



***Department of  
Anthropology***  
***The College of Arts & Sciences  
The University of Alabama***



***eNewsletter***

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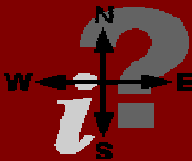
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Department Location



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## Private Giving to the Department of Anthropology

In the last decade, as our state budgets stagnated, private giving to the Department emerged as one of the keys to the success of our academic programs. Just over the past ten years, 64 private donations were made by friends of the Department totaling nearly \$150,000. This badly needed money has gone to scholarships, to the support of our archaeological field school, and to the support of invited lecturers. We are extraordinarily grateful to those who have invested in our success in this way.



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*

awarded to support graduate student research on



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 each received an award of \$4,000.

***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.



**Michelle Hurd**

## **Michelle Hurd Joins the Anthropology Department**

We are delighted to introduce you to Michelle Hurd, the newest member of the department's staff. Michelle recently assumed the position of receptionist and secretary for the department, but she is no stranger to either the University or to ten Hoor Hall. Michelle recently took her B.A. degree in Philosophy here at UA.

Join us in welcoming Michelle to the department. We are happy to have her working with us.

## **Ashley Dumas Wins National Science Foundation Grant for Dissertation Research**

Ashley Dumas is the first of our Ph.D. students at UA to win a highly competitive [National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant](#). Archaeological field work for her dissertation project commenced in October and November of 2004, at the important Stimpson site in Clarke County, South Alabama. Her project, entitled "Salt and Society," investigates the role of salt production in the first appearance of Mississippian culture in that region. According to Ashley, "the field work has already given us our first glimpse of salt-processing activities in the places where these activities occurred." She is now busy in the laboratory, chin-deep among boxes of unwashed artifacts from the highly productive dig. These artifacts include numerous fragments of "salt pans," specialized pottery utensils for reducing brine to salt.



**Ashley Dumas**

## **Prof. Bindon Receives OCTA Award**

At a reception well-attended by many of his students and colleagues, Dr. Jim Bindon received the University of Alabama's most prestigious award for teaching, the [Alumni Association's Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award](#). Congratulations to Jim for this significant recognition of his many contributions to the education of UA students over the past quarter-century.



**Prof. Jim Bindon**



**Dr. Katherine Mickelson**

## Welcome to the Mickelsons

Two adjunct professors recently were added to the UA Anthropology faculty, bringing new expertise to our programs. They are the husband-and-wife team of Katherine and Andrew Mickelson. Dr. Katherine Mickelson is a specialist in the physical and chemical factors affecting the preservation of organic materials at archaeological sites. Dr. Andrew Mickelson's primary expertise is in landscape archaeology and the application of geographic information systems (GIS) technology to ancient patterns of land use. A hearty welcome to both of them!



## Christine Newkirk Collects a Hatful of Major Research Awards

Christine Newkirk has done us proud by winning a number of prestigious awards for work conducted while a Masters student at UA.

She was the first ever winner of the Student Paper Competition of the [Society for Anthropological Sciences](#) for her paper "Social Patterning of Intracultural Diversity in Food Knowledge in Southern Brazil." This work also won the Student Competition of the *Society for the Anthropology of Food and Nutrition*.

Just recently she was honored with both the *A&S* and *The University of Alabama Outstanding Research by a Masters Student Awards*.

Christine is currently a doctoral student at the University of Connecticut, where she is working under the guidance of Dr. Roy D'Andrade.



**Christine Newkirk**



**Meredith Jackson**

## **Meredith Jackson Wins the A&S Outstanding Thesis Award**

Meredith Jackson has won the A&S Outstanding Thesis Award for "Conflicting Imperatives in Pregnancy: To Feed the Fetus or Stay Thin." Currently enrolled in the Biocultural Medical Anthropology track of our doctoral program, Meredith is continuing to do excellent work within the department as she works toward completing the Ph.D..

Meredith and Christine are the latest of our students to win the most important research awards offered by the College and the University. In the past fifteen years, our Masters students have won thirteen A&S awards and six UA awards for the excellence of their research and their theses.

