The Institute for Mesoamerican Studies (IMS) is a nonprofit scholarly research center dedicated to the study and dissemination of knowledge about the ancient and modern peoples and cultures of Mesoamerica (Mexico and northern Central America). IMS helps coordinate the work of the Mesoamericanist faculty at the University at Albany – SUNY. We have the largest number of full-time Mesoamericanists of any institution north of Mexico, and our members are among the most active and prominent scholars in the field of Mesoamerican anthropology. The primary activities of IMS are research and publication. This report summarizes our recent activities.

Letter from the Director
On Tuesday, May 19, members of the Institute for Mesoamerican Studies will meet at the University at Albany’s Alumni House from 1:00 to 3:00pm for our annual Christopher DeCormier awards ceremony. At this ceremony, we will be celebrating both the advancement of field research by our award-winning students, and the beginning of another productive year by the IMS as a whole.

At this time, almost all of our IMS faculty and advanced graduate students are actively engaged in archaeological, ethnographic or linguistic field research in Mesoamerica, in Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. In addition, we have ethnographic and linguistic work underway with communities of indigenous Mesoamericans who now live in the Capital District. A dozen of our faculty, students, and former students are participating in a joint project in Costa Rica involving all four subfields of anthropology. Our publication program is being reinvigorated; we are actively soliciting and receiving new manuscripts for our book and monograph series, now being distributed through the University Press of Colorado.

Check out our website at: www.albany.edu/ims
The IMS May 2008 Anniversary Weekend (by Marilyn Masson)

An entire year has passed since the May 2008 celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Christopher DeCormier research award program! The faculty and student members of IMS greatly enjoyed the company of our speakers and guests, and it was truly moving to participate in the concert by Robert DeCormier, the members of Counterpoint, and Peter Yarrow. The Friday series of talks reminded us of the many dimensions of IMS research, past and present, and the long-term, multidimensional foci that have made the UAlbany program so robust over the years. Speakers included Robert Carmack, Peter Furst, Silvia Salgado, Garrett Cook, David Mora-Marin, Tricia Gabany-Guerrero, Michael Smith, and Liliana Goldin. We were sorry that Jill Furst had to cancel due to illness and we missed her. The coffee breaks and Saturday morning poster/photo session were abuzz with memories, updates, and opportunities for IMS’s various generations to connect. Distinguished alumni in attendance included Quetzil Castaneda, Staffan Brunius, Nancy Forand, Alicia Re Cruz, Brenda Rosenbaum, Georgia (West) Stacey, and John Weeks. Professor Jennifer Burrell hosted a lovely potluck at her home on Friday night. The Saturday evening benefit concert, as anticipated, allowed us the privilege to briefly become part of the musical world so central to the lives of Robert and Louise DeCormier and their family, and to see Robert at work directing the Counterpoint singers through an exciting array of Latin American songs. None of us anticipated the degree to which Peter Yarrow would demand that we stand up and sing, laugh, and (some of us) cry during his portion of the concert, or that we’d be arm-in-arm belting out protest songs with one another. Our deepest appreciation goes out to Robert and Louise DeCormier and their family, and to see Robert at work directing the Counterpoint singers through an exciting array of Latin American songs.

May 19, 2009: Christopher DeCormier Awards Ceremony

The following Mesoamericanists are receiving awards at our May 19 ceremony: The Christopher de Cormier Memorial Scholarships to Courtney Kurlanska, for a study of the impacts of migration from Nicaragua to Costa Rica, and to Jason Paling, for analyzing lithic artifacts excavated at San Estevan, Belize; the First Encounter award to Ilona Flores, for ethnographic research into women’s reproductive rights in Nicaragua; the David Scotchmer essay award, to Elizabeth Paris for the best unpublished essay by a graduate student in Mesoamerican studies; and the undergraduate essay award, to Karime Gazdik, for the best essay by an undergraduate student.

