Greetings to all! I am serving as the Interim Director of IMS for Fall 2022 and Spring 2023, as three of our IMS faculty members were on leave this year and others were committed to different posts! We look forward to the return of our members next year and for Dr. Verónica Pérez Rodríguez to assume (once more) the directorship of IMS in August. As is customary, this annual newsletter brings friends and former associates of the institute up to date on our current activities.

Everyone here at IMS continues to mourn the passing of Louise DeCormier last April. Readers of this newsletter, like those of us currently at the university, will always remember her warmth, grace, talent, and fierce love for her family. Remembering Christopher DeCormier at our annual rewards ceremony now provides an occasion to also recall our favorite memories of Louise, and Bob DeCormier, who developed and maintained a close relationship with IMS for decades in honor of Christopher’s enthusiasm for and contributions to the anthropology of Mesoamerica. Robin DeCormier Timko and her husband, George Timko also spent many years attending, celebrating, and remembering Chris at our yearly ceremony, as they did in May of 2022, and will do going forward.

Best Wishes,

Marilyn Masson, Director
The Institute for Mesoamerican Studies will host two talks during Spring Semester and the DeCormier Awards ceremony in May.

- On April 14th, Dr. Walter E. Little (SUNY Albany) will present *Fashion Politics: Maya Identity, Dress, and Economic Decisions* at 12:00 pm in FA 126.

- On April 21st, Dr. John Millhauser (North Carolina State University) will give the lecture *Poverty, Power, and Prehistory in Mesoamerica: Insights from the Basin of Mexico* at 4:30 pm in FA 126.

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 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...
Heungtae was awarded DeCormier Scholarship on April 12, 2022 for his dissertation project about how the Aztec creation story known as “Five Suns Story” has been evolved and transformed through centuries from 1300 to 1600 AD. With this funding, on July and August 2022, he conducted a field trip in Mexico City metropolitan area in order to locate artifacts and pre-columbian sites related to Five Sun Story.

Visiting Museo del Templo Mayor at the site of Great Temple of Tenochtitlan and Museo Nacional de Antropología, Heungtae noticed that both monuments of Five Suns Story and artifacts for New Fire Ceremony of the Aztecs, which commemorated the ritual for rejuvenation of the current fifth sun in every 52 years, are younger than any other Aztec monuments since they were produced solely during the reign of King Moteuczoma II (whom Hernan Cortez met) from 1502 to 1519 AD.

With observation on Five Suns monuments and stone artifacts of New Fire Ceremony and his interview with Dr. Olmedo Bertina, the curator of Sale Mexica of Museo Nacional de Antropología, Heungtae noticed that all monuments and artifacts lost their archaeological contexts due to their discovery around 1900 AD. Fortunately, their artistic styles and few Nahuatl glyphs naming King Moteuczoma II directly verify their productions in some points during Moteuczoma II’s regime. He also found that no monuments and artifacts identical to those never have been excavated through the long-term archaeological excavation project of Great Temple since 1978, leading a conclusion that Moteuczoma II’s political ambition after his coronation in 1502 AD was the exclusive major background for composition of Five Sun Story itself and productions of related monuments and artifacts.

Heungtae’s field travel to Cuailama, an archaeological site located few kilometers south from Mexico City, supported this conclusion too. In the site, there is a rock-carving of an Aztec glyph called 4-Movement (Nahui Olin), the name of current fifth sun. When he visited Cuailama, Heungtae noticed that the 4-Movement glyph straightly faces the Great Temple in the heart of Mexico City. With this fact, which no archaeology papers mentioned explicitly, he observed the tight connection between those two sites, understanding the scale, impacts, and significance of King Moteuczoma’s monument construction program and how Five Sun Story reflects the king’s ambition.

Currently Heungtae is writing his dissertation, so he will set more detailed descriptions of aforementioned outcomes of his field trip above soon.
This past summer I was able to conduct linguistic fieldwork in Oaxaca, Mexico thanks to the First Encounter Scholarship and the David Scotchmer Essay Award. I had always wanted to do fieldwork beyond a classroom setting, but beginning a PhD program at the University at Albany during the beginning of the pandemic made that goal seem far off. In my second year, I was able to meet Copala Triqui speakers from the diaspora community here in Albany and work with them in a field methods course. The paper which I wrote during this class became my submission to the essay contest and the work from that course sparked my interest in learning more about the language and its speakers.

