



Moundville Archaeological Site

Web Newsletter



Department of Anthropology
The University of Alabama

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In Memoriam



Dr. Kenneth R. Turner

The news of Dr. Ken Turner's death at the age of 57 shocked and saddened his many friends and colleagues in the Department of Anthropology and in the wider University of Alabama community. Dr. Turner was Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Laboratory of Human Osteology at UA from 1974 until 1993. He left UA to assume the position of Director of the [No Man's Land Museum](#) of Oklahoma, where he served until his death on October 24.



Although he left us a decade ago no one who knew Ken will ever forget his many contributions to this university and to the people of Alabama. He systematized, catalogued and preserved one of the great osteological collections of the nation. Despite all of the painstaking work that he personally put into the collection, he was gracious and unstinting in the assistance that he rendered to scholars from other institutions who came to Tuscaloosa to study a very valuable scientific resource. Ken was equally generous with his time in helping Alabama law enforcement with many forensic consultations over the years.

Ken Turner was also a very dedicated, conscientious and effective teacher who demanded much from his students and drew out of them the very best work of which they were capable. Mark Hovezak, one of Ken's students from the mid-70s, expressed the sentiments of many when he wrote this about his professor:

I took my first Anthropology classes from Ken at The University of Alabama in 1976. He was an inspiring teacher and I responded to the enthusiasm he brought to his subjects with scholarly devotion. As a result, Ken recommended me for my first job in archaeology and became academic advisor for my undergraduate education. He provided a bright, strong and cheerful guiding light for students who were searching for their path in life. Ken was one of those few, truly unforgettable teachers one encounters in life.

His friends and colleagues benefited greatly from his vast knowledge of biological anthropology and enjoyed his unfailing collegiality, always seasoned with a unique sense of humor that never failed to produce smiles all around. He is survived by his wife [Dr. Kathleen Turner](#) of Oklahoma Panhandle State University, by his father, James Turner of Levelland, Texas and by his sister, Becky Albus of Buffalo Gap, Texas. To them we send our most sincere sympathy. We have lost an accomplished anthropologist and a good and generous man.

Mrs. Ruby Howard Wins the McKinley Award



Ruby Howard (l) receiving the McKinley Award from Charlotte Harris, Associate Vice President & Director of Human Resources

The Vergil Parks McKinley, Sr. Employee Award was established to recognize enterprising employees who by action or idea contribute to The University of Alabama's mission of teaching, research and service. That description certainly fits our own [Ruby Howard](#) who recently won the McKinley in recognition of distinguished service to the Anthropology Department. We are very fortunate that Ruby Howard is the very first person most people encounter when they contact our department by phone or in-person. No one labors more on behalf of our students than Ruby and we are very happy that her work for them and for all of us has been recognized in this manner. When you next see Ruby congratulate her on achieving this milestone in her career.

Prof. Bindon Thwarted by Democracy Despite voting against himself (as usual), the membership of the Biological Anthropology Section of the American Anthropological Association has exercised its collective wisdom by electing [Prof. Jim Bindon](#) to high office once again. He will serve as a



Mrs. Ruby Howard



Jim Bindon fixing Michael Murphy's laptop

member-at-large of the Executive Committee, 2003-2005. Currently working also as an inaugural A&S Leadership Board Fellow, Prof. Bindon has agreed to fill the newly created role of departmental Director of Informational Technology. Actually, if truth be told, the title was simply created to describe what Jim has been doing for years...keeping the Anthropology Department technologically up-to-date.

Some of Prof. Bindon's recent publications include

2003. Samoa. In: Ember C.R. and M. Ember (editors). *Encyclopedia of Medical Anthropology: Health and Illness in the World's Cultures, Volume 2*. New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers, pp. 929-937.

2002. (Bindon J.R., and V.J. Vitzthum). Alternate economic strategies and nutritional anthropometry of women in American Samoa and Highland Bolivia. *Social Science & Medicine*, 54:1299-1308

Krystal Davis is Applying Anthropology

Surely one of the most significant recent developments in the social and cultural life of our community and our state has been the arrival of thousands of Mexican migrants. In addition to working in agriculture and construction, these newcomers to our social scene have produced a welcome proliferation of Mexican restaurants and *tiendas* of all sorts. But along with benefits come challenges, not the least of which has been an influx of children in our school system who are not native speakers of English.

Krystal Davis, a double major in Anthropology and Spanish, is doing something proactive about this problem by participating in [Spanish Outreach](#), an innovative program developed by Prof. Michael Snepft of UA's Department of Modern Languages and Classics. This excellent program provides UA students like Krystal with an opportunity to earn credit (Spanish 390) and hone their linguistic skills while helping as bilingual facilitators in our community's schools and health centers.

