Throughout the world, both the state and civil society are advancing new forms of food systems education to transform farmers’ agricultural practices, and the landscape itself. Yet, it remains unclear whether these emerging pedagogies positively impact public health, food security, and food sovereignty. Through two research projects in India, I’ve begun exploring the broad question: how does food systems education affect changes in agricultural practices, human health and the environment?

The first project explores the linkages between food systems education and the crisis of farmer suicides in Karnataka, India. Since the mid-1990s, more than 290,000 farmers in India have committed suicide—often by drinking pesticides as a symbolic act of political protest. Commentators blame these suicides on agricultural technologies associated with the Green Revolution, such as hybrid seeds, which make farmers dependent on powerful corporations. Food systems education is one route through which advocates seek to transform farmers’ agricultural practices, mental and social health, and the landscape itself to increase wellbeing. For this project, I am working with members of the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS), an agrarian social movement comprised of small-scale farmers. Because Karnataka is one of India’s suicide “hotspots,” KRRS has found itself at the center of the farmer suicide crisis. Its mission is to educate farmers in a form of sustainable agriculture known as Zero-Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) that minimizes dependence on agricultural technologies. My preliminary results suggest that ZBNF education take place through a culturally-specific format: Spiritual gurus give workshops to thousands of attendees, where they expound on the linkages between the Green Revolution and farmer suicides, and the potential for agricultural diversification to redress this crisis. Farmers’ oral histories suggest that farmers experience reduced stress and increased financial autonomy after transitioning to ZBNF.

The second research project explores how food systems education functions within the state’s push to advance organic agriculture. It analyzes the linkages between food systems education, food sovereignty, and scale in Northeastern India, where states are enacting progressive organic agriculture policies. In January 2016, Sikkim, a Himalayan state long associated with progressive environmental policies, announced that it had certified all agricultural production as organic by international standards. Numerous Northeastern states are following suit; Arunachal Pradesh, for example, committed in May 2017 to achieving 100% organic production within five years. The states of Meghalaya, Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram are all engaged to some extent in advancing organic agriculture. In both the Indian media, and governmental discourse, this is described as an explicitly regional project: the Northeast is destined to become a hub for organic production. During preliminary research, conversations with three state officials focused on the value of food systems education as a tool to transform farmers’ agroecosystems from diverse polycultures intended for local consumption to high-output monoculture organics destined for the urban elite. These results call into question how food systems education produces scale, and results in either greater farmer autonomy, or the production of capital.

India’s Northeast is shifting to export oriented organic production.

Social movements seek to stem the farmer suicide crisis through sustainable agriculture activities, such as seed saving.
FIELDWORK UPDATE: DR. IAN W. BROWN

It is very rare for United States students to get to dig in Greece. Any possibility of involvement generally comes through The American School of Classical Studies at Athens, and even then, there are really only two venues of exploration, the Athenian Agora or Ancient Corinth. Neither of these opportunities are shabby by any means, but imagine having the chance to dig at the Vergina site! Vergina is thought to be Aegae, the first capital of Macedon and the home of Philip II of Macedon, father of Alexander the Great. By good fortune, it is now very much a possibility for University of Alabama undergraduates to dig at Vergina, simply by enrolling in the Study Abroad course, UA in Greece: Excavations in Vergina (ANT 262). This is taught by Dr. Ian W. Brown, Professor of Anthropology. As a result of a collaboration formed through the University of Alabama–Greece Initiative with archaeology professors at Aristotle University–Thessaloniki, up to five Alabama students can participate in a project working side-by-side with Greek students exploring the ancient wonders of Macedon. Madeline Anscombe, Sommer Hallquist, and Taylor Lawhon were the initial undergraduates to dig at Vergina in 2016. And this past summer undergraduates Karissa Annis and Austin Mitchell joined Taylor, who was then serving as the Graduate Student Director. The minimal prerequisites for this course are ANT 107, Introduction to Archaeology, and CL 323, Alexander the Great, Then and Now. The latter course is taught each year by Tatiana Tsakiropolous-Summers, Associate Professor of Classics. Students interested in participating in the Vergina excavations should contact either Dr. Brown or Dr. Summers.

