Letter from the Director

Greetings fellow colleagues, associates, students, and alumni of the Institute for Mesoamerican Studies! With great pleasure, I write to you as the new director of the IMS. I look forward to guiding the institute in the coming year.

Over the past year, the Institute for Mesoamerican Studies continues to grow and thrive. As you will see in the contents of this newsletter, IMS members have been busy conducting research, winning awards, and publishing. About these you can read for yourself, but I want to call your attention to the IMS students distinguished themselves in professional organizations. At this year’s Society for Applied Anthropology meeting in Merida, Heidi Nichols won the Valene Smith Tourism Poster Award, which some of you may recall Sarah Taylor won last year. Also in Merida, Courtney Kurlanksa won the Whiteford Prize, sponsored by Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology. The paper will be published in a volume about microcredit and development. Winston Scott was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to support dissertation research in Guatemala Q’eqchi’ Maya coffee plantation workers. Maria Diaz won a National Science Foundation research award for dissertation research in Florida on Guatemalan immigrants and tradition performance. Archaeology student, Rebecca Mendelsohn, won a prestigious National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, which will support three years of coursework and research in Mesoamerica. These students’ work maintains the high standards of scholarship and represents the future of Mesoamerican research.

The IMS received a generous textile donation from Diane Palmer, who lived in Guatemala in the 1970s. The Palmer collection focuses on daily-wear clothing with pieces dating back into the 1930s. The collection will be available for research use. In February, two Kaqchikel Maya scholars, Gregorio Simon and Gregoria Icú, who specialized in Guatemalan textiles, assessed the Palmer collection, gave a lecture to Dr. Burrell’s “Introduction to Cultural Anthropology” class, and participated in other IMS functions.

Looking to the future, the Institute for Mesoamerican Studies and the University of Colorado Press is co-publishing IMS Monograph series. The collaboration with Colorado will help raise the monograph series profile and allow the institute to bring important Mesoamerican scholarship to a larger scholarly community.

Best regards,

Walter E. Little
The IMS has had a productive year and we are excited to announce our 32nd Annual Christopher DeCormier Scholarship Award Ceremony to be held at May 12th at 1:00pm. Lunch will be served after which we will hear from our scholarship recipients. This year’s IMS award winners include Sarah Taylor and Marx Navarro who each won the Christopher DeCormier Memorial Scholarship in Mesoamerican Studies. Rebecca Mendelsohn won the First Encounter Scholarship for Mesoamerican Fieldwork. Jerald D. Ek has won the David Scotchmer Essay Award for his essay, "Classic Maya Urbanism: A GIS Approach to Site Planning, Demography, and Integration."

Upcoming IMS Events

George Aaron Broadwell and the Albany Triqui Working Group are continuing to record texts and prepare materials for an audio dictionary of the Copala Triqui language. Copala Triqui is an indigenous language of Oaxaca, Mexico, which is spoken by about 300-400 immigrants to the Capital District. A course on Copala Triqui was offered in Fall 2010, and two dissertations are currently underway. Kosuke Matsukawa, an IMS associate, and past winner of a DeCormier Scholarship, is currently in Oaxaca doing fieldwork on the closely related Chicahuaxtla Triqui language.

George Aaron Broadwell

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Louise Burkhart

Louise Burkhart pictured in front of the Arts and Sciences building holding a copy of Nahuatl Theater Volume 4: Nahua Christianity in Performance (co-edited and co-translated with Barry D. Sell) was published in June, 2009 (University of Oklahoma Press), bringing our four-volume set to a close. The volume presents seven plays and a fragment of an eighth with Nahuatl transcriptions and English translations, notes, and introductory essays. The scripts demonstrated the range of dramatic genres performed in later colonial Nahua communities, from Epiphany and Passion plays to history and morality plays. I am now preparing a student-oriented, English-only, paperback edition of six Nahuatl plays, under contract with Oklahoma, for a 2011 publication. I also continue to work on a collaborative project with Elizabeth Boone and David Tavárez analyzing Nahua pictorial catechism from early colonial Tenochtitlan. We presented a session on the catechism at the 2009 American Society for Ethnohistory conference in New Orleans, and have preliminary plans for a book. In February, 2010, I presented a talk in the Distinguished Speaker Series, Department of History, University of Texas, and conducted two workshops with graduate students. The talk was based on my analysis of a Nahuatl “Destruction of Jerusalem” drama, an indigenous reworking of an early sixteenth-century Iberian narrative, localized as a commentary on the conquest of Tenochtitlan and still being performed in the eighteenth century. A published version of this research will appear shortly in The Conquest All Over Again: Nahua and Zapotec Thinking, Writing, and Painting Spanish Colonialism, edited by Susan Schroeder (Sussex Academic Press).
Jennifer Burrell