Krystal's work with Spanish Outreach wonderfully merges her dual interests in Spanish and anthropology. She makes us proud by bringing both disciplines to bear on the pragmatics of inter-cultural communication, one of humanity's most nettlesome challenges.



Krystal Davis

Our Tribe Increases...Again!

[Prof. Marysia Galbraith](#) and her husband [Prof. Jeremy Butler](#) (of the College of Communication) were blessed with the arrival of their son, Jeremy Ian Galbraith Butler, on September, 27, 2003. Mother and son are doing just fine, as is evident in the photo at the left. Join us in congratulating Marysia and Jeremy for their masterpiece.



Jeremy Ian Galbraith Butler with his Mom, Marysia Galbraith



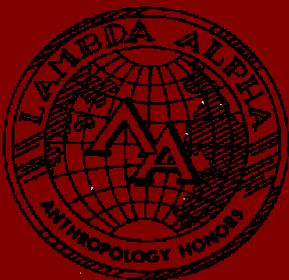


Bama Grad Students & SEAC

We are proud to note that two of our grad students are now members of the Southeastern Archaeology Conference's Student Affairs Committee: Pamela Johnson (chair) and Jennifer Myer. This honor adds to the already considerable presence our students have had in the SEAC organization. In recent years, three of our grad students have won the much sought after SEAC Book Award: Keith Little (1998), Ashley Dumas (2001), and Jennifer Myer (2002).



We are happy to report that UA's role at the annual SEAC meetings was further enhanced when our former grad student, John Marcoux, was announced as the 2003 winner of the SEAC Book Award.



Lambda Alpha is Coming to Bama

Due to the efforts of Dr. Jim Bindon and grad student Erica Gibson-Staneland, the University of Alabama will shortly become the Alabama Beta Chapter of the national anthropology honorary society, [Lambda Alpha](#).

In addition to offering substantial awards and scholarships, Lambda Alpha also produces an academic journal that showcases the work of anthropology students.

Details about membership qualifications and the benefits of joining Lambda Alpha will be forthcoming in a future number of this newsletter.



Join the Anthropology Club

The [UA Anthropology Club](#) has been very active this semester, but there are still some of you out there who need to come to the next meeting and join in on the Club's many activities.

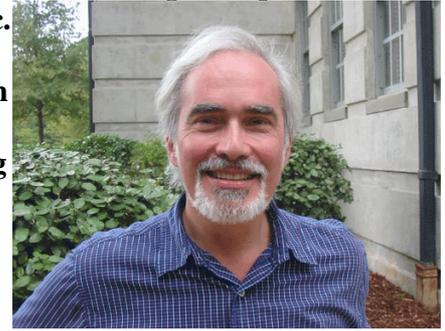
The Anthro Club is an organization open to any and all undergraduate and graduate students interested in Anthropology. It supports the Anthropology Department through extracurricular anthropology-related activities and also acts as a forum in which students of all levels and sub-fields can communicate with and support each other in their anthropological endeavors.



Carthaginian priest allegedly carrying infant to its ritual sacrifice

Did the Carthaginians Sacrifice Their Babies ?

Visiting Professor [Jeffrey H. Schwartz](#) presented a fascinating colloquium on October 31, a most propitious day given his topic. Drawing from the literature of the classical antiquity of the Mediterranean as well as his own extensive archaeological experience at the site of Carthage, Prof. Schwartz presented a compelling case for exonerating the Carthaginians of the longstanding suspicion that they sacrificed live infants at the famous Tophet.



It has been a pleasure having such an eminent physical anthropologist with us this term and this very successful public lecture was icing on the cake. We wish Jeff and his wife Lynn all the best as they return briefly to the University of Pittsburgh before beginning sabbatical leave in New York City for the remainder of the academic year.

AnthroTruck (Still) Lives!

Defying all the odds, AnthroTruck has yet to be totaled, although a graduate student did try to chainsaw one of her doors in half.



Roll, AnthroTruck, Roll

Planning for Fall 2004

It is not too early to begin planning for Fall 2004. Undergraduate majors and minors might wish to review [degree requirements](#) prior to consulting with faculty advisors. Download a [major/minor checklist](#) to keep track of your progress. To peruse course offerings available to both undergraduates and graduate students, please consult our schedule for Fall 2004. As soon as the schedule for fall is finalized, we will place a hyperlink to it here.



Keep in Touch

Don't hesitate to contact us with your questions, queries and suggestions. [Michael Murphy](#) is Chair. [Janis Nuckolls](#) is Acting Director of Graduate Studies ([Bill Dressler](#) assumes his duties as Director in January) and [Kathy Oths](#) is Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Our [web site](#) contains many resources for students, alumni, and folks who are just interested in anthropology. The site is undergoing some design changes, so don't be surprised by the new look.

Questions, suggestions, and submissions for future issues of this [web newsletter](#) will be gratefully received.

Check out previous newsletters at the [archive page](#).