THROWBACK TO 1981

This photo takes us back to 1981, where three of our former department chairs are attending an anthropology department function. On the left is C. Earle Smith, chair from 1981 to 1986 for whom the C. Earle Smith, Jr. Memorial Award is named. In the center is Richard A. Krause, chair from 1974 to 1981, for whom the Krause Award is named. On the right is Michael D. Murphy, chair from 2003-2012.
As anthropologists, we frequently try to make the strange familiar and the familiar strange. Our continuing “10 things” series does just this. Each newsletter we take a faculty member and highlight 10 unknown things about that individual. This time we’re highlighting Dr. Alexandre Tokovinine, a Mayan archaeologist whose research focuses on iconography and epigraphy, and also uses 3D scanning and virtual reality to analyze Mayan friezes.

1. I am a huge fan of Terry Pratchett. I will probably never read “The Shepherd’s Crown” (Pratchett’s last book), at least not anytime soon.

2. My favorite TV show is "Battlestar Galactica" (2004-2009), even the last season.

3. I once adopted a baby kinkajou. His name was Panchito and he survived.

4. I really, really like chocolate. It is absolutely normal for me to order a hot chocolate with a chocolate cake.

5. I think that the best coffee in the world is grown at Finca San Rafael, Honduras. San Rafael coffee fans form a secret society in the U.S.

6. I played Dungeons and Dragons. I was even a Dungeon Master for a few years.

7. I did competitive ballroom dancing in graduate school. I have since scaled down to salsa.

8. My archaeological field school was in the city of Novgorod, Russia. I hope I will never have to dig the urban muck again.

9. My first job was translating and dubbing a French documentary about Monaco. The studio was in Lourdes, so I was the only person on the train who was not an Italian pilgrim.

10. My last name comes from Siberia, where it is still grammatically impossible.
TALKS AND GUEST LECTURES

The James R. Bindon Biocultural Anthropology and Health Endowed Lecture Series


Extemporaneous Talks

Dr. Ashley Dumas, The University of West Alabama, “Making Archaeology Public: Alabama,” 2/22/2017

Dr. Dimitri M. Bondarenko “The Past is Always Present: The Role of Historic Memory in Shaping the Relations between African Americans and Contemporary African Migrants in the USA,” 4/4/2017

FABBLs

Max Stein “¡Toma un selfie!”: How Technology and Social Media Maintain Relationships in an Andean Migrant Community in Northern Peru,” 1/20/2017

Shannon Edsall “Anthropology and Activism, Part 2: Politics in the Anthropology Classroom” A Roundtable Discussion, 2/17/2017


Jake Aronoff presenting a FABBL lecture.

Dr. Jason DeCaro, Speaker Dr. Lance Gravlee, Dr. Bill Dressler, Dr. Kathy Oths.

Jenna Hurtubise “Investigations at Pan de Azucár: A Roundtable Discussion on the Upcoming Field Season,” 3/3/2017

MMBACs


Dr. John Kappelman, the University of Texas at Austin, “Solving a 3.2-Million-Year-Old Mystery: How Lucy Died?” 4/6/17

Professionalization Workshops

Dr. Jo Weaver and Dr. Elliot Blair “Developing a Teaching Portfolio,” 2/20/17

Invited Lectures

Dr. Rebecca Lester, Washington University in St. Louis, “‘Fat’ is Not a Feeling: Eating Disorders, Affective Practice, and Cultures of Scarcity,” 2/16/17

Dr. Rob Wallace, University of Minnesota, “Bird Flu, Ebola, and Zika: When Evolution Meets Political Economy,” 2/2/17