Copala Triqui contains many interesting phonological features, such as the preference to heterosyllabify adjacent vowels rather than using a method of deletion or other means to resolve the issue. Cross-linguistically this is said to be less common than to resolve such sequences. The status of laryngeal consonants is also interesting in Copala Triqui and this topic is something that has been under consideration across many Mesoamerican languages. Such laryngeals display very unconsonantal behavior, leading some to claim that in certain languages they are not full consonants, but rather a feature of a vowel or a root morpheme. In Copala Triqui, as I’ve found, laryngeals are not very consonant-like either in word-final and intervocalic position.

In Oaxaca, and in my work upon returning to Albany has allowed me to delve deeper into this topic. In Mexico I was able to work with Copala Triqui speakers living in Oaxaca as well as learning a great deal about the language situation there. Working with more speakers than I had in Albany, I was able to gain a stronger understanding of both language variation between dialects as well as between individuals. Most of my work was conducted near the Zócalo where many Triqui vendors work. I was also able to visit the Juan de Córdova Research Library and look at works archived there written about Copala Triqui and related Triqui languages.

Since returning to Albany, I have been able to continue fieldwork with speakers here over the past winter break. I have already been able to use the work I’ve done in Oaxaca in my second qualifying paper and I am aiming to advance to PhD candidacy before the end of spring. I plan to continue my work with the Triqui community in Albany as well as making another trip to Oaxaca in the coming summer. I expect to use data from both trips in my dissertation and hope that I may also use what I know now about the language to begin collaborative projects with Triqui speakers who would like to work on language maintenance in the diaspora.
For over two years, this researcher has conducted preliminary research on textiles from San Mateo del Mar, Oaxaca at the Logan Museum of Anthropology in Beloit, Wisconsin, as well as other museums, and has also delved into social media platforms where textiles from San Mateo del Mar are often displayed. But thanks to the First Encounters Award, I was able to travel to Oaxaca de Juarez, where my research took a different direction. It was my second time in Oaxaca de Juarez, and I was admittedly unfamiliar with much outside the downtown area and its surroundings where Museo Textil de Oaxaca is located. Given the current political climate, I could not approach or go to San Mateo del Mar, so I decided to stay near Oaxaca de Juarez to develop new leads, talk to more weavers, and visit workshops. I took a risk and secured an Airbnb in an area I was admittedly unfamiliar with, the barrio de Santo Tomás Xochimilco. Unexpectedly, the barrio at the time was celebrating a summer fiesta that lasted weeks, and fireworks were going off at all hours of the night. I was sleepless and exhausted, wandering around the small barrio and looking for a cup of coffee when I ran into a very small textile shop called Taller Orozco. I entered the place to look at the textiles and found a charming teenager, Tlaloc, who was very knowledgeable about textiles in Oaxaca. Tlaloc referred me to his father’s workshop, Taller Orozco Experimental. Alfredo Orozco is the owner of the workshop. He is an “artesano,” a generational weaver who departed his family’s textile business to create his own experimental workshop. Alfredo and I spent hours discussing my project. To my surprise, he was very familiar with my research and the legacy of San Mateo weavers, and was in possession of some of their textiles. His workshop is different from any other workshop I had visited up until that point given Alfredo’s emphasis on experimenting with diverse raw materials. Alfredo has been featured at the Museo Textil de Oaxaca, Museo Estatal de Arte Popular de Oaxaca, as well as documentaries and events throughout Oaxaca. Alfredo has offered an apprenticeship at his workshop and has suggested ways in which we could incorporate my research interests into the project such as collaborating with a textile designer from San Mateo. He has also introduced me and connected me to different personalities in the textile community of Oaxaca such as suppliers, designers, weavers and anthropologists. Without the funds from this award, I would not have had the opportunity to travel and establish my research site. I am very honored to have been a part of this experience, and I encourage students to apply to the First Encounters Scholarship for Mesoamerican Fieldwork.
Joanna Dreby continues to work on research related to the effects of migratory control policies on the children of immigrants. She has published two research articles this past year: “Anatomy of Immigration Enforcement: Longstanding socioemotional impacts as children age into adulthood” in the Journal of Marriage and Family and “The Aftermath of Enforcement Episodes for the Children of Immigrants” in the Law & Society Review. Of the 98 young adults she has interviewed for the project, 40 have parents who emigrated from Mesoamerica. Also in 2022, Joanna published an article with former graduate student Fatima Pacas Rodríguez titled “Entre la Espada y La Pared: Agricultores familiares en la zona occidental de los Valles Centrales de Costa Rica” in the Costa Rican journal Revista de Ciencias Sociales about the experiences of family-based farmers given current trends in global food production in that region.

