

# MUSEUM CHRONICLE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA MUSEUMS

FALL 2018 • NO. 59



Gorgas House  
Helps Celebrate  
**125 Years** of  
Women

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Hodges Meteorite  
Goes to Paris

MUSEUM  
EXPEDITION  
CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

# MUSEUM CHRONICLE

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The Museum Chronicle is published once each fall and spring semester, and provided as a benefit to our members. We welcome your suggestions and comments. Please send address changes and correspondence to Doug Killough, The University of Alabama, Box 870268, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0268; (205) 348-8364; drkillough@ua.edu.

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# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

WILLIAM F. BOMAR, PH.D.

I believe that people like to reflect on the past because it provides perspective on how far we have come, or how far we need to go. We look to the past as we seek to shape our future. Science, history, and even art often intersect during these times of reflection as we realize their interconnectedness through time.

We tend to reflect on the past when we reach milestones in the lives of our families, communities, and the institutions that are important to us. Next year, 2019, marks the Bicentennial of not only our state, but Tuscaloosa. The University of Alabama Museums has been active in the enormous celebration of the State of Alabama's Bicentennial in a variety of ways. Each of our Museums participates in the Alabama Bicentennial PastPort program and hundreds of people have been visiting to get their PastPort books stamped. In addition, the Moundville Native American Festival has just been named an official Alabama Bicentennial event and our public television show, *Discovering Alabama*, released a fantastic new episode on Alabama State Capitals, and has another Alabama history-related episode in production.

UA Museums is also very involved in the planning for the year-long Tuscaloosa Bicentennial celebration in 2019. Besides serving on the Tuscaloosa Bicentennial Commission, UA Museums staff members are planning a series of changing exhibits about Tuscaloosa's history based on excavations conducted by the UA Museums' Office of Archaeological Research at the site of the Tuscaloosa Embassy Suites Hotel. The exhibits are scheduled for November 2018 through January 2021 at our own Warner Transportation Museum. A teaser exhibit has already been placed as a preview in the Embassy Suites lobby.

Speaking of milestones, this issue of the Museum Chronicle highlights some big ones for UA Museums. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Alabama Museum of Natural History's Museum Expedition program, and the 30th anniversary of the Moundville Native American Festival. I never tire of hearing the stories of people whose lives were shaped by the Museum Expedition, people who decided to become an archaeologist,



geologist, or paleontologist because of the exposure they had to field science through this special program. This year is a milestone year for me as well as it is my 20th year with UA Museums. Over these 20 years, I have been blessed to develop close friendships with some of our Native American guests at the Moundville Native American Festival. I also never tire of hearing their stories about how special the Moundville site is to them, and how they view the festival as an annual "homecoming."

We have also had another opportunity to reflect and look ahead. The University of Alabama Museums has spent the last year merging with the College of Arts and Sciences, and we are well positioned to chart an exciting future. This

merger has resulted in increased collaboration on programs, exhibits, and research with faculty, especially in the departments of history, anthropology, biological sciences, and geological sciences. Our Museum Studies Graduate Certificate Program is growing, and will soon be offered as a non-thesis option for art history master's students who want to go into museum work. Finally with the move to the College of Arts and Sciences, we are extremely excited about the move of the Paul R. Jones Museum of Art to the UA Museums family, further expanding our reach into the community while greatly expanding the breadth of our subject matter. The Museums staff and I are excited about the future. As members of The University of Alabama Museums, I hope you are too!

Sincerely,

Bill Bomar



## MEET THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE GORGAS HOUSE MUSEUM

*We are pleased to introduce you to our new Gorgas House Museum Director, though many of you may already know him. Brandon Thompson has spent the past 10 years at the UA Museums' Office of Archaeological Research.*

During his time at OAR, he served as an archaeologist, and played a key role in public archaeology through various outreach activities, not the least of which was the Alabama Museum of Natural History's Museum Expedition program. Prior to that, Brandon's entry into museum work actually came as a work-study student working in our natural history collections starting in 2004. Brandon has expressed some very innovative ideas for the Gorgas House, and for continuing and expanding our recent successes in collaboration with a variety of academic departments at UA. We are confident that the Gorgas House Museum will continue to thrive and grow under his leadership. Welcome to the Gorgas House Museum, Brandon.

# AMERICORPS TEAM JOINS MOUNDVILLE FAMILY



**BY ALEX BENITEZ, PH. D.,**  
MOUNDVILLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK DIRECTOR

As Spring 2018 approached and many college students were looking forward to their upcoming Spring Break, AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) Delta 4 team members were preparing to embark on their seventh service project in eight months: renovating infrastructure at Moundville Archaeological Park. Over the next four weeks, the nine members of Delta 4 constructed new walking paths at the campground, repainted the campground bath house, built new arbors for the Native American Festival, and completely renovated the exterior of facilities near the river bank. A few team members even volunteered to assist with the annual cleaning of the Jones Archaeological Museum's central exhibit. The work was fast paced and very productive, but little did Park staff know what Delta 4 had already accomplished.

