Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Greetings from a cold Albany. Although the weather is frigid here, the contents of this newsletter are filled with the research experiences of the IMS students, faculty, and alumni working in far warmer climes.

As you will notice, our IMS community of scholars have spent another productive year, indicating the important contributions to scholarly knowledge of Mesoamerica. What you have before you is merely a sampling of the research that IMS affiliated scholars have produced since the last newsletter. The quality of my colleagues’ work humbles me, but also makes me all the more curious about the Mesoamerican world, past and present. Hopefully, you will find it as inspiring as I do.

Rather than recap what you will find in the following pages, I want to call attention to the ways in which IMS scholars are making an impact beyond Mesoamerica. Of course, I encourage you to read the latest publications, some of what are described in these pages. However, it is important to note that IMS scholars have won prestigious research grants. Dr. Louise Burkhart won a Paul Mellon Senior Fellow at the National Gallery of Art’s Center for the Advanced Study of the Visual Arts. Alumnus and DeCormier winner 1998, Dr. Timothy Hare, with Dr. Marilyn Masson and Dr. Bradley Russell (also a DeCormier winner 2003) won a National Science Foundation grant. Dr. Russell also won major National Geographic Society and The Waitt Foundation grants for his research. Dr. Jennifer Burrell is a 2013-14 Fellow at the International Research Centre at Humboldt University in Berlin. She also won a research grant from the Gerda Henkel Foundation’s State, Society and Security Programme. And Dr. Verónica Pérez Rodríguez has had continued support from the National Science Foundation.

The DeCormier Memorial Scholarship is supported through the generous donations of friends and colleagues such as yourself. In the newsletter, you will read a letter from Louise and Robert DeCormier. Let it inspire you and consider making a donation to it, knowing that you, too, will be helping future generations of Mesoamerican scholars.

Best Wishes and Happy Holidays,
In Fall 2013, the IMS hosted two speakers. In conjunction with the Northeast Mesoamerican Epigraphy Group (NutMEG) speakers series, Dr. Anthony Aveni (Russell B. Colgate Professor of Astronomy and Anthropology) presented his research on “Calendrics, Astronomy, and Math at the Xultun Institute of Advanced Study”. Dr. Marilyn Masson (UAlbany & IMS) and Dr. Bradley Russell (Saint Rose College, IMS, National Geographic) presented their latest research on "Anthropogenic, Economic, and Sacred Landscape Studies at Mayapan, Summer 2013.”

In Spring 2014, the IMS will be hosting three events. In celebration of the EZLN’s uprising 20th anniversary, Dr. Jeanne Simonelli (Wake Forest College) will present her research with Zapatista communities in February. This same month, the IMS will also present an exhibit and talk on Trique textiles and language. Our last scheduled talk is Dr. Leigh Binford (College of Staten Island CUNY), who will be sharing the updates on his research in post-war El Salvador.

Update on the Textile Collection

Through donations and acquisitions, the IMS has assembled a collection of textiles, mostly from Guatemala and Mexico. In 2010, 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 (blouses, sashes and cloths) with pieces dating back into the 1930s. The collection is mainly composed of Guatemalan textiles, but also carries pieces from Mexico and the Andes. Thanks to the help of volunteers, the textiles have been cleaned and photographed. The collection is currently being catalogued and will be available online and for research use in the near future.

New Mayapan Documentary

Together with Sloan Tash and Dr. Sarah Taylor (UAlbany Ph.D. program graduate, Class of 2012), Dr. Marilyn Masson has completed a new documentary film, entitled “Mayapan: Urban Life at the Last Maya Capital.” This 33 minute film is for public education and use and it is available on youtube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YCp-WqrwuXY.

