

ANTHROPOLOGY NEWSLETTER



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 1st - April 30th- *Unwritten: Archaeology & Oral History of Jim Crow Mobile*, temporary exhibit on display until April 30th at the Archaeology Museum

January 29th- I-10 Mobile River Bridge talk in Gulf State Park's Winter Showcase series at 10:30 (visit <https://www.gulfshores.com/showcase/> for more information)

February 6th- "They Are Not Forgotten: Working with Historic Cemeteries" with Jennifer Melcher, UWF Archaeology Institute (Archaeology Museum)

February 8th- Down the Bay Project talk at 10:30 at the Kathryn Tucker Windham Museum at Coastal Alabama Community College in Thomasville, AL


March 21st- SAS presents guest speaker Dr. Jan Simek (time and location TBD)

April 2nd- I-10 Panel at 330pm (Archaeology Museum)


April 26th- Archaeology of Down the Bay opens at the Ben May Library. It will be created by students from the Spring 2024 Museum Methods in Archaeology class.

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MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

ARCHAEOLOGISTS DIG UP 1,400-YEAR-OLD NATIVE AMERICAN CANAL IN ALABAMA

In October 2023, Megan Gannon wrote an article for the Smithsonian Magazine that featured professor emeritus Dr. Gregory Waselkov! The article, “Archaeologist Dig Up 1,400-Year-Old Native American Canal in Alabama,” discusses the discovery of a canal constructed by Native Americans who lived in the area during the Middle Woodland period. Native Americans in the area were not agriculturalists, they would have relied on fish and flora in the area. The canal would have allowed for better fishing access and trade routes.

Check out the full article on the [Smithsonian Magazine website!](#)



Archaeologists Dig Up 1,400-Year-Old Native American Canal in Alabama

The nearly mile-long structure allowed inhabitants to paddle to rich fishing grounds and access trade routes

 Smithsonian Magazine / Sep 30, 2022

ANTHROPOLOGY ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT- BILLY BAILEY

Where are you from and what degree(s) have you obtained?

I am from Atmore, Alabama, Poarch Band of Creek Indians. I have obtained a B.S. in Anthropology focusing more towards Archaeology, and a minor in Native American Studies.

What made you go into your chosen degree(s)?

Being that I am Native American I have always been raised around Native Culture. In addition, Native Culture and History have always fascinated me. I felt it was just a good fit for me.

What is your favorite memory from when you were a student at South Alabama?

I have many awesome memories. But my first field school is my favorite. It was when I figured out that I really enjoyed archaeology.

What is your current career position?

I work as a Tribal Historic Preservation Specialist for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

What does a typical day at work look like?

My job keeps me on my toes. I am always busy speaking about Creek History and working to preserve that history, whether it be through presentations or working to preserve prehistorical and historical sites.

What advice would you give current students studying anthropology?

Keep in mind, as an anthropologist, that most of the cultures you will be studying have living descendants. Respect these descendants and include them in your studies as much as possible. Speak with them and ask for their views and feelings on the subject you are studying. Most of them would be happy to give you their input. Take that information and use it when writing your reports or any papers you write.



FACULTY/ STAFF CHECK-IN- DR. LINDA SANCHEZ

Dr. Linda Sanchez is our newest Anthropology faculty at South! Dr. Sanchez was born in Mexico and grew up in California. She obtained her PhD in Anthropology from the University of California, Irvine. She will be teaching Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (in-person and online) and Political Anthropology in Spring 2024!



Tell me about yourself.

I am passionate about anthropology (the study of humans through time and space), and I discovered anthropology in community college by chance. Like many of the students at South, I am a first-generation college student, and I am very proud to be the first in my family to go to college. Being able to teach anthropology was always my dream job. So, now I get to do something I love every day, and I could not be happier!

Tell me about your research interests and why you are passionate about this topic?

My research examines immigration and how the law affects people's everyday lives. My current research focuses on individuals who have Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or who qualified for DACA, but were not able to benefit from the program for various reasons (such as not having enough money to apply). DACA is a 2012 executive order that gave some undocumented individuals relief from deportation and a 2-year renewable work permit provided they met certain criteria. These individuals are often referred to as "Dreamers." I am passionate about this topic because I have friends who were not able to get DACA, and I witnessed how they were further excluded from society. I actually have DACA myself so this is a topic that is very personal. With my research, I aim to bring what anthropologists call "an insider's perspective" to this issue, as well as bring about change for more inclusive policy.

What do you want the public to know about your research?

There are a lot of misconceptions about immigration issues. So, please be cautious of where you get information from. For example, there is a huge misconception that immigrants do not pay taxes. Ever heard of the following quote from Benjamin Franklin? "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes"? This applies to immigrants too (with and without legal status)! Also, when immigrants apply for legal status, they are often forced to wait decades for a visa (especially if you are from China, India, the Philippines, or Mexico). While "waiting" for immigration services to get to your number, you are still considered "undocumented" and have very little access to resources (but you still have to pay taxes!!).

