

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 located in historic Smith Hall, 427 6th Avenue, Tuscaloosa, at the northeast corner of the campus quadrangle. The Grand Gallery, surrounded by ornate Corinthian columns leading to a majestic glass roof, is one of the most beautiful 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. 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 800,000 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 Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Admission is charged. For more information, visit the web site at museums.ua.edu, phone 205/348-7550, or e-mail natural.history@ua.edu.

Produced by UA's Alabama Museum of Natural History, the award-winning environmental education TV program, **Discovering Alabama**, airs Sundays at 6:30 a.m. and at 1 p.m. 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 backcountry hiking and canoeing. Companion teacher guides are available for most episodes, and are sold on video.

For a show list, please visit the web site, www.aptv.org or www.discoveringalabama.org, phone 205/348-2039 or e-mail info@discoveringalabama.org.

Described as the Big Apple of the 14th century, UA's **Moundville Archaeological Park** is a 320-acre National Historic Landmark with 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 museums.ua.edu, phone 205/371-2234 or 205/371-2572, or e-mail mbeo@bama.ua.edu.

The park is open daily, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. The museum is open daily, call for times. 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.

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

The Gorgas House Museum is open Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. For more information, visit the web site at museums.ua.edu or phone 205/348-5906.

Source: Alabama Museum of Natural History.

NOTE: For information on the Paul W. Bryant Museum, see page 157, The University of Alabama Sports Buildings and Facilities.