Brought together by a sense of civic responsibility and a commitment to community service, Delta 4 team members arrived in Vicksburg, Mississippi, in July 2017 from across the United States and the U.S. Virgin Islands to begin training at the NCCC Southern Region headquarters. Some had graduated college, while others had just completed high school or were earning their GEDs.

By the time they arrived at Moundville in March 2018, they had traveled across the Southeast repairing homes for low-income families in Birmingham, twice provided disaster relief in Florida after hurricane Irma, renovated homes after South Carolina's "thousand-year flood," removed invasive plants in an abandoned African-American cemetery, and worked on urban and rural development projects in Mississippi. Delta 4 had become a seasoned crew capable of accomplishing just about anything.

As the last stop on their seven-part journey, Moundville Archaeological Park also brought them full circle to their starting point: Alabama. It was a fitting final stop and point of reflection for a group of individuals who did not know each other a year ago, but who now knew each other's strengths, weaknesses, quirks,

histories and plans for the future. As team member Molly Huhn noted, "You do not get to pick them, but by the end they are your family. Being thrown into a 24/7 living situation with 10 strangers can be daunting. You not only have to work together, but at the end of the day you live together, too."

"There are challenges in that because everyone is different in the way they handle new people, living conditions, their work days, or conflict within and outside of their Ameri-life. One second, you will all be so stressed out with each other, and the next you are joking around like you have known each other for years—just as any family would."

By the time they departed the Park, they had also become part of the Moundville family.

Such selfless giving of time and energy has many origins. "Members join AmeriCorps NCCC for many reasons: as a way to give back, to better themselves, or to advance and grow in their skills for future careers," Huhn said. Chris Henderson, of Delta 4, joined NCCC after receiving disaster aid in his hometown of Monroe, Louisiana. His town is often affected by flood damage and he remembers seeing men and women wearing gray shirts with NCCC on the back helping to restore homes and help survivors get back into their homes. Chris joined as a way to give back, but it was also a way for him to make a better life.

"AmeriCorps has given me and my team opportunities and connections to people I would have never had the chance to meet," Huhn said "Being here in Moundville, I have learned about parts of history I never had a real knowledge of, gained new skills, and worked with a group of sponsors that have given us unforgettable experiences. I am proud of the work we have done, and I hope that it continues to help the Park grow."

After a farewell cookout, Delta 4 eventually departed for their final graduation in Vicksburg, Mississippi. There is no doubt that they will all move on to bigger things in their lives, but their contributions to the Park will be enjoyed by visitors for years to come.

# BICENTENNIAL EXHIBITS COMING TO WARNER TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM

BY KATHERINE EDGE,  
WARNER TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM DIRECTOR

The Mildred Westervelt Warner Transportation Museum is proud to partner with the Office of Archaeological Research to host the first installment of the Bicentennial Exhibit series.

The three-year series will begin in fall 2018 and will feature a custom exhibit focusing on the 2013 archaeological excavations of the first inhabited block of the new town of Tuscaloosa in 1819. The site is located at the corner of Greensboro Avenue and University Boulevard, where Embassy Suites Hotel now stands.

The first exhibition, entitled Tuscaloosa and the Capital Period: The Bicentennial Exhibit, Part I, will discuss the archaeological excavations, highlight the artifacts recovered dating from 1819 to 1850, and showcase the stories of several prominent first Tuscaloosans. It also features several founders of Tuscaloosa, including John Click, Dorian Ball and Augustin Lynch.

A small exhibit featuring several artifacts is currently on display at the Embassy Suites Hotel that provides a glimpse into the intricacies of the site and what we hope to accomplish over the three-year project. Each fall season from 2018 through 2020, a custom exhibition will focus on a period of Tuscaloosa's history that was discovered from this site including the earliest known Tuscaloosa history, Tuscaloosa during the Civil War, and Tuscaloosa during the industrialization of the 20th century.

Visit the Warner Transportation Museum each fall season from 2018 through 2020 to experience Tuscaloosa's history like never before. We are grateful for the generous financial support of Mr. Tom McMillan and the College of Arts and Sciences for making this exhibition series possible.



# T. REX SKULL COMING TO THE ALABAMA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY



This fall, visitors of the Alabama Museum of Natural History will encounter a new dinosaur exhibit featuring the complete skull and lower jaw of a *Tyrannosaurus rex*, one of the largest and best-known species of theropod dinosaurs.

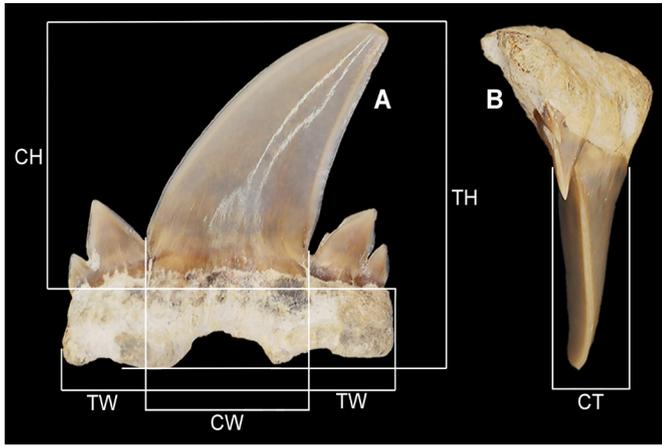
The skull cast was recently donated to UA Museums by Dr. Kraig Derstler from the University of New Orleans, with assistance from his former student, Dr. Rebecca Totten Minzoni, who is now an assistant professor in UA's Department of Geological Sciences.

