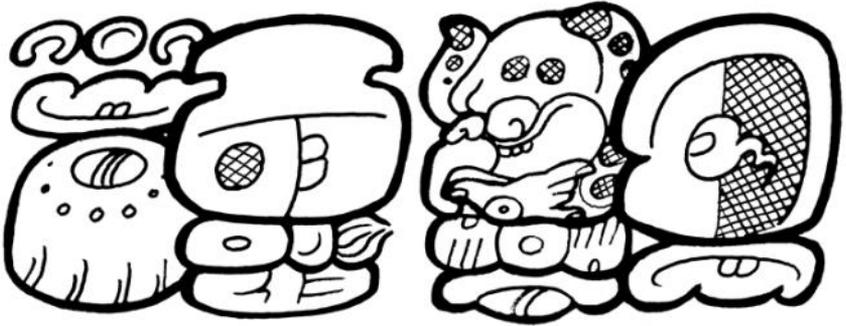


**Fifth Annual
South Central Conference on
Mesoamerica**



'Only in New Orleans!'

October 24-26th, 2014

Tulane University

New Orleans, LA

Conference Schedule

Friday, October 24th, 2014

All presentations will be held in the Kendall Cram Lecture Hall, Room 213 Lavin-Bernick Center (LBC)

- 12:00 PM Registration
- 12:45 PM Welcoming Remarks and Announcements
- 1:00 PM **Caches, Offerings, and Problematic Deposits from Hinterland Households: The Medicinal Trail Community, Belize**
David M. Hyde (Western State Colorado University)
- 1:15 PM **Murals, a Midden, and the Maya: A Comparison of the Chiik Nahb Murals of Calakmul and a Late Classic Feasting Midden from La Corona**
Caroline A. Parris (Tulane University)
- 1:30 PM **Rediscovering the Ancestors at Xunantunich, Group D**
Whitney Lytle (University of Texas at San Antonio)
- 1:45 PM **Plaza Excavations at Buenavista del Cayo: Identifying Protoclassic Activities**
Christie Kokel-Rodriguez (University of Texas at San Antonio)
- 2:00 PM **Plaza Investigations in the Acropolis of Chan Chich**
Krystle Kelley (Texas Tech University)
- 2:15 PM **Use of Mesoamerican Handstones**
Katherine Shurik (Louisiana State University)

- 2:30 PM **Caves, Rulership, and Gender in the Art of the Late Formative Maya**
Amanda McCatherine (Texas Tech University)
- 2:45 PM **Mother's Bones: An Examination of the Treatment and Cultural Perception of Women's Physical Remains in Ancient Mesoamerica**
Jordan Andréa Krummel (Tulane University) and Stanley Guenter (Idaho State University)
- 3:00 PM** **BREAK**
- 3:30 PM **Integrating Airborne LiDAR and Settlement Survey at Cahal Pech, Belize**
Claire E. Ebert (Pennsylvania State University) and Jaime J. Awe (Northern Arizona University)
- 3:45 PM **LiDAR Use in Survey and Settlement Investigation in Yaxcaba, Yucatan, Mexico**
Jessica Anne Wheeler (Tulane University)
- 4:00 PM **Return of the BEAST: Prehistoric and Historic Survey in Northwestern Belize**
David Sandrock (Texas Tech University)
- 4:15 PM **A Preliminary Spatial Analysis of Tlalancaleca, Puebla**
Willem VanEssendelft (Tulane University), Tatsuya Murakami (Tulane University), Shigeru Kabata (Universidad de las Américas Puebla)
- 4:30 PM **Observations on the Settlement Pattern of the Río Seco and Marinalá Archaeological Sites in the Region of La Gomera, Escuintla, Guatemala**
Rodrigo Guzman (Southern Methodist University)

4:45 PM

Combining Remote Sensing with Plant Sciences for the Identification of Archaeological Features in Northwestern Belize

Erik Marinkovich (Humboldt State University), Ty Swavely (Humboldt State University), Spencer Mitchell (Humboldt State University), Marisol Cortes-Rincon (Humboldt State University), Sarah Nicole Boudreaux (University of Texas at San Antonio)

5:00 PM

Lower Dover: Extending the Boundaries

Michael Petrozza (Texas State University) and Jaime Awe (Northern Arizona University)

5:30 PM

KEYNOTE SPEECH: John Watanabe

Telling the Past from the Present – and Knowing when We’re Doing Which: Presentist Narratives and Past Differences in Guatemalan Ethnicity

Reception to follow in the Middle American Research Institute (MARI), Dinwiddie Hall

Saturday October 25, 2014

All presentations will be held in the Kendall Cram Lecture Hall, Room 213 Lavin-Bernick Center (LBC)

- 8:00 AM Registration
- 9:00 AM **The History of Mortuary Ritual of a Classic Maya Noble House: Recent Excavations at El Perú-Waka'**
Keith E. Eppich (Collin College)
- 9:15 AM **The Queen's Serpent: An Examination of the Iconography on the War Serpent Vessel from Burial 61 at El Perú-Waka'**
Sarah Van Oss (The College of Wooster)
- 9:30 AM **Questioning the Road to Xibalba**
Paulo H. Medina (Boston University)
- 9:45 AM **A Middle Preclassic Platform and Associated Burial from Xunantunich, Belize**
Zoe Rawski (University of Texas at San Antonio), M. Kathryn Brown (University of Texas at San Antonio), and Jennifer Cochran (Horizon Environmental Services)
- 10:00 AM **Into the Watery Underworld: Elite Burials at Buenavista del Cayo**
Jason Yaeger (University of Texas at San Antonio), M. Kathryn Brown (University of Texas at San Antonio), Bernadette Cap (University of Wisconsin, Madison), Christie Kokel-Rodriguez (University of Texas at San Antonio), and Sylvia Batty (Institute of Archaeology, Belize)
- 10:15 AM** **BREAK**

- 10:45 AM **Remote Sensing of a Classic Maya Hydrological Management System at Xultun, Guatemala using High Resolution Quickbird Satellite Imagery.**
Jonathan Ruane (Boston University)
- 11:00 AM **Ancient Maya Salt Making Activities as Revealed by Chemical Analysis**
E. Cory Sills (University of Texas at Tyler), Heather McKillop (Louisiana State University), Christian Wells (University of South Florida)
- 11:15 AM **Underwater Excavations Reveal a Shell Midden Associated with a Classic Maya Salt Work**
Valerie Feathers (Louisiana State University), Heather McKillop (Louisiana State University), and E. Cory Sills (The University of Texas at Tyler)
- 11:30 AM **Local Environmental Management in a Highland Maya Community: Past, Present, and Future**
Michael P. Saunders (Tulane University)
- 11:45 AM **The Flower Road of the Sun at Teotihuacan: Ecology, Cosmology, and Iconography**
Lois Martin (Independent Scholar)
- 12:00 PM** **LUNCH**
- 1:00 PM **The Importance of the Number 13**
D. M. Urquidi (Independent Scholar)
- 1:15 PM **"Writing" in 3-D: The Contributions of Olmec Sculpture to Mesoamerican Writing Systems**
Carolyn Tate (Texas Tech University)