The film was made with the assistance of a Faculty Research (FRAP) grant awarded by The University at Albany SUNY. Sloan and Sarah also assisted Dr. Masson with creating a project website that shares the findings of research at Mayapan from 2001-2009, available at the following address - http://www.albany.edu/mayapan/

These efforts help to fulfill the goal of making NSF-supported research of the Mayapan project available to colleagues and to the public.
Dear Friends,
Each year when May arrives, leaving winter and the mud season behind, Robert and I look forward to the award ceremony which began so many years ago.
Christopher would be 59 years old now and we sometimes wonder what he might be doing -- working in the field somewhere which he loved, teaching at a University. We think he would have made a fine teacher--I never wish that we hadn’t begun the scholarship fund, only that we hadn’t had to. Neither of us shall ever forget calling Albany and speaking to Robert Carmack in the days following Christopher’s death, knowing that it would be impossible to simply let him go without leaving something of himself behind. . . I remember vividly that when he was in high school, before leaving for school in the morning he would put a record on his record player -- maybe the Brahms violin concerto, Miles Davis or John Coltrane -- leaving something of himself behind.
The Christopher De Cormier Scholarship Fund was begun in 1978, the year after he died and in all of the years since then we have followed the careers of young people just starting out, glad that we and Christopher and all of you could help make some of their field work possible.
It has always meant a great deal to us, every May, when we come to Albany for the Awards ceremony -- meeting the new recipients of the Scholarship Fund and hearing about their work, often being able to reconnect with some of the previous years’ recipients, seeing Bob Carmack and many of the staff of IMS. You have all become part of our extended family and we treasure your friendship.
For the past several years our daughter and Chris’s sister, Robin and her husband George, have been coming with us on that special day in May. When the time comes that we can no longer participate, they will carry on. . . just as the Scholarship Fund will carry on and flourish, helping many more young people with their field studies in Mesoamerica.
With warm best wishes to all of you from us both,
Louise and Robert De Cormier

2013 Recipient: Mounia El Kotni

Thanks to the generous support of the De Cormier fund and a grant from the UAlbany Institute for Women, Mounia was able to carry two months of preliminary fieldwork in Chiapas, Mexico in summer 2013. Working with the Women and Midwives’ Section of the Organization of Indigenous Doctors of Chiapas (OMIECH) has allowed Mounia to gather data for her dissertation project. Her dissertation focuses on women’s reproductive rights in Mexico. Preliminary fieldwork allowed her to document the barriers faced by Indigenous midwives in their practice, and how these barriers inform on the discriminations and broader inequalities suffered by Indigenous populations. The importance of midwives as social and healthcare practitioners in Indigenous communities is being transformed by the medicalization of prenatal health care in Mexico. Midwives’ knowledge is no longer recognized as valid, and as a result this important aspect of Indigenous culture is disappearing. This is but yet another example of the discriminations faced by Indigenous populations in Chiapas.

Through archival work and the collection of oral narratives, Mounia has started to document how a human rights approach to traditional medical knowledge might bring to light the processes reproducing social and structural inequalities in Mexico.
Mounia presented findings from her preliminary research at the American Anthropological Association (AAA) national meeting in Chicago last November, under the title “Indigenous Women’s Healthcare Access in Chiapas: Midwives Defending Reproductive Rights.” She is currently working on her doctoral examinations, and will return to Chiapas in January 2014 to attend a meeting of midwives of the OMIECH and conduct one month of fieldwork.

2013 Recipient: Crystal Sheedy
This past summer (2013), Crystal Sheedy was able to conduct preliminary ethnographic fieldwork for her dissertation with the funds graciously awarded to her through the Christopher DeCormier Memorial Scholarship. Her research focuses on identifying the changes and continuities within work patterns and cultural and linguistic practices of Mayas from the Yucatán Peninsula. For this past summer’s project, she was able to return to Xocén, a Maya village where she conducted her Master’s thesis research, and build stronger rapport with her past participants, as well as expand the number of individuals that are willing to work with her for her dissertation research. In the process of being introduced to new people, she was also able to establish connections in different villages, which she hopes to incorporate into her dissertation research. While in Xocén, she noticed that she was developing a stronger command of Yucatec Maya, and she was able to express her research interests to her past participants, who, in turn, started to help her find and understand events that were of particular importance to her research interests. Additionally, with this stronger command of the language, she was able to begin to record life histories from two of her previous participants, as well as stories from another participant. All in all, this was a very fulfilling experience for her, and she greatly appreciates the opportunity to conduct her preliminary research for her dissertation. She is currently looking forward to conducting her ethnographic fieldwork for her dissertation in the upcoming future. She can be reached at csheedy@albany.edu