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I enjoy doing a lot of different things. One of my favorite things to do is go dancing. I love all kinds of dancing, but I would say my two favorite kinds are cumbia and belly dancing. Sailing is also something I enjoy, especially racing. Classic cars (in particular 1968 Camaros) have my heart, and I love going to car shows. In my free time, I also like the following: reading for fun, hiking, learning French, museums, live performances, exploring Mobile and its surrounding areas, museums, Art Walk, and much more (so, no time for TV or Netflix, I don't even own a TV)!

What is the most helpful advice you have been given?

Don't leave anything for a "special occasion"! My dear friend and old roommate, Jenny Gendel gave me this piece of advice. At the age of 38 years old, she was unfortunately given 6 months to live because of cancer. She would always say this to me. Don't save your best shoes or a beautiful dress for a special occasion, every day is a special occasion!

ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM UPDATES

New Temporary Exhibit! *Unwritten: Archaeology & Oral History of Jim Crow Mobile*

Unwritten tells the stories of three Black families from different parts of Mobile. Through unwritten sources, like archaeology and oral history, we learn how the Owens, Lewis, and Griffin families navigated Jim Crow, created businesses, and contributed to their communities. It is on display in the lobby of the Archaeology Museum through April 30, 2024.

Unwritten features collections from past archaeological projects in Mobile. The home of the Griffin Family, located off the Avenue, was excavated in the 1990s before the construction of Calloway-Smith Middle School. It is written in the monograph *The Archaeology of An African-American Neighborhood in Mobile, Alabama* by Bonnie Gums in 1998.



Mapping excavations at the site of Calloway-Smith Middle School.

The home of the Owens Family was excavated in 2021-2022 as part of the I-10 Mobile River Bridge Archaeology Project. They lived in a house at 906 S. Franklin Street for over six decades, leaving behind a trash pit containing over 3,000 artifacts (left). The exhibit also features the story of the Lewis Family from Africatown; the Joseph Lewis house was excavated by archaeologists from William and Mary in 2010.



A trash pit feature excavated at the former Owens Family property.

CENTER FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES UPDATES

Most of the CAS staff have been working on the [I-10 Mobile River Bridge Archaeology Project](#), the largest single funded-project in CAS history, for the past few years. Phase III excavation was conducted at 15 archaeological sites along the I-10 corridor; while fieldwork ended in June 2023, lab work is ongoing. These 15 sites span Mobile Bay's past with contexts from the Woodland period into the 20th century. CAS partnered with the McCall Library for the “Down the Bay Oral History Project” to collect memories of the neighborhood. The I-10 project has provided current students with hands-on archaeological experience and recent graduates with job opportunities.

You can learn more about the project by following the [blog](#) on the CAS website and on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#).



C. Kirk (of Wiregrass Archaeological Consulting) and CAS staff members Sarah Mattics and Emily Warner excavate a double privy at 1MB552, the [Old Water Street site](#)

CAS staff also work on other projects, such as the long standing work with the US Forest Service. Two archaeological field surveys are ongoing in De Soto and Conecuh National Forests. Furthermore, CAS has a partnership with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians that has created multiple projects.

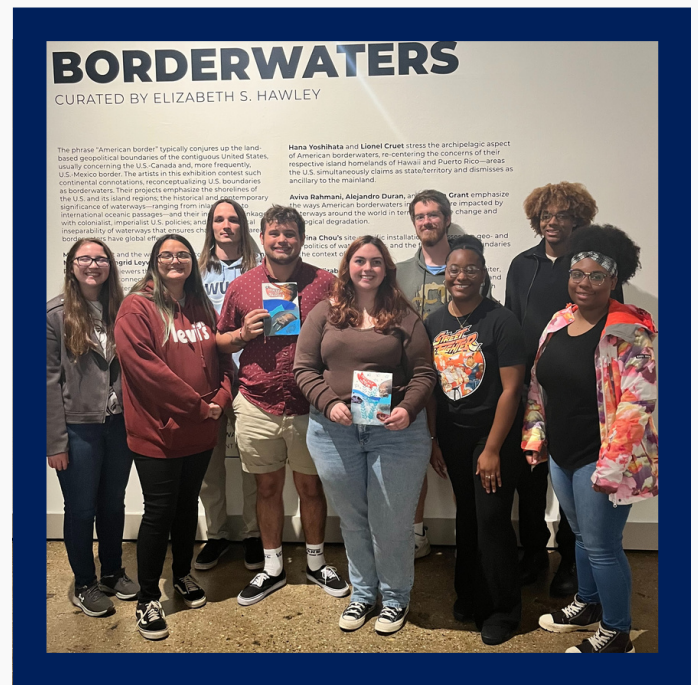
STUDENT NEWS



STUDENT ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY



The Student Anthropological Society has had a great Fall 2023! By hosting group study nights, like our “Night at the museum,” and fun game nights, “Kahoot Anthropology Trivia,” we helped build the anthropology community at south. SAS members volunteered at multiple events on campus; including, Halloween at the Museum and Archaeology Day. We took a trip downtown to see a new exhibit, **BOARDERWATERS**, open at the Alabama Contemporary Art Center. SAS is partnering with the anthropology department to bring Jan Simek to campus for a talk, stay tuned for updates. Be sure to check out our new logo!