The skull in the new exhibit is a reproduction of a famous *T. rex* skull that was discovered and excavated by Barnum Brown in 1908, and comes from the Hell Creek Formation (upper Cretaceous age deposits) of Montana. The original skull was the first complete skull of this

dinosaur species ever found, and has been on display at the American Museum of Natural History for almost a century.

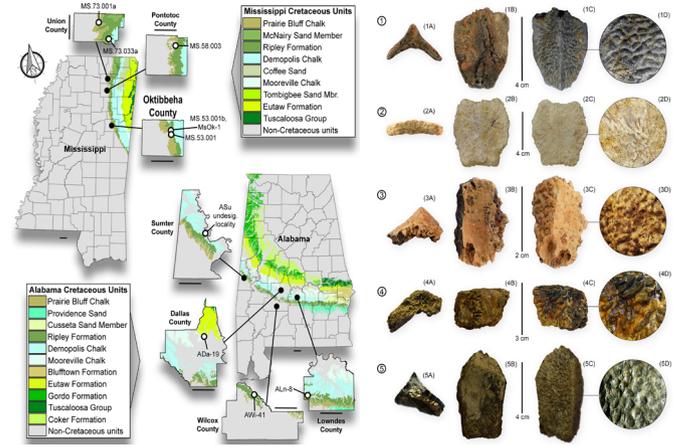
The cast was previously used as a teaching aid for many years, and prior to going on display, needed some minor repairs, as well as a new paint job. To accomplish these tasks, the museum employed the services of John Maisano, an artist based in Austin, Texas, who has previously worked with similar paleontological displays at the Texas Memorial Museum at the University of Texas, at Austin.

Working from his art studio, Maisano completed all the repairs, and was able to reference other *T. rex* fossil material from the UT Austin collection to match the paint colors used on our cast to those of actual fossilized bone and surrounding matrix for other *T. rex* specimens.



A new species of *Cretalamna sensu stricto* (Lamniformes, Otodontidae) from the Late Cretaceous (Santonian-Campanian) of Alabama, USA by J.A. Ebersole & D.J. Ehret, published in PeerJ 6:e4229. <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.4229>

Decades of collecting from exposures of the Upper Cretaceous Tombigbee Sand Member of the Eutaw Formation and Mooreville Chalk in Alabama, USA has produced large numbers of isolated *Cretalamna sensu stricto* teeth. Many of these teeth had formerly been assigned to the extinct Late Cretaceous shark *Cretalamna appendiculata* (Agassiz, 1843), a taxon that is now considered largely restricted to the Turonian of Europe. Recent studies have shed light on the diversity of Late Cretaceous *Cretalamna* (*s.s.*) taxa, and here we recognize a new species from Alabama, *Cretalamna bryanti*. The teeth of *C. bryanti* sp. nov. appear aligned with the members of the *Cretalamna borealis* species group, but can be distinguished from these other species by a combination of the following: anterior teeth with a more pronounced and triangular lingual root protuberance, broader triangular cusp, and a taller root relative to the height of the crown; anteriorly situated lateroposterior teeth have a distally inclined or hooked main cusp and more than one pair of lateral cusplets; and lateroposterior teeth have a strong distally hooked main cusp and a root that is largely symmetrical in basal view. At present, *C. bryanti* sp. nov. is stratigraphically confined to the Santonian/Campanian *Dicarinella asymerica* Sigal, 1952 and *Globotruncanita elevata* Brotzen, 1934 Planktonic Foraminiferal Zones within the Tombigbee Sand Member of the Eutaw Formation and Mooreville Chalk, and teeth have been collected from only four counties in central and western Alabama. The recognition of *C. bryanti* sp. nov. in Alabama adds to our knowledge on the diversity and distribution of Late Cretaceous otodontids in the region.