- 1:30 PM **Mayan Paleographic Analysis: The Origin of the Syllabogram T130/2S2 wa**
David Mora Marín (UNC- Chapel Hill)
- 1:45 PM **Paleographic Analysis of the Codex Vergara**
Shane Lief (Tulane University)
- 2:00 PM **Craft, Literacy and Ephemera: Maya Textiles in the Gendered Scribal Tradition**
Stephanie M. Strauss (University of Texas at Austin)
- 2:15 PM **Defining the Red Background Style: The Production of Object and Identity in an Ancient Maya Court**
Elliot Lopez-Finn (University of Texas at Austin)
- 2:30 PM **An Analysis of a Flute Titled "Woman and Shaman Dressed as a Feathered Reptile" from the Museum of Fine Arts Houston's Pre-Columbian Collection**
Rick O'Loughlin (University of Houston)
- 2:45 PM **Depression-Era Pan Americanism and MARI's Pre-Columbian Collection: The Greater Texas and Pan-American Exposition of 1937**
Rex Koontz (University of Houston)
- 3:00 PM** **BREAK**
- 3:30 PM **Remembering and Forgetting: The Re(construction) of Memory of Early Classic Yaxuna, Yucatan**
Aline Magnoni (Tulane University) and Travis Stanton (University of California, Riverside)
- 3:45 PM **Center and Satellites: The Relationship of Templo Mayor to Similar Twin-temple Pyramids in Central Mexico**
Aaron Ott (University of Houston)

- 4:00 PM **Snakes on a House!**
William Ringle (Davidson College)
- 4:15 PM **Chontales, Cholutecas and Cholti: An Onomastic Approach to Redefining the Conquest Period Southeastern Maya Frontier**
Erlend Johnson (Tulane University) and Pastor Gomez Zuñiga (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia)
- 4:30 PM **Names for the Nameless: Identifying Persons in the Mixtec "Codex Selden"**
David Macias (Texas State University)
- 4:45 PM **The Quincunx in Mesoamerica and New Spain**
Susan Morehead (Independent Scholar)
- 5:00 PM **Shifting Gender Roles in Language Attitudes and Acquisition: The Case of Kaqchikel Maya**
Joyce Bennett (Connecticut College)
- 5:15 PM **El Cadejo: Making Meaning of Alcoholism through Folklore**
Carla Pezzia (University of Dallas)
- 5:30 PM **The New Mayan Spirituality and Costumbre: A Comparative Analysis**
Cydney Schwartz (Tulane University)
- 5:45 PM **The Limits of Conversion: Evangelical Experience and Core Maya Principles**
Servando Z. Hinojosa (University of Texas-Pan American)

Sunday October 26, 2014

All presentations will be held in the Kendall Cram Lecture Hall, Room 213 Lavin-Bernick Center (LBC)

- 9:00 AM **Use and Function of Two Maya Earthen Mounds in the Mangroves at the Paynes Creek Salt Works, Belize**
Rachel Watson (Louisiana State University), Heather McKillop (Louisiana State University), and E. Cory Sills (University of Texas at Tyler)
- 9:15 AM **Material Preferences for Stone Tools: The Use of Limestone Tools in the Mopan Valley, Belize**
Rachel A. Horowitz (Tulane University), Bernadette Cap (University of Wisconsin at Madison), Mark C. Eli (University of Texas at San Antonio), and Jason Yaeger (University of Texas at San Antonio)
- 9:30 AM **Social Organization in Puuc Maya Suburbia: Excavations at Escalera al Cielo, Yucatán**
Evan Parker (Tulane University), George J. Bey III (Millsaps College), Tomás Gallareta Negrón (INAH), Stephanie R. Simms (Boston University), and Amanda Strickland (Ko'ox Boon)
- 9:45 AM **Resource-Full Urbanization: Investigations at the Maya site of Alabama, Belize**
Meaghan Peuramaki-Brown (Tulane University/University of Calgary) and Sonja Schwake (Penn State Behrand)
- 10:00 AM **Living in the Hinterlands: Household Archaeology at Rancho San Lorenzo's Foodplain North Settlement Cluster, Belize**
Tiffany M. Lindley (University of Texas at San Antonio)
- 10:15 AM **Household Economy at the San Lorenzo Settlement Cluster: A Preliminary Examination of Data Collected in the 2014 Field Season**
Jason M. Whitaker (University of Texas at San Antonio)

10:30 AM

BREAK

11:00 AM

Early Urbanism in Central Mexico: Preliminary Results of the Tlalancaleca Archaeological Project, Puebla

Tatsuya Murakami (Tulane University), Shigeru Kabata (Universidad de las Américas Puebla), Julieta M. López J. (UNAM), José Juan Chávez V. (ENAH), Natalia Mauricio (Tulane University), Willem Van Essendelft (Tulane University), and Hironori Fukuhara (University of Saitama)

11:15 AM

Tikal, Teotihuacan and the Maya: Integrating Epigraphy and Archaeology in the Interpretation of Ancient Mesoamerican Imperialism

Stanley Guenter (Idaho State University)

11:30 AM

Epiclassic Cantona in the Mesoamerican World System

J. Gregory Smith (Northwest College)

11:45 AM

Making Sense of a “Series of Small Walls”: Problematic Interpretations, Architectural Variability, and Developing Complexity in the Middle Preclassic Maya Lowlands

Sherman W. Horn III (Tulane University)

12:00 PM

The Architecture of the Late and Terminal Classic Regal Palace of La Corona, Guatemala.