Dr. Burrell and colleague Dr. Ellen Moodie of University of Illinois organized and held a three-day international workshop at UAlbany “After the Handshakes: Rethinking Democracy and Living Transition in Central America” in September, 2008. Scholars from Central America, Europe and the United States convened for the event, which was funded by generous grants from the Wenner Gren Foundation, UAlbany and University of Illinois. Three generations of IMS affiliates participated: current faculty members Drs. Burrell and Little, professor emeritus Dr. Robert Carmack, and Dr. Claudia Dary, an IMS student recently awarded her doctorate. An edited volume from the workshop is in the works. Several publications on Dr. Burrell’s ongoing research on postwar Guatemala have appeared recently, including “In and Out of Rights: Security, Migration and Human Rights Talk in Postwar Guatemala,” Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology, Vol. 15, No. 1 (April), “Lynching and Post-War Complexities in Guatemala,” in Global Vigilantism, edited by David Pratten and Atreyee Sen, Columbia University Press USA/Hurst & Co, UK, (co-authored with Gavin Weston) and “Intergenerational Conflict After War,” in Mayas in Post-war Guatemala: Harvest of Violence Revisited, edited by Walter Little and Timothy J. Smith, University of Alabama Press. Dr. Burrell, Dr. James Collins (UAlbany) and Dr. Elena Bilbao of Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico, DF have wrapped up fieldwork, funded by the Programa de Investigación de Migración y Salud (PIMSA), and the UAlbany Centers for Study of Demographic Change (CSDA) and the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities (CEMHD), on Mexican and Central American migration to the New York State capital region, and healthcare access. Dr. Burrell traveled to Zacatecas, and most recently, Santa Fe, NM to present findings to the Forum on Migration and Health/Health Initiative of the Americas, and made several trips to Mexico DF to complete this project, “Mexican Migration and Healthcare: Transnational Perspectives.” Furthering institutional collaboration with Iberoamericana, Dr. Bilbao traveled to Albany twice during the duration of this research. Burrell and Collins are currently revising an article based on two years of fieldwork and results will also be published by Universidad Iberoamericana Press in Mexico. Dr. Burrell continues her ongoing research and writing with the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team (EAAF), having recently published (with Mercedes Doretti) Forensic Anthropology and Humanitarianism in Peace Keeping Operations in the volume Law enforcement within the framework of peace support operations, edited by Roberta Arnold. Brill NV: Leiden. She also was awarded an American Anthropological Association Leadership Mentoring fellowship in 2009, enjoying a behind the scenes look at the national organization and how it functions.

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Dr. Jennifer Burrell in the municipality of Todos Santos, Guatemala.
Robert Carmack

Dr. Robert Carmack continues to be very active in Mesoamerica, and more recently in projects collaborating with Guatemalan scholars. He has been awarded the "Boton de Tecun Uman" by the Alcaldia de Santa Cruz del Quiche, to be awarded on February 25, 2011. In addition, the community of Buenabaj, Momostenango, has decided to name their new library, "Biblioteca Roberto Carmack". He is thrilled but humbled by these two honors. For the past five years Dr. Carmack has been active as an organizer and speaker at the V Congreso sobre el Popol Wuj will be held on July 5-9, 2010 in Santa Cruz del Quiche', where the first Congreso was held in 1979. It will take place in the brand new Nim Popol Ja building, occupied by the Academia de Lenguas Mayas in Guatemala. On the 8th of February a Press Conference was held at the National Palace to announce the coming Congreso in July. IMS will be a co-sponsor, along with TIMACH (a Maya organization located in Quetzaltenango), and the Center for Latin American Studies at Marshall University. Funding is being provided by the American Embassy in Guatemala, IMS, the universities of San Carlos and Mesoamerica in Guatemala, Ministerio de Cultura de Guatemala, and hopefully the Dutch Embassy in Guatemala. There will be three sessions, the first on recent developments at the site of Utaflan (Q'umarkaaj); the second on new perspectives on the Popol Wuj; and third participation by Mayas in the emergence of democracy in Guatemala.

