



Moundville Archaeological Site

Web Newsletter



Department of Anthropology The University of Alabama

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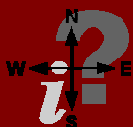
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**Ruby and two of her
many admirers**

Mrs. Ruby Howard Retires



After many years of dedicated service, **Ruby Howard** has earned a peaceful retirement from the department. But that does not mean that we have to like it !!



Pam & Ruby: the Twin Pillars of the Anthropology Department

For all of her hard work and for her many kindnesses over the years to students and faculty members, we wish for Ruby a long and fruitful retirement. Just remember to visit us from time to time !

UA Anthropology in Cuba

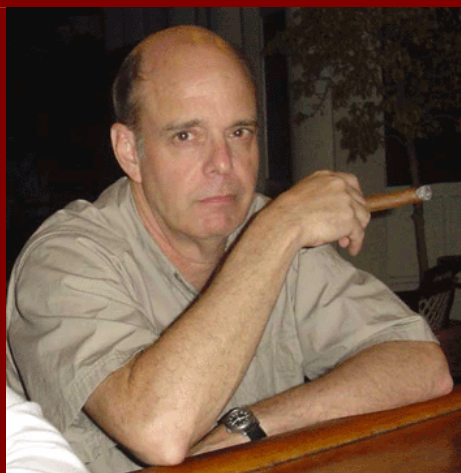
Prof. Jim Knight, former President of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, is expanding his research horizons to the island nation of Cuba. Progress is being made in planning a new international archaeological project in south-central Cuba. Excavations will be made at the site of Loma del Convento, an important Arawakan Indian town on the Arimao River that was occupied when the Spaniards colonized the island in 1513. The two-year project will investigate several aspects of Arawakan village life and the impact of the European conquest on these Indians. The work, which will begin in January of 2005, will be carried out as an archaeological field school with UA undergraduates, student participants from the University of Cienfuegos, and a group of amateur archaeologists from south-central Cuba. The supervisory team is headed by archaeologists from UA, the Provincial Center for Cultural Patrimony of Cienfuegos, the University of Florida, and Mississippi State University. New archival research on the early history of Cuba is also being planned, to be carried out at the Archive of the Indies in Seville, Spain.

In another happy development, Prof. Knight recently was named Robert L. Stigler Lecturer of the University of Arkansas (“Art and the Cosmos of the Native American Southeast”). This lectureship is awarded “in recognition of outstanding contributions to the field of archaeology, and to communication of archaeological knowledge.”

Prof. Jim Bindon Awarded National Alumni Association's *Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award*

Prof. Jim Bindon's many efforts on behalf of our students have been recognized by the National Alumni Association which bestowed upon him the highest honor for teaching at UA: the *Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award*. Prof. Bindon currently also serves as an Arts & Sciences Leadership Board Faculty Fellow and as the department's Director of Instructional Technology.

Incidentally, Prof. Bindon's wife, Dr. Kathy Bindon of the Department of Accounting, is herself a past winner of the OCT Award. As far as we can tell, they are the first husband-wife tandem to have both won this prestigious honor for excellence in university instruction.



Prof. Jim Knight



Prof. Jim Bindon



Prof. Ian Brown

Prof. Ian Brown Named *A&S Distinguished Teaching Fellow*

In recognition of his many contributions to the teaching mission of the Department, the College and the University, **Prof. Ian Brown** was named an *A&S Distinguished Teaching Fellow* for the term 2004-2007. Prof. Brown's nomination for this award received phenomenal support from his former students, many of whom declared him to be the best teacher they ever had.

Prof. Brown joins previous DTFs from the Anthropology Department: Profs. Dick Krause and Michael Murphy.



Jennifer Myer

Jennifer Myer Awarded *A&S Outstanding Thesis Award*

Jenn Myer has already had a distinguished career here at UA. Among her many awards, we may include the following: DeJarnette Scholarship (2002), UA's Excellence in Research by a Masters Student (2002), Southeastern Archaeological Conference Book Award (2002). We can now add the *College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Thesis Award* to her growing list of accomplishments.

Currently enrolled at UA as one of the first cohort of doctoral students ("The Three Amigas"), Jenn Myer continues to bring honor and distinction to her department.



Caroline Bolz

Caroline Bolz Wins the 2004 *C. Earle Smith Award*

Caroline Bolz has capped a distinguished undergraduate career at UA by winning the Anthropology Department's highest honor for graduating seniors, the C. Earle Smith Award. Caroline is the daughter of Susan and Farrell Bolz of Houston, Texas. Some of the high points of her undergraduate career here at the Capstone include being a member of Phi Beta Kappa, a member of the UA Women's Soccer Team, and a three time SEC academic all-American. Caroline will first pursue a Master's in Health Promotion before going on to Medical School.



