Academic year 2016-2017 has been exciting. We welcomed Dr. Buchanan, added lab resources, and revised the curriculum. We will roll out new courses in the fall, Bioarchaeology and Applied & Practicing Anthropology, with others to follow. This modified curriculum brings greater flexibility and choices to students and provides an authentic liberal arts experience through quality opportunities for research and career-building as well as small sections of ANTH 1000 for CLA learning communities.

Auburn Anthropology has always been a close-knit community. We are proud of our current 41 majors and five minors and former students who have secured fellowships/grants and gone on to academic and professional programs at Oxford, Duke, Emory, Chicago, Alabama, Southern Mississippi, and other universities. Our students regularly pursue graduate degrees in anthropology or in the public health, law, and business professions. Some alumni are working in exciting positions abroad as EFL teachers and in international development; others are employed in Cultural Resource Management.

Whatever your interest, we provide a solid four-field education and help you develop a practical skillset that is invaluable in any career. We encourage and support students to acquire additional skills, such as foreign language proficiency, and experience such as study abroad, archaeological field school, GIS and 3D printing, and forensics. We support student-faculty research collaboration and promote opportunities for funded research. Anthropology students and faculty also work closely with others in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work through community outreach across the state, such as CSI Auburn and Expressions of a Brave Heart.

Auburn Anthropological Society
Hadden Bennett, Editor and outgoing AAS President

This past year, the Auburn Anthropological Society (AAS) has had the privilege of hosting fun events and interacting with the community in new ways. With 54 active members, the AAS has hosted career anthropologists, such as Stacye Hathorne, Alabama State Archaeologist at the Alabama Historical Commission, and several Auburn alumni. AAS members have participated in community engagement by volunteering for Pioneer Day, and in the university-wide Big Event. This past year AAS has shown its members the ropes of applying to graduate programs and finding their employment niche, and educating about how an anthropology degree can add value to virtually any career.
FACULTY PUBLICATIONS 2016-2017

Professor Kelly D. Alley


Assoc. Prof. Kristrina A. Shuler

Hodge SC, Shuler KA. Bioarchaeology of the Southeast: Bridging Bones and Behavior. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press. (Under Contract)


Assoc. Prof. Arianne M. Gaetano


Asst. Prof. Meghan Buchanan

Visiting Asst. Prof. Christopher Berk

Palawa Kani and the Value of Language in Aboriginal Tasmania. Oceania 87(1): 2-

FACULTY PRESENTATIONS & TALKS

Dr. Alley presented, Modes of Governance in India’s Hydropower Development at the Borders Conference in Katmandu. She served as a panelist for a discussion on Religion and Climate Change funded by the Henry Luce Foundation, convened at the Center for Latin American Studies at American University, and in Delhi, India. Dr. Gaetano presented, Leftover Women: Postponing Marriage and Negotiating Womanhood in China, at the Workshop on Marriage and the Family in China, by the Global China Studies at City University of Hong Kong and China Studies at Xi-an Jiaotong-Liverpool University. She presented, Chinese Transnational Education Migration and Changing Perspectives of Self and Social Relationships at the American Anthropological Association 115th annual meeting in Minneapolis, and also presented, Renegotiation of Gender and Intergenerational Identities, Roles, and Relations in Urban China, to the 93d Meeting of the Alabama Academy of Science, at the University of North Alabama at Florence. She presented on Human Trafficking in Alabama and Beyond to the League of Women Voters of East Alabama and introduced her recent book, Out to Work: Migration, Gender, and the Changing Lives of Rural Women in Contemporary China (U of HI Press: 2015) at Auburn University.

Dr. Buchanan presented several papers at the Midwest Archaeological Conference: The Angel Foodways Project: Piloting New Research with Legacy Collections with April K. Sievert, Dru McGill, Melody Popp, and Elizabeth Watts Malouchos; Partnering for the Past: GBL Collaborations with Local Institutions, with Elizabeth Watts Malouchos; and Tempering Typologies: Implications of Identifying Mixed-Tempered Ceramics, with Elizabeth Watts Malouchos. Dr. Berk organized the panel, Materiality, Belonging, and the Activation of Difference, and presented, “We Are Living Our Culture and Learning Our Culture”: Material Culture, Community, and Meaning in Aboriginal Tasmania, at the American Anthropological Association 115th annual meeting in Minneapolis. He also presented, “We Are Living Our Culture and Learning Our Culture”: Cultural Politics and Revitalization in Aboriginal Tasmania, at Auburn University.

