Letter from the Director

¡Saludos! Greetings Institute for Mesoamerican Studies friends and colleagues.

The Institute for Mesoamerican Studies community has had an active year, marked with new advances in research, diverse publications, and strong representation in national and international academic meetings. Students and faculty continue to distinguish themselves in their many Mesoamerican-related endeavors. The details of all these accomplishments can be found in the pages of this newsletter, but there are a few highlights I want to mention here.

To begin, this year’s IMS award winners are fine representatives of the institute’s long tradition of excellent student scholarship. Gabriela Aquino Dehesa and Christine Preble have each won the Christopher DeCormier Memorial Scholarship in Mesoamerican Studies. Ben Leeming won the Scotchmer Essay Award, and Cuauhtémoc Vidal-

Guzman has won the Undergraduate Essay Award.

IMS student associates continue to distinguish themselves. Elizabeth Paris has won a prestigious Dumbarton Oaks Fellowship Fellowship. John Edvalson was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship for dissertation research in Guatemala. And Jared Latimer won a National Science Foundation research grant for his dissertation research.

During the Fall semester,
The joint IMS-University of Colorado Press publication agreement will yield its first monograph in the near future.

(Continued from page 1) The IMS collaborated with the Anthropology Department and the Linguistics program to bring Maria Xajil Tax to Albany to co-teach a class on linguistic field methods with Dr. G. Aaron Broadwell. Ms. Tax, Dr. Broadwell, and a team of undergraduate assistants worked on a digital Kaqchikel Maya dictionary project.

As is typical, IMS faculty and student associates participated in the American Anthropological Association meetings, the American Society for Ethnohistory meetings, and the Society for Applied Anthropology meetings. However, of special mention is that the IMS sponsored a panel at the Society for American Archaeological meeting. And, as can be read in the section of Dr. Robert Carmack's many accomplishments, the IMS contributed to the 5th Congress of the Popol Wuj, in Guatemala.

Last, the joint IMS-University of Colorado Press publication agreement will yield its first monograph in the near future. Thomas Babcock's book, Utatlan: Archaeological Investigations to Define the Constituted Community of the Quiché Maya of Kumarcaaj is in production.

Best regards,

[Signature]

The annual DeCormier Scholarship Award Ceremony will be held on May 7th at the Alumni House.

Our IMS Associates, both faculty and students, have been busy this year! In December, the Anthropology Graduate Student Association brought in Dr. Allan Maca (Colgate University) to speak about his work in Copan, Honduras. In March, the Institute hosted a talk by Dr. Seth Holmes, titled "Because They're Lower to the Ground": Mexican Migrants and The Naturalization of Social Suffering.

The annual DeCormier Scholarship Award Ceremony will be held on May 7th at the Alumni House.

Maria Xajil Tax prepares Guatemalan enchiladas with Dr. Walter Little.

Ajq’ij Toji, who co-taught the linguistics field methods class in 2005, with Dr. Walter Little in the Solola, Guatemala market.
The Christopher DeCormier Fund was created in 1978 to honor the memory of Chris De Cormier, a dedicated anthropology student, by providing field research assistance to other young scholars. The fund offers a special opportunity for recipients to participate in original field research activities at significant sites throughout Mesoamerica. By enabling outstanding graduate students to complete their field research, the fund complements the Institute’s overall mission and promotes the development of a new generation of scholars. The award is given to one or more graduate or undergraduate students for research on Mesoamerica. Christopher DeCormier was a SUNY-Albany student with strong interests in Maya culture and fieldwork. Proposed projects may be in any subfield of anthropology, but should focus on interpreting some aspect of ancient or modern Mesoamerican culture or society. Fieldwork should not be an end in itself but should contribute to an understanding of some feature of Mesoamerican culture or thought.

Christopher DeCormier Memorial Scholarship

“The scholarship which his family initiated and supported has always seemed to me to be the perfect memorial to Chris.”
~Robert Carmack

Marx conducted excavations at Miguel Aleman. A total of 7 complex of suboperations were excavated, in different areas of the Ejido. The location of these test pits were decided based on the information recorded by remote sensing instruments, which gave us information about the artifacts located underground, and also the data recovered during our survey. Each of these excavations provided information of distinct nature. For example, Complex of Suboperation 2 was situated in an area of burials. Thus, in an area of 4x3 m was found a total of 4 burials, and 21 vessels, some of them were funerary urns. In the case of Suboperation 4b, this was identified as an archaeological midden, due to the amount of artifacts found and also the depth of the unit which reached 3 m. As a matter of fact the excavation could have continued but the water table impeded it. Marx also considers that education plays an important role in respect to the archaeological work, since there are many urban myths about what the archaeologists do. Thus, he gave a talk to the people of the Ejido, where he tried to inform them about what archaeology is, how important it is for having a better understanding about our history, especially in a country like Mexico. In general, he was open to questions and concerns that the people had about our work.
The DeCormier Scholarship has been awarded to more than 50 IMS Student Associates over the last 32 years, many of whom have gone on to make important contributions to Mesoamerican scholarship.

