



IMS EXPLORER

Institute of Maya Studies



A monthly newsletter published by the **Institute of Maya Studies**

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Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, its the only thing that ever has.
– Margaret Mead

Six Days in September by Mary Lou Ridinger

After 41 years in Guatemala, I thought that I would never live to see this – in five months, a peaceful citizens protest movement brought down an entire government... in Central America?!... in Guatemala!!!

On September 1, the Guatemalan Congress voted to strip the president of his immunity. The police tried to make way for the congressmen to enter the congress from the street and the protesters helped the police. While the vote was going on inside, the protesters gave white roses to the police, gave them bottles of water and exchanged hugs. When the rain started, the protesters held plastic sheets over the heads of the police to keep them from getting wet.

On September 2, the president of Guatemala resigned.

On September 6, we held our breath, while a record number



Demonstrators wave Guatemalan flags as they celebrate that Congress voted to withdraw President Otto Pérez Molina's immunity from prosecution, in Guatemala City, Tuesday, September 1, 2015.
Photo courtesy of AP; by Moises Castillo.

of Guatemalans went to the polls to pick a new president and a new government. Sixteen candidates for president! – all after a year of campaigning.

The front runner had been assured for winning for the previous two years, according to the polls. The other leading candidate (equally corrupt) and worse than the last administration, was high in the polls.

The Black Swan

A comedian, who was an unknown six months earlier, won the election with 24% of the vote. His campaign slogan: "Ni corrupto... ni ladrón!" How could this have happened? A run-off election is planned.

Last September, I was filled with moral outrage... busy filing complaints and starting law suits and informing anyone who would listen that narcotics and illegal Taiwanese bandits were tearing up a national forest which was a protected biosphere preserve, established in 1987 with the help of the Nature Conservancy. All to strip mine jade, the national patrimony of Guatemala and export it



A protestor's placard against the Guatemalan president on August 29, 2015. ©AFP

IMS Presentation: October 21, 8 pm



Chiapas Tzotzil Maya master weaver Roshá Hernández at her backstrap loom. Courtesy of Jeffrey Jay Foxx.

Cotton and Mesoamerica

with IMS Webmaster
Keith Merwin

illegally to Asia. I was breaking the unspoken law of Guatemala: *No Te Metes!* Don't get involved.

I know that Guatemalans have always felt that it is

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Jim Reed,
Editor

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L) Will Andrews receives the Life Achievement Award for 2015. R) The 2015 Maya at the Playa speakers.

Maya at the Playa 2015 by Marta Barber Photos by Keith Merwin

If there is one way to describe the 9th Annual Maya at the Playa Conference held the weekend of September 20–24, it would be, Tulane Reunion at the Playa. Palm Coast is not New Orleans and there’s no university in the town, but you wouldn’t believe that was the case by the group of scholars who came to honor E. Wyllys Andrews, the recipient of the 2015 Life Achievement Award.

Will, to his students and colleagues at MARI, is obviously admired and respected by all. “I cared, and still do,” said an emotional Andrews at the Award Dinner, held Saturday night. Mostly, it was a joyous occasion, as laughter erupted as former students and colleagues enjoyed ribbing Andrews at the traditional roast-like event.

Unlike other Maya conferences, M@P doesn’t develop a theme to which all presenters adhere to as a topic. That gives the symposium a rainbow of choices: from archaeology to epigraphy; pottery to stones; Chiapas to Belize; Preclassic to Contact; measuring tapes to LIDAR. Yes, technology has arrived in full force, and archaeology is much richer for it.

For a group of amateurs – such as the members of the Institute of Maya Studies – present, it was an endless source of information: some new, other serving as reminders. We were proud of our two non-Tulane presenters: Webmaster Keith Merwin, on his research of the early days of IMS and its involvement in bringing monuments from their country of origin to Miami and the laws that came out of that transaction; and Director of Research Joaquín Rodríguez, who enlightened us about the destruction of many Maya temples due to seismic and volcanic events in the past. Another member, Carl Abbott, an architect from Central Florida, gave his views on details of Maya architecture with beautiful photographs.

The Tulane presenters focused on varied subjects, which, in some instances, caused debates and disagreements.