FACULTY ACTIVITY UPDATES

George Aaron Broadwell

For the last five years, IMS faculty and students have been collaborating in the Albany Triqui Working Group, a project to document Copala Triqui, an indigenous language of Oaxaca, Mexico. The working group has been directed by George Aaron Broadwell since 2003, and Prof. Walter Little has recently added his expertise in indigenous language pedagogy to the group. It meets on a weekly basis with Román Vidal López, a native speaker of the language, who is committed to the documentation and preservation of his language.

Copala Triqui is spoken by about 20,000 people, including about 300 people in the Albany area. The working group includes three current graduate students (Kosuke Matsukawa, Ruth Scipione, and Gabriela Aquino) and has included two other graduate students (Edgar Martín del Campo and Susan Perdomo) who have now graduated from UAlbany.

The group has recently passed an important milestone with the publication of its first research monograph: The Origin of the Sun and Moon: A Copala Triqui Legend, narrated by Román Vidal López; translated and edited by George Aaron Broadwell, Kosuke Matsukawa, Edgar Martín del Campo, Ruth Scipione, and Susan Perdomo.
The Albany Triqui Working Group is currently engaged in creating a Copala Triqui textbook and an audio-visual dictionary of this fascinating language.

Louise M. Burkhart published the essay “Humour in Baroque Nahuatl Drama” in Power, Life, Gender, and Ritual in Europe and the Americas, edited by Peter Arnade and Michael Rocke (Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, University of Toronto, 2008). The fourth and last volume of the Nahuatl Theater set, entitled Nahuatl Theater: Nahua Christianity in Performance, co-edited and co-translated with Barry D. Sell, will be published in May, 2009, by the University of Oklahoma Press. The volume contains seven dramas that represent different genres of community theater performed in seventeenth-century Nahuatl communities: an Epiphany play, two Passion plays, two historical dramas, and two morality plays. In March, 2009, Burkhart presented a talk, “A Nahua’s Guide to Confession: Reading a Pictorial Catechism,” at the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies meetings in Santa Fe. This talk is part of a collaborative project with Elizabeth Hill Boone on the pictorial catechism (or Testerian manuscript) FM399, in the National Library of France. Burkhart continues to compile her original translations for a book of early colonial native representations of Mexica history and lifestyle, entitled Aztec Civilization: Readings from Native Sources.

Jennifer Burrell

In September 2008, Burrell and Prof. Ellen Moodie (University of Illinois) organized and held a three-day international workshop at UAlbany “After the Handshakes: Rethinking Democracy and Living Transition in Central America.” Scholars from Central America, Europe and the United States convened for the event, funded by the Wenner Gren Foundation, UAlbany and the University of Illinois. Three generations of IMS affiliates participated: current faculty members Burrell and Little, Professor Emeritus Robert Carmack, and Dr. Claudia Dary, a recent UAlbany PhD. An edited volume from the workshop is currently in the works. Burrell is currently at work on a monograph examining the after-war period in Todos Santos Cuchumatán, Guatemala, with support from the Nuala McGann Drescher Fellowship. Several publications based on this research appeared this year, including “Lynching and Post-War Complexities in Guatemala,” in Global Vigilantism, edited by David Pratten and Atreyee Sen, Columbia University Press USA/Hurst & Co, UK (with Gavin Weston) and “Intergenerational Conflict After War,” in Mayas in Postwar Guatemala: Harvest of Violence Revisited, edited by Walter Little and Timothy J. Smith, University of Alabama Press.


Burrell, Prof. James Collins (UAlbany) and Prof. Elena Bilbao of Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico, D.F. have wrapped up fieldwork on Mexican and Central American migration to the New York State capital region, and cross-cultural approaches to healthcare access, funded by the Programa de Investigación de Migración y Salud and by the UAlbany Centers for Study of Demographic Change and the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities. In Dr. Burrell presented preliminary findings in Zacatecas to the Forum on Migration and Health/Health Initiative of the Americas, and made trips to Mexico DF in October and January to complete the final report on this project, “Mexican Migration and Healthcare: Transnational Perspectives.” Burrell and
Collins are currently at work on an article based on two years of fieldwork. Burrell presented this work at the meetings of the Society for Applied Anthropology/Society for Medical Anthropology in Memphis in March 2009. Finally, Dr. Burrell continues her research with the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team (EAAF) having recently published (with Mercedes Doretti) "Forensic anthropology and humanitarianism in peace keeping operations" in Law Enforcement within the Framework of Peace Support Operations, edited by Roberta Arnold. Brill NV: Leiden.

