Kaqchikel, one of the principal Mayan languages, is spoken by more than half a million people in highland Guatemala. The region’s long-standing language and literary traditions, including texts from the 16th Century, continue today as new works in modern Kaqchikel are published in ever growing numbers. Efforts to preserve and protect the language are playing a pivotal role in the Mayan struggle to regain control over their political and cultural destiny.

The Stone Center for Latin American Studies offers an intensive six-week course in this vital language and its culture, a unique opportunity to observe and study the complex process as a traditionally marginalized language is standardized for use in education and publication. Judith M. Maxwell, full professor of anthropology and director of the Interdisciplinary Program in Linguistics at Tulane, is director of the program and serves as a resource and guide for students. Walter E. Little, associate professor of anthropology at SUNY at Albany, is co-director of the program and a cultural anthropologist who focuses on the interrelationships between livelihood and identity among Kaqchikel Mayas. With the assistance of Kaqchikel teachers, they plan cultural activities, guide discussions about Maya life, and invite noted Maya scholars, activists, educators, health professionals, and spiritual guides to speak to students. The program is open to graduate students and advanced undergraduates with appropriate academic backgrounds and a working knowledge of Spanish.

This program is envisioned as a shared learning experience between students and teachers. While gaining access to Mayan culture, students also provide their Mayan collaborators with access to the large body of scholarship on their culture which has been published in the United States and Europe. This year – in celebration of twenty-five years of this interchange – we hope to highlight the contributions of alumnae and instructors to Mayan scholarship, communities, people and policy.

Courses
Students have the opportunity of enrolling in a three-credit version of the program by taking either Beginning (ANTH 6840), Intermediate (ANTH 7570), or Advanced Kaqchikel Language (ANTH 7580) for three credits each or the six-credit program version including one language course plus a Kaqchikel Mayan Culture (ANTH 6870) course for an additional three credits.

Cost of the Program
The cost of the six-week program is $4,000 for the three-credit option and $4,400 for the six-credit option. The cost includes the following: three or six undergraduate/graduate credits from Tulane University, medical insurance, specialized tours and outings designed for participants in the program, and travel in between sites on the program. **Housing and airfare are not included in the program price.**