Robert Jarvenpa

This year Robert Jarvenpa 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 revised a manuscript, “Recursos, Usos de Tierra y Economía de Casa en el Territorio Indígena de Curré/Yimba, 2006-2007: Un Sumario Preliminar," for possible publication in a special sigue of Cuadernos de Antropología. This latter issue will include other reports from our survey group and is being compiled and edited by Robert Carmack. A focused analysis of the political ecology data set from the Curré survey is currently underway in collaboration with Daniel White and Heidi Nicholls. Also, Jarvenpa and Carmack published a key article based on their fieldwork in southern Costa Rica from the mid-1980s to present: (2009) “La Ecología Política de los Conflictos Culturales: Comunidades Indígenas, Agricultura y Energía Hidroeléctrica en Buenos Aires, Costa Rica.” Mesoamerica 51: 59-93.
**John Justeson**

Over the past sixteen years, Professor Justeson has served as co-director of the Project for the Documentation of the Languages of Mesoamerica. This summer will mark the 17th and final year of work by this project, documenting approximately 30 indigenous Mesoamerican languages from seven language families, devoted to the completion of field work on several languages and the production of dictionaries on languages for which field work has already been completed. These dictionaries will be published in book form, and will also be available through a searchable online database. In the meantime, he continues his work on Mesoamerican historical linguistics, hieroglyphic writing, and astronomy. This year Justeson published an overview of the work of the last 20 years in applying research on the histories of Mesoamerican languages to the reconstruction of the cultural histories of their speakers, and suggesting the most significant research directions for this field in the next 20 years. Most pressingly, detailed documentation of the indigenous languages of Mesoamerica is now a research emergency within Mesoamerican studies generally—and this is the last generation in which much of the indigenous structure, cultural associations, and history of these languages can still be recovered. Work on Oto-Manguean languages in particular is crucial to addressing the era in which Mesoamerica coalesced out of a set of Archaic period hunter-gatherer groups to emerge, with the rise of agriculture, as a major world interaction sphere. He also published a reconstruction of the origin of the concept of zero among Late Preclassic Mayan calendar specialists, sometime during the second or third century C.E.

**Walter Little**

Over the summer and then again in October, Dr. Little conducted ethnographic research in Antigua, traveling to Guatemala to research the economic and political factors that shape public space use in Antigua. The city’s UNESCO World Heritage status plays a major factor in urban street politics as residents, tourists, workers, and city officials debate how to use, maintain, and preserve the city. He will begin working on a book-length manuscript over the coming year for the University of Texas Press that analyzes how these politics have unfolded over the last decade.

Dr. Little is also participating in two collaborative projects. With Judith Maxwell (Tulane University), a linguist and one of her advanced students, Joyce Bennett, he is working on an advanced Kaqchikel Maya textbook for the University of Texas Press. Maxwell and Little with Robert McKenna Brown published ¡La üz awäch: An Introduction to Kaqchikel Maya Language (University of Texas Press, 2006) and Tijonik Kaqchikel Oxlajuj Aj: Curso de Idioma y Cultura Maya Kaqchikel (Editorial Junapu, 2006). The new book will complement these two books and include collections of stories with audio that will be of interest to language learners, linguists, folklorists, and others studying Maya languages and culture. Little and Maxwell are the co-directors of Tulane University’s Intensive Kaqchikel Maya and Culture Course that is offered each summer in Guatemala.