First Encounter Award

2013 Award Recipient: Kendra Farstad
Kendra traveled to the Northern Yucatan this summer, with the assistance of funds received from the IMS First Encounter Award, to conduct preliminary ethnobotanical research for her master’s paper and dissertation. Kendra also served as survey director for the Agricultural Foundations of Mayapán (FAM) under the supervision of Caroline Antonelli and field assistant for the Maya-pán LiDAR and Mapping Project, co-directed by Dr. Timothy Hare, Dr. Bradley Russell, Dr. Marilyn Masson, and Carlos Peraza Lope. In addition to practicing and improving her Spanish she also learned and documented a list of Yucatec Maya words and phrases, specifically those related to gardens, plants, and medicine. Ethnobotanical research consisted of interviewing members of the Telchacillo community regarding house gardens and medicinal plant use. While conducting archaeological survey she was able to learn names and uses of jungle plants and note the distinction between domestic and jungle resources and knowledge.
2013 Award Recipient: Katherine Kurtessis

Kurtessis' thesis is focused on how political and social relations following the Nicaragua Revolution impact perceptions and development of tourism. The goal of the thesis is to determine how Nicaraguans and tourists view one another in light of past historical events, as well as to seek a model of tourism that would provide the economic benefits desired, while still protecting Nicaraguan identity and community-based development initiatives.

IMS Faculty Associates

Louise Burkhart

Louise M. Burkhart returned in May from her year as the Paul Mellon Senior Fellow at the National Gallery of Art’s Center for the Advanced Study of the Visual Arts. She is engaged in research on pictographic catechisms from colonial Mexico. In an article to be published in February 2014 in Hispanic American Historical Review, she argues for a new interpretation of these small picture books. These catechisms, which depict the Lord’s Prayer, Ten Commandments, and other key doctrinal elements as rows of pictures, have generally been considered an innovative evangelization strategy of the immediate post-conquest era. Instead, after establishing that a question-and-answer text included in the catechisms dates to the mid-seventeenth century, Burkhart argues that the genre developed after that time, as one of the strategies that later colonial indigenous elites deployed to represent themselves as legitimate Christian rulers, descended from conquest-era ancestors who immediately accepted the new faith. The manuscripts originate in a deliberate attempt to create an archaising, nativistic pictographic genre but have little direct continuity with pre-Columbian manuscripts. Burkhart presented talks on her research in April at the Library of Congress, in May at the Northeast Nahuatl Group conference at Yale, in July to a PIER Summer Institute on Native Peoples and Europeans in the Americas at Yale, in September at the American Society for Ethnohistory conference in New Orleans, and in October at UCLA in a symposium on the Iberian Globalization of the Early Modern World. She continues work on a collaborative book project, with Elizabeth Hill Boone and David Tavárez, which will present a facsimile, decipherment, and several analytical chapters devoted to one of the earliest surviving pictographic catechisms. She is also a contributor to the forthcoming Cambridge History of Witchcraft and Magic in the West and Oxford Handbook of the Aztecs. She is currently serving as president of the American Society for Ethnohistory.