Maxime Lamoureux St.-Hilaire (Tulane University)

12:15 PM

Construction, Labor, and Power: Shifting Political Strategies at La Cariba, Guatemala

David Chatelain (Tulane University)

12:30 PM

Acolhua Authority in Tepetlaoztoc: Transitions in Government from the Altepetl to the Nahua Cabildo

Octavio Barajas Espinoza (Tulane University)

Keynote Address

Telling the Past from the Present and Knowing When We're Doing Which:

Presentist Narratives and Past Differences in Guatemalan Ethnicity

John M. Watanabe, Dartmouth College

Postmodernism and postcolonialism persuasively critique anthropology for the inadequacy of our language to represent others and for the culpability of our privileged position in an epicolonial world. Precisely because of the sweeping epistemological and historical force of these critiques, however, neither has offered much in its stead, leaving us to grapple with equivocal imaginings, professed (if virtual) solidarity, and abiding internecine sniping across anthropology's humanistic and scientific divides. Misgivings about overdrawing differences tend analytically to privilege perceived or presumed similarities, especially when addressing current disciplinary concerns with states, power, identities, and translocal cultures (especially capitalism), all implicated in modernity anyway. In this talk, I will discuss some of the misapprehensions—and possible correctives—arising from these postmodernist, postcolonialist dilemmas through a discussion of the Guatemalan term *ladino*, not as a circumlocution for explicitly mixed-descent terms like 'mestizo' or 'mulatto' but as a more evasive 'non-Indian non-European.' I will argue that the salience of this term in the old colonial Kingdom of Guatemala (including Chiapas, Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua) reflects colonial preoccupations with *limpieza de sangre*, 'purity of blood,' that at first glance evoke for us the specter of race and racism but in fact constitute a descent ideology of religious purity in which blood serves to sanctify, not biologize, a status hierarchy forever relativized by religious conversion (willing or forced), irrepressible promiscuity, the passing of generations, and the struggle for legitimacy from both top and bottom within an institutionally bifurcated colonial order predicated on the conquered and the enslaved laboring for a conqueror ever further removed from actual conquest. This was not just simply a race-class-gendered world easily translated as such, but it did make possible the race-class-gendered world we know—and that difference makes all the difference in the world.

Abstracts

In order of presentation

Caches, Offerings, and Problematic Deposits from Hinterland Households: The Medicinal Trail Community, Belize

David M. Hyde (Western State Colorado University)

Numerous offerings have been recovered from hinterland households within the Medicinal Trail Community of northwestern Belize. The offerings identified from the study area include caches, termination offerings, exposed offerings, and problematic deposits. Identifying the deposits themselves is generally straightforward. The more difficult challenge is determining what type of offering a particular deposit is and, more importantly, what it represents in terms of ancient Maya behavior. This paper will provide definitions and descriptions for the various types of offerings present at Medicinal Trail, and provide an interpretation of the meaning for these deposits.

Murals, a Midden, and the Maya: A Comparison of the Chiik Nahb Murals of Calakmul and a Late Classic Feasting Midden from La Corona

Caroline A. Parris (Tulane University)

Archaeological feasting studies in the Maya area often look to art, iconography, and ethnography to supplement understanding of ancient Maya feasts. The murals of Chiik Nahb Structure Sub 1-4 from Calakmul, Mexico, which depict personal interactions taking place in the context of food and drink as well as other activities, have been interpreted as a representation of a feast. These murals provide a unique opportunity for comparison with archaeological remains. This study compares a Late Classic Maya feasting assemblage from the site of La Corona, Guatemala with the Chiik Nahb murals to elucidate current understandings of ancient Maya feasts.

Rediscovering the Ancestors at Xunantunich, Group D

Whitney Lytle (University of Texas at San Antonio)

Recent investigations by the Mopan Valley Preclassic Project have dramatically changed our understanding of Xunantunich's Group D. Initially thought to be a Late Classic elite household associated with an ancestor shrine, our excavations revealed a long and complex occupation history. Recent findings include a Terminal Preclassic burial, a special function platform, and buried building beneath the Late Classic ancestor shrine. This paper will discuss preliminary interpretations of Group D's reoccupation and how the construction of the courtyard area was altered drastically in the Late Classic during Xunantunich's florescence.

Plaza Excavations at Buenavista del Cayo: Identifying Protoclassic Activities

Christie Kokel-Rodriguez (University of Texas at San Antonio)

In 2014, the Mopan Valley Archaeological Project investigated both the Eastern and Central Plazas at Maya site Buenavista del Cayo. These excavations aimed to understand the occupation history of the plazas and to identify any ritual activities associated with their Eastern Structures. From ritual activities to large-scale construction events, excavations in Buenavista's Central and Eastern Plazas suggest that a sacred, ritual space may have been established during the Protoclassic that may have continued to be utilized throughout the rest of Buenavista's occupation history.

Plaza Investigations in the Acropolis of Chan Chich

Krystle Kelley (Texas Tech University)

Open plaza spaces are a commonality among Maya sites. Excavating through the sealed contexts of these plaza surfaces can yield significant amounts of reliable data on the construction history of the site and the activities that may have taken place there over time. This paper details the findings from the 2012 and 2013 seasons of research conducted beneath the Upper Plaza at the Maya site of Chan Chich in northwestern Belize. Although our excavations raised more questions, some conclusions are drawn from the data we collected over these two field seasons, and a brief analysis is presented.

Use of Mesoamerican Handstones

Katherine Shurik (Louisiana State University)

Handstone is one of the artifacts associated with the Mesoamerican ballgame. Barely any research has been published about them, since 1961, when Stephan Borhegyi first analyzed them. He identified that the handstones vary in size and shape. In the past, it has been suggested that they could be used to serve the ball when initiating the ballgame. Recent analysis in a sample of images identifies the improbability of them being a serving tool. No images display a player holding a handstone while playing the game. All images with handstones display a ritual and/or mythological context, most frequently connected with sacrifices.

Caves, Rulership, and Gender in the Art of the Late Formative Maya

Amanda McCatherine (Texas Tech University)

This paper addresses the gap in art historical scholarship that focuses on the art of the Late Formative period. Here, I compare depictions of accession rituals associated with caves or cave symbols from three Late Formative Maya

sites. The purpose of this analysis is to interpret the significance of cave symbols represented in accession scenes and to draw connections between the two, with consideration of the Maya gender principles. I propose that the Late Formative Maya conducted accession ceremonies in caves because of the feminine associations that caves held in the Maya worldview.

Mother's Bones: An Examination of the Treatment and Cultural Perception of Women's Physical Remains in Ancient Mesoamerica

Jordan Andr a Krummel (Tulane University) and Stanley Guenter (Idaho State University)

In this presentation I will examine differences in the treatment of the physical remains of women from those of men in ancient Mesoamerica, especially in the Maya area, as well as how these remains were perceived by these ancient cultures. It is well known that Mesoamericans used human remains in their rituals, especially in conjuring rituals. However, most of these analyses have either examined how these treatments utilized and affected the remains of males or have not distinguished how women's remains were treated, either similarly or differently, an omission this study seeks to rectify.