A new species of *Peritresius* Leidy, 1856 (Testudines: Pan-Cheloniidae) from the Late Cretaceous (Campanian) of Alabama, USA, and the occurrence of the genus within the Mississippi Embayment of North America by A.D. Gentry, J.F. Parham, D.J. Ehret & J.A. Ebersole, published in PLOS ONE 13(4): e0195651, <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0195651>

Late Cretaceous members of *Peritresius* belong to a diverse clade of marine adapted turtles currently thought to be some of the earliest representatives of the lineage leading to modern hard-shelled sea turtles (Pan-Cheloniidae). Prior studies have suggested that *Peritresius* was monospecific, with a distribution restricted to Maastrichtian deposits in North America. However, new *Peritresius* specimens identified from Alabama and Mississippi, USA, show that the genus contains two taxa, *Peritresius ornatus*, and a new species *Peritresius martini* sp. nov. These two taxa are characterized by the presence of a generally cordiform carapace with moderately serrated peripherals, well-developed ventral flanges beginning at the third peripheral, squarish umbilical and lateral plastral fontanelles, and a narrow bridge formed by the contact between the hyoplastron and hypoplastron. *Peritresius martini* sp. nov. can be distinguished by its lack of dermal ornamentation and the presence of a 'rib-free' 10th peripheral. These new specimens represent the first occurrences of *Peritresius* from the Late Cretaceous Mississippi Embayment and extend the temporal range of this genus back to the early Campanian. When tested within a global phylogenetic context, *Peritresius* is placed on the stem of Cheloniidae (Pan-Cheloniidae) along with *Ctenochelys* and *Allopleuron hofmanni*. The heavily vascularized and uniquely sculptured dermal elements of *P. ornatus* are interpreted here as potentially relating to thermoregulation and therefore may have been one of the key factors contributing to the survival of *Peritresius* into the Maastrichtian, a period of cooling when other lineages of Campanian marine turtles (e.g., *Protostegids*, *Toxochelys*, and *Ctenochelys*) went extinct.

## PALEONTOLOGY COLLECTION PUBLISHED

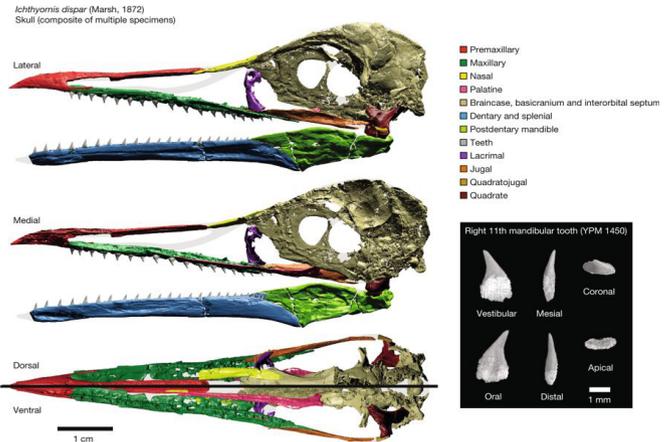
BY J.C. ABBOTT, PH.D.

MUSEUM RESEARCH AND COLLECTIONS DIRECTOR



A new coelodont anterior tooth plate from the Mississippian of Alabama (USA) having implications for the origin of tooth plates from tooth files by W. Itano & L.L. Lambert, published in *Zoological Letters* 4(12), <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40851-018-0097-8>

Paleozoic holocephalian tooth plates are rarely found articulated in their original positions. When they are found isolated, it is difficult to associate the small, anterior tooth plates with the larger, more posterior ones. Tooth plates are presumed to have evolved from fusion of tooth files. However, there is little fossil evidence for this hypothesis. We report a tooth plate having nearly perfect bilateral symmetry from the Mississippian (Chesterian Stage) Bangor Limestone of Franklin County, Alabama, USA. The high degree of symmetry suggests that it may have occupied a symphyseal or parasymphyseal position. The tooth plate resembles *Deltodopsis? Bialveatus* St. John and Worthen, 1883, but differs in having a sharp ridge with multiple cusps arranged along the occlusal surface of the presumed labiolingual axis, rather than a relatively smooth occlusal surface. The multicusped shape is suggestive of a fused tooth file. The middle to latest Chesterian (Serpukhovian) age is determined by conodonts found in the same bed. The new tooth plate is interpreted as an anterior tooth plate of a chondrichthyan fish. It is referred to *Arcuodus multicuspidatus* Itano and Lambert, gen. et sp. nov. *Deltodopsis? Bialveatus* is also referred to *Arcuodus*.



Complete *Ichthyornis* skull illuminates mosaic assembly of the avian head by D.J. Field, M. Hanson, D. Burnham, L.E. Wilson, K. Super, D. Ehret, J. Ebersole & B.-A.S. Bhullar, published in *Nature*, volume 357, 3May2018. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-018-0053-y>