Robert Carmack

had the opportunity to spend two weeks in April in Masaya, Nicaragua, studying the recent alcalde elections there. It was most exciting, in part because the elections were openly fraudulent, resulting in discussions and demonstrations. He gave a lecture to the Emeritus group of UAlbany on his manuscript, "From Tribes to the Modern World: An Anthropological Approach to World History". He also gave two lectures at the University of Kansas (Lawrence), one on K'iche' History, and the other on recent elections in three Central American communities. He is in the process of editing two anthologies in Spanish, one on Momostenango, Guatemala, and the other on Masaya, Nicaragua. Former doctoral students are contributing to these volumes, including Garret Cook, Barbara Tedlock, Jinsook Choi (and Humberto Ak'abal); and Bradley Tatar, Cathy Stanford, and Joshua Hatton (now a student at Oxford U.).

Robert Jarvenpa

this year continued his activity as part of UAlbany anthropology's ongoing four-field survey of and with the Curré indigenous reserve in Buenos Aires, Costa Rica. He gave a presentation in a special session hosted by the Department of Anthropology, University of Costa Rica in late May/early June, 2008 to report on the group’s initial analysis of data from the previous year’s survey. Our visiting Albany contingent also included Prof. Lee Bickmore, Prof. Tom Brutsaert, Prof. Robert Carmack, Tim Comer, and Dan White. Jarvenpa’s presentation, “Recursos, Usos de Tierra y Economía de Casa en el Territorio Indigena de Curré/Yimba, 2006-2007: Un Sumario Preliminar,” has also been submitted for possible publication in a special issue of Cuadernos de Antropología. The latter issue will include other reports from our survey group and is being compiled and edited by Robert Carmack.

Other recent scholarship includes a co-authored article with our former PhD student, Miguel Astor-Aguilera (now an Assistant Professor at Arizona State University): “Comparing Indigenous Pilgrimages: Devotion, Identity and Resistance in Mesoamerica and North America”, Anthropos 103(2008):483-506.

In addition, Jarvenpa and Carmack wrote an article, “The Political Ecology of Cultural Conflict: Indigenous Communities, Agriculture and Hydroelectric Power in Buenos Aires, Costa Rica”, based on fieldwork in southern Costa Rica from the mid-1980s to present; this paper will soon be published in the journal Mesoamérica.

John Justeson

has served over the past fifteen years as co-director of the Project for the Documentation of the Languages of Meso-America. This summer will mark the 16th year of work by this project, documenting approximately 30 indigenous Mesoamerican languages from seven language families. The project began with generous support of the National Geographic Society and the National Science Foundation (1994-2001), then by the Salus Mundi Foundation (2001-2006), and currently by Mexico’s Instituto Nacional de Lenguas Indígenas (2007-present). The summer 2010 season will be the last season of major field work by this project, after which a series of PDLMA dictionaries will begin to be published in book form Mexico and will be distributed in searchable format on the internet.