Integrating Airborne LiDAR and Settlement Survey at Cahal Pech, Belize

Claire E. Ebert (Pennsylvania State University) and Jaime J. Awe (Northern Arizona University)

Accurate and high-resolution LiDAR data are becoming increasingly important for detecting archaeological settlements in the Maya lowlands. We present the results of systematic analysis of LiDAR data and ground verification for the ancient Maya site of Cahal Pech, Belize. LiDAR data was analyzed within a GIS using the Topographic Position Index to identify the location of mounded features. During the summer of 2014, over 50 house groups and single mounds identified using LiDAR data were ground-truthed. LiDAR also recorded the location of mounds that were destroyed during modern construction, demonstrating the utility of the technology for archaeological conservation efforts.

LiDAR Use in Survey and Settlement Investigation in Yaxcaba, Yucatan, Mexico

Jessica Anne Wheeler (Tulane University)

This paper will explore the advantages and disadvantages of using LiDAR as a primary source of data for settlement surveys. The case study focuses on the area between two Maya sites (Yaxuna and Popola) in the municipality of Yaxcaba, Yucatan. An area covered by LiDAR was surveyed during the 2014 season to investigate issues of visibility, the effects of vegetation density, and

other methodological questions. This project is investigating the regional settlement area between Yaxuna and Popola, and how its settlement history and artifact patterns correspond with and deviate from those of the powerful Late Classic site of Yaxuna and its possible subsidiary site, Popola.

Return of the BEAST: Prehistoric and Historic Survey in Northwestern Belize

David Sandrock (Texas Tech University)

This presentation discusses the summer 2014 findings of the Belize Estates Archaeological Survey Team (BEAST). Survey took place on cut seismic survey lines crossing the Gallon Jug and Laguna Seca properties in northwestern Belize. This season, BEAST completed approximately 38 kilometers of linear survey. Additionally, survey crews conducted targeted opportunistic survey, including revisits of previously recorded sites and UAV-aided survey, recording more than 125 structures and a single newly-named historic site. Qualm Hill Camp represents the likely location of the British Honduras Company's lumber mill, and the site of Marcus Canul's chichina Maya raid of 1866.

Surface Collection and Field Survey at Tlalancaleca, Puebla

Willem VanEssendelft (Tulane University), Tatsuya Murakami (Tulane University), Shigeru Kabata (Universidad de las Américas Puebla)

Surface collection, survey and excavations at the site of Tlalancaleca, Puebla, indicate a long occupation with complex artifact distribution patterns. The site, in the foothills of Iztaccihuatl, is delimited by a series of ravines and characterized by multiple pyramid clusters. Many of the pyramids are arranged in relation to megalithic mounds. Possibly occupied as early as the Middle Formative, Tlalancaleca offers tantalizing connections to the later site of Teotihuacan through iconography and interaction with trade routes. This paper will discuss preliminary survey and surface collection results from the 2014 field season.

Observations on the Settlement Pattern of the Río Seco and Marinalá Archaeological Sites in the Region of La Gomera, Escuintla, Guatemala

Rodrigo Guzman (Southern Methodist University)

The sites of Marinalá and Río Seco are located in the La Gomera archaeological region on the south coastal plain of Guatemala. Recently, archaeologists from the Archaeological and Anthropological Research Center (CIAA) of Del Valle University in Guatemala have reinitiated investigations in the region. The evidence collected has provided archaeological evidence for the combination of Maya features with Teotihuacan influences, including in the architectural design and spatial distribution. The analysis and comparative study of

this information suggests that the region was an important enclave for Mesoamerican intercultural relationships during the Early Classic period.

Combining Remote Sensing with Plant Sciences for the Identification of Archaeological Features in Northwestern Belize

Erik Marinkovich (Humboldt State University), Ty Swavelly (Humboldt State University), Spencer Mitchell (Humboldt State University), Marisol Cortes-Rincon (Humboldt State University), Sarah Nicole Boudreaux (University of Texas at San Antonio)

This paper aims to examine the utility of combining high resolution multispectral satellite imagery, digitized ground survey maps of known archaeological features, and tree species classifications within a Geographic Information System, to identify linear and agricultural features under continuous canopy. Multivariate analysis of tree species diversity and stand density will be classified utilizing various enhancements and processing techniques, such as image band transformations and vegetation indices. The results of these analyses will be compared to satellite imagery of known archaeological features situated under similar canopy conditions. This will serve as a baseline to determine probable areas of interest.

Lower Dover: Extending the Boundaries

Michael Petrozza (Texas State University) and Jaime Awe (Northern Arizona University)

In the 1950's Dr. Gordon Wiley pioneered settlement archaeology in the Belize River Valley, most notably at the Maya site of Barton Ramie. Barton Ramie was uncharacteristically devoid of an administrative center, making the site appear to be an autonomous residential community. Unbeknownst to Dr. Wiley another site lay directly south of the Belize River, Lower Dover. Initial investigations at Lower Dover suggested the site was occupied sometime in the Late Classic Period. The data collected from survey, excavation, and other analyses, suggest that Lower Dover's settlement is much older than previously postulated and likely served as Barton Ramie's administrative center.

The History of Mortuary Ritual of a Classic Maya Noble House: Recent Excavations at El Perú-Waka'

Keith E. Eppich (Collin College)

The Chok Group once housed one of the most powerful noble families in the Classic Maya city of El Perú-Waka'. Excavations in the Chok Group have uncovered a sequence of burials and attached mortuary ritual. This pattern of construction, modification, and veneration forms a historical sequence for the

noble house that inhabited the Chok Group. Particularly relevant is the manner by which the noble family survived the end of Classic kingship at Terminal Classic El Perú-Waka'. This presentation charts the changing history of mortuary ritual within the Chok Group in the context of Late and Terminal Classic El Perú-Waka'.

The Queen's Serpent: An Examination of the Iconography on the War Serpent Vessel from Burial 61 at El Perú-Waka'

Sarah Van Oss (The College of Wooster)

In this paper I explore the iconography present on the War Serpent vessel found at the feet of the Late Classic Maya queen, Lady K'abel in Burial 61 at El Perú-Waka' in 2012. I examine the War Serpent motif found on the plate by studying the meanings of each animal present in the composition: the serpent, the jaguar, and the butterfly. I then investigate the vessel's significance in the queen's tomb. I conclude that the War Serpent symbolically reaffirms the ritualized role of Lady K'abel as a spiritual and military leader at El Perú-Waka'.