The skull of living birds is greatly modified from the condition found in their dinosaurian antecedents. Bird skulls have an enlarged, toothless premaxillary beak and an intricate kinetic system that includes a mobile palate and jaw suspensorium. The expanded avian neurocranium protects an enlarged brain and is flanked by reduced jaw adductor muscles. However, the order of appearance of these features and the nature of their earliest manifestations remain unknown. The Late Cretaceous toothed bird *Ichthyornis dispar* sits in a pivotal phylogenetic position outside living groups: it is close to the extant avian radiation but retains numerous ancestral characters. Although its evolutionary importance continues to be affirmed, no substantial new cranial material of *I. dispar* has been described beyond incomplete remains recovered in the 1870s. Jurassic and Cretaceous Lagerstätten have yielded important avialan fossils, but their skulls are typically crushed and distorted. Here we report four three-dimensionally preserved specimens of *I. dispar*—including an unusually complete skull—as well as two previously overlooked elements from the Yale Peabody Museum holotype, YPM 1450. We used these specimens to generate a nearly complete three-dimensional reconstruction of the *I. dispar* skull using high resolution computed tomography. Our study reveals that *I. dispar* had a transitional beak—small, lacking a palatal shelf and restricted to the tips of the jaws—coupled with a kinetic system similar to that of living birds. The feeding apparatus of extant birds therefore evolved earlier than previously thought and its components were functionally and developmentally coordinated. The brain was relatively modern, but the temporal region was unexpectedly dinosaurian: it retained a large adductor chamber bounded dorsally by substantial bony remnants of the ancestral reptilian upper temporal fenestra. This combination of features documents that important attributes of the avian brain and palate evolved before the reduction of jaw musculature and the full transformation of the beak.

# A GREEN RIBBON SCHOOL FOR DISCOVERING ALABAMA

BY PAM SLOAN,  
EDUCATION OUTREACH COORDINATOR



**DISCOVERING ALABAMA'S MODEL SCHOOL** at Woodland Forrest Elementary continues a tradition of excellence. The school recently received the Green Ribbon School Award by the U.S. Department of Education. This award was presented during the Alabama State Board of Education meeting on May 10, 2018 with a proclamation ceremony and later with a celebration at the home of the Alabama Wildlife Federation Headquarters and the Alabama Nature Center at historic Lanark in Millbrook, Alabama, just north of Montgomery.

Discovering Alabama began working with teachers from Woodland Forrest Elementary in 2009 to help them create an enhanced curriculum to motivate children in every grade. This enriched curriculum enabled all students to participate in activities that make learning required content more interdisciplinary and locally relevant. After a summer of professional development teachers began to form partnerships throughout the community with agencies and businesses to make various components of this model sustainable.

Teachers worked in teams to apply Discovering Alabama concepts across every discipline. They established a “Discovery Lab” where inquiry-based, “hands-on/minds-on/hearts-in” exploration of the natural world could be thoroughly investigated. Another area, adjacent to the school library and Discovery Lab, was designated as a Media Room where children could view Discovering Alabama programs on both the big screen and also use Discovering Alabama’s virtual field trip components on computers to stimulate student interest in analyzing problems that Alabama must prevent or solve. They created an outdoor classroom with nature trails, a boardwalk and an amphitheater where children learned to use content from all classes to develop skills that helped them uncover intriguing facts about their own neighborhood and community. Through direct observations children begin to see how “nature” engineers connections between the living and non-living components. This enables them to think about ways that they can create more efficient designs WITH nature.

Discovering Alabama’s Model School, Woodland Forrest Elementary demonstrated progress in Three Pillars as determined by the U.S. Department of Education:

**PILLAR I:**

Reduce environmental impact and costs.

**PILLAR II:**

Improve the health and wellness of students and staff.

**PILLAR III:**

Provide effective environmental and sustainability education, incorporating STEM, civic skills and green career pathways.

**THROUGH THE YEARS** more areas of the school began to reflect environmental themes that demonstrate how content in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics actually had roots in the natural world. This E-STEM approach has helped the school acquire more resources to expand learning stations throughout the school. It is incorporated through the reading programs throughout the school and mathematics learning stations have been added along the nature trails.

A birding station was created in a courtyard so that students can go outside and learn about the diversity of Alabama birds. Even on days when it is difficult to get outdoors children can continue exploring. Windows overlooking the area are equipped with binoculars so that children can observe the birds feeding. Photos of the birds have QR codes that students scan to hear songs of the birds and compare the needs of various bird species.

With a partnership with The University of Alabama Honors College students a pond was built and serves as another learning station for understanding water issues. It has also provided a

peaceful, calming place for students to write, draw and relax.

Raised bed gardens in the schoolyard provide many lessons for children to understand issues across our state and nation. While creating gardens and learning to grow their own food, children also learn important issues in taking care of the soil and conserving water by incorporating “Rain Barrels.” They investigate the differences between climate and weather to determine how it impacts farming around the world. They learn about pollination and how insects are critical to growing successful crops. They practice integrated pest control and learn how companion planting can improve growing conditions. Through discussions with farmers and actual experience they begin to understand that critical habitat for humans is dependent on many factors.

At the Green Ribbon School Award Ceremony, Interim State Superintendent of Education Dr. Ed Richardson said, “The 2018 Green Ribbon School honorees are to be commended for their tremendous dedication to environmentally sustainable and innovative practices. They are leaders and important examples for all schools striving to prepare students with 21st century skills and sustainability concepts needed in the growing global economy.”