Burkhart argues for a new interpretation of pictographic catechism as “one of the strategies that later colonial indigenous elites deployed to represent themselves as legitimate Christian rulers.”
Dr. Timothy Hare, together with Dr. Marilyn Masson and Dr. Bradley Russell engaged in field research for the Summer of 2013, using the most advanced remote (aerial) sensing available to archaeologists today, LiDAR (Light Ranging and Detection). LiDAR uses a device that is flown over an archaeological region in a small plane that beams laser rays to the surface and produces an elevation map that includes natural topographic contours as well as the outlines of buildings, roads, and walls of ancient cities and their dwellings. This team received an NSF grant (Hare, PI, Masson and Russell, Co-PI’s) to survey a 40 sq km hinterland area of the Postclassic capital city of the Maya world, Mayapán, where they have been conducting research on urban life and political economy since 2001. Carlos Peraza Lope of Mexico’s Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, continues to serve as co-director of UAlbany’s Mayapán project. The Mayapán Project is one of only four NSF-funded research program in Mesoamerica to employ LiDAR technology. The objective of the LiDAR study was to answer the question of the size and population of Mayapán, a walled urban city covering an area of 4.2 sq km; Russell’s dissertation research established that housing continued to at least half a kilometer beyond the city’s enclosure wall in all directions, but the project had little sense of peripheral density or organization. The study also wished to investigate two other key research questions. First, how was the periphery organized in terms of housing of members of different social classes, administrative, ritual, or public buildings (or outlying minor sites), or specialized production or resource extraction features? The second research objective was to begin a study of the foundations of urban life at Mayapán through time. How many people lived in the area prior to the Postclassic Period, and what spatial patterns of dwellings or public architecture reveal how life was organized in the Preclassic and Classic Periods?

Results of the LiDAR survey revealed a completely human-transformed landscape in which natural knolls were modified into elevated, squared living platforms (at a significant labor cost for their occupants). This landscape was first significantly settled in the Late Preclassic, and it was never fully abandoned through the Early, Late, and Terminal Classic or the Postclassic. The team has discovered a low-density pattern of continuous occupation, probably by agrarian populations through time, from first colonization through the Postclassic, when hinterland farmers grew food to support the great urban capital. We also documented minor centers in all directions that probably marked administrative and ritual centers that structured zones of residences into communities. The LiDAR work discovered 18 massive rejolladas, natural (and sometimes modified) depressions suitable for cultivation in extra moist conditions, as well as 150 new cenotes or caves outside of Mayapán’s city wall. This research has led to a new phase of the study, entitled “The Changing Agrarian Foundations of Urban Life at Mayapán,” for which grants are currently being written. The Summer 2013 Mayapán project also supported the research of two UAlbany graduate students, whose studies tie in to the project’s greater goals of understanding strategies for sustaining urban life through time. Caroline Antonelli (Ph.D. candidate) performed a study of soil productivity and Kendra Farstad (Ph.D. student) used an IMS “First Encounter” grant to begin learning about botanical resources, past and present, in the Mayapán vicinity.

The Mayapán LiDAR project represents one of the first systematic efforts to understand rural households in northern Yucatan. Although survey work has occurred in the region for many years, much of the prior work has been limited to transects or has focused on monumental architecture, rather than humble dwellings. Furthermore, research in Yucatan has focused on the vicinity of major Classic political centers like Chichen Itza, Dzibilchaltun, Ek Balam, Chunchucmil, or Sayil. This portion of the
Verónica Pérez Rodríguez

In Fall 2013, Dr. Pérez Rodríguez was appointed Assistant Professor at the University at Albany. She is the Director of the Cerro Jazmin Archaeological Project, which investigates ancient urbanism and its environmental impact by integrating archaeological and geomorphological methods. The project focuses on Cerro Jazmin, a Prehispanic city in the Mixteca Alta region of Oaxaca, Mexico. Dr. Pérez Rodríguez will be conducting the second season of the project in January 2014 through funding from the National Science Foundation. Phase 2 is devoted to archaeological excavation of residential, civic-ceremonial, craft production, and agricultural areas to learn about the city’s local and regional function and prominence as reflected on monumental architecture, residential areas, and agricultural terraces. More information and updates on the project can be found at http://cerrojazmin.wordpress.com

