

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA MUSEUMS

These museums maintain extensive research collections, provide public education programs, and house exhibits that reflect the history and culture of Alabama. The University of Alabama Museum facilities are available for rent after-hours for special events.

UA's **Alabama Museum of Natural History** is in historic Smith Hall at the corner of Sixth Avenue and Capstone Drive in Tuscaloosa on The University of Alabama campus. The Grand Gallery, surrounded by ornate Corinthian columns leading to a majestic glass roof, is one of the most beautifully proportioned interiors on The University of Alabama campus—perhaps in Alabama. It exhibits the only meteorite known to have struck a human, and fossils, rocks, and minerals from the Coal Age, Dinosaur Age, and Ice Age, as well as changing exhibits. The Museum's scientific collections are protected for academic research in adjacent Mary Harmon Bryant Hall but may be viewed by appointment. The ichthyology collection alone boasts more than 800 thousand specimens of preserved fish!

Year-round adventures offered include field trips, workshops, presentations, school group activities, and special paleontological or archaeological projects, as well as foreign and domestic nature travel.

The Museum is open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Admission is charged. For more information, visit the web site at amnh.ua.edu or phone 205/348-7550.

Produced by UA's Alabama Museum of Natural History, the award-winning environmental education TV program, **Discovering Alabama**, airs each week on Alabama Public Television. The series incorporates a sense of adventure and reflects the geology, geography, and flora and fauna of Alabama and their important ecological relationships as host Dr. Doug Phillips explores Alabama's forests, rivers, and wildlands on location by back-country hiking and canoeing. Companion teacher guides are available for most episodes, sold on video.

For a show list, please visit the web site at www.discoveringalabama.com or call 205/348-2039.

Described as the Big Apple of the 14th century, UA's **Moundville Archaeological Park** is a 320-acre national historic landmark containing more than 20 preserved prehistoric Indian mounds, a campground, picnic areas, a boardwalk nature trail, a theater, the Nelson B. Jones Riverbend Lodge, and the Jones Archaeological Museum that houses some of the finest Mississippian-era artifacts ever found in North America.

A variety of programs for children and adults are offered teaching Native American culture, arts, and technologies. For more information, visit the web site at moundville.ua.edu or phone 205/371-2234 or 205/371-2572.

The park is open daily, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. The museum is open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is charged.

The annual Moundville Native American Festival, held the first week of October, provides a unique and unforgettable educational experience to discover the rich culture of our region's natives, of Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Seminole descent who return for a "homecoming" at the Moundville site, which was America's largest city north of Mexico 800 years ago.

The **Gorgas House**, built in 1829, is the oldest structure on The UA campus and is one of a few buildings to survive the burning of the campus by Union troops during the Civil War. Designed as a dining hall for students, it later became known as the Gorgas House because former Confederate General Josiah Gorgas (1818-1883), who served briefly as president of The UA, and his wife, Amelia Gayle Gorgas (1826-1913), who served as UA librarian, moved there in the late 19th century. The house also serves as a memorial to their son, General William Crawford Gorgas (1854-1920), famous as Surgeon General of the U.S. Armed Forces during WWI and who eliminated Yellow Fever, assuring construction of the Panama Canal. The building is now a house museum and education center with collections of antiques and Gorgas family memorabilia.

Open Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Saturday, tentative, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is charged. For more information, visit the web site at gorgashouse.ua.edu or phone 205/348-5906.

Source: Alabama Museum of Natural History.

NOTE: For information on the Paul W. Bryant Museum, see page 155, The University of Alabama Sports Buildings and Facilities.