collections will provide students hands-on experience with Mesoamerican material culture. In the works are exhibits using these collections in conjunction with student and faculty projects. These will be displayed in the new cabinet that will be located prominently in the Anthropology Department.

In December the IMS received a gift Mesoamerican figurines and ceramic spindle whorls from Denise Martin. The items were collected by her father in the 1960s and it is her wish that they be used for teaching. Along with the Maya daily-wear textile collection that Diane Palmer donated that two

Letter from the Director

¡Utz Ipetik! Welcome!

Since the last edition of the newsletter, the IMS has continued to thrive. As you read this one, you'll note the many, varied accomplishments of the faculty and student members, including new publications and grant support for research.

The IMS faculty are committed to the student members, taking them to conduct research in Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Mexico, while also mentoring students who study Mesoamerican immigrant life in the United States. IMS takes great pride in its student members and supports their scholarship through the DeCormier and First Encounter fellowships. This year’s DeCormier winners are Caroline Antonelli and James Shuford. The First Encounter winner is Alex Auclair.

These small grants in combination with faculty mentoring, especially, in the field—on an archaeological or ethnographic project in Mesoamerican—have positioned our students to make a mark on the field of Mesoamerican and anthropological studies. Thanks to the DeCormier family and their friends, the DeCormier Endowed Fund continues to grow.

Aside from the student and faculty member successes, the IMS with the University of Colorado Press has published Thomas Babcock’s monograph, Utatlán: The Constituted Community of the K’iche’ Maya of Q’umarkaj. It is available in ebook and traditional hardback editions.

The IMS has also published, Nang nagun’ rihaan nij sii chihaa’ (Consejos para la gente Triqui/Words of counsel for the Triqui people) by Román Vidal López. This book will be downloadable on the IMS webpages. It represents a collaborative project by the author, Professor Aaron Broadwell, and a several linguistics students.

In December the IMS received a gift Mesoamerican figurines and ceramic spindle whorls from Denise Martin. The items were collected by her father in the 1960s and it is her wish that they be used for teaching. Along with the Maya daily-wear textile collection that Diane Palmer donated that two

The procession for Saint John is leaving the Cathedral in San Juan Comalapa on June 24, 2011.

Tichajj iwi’.
IMS Events

The IMS has been very busy this year. In September of 2011 hosted a talk by Dr. Phillip J. Arnold (Loyola University), titled “Gulf Olmec Arrhythmia: Prognosis for Broken Heartland”. On January 2012, the IMS, the Department of Anthropology and SUNY brought in Dr. Verónica Pérez Rodríguez (Northern Arizona University) to speak about her archaeological work in Oaxaca, Mexico. In February of 2012 the institute presented a talk with Dr. Rusty Barrett (University of Kentucky) named “Humberto Ak’abal and the Politics of Grammar in Contemporary K’iche Maya Poetry”. And on September of this coming year, Dr. Emiliana Cruz (UMass) will present her work on Chatino language to the IMS community.

Also we are excited to announce our 34th Annual DeCormier Scholarship Award Ceremony will be held on May 17th at 2:30.

Christopher DeCormier Memorial Scholarship

Christopher DeCormier was a SUNY-Albany student with strong interests in Maya culture and field-work. The Christopher DeCormier Fund was created in 1978 to honor the memory of Chris DeCormier, 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.

2011 Recipient: Christine Preble

This past year, Christine has steadily been working on gathering data and conducting research for her dissertation examining the local impacts of cruise ship mass tourism in Cozumel, Mexico. She presented preliminary findings last November at the annual American Anthropological Association’s (AAA) national conference.

A busy year, she is splitting her time between research and the Office of International Education, Study Abroad & Exchanges at the University at Albany, where she works as a Graduate Assistant of International Marketing. This summer, she will be returning to Pisté, Mexico, working another year as a field school assistant at the Open School of Ethnography and Anthropology (OSEA) and then back to Cozumel for more dissertation research! She can be reached at cpreble@albany.edu.
2011 Recipient: Gabriela Xilonen Aquino Dehesa

Thanks to the 2011 Decormier Scholarship, Gabriela Xilonen Aquino Dehesa was able to conduct fieldwork in Oaxaca, Mexico, specifically in the Mixtec region and the Triqui’s Highlands, in the towns of Tlaxiaco and San Andres Chicahuaxtla. She was gathering data about, family, migration and marriage.