2010 Recipient: Sarah Taylor

Sarah Taylor was granted the 2010 DeCormier Scholarship for her project titled “To Plant or Protect: Household decision-making on agrarian land use in Yucatan.” The generous award allowed Sarah to embark on a project that explores the relationship between traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and land use. This is a part of her larger research agenda that examines how residents of a Maya village in Mexico negotiate diverse goals of economic development and ecological conservation through participation in or exclusion from the community-based tourism (CBT) project. Specifically, the research identifies influences that these negotiations have on land-use decisions and economic strategies for benefit from tourism in the village of Ek’Balam, Yucatan. Sarah spent July and August 2010 in Ek’Balam talking to residents about land use and working on a methodology for documenting TEK. Subsequently, Sarah was awarded the Lewis and Clark Explorer’s Grant from the American Philosophical Society. This allowed her to continue this research in the winter. These two grants provided for a crucial portion of Sarah’s fieldwork. Because Northern Yucatan has a broad-leaf, mostly deciduous forest, research on TEK, land use, and the agrarian cycle requires seeing the wet and dry seasons. Currently, Sarah is preparing to defend her proposal, reviewing and sorting data from the winter, and planning to begin writing her dissertation this summer.

IMS Scholarships and Awards

The Institute for Mesoamerican Studies offers several financial awards to SUNY Albany students each year for outstanding essays and research projects in Mesoamerican anthropology.

2010 First Encounter Award: Rebecca Mendelsohn

This summer Rebecca Mendelsohn used her First Encounter award to pay for her trip to assist on the Actuncan Archaeological Project. The site of Actuncan is located along the Mopan River in the upper Belize valley, close to the Maya site of Xunantunich. The project, led by Dr. Lisa LeCount of the University of Alabama, seeks to investigate organizational changes in households that occurred as Maya rulers centralized their authority during the Preclassic to Classic transition. Rebecca led the excavations at Group 4, a C-shaped administrative complex associated with the Postclassic or Terminal Classic period and the earlier occupation levels underneath.
Jerry Ek is a doctoral candidate focusing on Mesoamerican archaeology. His research focuses include political economy, GIS applications in archaeology, and settlement pattern analysis. He has served as director of two research projects. The Champotón Regional Settlement Survey focuses on the political, economic, and social changes associated with the Classic Maya collapse in the regional of Champotón, Campeche. Ek has also served as director and coordinator of the Mesoamerican Archaeological Settlement Database project, which consists of a GIS database of settlement survey information from published survey maps. Data from this latter project was used in an investigation of urban planning and community organization at three Classic Period cities in the Maya Lowlands. This paper was awarded the David Scotchmer Essay Award from the Institute for Mesoamerican Studies. A revised version of this paper is currently under review for publication in the journal Ancient Mesoamerica.

IMS Faculty Associates

The whole group is also at work on its next monograph, tentatively entitled Words of counsel for the Triqui people. This address, written by Román Vidál López, is a call for peace in Triqui communities that have experienced political violence in the last several decades.

George Aaron Broadwell

The Albany Triqui Working Group (Dr. George Aaron Broadwell, Sharone Horowit-Hendler, Ashley LaBoda, Gabriela Aquino Dehesa, Kosuke Matsukawa, Ruth Scipione) is continuing to work with Román Vidál López, a native speaker of Copala Triqui, on documenting this indigenous language of Oaxaca, Mexico. Three graduate students are currently working on theses related to the project. Kosuke Matsukawa is doing dissertation fieldwork comparing Copala Triqui to two other Triqui languages, and Ruth Scipione is working on a dissertation on the phonology of Triqui loanwords. Sharone Horowit-Hendler is working on her masters thesis on Triqui rhetoric. The entire group continues to work on an audio dictionary of Copala Triqui and to investigate the grammar and sound system of the language. The whole group is also at work on its next monograph, tentatively entitled Words of counsel for the Triqui people. This address, written by Román Vidál López, is a call for peace in Triqui communities that have experienced political violence in the last several decades. Mr. Vidál López has become literate in his language in the course of his work with this group over the last several years. Members of the working group are helping Mr. Vidál López with English and Spanish translations, checking the Copala Triqui version for consistency in spelling and tone marking, and making an audio version of the text. We hope to distribute print, audio, and electronic versions of the text to Triqui communities in the US and Mexico in 2011. Our previous monograph, The Origin of the Sun and Moon: A Copala Triqui Legend, was published in 2009.
Louise Burkhart