John Justeson

During the past year, John Justeson published a synthesis on early Mesoamerican writing systems in the Oxford Handbook of Mesoamerican Archaeology (Deborah Nichols & Christopher Pool, editors), and currently has in press a lengthy paper on indigenous Mesoamerican models for eclipse prediction. In April, he presented a follow-up paper on Mesoamerican models for the placement of 5-month intereclipse intervals and their calibration to the eclipse table of the Dresden Codex, at a Society for American Archaeology symposium in honor of Anthony Aveni’s interdisciplinary contributions to archaeology. In August, he visited the Centro Académico y Cultural San Pablo in Oaxaca, Mexico, consulting on an exhibition of indigenous calendar systems and practices and presenting his discovery of a Zapotec lunar calendar and eclipse-related records at Monte Alban; he also presented an invited discussion of the epi-Olmec writing system and texts at the Palacio Municipal in the Mixe community of Tlahuitoltepec. In November, he presented joint work with Terrence Kaufman on an otherwise unknown writing system recently discovered in southern Veracruz at the 2o Coloquio Tendencias de la Investigación Antropológica e Histórica en Tabasco.

Mastodont tooth fossil found by local farmers in Tiltépec

In 2014, through funding by the National Science Foundation, Pérez Rodríguez will be conducting the second season of the Cerro Jazmin Archaeological Project in Oaxaca.
Jennifer Burrell is a 2013-14 Fellow at the International Research Centre “Work and Human Lifecycle in Global History”, at Humboldt University in Berlin. From her office overlooking the center of Berlin, she is working on a book project about generation and rights at the nexus of migration and security-making. The book is based on ethnographic fieldwork among migrants in the US and the communities from which they hail in Central America and Mexico.


The Gerda Henkel Foundation’s State, Society and Security Programme has awarded Burrell a generous grant to pursue new research and writing on the evolving relationship between state and communities in Guatemala.

Burrell’s year has been filled with much international travel (in addition to the move to Berlin!) She was invited to speak at National University of Ireland, Maynooth, (October) where she also took part in a day-long seminar on development & Guatemala, and the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign. She gave the papers “Waiting After War: Elusive Peace and Transition in Guatemala” at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association, “Webs of Security: Migration and Mayan Transnational Lives” at the Social Science History Association conference, both in Chicago in November 2013, and “Indigenous Migrations and Transnationalism in the Age of Security” at the Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology meeting in Mérida, Yucatán in March. She moderated a session on violence at the Guatemalan Scholars Conference in Antigua Guatemala in July 2013 and served as a discussant for an excellent AAA panel on the politics of healthcare access, organized by Shuford and Levy.

Burrell continues to provide expert consultation for asylum and immigration cases and to consult with international organizations. Most recently Burrell consulted with the Interamerican Development Bank to assess their projects affecting indigenous people in Latin America, and authored the report “Consolidating Lessons Learned from the Multilateral Investment Fund’s Projects Affecting Indigenous Peoples.” Graduate student Mounia El Kotni provided much-appreciated assistance.
Walter Little

spent another summer research season in Guatemala this past summer, working for some weeks at the Archivo General de Centro América in Guatemala City and continuing for the remainder of the time his research on the politics of urban public space in Antigua Guatemala. In the former project, he was able to find guidebooks from the national fair that illustrated quite clearly how Mayas were being represented in the 1930s. The latter project has continued to evolve, now including local community grassroots heritage development organizations. While in Antigua, he gave presentations to the Consejo Cívico de Vecinos de La Antigua Guatemala (CONCIVE), the Guatemalan Scholars Conference, and to the Oxlajuj Aj/Tulane University Kaqchikel Maya and Culture course.

In the wider anthropological community, Dr. Little was elected president-elect of the Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology (http://www.aaanet.org/sections/slaca/Society_for_Latin_American_and_Caribbean_Anthropology_SLACA/Home.html). He will spend this year learning his role and, then, assume the office of president on December 2014, following the 2014 American Anthropological Association annual meeting. He also participated on the dissertation evaluation committee of University of Toulouse student, Clara Duterme, who conducted research in Guatemala on the relationships among legacies of violence and tourism. While he was there, he gave a presentation, “Quelle réconciliation? Réflexions Mayas sur la criminalité dans la période post-paix du Guatemala” to the anthropology department.