This year Justeson continued his work on Mesoamerican historical linguistics, hieroglyphic writing, and astronomy. He organizes the Northeast Mesoamerican Epigraphy Group, which meets irregularly during the academic year. With David Tavárez of Vassar College, he published “Eclipse records in a corpus of colonial Zapotec 260-day calendars” in Ancient Mesoamerica, recovering Zapotec calendar specialists’ calendrical knowledge and practices of eclipse prediction in the 1690s.
Walter Little

This Spring marked the publication of Harvest of Violence Revisited: Mayas in Post-War Guatemala, Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, edited by Professor Little and Professor Timothy J. Smith of the University of South Florida, a UAlbany graduate. The volume includes 14 chapters, many of whose authors are IMS members or former students of our anthropology department. Inspired by Harvest of Violence: The Maya Indians and the Guatemalan Crisis (edited by Robert Carmack), the scholars in volume take an ethical ethnographic approach to discuss the ways Mayas contend with violence, crime, and political conflict in the year following the 1996 Guatemalan Peace Accords between the Guatemalan government and the guerrillas.

In April, Little and Prof. Patricia A. McAnany (UNC, Chapel Hill) co-chaired the 2009 Society for Economic Anthropology annual meeting at the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA. More information on the meeting theme, "Weaving Across Time and Space: The Political Economy of Textiles" and participants can be found on the SEA wiki: http://seawiki.wikidot.com/annual-meeting.

Marilyn A. Masson
along with her co-directors, Timothy Hare and Carlos Peraza Lope, have returned to the Postclassic (A.D. 1100-1500) Maya capital city of Mayapán with support from the National Science Foundation and the National Geographic Society. During the summer of 2008, we focused on the most prominent outlying civic/ceremonial group at the city, Itzmal Ch’én, located nearly 2 km from the site center. Itzmal Ch’én has long been a sacred place, and until recently, local villagers continued to perform rain ceremonies near its majestic cenote and ancient temple. In 2008, three areas were targeted: (1) a large colonnaded meeting hall where patrons of the group are thought to have hosted political discussions and ceremonies as part of their responsibilities to the city’s governing council, (2) an extensive mass grave of burned, chopped human remains and smashed deity effigy ceramics thought to reflect a violent event – probably the massacre of the group’s patrons – within the 14th century, and (3) a humble house adjacent to the ceremonial architecture that may have housed its guardians. Project staff members included UAlbany graduate students Elizabeth Paris, Jared Latimer, Bradley Russell and Karime Gazdik, as well as professional archaeologists from Yucatan, including Pedro Delgado Kú, Barbara C. Escamilla Ojeda, Wilberth Cruz Alvarado and Luis Flores Cobá. The season’s research goals were to collect data to help determine the social position and political function of patrons of outlying ceremonial groups at the city, and to evaluate ways in which they
participated in the production and consumption economies of the Mayapán state. Although Itzmal Ch’en (or another facility near a major eastern gate in the city wall) is linked in Colonial Period accounts to the K’ówoj lineage of later Petén Lakes (Guatemala) renown, we found no evidence for specific ethnicity at Itzmal Ch’en. A cached offering in the colonnade’s altar represented a common and traditional Maya god for this period, Itzamna. Other pottery from this area is very typical for the site as a whole. We learned that the mass grave includes primarily adults, and consists of over 13 individuals – with further osteological analysis planned for 2009, this estimate is expected to be raised. The attendant “guardian” house was not occupied by religious specialists, as might have been expected. Instead, a relatively ordinary commoner family lived there, and the tool assemblage suggests that they were farmers who made small quantities of shell tools to supplement household income. One surprise was that the guardian house was occupied for a long time; many pottery fragments predating Mayapán (A.D. 700-1000) were found, along with two Terminal Classic burials. The Itzmal Ch’en cenote clearly attracted residents over a long period of time. Further analysis will determine the special activities linked to the hall and the attendant house. In 2009, we will return to fully excavate as many as nine elite and commoner houses or craft workshops in four areas of the site. With National Geographic funds, we will also excavate the Itzmal Ch’en temple and analyze its material assemblage to determine the ritual dimensions of Mayapán’s economic institutions. have greatly enjoyed the chance to work again with men and women from Mayapán’s nearest village, Telchaquillo.