**MUSEUM**



# EXPEDITION

## sees 40th consecutive year

BY ALLIE SORLIE, EDUCATION OUTREACH COORDINATOR,  
AND TODD HESTER, MUSEUM NATURALIST

*Sitting at the fall line of the Tombigbee River, perched atop a limestone bluff, is a deserted town. This area has a long history of settlement and in its prime, boasted 3,000 residents and a thriving economy. But within three decades, the once bustling main street would be reduced to a few lingering families. This is the story of St. Stephens, the place where Alabama began...*

**ST. STEPHENS, ALABAMA**, located on the edge of what we now call Washington County, was the site of a Spanish trading post, Fort San Esteban in 1789, and an American trading post which traded heavily with the Choctaw in 1799. But it was after all of this that the settlement of St. Stephens became the territorial capital of Alabama. The frontier town began to slowly gain inhabitants while it was a trading post and continued growing through 1817 when it became the territorial capital of the new Alabama territory. St. Stephens served in this fashion for two years until statehood in 1819 when the capital moved to Cahawba, in what is now Dallas County. After the capital moved, and as nearby Mobile grew, St. Stephens began to lose residents. In 1833 most of the town had moved two miles away to establish settlements near the railroad leaving “Old St. Stephens” deserted.

Now, some 200 years later, the Museum Expedition again visits the pristine archaeological site of historic St. Stephens to see what more can be learned about our state’s history. This year, the Expedition turned 40 years old. Four of those 40 years have been spent excavating and learning at St. Stephens. Each year has uncovered a host of interesting artifacts and architectural features that shows just how special this site is.

This year, the Museum Expedition worked with retired University of South Alabama archaeologist George Shorter to excavate the Douglas Hotel, where the territorial legislation was signed; the Tombecbe Bank, first chartered bank in Alabama; and the Globe Hotel, archaeological site featured at past Expedition excavations. The Douglas Hotel was a new site with very little excavation done before Expedition arrived. At the end of excavations, many architectural features and artifacts were found including two walls, bricks, and ceramic pieces. Perhaps the most special was the Tombecbe Bank site. The Expedition was lucky enough to be the first group to break ground there. Through the work of Expedition participants and volunteers, a wall was uncovered along with many artifacts, adding further to our understanding of the history and layout of St. Stephens.

The Museum Expedition 40 has wrapped up for the year, but memories of St. Stephens remain. Some of those memories include afternoon thunderstorms and a never-ending supply of hungry horseflies, but mostly Expedition will remember camping in the streets of the once bustling downtown, the artifact-dense and history-rich archaeological sites, and contributing to the lost story of Alabama’s beginnings.





LE MUSÉUM NATIONAL D'HISTOIRE NATURELLE PRÉSENTE

# MÉTÉORITES

ENTRE CIEL ET TERRE

EXPOSITION

18 OCTOBRE 2017 – 10 JUIN 2018

JARDIN DES PLANTES

GRANDE GALERIE DE L'ÉVOLUTION

[EXPOMETEORITES.FR](http://EXPOMETEORITES.FR)

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# AN AMERICAN METEORITE IN PARIS

BY MARY BETH PRONDZINSKI,  
COLLECTION MANAGER, NATURAL HISTORY



**The Sylacauga Meteorite**, more familiarly known as the “Hodges Meteorite” after the woman it landed on, made a historic trip abroad last fall.

The meteorite has long been one of the Alabama Museum of Natural History’s main attractions, along with the Philco console radio it grazed before settling squarely on Ann Hodges’ hip as she lay napping on her living room sofa. Many years have passed since that fateful event, and though Ann Hodges’ notoriety may have passed into relative obscurity, the meteorite still remains the only documented extraterrestrial to have struck someone who lived to tell about it. Today, the meteorite is more of a roadside oddity, quietly situated in a corner of the main atrium of Smith Hall, attracting visiting families, students, and meteorite aficionados alike. And once a year, it returns to the town of Oak Grove, where it first landed, for the annual Sylacauga Meteorite Festival.

That is why the unexpected request from the Paris Museum of Natural History, Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle, to borrow the meteorite appeared as a golden opportunity to propel the rock back into public prominence.

The Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle is one of the world’s major natural history museums, founded during the French Revolution in 1793. It has 14 sites throughout France, four of which are found in Paris proper. The

Department of Meteorology and Geology planned a grand exhibition of over 350 meteorites from around the world, inviting many of the more noteworthy strikes with the hope of having an eclectic mix of the unusual and the ordinary, titled “Météorites, entre ciel et terre” (Meteorites from Sky to Earth).

An international loan can be fraught with difficulties, and transporting a rock overseas was not going to be trivial. The meteorite needed to be appraised for insurance value and then transported safely across an ocean to the museum. Once an appraisal was acquired, the team decided to send the meteorite to France in its own cargo container under constant surveillance by American and French fine object courier services.

**Once the meteorite landed in Paris**, it was transferred to the museum where it was placed in a heavily-protected case. The meteorite remained on display for the next eight months, surrounded by beautiful artwork and digital masterpieces that comprised the rest of the exhibit before returning back to the States and its home in Smith Hall.

What would Ann Hodges have thought if she knew what surprises lay in store years later for her infamous rock that doubled as a doorstep?