In the second project, he and David Carey, Jr., an historian at the University of South Maine, are studying political murals in highland Maya communities in Guatemala. The first publication resulting from this research is “Reclaiming the Nation Through Public Murals: Maya Resistance and the Reinterpretation of History,” *Radical History Review* 106 (2010): 5-26, which focuses on the mural in San Juan Comalapa. They will expand their research to other communities with public murals this summer.
Dr. Masson’s research at the Postclassic Maya urban political capital of Mayapán focuses on ways in which the economies of households and neighborhoods reflect dependencies within and between the commoner and noble class and the importance of patronage, tribute, the marketplace. UAlbany’s 2009 investigations at Mayapán fully exposed and restored an outlying temple (Temple Itzmal Ch’en) located two kilometers from the city’s monumental center. Work at the temple revealed a stone table altar supported by four plaster deity sculptures, offerings of broken pottery, jade, a turkey sculpture, many images of the feathered serpent deity, Kukulkan, and a stela representing the death god. These data will reveal new information about daily and periodic activities in this ritual space, and sculptures attest to a range of calendrical rituals involving key deities, including Kukulkan. The 2009 archaeological investigations also fully excavated four houses and a non-domestic stone tool workshop. The four commoner dwellings revealed great variation in wealth and occupational specialization; they focused on making obsidian blades, shell ornaments (a marketplace currency), chert or chalcedony tools, and pottery making. One commoner house (Q-39), located next to a palace, revealed the richest tomb ever discovered at the city – two adults and one child were buried with 36 copper bells (including copper and shell necklaces), copper tweezers and an ornate copper ring, a shell ring, jade beads, pottery vessels, and a pottery figurine and whistle. A copper and shell ring were child-sized. A pottery-making house (Q-176) had three offerings of stacked pots containing the clays used for their trade. We also excavated a small servant’s house (Q-40) next to a major palace and discovered that its residents were special craftspersons who modeled, plastered, and painted ceramic sculptures of the city’s deities. Many molds for these “effigy censer” vessels were discovered, along with plastering tools and fragments of effigies broken in production. This is the first censer workshop ever discovered at a Postclassic Maya site – even though scholars knew they must have existed. House I-55 revealed one of the densest shell and obsidian working contexts yet found at the site. These findings reveal great differences in opportunity and prosperity for urban residents, as well as important economic dependencies across households of the urban landscape. The discovery of a non-domestic stone tool workshop (I-57) is important – these are rare in the Maya area and attest to a higher organization of production beyond the household scale. Most of Mayapán’s craft industries depend on external sources for raw materials (shell, obsidian, and chert). Thus, the study also considers the wider regional context of Mayapán’s political economy – craft production supplied the city but also generated surplus that provided the foundations for the city’s wealth and power. Research at Mayapán is supported by the National Science Foundation (household archaeology) and National Geographic’s Committee for Research and Exploration. The research project is co-directed by Marilyn Masson (UAlbany), Timothy Hare
In January 2010, Robert Rosenswig’s book *The Beginnings of Mesoamerican Civilization: Inter-Regional Interaction and the Olmec* was published by Cambridge University Press. In this book, Dr. Rosenswig proposes that we understand Early Formative (1600–900 BCE) Mesoamerica as an archipelago of complex societies that interacted with one another over long distances and that were separated by less sedentary peoples. Disagreements about Early Formative society that have raged over the past 30 years focus on the nature of inter-regional interaction between San Lorenzo and other Early Formative regions. He evaluates these debates from a fresh theoretical perspective and integrates new data into an assessment of Soconusco society before, during, and after the apogee of the San Lorenzo polity. Dr. Rosenswig was also recently awarded $280,000 from the National Science Foundation to continue his research in Chiapas and investigate the history of the Izapa by documenting regional settlement patterns. These regional survey data will help document the emergence of hierarchical society centered at Izapa by at least the Late Formative period (350-100 BCE), and determine the political nature of the polity’s persistence until the Early Postclassic period (CE 1000-1350). The research will contribute theoretically to an understanding of the origins and development of state-level society by documenting the Izapa polity during its rise, florescence and eventual collapse. Izapa is surprisingly poorly understood considering that it is one of the largest sites on the Pacific coast of Mesoamerica and it has been well-known since the 1940s when its mounds and sculptures appeared in the pages of the *National Geographic Magazine*. This project continues through 2012 and will form the basis for Ph.D. dissertations by UAlbany graduate students Marx Navarro, Caroline Antonelli and Rebecca Mendelsohn.
Report on 2009 DeCormier Scholarship and First Encounter Awardees

Our 2009 DeCormier Scholarship awardees were very busy this past year working in the field on various projects. We are extremely grateful for the help this scholarship has provided for various graduate students over the years.

First Encounters Recipient: Ilona Flores

Ilona Flores recently completed her dissertation proposal and advanced to Ph.D. candidacy. She is looking forward to using the First Encounter Award to go into the field this coming June in order to start her dissertation research which focuses on the 2006 anti-abortion law within Nicaragua. To understand both the perceived and actual impacts that the abortion legislation has had on women’s lives, her main research question will ask how the contraceptive strategies that women used differ before and after the new law, as well as how those strategies affected their lives. The second part of her research will question what this change in contraceptive strategies is related to. Specifically, her aim is to understand how the law has influenced people’s actions and decisions, and to examine how individuals are responding to this shift in legal and political policy.

DeCormier Recipient: Courtney Kurlanska

Courtney is currently in her second year as a visiting lecturer at the University of New Hampshire. She continues to teach over 350 students a semester in introductory and advanced classes on topics such as migration, applied anthropology and anthropology in contemporary society. One of her goals is to bring anthropology to the public sphere and to engage her students as responsible citizens. This effort was recognized with her recent nomination for the Public Anthropology Eleanor Roosevelt Global Citizenship Award.

