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Maya enthusiasts providing public education for 45+ years

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Inside this issue:

Hurricane Irma Unearths 2 Canoe from Indian River in Florida, by Randy Shots

The Pellet Bow – What is It? by Mark F. Cheney

Pioneer in Maya Studies 4 Alberto Ruz Lhuillier, by Zach Lindsey (cont. from page 1)

Tomb of Early Classic 5,6 Maya Ruler Uncovered in Guatemala; 2,500-Year-Old Burials Unearthed in Quelepa, El Salvador

IMS Feature Presentation; 7 Membership Application

“Disney-like” Park in Playa 8 del Carmen; Upcoming Events



October 18, 2017 • Maya Ceremonial Era Long Count: 0.0.4.16.2 • 9 'Ik' 0 Sak • G7

**Pioneer in Maya Studies:
Alberto Ruz Lhuillier
(1/27/1906 – 8/25/1979)
by Zach Lindsey**

When Howard Carter, awe-struck and giddy, mumbled that he saw “wonderful things” in the tomb of Tutankhamen, the moment was enshrined in not just archaeological history, but also in popular culture.

Many history-minded folks know about that moment, be it from books like *Gods, Graves, and Scholars*, or the Mummy movies.

Palenque is similarly well-known as a site, and K'inich Janaab Pakal's burial mask and tomb are two of the most famous discoveries in Mexican archaeological history. If Pakal's tomb contained the “wonderful things” of the Maya world, it's unfortunate the tomb's discoverer, Alberto Ruz Lhuillier, isn't similarly well-known.

Ruz is by no means unknown in the Mayanist community. Still, even some Mayanists have reduced Ruz to a one-trick pony: the discoverer of Pakal.

However, some writers, like Ana Luisa Izquierdo y de la Cueva and our good friend Elaine Schele are trying to showcase the wide range of Ruz's impact. You may already know that Ruz's story is less the last-minute-luck and poetry of Carter and more curiosity and persistence.

In 1949, Ruz began excavating a floor in the Temple of the Inscriptions after noticing holes in the floor. The digging went on for four years (and down some 25 meters) before, in June 13, 1952, he found the tomb.



As dangerous as it may seem, after workers had successfully lifted the multi-ton sarcophagus lid upwards on jacks, Ruz calmly posed for a Kodak moment. This image was released this year by INAH on 6/15/2017 as their “Photo of the Day” to commemorate the 65th anniversary of Ruz's discovery.

But you may not know of his contributions to the conversation about influence of Chichen Itza and about the social hierarchy among the ancient Maya, or his role as a spokesperson to the Mexican public about the value of archaeology.

So let's take another look at the man who saw wonderful things in the Maya world.

In 1944, while studying for his masters, Ruz published a short paper describing archaeology directed towards lay audiences in Campeche. In it, he wrote: “Remembering the past that we have lived, that our parents told us about, that every generation has lived, is more than just a spiritual exercise. It's an artificial way of extending the limits of our lives. It's a way of retrospectively living all the centuries we've already lived. It's a way of extending ourselves in the search for eternity.”

Though born to Cuban and French parents, the cultures of Mesoamerica

**October 18, 6 pm
IMS Presentation:**



Holmul: The Maya City That Doesn't Stop Giving

with
Francisco Estrada-Belli,
PhD, now at Tulane University

enveloped him so completely that Ruiz became a Mexican citizen, and is considered one of the first major Mexican Mayanists.

With writing like the quote above, it's easy to assume that Ruz was

continued on page 4



**Jim Reed,
Editor**

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Hurricane Irma Uncovers Canoe from Indian River in Florida

by Randy Shots

Brevard County, FL – Hurricane Irma uncovered a piece of history from the bottom of the Indian River when a dugout canoe was brought to the surface.

Officials from the Florida Department of State's Bureau of Archeological Research in the Division of Historical Resources said they are working to preserve the canoe, estimated to weigh 600 to 700 pounds.

Randy Lathrop, of Cocoa, FL, shared the news of his discovery on Facebook with his friends.

"I got to it before it was picked up by the county with all the other storm debris and placed in a landfill. I'll certainly keep everyone updated on this progress, promise," he said in his Facebook post.

The Indian River is a part of the Sovereign Submerged Lands, meaning all objects of intrinsic historical or archaeological value abandoned on state-owned lands are owned by the state with the title vested in the Division of Historical Resources, officials said.

Lathrop spotted the dugout cypress tree canoe when he was bicycling and observing damage from Hurricane Irma.

"And I was like, 'That can't be,'" Lathrop said. The unlikely archaeologist



The canoe as Randy found it. Photo by Randy Lathrop.

knew he had to save the canoe, as a front loader was just down the street clearing debris.

"Could have very well ended up under a pile of trash or in a landfill, so we're just happy we were able to rescue history," he added.