Questioning the Road to Xibalba

Paulo H. Medina (Boston University)

The accepted and popular cosmological significance of caves is MacLeod and Puleston's (1979) interpretation of caves as portals to Xibalba. Linking their work at Petroglyph Cave to the Popol Vuh and applying Thompson's (1970) model of a three level universe consequently led to caves exclusively being related to the underworld. This paper challenges this exclusive relationship. Instead, it is argued that caves are physical manifestations of supernatural places. Caves were not created as portals meant to "transport" individuals but they were the final destinations and places of interest with various functions related to kingship, ancestors, and earth and rain deities.

A Middle Preclassic Platform and Associated Burial from Xunantunich, Belize

Zoe Rawski (University of Texas at San Antonio), M. Kathryn Brown (University of Texas at San Antonio), and Jennifer Cochran (Horizon Environmental Services)

Recent investigations by the Mopan Valley Preclassic Project encountered an unusual Middle Preclassic platform in the center of Xunantunich's Group E. This platform appears to be circular in form with sloping slides. Although postholes were encountered on the summit surface, the central location coupled with the platform's size is suggestive of a non-domestic function. Our excavations to date suggest that the platform was enlarged during the Middle

Preclassic with an extension placed on the northern side. Within the fill of this construction event, we encountered a Middle Preclassic burial. In this paper, we present our recent findings and interpretations of this important early structure.

Into the Watery Underworld: Elite Burials at Buenavista del Cayo

Jason Yaeger (University of Texas at San Antonio), M. Kathryn Brown (University of Texas at San Antonio), Bernadette Cap (University of Wisconsin, Madison), Christie Kokel-Rodriguez (University of Texas at San Antonio), and Sylvia Batty (Institute of Archaeology, Belize)

Excavations in Buenavista del Cayo's Central Plaza revealed two stacked burial chambers in front of Str 3. The Maya had reentered the upper chamber, removed the individual(s), and then refilled the chamber. We encountered fragmentary Early Classic vessels and a few bone fragments, along with jade mosaic pieces and Spondylus beads. Beneath this chamber was an elaborate and undisturbed crypt dating to the Early Classic. This individual was buried with several vessels, elaborate shell jewelry, and an heirloom conch gorget. We describe these finds and discuss their symbolic meanings and political implications.

Remote sensing of a Classic Maya hydrological management system at Xultun, Guatemala using high resolution Quickbird satellite imagery.

Jonathan Ruane (Boston University)

Traditional archaeological survey methods are difficult within densely forested areas and it was hypothesized that Quickbird satellite data could be used to identify water storage features at the Classic Maya site of Xultun, Guatemala. This satellite imagery was used to identify 16 reservoirs at the site. These reservoirs were rounded, had both an inner and outer ring, and they exhibited higher reflectance of both blue and near-infrared wavelengths than their surroundings. This reflectance signature is associated with greater access to water than the surrounding vegetation. Four of these reservoirs were then visited during the 2014 season confirming the results.

Ancient Maya Salt Making Activities As Revealed By Chemical Analysis

E. Cory Sills (University of Texas at Tyler), Heather McKillop (Louisiana State University), Christian Wells (University of South Florida)

Soil chemistry testing at the underwater salt work of Chan b'i offers insights into Early Classic Maya activity patterns related to a massive salt industry in Paynes Creek National Park, Belize. Excavations yielded briquetage—pottery vessels used to evaporate brine over fires to produce salt. Wooden buildings

were preserved due to the mangrove peat matrix of the underwater site, providing rare opportunities to evaluate the spatial location of salt making, both inside and outside buildings. We report the results of chemical analysis on marine sediment samples along two excavated transects to detect evidence not found in the artifactual record.

Underwater Excavations Reveal a Shell Midden Associated with a Classic Maya Salt Work

Valerie Feathers (Louisiana State University), Heather McKillop (Louisiana State University), and E. Cory Sills (The University of Texas at Tyler)

Wooden architecture is preserved below the sea floor at ancient Maya salt works in Paynes Creek National Park, Belize. The peat has preserved wood, charcoal, and botanicals, but not bone. Underwater excavations were carried out at a shell midden from the Eleanor Betty salt work to compare the preservation found within the shell versus the surrounding mangrove peat. We describe the excavation methods at this shallow submerged underwater site, screening, and initial results of the recovered material. The spatial distribution of the shell midden is evaluated in relation to the wooden architecture.

Local Environmental Management in a Highland Maya Community: Past, Present, and Future

Michael P. Saunders (Tulane University)

My research into the sacred geography of a Maya community identified a number of contemporary sacred sites linked to protecting ecologically critical zones; simultaneous research also shows pervasive current local environmental management. Moreover, some sacred locations are archaeological monuments, while surface surveys of others located pre-Hispanic ceramics and lithics. Previously identified archaeological sites also evince ties to important environmental variables. Thus, integrating local archaeological data with information concerning contemporary environmental management and sacred site use may provide evidence of culturally embedded long-term ecological manipulation. Demonstrating such lasting management has important implications (locally and globally) for issues concerning environmental sustainability and socio-ecological resilience.

The Flower Road of the Sun at Teotihuacan: Ecology, Cosmology, and Iconography

Lois Martin (Independent Scholar)

Floral motifs abound in Classic Teotihuacan imagery. I will propose a botanical identification of one ubiquitous four-petal flower, and show how its charac-

teristic morphology and seasonality align with ancient, pan-Mesoamerican notions of cosmological order and time, suggesting a sun-based cognitive model similar to that outlined by Watanabe for Mayan Mam-speakers (1983). I propose that powerful Teotihuacan elites exploited such imagery to align themselves with natural cycles, and that Aztec elites later borrowed this same visual propaganda. My research methodology includes “crowd-sourcing” on-line posts of suspected species: this “virtual” data collection has provided fresh insights into Teotihuacan ecology.

The Importance of the Number 13

D. M. Urquidi (Independent Scholar)

The number 13 has been given a location as the changing sequence of the day names. Attached to the day name it seems to have no other function. I believe it has yet another useful calendar function long forgotten and ignored. El Obispo de la Ciudad de Mexico, noted that the calendar during his function as Bishop, was no longer recognizable. I believe the number 13 can be relocated as it once was and it is still being used today as its original function.

"Writing" in 3-D: the Contributions of Olmec sculpture to Mesoamerican Writing Systems

Carolyn Tate (Texas Tech University)

Before Mesoamericans made graphic symbols to convey information, they developed both stories to tell and narrative strategies for performing them. This paper proposes that in the Formative era along the Gulf Coast, sculpture arrayed in space provided the settings, characters, actions, temporal referents, and conflict necessary to serve as visual mnemonic referents for performative storytelling. Sculpture—its shape, placement, and the layers of symbols that inflect the shapes—preceded the graphic symbols that evolved into both pictorial narrative and phonetic writing.