This past summer, with the support of the DeCormier Scholarship, Courtney returned to Nicaragua to conduct an exploratory study on the role of microfinance and microcredit on livelihood strategies. Based on this research her paper entitled “Hope, Fear, and Uncertainty: Microcredit and Microdebt in Nicaragua” won the Whiteford Graduate Student Award in Applied Anthropology sponsored by the The Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology and will be presented in Merida Mexico at the Society for Applied Anthropology. Courtney and her family will be returning to Nicaragua during the upcoming academic year to complete her dissertation research.
The past year has been busy for Paling. In the spring and summer of 2009, Paling carried out the inaugural survey and excavation season at Hamontún, a Middle Preclassic to Late Classic Maya center in the Petén, Guatemala. With support of a National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement grant, research at Hamontún focused on locating and excavating household midden deposits. Archaeological investigations at Hamontún have provided the means for reconstructing the production and exchange strategies of different segments of Hamontún’s urban population and will permit an evaluation of the economic networks that developed there during the Late Preclassic Period. Paling is especially grateful for their assistance in the project. Early this spring Jason is returning to Guatemala to complete the analysis of lithic materials from Hamontún, as well as K’o, Guatemala and San Estevan, Belize. This laboratory season would not be possible without the assistance from the DeCormier foundation in which he was honored to receive in 2009. Time permitting; a one month field season in July is scheduled at Hamontún to carry out more intensive investigations of two possible lithic workshops that were located during the first season.

This laboratory season would not be possible without the assistance from the DeCormier foundation in which he was honored to receive in 2009.

–Jason Paling
John Edvalson

After completing his course work this semester, John Edvalson plans to continue with his research investigating Maya community politics and education in Nahualá, Guatemala. He presented a poster at the AAA meetings in Philadelphia this past fall and a paper at the Society for Applied Anthropology meetings that were held in Merida this year. This summer he is excited to be participating in the University of Chicago and Vanderbilt’s K’iche’ Summer Language Institute for six weeks with generous support from an IIE FLAS stipend for studying foreign languages sponsored through Vanderbilt University. He hopes that this experience will provide him with the language competency to conduct ethnographic interviews in K’iche’. His larger research project focuses on the activities of teachers and education projects on municipal politics. This project draws theoretical connections to the relevance of community based organizations and indigenous politics in Latin America.

Kosuke Mastsukawa

Kosuke Mastsukawa is conducting linguistic fieldwork on Chicahuaxtla Triqui (Otomanguean, Mixtecan) in Oaxaca, Mexico. Recently, he also started gathering data on Itunyoso Triqui, which are useful for the comparative studies of Triqui languages. In 2009, I presented three papers at linguistic and anthropological conferences: Society for the Studies of Indigenous Languages of the Americas annual meeting, Conference on Indigenous Languages of Latin America, New England Council of Latin American Studies. A paper for the CILLA conference will be published in its online proceedings in 2010. My paper on Maya hieroglyphs, Choice of Voice in Maya Hieroglyphic Writing, was published in Written Language and Literacy 12(2) and a coauthored book with Dr. Broadwell and other students, The Origin of the Sun and Moon: A Copala Triqui Legend, was published from LINCOM Europa in 2009.

Fernando Ocampo

Ocampo took this picture in the Templo Mayor in Mexico while conducting research for the First Encounter award he received in 2009.

Fernando Ocampo

After completing PhD. coursework Fernando Ocampo moved back to California to finish work on doctoral questions and prepare his dissertation proposal which will center on late colonial Nahua Passion play dramas. He is hoping to enroll in a Nahua language field school this coming summer.

Sarah Taylor

Sarah Taylor is continuing the preparation for her dissertation fieldwork in Ek’Balam, Yucatan, which will work to understand the social and economic changes occurring in the wake of concurrent community-based tourism development and agrarian change. Sarah spent last summer working as a research assistant for the Open School for Ethnography and Anthropology (OSEA), an ethnographic field school in Piste, Yucatan, and since returning has been busily working on her doctoral exam questions and funding proposals, as well as finishing her coursework requirements. The year has been full of great networking opportunities at various meetings, from the 2009 SfAAs in Santa Fe where Sarah won the Valene Smith Student Tourism Poster Prize, to the 2009 AAAs in Philadelphia where Sarah gave a paper on household decision making surrounding agriculture and conservation. At the meeting in Philadelphia, Sarah took over as the National Association of Student Anthropologists (NASA) e-Journal Editor, which is an exciting and challenging project. In a few weeks Sarah will head back to Yucatan for the 2010 SfAAs in Merida. This summer Sarah is looking forward to staying in Albany and making final preparations for heading into the field for the 2010-2011 academic year.
Elizabeth Paris