For those out of the academic work in attendance, these were highlights. One of the points of contention seems to be what to call the long-standing classification of Preclassic, Classic, and Postclassic, and then, their subdivision called Early, Middle, Late, Epi, etc. Geoff Braswell, who talked about the Early Postclassic in Chichen Itza, asked if it wouldn’t be better to just classify it by the time it happened. To my knowledge, this was not resolved, at least in public.

If the presenters had a resume longer than a 13.0.0.0. calendar period, so did many attendees. Victoria Bricker, Harvey Bricker, Gabrielle Vail, and Susan Milbrath, were among those spotted. Several asked pertinent questions that challenged the speakers, i.e., what correlation was being used. This was welcomed.

Many years ago, a few of us routinely attended Linda Schele’s symposiums and workshops at UT Austin. It was a yearly pilgrimage that opened the eyes of fans of the Maya into this extraordinary world. There was an area of the auditorium where many scholars sat. Linda would always look at this area to consult them on one point or another. We sat around them to hear their conversations. We learned.

If Linda opened the knowledge of the academic world studying the Maya to the non-scholarly, Mat Saunders, who organizes Maya at the Playa conferences, has eliminated the real or imagined barriers that separated each of the above. His conferences are relaxed and casual, and there’s no intimidation in approaching a speaker with questions. Thank you, Linda. Thank you, Mat.

Next year, for the Tenth Annual Maya at the Playa, Mat is expected to bring back all the recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award. We will all miss Merle Greene Robertson, who was the first, and George Stuart. We hope the others will be there: Peter Mathews, Justin Kerr, Michael Coe, and this year’s Will Andrews. We can’t wait.

Artifact? Setting the Record Straight

In the program announcement of Dr. Geoff Braswell’s lecture to the Institute of Maya Studies on the sites of Southern Belize, it was incorrectly stated that a jade artifact would be present. The announcement should have read that Dr. Braswell was to speak for the first time in the United States about the discovery of the artifact.

In October of 2010, we decided to utilize our freedom, and our sense of purpose and adventure, to relocate in San Cristóbal de las Casas in the state of Chiapas, Mexico. We volunteered at the Maya Medicine Museum and got involved with other organizations such as the local NGO while in the area. We hope you enjoy our story.

Día de los Muertos in San Cristóbal de las Casas

by Mike and Faith Young

Photos by
Georgeann Johnson,
President of
The Maya Conservancy

It has been a very lively past couple of days. Children have been strolling the streets in face makeup and masks singing to local shop owners or passersby expecting a sweet treat preferably in the form of candy. They sing a short song to the effect of, "We are little angels from the sky who have come down to ask for a treat to eat." This all began on October 29 and ended yesterday, November 2.

Day of the Dead is a celebration that has been celebrated by Precolombian cultures such as the Maya, Aztec and Inca, for over 3,000 years. The celebration and activities have changed over time depending on the region, but the meaning stays the same – honor the ones who have passed.

Since the colonization of the New World, there has been much overlap of religion and holidays. Day of the Dead happened to fall on the Catholic holiday of All Souls and All Saints Day. November 1 is All Saints Day and is also Día de los Inocentes (Day of the Innocents) where all the children who have passed on are remembered and their lives are celebrated. November 2 is All Souls Day and is also Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) and is dedicated to all the adults who have previously passed on.

Altars are erected throughout the city in people's houses, shops, and restaurants. There they lay pictures of the deceased they want to honor and remember.

It is believed that on this day the deceased is able to exit the spirit realm and visit the physical realm and the fire in the candle is their portal and the food and drink left behind are for them to smell and enjoy. You can find tequila, beer, bread, cigarettes, candy and all sorts of other things the deceased may have enjoyed on each altar.

It is also customary to visit the cemetery where your passed loved one has been buried on November 2. We went to the main cemetery in town (El Panteon) and found it to be the most alive place in town. Let me begin by describing the cemetery. Imagine a city made up of one room structures each with their own unique architecture resembling Spanish cathedrals, square houses, medieval castles, and modern styles all complete with windows and doors.



traditional orange marigolds, colloquially known as the flower of the dead.



