sending a check in whatever amount you can afford to the DeJarnette Scholarship, mailed to Jim Knight, Director of Development, Department of Anthropology, University of Alabama, Box 870210, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487. Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

## CONTENTS

- 1 DeJarnette 20th Anniversary Fundraising**
- 2 Chris Peebles Remembered**  
*Where are they now? Matthew Gage (MA 2000)*
- 3 Jenelle Doucet, Katy Groves Awarded PhDs**  
*Elementary School Anthropologists*
- 4 Faculty Notes**  
*Guest Lectures by De Waal, Fagan, Rodning*
- 5 Congratulations to Student Awardees**  
*Opportunities for Giving*

## CONTACT

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA  
P.O. Box 870210  
TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA 35487

PHONE: (205) 348-5947

FAX: (205) 348-7937

E-MAIL: [ANTHRO@AS.UA.EDU](mailto:ANTHRO@AS.UA.EDU)

WEB: [HTTP://ANTHROPOLOGY.UA.EDU](http://ANTHROPOLOGY.UA.EDU)

CO-EDITED BY: JASON A. DECARO  
VERNON J. KNIGHT

AUGUST 2012

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 2

[NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE](#)

## CHRIS PEEBLES REMEMBERED



Christopher S. Peebles, an archaeologist with a long time connection to the UA Department of Anthropology, died April 16 at age 72. Chris was best known for his contributions to the study of ancient social organization through the evidence of mortuary practices, as long-time director of the Glen Black Laboratory of Archaeology at Indiana University, as a pioneer of computers and information technology applications in archaeology, and for the many archaeologists he mentored during his long career. While earning his A.B. degree at Chicago in 1963, Chris encountered the charismatic Lewis Binford and became one of the advocates of the “New Archaeology.” Chris used his computer skills to organize the data from Depression-era excavations at the Moundville site, which resulted in two seminal works: “Moundville and Surrounding sites: Some Structural Considerations of Mortuary Practices II,” *Memoirs of the Society for American Archaeology* 25:68-91 (1971) and “Some Archaeological Correlates of Ranked Societies” (with Susan Kus) *American Antiquity* 42:421-448 (1977). After receiving his PhD at UC Santa Barbara in 1974, Chris joined the University of Michigan, Museum of Anthropology and initiated two ambitious archaeological projects in Alabama 1978-1980: the NSF-funded Moundville Archaeological Project and the federally sponsored Lubbub Creek Archaeological Project. These projects provided opportunities to many young

archaeologists and resulted in the dissertations of John Blitz, Mary Lucas Powell, Margaret Scarry, Vincas Steponaitis, and Paul Welch. During this period, Chris was Adjunct Professor at the UA Department of Anthropology. Chris joined the faculty at Indiana University in 1983, where he was Professor of Anthropology and director of the Glen Black Laboratory of Archaeology for 25 years. He also served IU in various other capacities, including Dean for Information Technology, until his retirement in 2009. It is a tribute to the esteem conferred on Chris Peebles by his former students and colleagues that a symposium in his honor at the Society for American Archaeology in 2009 has resulted in a book that will be submitted to the University of Alabama Press this summer.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW? MATTHEW GAGE (MA 2000)

We are delighted to report that Matthew Gage (MA 2000) is back among us, after many years spent at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville where Matt is finishing his doctorate. Last summer (2011), Matt was hired as the new Director of the Office of Archaeological Research at Moundville Archaeological Park. The Department looks forward to new and productive interactions with OAR, continuing our long-standing tradition of cooperation with the University of Alabama Museums.



## JENELLE DOUCET, KATY GROVES AWARDED PhDs



Dr. Katy Groves with her committee following her dissertation defense.

We are delighted to congratulate Jenelle Townsend Doucet and Katy Groves who successfully defended their dissertations in 2012 and were awarded PhDs at August commencement.

**Jenelle Townsend Doucet** completed her dissertation on “Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder: The Sociocultural Influences on ADHD Knowledge and Diagnosis Decision-Making,” advised by Dr. Kathy Oths.



Dr. Jenelle Doucet

**Katy Groves** completed her dissertation on “Roots, Yucas, and Moros: Cultural Models of Food in Cuban Miami,” also advised by Dr. Oths.

## ANTHROPOLOGY IS ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR WATSON...



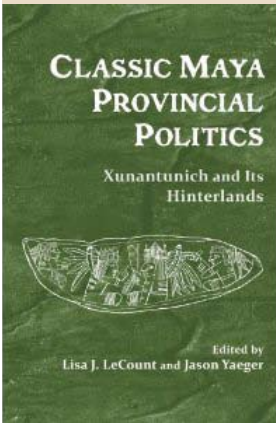
TMSE student anthropologists document bioarchaeological remains

Why wait till college to take courses in Anthropology? Is studying your own species so abstract that it can't be taught until students grasp the finer points of readin', writin', and 'rithmatic? We don't think so! During the fall 2011 semester, UA alum Dr. Duke Beasley and Anthropology Department faculty member Dr. Chris Lynn taught a general course in Anthropology for elementary school students with the assistance of grad students Sara Shults, Heath Kinzer, Sarah Morrow, and Lynn Funkhouser. As part of a UA partnership with Tuscaloosa Magnet Elementary School, the course was one of more than a dozen options from which TMSE students had to choose. Eleven elementary students in 3rd and 4th grade met for 45 minutes with UA Anthropology instructors every Tuesday for 12 weeks.