Faculty Grants & Awards
Dr. Alley is a co-PI on a $2 million grant proposal under review with the Gulf Research Program and Robert Woods Johnson Foundation for the project Resilient Clean Water Infrastructure: Combatting Social and Health Disparities in Underserved Gulf Communities.

Dr. Alley is the PI on a 2016-2018 ($252,798) grant funded by the National Science Foundation Cultural Anthropology Program for the project Investigating the Potential for Decentralized Institutions, Technologies, and Governance to Meet the Wastewater Challenge.

Dr. Shuler was awarded a competitive Auburn University Biggio Center Re (Design) Development Grant in 2016 for active learning centered revisions to ANTH 1000.

Dr. Buchanan was awarded a competitive Auburn University Biggio Center Re (Design) Development Grant in 2017 to adapt ANTH 1000 for a CLA learning community.
Where Are They Now? Alumni Interviews

By Tatum Manning

Hamilton H. Bryant III

After graduation, “I applied to the Geographic Information Systems certificate program at Auburn University Montgomery. In 2014, after finishing my certificate at AUM, I applied to the Master’s program in Anthropology at the University of Mississippi. Currently, I’m in Auburn finishing my thesis. Additionally, I am working for Wiregrass Archaeological Consulting, LLC.”

Dr. Cameron Wesson

“After graduating I went to graduate school at the University of Illinois-Urbana. While in graduate school I worked for several contract firms and the Army Corps of Engineers conducting archaeological research throughout the Midwest. Auburn’s Anthropology program gave me a solid foundation for everything I have accomplished in my career.”

Mary Wernette

Since graduating from Auburn in 2015, Mary has begun working at the Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology at Indiana University. She works as a laboratory technician, conducting a foodways analysis of zooarchaeological remains as well as ceramics recovered from the Mississippian site. Mary has also had the opportunity to work on mapping a local archaeological site. Next, Mary plans to pursue graduate school for anthropology in North Carolina.

DID YOU KNOW?

These Celebrities and Influencers Are Anthropologists!

By Tatum Manning

Ann Dunham: Mother of former President Barack Obama. Studied economics in rural Indonesia.

Jim Yong Kim: President of the World Bank. Obtained an M.D. in medicine and a Ph.D. in anthropology from Harvard University.

Thandie Newton: Actress. Studied social anthropology at Downing College in University of Cambridge.

Kurt Vonnegut: Best selling Author who studied anthropology at the University of Chicago.
STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS

By Hadden Bennett

The Anthropology Program is proud to announce the student recipients of prestigious fellowships and scholarships for the 2017-2018 school year.

Kyle McLaughlin has been awarded a competitive AU Undergraduate Research Fellowship for the 2017—2018 school year. He has also been awarded a Harmon Scholarship. His dedication and passion for discovery are truly outstanding.

Andrew Patterson, who has served as Treasurer for the Auburn Anthropological Society this past year, has been awarded two prestigious archeological scholarships for the 2017—2018 school year: a Harmon Scholarship and the Cottier Memorial Scholarship. Andrew plans to work at the Cahokia Mounds in the summer for his archaeological field school.

Congratulations and keep up the good work, Kyle and Andrew!

STUDENT RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

By Hadden Bennett

A student’s curiosity can lead to many places. Auburn University and the Anthropology Program encourage and take pride in student-faculty research projects. Here are some that are currently being explored by our students.

Terrance Jones

In a quick interview, sophomore Terrance Jones said: “I am currently working for Professor Alley to assist with her research on the Ganges River in India. The most recent work I have done is plotting points along the river using ArcGIS onto a map.” Here is a graphic of the Ganges:

Corey Gibbs

Junior Corey Gibbs is working on acquiring IRB approval from the university to conduct research on Filipino women, immigration, and identity. He presented his research design at the This Is Auburn student research symposium, and is working closely with faculty advisor Dr. Gaetano on this project.

Kyle McLaughlin

Kyle is a junior working alongside Dr. Shuler with the program’s new 3-D printer. He tells us, “With Dr. Shuler’s help, my research will aim to diminish this margin of error by comparing sets of bones that we have scan and printed for accuracies and inaccuracies. This research will be the foundation for future research that relies on the 3D scanner or printer.”
The most important thing I’ve learned from my time spent at Auburn is to surround yourself with people who are interesting and challenge you to be your best self.” - Hadden Bennett

AUBURN’S ANTHROPOLOGY LABORATORIES

Auburn’s Anthropology Laboratories provide students with unique opportunities for training and research, particularly in archaeology and biological anthropology. Through hands-on experience, students can learn standard curation practices and gain training in artifact analyses, human osteology, and forensic anthropology. Our teaching collections include a variety of archaeological type collections as well as cast reproductions of human skeletal materials and ancient hominins. We recently acquired some exciting state-of-the-art equipment, including a Makerbot 3D printer, Next Engine 3D scanner, and a Dino Lite Handheld Digital Microscope, all of which is being used for original research on archaeological and biological materials. Field equipment such as a total station and a newly purchased gradiometer will facilitate field training and research, and we hope to add additional resources over the coming year. The department’s computer lab is equipped with SPSS and GIS software. At right is a photo of the printer creating a 3D replica of a human mandible as part of a student research project.