There are always plenty of skeletons and skulls – made of wood or sugar, miniature or life-size.

Altar in San Miguel de Allende. San Cristóbal also held an altar contest. Most altars were embellished with



Marta Barber presents "Skulls, Skeletons and Sweets, October 14 at the IMS"



Here are two different ways to display your favorite skeleton. All home altars feature photos of the deceased and various offerings (ofrendas). The items were both traditional, such as "Pan de Muerto" or "Bread of the Dead", and personal. Basically, it is custom to display the items and the vices cherished by the deceased.

The cemetery is large enough to get lost in with rows and walkways throughout it. We passed by families sitting around graves talking, drinking, and playing music. The mood throughout the cemetery was very festive and hardly somber. Flower bouquets filled the rooms and covered the graves. It was a very beautiful place and the smell of flowers was in the air everywhere you went.

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Six Days in September

by Mary Lou Ridinger

continued from page 1

dangerous to protest and dangerous to try and change things, and here I was going to corrupt government agencies, reporting corrupt government actions to corrupt government officials. My Guatemalan and American friends thought that I was stupidly endangering the lives of my children and grandchildren by sounding the alarm.

In November, my brave Guatemalan friend and I went to the congress, where we had a contact and the contact informed us that... YES, an illegal Taiwanese bandit HAD moved heavy strip mining equipment into the Sierra de Las Minas. He HAD had the area taken from him at gunpoint by a narco, who in turn had the operation taken from him at gun point by the VICE PRESIDENT, Roxana Baldetti; who had paid off everyone from the Minister of Mining to the Minister of the Interior to the Minister of the Environment, to the National Police, while government agencies in charge of protecting the environment, as well as private environmental agencies, were mysteriously looking the other way.

The vice president had installed a helicopter port, hired a 60 man private Israeli trained security team, built barracks and bunkers surrounded by barbed wire, while felling rare species of trees from the cloud forest and pushing tailings and debris from the mining operation to the sides of the excavations where they were sliding down the mountain damming up the rivers below.

Our congressman friend indicated that if we blew the whistle, we wouldn't live long.

In January, I joined forces with a scrappy old ex-guerilla leader from the armed conflict of the sixties – El Comandante. He was incensed over the illegal mining situation in the Sierra de Las Minas, He didn't know who was behind it. I told him.

On January 25, he invited me to a rally at the village of El Arco where many of the villagers and been dislodged from their land by the VP.

●●●● I dyed my hair black,

Aerial view of a protest in Guatemala City against a corruption case involving high-level officials, April 25, 2015. Photo: AFP. Courtesy of www.teleSURtv.net/english



The National Civil Police of Guatemala became the center of attention after dispersing a demonstration of 300 local residents to allow the shipment of machinery to the El Tambor mine, located in La Puya, San José del Golfo, about 15 kilometers east of Guatemala City. The episode led to a violent confrontation



that left 26 injured, including 15 policemen and 11 activists. Courtesy of: <http://panampost.com/>

put on my red T-shirt, raised my fist with the rest and cheered. He led 300 men women and children up the mountain that afternoon and told the 70 armed men at the barracks that their operation was illegal and they must leave. They ran away. He took down the entire fortress without a shot being fired.

Two weeks later 200 armed anti-riot police showed up at El Arco, invaded the village, threw tear gas in to the schools and the local kindergarten. All was reported on TV and in the newspapers on February 5... But nobody cared. Just business as usual.

I was still filled with righteous indignation and asked an acquaintance, C.M., who was an environmental activist, to put me in touch with the Defensores de la Naturaleza, an environmental group. But, they wouldn't answer their phone. Where were they on this problem?... They chose not to get involved.

April 16: The story broke in the newspapers: Big headlines! VICE PRESIDENT ROXANNA BALDETTI involved in LA LINEA – a ring of government officials stealing from SAT – the national Treasury. *Now the people woke up!*

The next morning C.M. watched from her penthouse balcony

overlooking the airport as 6 or 7 private helicopters took off from the Guatemala City airport... NOT flying towards the south coast as they usually do on a Saturday morning... but all headed the opposite way towards the Caribbean and Panama, probably corrupt officials, loaded down with cash making their getaway. Within three days it all snowballed.