In a different sort of collaboration, Joanna is working with a scholar from the Universidad de Sevilla—Marta Rodríguez Cruz—who has collected interviews with U.S. born youth living in Oaxaca. Marta and Joanna have combined datasets—from the interviews with children of Mexican migrants in New York and in Oaxaca—to reveal the extent to which migratory control policies create a transnational regime of fear. Joanna and Marta presented preliminary findings in a seminar at the Harvard Kennedy School run by Jaqueline Bhabha in October, and will jointly participate both in the LASA conference in May and in a symposium titled “Youth Mobility Trajectories—Transnational Youth in Global South and North” in Maastricht, the Netherlands in April, 2023.

Joanna has also been exploring youth mobilities in the Mesoamerican region in other ways. Together with Leah Schmalzbauer of Amherst College, Joanna organized a virtual symposium on October 6th and 7th “Rethinking the Mobilities of Migrant Children and Youth across the Americas” (see Fall 2022 Symposium | University at Albany) which brought together senior and emerging scholars to talk about papers on Spaces and Places of Belonging, Youth in Transit and on Critical lenses on Educational Mobility. Many of the symposium papers are published or forthcoming in a special issue of the journal Social Sciences (see Social Sciences | Special Issue: Rethinking the Mobilities of Migrant Children and Youth Across the Americas (mdpi.com)).

Joanna continues to involve UAlbany undergraduate students in her research, an initiative started in spring 2020. For more see Immigration Policy Stories (google.com). She welcomes anyone in the IMS community to reach out to jdreby@albany.edu if they would like to become involved in the project.
Over the past few years, I have assumed various roles related to IMS publications. Rather than discuss my own on-going research and writing projects, I want to focus on the diversity of publications that the IMS contributes to the scholarship and knowledge of the people and the region. In the future, I’ll write about my books currently in process, *Traditional Clothing, Maya Fashion, and the Politics of Textiles and Economy in Guatemala* and *Kik’aslemal ri Kaqchikela’- Kaqchikel Maya Life, Advanced Kaqchikel Maya Language*.

The IMS has three different kinds of academic publications or series for which I am the series editor working with authors and active in the acquisition of new titles: two joint publication series with the University of Colorado Press (*the IMS Monograph Series* and *IMS Studies on Culture and Society*), the textbook, *The Legacy of Mesoamerica*, and the Spanish-language journal *Mesoamérica*. Instructions on how to order these publications or contribute to them are described below and located elsewhere in this newsletter.

The *IMS Monograph Series* and the *IMS Studies on Culture and Society* are the institute’s longest-running publications with the former series beginning in 1977 with the publication of *Archaeology and Ethnohistory of the Central Quiche*, edited by Dwight T. Wallace and Robert M. Carmack. This series now includes a total of books, with the most recent publication number 17, *Aztec Antichrist: Performing the Apocalypse in Early Colonial Mexico* by Ben Leeming. Leeming analyzes what may be the earliest surviving presentations of the Antichrist legend in the Americas and possibly the earliest surviving play scripts in the whole of the New World in any language. These Nahua-Christian plays are written almost entirely by an Indigenous writer named Fabían de Aquino and are filled with references to human sacrifice, blood-letting, ritual divination, and other religious practices declared ‘idolatrous. These are Indigenous plays for an Indigenous audience that reveal how Nahua made sense of Christianity and helped form its colonial image and include devotion to Nahua deities such as Tlaloc, Quetzalcoatl, and Tezcatlipoca.