Lambda Alpha President Larry Monocello and Invited Lecturer Dr. Rebecca Lester.
In September of 2014, Dr. Ann Webb, the former Director of the Emerging Scholars Program, called me and asked if I would consider hosting a student named Madeline Anscombe on a research project. I was just beginning my second year as Chair of the Anthropology Department at the time. I responded cautiously with, “Let me interview her first.” So, on October 3 a young student, full of enthusiasm, and with a great big smile, burst into my office. She immediately plunked herself into the chair before my desk and said, “Hi. I’m Madeline,” as if that is all I needed to know. Minutes later I learned a great deal more, as Madeline Anscombe is anything but shy. I mentioned that I did graduate work at Brown University and she proceeded to tell me that her grandfather taught at both Cambridge and Yale, and that his brother-in-law taught at Princeton. She went on to inform me that although she is from Chicago, her family has a home in Fall River, not far from the Lizzie Borden house. When she found out that I myself had certain notions about this famous murder case, she went on to express her views, a subject which four years later we are still vigorously debating. Madeline then went on to tell me of her strong interests in Indians, and in cemeteries, too, as she had worked with Betty Slade digitizing the gravestones of 116 cemeteries for the Westport (Massachusetts) Historical Commission. I tested her with, “How would you like to study the evolution of children’s graves in Evergreen Cemetery?” to which her immediate response was “Absolutely!” When Madeline left my office and the dust had settled, I was heard to say, “By George, this is a most interesting student.” I was right. In the past four years Madeline has not only been a prominent figure in the Anthropology Department as one of our majors (her minor is Public Policy), but she has been involved in a myriad of activities on and off campus, and usually holding leadership roles. For our department, she is a member of the Lambda Alpha Anthropology Honors Society, served one year as the Undergraduate Liaison for the Anthropology Club, and is currently the Website Manager for the course Anthropology is Elemental. Other campus activities have involved being the President and Founder of The University of Alabama’s chapter of the national organization Not On My Campus, which helps educate college students about the sexual assault epidemic on the collegiate level. She is the Director of Sexual Assault Prevention for the Student Government Association, and has also been the Director of Social Media of Design For America, the Parties Coordinator for The University of Alabama College Democrats, the Director of Aid and Advocacy for The LEAD Project, an Opinions Columnist for The Crimson White, and the Content Curator for Truth + Dare. Off campus, Madeline conducted two Summer Internships in 2016 (one for the Chicago Bar Association and another for the Center for Conflict Resolution) and one in 2017 as Chief Intern for Chris Kennedy for Illinois Governor. Madeline was also one of the first three undergraduates to participate in The University of Alabama–Greece Initiative by participating in The Vergina Project in the summer of 2016. Madeline Anscombe has certainly left a lasting mark on the University of Alabama campus and we are all very proud of her many accomplishments.

**NEW BOOK BY BILL DRESSLER**

This book engages with the issue of how culture is incorporated into individuals’ lives, a question that has long plagued the social sciences. Starting with a critical overview of the treatment of culture and the individual in anthropology, the author makes the case for adopting a cognitive theory of culture in researching the relationship. The concept of cultural consonance is introduced as a solution and placed in theoretical context. Cultural consonance is defined as the degree to which individuals incorporate into their own beliefs and behaviors the prototypes for belief and behavior encoded in shared cultural models. Dressler examines how this can be measured and what it can reveal, focusing in particular on the field of health.
Invited Lectures and Workshops

We have been very fortunate to have faculty and students honored with invitations to present their work.

John Blitz gave an invited lecture titled “Skeuomorphs, Pottery, and Technological Change, and Moundville: New Research, New Perspectives” at the University of Southern Mississippi, 25th Anniversary of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology.

Jessica Kowalski gave an invited lecture titled “Large ‘Vacant’ Ceremonial Centers in the Southern Yazoo Basin” for the Huntsville Chapter of the Alabama Archaeological Society, April 25, 2017.

Christopher Lynn gave an invited lecture titled “Evolution Education in the American South and Madagascar: Creating K-16 Cross-Disciplinary Programs Under the Evolution Umbrella” to the College of Education’s Experimental Natural Sciences Program at the University of Antananarivo, in Antananarive, Madagascar, March 22, 2017.

Christopher Lynn gave an invited lecture titled “Anthropology is Elemental: A Sharable Model for Primary School Cross-Cultural Evolution Education” at the Department of Paleontology and Biological Anthropology at the University of Antananarivo, Madagascar, March 22, 2017.

Christopher Lynn gave an invited lecture titled “Tattoos, Taboos, and Tradition: Signals of Health and Commitment, from Warriors to Wide Receivers” in the Department of Anthropology Seminar Series at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, March 14, 2017.

Christopher Lynn gave an invited lecture titled “Evolution Education from the American South: Creating K-16 Cross-Disciplinary Programs Under the Evolution Umbrella” for the Biological Sciences Seminar Series at Mississippi State University in Starkville, MS, January 27, 2017.

Marysia Galbraith held a workshop titled “Writing Beyond the Academy” at the University of Michigan, June 11-16, 2017.

Kathryn Oths gave an invited lecture titled “The Last Bonesetter?: The Effects of Culture and Climate Change on the Viability of Traditional Healers in Peruvian Health Care” for the Department of Anthropology, at East Carolina University, April 7, 2017.

Kathryn Oths and Bill Dressler were invited to give a workshop on “Cultural Consensus Analysis” for the Society for Psychological Anthropology Biannual Meetings, in New Orleans, LA, March 9, 2017.


David Meek held a workshop titled "Political Education for Food Systems Transformation."