FLINTKNAPPING CLUB



New club on campus!

Flintknapping teaches the art of stone tool crafting. Using traditional and modern tools, students are invited to create arrowheads, spearheads, and more. Join meetings to get involved with the art of flintknapping!

SPRING SEMESTER:
SATURDAYS 3PM-5PM



NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION (NASA)



The Native American Student Association (NASA) kicked off the 2023-2024 academic year with several recruiting events over the summer, gaining interest and visibility across campus. This Fall, NASA met once a month and presented several community projects, meetings, and activities for our members to get involved with. Starting in September, we participated in the annual Coastal Cleanup. In October, we attended the Choctaw Nation Pottery events and presentations, had a presence at the USA Archaeology Day, as well as, attended the LODA Art walk during Native American Heritage month in November.

For the Spring, we plan to continue holding monthly meetings, as well as hope to hold a craft skills event and demonstration. One of the larger events we plan to be involved in is the Multicultural Fest and Fashion Show in April hosted by Jaguar Productions and Global USA. Our first meeting of the semester will be in January. Please monitor the Daily Digest for the date, time, and location. All are welcome to attend!



If you're interested in signing up to receive email communications, please fill out our interest form here:

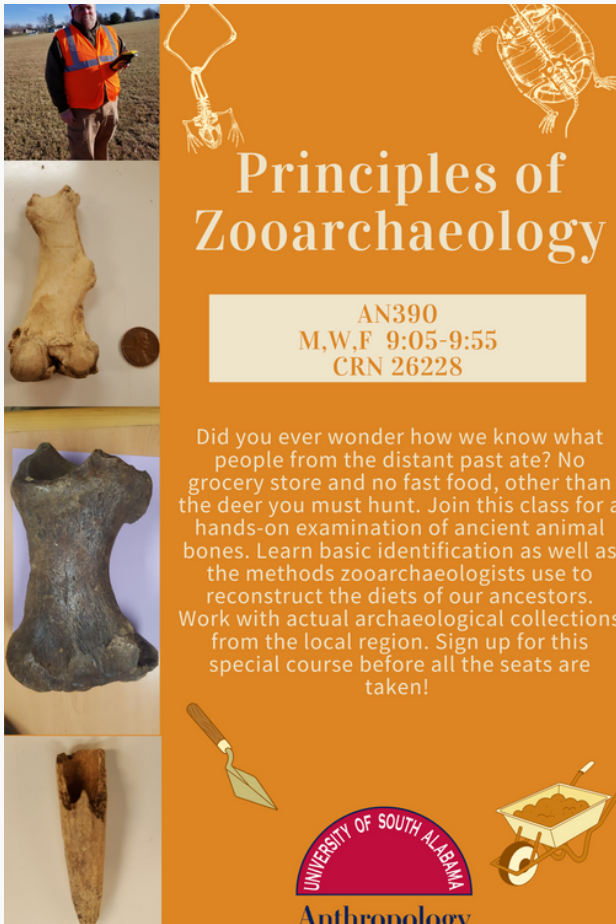
Native American Student Association - [USA Interest Form](#)

UPDATES

Check out the three new courses being offered spring 2023!

PRINCIPLES OF ZOOARCHAEOLOGY
AN 390
M,W,F 9:05-9:55


MUSEUM METHODS IN ARCHAEOLOGY
AN 435
FRIDAYS 12:20-2:50



Principles of Zooarchaeology

AN390
M,W,F 9:05-9:55
CRN 26228

Did you ever wonder how we know what people from the distant past ate? No grocery store and no fast food, other than the deer you must hunt. Join this class for a hands-on examination of ancient animal bones. Learn basic identification as well as the methods zooarchaeologists use to reconstruct the diets of our ancestors. Work with actual archaeological collections from the local region. Sign up for this special course before all the seats are taken!



The poster features a vertical strip of images on the left: a person in an orange vest in a field, a large bone, a dark bone, and a tusk. The background is orange with white line drawings of a skeleton and a turtle. At the bottom, there is a shovel and a wheelbarrow.



**AN 435:
MUSEUM METHODS
IN ARCHAEOLOGY**

Spring 2024
Fridays from 12:20-2:50 pm

In this class, we'll:

- Learn about curation
- Create a museum exhibit
- Take field trips to museums

Register using CRN 24907
Prerequisite: AN 100 or 101 or instructor approval
Instructor: Rachel Hines
Email rhines@southalabama.edu for more info



The poster has a dark blue background with a light yellow museum gallery scene. It shows framed artifacts: a vase, a rock, a Coca-Cola bottle, a cup, and a portrait. A red stanchion with a pink rope is in the foreground.

NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURES
AN 340
M,W,F 11:15-12:20



**NATIVE
AMERICAN
CULTURES**

AN 340
M, W, F 11:15 - 12:50
CRN 25414

The poster features a light tan background with illustrations of a bird, a corn cob, a deer, and acorns. The text is in a bold, sans-serif font.



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