## **The Early Moundville Archaeological Project (EMAP)**

**Prof. John Blitz** recently inaugurated an exciting new research project at the Moundville site. The Early Moundville Archaeological Project (EMAP) will be a multi-year effort to investigate the origins of the Moundville chiefdom. During the fall semester of 2004, Prof. Blitz began his work at Mound X, one of the earliest-known mounds at the site. According to Dr. Blitz, “the research project will test the hypothesis that competition for control of key resources by emergent leaders was an important strategy in the establishment of chiefs and chiefdoms such as Moundville.” With the participation of the annual Department of Anthropology fall field school, the field work will be advanced each fall semester in coming years. This field work, plus the accompanying laboratory work in the spring, provides important new research opportunities for undergraduates and graduate students alike. Assisting Dr. Blitz in the fall 2004 field work were graduate students Jennifer Myer, Amanda Regnier, and Pam Johnson.



**Prof. John Blitz**



## Dr. González Faraco Visits UA

Dr. Juan Carlos González Faraco, Professor of Pedagogy at the Universidad de Huelva (Spain) and Adjunct Professor of Anthropology at UA, visited campus during the summer to continue his long-time collaboration with Dr. Michael Murphy on the people and culture of southern Spain.



During his stay with us, Prof. González delivered a fascinating departmental colloquium, "Finding Culture in Nature: Anthropology in Doñana National Park."

Two of the papers Profs. González and Murphy wrote during this visit are currently in press:

- J. Carlos González Faraco and Michael D. Murphy (In press) "Religiosidad popular y paisaje: la cultura rociera en la producción de imágenes paisajísticas de Doñana". In *Paisaje y Cultura*. Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. Colección "Estudios". Madrid, Spain.
- Michael D. Murphy and J. Carlos González Faraco (In press) "Aquí termina la política y empieza el Rocío" Antonio Checa Godoy, editor, *La Transición en Huelva*. Huelva (Spain): Diputación Provincial de Huelva.



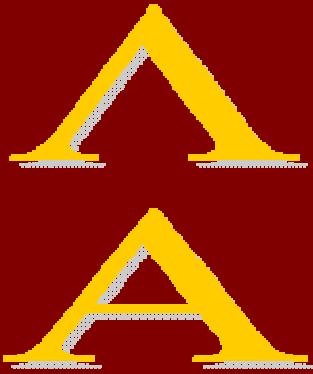
Profs. Bindon, González, Oths & Galbraith

## "The Classic Maya Salt Industry"

**Prof. Heather McKillop**, author of recent books entitled *The Ancient Maya and Salt: White Gold of the Ancient Maya*, was a guest lecturer in our department in September. Dr. McKillop is Professor of Anthropology in the Department of Geography and Anthropology at Louisiana State University. Her well-attended lecture, "The Classic Maya Salt Industry," spoke of extraordinary new finds in Belize, not only of specialized salt production tools used by the Maya, but of well preserved wooden post foundations of Maya structures in shallow water environments.



Prof. Heather McKillop



## Lambda Alpha at UA

Under the leadership of [Dr. Jim Bindon](#) and grad students [Erica Gibson-Staneland](#) and [Sarah Szurek](#), last year the University of Alabama became the Alabama Beta Chapter of the national anthropology honorary society, [Lambda Alpha](#). At present the society is extending an invitation to those undergraduates and graduate students who have not yet been formerly initiated into Alabama Beta to step forward. As the founding cohort of initiates can attest, the ceremonies are entirely painless and only very slightly anxiety provoking.

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. For additional information please contact [Sarah Szurek](#) or [Lauren Downs](#).



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. Among many other projects, the Club will conduct its annual Bake Sale shortly and the members are currently upgrading the accommodations in the Anthropology Lounge (room 10).



## Planning for Fall 2005

It is not too early to begin planning for Fall 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 Fall 2005](#).







## 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 [Lisa LeCount](#) is Acting Director of Undergraduate Studies while [Kathy Oths](#) is on sabbatical leave.

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](#).

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