This year Dr. Little’s co-edited book, *Street Economies, Politics, and Social Movements in the Urban Global South* was published by School for Advanced Research. It includes essays from scholars in anthropology and geography. He also made progress on one of his other books, *Kik’aslemal ri Kaqchikela’ - Kaqchikel Maya Life: Advanced Kaqchikel Maya Language*, that is co-authored with Judith M. Maxwell and Kawoq (Baldomero Cuma Chavez). Kawoq and he finished co-writing 62 original short stories and mini-plays in Kaqchikel for the book. In order to make the stories as lively and connected to everyday life as possible, they experimented by writing in different places and at different times--some times in schools and plazas, other times in bars and restaurants. Once Dr. Little has finished writing complementary cultural essays and Dr. Maxwell as completed the grammar and pedagogical sections, the manuscript will go to the University of Texas Press.

“Street Economies, Politics, and Social Movements in the Urban Global” SAR Press 2013: http://goo.gl/}

Feria de Guatemala Poster. 1937.

Street vendors in Antigua.
With support from The National Geographic Society and The Waitt Foundation (Grant #W264-13), the Mayapán Taboo Cenote Project concluded its first season of exploration at Cenote Sac Uayum in the summer of 2013. Sac Uayum is a sacred, water-bearing sinkhole located at the Postclassic Maya political capital of Mayapán, Yucatan, Mexico (1150-1450AD). The work brought together an international collaboration of researchers from the United States, Mexico and Estonia. Principle Investigator Bradley W. Russell (SUNY Albany and College of St. Rose) and Co-Directors Marilyn A. Masson (SUNY Albany), Carlos Peraza Lope (INAH Centro Yucatan) and Eunice Uc Gonzalez (INAH Centro Yucatan) enlisted the help of lead diver Rait Kütt and underwater archaeologist Lisseth Pedroza Fuentes. The study yielded significant new insights into the cenote that many modern inhabitants consider to be “alive” and believe is guarded by a large feathered serpent with the head of a horse. The feature has drawn the attention of researchers working at the site since the first archaeological work began at the ancient city because of its conspicuous and apparently intentional exclusion by the large defensive wall surrounding the bulk of the settlement. Caves and sinkholes were especially important to the Maya as they are believed to be accesses to the underworld and homes of gods. Sac Uayum remains sacred today and local residents both respect and fear it and the large feathered serpent said to guard it. In order to enter the cenote, Russell and the team hosted a traditional Maya Jeets’ Lu’um or “calming of the earth” ceremony to petition the gods of the sky, earth and winds as well as its serpent guardian for permission to perform the work. Doing so provided new ethnographic data on modern Maya cave ritual and beliefs. The team of divers and underwater archaeologists focused on detailed underwater mapping and photography of the cenote and its contents. During the study, they located 15 human crania and a large number of other bones, attesting to the use of the site as a burial location. Early data suggests that the site contains burials of both sexes and a range of ages, including one as young as six or seven years old. Ceramic fragments show a mix of Preclassic and Postclassic Maya use of the feature. Researchers recovered a small sample of the bones (two femurs, a mandible and a tibia) that they will use to obtain radiocarbon dates for the burials themselves. The researchers were surprised and excited to find that the cenote’s main chamber is connected to a second even larger and deeper cavern that contained five of the best preserved skulls identified along with many other bones. While connected, submerged cave systems are common near the coast, they are rare this far inland.

Ceremony before the exploration of the Cenote.
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.