Louise M. Burkhart completed a volume on Nahua theater oriented toward undergraduate students and other non-specialists. The book presents translations of six plays drawn from the four-volume *Nahuatl Theater* set, revised for easier reading and staging, with a general introduction and a short commentary on each play. *Aztecs on Stage: Religious Theater in Colonial Mexico* will be published in Fall, 2011, by the University of Oklahoma Press. In early April she participated in a meeting at Yale University of the northeastern Nahua group, presenting some of her current work on FM399, an early colonial pictorial catechism from Mexico City. In May she will present an invited talk entitled “Golden Age Theater for Nahuas: Don Bartolomé de Alva’s ‘El Animal Propheta y Dichosa Patri- cida’” at the conference *Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz: Her Work, Colonial Mexico, and Spain’s Golden Age* at California State University, Los Angeles. A paper on the Nahua theater play “The Destruction of Jerusalem” was published in Susan Schroeder’s *The Conquest All Over Again: Nahuas and Zapotecs Thinking, Writing, and Painting Spanish Colonialism*, from Sussex Academic Press’s First Nations and the Colonial Encounter series; a paperback edition is forthcoming.

Jennifer Burrell

Dr. Burrell was named a 2009-10 American Anthropological Association Leadership Mentoring Fellow, a new award to encourage future leadership in the organization. Subsequent to her fellowship year, she was elected to the board of the Guatemala Scholars Network. Among her recent publications are *In and Out of Rights: Security, Migration and Human Rights Talk in Postwar Guatemala*, in the Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology (2010) and *La migración Mexicana y su aceso a salud; una perspectiva binacional desde Puebla y la región de la capital del estado de Nueva York in Migración y Instituciones Sociales* (2011, with Elena Bilbao Gonzales and Jim Collins.) In February, Dr. Burrell was invited to give the keynote address at the State of Mexico’s forum on Women, Violence and Development.
Robert Carmack

Dr. Carmack's most important event in 2010 was to organize and participate in the 5th Congress of the Popol Wuj, in Santa Cruz del Quiche, Dept. Quiche, Guatemala. The Congress presented three main sessions: (1) the arqueology of Utatlan and the Popol Wuj; (2) New Perspectives on the Popol Wuj; and (3) The Popol Wuj and participation by Mayas in the Guatemalan Political System. In addition there were formal discussions on current topics relative to the Maya of Guatemala. Many hundreds of people attended, including several students from U. Albany, as well as such honored guests as the Ministra de Cultural, his Maya Assistant, the Mayor of Santa Cruz, the U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala, his Cultural Attaché, and many scholars from Universities throughout Guatemala. Representatives of national and local radio and newspapers were in attendance, and numerous accounts of the Congress appeared therein as well as on TV. IMS contributed almost half of the funds for the Congress, the other funds coming from the US Embassy, the Ministerio de Cultura, and the Universidad Mesoeamericana.

Besides continuing to write his book, 'From Tribes to the Modern World-System: a Social Science Perspective on World History', Dr. Carmack lectured at Univ. Albany, Ohio State Uni-

IMS contributed almost half of the funds for the 5th Congress of the Popol Wuj, in Santa Cruz del Quiche, Dept. Quiche, Guatemala

Dr. Robert Carmack, right, with dignitaries of the K'iche' community and the Guatemalan state.

Headquarters of the K'iche' division of the Academia de Lenguas Mayas: Nim Popol Ja. Santa Cruz del Quiche, Guatemala

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John Justeson

Finally, and perhaps most important of all, he finished directing his final doctoral student, Boyd Servio-Mariano. Dr. Carmack commented that “Of my some 50 Ph.D. students, none was more gratifying than Boyd, a great person and superb scholar.”

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 issue of Cuadernos de Antropología. The latter issue will include other reports from our survey group and was compiled and edited by Robert Carmack. A focused analysis of Jarvenpa’s political ecology data set from the Curré survey continues in collaboration with Daniel White and Heidi Nicholls.