The brave journalists who had been reporting the stories about corruption, kept on reporting. Social media made a huge impact. Everyone wanted to march on the national palace to call for an end to corruption and for the vice president's resignation.

One unidentified young man went down to the presidential palace with a sign saying: NO Corruption! Resign! Apparently he hadn't received the tweet that the date for the protest had been changed and he stood alone. The TV cameras captured him standing there by himself and the whole country saw him standing bravely alone...

Three days later 16,000 people were standing beside him, protesting with signs and singing the national anthem (see photo at top).

On May 8, the vice president

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The Continuing Search for Original Maya Cotton

by Dr. Nicholas M. Hellmuth

Keith Merwin presents
"Cotton and Mesoamerica",
October 21 at the IMS

When you look at the portraits of kings, high priests and other nobles on Maya stelae, murals or painted ceramics you can see how much attention the Maya dedicated to their clothing. Each ritual, every ceremony, had special clothing. Even peasants wore at least a loincloth.

Most of the women of the elite class wore expertly decorated outfits, almost always of some form of woven cloth. The Maya also made string and cordage (rope and comparable materials) from scores of different roots and vines. The selection of material depended on rank, status, purpose of the clothing, and whether the outfits were for the hot humid Lowlands or the chilly Highlands.

The ancient Maya (and the Aztec and their neighbors) tended to make their clothing from cotton, various kinds of agave or comparable plants, and bark paper. The botanical or Latin name for cotton is *Gossypium hirsute*. "Cotton" in the form of kapok, from ceiba trees, is a different fiber – important, but not widely used for weaving and clothing.

I had thought there were two world centers of cotton origin: Prehispanic Mesoamerica and Egypt. Thus, I was surprised to learn that the primary origins of cotton were, in addition to Mesoamerica (Mexico and Guatemala), in Peru, India and southern Africa. It turns out that the cotton for which Egypt is so famous is a modern-day cotton!

I also assumed that Egyptian cotton was white and native Mesoamerican cotton was brown, or at best, off-white. It turns out that Precolumbian cotton was probably available in a wide range of many subtle colors, including green. Wild cotton plants are over 2 meters high, some up to almost 3 m. Cotton in industrial plantations tends to be under 2 m to facilitate picking by machine. Most of the modern commercial cotton that I have seen is not much above one meter in height.

The first non-industrial cotton

I found in Guatemala was south of Río Dulce at Frutas del Mundo farms of Dwight Carter. I was shown this interesting agricultural farm by Kevin Lock, a knowledgeable local guide. Algodones Mayas Guatemala sells products made from organic cotton in La Antigua Guatemala; it raises its cotton on the Costa Sur. Also, the cooperative Asociación de Mujeres en Colores Botánicos, at Lake Atitlan, has plenty of locally grown cotton.

The cotton flowers may vary in the same plant between rose-colored and yellow (one or the other, not in between).

I observed these colors on a large cotton bush while visiting this cooperative. The most informative place for learning about cotton was at the San Juan la Laguna cooperative. It has a museum that shows all the plants, plus the best book you could possibly want on the subject; you can buy this book on natural plant-based color dyes from the Maya women's cooperative in this village.

Twenty years ago much of the Guatemalan south coast was an endless commercial cotton plantation. The quantity of insecticide used to raise this modern Guatemalan cotton is mind-boggling. The pesticide amount was so high that the U.S. was not allowed to import beef in those decades if the cattle grazed anywhere near a cotton field.

In later years, these former cotton plantations were transformed into sugarcane and/or cattle ranches. There is not much industrial monoculture of modern white cotton remaining (fortunately for the environment, as cotton requires more nasty chemicals than any other form of agriculture). The modern colorants include even more carcinogenic chemicals. So it is important to locate organic cotton and learn where it can be obtained.

Dwight Carter provided hospitality and local knowledge at his



Cotton and woven cotton fabrics on display at Algodones Mayas Guatemala. Photo: Nicholas Hellmuth.