The other series, which was inaugurated in 1986 with *Symbol and Meaning Behind the Closed Community: Essays in Mesoamerican Ideas*, a volume edited by Gary Gossen, boasts eleven books, including Brent Metz’s expansive ethnography, *Where Did the Eastern Mayas Go? The Historical, Relational, and Contingent Interplay of Ch’ortí’ Indigeneity*. Metz’s book is a genre-breaking monography that explores the complicated issue of who is Indigenous by focusing on the sociohistorical transformations over the past two millennia of the
population currently known as the Ch’orti’ Maya. From 2003 to 2018, he partnered with Indigenous leaders to conduct a historical and ethnographic survey of Ch’orti’ Maya identity in what was once the eastern side of the Classic period lowland Maya region and colonial period Ch’orti’-speaking region of eastern Guatemala, western Honduras, and northwestern El Salvador. Today only 15,000 Ch’orti’ speakers remain, but since the 1990s nearly 100,000 impoverished farmers have identified as Ch’orti’ in thirteen Guatemalan and Honduran municipalities, who ethnic consciousness has been raised by contemporary social movements and education through diverse measures to assess identity, referencing language, history, traditions, rurality, “blood,” lineage, discrimination, and more.


The IMS board members and alumni of the IMS also publish a textbook, The Legacy of Mesoamerica: History and Culture of a Native American Civilization, through Routledge Press. A new third edition, edited by Janine Gasco, Walter E. Little, and Verónica Pérez Rodríguez, is being revised to include new chapters and content that reflects advances in Mesoamerican studies. The chapter titles illustrate the topics and the breadth of scope this edition will cover:

1. Origins and Development of Mesoamerican Civilization (by Masson, Pérez Rodríguez, Rosenswig, and Smith)
2. Late Postclassic Mesoamerica (by Gasco, Masson, and Smith)
3. The Mesoamerican-Spanish Wars (by Gasco, Burkhard, and Schwaller)
4. Indigenous Experiences during Spanish Colonization (by Gasco, Burkhard, and Schwaller)
5. Mesoamericans in the Aftermath of Independence (by Dawson with Carmack)
6. Mesoamericans in the Modern Era (by Burrell, Dawson, and Metz)
7. Languages and Cultures of Mesoamerica (by Justeson and Little)
8. The Religious Tradition and Change in Mesoamerica (by MacKenzie)
9. Indigenous Movements in Mesoamerica (by Burrell and Little)
10. Transnationalism and the Political Economy of Mesoamerica (by Goldín and Little)
11. Gender and Sexualities in Mesoamerica (by El Kotni and Sheedy with Rosenbaum and Eber)
12. Political Ecologies and Community Development in Mesoamerica (by Taylor)

The chapter authors are archaeologists, cultural anthropologists, ethnohistorians, and historians, who lend their
Most recently, I was invited to by editor-in-chief of the Spanish-language, multi-disciplinary journal, *Mesoamérica*. The journal began publishing in 1980 and is also affiliated with the Centro de Investigaciones Regionales de Mesoamérica, CIRMA, an institution that shares research values with the IMS. CIRMA provides resources for scholars of Mesoamerica, including a large social sciences library, a photo library with dozens of curated collections, and substantial historical archive of original source documents.

The journal, *Mesoamérica* publishes annually on a range of topics that focus on or are related indigenous peoples of the region by scholars representing anthropology, ethnography, political science, geography, history, demography, and other disciplines. Although the journal was dormant some years, this past year in July the first of several catch-up issues was published, a special issue that looked at COVID-19 in contemporary perspective, as well as historical research into past epidemics. In the coming months, a double issue with an eclectic mix of articles that reflects the depth of Mesoamerican research will be published. It will be the first of several annual double issues that will mix dossiers on special topics with additional articles and book reviews.