THE HODGES METEORITE WAS AMONG 350 METEORITES FROM  
AROUND THE WORLD EXHIBITED AT THE FRENCH NATIONAL  
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.



Paris, Muséum national d'histoire naturelle, 2017 © MNHN – J.C. Domenech



Curator Matthieu Gounelle discusses exhibit details with the Museum's design team. Photo by Mary Beth Prondzinski



# WOMEN OF THE TIDE: 125 YEARS OF WOMEN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

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BY JAMES SCOTT

MUSEUM EDUCATION ASSISTANT, WARNER TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM

*It was a slow and bumpy road to the completion of the Women of the Tide: 125 years of Women at The University of Alabama opening exhibition. This exhibit highlights the accomplishments of women over more than a century of time at The University of Alabama.*

From the acceptance of the first female students and the trials and tribulations of being on an all-male campus, to the perseverance of the first female African-American student leading the desegregation of the University in the 1960s, this exhibit outlines the journey of women at UA through school organizations, sports, faculty, and the student body.

## MARY HARMON BLACK >

Before becoming Mrs. Paul “Bear” Bryant, Mary Harmon Black was an undergraduate student at The University of Alabama. In 1934-1935 she was an honorary UA ROTC cadet. Her uniform is featured right.



## < JUDITH L. BONNER, PH.D.

Judith L. Bonner, Ph.D., became the first female president of The University of Alabama in 2012. She wore this red knit suit (left) to the White House to honor the 2012-13 Alabama Crimson Tide football team following their 15th National Championship.



## BRENDA MCCAMPBELL LYONS >

In 1972, Brenda McCampbell Lyons, a legendary trailblazer, became the first African American cheerleader at UA. She graciously loaned her varsity cheerleader sweater (right) along with a framed newspaper article and an outstanding achievement plaque.

**Beginning with Ms. Julia Tutwiler,** the exhibit stories the obstacles of allowing women to attend UA in 1892. Two young women were admitted as “special students” and excelled at their studies on top of working for The Crimson White student newspaper. These two ladies paved the way for the admittance of seven more women to the University. Only a few decades later the enrollment of female students at The University of Alabama exploded into the hundreds. So much so that then UA President, George Denny (1912-1936), commissioned and dedicated an entire section of campus (east of the stadium) to women, known as the Women’s Campus.

The Women of the Tide exhibit also details the role of women in the military. Starting with the Reserve Officers’ Training Corp (ROTC), women played the role of sponsors to their male counterparts

at first, eventually becoming more involved in the corps around the 1960s and 1970s. The list of social activities also increased since women’s enrollment on UA’s campus, from allowing women to play organized sports in the 1970s to the women’s gymnastics team that at one time had won more NCAA Championships than the football team.

The women who have attended UA have gone on to excel in a myriad of careers, from writing novels to starring in movies and on television. Many women also became educators at UA and other institutions. Over the last 125 years, women have radically changed the way the University has functioned, ultimately for the betterment of all women from students to faculty and staff.

The Women of the Tide: 125 years of Women at The University of Alabama exhibit opened on June 29, 2018 at the

Gorgas House Museum on The University of Alabama campus, and will be open to the public until September 28, 2018. We hope you will come and see this multi-college and multi-department exhibition celebrating the women of the University.



## THE EXHIBIT **WOMEN OF THE TIDE:** WILL BE ON DISPLAY IN GORGAS HOUSE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 28

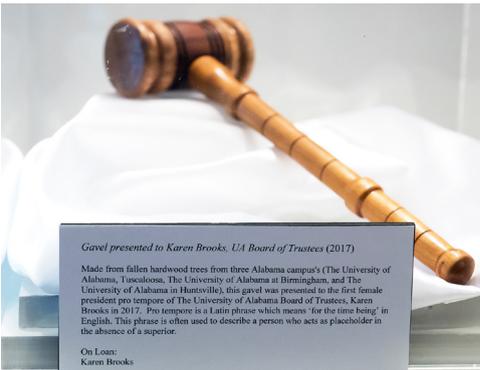
Photos by: UA Photographer, Matthew Wood



Director of Museum Research and Collections, Dr. John Abbot, discusses the exhibit with UA President, Dr. Stuart R. Bell.



Artifacts on display highlight and showcase the many aspects and contributions of women to the University including the first diploma awarded to a female student, athletic items, sorority items, fashions worn by UA women, and items from the first female president, Dr. Judy Bonner, and first female president pro tempore of the Board of Trustees, Karen Brooks.