Over seven months of 2009, I directed my dissertation fieldwork at the Postclassic period hilltop sites of Moxviquil and Huitepec, located in the San Cristobal (Jovel) Valley of highland Chiapas. The Postclassic Economies of Highland Chiapas Project investigated household economic organization in the Jovel Valley, and highlighted the role of this valley in the regional and interregional networks of Postclassic Mesoamerica. With financial support from the National Science Foundation and the University at Albany Benevolent Association, and logistical support in San Cristobal de las Casas from the Museo Na Bolom, the New World Archaeological Foundation and the PRONATURA nature reserves, we were able to conduct survey and test pit excavations that significantly expanded the extent of known settlement at Moxviquil, and archaeologically confirmed Postclassic period residential occupation at the site of Huitepec. We documented eight new structures between the two sites, as well as extensive agricultural and residential terraces. Our test pit excavations recovered samples of household midden debris, which will be used to compare economic organization across households of varying socioeconomic status. Interregional exchange networks expanded in some regions of Mesoamerica during the Postclassic period, with an unprecedented increase in the volume and diversity of goods in circulation. However, according to preliminary analyses, patterns of household craft and agricultural production suggest that for most of the sites’ inhabitants, economic spheres of interaction were highly localized. Lithic production was concentrated principally at elite contexts despite the widespread local availability of chert deposits along the northern edge of the Jovel Valley. However, debitage was found in contexts at both sites, suggesting that most commoner households produced some tools for internal use. Luxury items such as jade, fine pottery and bone ornaments, as well as imported obsidian prismatic blades and cores, were concentrated at elite domestic and ceremonial contexts, suggesting that interregional economic exchange was virtually monopolized by high-status residents. Currently, several analyses from the project are being conducted, including Carbon-14 dating of charcoal and bone samples, X-ray fluorescence analysis of lithic artifacts and quarry samples, and analysis of faunal bone. Additionally, existing ceramic typologies and chronologies require substantial revision based on the ceramics found in our excavations. Based on intersite comparisons of ceramics, the Jovel Valley was part of a robust regional economic network, which exchanged certain types of standardized pottery vessels, chert tools, and possibly volcanic ash for pottery temper. The Postclassic Economies of Highland Chiapas Project would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of its staff and volunteers. The project was co-directed by Roberto López Bravo, Director of the Museo Regional de Chiapas. Particular thanks to the Museo Na Bolom, who granted us access to museum collections and unpublished research documents from the unpublished 1952-1953 fieldwork of Frans Blom and Clarence Weiant at the monumental center of Moxviquil over four years (2006-2009) and provided housing for project staff during the 2009 project. Several student volunteers contributed their time and effort to this project, including April Maser (undergraduate, 2009), and Justin Lowry (doctoral candidate) of the UAlbany Anthropology, as well as Maxime Lamoureux St.-Hilaire (Trent University, Canada), and Jessica Lombardo and Carlo Londei (University of Pisa, Italy). Numerous workers from Saclamantón, Las Piedrecitas, and Chamula also contributed their excavation and artistic skills to the project, particularly Fortunato Gomez Gomez, Juan Gomez Gomez, and Reynaldo Sanchez Perez. The results of the excavations and ongoing analyses form the basis of my dissertation, entitled “Living on the Edge: Political Economy in the Postclassic Western Maya Frontier.” Current research support during the 2009-2010 academic year is being provided by the P.E.O. Scholar Award.
Chris Wibby

I have been researching healthcare in Guatemala. I recently conducted a public health assessment identifying healthcare issues and inequities. Currently I am investigating the roles of traditional medicine and modern biomedicine in the Guatemalan healthcare system, the role of health promoters, and how the indigenous fare in their navigation of these systems. This summer I am traveling to Peten, Guatemala with a team from my employer Middlesex Hospital (Middletown, CT) to work on improving patient services at our sister hospital, the Sayaxche Regional Community Hospital.

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 tends 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.

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 6: Economies and Polities in the Aztec Realm, edited by Mary Hodge and Michael E. Smith.


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

![Image of Monograph Series Covers]

**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 13:** Before Guadalupe: The Virgin Mary in Early Colonial Nahuatl Literature. Louise Burkhart.

**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](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 by mail to the address listed below.

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.