Her project titled “La Fuerza de la Costumbre? Triqui Family and Migration: Between tradition and Change” explores the relationship between traditional marriage and family in the migration context. The poverty, the political conflicts and the lacks of opportunities have made that Mixtecs and Triquis look for more economic opportunities in the biggest cities of Mexico and United States. The migration is a way of life in this area of Oaxaca and the characteristics of the indigenous migration and the mestizo migration are quite different, in this research Gabriela wants to know how the migration has changed the traditional indigenous family.

Mural in San Andrés Chicahuaxtla

San Andrés Chicahuaxtla street

The community version, intended for Copala Triqui people, has recently been published in the Institute for Mesoamerican Studies Occasional Paper, along with an accompanying CD.

IMS Faculty Associates

George Aaron Broadwell

Dr. Broadwell and graduate students Ashley LaBoda, Gabriela Aquino Dehesa, and Sharone Horowitz-Hendler, have continued to work together on the documentation of the Copala Triqui language. Copala Triqui is an indigenous language of Oaxaca, Mexico, but there is a large community of speakers in the Capital District. Our latest project, ‘Nang naguan’ ri-haana’ (Consejos para la gente Triqui/Words of council for the Triqui people) is a book written by Román Vidal López, a native speaker of Copala Triqui, who has been working with the Albany Triqui Working Group for several years. Although few native speakers are able to read and write their language, Mr. Vidal López has become a gifted writer in his own language, and the members of the working group have been involved in helping decide on questions of spelling, English and Spanish translations of the work, making audio recordings of the text, and in producing an annotated version for linguists and anthropologists.

The community version, intended for Copala Triqui people, has recently been published in the Institute for Mesoamerican Studies Occasional Paper, along with an accompanying CD. The annotated edition for scholars is expected out later this year.
Louise M. Burkhart published *Aztecs on Stage: Religious Theater in Colonial Mexico* in the fall of 2011, with the University of Oklahoma Press. The book presents English translations of seven plays previously published in the four-volume *Nahuatl Theater* set, edited and with a new introduction and new commentaries directed at students and other non-specialists.

Much of last summer was devoted to preparing a chapter on Spain and Mexico for the forthcoming *Cambridge History of Witchcraft and Magic in the West*, edited by David Collins, S.J. In May Professor Burkhart presented a featured talk on don Bartolomé de Alva’s Nahuatl adaptation of the Golden Age play “The Animal Prophet and the Fortunate Patricide” at the conference “Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz: Her Work, Colonial Mexico, and Spain’s Golden Age,” California State University, Los Angeles. She returned to LA in October for the American Society for Ethnohistory conference, where she presented a talk and a commentary and also chaired a session honoring the career of Dr. Susan Schroeder.

During the 2012-2013 academic year, Professor Burkhart will be on sabbatical and in residence as the Paul Mellon Senior Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery, Washington, D.C. She will be preparing an analysis of colonial Mexican pictorial catechisms (Testerian manuscripts) and their relationship to Nahuatl language and Nahuatl versions of the catechism.

Jennifer Burrell

Professor Burrell is pleased to announce that two books long in the works are soon forthcoming. “Central America in the New Millennium: Living Transition and Reimagining Democracy,” a volume co-edited with Dr. Ellen Moodie of UIUC is coming out with Berghahn Press in October. In this volume, contributors examine regional circumstances within frames of democratization and neoliberalism, as they shape lived experiences of transition. The authors, anthropologists and social scientists from the United States, Europe, and Central America, argue that the process of regions and nations “disappearing” (being erased from geopolitical notice) is integral to upholding a new, post-Cold War world order — and that a new framework for examining political processes must be accessible, socially collaborative, and in dialogue with the lived processes of suffering and struggle engaged by people in Central America and the world in the name of democracy. The book includes chapters originally presented at the Wenner Gren symposium of the same name held at UAlbany in 2008 as part of the 40th anniversary celebration of IMS, as well as materials on the Honduran coup and recent elections in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Burrell’s monograph, *After War: Conflict, Power and Politics Among the Maya*, on the transition from war to post-war in Todos Santos Cuchumatán is in press with University of Texas Press, due out in 2013. Based on more than thirty-eight months of ethnographic field research in Todos Santos Cuchumatán,
Guatemala between 1994 and 2007, it examines a range of conflicts that animate the crucial transition from the end of Guatemala’s thirty-six year civil war to the current period. In doing so, it addresses some of the most pressing concerns of this period, and of transition periods in general, such as lynching, crime, competition over historical narratives, and the widespread growth of gangs, looking at how they arise and are experienced by the Mam Maya.