Mayan Paleographic Analysis: The Origin of the Syllabogram T130/2S2 wa

David Mora Marín (UNC- Chapel Hill)

The paper applies paleographic methodologies, as outlined in the seminal work of Alfonso Lacadena (1995), to investigate the origin of the Mayan sign T130/2S2, which has a syllabographic value <wa>. Data ranging from the Late Preclassic through the Postclassic are presented, and it is argued that the syllabogram <wa> was derived, graphically, from a version of T168/2M1a, the logogram 'AJAW 'lord, ruler', after a rotation of 180 degrees, and its phonetic value was also derived, acrophonically, from that logogram's value through a process akin to phonetic complementation (Closs 1986; Mora-Marín 2003).

The paper explores the implications of this history, and provides a preliminary seriation and chronology for T168/2M1a 'AJAW 'lord, ruler', that could serve to date early inscriptions lacking explicit calendrical data, as well as several hypotheses for future research on the graphic and acrophonic origins of Mayan signs.

Paleographic Analysis of the Codex Vergara

Shane Lief (Tulane University)

This paper offers a paleographic analysis of the alphabetic handwriting of the Nahuatl glosses in the Codex Vergara, a household census and cadastral register for mid-16th century Tepetlaoztoc. This study includes both a linguistic analysis of phonetic information conveyed by orthographic inconsistencies as well as a close description of the physical aspects of the text, including the color of ink, the orientation of written characters, and the width and angle of character strokes. The goal is to gain more insight into the creation of this palimpsest document and Nahua scribal practices of the time period.

Craft, Literacy and Ephemera: Maya Textiles in the Gendered Scribal Tradition

Stephanie M. Strauss (University of Texas at Austin)

Although epigraphers often decry the poor preservation of certain ephemeral categories of Maya hieroglyphic remains – wooden lintels, codex-style books and plaster facades – the missing corpus of hieroglyphic textiles is rarely discussed. Unlike the flat artistic representations of closed codices, the inscribed textiles “extant” in murals and on figurines are dynamic and often legible. The Maya elite literally wrapped themselves in hieroglyphic script, embodying texts in a manner quite distinct from monumental scribal traditions. This paper will thus problematize the modern typology of textile-as-craft, illuminating the literate, perhaps female artists who created these artworks and the Maya elite who performed them.

Defining the Red Background Style: The Production of Object and Identity in an Ancient Maya Court

Elliot Lopez-Finn (University of Texas at Austin)

Red Background vases circulated in public feasts alongside works of other painted styles throughout the Guatemalan Lowlands of the Classic Period. The narrative content of these vessels reveals the importance of mytho-historic origin stories and supernatural identities to the prevailing political order, while the unique hieroglyphic texts link the painted style to the royal court of Pa' Chan. This paper expands upon themes of my Master's Thesis to explore

how the surface decoration of the Red Background style communicated prestige and the elite identity of a specific place to the larger landscape of competitive and collaborative Maya city-states.

An analysis of a Flute titled "Woman and Shaman Dressed as a Feathered Reptile" from the Museum of Fine Arts Houston's Pre-Columbian Collection

Rick O'Loughlin (University of Houston)

This paper analyzes a ceramic flute from the Late Classic Period in the Veracruz region on permanent display in the Museum of Fine Arts Houston titled "Woman and Shaman dress as the Feathered Reptile". I study the flute in detail from an iconographic perspective and ethnographic analysis. I propose its contextual meaning from a Gulf Coast Plain cultural and ideological outlook.

Depression-Era Pan Americanism and MARI's Pre-Columbian Collection: The Greater Texas and Pan-American Exposition of 1937

Rex Koontz (University of Houston)

By the mid-1930's, the Middle American Research Institute of Tulane University had amassed an important collection of Pre-Columbian objects. To increase the profile and support the mission of the Institute, Tulane became a driving force behind several important Pre-Columbian exhibitions in the years just before the World War II. This presentation focuses on the MARI contribution to the 1937 Greater Texas and Pan-American Exposition. Here the Tulane Pre-Columbian collection formed the centerpiece for a pre-WWII example of Pan American art historical narrative, in this case merging the Pre-Columbian art of Mesoamerica and points south with contemporary art from Latin America and Texas.

Remembering and Forgetting: The Re(construction) of Memory of Early Classic Yaxuna, Yucatan

Aline Magnoni (Tulane University) and Travis Stanton (University of California, Riverside)

In this paper we explore the notion that "remembering is a process of reconstruction or even construction not merely preservation" (Hendon 2010). We focus on social memory recognizing that the social context determines how and why memories are recalled, recognized as important, and connected to places and events. We put forth interpretations for the re(construction) of memory at an Early Classic elite residence at the site of Yaxuna, Yucatan, Mexico. We use archaeological and geochemical evidence to reconstruct the habitual activities carried out in the structure and we attempt to interpret the

complex rituals of abandonment and the resulting processes of remembering and forgetting.

Center and Satellites: The Relationship of Templo Mayor to Similar Twin-Temple Pyramids in Central Mexico

Aaron Ott (University of Houston)

This paper examines the relationship between the Great Temple of Tenochtitlán and four smaller pyramids, of similar architecture, concurrently in operation during the period of Aztec dominance in central Mexico. I will demonstrate how the satellite pyramids worked in conjunction with Templo Mayor to form a cohesive religious network, reflecting shared ideology through common ritual use. Using the ethnographic analogy of medieval Catholicism, I will show how Mexica-Aztec religion utilized this network of ritual centers to strengthen sociopolitical controls at the center of their empire.

Snakes on a House!

William Ringle (Davidson College)

Although criticized, ethnohistorians have applied the house model effectively in discussions of late Nawah groups, particularly since houses are part of the emic discourse on social structure. Less appreciated is the role played by houses in early colonial pictorials. In both, nobles titled tetecuhtin are the critical points of reference. Examination of their articulations with noble houses provides a suggestive model for understanding the uptake of Toltec identity (*sensu lato*) throughout Mesoamerica during the Classic and Epiclassic periods.

Chontales, Cholutecas and Cholti :An Onomastic Approach to Redefining the Conquest Period Southeastern Maya Frontier.