Readers of this newsletter can purchase copies of the IMS/University of Colorado Press book series by visiting the IMS website: [https://www.albany.edu/ims/publications.html](https://www.albany.edu/ims/publications.html) or UCP’s website: [https://www.albany.edu/ims/publications.html](https://www.albany.edu/ims/publications.html) and [https://upcolorado.com/institute-for-mesoamerican-studies](https://upcolorado.com/institute-for-mesoamerican-studies). For those who would like information about to subscribe to *Mesoamérica* visit this page: [https://mesoamericarevista.org/subscripciones_en.html](https://mesoamericarevista.org/subscripciones_en.html). Please recommend these publications to your libraries.

For those readers who would like to publish a book with the IMS, please email your prospectus to me, Walter E. Little (wlittle@albany.edu). You can find detailed descriptions of the process for submitting a manuscript here: [https://www.albany.edu/ims/authorinfo.html](https://www.albany.edu/ims/authorinfo.html). For those who want to contribute to the journal *Mesoamérica*, please review the guidelines here: [https://mesoamericarevista.org/envio_en.html](https://mesoamericarevista.org/envio_en.html). The journal publishes in Spanish but accepts article-length manu-
From January to September 2022, I continued to direct excavations at Cerro Jazmín, in the Mixteca Alta region of Oaxaca. This field research, funded by two National Science Foundation grants, aimed to investigate the uses and functions of public spaces in the earlier part of the city’s occupation during the Late Preclassic period, and the economic strategies and quality of life of the inhabitants who stayed in Cerro Jazmín during the city’s demographic decline in the Classic period. Our operations that focused on public spaces yielded some interesting finds. In a location thought to have been a plaza south of a three-mound group, our team unearthed a series of buried architectural features, ovens, middens, and tombs that, based on recent radiocarbon results date to the Late Ramos (terminal Formative) period between 100 BCE and 200 CE. Our excavations at four different residential terraces revealed the presence of domestic structures and a sweat bath that date to the Classic to Postclassic periods. IMS alumna, Dr. Yahaira Núñez Cortés who is currently finishing up a post-doc at UNAM visited our excavations and helped collect stucco floor samples for chemical trace analysis. Also, IMS graduate student assistant Alba Tellez Nieto participated in Cerro Jazmín project in the summer of 2022 and led the analysis of lithic artifacts stemming from our excavations. Other studies on these contexts are ongoing as we await radiocarbon dating, chemical residue analysis and other results. Since the end of this year-long field season, I have been working on writing a complete field report for Mexico’s archaeology council and the funding agency, the National Science Foundation. An additional field season is scheduled in the summer of 2024.

During the spring semester of 2022 I received a U.S. Fulbright-García Robles Science and Technology Fellowship Award and for the 2022-2023 academic year I am a Fulbright U.S. Scholar working in a collaborative project with Dr. Nelly Robles who is the director of PACMA, Proyecto Arqueológico Conjunto Monumental de Atzompa. In this project we are employing ethnoarchaeological approaches to learn about how modern-day Atzompa potters, who work as part of the PACMA team, inform and en-

"From January to September 2022, I continued to direct excavations at Cerro Jazmín, in the Mixteca Alta region of Oaxaca."

Dr. Pérez Rodríguez with IMS graduate student Alba Tellez, UNAM student Ana Reyes and archaeologist Tito Mijangos reviewing the lithic typology stemming from Alba Tellez’ analysis of Cerro Jazmín lithic artifacts.

Verónica Pérez Rodríguez excavating a Classic to Postclassic household and tomb at Cerro Jazmín.
rich the archaeological work with their expertise and insight. For example, Atzompa potter Maribel Bueno can tell archaeologists, based on her observations of the archaeological materials how certain ceramics vessels were constructed through different steps and how they could have been fired. She also skillfully reconstructs ancient vessels and sometimes completes them by making custom-made pieces, missing pieces of the vessels. Our work is focusing on large format ollas and so we are interviewing local Atzompa potters, especially those who specialize in making very large vessels, like those found in the latest excavations at Atzompa, to learn about the level of specialization and kiln technology related to their manufacture, as well as the energetic (firewood) requirements involved in making such last format vessels. These ethnographic insights provide clues as to the ancient functions of the extremely large vessels, which were deposited in a high-status household near the hilltop of Atzompa in the Late Classic period, as part of a massive, burnt, ritual offering that marked the closure of an occupation of the building. This collaborative project will continue until May 2023. On another front, the project involves a comparative study of Mixtec (Cerro Jazmín) and Valley of Oaxaca ceramics, especially examples of Crema and Amarillo wares, that appear to have notable similarities. In collaboration with Dr. Hector Cabada Baez at the Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México, samples from both locations are being studied through thin sectioning, petrographic, and geologic characterization. We expect results from these efforts in the months to come.