Publications from Burrell’s PIMSA/CONACYT funded research on Mexican and Central American migration and healthcare access (with Profs. James Collins and Elena Bilbao González of Universidad Iberoamericana) are published or in press. These include “La migración Mexicana y su acceso a la salud: una perspectiva binacional desde Puebla y la región de la capital del estado de Nueva York,” in Migración e Instituciones Sociales, edited by Patricia de los Ríos, México, DF: Universidad Iberoamericana, Ciudad de México y el Programa de Asuntos Migratorios and the contribution “Ethnography” (with graduate student James Shuford) in the Encyclopedia of Immigrant Health, edited by Sana Loue and Martha Sajatovic, eds. (Heidelberg: Springer Publishing). Another article, co-authored with Collins, on migrant healthcare access and the state is in process. Burrell was invited to speak on the research at the inaugural event for CUNY’s Institute for Mexican Studies, a day-long conference on Immigration and Health, in May 2012.

In December, Burrell was invited to the Peace Research Institute in Oslo for a workshop on Moralties of Migration. There, she discussed her current research on the nexus of security and migration among transnational Todosanteros. Articles on the topic are in progress, as is a book manuscript.

In March 2012, Burrell was awarded the Ruth Benedict Global Citizenship Award for Excellence in Public Anthropology, an award that recognizes her achievements in making anthropology relevant to the larger world, and to her students, through their participation in the Center for Public Anthropology’s Community Action Online Project.

Robert Carmack

My major accomplishment for some time is the publication of my new book, "From Tribes to the Modern World -System: A Social Science Perspective on World History". Amazon’s affiliate, CreateSpace, is the official publisher, and it is available on Amazon.com, as well as on Kindle (either under the title or my name). This is a major work, and includes considerable information on Mesoamerica and other Latin American areas and topics. One section on Mesoamerica includes references to our Legacy of Mesoamerica book, and a case study featuring Quetzalcoatl. It also features another case study on the Nicaraguan revolution. A Spanish version of the book will soon be Editorial Piedra Santa in Guatemala.

Also recently published is a small anthology in Spanish on the Maya community of Momostenango. The volume contains chapters by former IMS participants, including Barbara Tedlock, Garrett Cook, and Jinsook Choi. I have also begun preparation of an additional Spanish anthology on the Maya community of Santa Cruz del Quiche, the first chapter of which will consist of my historical summary of the community from prehispanic times to the present.

Finally, Dr. James Mondloch and I have begun a new Spanish translation and interpretation of theaugust Maya book, the "Popol Wuj". This new version has been commissioned by the Universidad Mesoamericana in Guatemala City. Their books are extremely well illustrated, and adorned with handsome hard-covers. This will be a great challenge, given the importance of the book and the controversy surrounding all previous translations of it.
John Justeson

John Justeson is currently co-editing dictionaries of ten of the indigenous languages that were documented by the Project for the Documentation of the Languages of Mesoamerica, which he co-directed from 1993 to 2010 with Terrence Kaufman and Roberto Zavala Maldonado. Dictionaries will be published on several Mixe-Zoquean and Zapotecan languages, as well as on two forms of Nahua and one Mayan language. These first editions of the dictionaries will be published with Spanish glosses by Mexico’s Instituto Nacional de Lenguas Indígenas (INALI), which provided funding for the final years of the PDLMA’s field work, in 2007-2010. An expanded version of each dictionary will later be published in a trilingual edition that includes English glosses, along with a grammatical sketch of the language; free access to this version will also be made available online. Another 13 dictionaries are in the works, to be completed over the next several years.

In the meantime, he will be writing up the results of his sabbatical research at Dumbarton Oaks on the decipherment of the epi-Olmec writing system, as well as a number of papers on ancient Mesoamerican astronomy and on Mesoamerican hieroglyphic writing generally.