Erlend Johnson (Tulane University) and Pastor Gomez Zuñiga (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia)

Scholars have traditionally argued that much of Western Honduras was occupied by Maya speaking peoples. Such arguments are based on minimal historic, archaeological and ethnographic evidence. This paper will present an analysis of glossonyms, anthroponyms and toponyms from new documents combined with a critical reading existing 16th century documents. This new evidence reestablishes the Maya frontier further west to Honduras' border region with Guatemala. It also suggests that Lenca and Nahua speakers occupied a larger portion of Western Honduras at the time of its conquest than once thought.

Names for the Nameless: Identifying Persons in the Mixtec "Codex Selden"

David Macias (Texas State University)

The Mixtec codices identify persons primarily by their respective calendar names. A secondary, or personal, name also accompanies most individuals, and may, at times, serve as a means of identification. This research proposes specific identities for the participants in the marriage rituals depicted in the Mixtec "Codex Selden."

The Quincunx in Mesoamerica and New Spain

Susan Morehead (Independent Scholar)

In Mesoamerica a quincunx marked the form of the universe with four trees, one at each cardinal direction, and a fifth at the center, the axis mundi, joining the heavens, earthly plane and underworld. This form was repeated in the atrios, cloister walks and plazas of New Spain, where the axis mundi became the Christian cross and in the atrios the corner trees became posa chapels. This syncretism is but one example of many in the sixteenth century contact between Mesoamerica and Europe and deserves examination.

Shifting Gender Roles in Language Attitudes and Acquisition: The case of Kaqchikel Maya

Joyce Bennett (Connecticut College)

Bilingualism in an indigenous language and Spanish in Guatemala has long been understood as a stepping stone to monolingualism in Spanish. However, my research among Kaqchikel Maya speakers shows that bilingual Spanish/Kaqchikel speakers support the continued use of Kaqchikel while monolingual Kaqchikel speakers generally support speaking only Spanish. Women are traditionally considered culture bearers in the region but I found that this role is shifting. While monolingual women necessarily pass on Kaqchikel to their children, encouraging them to speak Spanish more than Kaqchikel is an important shift that impacts the way scholars consider women and their role(s) in language maintenance.

El Cadejo: Making Meaning of Alcoholism through Folklore

Carla Pezzia (University of Dallas)

The mythical dog-like creature, El Cadejo, has become known as the protector of alcoholic individuals in Guatemala. In this paper, I discuss the transformation of this ubiquitous folk creature into a symbolic representation of the social crisis of alcoholism. Through a literary analysis of published and performed versions of the tale, I illustrate how this legend continues to play a

significant role in the social understanding and acceptance of alcoholism as a cultural construct in the Western Highlands. I conclude that while El Cadejo allows for social acceptance of alcoholism, it also contributes to the continued marginalization of alcoholic individuals as sub-human and lesser beings.

The New Mayan Spirituality and Costumbre: A Comparative Analysis

Cydney Schwartz (Tulane University)

What many call the “New Mayan spirituality” is a fairly recent religious development that emerged out of Guatemala alongside the Mayan political movement. Practitioners of the new Mayan spirituality distinguish themselves from “Costumbristas”, who practice the older syncretic Mayan Catholicism. This paper tracks the historical emergence of the Mayan Spirituality from Costumbre, and looks at some of the major practical, philosophical, and linguistic differences between the two. This is done through a comparative reading of older ethnographies alongside newer Mayan spiritual literature, as well as works by Mayan intellectuals. I suggest that the two, although related, actually posit radically different world-views.

The Limits of Conversion: Evangelical Experience and Core Maya Principles.

Servando Z. Hinojosa (University of Texas-Pan American)

In light of how Catholic-to-Protestant conversion experiences among Mayas are usually cast as unidirectional events, wherein converts leave behind traditionalist Maya beliefs and practices, it is significant that many converts retain earlier practices. This is notably the case in Guatemala where large proportions of the Maya population formally identify as Protestant. The retention of earlier practices raises questions about the finality of conversion experience and draws attention to the existence and durability of core Maya principles following conversion. This paper will identify such cases and will outline those earlier principles that appear to be the most enduring.

Use and Function of Two Maya Earthen Mounds in the Mangroves at the Paynes Creek Salt Works, Belize

Rachel Watson (Louisiana State University), Heather McKillop (Louisiana State University), and E. Cory Sills (University of Texas at Tyler)

In 2012, the excavation of two earthen mounds was part of the lead author’s dissertation research and the larger NSF funded project directed by Dr. McKillop (LSU) mapping the submerged wooden remains of the Paynes Creek Salt works. Lacking at the underwater sites is any evidence that the salinity was enhanced by leaching brine or by solar evaporation. I will present findings

concerning function of these mounds and their potential relationship with the salt works.

Material Preferences for Stone Tools: The Use of Limestone Tools in the Mopan Valley, Belize

Rachel A. Horowitz (Tulane University), Bernadette Cap (University of Wisconsin at Madison), Mark C. Eli (University of Texas at San Antonio), and Jason Yaeger (University of Texas at San Antonio)

Although limestone is one of the most abundant stone resources in much of Mesoamerica, limestone tools are uncommon. When identified, limestone tool use, most frequently found in northern Yucatan, is attributed to a paucity of other suitable raw materials, such as chert. Limestone bifaces, however, were utilized in chert rich areas, including the site of Buenavista del Cayo, located in the Upper Belize River Valley. Based on the analysis of limestone biface production and breakage patterns from Buenavista del Cayo, we argue that limestone bifaces were utilized due to advantageous properties of the raw material, specifically durability, rather than lack of access to superior raw materials.

Social Organization in Puuc Maya Suburbia: Excavations at Escalera al Cielo, Yucatán

Evan Parker (Tulane University), George J. Bey III (Millsaps College), Tomás Gallareta Negrón (Instituto Nacional de antropología y historia), Stephanie R. Simms (Boston University), and Amanda Strickland (Ko'ox Boon)

Intensive excavations of a residential complex at the Terminal Classic Maya site of Escalera al Cielo in the Puuc region of Yucatán have yielded one of the most holistic data sets on household life in this area of the Maya world. Broad horizontal excavations have led to the identification of activity areas and structure function, while rich on-floor assemblages and the detection of discard areas allow for the detailed characterization of domestic consumption behavior in the Puuc. These interpretations are considered in light of our current understanding of the site as having undergone a planned abandonment with an anticipated return.

Resource-Full Urbanization: Investigations at the Maya site of Alabama, Belize

Meaghan Peuramaki-Brown (Tulane University/University of Calgary) and Sonja Schwake (Penn State Behrend)

We present proposed research and preliminary results from Alabama: a Late-Terminal Classic Maya site in Belize, believed to represent a case of rapid ur-

banization related directly to local and 'foreign' resource exploitation. Through settlement and epicentral archaeology, we assess theoretical paradigms regarding resource-based urban development, and hope to better understand the complexity of the dynamic and cyclical processes involved in the diverse forms of ancient Maya urbanization. A focus on the nature of past urbanism might also bolster larger geo-political/economic discussions that focus on such processes in resource-based urban centers of our world today.