Kathryn Oths and Bill Dressler were invited to give a workshop on “Cultural Consensus Analysis” for the Society for Psychological Anthropology Biannual Meetings, in New Orleans, LA, March 9, 2017.

Association of Gravestone Studies (AGS), 40th Annual Meeting, Tuscaloosa, AL, June 20-35.

Brown, I.: Conference Committee Chair, Conference Host, and Program Editor.

Brown, I.: Led the "Certain Upland Burial Grounds of Tuscaloosa County" and the "A Taste of Tuscaloosa’s Urban and Rural Cemeteries” Motor Coach Tours.

Brown, I. "Working with Students in Cemeteries."

Human Biology Association (HBA) 42nd Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, April 19-20.


Initiatives in Critical Agrarian Studies Workshop, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, April 22-27.

Meek, D. and P. Rosset. "Food Sovereignty Education Across the Americas: Multiple Origins, Converging Movements."


Batchelder, G. " Senuk Buae- Consonance with a Model of Living Well and its Effects on Stress and Depression among the Bribri of Costa Rica.”

Conferences, Panels, Presentations and Posters, Continued.

Scott, D. "No Time for That: How Only a Re-engineered Anthropology can Engage the Challenges of the Anthropocene."

Paleopathology Association (PPA), 44th Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, April 17-19.

Simpson, D. "A Case of Severe Infection and Trauma: Possible Disability in Prehistoric Alabama."

Rural Health Conference, 18th Annual Meeting, Tuscaloosa, AL, March 30-31


Society for American Archaeology (SAA), 82nd Annual Meeting, Vancouver, B.C., April 11-15


Briggs, R. "A Gendered Approach to Assessing Differences in the Hominy Foodway in Central Alabama."


Fitzpatrick, S.M., M. Napolitano and E. Blair. "X-ray Fluorescence (XRF) and Morphological Analysis of Trade Beads from Palau, Micronesia."


Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) 77th Annual Meeting, Santa Fe, NM, March 28 - April 2.

Oths, K. and K.M. Groves. "All's Well That Ends Well: How Alabama Farmers Marketers' Last 'Stand' against Modernity was Finally Resolved."

Weaver, L.J., "'Tension' among Women in North India: An Idiom of Distress and a Cultural Syndrome."


Southeastern Evolutionary Perspectives Society (SEEPS) Conference, 2nd Annual Meeting, Tuscaloosa, AL, Feb. 10-12


Lynn, C.D.: Conference organizer and site host for 2nd Annual Meeting.


URCA Undergraduate Research Conference


Batchelder, G. Senuk Buae: Consonance with a Cultural Model of “Living Well” and its Effects on Stress and Depression among the BriBri of Costa Rica. YouTube video describing research and results.


Lynn, C.D., A. Glaze, W. Evans, and L. Reed (eds). Evolution Education in the American


**AWARDS AND HONORS**

**Ashley Stewart** received the David and Elizabeth DeJarnette Endowed Scholarship in Anthropology, and was awarded $8,000 to conduct her dissertation research on the osteological collections in Tuscaloosa, AL.

**Lessye DeMoss** received the Allen R. Maxwell Endowed Anthropology Scholarship and was awarded $2,500 to conduct dissertation research in Tuscaloosa, AL.

**Nikki Henderson** received the Allen R. Maxwell Endowed Anthropology Scholarship and was awarded $4,500 to conduct her pilot dissertation research in Ribeirão Preto, Brazil.

**Marysia Galbraith** was awarded the Bronislaw Malinowski Social Sciences Award, granted by the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America (PIASA) for her book: *Being and Becoming European in Poland: European Integration and Self-Identity*. Awarded June 17, 2017 at the PIASA annual meeting in Krakow, Poland.

**Hannah Smith** received the Randall Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award.

**RESEARCH AND TRAVEL GRANTS**

Batchelder, G. Graduate School Research Travel Support Fund, $600.

Batchelder, G. College of Arts and Sciences Student Travel Support Fund, $500.

Batchelder, G. Capstone International Funding, $500.

Chiou, K.L. UC MEXUS-CONACYT Collaborative Grant Award (with Christine A. Hastorf, Araceli Aguilar Meléndez, Emilianio Gallaga, and Andrés Lira Noriega). Funds for interdisciplinary (genetic, morphometric, chemical, and environmental modeling) and collaborative research involving modern and archaeological chile pepper variation in Mexico. $20,122.

Henderson, N. Graduate Student Research and Travel Support Fund, $400, travel funding to the SPA conference in New Orleans.