Lastly, I have devoted some of my time in Oaxaca to promoting our book titled “La Epopeya de la Mixteca: como se hicieron y rehicieron las sociedades complejas en la Mixteca Alta.” My colleague, friend, and co-author, Verenice Y. Heredia Espinosa and I have traveled across the state of Oaxaca and a self-organized book tour. We did book presentations at Tlaxiaco’s Casa de la Cultura, at the Huajuapan Regional Museum (MUREH), at Nochixtlán’s annual patron saint fiesta for la Virgen de la Asunción, at Tutepec’s archaeology museum, and in Oaxaca City, at the San Pablo Cultural Center and its Juan Cordova research library. Through these and other efforts, which included a few radio interviews, the current (and hopefully first) edition of our book is now fully sold out.

Verónica Pérez Rodríguez with friend and co-author Verenice Heredia Espinosa as they are about to start a book presentation in Nochixtlán, Oaxaca.
Robert Rosenswig resumed fieldwork with his Belize Archaic Project this past summer. The Belize Institute of Archaeology began issuing research permits again, after a two-year hiatus due to COVID, and this allowed the UAlbany team to undertake a nine-week field season in June and July of 2022. One month of systematic survey auguring finished the regional component of the project by digging 3000 more probes, bringing to total 7500! Of these, 200 augur probes document the elusive Archaic period (8000-1000 BC) occupation of the region as is depicted on the map. The Archaic period was the epoch of foraging peoples before the adoption of ceramic containers or settled village life that define subsequent Mesoamerican civilizations. These augur probe data provide the only systematically collected regional data on this early occupation from the Maya region. The second month was excavating at five newly discovered Archaic-period sites documenting the variable human adaptive organization across the project area on the west shore of Progresso Lagoon.

In July, co-PI Dr. Megan Walsh (Central Washington University) came down and collected sediment cores from Progresso Lagoon and two nearby ponds to document pollen and charcoal patterns with which we can document vegetation and climate history through the Holocene period. These environmental and climatic data will be integrated with the evidence of human adaptation documented archaeologically and are the theoretical aim of Dr. Rosenswig grant awarded by the NSF “Coupled Dynamics of Human and Natural Systems” program (see

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“Dr. Rosenswig resumed fieldwork with his Belize Archaic Project this past summer with a nine-week field season in June and July of 2022.”
This award’s goals are to examine how drying environmental conditions affect human subsistence practices and how intensified food production, in turn, affect local vegetation patterns.

The crew shot below shows the Belize Archaic Project 2022 field assistants from Progresso Village as well as UAlbany graduate student Haylie Gray on bench, and seated on the ground (from left to right): Rylen Rosenswig, John Haynes, Sean Higgins (MA, 2009) and current UAlbany Ph.D. student Xavier McClean. Not pictured are UAlbany master’s students Morgan Marx and Danielle Duguid.

In addition to these fieldwork activities, Dr. Rosenswig presented a paper on the Archaic period at the Society for American Archaeology’s annual meeting in Chicago and another one at the Belize Archaeological Symposium in San Ignacio, Belize. While writing this entry, Dr. Rosenswig is already gearing up for the Belize Archaic Project’s 2023 field season.

Jennifer Burrell

Dr. Burrell gave a number of talks over the course of the year. In May 2022, she participated in a workshop Judicial Rulings as Ethnographic Objects at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle, talking about her work as an expert witness as well as her recent NSF-funded research on geospatial technology and international justice. She also participated in the Ukraine: Crisis in Context series of UAlbany Faculty Experts Webinars in April, speaking about the role of geospatial imagery in the creation of evidence for Ukraine war trials. She gave a lecture on ethnographic methods and evidentiary truths at UIUC in March (via zoom) and was an invited participant in “Evolving Perspectives in Anthropology and Human Rights,” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRipqJgQGSs, a webinar for the American Academy for the Advancement of Sciences Human Rights Coalition on Dec. 7, 2021. The series invites scientists to share disciplinary approaches to human rights. In May 2023, together with her co-PIs on her NSF, Kamari Clarke (UToronto) and Sara Kendall (University of Kent Law School), she’ll participate in an event on disappearance at Cambridge University.