Robert M. Rosenswig during January and February of 2009, ran an undergraduate archaeological field school at the site of Las Merces in the central Caribbean region of Costa Rica. The project’s co-director was Ricardo Vázquez, an archaeologist at the National Museum of Costa Rica and a doctoral candidate in UAlbany’s Department of Anthropology. Doctoral student (and current IMS office assistant) Jared Latimer was a staff member on the project and was able to begin his dissertation research. Other Anthropology Department members who visited include Prof. Marilyn Masson, Prof. Tom Brutsaert, Dan White and Heidi Nichols.

Although it has been known for the past 130 years, the 2009 field season has changed how Las Merces is understood. It was first discovered in the late 19th century when the United Fruit Company built a rail line in the area to transport bananas. In 1901, Karl Hartman of the Royal Stockholm Museum published the first map of the site center. More than 8000 artifacts from Las Merces are currently in the US and stone sculptures from the site have long been displayed at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

The 2009 investigations showed that in the dense tropical forest, the monumental architecture at the site’s core covers an area twice as large as previously recognized. The field season also documented how well preserved the stone architecture is at Las Merces, such as the example below of what was the residence of an elite family living near Las Merces’ central precinct. Las Merces was the center of a paramount
chiefly polity and is one of the largest monumental sites in the country. The major phase of architectural construction at the site’s center began circa A.D. 1000 and that occupation continued through to the early Spanish colonial period. Two paved stone causeways, each running 1.9 km out from the central compound, were the routes for ceremonial processions into the site core where the chief lived. The Las Mercedes chiefdom was similar to others documented by early Spanish explorers along the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Timothy J. Smith
(class of 2004) is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Appalachian State University. He was previously Visiting Scholar at Columbia University, Associate Director of Latin American Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and visiting Assistant Professor of Humanities and Research Associate in Anthropology at the University of South Florida. His 10-year study of the rise of indigenous activism and municipal governments in highland Guatemala, based on his dissertation research in Sololá, is currently under review by Brill Publishers, Inc. This is the first full-length study of this Kaqchikel Maya town and has already led to one major publication, “Skipping Years and Scribal Errors” (Ancient Mesoamerica, 2001). In it, he correlated the European and Maya calendar entries of a collection of Maya documents culled from The Kaqchikel Chronicles (University of Texas Press, 2006), for which he was an assistant translator. He received a USF Publication Councils grant to publish the co-authored bilingual book Autoridad y Gobierno Kaqchikel de Sololá (Editorial Junajpu', 2008), the first social science text written in a Guatemalan Mayan language. He and Dr. Walter Little co-edited Mayas in Post-War Guatemala: Harvest of Violence Revisited (University of Alabama Press), a collection of recent ethnographic essays updating continued forms of violence and indigenous response in Guatemala, which has contributions from Dr. Robert Carmack and Dr. Jennifer Burrell of IMS. With Abigail Adams, he is currently editing From the Springtime of Democracy to the Winter of Cold War, a volume that deals with the convergence of anthropology and history over the past 50 years in Guatemala.

John Weeks
a librarian and contributing scholar at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania, has published a collection of Carnegie Institution reports on the site of Mayapán – out this month – with the University of Colorado Press. These reports represent the bulk of the data from the extensive Carnegie excavations at this urban political center during the early 1950’s, previously only available in dispersed, rare volumes at selected libraries. The book comes with a searchable cd of the reports. UAlbany’s Marilyn Masson provides a foreword and an appendix (of excavation lot artifact inventories from the reports) to the volume. Please urge your library to purchase a copy of this valuable research resource; and consider acquiring it for your own collection.
ALUMNI UPDATES WANTED!
PLEASE SEND YOUR NEWS to  ims@albany.edu  for THE NEXT IMS NEWSLETTER ISSUE

STUDENT UPDATES

Sean Higgins
Sean Higgins has finished his thesis on Formative diet at San Estevan, based on an analysis of faunal remains collected during the 2005 and 2008 field schools run by Prof. Rosenswig. Higgins is planning on going down to Mexico this month to analyze faunal remains collected by UAlbany archaeologist Jerry Ek during his work in Champoton. Upon returning from Mexico, he plans on finishing the analysis of Josalyn Ferguson's faunal remains. After the various analyses are finished, he plans on analyzing deer tooth crown heights from the San Estevan assemblage to assess age at death of the deer. The purpose of this is: 1, to supplement Prof. Masson's data on the same subject; and 2, to get a better, more rounded understanding of diet at San Estevan.