Living in the Hinterlands: Household Archaeology at Rancho San Lorenzo's Floodplain North Settlement Cluster, Belize

Tiffany M. Lindley (University of Texas at San Antonio)

The Rancho San Lorenzo Survey Area in the Mopan River Valley in western Belize is comprised of five distinct settlement clusters. Maya occupation at this hinterland site peaked in the Late Classic, followed by a drastic decrease in population levels. However, pedestrian survey undertaken in 2013 revealed Postclassic ceramics at the Floodplain North settlement cluster. Based on this information, the primary goals of the 2014 field season were to conduct several test excavations throughout the Floodplain North settlement cluster and, using ceramic data, identify a chronology of occupation. Excavations revealed a Late Classic to Terminal Classic presence, with possible continuity into the Postclassic.

Household Economy at the San Lorenzo Settlement Cluster: A Preliminary Examination of Data Collected in the 2014 Field Season

Jason M. Whitaker (University of Texas at San Antonio)

This paper is a discussion of recent archaeological investigations at the San Lorenzo settlement cluster in the Mopan River Valley of Western Belize. The objective of current research at this hinterland settlement is to better understand household economic organization and integration during the Late Terminal Classic periods (A.D. 600-890). Excavations in 2014 focused on the area south of structure group SL-22. These investigations documented features associated with both the Preclassic and Classic periods. Preliminary analysis of lithic macroartifacts indicates that the ancient residents of this settlement cluster favored locally available raw materials, but maintained links to larger economic networks.

Early Urbanism in Central Mexico: Preliminary Results of the Tlalancaleca Archaeological Project, Puebla

Tatsuya Murakami (Tulane University), Shigeru Kabata (Universidad de las Américas Puebla), Julieta M. López J. (Universidad nacional autónoma de México), José Juan Chávez V. (Escuela nacional de antropología e historia), Natalia Mauricio (Tulane University), Willem Van Essendelft (Tulane University), and Hironori Fukuhara (University of Saitama)

Tlalancaleca was one of the largest settlements before the rise of Teotihuacan in Central Mexico and likely provided cultural and historical settings for the creation of Central Mexican urban traditions during later periods. Yet its urbanization process as well as socio-spatial organization remain poorly understood. This paper presents preliminary results of mapping, ground survey, surface collection, manual auger probe, and test excavations, which were carried out over the three seasons of the project since 2012. It discusses the timing and extent of urban development along with the presence of discrete urban zones and their spatial relationships.

Tikal, Teotihuacan and the Maya: Integrating Epigraphy and Archaeology in the Interpretation of Ancient Mesoamerican Imperialism

Stanley Guenter (Idaho State University)

There have been many different interpretations for the appearance of Teotihuacan-related cultural traits in the Maya area in the Early Classic period, from imperialism and colonization to mere emulation of this foreign style by independent, local Maya lords. In this presentation I will examine both the archaeological and epigraphic evidence related to the now famous "Entrada" event of 378 to show how both a more precise examination of this evidence, as well as a comparative examination of imperialism from case studies elsewhere in world history, can help elucidate this issue and clarify the relationship between Tikal and Teotihuacan.

Epiclassic Cantona in the Mesoamerican World System

J. Gregory Smith (Northwest College)

In any consideration of the Epiclassic Period in Mesoamerica, the site of Cantona in northeast Puebla is at best mentioned in passing. In this paper, I interpret the site in light of the recent work by Ringle and others concerning the political ideology associated with Quetzalcoatl that swept through Mesoamerica during the time Cantona reached its zenith. Topics to be covered include the remarkably high concentration of ballcourts (at least 24), evidence for human sacrifice, and a consideration of its political economy in light of Cantona's unusual location very near the Zaragoza obsidian source.

Making Sense of a “Series of Small Walls”: Problematic interpretations, architectural variability, and developing complexity in the Middle Preclassic Maya Lowlands

Sherman W. Horn III (Tulane University)

Continuous building over preexisting structures complicates early settlement and social organization studies in the Maya Lowlands. Archaeologists are often compelled to interpret deeply buried and partially demolished architecture through the narrow window provided by test units, which greatly increases the role received knowledge plays in synthesizing organizational and developmental models from this information. This paper discusses variability in architecture and artifact distributions from Middle Preclassic construction loci beneath Plaza B at Cahal Pech, Belize, which defies many of these preconceived assumptions. It further suggests that more caution is warranted when investigating this important developmental period in lowland Maya prehistory.

The Architecture of the Late and Terminal Classic Regal Palace of La Corona, Guatemala.

Maxime Lamoureux-St-Hilaire (Tulane University)

What did the regal palace of a small Classic Maya polity consist of? What type of activities took place in such an institution? Who lived and worked there? This paper presents the results of two seasons of work on the terminal architecture of the palatial acropolis of La Corona, Guatemala. There, both elaborate corbel-vaulted masonry buildings and perishable structures have been excavated. Thanks to good architectural preservation and artifactual context, the functions of several buildings are proposed. Finally, the context and date of abandonment for the La Corona palace are discussed.

Construction, Labor, and Power: Shifting Political Strategies at La Cariba, Guatemala

David Chatelain (Tulane University)

This paper presents the results of the 2014 field season at the site of La Cariba, Guatemala, a minor center in the periphery of the larger site of La Corona. Data gathered during the past field season has revealed the site to be largely constructed during the Late Preclassic, predating any known construction at La Corona. During the Classic period, structures were rebuilt, coeval with the development of La Corona and the influence of the Kaan dynasty. La Cariba consequently provides a useful vantage point for examining shifting political systems from the Late Preclassic to the Late Classic.

Acolhua Authority in Tepetlaoztoc: transitions in government from the Altepetl to the Nahua Cabildo

Octavio Barajas Espinoza (Tulane University)

The presentation will explore changes in the Nahua sense of sociopolitical organization in the central Mexican town of Tepetlaoztoc. Starting from the pre-contact era, discussion will focus on how the general structure of town government adjusted to the Spanish Cabildo model. Specific topics to be discussed are the succession of town office, transition in the titles of office, aristocratic genealogy, and the response to town issues and concerns. I anticipate assessing degrees of continuity and change as influenced by community members, town officials, and external Spanish pressure on the nature and practice of Mesoamerican sociopolitical organization in Tepetlaoztoc.

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