Samples of dyed cotton from San Juan La Laguna. Photo: Nicholas Hellmuth.

Frutas del Mundo farm. Well worth visiting if you are near Río Dulce. We found the cotton by pure coincidence as we were driving out the gate area, since we visited Dwight's place to study zapote and annona fruits, not expecting to find cotton.

Maria Cristina Sicay, of the Asociación de Mujeres en Colores Botánicos, San Juan la Laguna, provided knowledge and hospitality in their facilities. To make an appointment to visit, e-mail: cooperativabotanica@yahoo.com.mx We also thank Hideo Kojima for his insights on colorants for Maya weaving.

Dr. Nicholas M. Hellmuth is director of FLAAR Reports (Foundation for Latin American Anthropological Research). The full list of all Maya ethnobotanicals is available at: www.maya-ethnobotany.org. If you find any of the plants we have not yet located, please contact us at: FrontDesk@FLAAR.org 🏠

Source: Condensed by the editor from the original article released 3/6/2012 in Guatemala's English Revue magazine at: www.revuemag.com/2012/03/the-continuing-search-for-original-mayan-cotton/

Six Days in September by Mary Lou Ridinger

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resigned. Within days over 50 government employees were in jail or indicted from the government health care system, the judiciary, the treasury, the ministry of the environment, and more.

The Minister of the Interior resigned, the Minister of Mining resigned. The Minister of the environment resigned.

The catalyst for all this was an independent judiciary, CICIG – the “Comision Internacional Contra Impunidad”, which had been in place for several years. Guatemala had requested the CICIG from the U.N. when they had several legal situations which were beyond the Guatemalan court systems power, due to corruption of judges.

When U.S. V.P. Joe Biden visited Guatemala in November 2014, the economic aid package being offered had a string attached... keep CICIG in place. At first there was blustering on behalf of the president, but he announced in April that CICIG would stay. CICIG had an ally in a newly appointed Attorney General, Thelma Aldana. There was a Maya fire ceremony three months ago

Latin Americans and Africans have tried before to sue Canadian mining companies for alleged wrongs committed overseas, but their cases were thrown out. But now a case from Guatemala is moving forward. Photo: Friends of the Earth International. Courtesy of: <http://fpif.org>



to invoke the protection of the spirits of the Maya ancestors to protect Iván Velásquez, the head of CICIG and Thelma Aldana from harm.

The movement was more than 100,000 strong, consisting of: the right wing universities, the left wing universities and all groups in between, including countless Maya. The powerful private business sector, the Catholic church, the evangelical churches and some foreign embassies, were all a part of it all. The press... the Guatemalan newspapers and TV stations gave the movement continuous positive coverage.

Artists, musicians, hairdressers, real estate brokers, bankers, lawyers, housewives, teachers, doctors, dentists, veterinarians, and florists by the thousands, marched in the capital. In the Highlands, millions of Maya people in communities marched.

All across Guatemala people were in the streets.

I had stepped aside. I am not Guatemalan. I love Guatemala and was thrilled to see this grass roots movement swelling.

C.M. asked if I could be a bit of a consultant for the group because I had sent her an email in March, titled “Non Violence Knows No Defeat”. I had been remembering the Civil Rights movement, my involvement of the march from Selma to Montgomery and Martin Luther King and had sent the email to family and friends on the anniversary of the Selma march.

I agreed to share my thoughts with the group, who were worried about the future direction their

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Día de los Muertos in San Cristóbal de las Casas *continued from page 3*

Back in town we decided to see what was going on in the main plaza. The past week has been a multi-cultural festival with free to the public performances on multiple stages that are just as high in production value as any day festival back in the states. Each night has been a different act from traditional dancers/musicians, to professional singers and performers. Outside in the plaza there were several traveling bands each with a different amount of members and with different instruments. We saw a group of all female musicians, an all male group, and a mixed group who all had their faces painted in the iconic style of Day of the Dead.



Flowers such as marigolds are laid on the altars and cut out paper art is displayed. There are key colors to the celebration (red, orange, purple and yellow) each representing a cardinal direction. Candles are also lit at the altars and food and drink are placed near the photos.
Photo by Georgeann Johnson.