John Justeson

John Justeson served for eighteen years as co-director of the Project for the Documentation of the Languages of Meso-America, with Terrence Kaufman and Roberto Zavala Maldonado as co-directors. This past summer, in 2010, the project’s final season of linguistic field work was concluded in Fortín de las Flores, in Veracruz, Mexico, involving the work of 14 linguists with native speakers of 16 indigenous languages of Mexico. Prior to the field season, the PDLMA also completed a dialect survey of 80 Zapotec-speaking and 20 Chatino-speaking communities; during the field season it completed three other dialect surveys in more than 50 towns, on variation in Chiapas Zoque, Gulf Coast Nahua, and Yokot’an (Chontal Mayan). The current work of the project’s linguists and directors is the editing of what will ultimately be 23 dictionaries of these languages, to be published in hardcopy and online.

Since our last newsletter, Justeson has published two papers: one on the processes that led to the emergence of a numerical concept of zero among Mayan in Mesoamerica and, with Terrence Kaufman, a state-of-the-art paper in the “katun-ending” issue of Ancient Mesoamerica about accomplishments and further directions in the application of historical linguistics to the study of pre-Columbian Mesoamerica.

This year Justeson is on sabbatical leave at the pre-Columbian program at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C., where, in collaboration with Terrence Kaufman, he is writing a book on the decipherment of epi-Olmec hieroglyphic writing. (See photo on following page)
Much of Dr. Little’s research was dedicated to his urban anthropological research in Antigua Guatemala. In this project, he explores how Antigua has been represented by the national government and the global tourism industry as a “Maya Colonial” place that places Mayas in relation to Spanish Colonial architecture, despite local municipal attitudes that reject this image. This research was highlighted in an American Anthropological Association 109th Annual Meeting “Invited Panel” and at a prestigious School for Advanced Research seminar, "The Politics of Street Vending and New Economic Regimes in the Urban South," which he organized with Karen Tranberg Hansen and Lynne B. Milgram in Santa Fe, NM from March 12 to 17, 2011. He also gave guest lectures at Bowdoin College, the Uni-
The Economic Foundations of Mayapán Project (PEMY) under the direction of Marilyn Masson, Carlos Peraza Lope, and Timothy Hare, has been busy advancing analysis and publication after the completion of two of the largest seasons of investigations in 2008 and 2009. This work was supported by NSF and the Center for Field Exploration (National Geographic Society). A major book on Mayapán, edited by Masson and Peraza was in Sololá, he expanded Dr. David Carey’s (University of Southern Maine) and his collaborative ethnohistorical research project on highland Maya political murals. This study looks at the ways in which Mayas visually document and remember Guatemala’s recent tumultuous past.

Marilyn Masson

The Economic Foundations of Mayapán Project (PEMY) under the direction of Marilyn Masson, Carlos Peraza Lope, and Timothy Hare, has been busy advancing analysis and publication after the completion of two of the largest seasons of investigations in 2008 and 2009. This work was supported by NSF and the Center for Field Exploration (National Geographic Society). A major book on Mayapán, edited by Masson and Peraza, is in the very final editing stages at long last will be submitted to the University Press of Colorado this June. It will probably be entitled “Urban Life at Mayapán: An Ancient Maya Political Capital” or something very close to that.

Project activities for the

(Continued on page 11)
past year have included an analysis and photography trip in March 2010, intensive writing and data analysis for the book during Masson’s Spring 2010 sabbatical, a large SAA poster session (April 2010) with contributions by many project members. Look soon for the Mayapán project website (Mayapanarchaeology.org), created with the expertise of Sarah Taylor and Sloan Tash under the auspices of a FRAP B grant to Masson last Spring. The IMS website will also have updated information on Mayapán that will link to the project website. During the Fall 2010 semester, a large portion of Mayapán faunal bones (2008-2009 seasons) were analyzed with the help of University at Albany undergraduate students enrolled in Masson’s “Archaeological Lab Techniques” course (or related internships) as well as graduate students who took a seminar in Zooarchaeology that semester. Masson is grateful to all students who contributed to this effort.

University at Albany student Cuauhtémoc Vidal-Guzman is completing his study that compares breakage patterns on human bones from a mass grave to butchered animal bones at Mayapán. The mass grave was investigated by the PEMY project in 2008, and Cuauhtémoc’s results suggest that this massacre was accompanied by acts of intentional desecration including burning and butchering. Although these patterns were observed during excavation, the project needed a quantitative and comparative study to support this interpretation.

Cuauhtémoc received an NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates award to perform this work and he will present his results at this year’s University at Albany Undergraduate Research Conference.