Courtney Kurlanska
is currently a visiting lecturer at the University of New Hampshire. This year she has taught Global Perspectives on the Human Condition: Introduction to Anthropology and two writing intensive classes, Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology and Applied Anthropology. In addition to her teaching responsibilities she has been feverishly applying for grants to fund her dissertation research. With the support of a 2009 Christopher DeCormier Memorial Scholarship, she is returning to Nicaragua this summer to conduct key informant interviews, survey her research community, and update the village map that was created on her last trip three long years ago. An article she wrote with Dr. Janine Jurkowski titled "Latino Women's Spiritual Beliefs Related to Health" was recently accepted for publication by the American Journal of Health Promotion.

Jared Latimer
Thanks to the 2008 DeCormier scholarship, Latimer was able conduct preliminary research in Costa Rica, and identify the archeological site of La Iberia for his dissertation research. Jared was also part of the 2009 archaeological field school conducted by Prof. Rosenswig and Ricardo Vázquez Levi. During this project Jared initiated the first excavations at La Iberia, where he plans to return in 2010 in order to complete the field research related to his dissertation.

Jennifer Loughmiller-Newman
is currently working on the recovery and analysis of ancient residues found in ceramics excavated from elite burials and caches at Calakmul, under the auspices of the Proyecto Arqueológico Calakmul, directed by Ramón Carrasco Vargas. Calakmul was the capital of one of the dominant superpowers of the Classic Mayan world. Last fall Newman collected samples from several tombs within Calakmul's Structure 2, where some of the most powerful kings of the Mayan Classic period were buried. She is conducting chromatography/mass spectrometry chemical analysis as well as microfossil (phytolith) analysis of the samples to determine what substances had been contained within these vessels at the time of their use. Last May Newman published “Canons of Maya painting” in Ancient Mesoamerica; during the past year, this was one of the ten most-read papers ever published in this journal (see also Elizabeth Paris).
Justin Lowry

is continuing his work with the Proyecto Arqueologico Xuenkal (PAX). This project seeks to answer economic and political questions about Chichen Itza and subordinate surrounding sites, as well as understanding some earlier time periods in the northern Maya lowlands. Lowry is managing the relational database of this project using GIS. The PAX mapping project allows for instant access to all excavation and analysis information from the work done during the project. Lowry is also working with Marx Navarro Castillo and Jason Paling (fellow IMS graduate students) on experimental replication and use wear studies, and will be presenting results at the 53rd Congreso Internacional de Americanistas, Mexico City, Mexico.

Kosuke Matsukawa

has been conducting linguistic fieldwork on Chicahuaxtla Triqui and Copala Triqui (Otomanguean, Mexico), partially supported by the 2008 Christopher DeCormier Memorial Scholarship of the Institute for Mesoamerican Studies. The results of his fieldwork have been presented at linguistic conferences (including the annual meetings of the Linguistic Society of America, the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas, and the International Conference on Historical Linguistics), and is being published in a series of articles (e.g., “Reconstruction of proto-Triqui phonemes”, U. Penn Working Papers in Linguistics, vol. 14) and in a book produced by Albany’s Triqui working group (The Origin of the Sun and Moon: A Copala Triqui Legend, G. Aaron Broadwell et al., LINCOM Europa).

Fernando Ocampo

continues to work on translations of colonial Nahuatl passion plays. In April, he visited Mexico City and the surrounding area with the support of the 2008 IMS First Encounter Scholarship. During his first fieldwork experience he examined a colonial Nahuatl drama from the Archivo General de la Nación in Mexico City for use in his dissertation research, and observed Holy Week festivities in the Mexico City area.

