Primary aim of project
To provide an area for students to engage in experimental archaeological research to understand
the ways in which materials are processed and discarded, and eventually become a part of the
archaeological record. This outdoor lab is an essential component of the Department of
Anthropology’s teaching program in archaeology. Since it was first established in 1988 it has
had a very positive impact on the teaching of both undergraduate and graduate students. It has
served as an important laboratory for many research projects that have developed into doctoral
dissertations or major publications in archaeological journals.

Results/accomplishments Summer 2005 and Fall 2005
Used area for teaching the following classes
Anthro 352 - Summer 2005, (8 weeks session) 25 students
Anthro 120 – Fall 2005, Freshman Interest Group course- 13 students
The area is also used periodically for experimental projects by graduate students and faculty.

During the Summer of 05 the students were involved in stone working and pottery making and
firing, as well as forging of iron and steel. A portable forge was brought to the site and removed
at the end of the demonstrations. We dismantled the glass kiln that had been maintained for two
years to record the nature of its weathering and begin filling in the pit to create a distinctive
archaeological feature that could be excavated in the future. The class also constructed one pit
kiln that was used for firing pottery. The updraft kiln was used and then covered with a tarp to
preserve it for use in the Fall. Students from the Ancient Technology class also participated in
the firing of the Anagama kiln that is maintained by the Art Department. The pit kiln was left to
weather and allowed to fall apart as part of the teaching process to demonstrate how the
archaeological record is created. One student project involved the construction of a small
“monument” made of fallen branches and twigs. This has now weathered away and is no longer
visible.

Data available
I have kept detailed photographs of activities in this area, and also have a wonderful set of
student presentations in Powerpoint format that could be used to show the kinds of projects
produced through the use of this site.