Elizabeth Paris

Elizabeth used her Christopher DeCormier Memorial Scholarship to complete preliminary work toward her dissertation in the area of San Cristobal, Chiapas, Mexico. The goals of the preliminary season were to visit previously excavated sites in the region to generate ideas for her fieldwork; to make contact with local professionals and officials; and to examine existing artifact collections in the New World Archaeological Foundation. Together with Dr. Marilyn Masson, Jared Latimer, Justin Lowry and Jason Paling, she visited some of the large monumental centers in Chiapas such as Chinkultic, Tonina, Palenque, Mox Viquil, La Hermita (Cerro de la Cruz), and others. They obtained copies of maps of sites in the San Cristobal Valley at the New World Archaeological Foundation (NWAF), and determined the locations of sites excavated in previous archaeological projects in the region. She also talked to Thomas Lee of the Universidad de Ciencias y Artes de Chiapa and the staff of the New World Archaeological Foundation about the current condition of local sites. Dr. Robert Rosenswig provided assistance by introducing her to the NWAF staff and local archaeologists. The director of the NWAF, Dr. John Clark (BYU) provided her permission to study the collections housed there. Elizabeth spent two months learning the local ceramic sequences, including NWAF collections previous projects in the area. She then made the acquaintance of Dr. Sophia Pincemin of the Museo Na Bolom, the local archaeology and ethnology museum in San Cristobal, who gave her permission to study unpublished ceramic collections from the local site of Mox Viquil, excavated by Franz Blom in the 1950's. This study of museum materials will represent one component of her dissertation.