Dr. Justeson will be writing up the results of his sabbatical research at Dumbarton Oaks on the decipherment of the epi-Olmec writing system.

Epi-Olmec Writing System in La Mojarra Stela
Walter Little

Over the last year, Walter Little has continued two ongoing research projects, one ethnographic, *Urban Street Economies in Antigua, Guatemala*, and the other ethnohistoric, *Mayas in the 1930s Guatemalan State*. He spent roughly two months last summer pursuing these projects.

As is customary for him, Dr. Little co-directed the Oxaljuj Aj Kaqchikel Maya language course. He and his colleagues worked on the next Kaqchikel text-book, *Kik’asemal ni Kaqchikela’ - Kaqchikel Maya Life: Kaqchikel Maya Language*. (Co-authored with Judith M. Maxwell, Kawoq Baldomero Cuma Chavez and Joyce Bennett) to be published by the University of Texas Press. The contents of the book, in contrast to most language textbooks, are shaped by the concerns of a Kaqchikel Maya advisory board that insisted that topics must address traditions, like maize farming but also political and religious conflicts that are part of contemporary life in Guatemala.

The past summer on of Dr. Little’s outstanding undergraduates, Kevin Smith, who conducted his own research on traditional Maya farming. He noticed that because of changes in the global economy and in the local politics the gender dimension of farming is changing.

In the fall semester, he and Patricia McAnany, a well-respected Mesoamerican archaeologist, published the edited volume, *Textile Economies: Power and Value from the Local to the Transnational*, which is available from AltaMira Press.

Dr. Little’s research on Maya handicraft vendors, artisans, and Guatemala economics was recognized when he was interviewed and cited in the *National Public Radio* story, “*U.S. Consumers Key To Survival For Guatemala Artisans*,” (September 22, 2011).

Marilyn Masson

Marilyn Masson (Co-Principal Investigator), Timothy Hare (Principal Investigator), and Bradley Russell will be returning to their research project at Mayapan in 2013, thanks to a newly awarded NSF grant. Over the past decade we have conducted six NSF-supported field seasons at Mayapan, the largest political capital of the Postclassic Maya lowlands. Prior research has focused on the city’s political economy, urban organization, and social class relationships. We return next year to employ state-of-the-art remote sensing technology, LiDAR, using a drone plane that will record all surface architecture within a 50 kilometer square area that will include the entire walled city (4.5 km sq) and its sustaining area beyond the walls. The flights will be completed within two weeks, and after a month or so of processing the data we will have a map of the city and its environs that would otherwise have taken 20 years to complete using traditional pedestrian methods. The work will establish an accurate popu-

(Continue on page 8)
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Area to be surveyed by the Mayapan LiDAR project (the walled city and its environs), showing initial linear pedestrian survey transects mapped by Bradley Russell that documented many features outside of the city wall.

Medieval Brussells and Mayapan – two walled urban centers. Map of Mayapan shows the only sectors where lanes and walls surrounding residential complexes have been fully mapped and indicates the intricate mazeway of the urban core.
Robert Rosenswig

Soconusco - Summer 2011

Last summer, Dr. Rosenswig and a group of UAlbany students spent two months working in the Soconusco region of Chiapas, Mexico. This was the second season of Rosenswig’s National Science Foundation-funded settlement survey project where LiDAR data was used to document over 400 mounds in a 43 km$^2$ area around the site center of Izapa. LiDAR is a high-precision 3D-imaging technique that also remapped the site of Izapa, the Soconusco’s largest regional capital from 700 BC through to AD 1000. Izapa was first investigated by Matthew Sterling and its pyramids and stelae appeared in the pages of National Geographic Magazine in the 1940s. Work by Rosenswig and his team is the first time that Izapa’s full extents have been defined and the only documentation of occupations in the surrounding region. Quite a number of early sites were documented within 10 km of Izapa during the summer of 2011. Two of the very earliest, dating to 1700 BC, will be the focus of future work by UAlbany doctoral student Rebecca Mendelsohn for her dissertation project on the origins of ceramic use and village life.