Marilyn Masson and David Freidel presented a paper at Dumbarton Oaks in October which compared Classic and Postclassic Maya economic patterns entitled “Wide Open Spaces: A Long View of the Im-

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“Bruce Dahlin was a colleague and friend to many archaeologists... He is deeply missed, both personally and professionally, by all members of the Mayapán team. ”

(Continued on page 2)
As this newsletter goes to press, Professor Robert Rosenswig and his graduate students have just returned from a three month field season on the Pacific coast of Mexico. Rosenswig recently received a $280,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to continue his research in the Mexican state of Chiapas, near the site of the pre-Columbian ruins of Izapa. This was the first of three field seasons funded by the grant and was a tremendous success. An area of just under 80 square kilometers along the Guatemalan border and the Pacific Ocean has now been intensively surveyed. The research team includes researchers like UAlbany graduate student Marx Navarro and Albany alum Daniel Seinfeld. Seinfeld, who graduated (Continued from page 11)

Robert Rosenswig

portance of Maya Market Exchange.” This paper rallies evidence from the quantitative distribution of nonlocal items and valuables to support an argument of significant market institutions during the Classic Period, and to further suggest that markets were an important foundation for the power of governing elites. The paper will be published in 2012 in a Dumbarton Oaks book on markets of New World civilizations (edited by Kenneth Hirth and Joanne Pillsbury). Masson and Freidel are poised to submit two other papers that grew out of this collaboration, including a synthetic review of ancient markets and the potential of comparative analogies for the Classic Maya case, as well as a paper on currencies, counting tokens, and accounting practices in Classic Maya art and archaeology.

Work on the antiquity of Maya markets simply cannot proceed without using the works of Bruce Dahlin as a point of embarkation. Bruce Dahlin passed away in February 2011. Bruce Dahlin was a colleague and friend to many archaeologists, including the directors, students, and staff of the Mayapán project and he collaborated with us to investigate a marketplace at this city in 2008. In fact, the idea for the PEMY Project to investigate household archaeology and political economy at Mayapán was first suggested by him in 1999. He is deeply missed, both personally and professionally, by all members of the Mayapán team.

Rosenswig recently received a $280,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to continue his research in the Mexican state of Chiapas, near the site of the pre-Columbian ruins of Izapa.

Rebecca Mendelson will base her dissertation on research collected in the Soconusco.
The project has also helped advance the careers of international students such as Yahaira Nuñez, who is from Costa Rica and has applied for a Fulbright fellowship to come and study archaeology at UAlbany in the fall.

After over 100,000 years of the existence of modern humans on earth, hierarchical forms of political organization emerged around the world during the past 5000 years. Power and hierarchy are fundamental issues addressed by many social sciences and archaeologists are in a unique position to explore the origins and development of the institutionalized hierarchy that permeates modern life. The broader impact of this research is to document the political history of Izapa, and increase awareness of archaeological resources in the region as well as contribute to local and national Mexican cultural heritage. Navarro helped in this endeavor by developing teaching materials and organizing an outreach program to local schools. In addition to Navarro and Seinfeld, current UAlbany graduate students Caroline Antonelli and Rebecca Mendelsohn will base their dissertations research on data collected by the Soconusco project. Further, Sean Higgins, who received his master’s degree under Rosenswig’s direction in 2009 also participated on the project. The project has also helped advance the careers of international students such as Yahaira Nuñez, who is from Costa Rica and has applied for a Fulbright fellowship to come and study archaeology at UAlbany in the fall.
John Edvalson

Over the past year John has been conducting dissertation research on teachers and community politics in the Maya community of Nahuala, Guatemala. He is also working on becoming fluent in K’iche’. Since his family has decided to join him, fieldwork is much less lonely but a lot more busy. People in Nahuala have been wonderful to work with and have been very excited to have a resident family of gringos in the community. John will be wrapping up my preliminary research in June. The research has been very rewarding and challenging and he is looking forward to completing field work in 2012, funded by his recently awarded Fulbright Fellowship. John would like to thank the IMS for their continued support and encouragement.