Dr. Burrell’s Collaborative NSF Grant, Evidentiary Dilemmas and Emergent Publics: How Contestations over New Geospatial Technologies are Shaping International Justice, has finished after three years of intensive research. The final year included 16 interviews with advocates, lawyers, NGOs, journalists and others working in and around the International Criminal Court. Dr. Burrell spent a month with her colleagues in the Hague, Netherlands doing court observations, additional interviews and attending a conference celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the ICC, in which the court’s upcoming push to incorporate new technology and platforms for evidence gathering and storage was announced.

Participation in the Transnational Justice and Critical International Law Summer Institute in Kigali, Rwanda, co-organized by a group that included NSF co-PI’s Clarke and Kendall, was a highlight of Dr. Burrell’s summer. As part of a greater commitment to foster international relationships between institutions, researchers and students in the Global North and Global South, the workshop included participation from students and scholars from institutions in Europe, North America and Africa with the goal of creating international and inter-institutional partnerships that will enhance the ways in which critical international law is taught and understood. A future institute will hopefully be based in Latin America.

In the past months, Dr. Burrell has also been trained in Digital Storytelling (DS) and DS facilitation through the StoryCenter and looks forward to incorporating more of this into her teaching and research.
Marilyn Masson has been serving as department chair since the Fall of 2021 and will continue in this role until August of 2024, although she is on sabbatical for the Spring of 2023. In the past year she submitted an NSF grant, seeking funds to resume her team’s research on the early Colonial period in Yucatan at the sites of Tichac (Telchaquillo/Mayapan), Yacman, and Hunacti. She is also working on a collaborative article, tentatively entitled “Population, Settlement, Collapse, and Recovery in the Northern Yucatan Plains, 800-1500 CE: The Mayapan Vicinity in Comparative Context,” that analyzes the results of our LiDAR project in 2014 and subsequent investigations (2015) of changing rural household economies in the Mayapan environs through time. This is her sabbatical project, along with the preparation of another grant request for research on this topic to enlarge our sample of rural domestic contexts (and fine tune our chronological timeline) to address questions regarding resiliency and recovery of populations of northern Maya Postclassic populations in the century following the Terminal Classic collapse.

We will bring to bear a suite of collaborative efforts pertaining to dating, paleoclimatology, diet, migration, and population movement/histories. Dr. Masson is also diligently working to complete, by early summer, preparations for her field reports on the 2018 Colonial project season in Yucatan (for Mexico’s Consejo de Arqueología), and for UAlbany’s local 2018 historical field school at Ten Broeck mansion.

She also collaborated on a documentary focused on late Maya area civilizations with a film crew from France (associated with www.pernelmedia.com) who traveled to UAlbany for two days of filming and interviews. Dr. Bradley Russell, one of the Mayapan project co-directors, was fully also involved in this film project. He traveled to Mayapan last fall with the film crew to film some underwater burial cave (cenote) research and other important scenes. The film crew extensively interviewed Arqilo. Carlos Peraza at the site and other professional collaborators in Mexico. The film is entitled “Mayans from the Classic Collapse Until Today” and is produced in French and will be aired by National Geographic in Europe and Canada; NGS has purchased rights to Pernel Media’s “Rise and Fall of the Mayas” series of which this project is a part. We have seen it and are very impressed, especially with the color reconstruction landscapes of Mayapan.