LAST THOUGHTS: GRADUATING SENIORS

By Hannah Miles

Hadden Bennett

“After I graduate, I plan to attend the University of Alabama’s Mander son MBA program and specialize in strategic marketing and management. The people in the anthropology program were integral in my successes and learning throughout these past four years.”

Cas Schley

“Unless I royally mess up this semester I will be graduating Summa Cum Laude. Upon my graduation I will be moving to San Diego where I will be stationed on the USS New Orleans. I will be an officer in the Surface Warfare Community. After a few years, the Navy will pay for my graduate degree and I hope to study marine archaeology.”

Kaylee Burgan

“Starting the fall of 2017, I will be attending the University of Memphis to achieve my Masters in Applied Anthropology with a concentration in Medical Anthropology and Public Health. I have been fortunate enough to receive an assistant ship that covers my full tuition and stipend that last my entire course of study at U of M. I owe my successes to my dedication to the field and the wonderful professors who have helped me along the way.”

NEW AAS OFFICERS

2017 – 2018

Congratulations and welcome to the new officers of the Auburn Anthropological Society for the 2017 – 2018 school year!

President: Andrew Patterson
Vice President: Corey Gibbs
Treasurer: Josh Davis
Secretary: Spencer Massey
Social Media: Hannah Miles
WHY ANTHROPOLOGY?

By Kaylee Burgan

While some may discount the discipline of anthropology and misrepresent anthropologists as just “Indiana Jones wannabes,” those seeking a degree in the field have an array of opportunities ahead of them. The skills acquired during undergraduate and postgraduate studies train anthropologists to become vital assets to any career field, as they provide advantages that most other fields do not. The work of an anthropologist is not simple or limited, and the lessons they are taught and teach go far beyond what can be learned in a classroom.

Among these skills are clear and precise record-keeping, attention to detail, analytical reading, critical thinking, and the ability to adapt to unfamiliar situations. In order to do the job effectively and communicate well with others, anthropologists must be able to observe and understand what others say and don’t say, what they do and don’t do, and what human remains or the remains of a village reveal about that person or place. Analytical reading and critical thinking allow anthropologists to read between the lines and to address biases, whether they belong to others or to the anthropologist.

From these many acquired skills, there is no lack of opportunities open to anthropologists. The American Anthropological Association (AAA) reports that there are four main career paths for anthropology graduates, including: academic careers, business/corporate careers, government careers, and non-profit/community-based careers. In a similar fashion to the foundations of the discipline itself, one of the major advantages of anthropology as a career field is its emphasis on diversity, inclusion, compassion, and understanding.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that as of 2015, the median pay for an anthropologist is $61,220 per year or $29.43 per hour. Unlike other fields that require a BA, anthropologists typically hold a MA or PhD, which allows for further training and specialization within one of the four fields. Job prospects favor candidates who hold a PhD and have extensive fieldwork and research experience. Employment is projected to grow 4% until 2024, with demand for work in the study of human life, history, and culture, and with anthropologists who can apply this knowledge to current global issues and events.

How Do You Human?

By Josh Davis

The “How Do You Human” campaign was an initiative and event coordinated by the Auburn Anthropological Society during 2016 fall at Auburn University. The campaign aimed to engage students and share with others their ideas of what it means to be human. Many students were asked the question: “What do you think it means to be human?” The answers by the students (and others who participated in the event) varied greatly. In efforts to explicitly tell their stories in one sentence or less, participants were asked to write on a sticky note something that not many people knew about them or something that they wish people knew about them. The students would share with each other and the members of the society their secrets and interesting facts about themselves by posting their sticky notes on the section of our billboard on the campus concourse, pictured at left. These anonymous notes served as a way to look past the obvious differences of people on our campus and to learn how to relate to each other by exploring what it means to be human. This campaign was part of a broader movement of the Auburn Anthropological Society to take an active role in diversity and inclusion on campus.