Betsy Kohut

Betsy was the lab director and ceramics analyst for the Bolonchen Regional Archaeological Project’s excavations at Kiuic and Escalera al Cielo this past summer (2010) and will return this summer (2011). In December, she finished her master’s paper, "Lithic Specialization at Mayapan: An Independent Workshop in Postclassic Northern Yucatan." A revised version was submitted a journal article, and is currently under review.
Courtney is currently in the field in Nicaragua completing her dissertation research and is being funded by the National Science foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant for her proposal entitled Rural Microcredit as a Livelihood Strategy: The Political Economy of a Nicaraguan Village. She is accompanied in the field by her husband and son. Courtney plans to return to Albany in August. While in the field she has published two brief pieces, one in AnthroNews and the other was published online by the Society for Applied Anthropology. She also published a book review on the work titled Why Doesn’t Microfinance Work? The Destructive Rise of Local Neoliberalism by Milford Bateman in Enterprise Development and Microfinance. Additionally, the article “Latino Woman’s Spiritual Beliefs Related to Health,” where Courtney is a second author to Dr. Janine Jurkowski, was published by American Journal of Health Promotion, Sept-Oct 2010 vol 25, ii, 19.

Jared Latimer

Jared Latimer spent last summer working on his dissertation. His research examines a cluster of archaeological sites in the Central Caribbean of Costa Rica. His focuses on the particular strategies employed by elite community members in order to garner and maintain political power. In the fall of 2010 he submitted a NSF doctoral dissertation improvement grant entitled “Ancient Regional Development and Elite Interaction in the Central Caribbean, Costa Rica.” More recently Jared, along with Dr. Robert Rosenswig and Ricardo Vázquez submitted an article to be published in the journal Vinculos. Jared was awarded his dissertation improvement grant in March, and he is currently preparing to return to Costa Rica in May to finish collecting the data he needs for his dissertation research.
Ryan Levy

Ryan is a first year PhD student in cultural anthropology interested in layered identities and naturalized discrimination. Particularly, Ryan would like to focus on homosexuality and its consequences in terms of health disparities. Ryan has recently conducted fieldwork in Yucatán, and plans to continue ethnographic research in the area as soon as possible.

This year Ryan attended the SfAA meetings to present a poster underscoring the necessity for collaboration between large-scale multinational organizations, regional associations, and grassroots NGOs in terms of better allocating necessary resources (particularly in disaster situations like the 2010 Haitian earthquake).

“Being a full-time student again has been an immensely rewarding experience and I have really enjoyed getting to know and work with everyone in my cohort!”

Rebecca Mendelsohn

Rebecca Mendelsohn is a second year PhD student in the anthropology department at the University at Albany. She began this year by using her Institute for Mesoamerican Studies First Encounter award to assist this summer on the Actuncan Archaeological Project led by Dr. Lisa LeCount of the University of Alabama. The project seeks to investigate the development of Maya kingship using evidence from households at the archaeological site of Actuncan located in the Belize Riv-

(Continued on page 17)
Rebecca was awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship for her graduate studies at the University at Albany. Following her 2009 dissertation fieldwork in San Cristobal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico, Elizabeth Paris has been engaged in writing her dissertation, publications and reports resulting from the project, sponsored by a PEO Scholar Award. Her project, the Proyecto Económico de los Altos de Chiapas was co-directed with Roberto López Bravo, Director of the Museo Regional de Chiapas, and examines the way that household producers in the Postclassical highland communities of Moxviquil and Huitepec participated in commercial exchange...
networks at the local, regional and interregional scales (supported by an NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, a Benevolent Grant from the University at Albany Benevolent Association, the Museo Na Bolom, and the New World Archaeological Foundation). Preliminary research for this project on the monumental center of Moxviquil in collaboration with Thomas Lee (UNICACH) and Eric Taladoire (Université de Paris 1) is currently in review by Ancient Mesoamerica and the Anuario of CESMECA, Chiapas. Additionally, she is coordinating an international collaboration of scholars to investigate metallic residues on potential metallurgical molds from the Postclassic Maya site of Mayapán including Dorothy Hosler (MIT), Jennifer Meanwell (MIT), Wilberth Cruz Alvarado (UADY), Carlos Peraza Lope (INAH-Yucatán) and Marilyn Masson (SUNY-Albany), supported by the SUNY-Albany GSO. She recently presented the results of these two projects at the Congreso Maya in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico in March 2011. Two other ongoing projects related to her research on lithic production and consumption include an analysis of the obsidian artifacts from the 2009 project at the Tlacuachero site in Chiapas directed by Barbara Voorhies (presented at the Society for American Archaeology meetings, 2011), and an analysis of the chert artifacts from the 2005 project at San Estevan Project directed by Robert Rosenswig (accepted for publication in Lithic Technology). She will continue to work on these projects next year sponsored by a Dumbarton Oaks Junior Fellowship.

