Anthropology Club Elects Officers

The UCA Anthropology Club recently announced its officers for the 2009-2010 school year (From left): Treasurer, Hannah Abbott; President, Alex Harper; Secretary, Kat Short; Vice-President, Tommy Vance.

Activities planned for this school year include trips to Heifer International and Toltec Mounds. The group will also be instrumental in planning, organizing, and advertising the Third Annual CAAH! Seed Swap. Students will continue to catalog seeds in the bank’s collection and package the seeds for distribution.

Museum Anthropology Class Gets Hands-On Experience

This semester, Museum Anthropology students cataloged and developed an online interpretive exhibition of 600+ artifacts from Ancient West Mexico. They were donated to UCA beginning in the 1970s from the Riddick and Partain collections, and have been on display without interpretive labels in Irby, the Library, and Brewer Hegeman.

This project enabled students to explore the meaning of the objects to the cultures that created them and to see how archaeology, the interpretation of material culture (man-made artifacts) from extinct cultures, is used to solve mysteries about past ways of life. The geographic closeness of these ancient cultures to the modern area of the Huichol, a culture that has maintained some of its Pre-Columbian identity and religion, provides essential clues. For example, contrary to our own cultural perspective, the fat little dog figurines represented food, not pets. The dog figurines were also buried with the dead to serve as protectors in the afterlife.

In addition to exposing cultural differences, anthropology students learn to find similarities. The current Arkansas Arts Center exhibition on Egyptian Pharaohs, for example, is filled with shabatis, which are figurines that answer to your name and protect you from having to do menial tasks in the afterlife.

"Isn’t it interesting," Margaret Mead once said, that despite our differences, "our common humanity shows through."
The UCA Sociology Club started strongly this year. The group formed three committees to develop three projects for this fall and spring. One committee plans to work with Dr. Ed Powers conducting student surveys to create a campus information database. The database will include critical student statistics and opinions that will contribute to studies about campus populations and retention issues. The second committee will work with Dr. Doug George to schedule a workshop to educate students on the best ways to prepare for graduate school. The third committee, under the guidance of Mr. Cliff Beacham, has begun building raised bed gardens that will be donated to Habitat for Humanity home recipients. These vegetable gardens will encourage family members to work together to raise some of their own food and also enhance each family’s goal of improving their overall living conditions.
The degree of Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science, with a major in sociology, requires the completion of 124 hours, including the general education component, degree requirements, major requirements listed below, a minor worked out with a minor advisor, 40 upper division hours, and a minimum 2.0 GPA overall, in the major, and in the minor. Students may declare a major in sociology after they have completed SOC 1300 with a grade of C or better.