William W. Dressler (PhD Connecticut, 1978) is a biocultural anthropologist with interests in culture theory, community studies, research methods, and especially the relationship between culture and human biology. His recent work emphasizes concepts and methods for examining the health effects of individual efforts to achieve culturally-defined goals and aspirations. Dressler and colleagues have examined these factors in settings as diverse as urban Great Britain, the Southeast U.S., the West Indies, Mexico, and Brazil.

Dressler has been recognized in various ways for his research, including: the Stirling Award of the Society for Psychological Anthropology in 1979; he was named a University Research Fellow of The University of Alabama (1984-1986); in 2000 Prof. Dressler was the John P. Kirscht Distinguished Lecturer, School of Public Health, University of Michigan; in 2002 he received the University of Alabama’s Burum Distinguished Faculty Award; and, in 2005 he was named a College of Arts & Sciences Leadership Board Faculty Fellow. His research has been funded by both the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

Mike Kalish is a Cognitive Scientist, with a BSc in Cognitive and Linguist Sciences from Brown University and a PhD in Cognitive Science from UC San Diego. After completing a two-year postdoc at Indiana University in Mathematical Psychology he moved to the University of Western Australia, where he taught in Psychology and directed the Cognitive Science program. In 2002 he moved to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, in the (now defunct) Institute of Cognitive Science.

Kalish’s research focus has long been categorization: how people and other creatures learn new concepts and how to discriminate one kind of thing from another. This has led to an interest in how these kinds of concepts are passed from one person to another, which in turn led to an interest in intergenerational knowledge transfer as a model of cultural transmission. In 2007 he published the formal basis for this model, and empirical work on the topic continues to this day.

Lori Cormier is an associate professor of anthropology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Her primary research is in the areas of historical ecology (particularly Amazonia) and ethnoprimateology, but she has also conducted collaborative research in Alabama Choctaw ethnohistory, U.S. disaster preparedness, and Fijian ethnography. She recently published the book, The Ten Thousand Year Fever: Rethinking Human and Wild Primate Malaria. Here, she explores the long ecological history of host-switching of malarial parasites among human and nonhuman primates and the evolutionary “big bang” of epidemic human malaria related to the advent of agriculture. She is also the author of Kinship with Monkeys: The Guaja Foragers of Eastern Amazonia which explores human and wild primate ecological, social, and symbolic interactions among one of the last hunting and gathering cultures.

Andrew Keitt is an associate professor in UAB’s Department of History, specializing in early modern Spain. He is the author of Inventing the Sacred: Inquisition, Imposture, and the Boundaries of the Supernatural in Golden Age Spain. His research interests include inquisition studies, history of medicine, and the cognitive science of religion.