Patty Alleman-Velez

Patty Alleman-Velez Wins a *MIRT* Traineeship

Graduate student **Patty Alleman-Velez** has just been awarded a 2004 Minority International Research Traineeship (MIRT) Program. This program, funded by the National Institutes of Health/Fogarty International and administered by the Department of Epidemiology and International Health of the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health. Patty will be conducting fieldwork in Ocho Rios, Jamaica this summer to further the research project, "Knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding the use of long-term family planning methods and pap smear in northeastern Jamaica."



Pamela Johnson

Two Anthropology Grad Students Win Coveted *Graduate Council* Fellowships

We are very proud to announce that grad students, **Pamela Johnson** and **Patty Alleman-Velez** have been awarded Graduate Council Fellowships for the upcoming academic year. These highly competitive fellowships are bestowed only to those of UA's graduate students who show the greatest academic promise. The next time that you see Pam and Patty, please congratulate them on this very worthy accomplishment.



Pam Johnson Awarded the *DeJarnette* Scholarship for 2004-05

Master's student **Pam Johnson** is the 2004-05 DeJarnette Scholar. This award aids promising archaeology students to explore the prehistory of our region, thus adding to David DeJarnette's great legacy.



David DeJarnette



Prof. Murphy presents Pam Johnson with the DJ Award



Prof. Bill Dressler

Professor Bill Dressler Delivers Keynote Address at the University of South Alabama

Dr. Bill Dressler was recently honored by the University of South Alabama when he was asked to deliver the Keynote Address to USA's annual *Research Forum*. Prof. Dressler spoke about one important area of his current research in a lecture titled, "Framing a New Biocultural Synthesis."

A recent winner of UA's Burnum Award, Dr. Dressler continues to conduct NSF funded research in Brazil.

Ashley Dumas Wins 2nd Place in UA Graduate Research Competition

Doctoral student **Ashley Dumas** has accumulated quite a few accolades since joining the UA's Anthropology Department's graduate program. She is the 2000-01 winner of the College of Arts & Sciences *Award for Excellence in Research by a Masters Student*. She has earned a *Graduate Council Research Fellowship* (2001-02) and *two National Alumni Graduate Fellowships* (2000-01 & 2001-02). In 2001 she won a very prestigious *Southeastern Archaeology Conference Book Award*. Just recently she added to her accolades by winning 2nd Place in UA's *Graduate Research Competition*.

Ashley just recently submitted a grant proposal to NSF to help fund her dissertation work.

Laura Brown Wood, 2004 Bob Work Award Winner

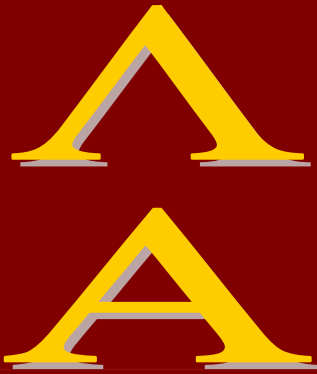
Laura Brown-Wood won this year's Bob Work Award for best paper on an archaeological subject: "The Middle Woodland Hyland Mound Site (22WR679) in Mississippi: The Utility of Systematic Surface Collections." When next you see her, congratulate Laura for her excellent work.



Ashley Dumas



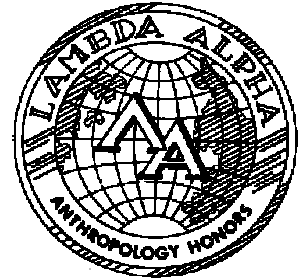
Laura Brown Wood



Lambda Alpha Has Arrived

Due to the efforts of [Dr. Jim Bindon](#) and grad students [Erica Gibson-Staneland](#) and [Sarah Szurek](#), the University of Alabama has become the Alabama Beta Chapter of the national anthropology honorary society, [Lambda Alpha](#). A large number of undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty members were formally initiated into the Alabama Beta Chapter of the honorary during lively spring ceremonies. Special thanks to [Prof. Charles Nuckolls](#) for his impressive shamanic performance.

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. Anyone who wishes to join Lambda Alpha should contact [Dr. Jim Bindon](#)



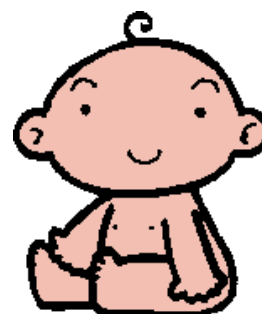
Join the Anthropology Club

The [UA Anthropology Club](#) has been very active this year, 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.

AnthroBabies

Working in his capacity as chair of the departmental Development Committee, [Prof. Jim Knight](#) has already begun recruiting for the doctoral class of 2025. [Sarah Waggenheim](#), great-granddaughter of David DeJarnette and daughter of anthro alum, Riggs Waggenheim, can count on a constant supply of candy from her "Uncle" Jim as he tries to convince her to ignore all future offers from the likes of Stanford and Michigan.



Uncle Jim and Little Sarah



Planning for Spring 2005

It is not too early to begin planning for Spring 2005. 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 Spring 2005. As soon as the schedule for next spring 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. [Bill Dressler](#) is Director of Graduate Studies 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](#).

This newsletter is edited by [Michael Murphy](#)