*Gavel presented to Karen Brooks, UA Board of Trustees (2017)*  
 Made from fallen hardwood trees from three Alabama campuses (The University of Alabama, Tusculooosa, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, and The University of Alabama in Huntsville), this gavel was presented to the first female president pro tempore of The University of Alabama Board of Trustees, Karen Brooks in 2017. Pro tempore is a Latin phrase which means "for the time being" in English. This phrase is often used to describe a person who acts as placeholder in the absence of a superior.  
 On Loan:  
 Karen Brooks



**Women of the Tide: 125 Years of Women at The University of Alabama**

Women have made a significant impression on The University of Alabama campus over the past 125 years starting with the first female students. Women have impacted every aspect of campus life from athletics and Greek life to the military. The significant increase of female students once prompted the construction of the Women's Campus providing resources for the betterment of the female experience on campus. Female students and members of the university's faculty and staff have made outstanding contributions to the campus community, the state, and the nation. The era of racial integration at UA was led by two women paving the way for acceptance and equality and the diverse and modern campus we know today. Women of the Tide have graced the silver screen and written themselves into history. Over 125 years, great advances have been made; however, there are still opportunities for progress as women continue pushing the boundaries and influencing the future.



**Special Thanks**

Mildred Westervelt Warner Transportation Museum  
 Katherine Edge, James Scott, Morgan Avery

Gorgas House Museum Student Volunteers  
 Camilla Canty, Caroline Gray

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EVENT PREVIEW

MOUNDVILLE  
**NATIVE AMERICAN FESTIVAL**  
OCT. 3-6





This year marks a special edition of Moundville's Native American Festival, commemorating 30 years of festival fun and memories. As always, the festival will be a celebration of Native American arts and culture, past and present. This year, the festival will reflect on where it has been and where it will go in the future.

We are thankful for our participants and honor those who have gone on to be with their ancestors. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all of our partners, contributors, volunteers and staff for their work each year. Join us October 3-6 at Moundville Archaeological Park and see what this fantastic event is all about. We hope this year's festival will be the best ever!

# FALL 2018 EVENTS

## SEPTEMBER

### 8 | Member Tailgate (Arkansas State)

Gorgas House Museum  
11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

FREE, current members / \$15 minimum donation, guests

### 13 | New Episode: State Archives

Discovering Alabama  
8 p.m., Alabama Public Television

### 22 | Natural History with the Experts

Alabama Museum of Natural History  
3 hours prior to kick-off  
FREE

## OCTOBER

### 3-6 | Moundville Native American Festival

Moundville Archaeological Park  
9 a.m.-3 p.m. (3, 4) and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (5, 6)  
\$12 adults, \$10 students/seniors

### 13 | Natural History with the Experts

Alabama Museum of Natural History  
3 hours prior to kick-off  
FREE

### 17 | National Fossil Day

Alabama Museum of Natural History  
5 p.m.-7 p.m.  
FREE

### 25 | A Haunting at the Museum

Alabama Museum of Natural History  
5:30 p.m.-8 p.m.  
FREE

## NOVEMBER

### 10 | Natural History with the Experts

Alabama Museum of Natural History  
(Hosted at Gorgas House Museum)  
3 hours prior to kick-off  
FREE

### 15 | Exhibit: "Early Tuscaloosa and the Capital Period: The Bicentennial Exhibit Series, Part I"

Warner Transportation Museum  
FREE

## DECEMBER

### 9 | Holiday Open House

Warner Transportation Museum  
2 p.m.-4 p.m.  
FREE

### 9 | Holiday Open House

Gorgas House Museum  
3 p.m.-5 p.m.  
FREE

### 9 | Holiday Open House

Alabama Museum of Natural History  
4 p.m.-5:30 p.m.  
FREE

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*"It's especially exciting for the schools," said series host and creator Dr. Doug Phillips. "More and more of our schools are streaming directly to large screens in the classroom, and our Discovering Alabama movies are ideal for these wide screen presentations."*





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Much of the natural beauty of Alabama is found among its many rivers. To recognize the vital role these rivers play in making our state unique, The University of Alabama Museums has designated gift membership levels with the names of some of Alabama's best-known and beloved rivers.

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*All membership levels are important to the Museum.  
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*Note: Each membership level receives the benefits listed plus all benefits of levels that precede it.*

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- Membership newsletter
- Discounts on Museum programs and Summer Expedition
- Membership card and decal
- Recognition in newsletter
- Invitations to special member events

## **Black Warrior River (\$100–\$249)**

- Discovering Alabama DVDs 10% discount at University of Alabama Museum Shops

## **Cahaba River (\$250–\$499)**

- Free admission to Moundville Native American Festival
- Unlimited admission to Museums for five guests
- A one-year gift membership at Alabama River level
- Additional 10% (20% total) discount at University of Alabama Museum Shops

## **Coosa River (\$500–\$999)**

- Unlimited admission to Museums for two additional guests (seven total)
- Reduced rental rates for Museum facilities

## **Sipsey River (\$1,000–\$2,499)**

- Unlimited admission to Museums for three additional guests (10 total)
- Two additional one-year gift memberships (three total), all at Black Warrior level

## **Douglas E. Jones Society (\$2,500–\$4,999)**

- Unlimited admission to Museums for two additional guests (12 total)
- Special recognition in Smith Hall Foyer
- Three one-year gift memberships upgraded to Cahaba River level

## **Eugene Allen Smith Society (\$5,000+)**

- Book on natural history from The University of Alabama Press
- Unlimited admission to Museums for three additional guests (15 total)

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