“We will bring to bear a suite of collaborative efforts pertaining to dating, paleoclimatology, diet, migration, and population movement/histories”
Antonio spent 2022 in the field working in his archaeological project “Territorios e interacciones regionales en Chiapas occidental” in the Ocozocuautla Valley in the southern Mexican State of Chiapas. This project was funded through a NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Award. Antonio’s field team included archaeologists and students from the Universidad de Ciencias y Artes de Chiapas, and local people from the towns of Espinal de Morelos and Gavilán. The project not gathered data and also contributed to training local specialists who hopefully will continue to research into their own archaeological heritage. The fieldwork consisted mostly of a surface survey, identifying 53 new archaeological sites, including hilltop sites, mound centers (with ballcourts), shrines, and funerary caves. The occupations of these sites span from the Escalera Phase (ca. 750-500 BC) to the Postclassic period. Five test pits in three different sites especially helped Antonio to determine the ceramic sequence essential to studying the sites. Analyzing the data gathered with different spatial models, Antonio will determine changing and varied territorial strategies, with respect to access to communication and exchange routes of the past in this portion of Mesoamerica.

This past summer I got an eye-opening experience as part of the excavation efforts for the 2022 season of the Belize Archaic Project. Under Professor Robert Rosenswig, I gained extensive knowledge regarding the Archaic period and the region. I was also able to ascertain the scale and direction required for field research, something I hope to start soon! It was great to see a multitude of related occupations come together and help answer long-standing questions in this area.
Alba spent her summer in Oaxaca, working at the Cerro Jazmín Archaeological Project with Dr. Verónica Pérez Rodríguez. Alba led the analysis of lithic artifacts from excavations with a technological approach. As result of this analysis she proposed a typology specific for Cerro Jazmín. The proposed typology was added as part of the full report for Mexico’s archaeology council.

During her visit to Oaxaca she also visited the community of San Mateo del Mar where she met the traditional Huipiles weavers and this consultation helped her to learn and identify an ethnographic tool kit currently in use. During this year, she has been studying the ethnohistory of Metztitlan and Xaltocan.

Where are they now? Congratulations on their new positions to our alumni Mesoamerican studies doctoral students!

• Dr. Abelardo de la Cruz de la Cruz (class of 2022) has accepted an Assistant Professor position in the Department of Religious Studies starting this Fall at UNC Chapel Hill.

• Rebecca Dinkel (class of 2021) has been hired as visiting assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology at Vassar for the 2023-2024 academic year, teaching in linguistic anthropology.

• Jamilläh Rodriguez (class of 2021) starts her position as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Linguistics at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

• Yajaira Núñez Cortés (class of 2020) is finishing up a postdoctoral fellowship at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México with the Instituto de Investigaciones Antropológicas and is preparing to start a new postdoctoral position at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama.

• Dr. Crystal Sheedy (class of 2019) joined the University of South Dakota’s Department of Anthropology and Sociology as an Assistant Professor in 2022.

• Dr. Rebecca Mendelsohn (class of 2017) is the Co-Director of University Museums and Curator of the Longyear Museum of Anthropology and a research affiliate and instructor in Sociology and Anthropology at Colgate University.

• Dr. Jerry Ek (class of 2015) will start an Assistant Professor position at in the Department of Anthropology at Western Washington University in Fall 2023.
IMS Publications

IMS has three publication series and a textbook for purchase.

The IMS Monograph Series (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) 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) 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.

Textbook: The Legacy of Mesoamerica To order books from the IMS Monograph Series or the IMS Studies on Culture and Society, please visit http://www.upcolorado.com

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IMS is grateful for the numerous small donations that we regularly receive from current and former IMS faculty and students, and from friends of Mesoamerican studies generally. This kindness and generosity are what supports IMS-sponsored activities.

The Christopher DeCormier Fellowship 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. For almost 40 years now, this fund has supported dissertation field work by graduate students in Mesoamerican studies, often a basis for pilot studies that have led to successful applications for larger external grants (and sometimes enough to complete dissertation work). By enabling outstanding graduate students to complete their research, the fund compliments the Institute’s mission to promote the development of new generations of Mesoamerican scholars.

For those who are able, your tax-deductible contributions can help to support this important part of the infrastructure for Mesoamerican research at UAlbany. Donations to the Institute for Mesoamerican Studies, the Christopher DeCormier Fellowship Fund, or to the Mesoamerica Endowment Fund can be sent by check to the Institute for Mesoamerican Studies, Arts & Sciences 237, University at Albany SUNY, Albany, NY 12222.