The course began with a short lecture on archaeology, and students were provided bags of material remains from local middens (cleaned trash) to sort, categorize, and analyze. They then combined their interpretations with select artifacts and created museum exhibits and education programs to convey these interpretations to the public (which temporarily went on display in the TMSE library). An activity on symbolism followed, with discussions of language, iconic, and gestural symbology. Students formed their own clans and developed symbol systems and age-grade rites of passage. The next week, they became ethnographers by visiting each other's clans to learn about these symbol systems and rites of passage, returning to their own clans to share and interpret what they learned and explored cultural diffusion by integrating practices they liked into their group's culture. For the next few activities, the clans morphed into primate species, as the students explored how minds and bodies are ecologically relative by figuring out how primates learn what to eat and by competing in knuckle-walker/quadruped/modified-biped races. During the following two weeks, students explored Mendelian genetics, collecting and comparing data among classmates and instructors, and contrasted this with cultural constructions of “race.” Finally, students integrated their skills in identifying primate and non-primate bones and interpreting material remains to become CSI Alabama forensic anthropologists.



## FACULTY NOTES



**Bill Dressler** recently presented an invited lecture on “Culture and the Stress Process,” at the conference “The Culture of Stress” in Heilberg, Germany. This extraordinary event brought together an international panel of experts to explore how epidemiological, historical, and anthropological perspectives can be brought to bear on the shape “stress” takes in different socio-cultural contexts.

**Lisa LeCount**, with collaborator Jason Yaeger, published a well-received edited volume, *Classic Maya Provincial Politics: Xunantunich and its Hinterlands*. This volume charts the rise and fall of the Classic Maya center of Xunantunich, paying special attention to its changing relationships with the communities that comprised its hinterlands. This allows them to paint a revised picture of Maya politics--one with different ways of governing and alliance formation between dominant centers and hinterland communities.

**Dick Diehl** has been keeping busy in “retirement” bringing Mesoamerican archaeology to the public. Recent projects include posting his essay “The Deep Roots of Aztec Sculpture” on the website MEXICOLORE, publishing the essay “The Olmec Legacy in Stone: A Mesoamerican Alpha and Omega” in *OLMEC: Colossal Masterpieces of Ancient Mexico*, the catalogue for a traveling exhibition of Olmec art held at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the San Francisco Museums of Art, presenting a three hour talk on Early Classic Maya Art and Culture to the 2012 Docents’ Training Program at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, writing on La Mojarra and on his book on ancient Teotihuacan, and entirely revamping *Anthropology 408/508, Ancient Mexican Civilization!*

## GUEST LECTURES BY DE WAAL, FAGAN, RODNING

We were fortunate this past year to enjoy guest lectures by three distinguished visiting scholars.



Franz de Waal

**Dr. Franz de Waal** is Candler Professor of Psychology at Emory University and Director of the Living Links Center at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center, known for his work on the social intelligence of primates. As part of the Alabama Lectures on Life’s Evolution (ALLELE) series he presented “Morality Before Religion: Empathy, Fairness and Prosocial Primates,” and guest lectured for Dr. Lynn’s class “Evolution for Everyone.”



Brian Fagan

**Dr. Brian Fagan**, Professor Emeritus at UC Santa Barbara, is regarded as one of the world’s leading archaeological and historical writers and is a widely respected popular lecturer about the past. He also visited as part of the ALLELE series, where he presented his talk “Elixir: Water and Humans over 10,000 years.”



Chris Rodning

**Dr. Christopher B. Rodning**, sponsored by the Anthropology Club and Lambda Alpha, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Tulane, whose work focuses on Cherokee towns and early trade with European colonists, Native architecture, and the Archaeology of Gender. He is also an old friend of the Department, having worked with Dr. Ian Brown at his excavations at the Bottle Creek site in the Mobile Delta. Chris’s talk, entitled “European Contact and Gender Relations in Native North America,” discussed burial categories at the Coweta Creek site and what these tell us about gender roles in an early Cherokee town.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO STUDENT AWARDEES

**Francois Dengah** received the Richard A. Krause Award for academic excellence at the graduate level.

**Petrina Kelly** was this year's winner of the David and Elizabeth DeJarnette Endowed Scholarship, and was honored at the annual DeJarnette Barbeque in Moundville.

**Lauren Marsh** received a nationally competitive Boren Scholarship, which she will use to study abroad in China in pursuit of a career in international public health.

**Clay Nelson**, now in the MA program, received first place in the social sciences at the 2012 UA Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Conference. **Erin Smith** received honorable mention.

Graduating seniors **Kim Roy** and **Elizabeth Wilson** (the latter of whom has joined our MA program) jointly received the C. Earle Smith Award for academic excellence at the undergraduate level.

Congratulations, all!

## 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 Hughes Prize*** recognizes students who have captured the imagination of the faculty by potential, intransigence, inventiveness, perseverance, insight, or a combination of those traits.

***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.

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.