Rebecca Mendelsohn is a doctoral candidate at UAlbany. This year she is conducting dissertation research in Mexico on a Fulbright-García Robles grant. She has spent the fall semester at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México learning to process and analyze botanical remains using samples from the early Mesoamerican city of Izapa (1000 B.C.-A.D. 100), located in the southern Pacific coast region of Chiapas, Mexico. Under the advisement of Dr. Guillermo Ocosta and Jorge Cruz Palma, Rebecca is analyzing starch grains in samples collected from grinding stones, ceramics, and soils to investigate subsistence and food processing at the site. To complement these studies, Rebecca is also conducting macrobotanical analysis of soil samples from Izapa, under the advisement of Dr. Emily McClung.

In January, Rebecca will begin the second phase of her project, excavating house mounds at the site of Izapa. By documenting household contents at different stages of occupation, the study aims to determine how the urbanization and increasing development of socioeconomic hierarchy at Izapa affected the material well-being of commoners. Artifacts collected from excavations will be used to reconstruct the early economy and investigate how emerging kings or king-like leaders gained enough social and economic capital to organize monumental construction at the site. The project investigates how strategies like the regulation of prestige items and long-distance trade products, control over craft specialization, and manipulation of religious symbols could be used to widen the social and economic gap between elites and commoners. The project represents the first household excavations at Izapa using modern excavation techniques and will include the first excavation of new mounds discovered during the 2011 remapping of the site by the Izapa Regional Settlement Project, directed by Dr. Robert Rosenswig.

Yahaira Nunez Cortes

Yahaira traveled to San Cristobal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico this summer, as part of the Izapa Regional Survey Project directed by Dr. Robert Rosenswig, to collaborate with the typological analysis of ceramics dug on Izapa on the summer of 2012, in which Yahaira also took part as one of the excavation supervisors. Yahaira also conducted analysis of ceramics, including the recording of typological, metric, and stylistic data, from a Postclassic site in the coast of Chiapas, as part of her Master’s paper. The site was found in the winter of 2011, also by the Izapa Regional Survey Project. Dr. Robert Rosenswig, from SUNY-Albany, Dr. Janine Gasco from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and Dr. John Clark from Brigham Young University (BYU), who were all conducting research on the New World Archaeological Foundation, shared with Yahaira their expertise on the area and the time period to help classify and even identify new ceramic types for the Soconusco. This research will help shed light on an under-researched time period in this region of Mesoamerica.

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**IMS Publications**

**IMS has three publication series.**

The **IMS Monograph Series** ([http://www.albany.edu/ims/monographs.html](http://www.albany.edu/ims/monographs.html)) is intended primarily for the dissemination of descriptive studies requiring large-format images.

**IMS Studies on Culture and Society** ([http://www.albany.edu/ims/culture&soc.html](http://www.albany.edu/ims/culture&soc.html)) tends to be more interpretive works. Volumes in these series are distributed by the University Press of Colorado, alongside its respected Mesoamerican Worlds series.

The **IMS Occasional Publications Series** ([http://www.albany.edu/ims/occ_pubs.html](http://www.albany.edu/ims/occ_pubs.html)) are technical reports, published on demand or available for download on the IMS website; For more information please contact us at ims@albany.edu, or by telephone at (518) 442-4722.

To order books from the IMS Monograph Series or the IMS Studies on Culture and Society, please visit [http://www.upcolorado.com/](http://www.upcolorado.com/)

**Upcoming publication**


Mondloch’s book provides an extensive and accurate survey of the principle grammatical structures of K’iche’e’. This is a pedagogical rather than a reference grammar. Drawing on more than nine years in Kiche-speaking communities, he provides a wealth of examples and detailed commentaries on actual usage that is accessible across academic disciplines.

**New Website coming up in 2014!**

The IMS is pleased to announce the creation of a new website. It will be launched at the beginning of the Spring semester. If you would like to share projects with the IMS community or update your current profiles, please contact us at ims@albany.edu

We are also looking for pictures for the new webpages and our Facebook page, so please share your best shot from the field with us! You can email your pictures or post them on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/IMSUAlbany](http://www.facebook.com/IMSUAlbany))

**Sneak peek into the new website**
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).

Since 1975, 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.

Giving to IMS:
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.