“Mexican cemeteries are extraordinary places. There are many little ‘buildings’ everywhere: large mausoleums, slots like post-office boxes for urns, walk-in crypts, and mounds covered with vaulted brickwork and painted white. Angels abound: on headstones, flanking the corners of individual graves and as focal areas in the precinct itself.” Caption from <https://heartsoulsyville.wordpress.com>; photo courtesy of www-visualphotos.com

Source: Thanks to Mike and Faith Young for the article text at: <http://mikeandfaith.blogspot.com>

Institute of Maya Studies Line-up of Presentations!

October 14, 2015 • IMS Explorer Session • Gods, Legends and Rituals Series

Skulls, Skeletons and Sweets

with IMS Executive Vice President **Marta Barber**

The Day of the Dead tradition in Middle America – and quickly spreading to Latino enclaves in the United States – may have a modern birth, but its origin dates back millennia. Unlike Halloween, a celebration that is mostly reserved for children, the Day of the Dead festivities are certainly geared for adults. Don't think, though, that it is all tears and laments as people remember their loved ones gone. It is a joyful, two-day celebration interpreted as a welcoming of the ancestors long gone and the recent dead who come back for a closer interaction with family and friends.

Food, drink and flowers are offered in beautiful displays that you can find in city parks, homes, and obviously, cemeteries.

Marta Barber has traveled extensively throughout Middle America and has been part of many Day of the Dead celebrations.



Día del Niño greeting submitted via Facebook by Julio Torres.

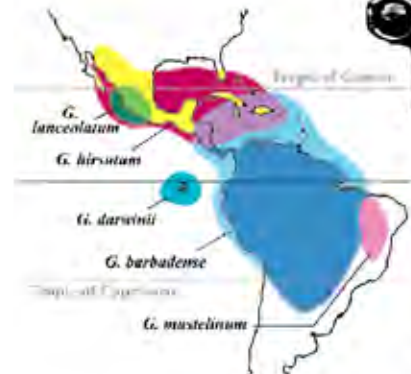
October 21: IMS Feature Presentation

Cotton and Mesoamerica

with IMS Webmaster **Keith Merwin**

When you hear about Mesoamerican agriculture you think of corn. But modern cotton is a Mesoamerican development. The oldest known cotton textiles come from a cave near Tehuacán, Mexico, and have been dated to around 5800 BC. Over 90% of the world's cotton crop is made up of *Gossypium hirsutum*, which is native to Mexico and Central America. The rest of the crop is *Gossypium barbadense*, which is believed to come from Peru. Modern commercial cotton is white, but varieties developed in Ancient America include white, brown, green, red and shades of

Naturally green in color cotton. One of at least four known colored cottons from Mesoamerica.



Map showing where the different varieties of cotton originated.

these colors. This presentation will discuss the history of cotton in the Americas and its relationship to modern cotton. Photographs and where possible, samples of cotton in several colors will be included. Join **Keith Merwin** who has done extensive research on cotton.

All meetings begin at 8 pm • Institute of Maya Studies • www.instituteofmayastudies.org

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Our programs take place in Room 402 in Building R • IMS Maya Hotline: 305-279-8110

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The IMS has gone Green! Join today

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Members: Be sure to get your password by contacting our Webmaster at: keith@merwin.com

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The Institute of Maya Studies is totally member-supported! If you are not a member, please take a moment and join us. Membership brings benefits and helps the IMS offer educational programs to the public. If you are already a member, please encourage your friends to join. If you need any assistance, call our Maya Hotline at: 305-279-8110



Six Days in September

by Mary Lou Ridinger

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movement could take and suggested that for success, they should:

- 1) Make sure that everyone in the movement understood the power of non-violence.
- 2) Don't let people get off on their own agendas; keep the focus on anti-corruption... no left wing agendas... no right wing agendas.
- 3) Don't become a political party... don't run candidates.
- 4) Be inclusive... find people's individual strengths and help develop them.
- 5) Be out there. Stay visible.
- 6) Never give up!

You have changed Guatemala forever!

It's not over. There will be a run-off election on October 25 between the male Black Swan and a female candidate from the Peten

Indigenous protesters hold a sign saying "no more corruption."