Jason Paling

is continuing his field work in the Holmul area with the Holmul Archaeological Project, under the direction of Francisco Estrada-Belli. Last summer he spent two months working at K’o, Guatemala, a secondary center under Holmul, in his second season gathering lithic data toward his dissertation; this work was directed by John Tomasic, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Anthropology at Vanderbilt University. Last year’s excavations of domestic household middens and an elaborate chultun burial pushed the initial occupation of K’o back to the Middle Preclassic. Ceramic and lithic typologies were constructed for the site, and a preliminary analysis of the lithic assemblage was begun at the end of the field season, and a sample of lithic debitage was amassed for geochemical trace analysis. During the spring of 2009, Jason analyzed a stratified random sample (x < 1%, 200 flakes) of chert debitage from Preclassic Period midden contexts at K’o using X-ray fluorescence (XRF) under the supervision of Dr. Bill Lanford of the Department of Physics at the University at Albany. Geochemical data for production debris will be compared to geological samples taken from the Holmul River, northern Belize and elsewhere. This summer, Jason is returning to the Holmul region as director of excavations at the site of Hamontún. Investigations at this site will allow for regional comparisons of lithic production and exchange in the Holmul region during the Late Preclassic Period. With the support of a 2009 Christopher DeCormier Memorial Scholarship, he will also be analyzing the lithic assemblage at San Estevan.

Jason Paling - analysis of K’o lithics
In both the Hamontún and San Estevan projects, Paling is being assisted by former Albany anthropology students: Iakov Doumanov, Jean-Marie Milliken, and Renee Morgan.

**Elizabeth Paris**
is currently pursuing her dissertation fieldwork in San Cristobal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico. Her project, co-directed with Roberto López Bravo, Director of the Museo Regional de Chiapas, is entitled “Household economic organization and commercialization in Postclassic Highland Chiapas,” and examines the ways that household producers in Postclassic highland communities participated in expanding interregional trade networks. Ongoing excavations at the sites of Moxviquil and La Ermita are providing data on household economic activities such as lithic tool production and consumption, and have revealed a small Colonial period settlement at Moxviquil in addition to its pre-Hispanic occupation. These findings will be included in a temporary exhibition at the Museo Na Bolom in April 2009. Project volunteers include UAlbany undergraduate anthropology students April Maser and Brittni Laterza, and Maxime Lamoureux St.-Hilaire, who will begin his Master's Degree next fall at Trent University. The project is supported by a Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant from the National Science Foundation, a Benevolent Grant from the University at Albany Benevolent Association, the Museo Na Bolom, and the New World Archaeological Foundation. Last May Paris published the paper, “Metallurgy, Mayapan, and the Mesoamerican world system” in *Ancient Mesoamerica*; during the past year, this paper was one of the ten most-read papers ever published in this journal (see also Jennifer Newman).

**Winston Scott**
During the summer of 2008, Winston Scott participated in the Summer Institute for Research Design in Cultural Anthropology, a course sponsored by the National Science Foundation on Duke University's Marine Biology Campus in North Carolina. This course aided in the preparation and submission of research grants during the fall semester. Winston also recently returned from conducting three months of preliminary dissertation research in the municipality of Senahú, Guatemala. There he engaged in analysis of municipal archives that related to foreign entrepreneurs and land parcels dedicated to coffee production in the early 1900s. He also conducted test surveys and questionnaires with a sample pool of research consultants in preparation for the remainder of his field research on coffee economics in Senahú and Q'eqchi' Maya plantation laborers. His research was supported by a May 2008 Christopher DeCormier Memorial Scholarship Award.