Las Mercedes, Costa Rica – Winter 2012

During the months of January and February, Dr. Rosenswig then ran an undergraduate archaeological field school at the site of Las Mercedes in the central Caribbean region of Costa Rica. The project was co-directed by Ricardo Vazquez, an archaeologist at the National Museum of Costa Rica as well as a doctoral candidate in UAlbany’s Department of Anthropology. Rosenswig and Vazquez first collaborated at Las Mercedes in 2009. Las Mercedes was the center of a paramount chiefly polity and is one of the largest monumental sites in Costa Rica. The major phase of architectural construction at the site began circa A.D. 1000 and occupation continued through to the early Spanish colonial period. Despite being known for the past 130 years, the 2012 field season has changed how Las Mercedes is understood. In 2009, we discovered that the monumental architecture at Las Mercedes’ site core covers an area twice as large as previously recognized. During the 2012 field season, a number of these new architectural features were explored, including a paved plaza that served to receive large groups of people making pilgrimages to La Mercedes as well as a circular, sunken water tank directly in front of the 6 m-high central mound that functioned as a reflecting pool (see image below).

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One of the most spectacular finds of the 2012 season was the discovery of a chacmool apparently inspired by those known from Chichen Itza and Tula in Mexico. The Las Mercedes chacmool is more fanciful than those known from Mesoamerica and has a monkey/jaguar mask of a reclining figure with the head of a jaguar emerging from between its legs (see image below). Another chacmool was removed from Las Mercedes in the late 19th century and is now displayed at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. Based on a series of radiocarbon dates, most of the monumental architecture at Las Mercedes was built between 900 and 1100 AD, which is precisely when the chacmools in Mesoamerican date to. In Prehispanic times, the central Caribbean region of Costa Rica is more closely tied to South America but these chacmools indicate the influence of at least some aspects of ritual emanated from Mesoamerica.

Izapa, Soconusco - Summer 2012

Just back from Costa Rica, Rosenswig is already gearing up for another season of settlement survey in the Soconusco. The coastal plain and piedmont regions have now been sampled and during the summer of 2012 the intervening low hills will be targeting for investigation with the help of a 50 km² block of LiDAR coverage. With this third season of results, a truly regional reconstruction of population levels and the settlement system of the Izapa polity will be generated with complimentary results from three environmental zones.

Rosenswig has also recently heard that he was awarded a National Geographic Society research grant to begin excavations at the site of Izapa itself. This work will target the earliest occupation of the site to document the changing economy of this long-lasting political center. Exciting finds will undoubtedly be uncovered but you will have to wait for next year’s IMS Newsletter for the details.

IMS Students Associates

John Edvalson

speaking community Nahualá, Guatemala for the last four months as part of a ten month project funded by The Fulbright Association for his dissertation research. His project examines the cultural politics of teachers and schools in the community, paying close attention to the interactions between education development organizers and Nahualense political leaders, teachers and families. People in Nahualá have been very gracious and willing to collaborate with his work. He also spent a week at CIRMA (Centro de Investigaciones Regionales de Mesoamerica) in Antigua, Guatemala, investigating issues related to education and development in Nahualá and surrounding areas. This summer he is looking for-
ward to bringing his family to stay with him for the second time to accompany his research activities. His article, "Gangs, Community Politics, and the Social Production of Space in Nahualá" will be published by the University of Oklahoma Press this coming year in a volume edited by John Hawkins, James McDonald, and Walter Adams. The volume is titled "Crisis of Governance in Maya Guatemala: Indigenous Responses to a Failing State".

John’s dissertation research is being funded by The Fulbright Association Grant for his research about cultural politics of teachers and schools in Nahualá, Guatemala.

Courtney Kurlanska

Courtney was thrilled to return to Albany this year with the support of the department to write her dissertation on the Political Economy of Rural Microfinance in Nicaragua. She presented on her research at the AAA meetings in Montreal in a panel she organized on examining microfinance from an ethnographic perspective and won a travel subsidy to attend the meetings from the Society for Anthropological Sciences for her paper “Microcredit, Dependency and Withdrawal.” Additionally, she was honored to be a discussant on an invited panel examining the legacy of long term fieldwork in Latin America. As a returned Peace Corps volunteer Courtney shared the influence that the experience had on her anthropological career in the December online edition of AnthroNews celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps. As Courtney will be graduating in May, she is currently finishing her dissertation, working on papers for publication, and applying for jobs across the country. She hopes that after graduation she will be able to maintain a fruitful and productive relationship with the anthropology department at Albany and the IMS.
Marx Navarro Castillo

In January 2012 Marx Navarro Castillo conducted the ceramic analysis of the material recovered during the first season of excavations in the Ejido Miguel Alemán, Chiapas, Mexico. Based on the information obtained, he considers that this town reached its economic and population peak during the Late Classic period. This could have been due to the appearance of plumbate production. Plumbrate potters must have taken advantage of an increased demand for pots, converting this activity into their principal form of income. However more research must be conducted. His research is focused in the study of craft production and craft specialization.