Henderson, N. Graduate Student Research and Travel Support Fund, $700, summer research funding for pilot dissertation research in Ribeirão Preto, Brazil.

Henderson, N. Capstone International Funding, $400, summer research funding for pilot dissertation research in Ribeirão Preto, Brazil.


Hannah Smith receives the Randall Award from Dr. Kevin W. Whitaker.
RESEARCH AND TRAVEL GRANTS, CONTINUED


Scott, D. Graduate Student Research and Travel Grant. $1,200.


THESIS AND DISSERTATION DEFENSES

Dissertations


Katherine Chiou defended her dissertation at UC Berkeley titled: Common Meals, Noble Feasts: An Archaeological Investigation of Moche Food and Cuisine in the Jequetepeque Valley, Peru, A.D., 600-800.

Erik Porth defended his dissertation titled: Reconsidering Institutional Collapse and Social Transformation at Moundville During the Fifteenth Century.

Theses

Jake Aronoff Life History Strategies, Testosterone, and the Anthropology of Human Development.

Anna Bianchi Framing Health Deservingness of Undocumented Immigrants: Perspectives from Health Workers in Two Alabama Clinics.


Diana Simpson Cheating Death in Prehistory: Pathology, Trauma, and Care during the Archaic Period in North Alabama.


Rachel Briggs with her committee members, Ian Brown, Jo Weaver, Bill Dressler, Jim Knight, and Margie Scarry (laptop) after her defense.
Diana Simpson and advisor Keith Jacobi after Diana’s successful thesis defense.

Erik Porth with his committee members, Lisa LeCount, John Blitz, Jim Knight, and Michael Murphy, after his dissertation defense.

**Prestigious National Award for the Office of Archaeological Research**

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Chairman's Award for Achievement in Historic Preservation was presented to the University of Alabama's Office of Archaeological Research, in partnership with several federal and state agencies and Native American tribes, for their restoration and preservation work on the petroglyphs, pictographs, and historic signatures at the Painted Bluff site in Marshall Co., Alabama.

Rock art from Painted Bluff
Making Big Differences among the BriBri in Costa Rica
Greg Batchelder has been conducting his dissertation field work among the BriBri in rural Costa Rica for the last few years. In addition to gathering data, he has also been giving back to the community. In January of 2017, he taught a month-long English language camp in the BriBri community of Shuabb, located on the Talamancan Indigenous Reserve of Costa Rica. The class ran from 7:00 a.m. to noon. The fifteen students received workbooks with lessons and activities, and played games to help them learn. In February in the same community, he began teaching English to the elementary school students at the request of the local junta. Greg reports that the children have since greatly improved their English!

Going above and beyond, he also created the “Senuk Buae Indigenous College Fund,” designed to assist students with the cost of attending University. To his knowledge, there have only been two locals to ever attend college from the valley. With the help of donors, they were able to assist three students attend the nearest college during the spring semester.

During all of this, he also received a request for a peer-reviewed manuscript for the *Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology* titled “Fragile Avatars: Playful Betrayal in Children’s Online Hacking Practices,” which he has since submitted.

Jo Weaver named American Anthropological Association (AAA) Leadership Fellow for the 2017-18 academic year
The Leadership Fellow position is offered to anthropologists early in their careers to help them learn about leadership within AAA, how to manage leadership with other academic duties, and how to serve the community and their profession. She, along with her fellow awardees Katie Kirakosian and Diana Marsh, will be honored in a ceremony at the 116th AAA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

Congratulations, Jo!

Katherine Chiou joins the UA Anthropology Department as Assistant Professor
She graduated from UC Berkeley in the Summer of 2017. She is an Andean archaeologist with interests in paleoethnobotany, archaeobotany, the archaeology of food, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), 3D Modeling, Household Archaeology, Archaeological Ethics, and the Genus Capsicum. Welcome, Dr. Chiou!

Lisa Pawloski joins UA Anthropology Department as Full Professor
She is the newly appointed College of Arts and Sciences International Programs Associate Dean, with Anthropology as her home department. Welcome, Dr. Pawloski!