**UAlbany undergraduate Karime Gazdik receives Provost’s Award**
Karime Gazdik, an anthropology major and graduating senior, is one of three UAlbany students selected to receive the 2009 Provost's Award for undergraduate research. Karime performed a study in the Mayapán field lab in Mexico last summer that documented the size ranges and ages of a sample of butchered deer across the city, to aid the project’s investigations of the evidence for deer husbandry (raising and breeding deer in captivity) at the ancient city. Her award-winning paper is entitled “Whitetailed Deer Management at the Ancient Maya City of Mayapán: An Osteometric Perspective,” which she hopes to revise for publication in a scientific journal. Karime’s work was supported by an NSF “Research Opportunities for Undergraduates” award that underwrote her travel and expenses.

Mayapán 2008 crew shot, workers from Telchaquillo and project staff (Karime Gazdik is the 3rd from the left, front row).
IMS speakers, 2008–2009

John Watanabe: “How did Guatemalan Indians survive the making of the modern Guatemalan state?” (October 17, 2008)

Alain Breton: “El Carnaval Tzeltal de Bachajón (Chiapas): una historia actuada” (November 7, 2008); and “El Rabinal Achi: eventuales enseñanzas para los epigrafistas” (November 8, 2009)

Anthony F. Aveni: “Maya numerology in the codices” (May 1, 2009)

Publications
IMS has three publication series. The **IMS Monograph Series** is intended primarily for the dissemination of descriptive studies requiring large-format images. **IMS Studies on Culture and Society** tend to be more interpretive works. Volumes in these series are now distributed by the University Press of Colorado, alongside its respected Mesoamerican Worlds series. The **IMS Occasional Publications Series** are technical reports, published on demand; these are mostly project reports and master’s theses, which should be ordered directly from IMS. To order these volumes, please contact us at ims@albany.edu, or by telephone at 518/442-4722.

**Available volumes:**
To order any of these volumes, visit http://www.upcolorado.com.

**Studies in Culture and Society**

Publication 1: **Symbol and Meaning Behind the Closed Community: Essays in Mesoamerican Ideas**, edited by Gary Gossen.


Publication 5: **With Our Heads Bowed: Dynamics of Gender in a Maya Community**. Brenda Rosenbaum.


Publication 8: **Beware the Great Horned Serpent: Chiapas under the Threat of Napoleon**. Robert M. Laughlin.

**Monograph Series**

Publication 9: **Phoneticism in Mayan Hieroglyphic Writing**, edited by John Justeson and Lyle Campbell.

Publication 11: **Hach Winik: the Lacandon Maya of Chiapas, Southern Mexico**. Didier Boremanse.

Publication 12: **Classic Period Mixtequilla, Veracruz, Mexico: Diachronic Inferences from Residential Investigations**. Barbara Stark.


Publication 14: **Postclassic Soconusco Society: the Late Prehistory of Chiapas, Mexico**, edited by Barbara Voorhies and Janine Gasco.

**Manuscript submission**
For the past few years, our publication program has been virtually at a standstill, with just one manuscript accepted and in preparation for publication. We have reorganized our publication procedures, and with our new distribution agreement with Colorado, are reinvigorating our publication program; we can now actively solicit proposals in all areas of the study of indigenous Mesoamericans. For information on submitting a manuscript or proposal, visit http://www.albany.edu/ims/pubs.html, or contact us by email at ims@albany.edu, or by telephone at 518/442-4722.
Giving to IMS:
an appeal for support of the
DeCormier Scholarship Fund

IMS is grateful for the numerous small donations that we have regularly received from current and former IMS faculty and students, and from friends of Mesoamerican studies generally, to support IMS-sponsored research and publication activities.

The national economic downturn has affected our general resources for this work. It has particularly affected endowments. For IMS, it is the DeCormier endowment that is most seriously affected. For more than 30 years, this fund has supported dissertation field work by graduate students in Mesoamerican studies -- sometimes enough to complete dissertation work, often a basis for pilot studies that have led to successful applications for larger external grants.

For many years, IMS has generally been able to support dissertation field work by two graduate students every year. For the immediate future, the likelihood is that this fund will provide significantly reduced levels of support for dissertation research. For those who are able, your contributions can help to renew this important part of the infrastructure for Mesoamericanist research. Contributions can be sent to us at:

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