Sarah is in the process of completing her dissertation and will graduate at the end of the semester.

Rebecca Mendelsohn

Rebecca Mendelsohn is a third year PhD student and National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow. This summer she completed her Master’s paper “Of Pots and Parties: Tecomates and Feasting Practices of the Early Formative Soconusco” using data from the site of Cuauhtémoc. The results will be presented as a coauthored paper with Dr. Robert Rosenswig at the 2012 Society for American Archaeology meetings. This summer Rebecca also participated in the second season of the Izapa Regional Survey Project led by Dr. Rosenswig. During this season, she surveyed the piedmont zone around Izapa and conducted surface collections to help date the mapped Izapa mounds. Among the new discoveries were two sites that contained Initial Formative materials, helping to challenge the traditional view that the first ceramic-using peoples of the Soconusco lived only on the coast and the coastal plain. Rebecca plans to conduct test excavations at these sites for her dissertation.

Sarah Taylor

Sarah is a doctoral candidate in the department, researching community-based tourism in Yucatan. The past year has been full of new experiences, and Sarah had the opportunity to teach two classes for the department and to return to Ek’ Balam for follow-up research in January. She is in the process of completing her dissertation and will graduate at the end of the semester. She would like to thank IMS, and particularly the DeCormier family, for their support of earlier phases of fieldwork.
IMS 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

The following publications are in print and distributed through the University Press of Colorado. To order any of these volumes, visit http://www.upcolorado.com.

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

"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

"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, ethno-historic, and psychological studies."
- Brian M. Stross, University of Texas, Austin
ISBN 0-942041-12-7

"CASI NADA is the result of many months that the author shared the lives of the ejidatarios of Guara-cha, Michoacan and of his patient reconstruction of the collective memory concerning a half century of violence and hope. Without a doubt, it will become obligatory reading for those interested in the themes of agrarian reform, peasant reproduction and political control at the local level. The book will also serve to remind us that, if it is true that Mexican peasants never have supported populist inefficiencies, neither will they become enthusiastic supporters of a neoliberal agenda which condemns them to disappear."
- Guillermo de la Peña; Director, CIESAS-Occidente; Guadalajara, Mexico
ISBN 0-942641-13-5, $30.00

(Continue on page 14)
Volume 5: With Our Heads Bowed: Dynamics of Gender in a Maya Community. Brenda Rosenbaum.
"Brenda Rosenbaum has succeeded in capturing the daily routines of San Juan Chamula men and women in such a way as to reveal the gender subordination implicit in the fabric of this society. Since few of the monographs on this much studied area have addressed the issue of gender relations, this volume is a welcome and valuable addition to the field. Few ethnographers have explored the ambiguous link between ideology and social role performance in as great a depth as Brenda Rosenbaum. With her long commitment to fieldwork in San Juan Chamula she is able to demonstrate how women have been able to overreach a constraining model of behavior defined by men." - June Nash; Distinguished Professor of Anthropology; City University of New York
ISBN 0-942041-14-3, $18

Volume 6: Economies and Polities in the Aztec Realm, edited by Mary Hodge and Michael E. Smith.
"The Seventeen papers in this collection deal with various aspects of the relationship between economics and the political units which constituted the Aztec state and its main competitor the Tarascan empire...Until recently Aztec studies were dominated by two rather narrow foci...a preoccupation with the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan coupled with neglect of other cities and the rural countryside, and an over-emphasis on the best-known Native and Spanish chronicles which ignored the vast corpus of lesser known but equally important documentary sources...Fortunately a few archaeologists and ethnohistorians, including the contributors to this volume, insisted on expanding the geographical and conceptual parameters of Aztec studies. They also began to employ recent innovative approaches in archaeology, locational geography, economics, political theory, and history in their quest to understand what really happened in central Mexico during the Postclassic period. The result has been some very exciting new perspectives on this fascinating topic."
-Richard A. Diehl; Professor of Anthropology; University of Alabama