Anthropology is Elemental (AiE) Course featured in UA’s Service Learning Magazine
AiE is a service-learning course that seeks to teach anthropological concepts to elementary-aged children. Developed by Chris Lynn and instructed by an upper level Ph.D. student, undergraduates in this course go to local elementary schools weekly and explain complex concepts from the four fields through lecture and activities. Each lesson is designed specifically for young minds, with topics ranging from archaeological techniques and evolution to race and gender. As anthropology is rooted in both the sciences and the humanities, this course is able to teach cross-cutting concepts at an early age and encourages critical thinking. Read the article by visiting: [http://cesr.ua.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/AnthropologyIsElemental.pdf](http://cesr.ua.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/AnthropologyIsElemental.pdf)
WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT

We humbly welcome tax-free donations to any of the following initiatives:

Endowments

**The Vernon James Knight Endowed Scholarship** in Anthropology is awarded to graduate students enrolled in the anthropology graduate program and who are conducting research on the anthropology of art and design, with a preference for iconography projects. Secondary consideration shall be given to undergraduate majors with the same research interests.

**The Allen R. Maxwell Endowed Anthropology Scholarship** is awarded to support graduate student research in the areas of ethnography or linguistic anthropology. Established through a bequest from Dr. Maxwell’s estate, it is our first award specifically dedicated to ethnographic or linguistic field research.

**The David and Elizabeth DeJarnette Endowed Scholarship** in Anthropology is awarded to support graduate student research on Moundville or Latin America-related topics. Each spring, the award is made during the popular DeJarnette BBQ, held at Moundville Archaeological Park on 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 $8,000.

**The James R. Bindon Biocultural Anthropology and Health Endowed Lecture Series** was initiated in Fall 2015 to mark the significant contribution Dr. Bindon made to the biocultural medical anthropology. This series emphasizes research that utilizes the biocultural anthropological perspective on human health.

**The Anthropology Field School Gift Fund** supports our undergraduate field schools in archaeology. These field schools receive no financial support from the University and depend heavily on these gifts for supplies and operating expenses. Our annual field schools for undergraduates date back to 1956, and, traditionally, they are among the most memorable experiences of our alumni.

**The Dr. Milady Murphy Endowed Scholarship in the Anthropology of Health and Wellness** is specifically designed to support anthropology graduate students who are conducting research on the anthropology of health, illness, and wellness.

**Gift Funds**

**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 Anthropology Club Fund** supports the activities of the Anthropology Club, which includes camping trips, workshops, and guest speakers each semester. The opportunity to participate in Club activities is critical in fostering the ethic of collegiality and professionalism, which is so important to our Department.

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

**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 who has the highest overall grade point average. Names of former “Smitty” Award winners are prominently displayed on a plaque in the Department.

**The Panamerican Consultants, Inc. Award** is a graduate student paper competition with a monetary prize. Archaeology graduate students submit papers for review by a faculty committee, and the winner receives recognition at our annual Holiday party in December.

**The Evolution Education Fund** supports evolution education activities at the University of Alabama, including the Alabama Lectures on Life’s Evolution (ALLELE) speaker series, Darwin Day activities hosted by the Evolutionary Studies (EvoS) minor and Club, the Speaking Evolution TV series and teacher resource site, and other evolution education-related programs and opportunities.

Checks directed to any of these initiatives should be made out to the University of Alabama and mailed to the dept. address on the back page. If you would like to discuss a contribution, please contact Department Chair Dr. Ian W. Brown (ibrown@ua.edu) or for Social Sciences Kelli Harris (kharris@ua.edu)
Left: Kathy Oths, Mandy Guitar, and Patricia Kelley at the SEEPS Conference in Tuscaloosa, AL.

Bottom Left: Monika Wanis picking figs in her main informant’s front yard in the Negev desert region in Israel.

Bottom Right: Mirjam Holleman taking part in a Living Library during a festival in Lubiąż, Poland.
Right: Graduate students enjoying lunch on graduate student appreciation day.

Bottom Left: Chris Lynn with Omega Rakotomalala, one of our international Anthropology is Elemental partners, in Madagascar this spring.

Bottom Right: Jo Weaver and Nikki Henderson prepare to get in the Bod Pods.
Above Left: Our newest Ph.D. graduates, Dr. Erik Porth and Dr. Rachel Briggs.
Above Right: Wade Tidwell, Taylor Lawhon, and Dr. John Blitz at Xunantunich archaeological site in Belize, while working on Lisa LeCount’s Actuncan Archaeological Project.

Above: Jenna Hurtubise, Courtney Andrews, Nikki Henderson, and Mirjam Holleman on Awards Day.
Center Left: Lynn Funkhouser, Kohl Dothage, and Chris Lynn enjoying the AAPA Conference.
Bottom Left: John Blitz gets the baby in the king cake!