Christine Preble

Christine has been very busy working toward ABD status this year. She is currently serving on the Executive Board of the University at Albany’s Graduate Student Organization as the Programming Chair as well as holding an elected position in the Anthropology Graduate Student Organization’s as GAC student liaison. Thanks to valuable contacts made through IMS, she will be the field-school assistant for the Open School of Ethnography and Anthropology Community Institute for Transcultural Exchange (OSEA-CITE) in Pisté, Mexico this summer. Upon return, Christine will be teaching AANT269: The Caribbean for this year’s UAlbany Summer Sessions. She hopes to begin her dissertation fieldwork in Fall 2011 in Cozumel, Mexico, studying mass tourism and the cultural commodification of indigeneity, specifically Mayanness, in one of the most popular cruise ship destinations in the world.

Liz will spend next year in Washington, D.C. sponsored by a Dumbarton Oaks Junior Fellowship.
A rigorous research training program will provide a foundation and understanding of the health disparities affecting Hispanics in the U.S.

Irene Valdés Wochinger

Supported by a Carson Carr Diversity Scholar Fellowship for the 2010-2011 year, Irene has returned to continue her doctoral studies in the Anthropology Department as well as the School of Public Health at UAlbany with the mentoring of Dr. Lawrence M. Schell. She is interested in assessing the effects of maternal characteristics and socio-environmental factors on adverse birth outcomes related to maternal diseases among vulnerable populations in Mexico and Upstate NY. This spring, the Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools (HSHPS) awarded her a summer fellowship to participate in HSHPS/Focusing Research on the Border Area (FRONTERA) Training Program hosted by University of Arizona's College of Medicine and Public Health as part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' "Hispanic Agenda for Action" initiative. With role mentoring from professors of UA, Irene Valdes Wochinger will engage in community based research projects, attend binational meetings, visit border communities and health care facilities, participate in service learning projects as well as conducting research. This rigorous research training program will provide a foundation and understanding of the health disparities affecting Hispanics in the U.S. After the training period ends, she will return to UAlbany and continue her doctoral studies in Anthropology and Public Health.

Winston Scott

Winston is finishing out the last leg of his Fulbright research grant in Senahu, Guatemala and continuing to observe social movements and agricultural restructuring among displaced Q'eqchi' plantation laborers. He will continue his field research until mid-August of the current year.
IMS Publications

The publication of scholarly books on Mesoamerica is one of the major activities of the Institute. IMS publishes two series of scholarly books on Mesoamerica: IMS Monographs and Studies on Culture and Society. Our books are edited and produced in-house, printed and bound at a commercial press. IMS also periodically publishes Occasional Publications and Papers. These are usually project or site reports that are produced in-house as well. The only difference is that authors submitting occasional publications and papers are responsible for their own editing, design, and layout.

Studies in Culture and Society

The following publications are in print and distributed through the University Press of Colorado.

Volume 1: Symbol and Meaning Behind the Closed Community: Essays in Mesoamerican Ideas, edited by Gary Gossen. This innovative volume seeks to identify patterns in Mesoamerican symbolic representation that have persistence and coherence across the boundaries of time, space, culture, and language. The collection also includes consideration of recent and powerful arrivals on the Mesoamerican stage, notably, European political, economic, and religious systems.
ISBN 0-942041-10-0, $18.00

Volume 2: The Work of Bernardino de Sahagun: Pioneer Ethnographer of Sixteenth-Century Aztec Mexico, edited by J. Jorge Klor de Alva, H.B. Nicholson, and Eloise Quiñones Keber. "The present collection is more substantial and more innovative than the last such anthology. It should be gratefully received by scholars in several disciplines and continue to be consulted and referred to for quite a few years...This most worthy and valuable publication promises to be on our shelves for a long time." - James Lockhart, University of California, Los Angeles.
ISBN 0-942041-11-9, $25.00

Volume 3: Ethnographic Encounters in Southern Mesoamerica: Essays in Honor of Evon Zartman Vogt, JR. edited by Victoria R. Bricker and Gary H. Gossen. "This volume for Evan Vogt is an innovative and ingeniously crafted work, containing pieces ranging from pictorial essay through native texts to solid and exciting, if more traditional, ethnographic, ethnohistoric, and psychological studies." - Brian M. Stross, University of Texas, Austin
ISBN 0-942041-12-7

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A classic in the literature on the decipherment of Mayan writing, Phoneticism grew out of the famous Albany conference—a gathering of the leading Mayanists who were working within the modern, linguistically-informed paradigm for the analysis of Mayan hieroglyphic text. The volume contains nine seminal articles and appendixes. Many of the phonetic readings on which current epigraphic work depends are worked out and presented here. Several papers focus on or carefully exemplify rigorous decipherment methodology; others provide primary data on the ancient language forms that lie behind the glyphic representations.
ISBN 0-942041-08-9, $27.00