Photo: Reuters
Courtesy of:
www.teleSURtv.net/english

who got the second highest number of votes.

Whoever wins... Guatemala has already won!

Honduras is now looking at Guatemala. If we can do it, why can't they? They are asking for their president's resignation. They want a CICIG. Other countries are looking at what Guatemalans have accomplished. Guatemala has changed forever.

*"We shall not cease from exploration,
and the end of all our exploring,
Will be to arrive where we started and
know the place for the first time."
— T.S. Eliot*



New Order of the Quetzal

Normally, Guatemala's highest honor, the Order of the Quetzal, is bestowed by the president to honor someone who has helped the country. In the absence of a sitting president, normal citizens gathered during late September to bestow their own Order of the Quetzal Valiente to some of the organizers of the protests. A beautiful hand-crafted jade circle necklace with a ruby-etched Quetzal bird on it was given to C.M. She is very deserving of Guatemala's highest honor. 🏡

Upcoming Events at the IMS:

October 14 • 8 pm: *IMS Explorer Session*
Gods, Legends and Ritual Series: Skulls, Skeletons and Sweets – Explore the Day of the Dead in Middle America with IMS Executive Vice President **Marta Barber**.

October 21 • 8 pm: *IMS Presentation*
Cotton and Mesoamerica – IMS webmaster **Keith Merwin** presents a discussion of the history of cotton in the Americas and its relationship to modern cotton.

November 11 • 8 pm: *Rescheduled!*
Gods, Legends and Ritual Series: Maya Temple Portal Doorways: Masks of the Spirit – with IMS President **Rick Slazyk**.

November 18 • 8 pm: *IMS Presentation*
Venus and Deities of the Hunt: Perspectives from the Postclassic Maya Codices and Zuni Narratives of Creation, with **Dr. Gabrielle Vail**, New College of Florida and the Florida Institute for Hieroglyphic Research. Could the Hero Twins of the Maya and the War Twins of the Zuni be related?

Upcoming Events and Announcements:

October 7: *Cotsen Institute Lecture*
The Birth of Ehecatl and the Origins of Cacao: The Initial Series Group at Chichen Itza, Mexico – Theme of a lecture by Karl Taube, Professor and Department Chair, Anthropology, UC Riverside. In room Fowler A222, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA. More information at: www.ioa.ucla.edu

October 8: *Archaeological Society Lecture*
The Myth of Clovis First: the Peopling of the Americas – with D. Clark Wernecke, Ph.D., The Gault School of Archaeological Research (GSAR) and Texas State University, for the Travis County Archeological Society. To take place at the Marie Callenders Gateway location in the MoPac, 183, and 360 triangle, near Austin, TX. Details at: <http://travis.txarch.org/index.htm>

October 9-11: *Meeting and Conference*
80th Colorado Archaeological Society Annual Meeting and Conference – with Keynote Speaker Dr. Doug Owsley presenting: "Kennewick

Man: The Scientific Investigation of an Ancient American Skeleton". At Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO. Specifics at: <http://www.sjbas.org>



October 17: *Archaeological Society Lecture*
The Archaeology of Belize – Theme of a presentation by Dr. Jaime Awe who now is teaching and mentoring students at Northern Arizona University. At the Camp Verde Community Center, Camp Verde, AZ. More info at: www.verdevalleyarchaeology.org/event-1936350

October 24: *Smithsonian Symposium*
The Maya: Ancient Splendors, Modern Legacies – at the Smithsonian S. Dillon Ripley Center, Washington D.C. Get info at: <http://smithsonianassociates.org>

November 11-14: *Chacmool Conference*
Shallow Pasts, Endless Horizons: Sustainability & Archaeology – Theme of the 48th Annual Chacmool Conference to be held at the University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Additional info at: <https://antharky.ucalgary.ca/chacmool2015>

IMS EXPLORER

Join the **Explorer-ation!** Scholar or not, we welcome submissions from IMS members. Share what interests you with others. All articles and news items for the **IMS Explorer** should be forwarded to the newsletter editor at: mayaman@bellsouth.net