This valuable collection assembles essays by leading experts in transnationalism, highlighting emerging trends in this newly developed field. The contributions focus on the construction of transnational identities and how these identities form and change in the context of processes of migration and displacement. The book addresses the ways in which nations and states frame identity formation through labels, politics of exception, and racialization through an interdisciplinary and multi-methodological perspective, which permits the student of transnational processes to access diverse constructs through multiple angles. The volume includes concrete ethnographic examples of identities in the making, documentation of the effects of exile and displacement, reflexive accounts by writers who have direct experience with transnationalism, and incisive theoretical arguments that highlight the ways in which race, citizenship, nation-states, and neo-colonialism create images and actions of individuals and communities. The examples include discussions about Latinos in the United States, individuals and communities along the borders, indigenous peoples in migration, and identity construction in international workplaces. Contributors include: Edna Acosta-Belén, Allan F. Burns, Jorge Durand, Duncan Earle, Juan Flores, Liliana R. Goldin, Michael Kearney, Douglas S. Massey, Victor D. Montejo, Suzanne Oboler, Carlos E. Santiago, Azara L. Santiago-Rivera, Nina Glick Schiller, and Ilan Stavas.

(Continue on page 15)
Volume 8: Beware the Great Horned Serpent: Chiapas under the Threat of Napoleon. Robert M. Laughlin.

"Dr. Robert M. Laughlin, one of the world’s greatest students of native language and culture, has produced a "historical anthropology" that is both captivating and illuminating. Like a mystery novel, the reader is led from the accidental discovery of a Tzotzil-Maya nineteenth-century text, found in the very building where Laughlin works (the Smithsonian Institution), through the bizarre and dramatic history of events surrounding the 1812 Cortes in Spain and an obscure proclamation sent to the officials of the American colonies. Through Laughlin’s detailed accounts of these historical events that took place in Spain, New Spain, Peru, Guatemala, and Chiapa, the reader learns the meaning of the proclamation for the Creoles and Indians to whom it was addressed. In the best tradition of the "microhistorian," the proclamation and its Tzotzil text are historically and culturally contextualized rather than explained.

As Laughlin himself states in his introduction: "The pages that follow present a theater of the absurd, a fabulous history with myriads of details as if set in the Milky Way. The reader will not be comforted with an historical ‘argument.’" The prose is wonderful, the characters alive, and the plot intriguing. And along the way, the reader is treated to an inside perspective on the vicissitudes and small triumphs of colonial Indians in one small corner of the Mesoamerican world."

- Robert M. Carmack, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, University at Albany


IMS Monograph Series

The following monographs are in print and distributed through the University Press of Colorado. To order any of these volumes, visit http://www.upcolorado.com.


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


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

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This archaeological site report presents new insights 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 Nahua 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 Nahua 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, Nahua 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 Nahua: Franciscans, Dominicans, Augustinians and Jesuits. Native scholars participated in the composition of much of this material. Genres include sermons, catechisms, prayers, narratives, drama, hymns, and antiphonal chants. The earliest extant edition of the rosary in Nahuatl is included, as are twelve miracle narratives, a complete Augustinian sermon on the Purification, and a lengthy native-edited account of the Assumption. Nahuatl text and English translation are presented in parallel columns. Each text is preceded by introductory commentary that explicates the European background of the material and its new meanings and uses in the Mexican context.
ISBN 0-942041-21-6, $25.00

Monograph 14: 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 pro-
duction 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 will serve as both a basic reference on the Postclassic archaeology of a key region and a case study in the local impacts and manifestations of ancient empires and world-systems.

ISBN 0-942041-20-8, $35.00

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Manuscript Submission

The IMS publication program has a joint publication agreement with the University of Colorado Press with the goal of publishing at least one book manuscript per year in the area of Mesoamerican scholarship. Along with our publication agreement, University of Colorado Press will also distribute the existing IMS catalog. Manuscript proposals are now actively being solicited 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.

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.