**Monograph 11: Hach Winik: the Lacandon Maya of Chiapas, Southern Mexico**. Didier Boremanse.
Hach Winik may be the last comprehensive study of traditional Lacandon Maya society based on intensive ethnographic fieldwork. Long isolated, culturally conservative, and bearing a mystique of Mesoamerican "primitivism," the Lacandon now live on the brink of cultural disintegration. Their habitat is all but destroyed by lumbering and by the large-scale invasion of other Maya peoples in search of land. In the 1970s and 1980s, Dr. Didier Boremanse collected cultural data and textual materials from two groups of Lacandon who still remained relatively isolated. Hach Winik describes and compares the cultural traditions of these two groups. Topics presented in this volume include the history of Lacandon contact with other peoples as well as settlement patterns, life cycle, social control, residence and marriage, the kinship system, and the ritual expression of these social domains. Statistical data are balanced by a wealth of descriptive detail concerning events and individuals. A number of oral narratives are also presented and include many words and utterances in the original language with English glosses.
ISBN 0-942041-16-X, $18.00

**Monograph 12: Classic Period Mixtequilla, Veracruz, Mexico: Diachronic Inferences from Residential Investigations**. Barbara Stark.
This archaeological site report presents new in sights on an important but poorly-studied Mesoamerican culture-the Classic period of the Mexican Gulf Coast. Stark discusses her excavations at several sites in the Mixtequilla region, describes the deposits and artifacts encountered, and provides interpretations of the sites and their significance within a wider context. Her analysis of the ephemeral remains of perishable houses is innovative and contains one of the most sophisticated treatments of site formation processes yet carried out in Latin America. Particularly important is the identification of some of the earliest spindle whorls in Mesoamerica, leading to new views of the importance of cotton textiles in the changing economies of the Late Preclassic and Classic periods. Superb artifact illustrations, detailed descriptions, and an ample use of data tables, make this a valuable reference work. Mesoamericanists will find much of interest in this book, as will readers interested in tropical lowland settlement patterns, household archaeology, and site formation processes.
ISBN 0-942041-17-8, $45.00

The introduction of the Virgin Mary to the native peoples of Mexico is often closely associated with Our Lady of Guadalupe, the principal Mexican Marian devotion. According to legend, the devotion originated in 1531 when the Virgin appeared to a Nahua man, Juan Diego, and left her image miraculously imprinted on his cloak. Historical evidence indicates, however, that the Mexican shrine was not established until the 1560s, the legend was virtually unknown until its initial publication in Spanish in 1648 and in Nahuatl the following year; and native people did not participate in the devotion to any extensive degree until after the mid-seventeenth century. How, then, was devotion to the Virgin actually introduced to Nahuas during the first decades of Christian evangelization? This book addresses this question through the presentation of Nahuatl-language devotional texts relating to Mary, texts through which Nahuas learned about the Virgin and expressed their own developing devotion to her. The wide range of Nahuatl literature on the Virgin shows that, far from some early "syncretic" mixing of Mary with native "goddess" cults, Nahuas were introduced to, and to varying degrees participated in, the full-blown medieval and Renaissance devotion to Mary, adapted into their own language. These sources date from the 1540s through the 1620s and represent all of the major religious orders involved in the evangelization of the Nahuas: Franciscans, Dominicans, Augustini-

(Continued on page 23)
Postclassic Soconusco Society: the Late Prehistory of Chiapas, Mexico, edited by Barbara Voorhies and Janine Gasco.

This timely report presents new archaeological data on Postclassic sites (11th through 16th centuries, AD) in one of the key regions of Mesoamerica. The Pacific coast of Soconusco was at the forefront of cultural developments from the time of its earliest farmers in the Formative period through the Spanish conquest. Yet until now the Postclassic archaeology of this region has remained poorly known. This book presents the results of archaeological fieldwork at the political center Acapetahua and other key Postclassic sites in Soconusco by two leading Mesoamericanist archaeologists. The authors’ analyses of artifacts shed light on subsistence activities, the production of textiles and other craft items, commercial exchange, and the social context of life in this area. A notable feature of this report is the discussion of the place of these sites within the broader setting of Postclassic Mesoamerica. The Late Postclassic period was a dynamic and innovative time when peoples from all parts of Mesoamerica were drawn together by processes of commercial and stylistic interaction. Until recently, however, Postclassic archaeological data has been limited to a few areas. Postclassic Soconusco Society now adds a key region to the overall picture. This work will serve as both a basic

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