A state spokesperson said the canoe is still being evaluated, but they've already noticed square nails, remnants of paint chips and the fact that it was likely buried and unexposed to the elements in the river.

The canoe is being stored underwater not far from where it was found until that preservation process can get underway.

A state spokesperson added that they hope to keep the canoe in the community where it was discovered so people can enjoy it and learn from it.

Source: This article was originally shared by author Randy Shots on his Facebook page 9/14/2017. The next day it was picked up by Orlando's WKMG News 6 and appeared updated on their website "ClickOrlando" at: <https://www.clickorlando.com/weather/hurricane-irma/ancient-canoe-found-on-indian-river-set-to-be-preserved-officials-say> Submitted by Scott Allen, 9/15/2017.



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Join in on an IMS Adventure to Northern Peru!

IMS members are planning a trip to northern Peru to visit the archaeological vestiges of the peoples of the Moche and Chimu cultures. Links between these ancient societies and the Maya continue to be a subject of investigation. We will be adding an optional two-day extension to fly the Nazca lines.

Peru has opened several great museums in the north to showcase non-Inca civilizations. Among them is the museum dedicated to the Lady of Cao, the first female ruler identified in Peru.

Dates are **Nov. 9-17, 2017** (if you choose to skip Nazca), otherwise, we return on Monday, **Nov. 20.**

For further details and to sign up, contact Marta Barber: ismiami@yahoo.com



The Pellet Bow – What is it?

by Mark F. Cheney

I found a new book today: *American Indian Archery* by Reginald & Gladys Laubin. In the final chapter entitled “Blowguns, Stone Bows and Harps”, I was particularly interested in what he had to say about blowguns, because, at one point, A character in my novel about the ancient Maya used a blowgun.

However, what really caught my attention at the end of the chapter was something new to me. Here is what the authors say on page 166, “Speaking of blowguns, which use ‘arrows’ but no bow, we might mention another weapon that is a bow with no arrows, I mean a stone bow or pellet bow. I have never heard of such a bow among North American Indians, but it was known in South America and in parts of Asia. It was similar to ordinary bows but in South America was much shorter than the usual long bow. It was used to shoot, or throw stones or clay balls (pellets). The bows had either a double string, to which a little pouch for holding the pellet was attached near the center, or else a very wide string against which the hunter would hold the pellet for discharge.

“To prevent the pellet striking the bow, the bow was canted to the right, and the pellet was discharged on the



Examples of Pellet bows displayed in the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford, England. The top detail is the only double bow. With this double bow the pouch is set above the handle making it impossible for the stone to hit your hand. The single bows have a reverse handle to prevent wrist slap.

right side of the bow.” They go on to say on the same page, “The pellet bow was used in Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina, primarily to obtain birds with precious feathers used for costumes and ceremonies, but sometimes it was even used in war.”

continued on page 6

Tomb of Early Classic Maya Ruler Uncovered in Guatemala

The tomb of a Maya ruler excavated this summer at the Classic Maya city of Waka' in northern Guatemala is the oldest royal tomb yet to be discovered at the site, noted the Ministry of Culture and Sports of Guatemala.

“The Classic Maya revered their divine rulers and treated them as living souls after death,” said research

co-director David Freidel, professor of anthropology in Arts & Sciences at Washington University in St. Louis.

“This king’s tomb helped to make the royal palace acropolis holy ground, a place of majesty, early in the history of the Wak dynasty. It’s like the ancient Saxon kings of England buried in Old Minister, the original church underneath Winchester Cathedral.”

The tomb, discovered by Guatemalan archaeologists of the U.S.-Guatemalan El Perú-Waka' Archaeological Project (Proyecto Arqueológico Waka', or PAW), has been provisionally dated by ceramic analysis to 300–350 CE, making it the earliest known royal tomb in the northwestern Peten region.

Previous research at the site has revealed six royal tombs and sacrificial offering burials dating to the fifth, sixth and seventh centuries CE.

El Perú-Waka' is about 40 miles west of the famous Maya site of Tikal near the San Pedro Martir River in Laguna del Tigre National Park. In the Classic period, this royal city



Burial 80 during excavation shows stone cup in the center surrounded by bones. (Image: Courtesy of Proyecto Arqueológico Waka' and the Ministry of Culture and Sports of Guatemala).

commanded major trade routes running north to south and east to west.

The findings, first disclosed at a Guatemalan symposium sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, suggest the new tomb, known as “Burial 80,” dates from the early years of the Wak royal dynasty. *Wak* means “centipede” in Mayan.

One of the earliest known Maya dynasties, the Wak is thought to have been established in the second century CE based on calculations from a later historical text at the site. Although the ruler in Burial 80,

continued on page 6



El Perú-Waka' identified on a map of the Mayalands, courtesy of Keith Eppich.



Pioneer in Maya Studies: Alberto Ruz Lhuillier (1/27/1906 – 8/25/1979)

by Zach Lindsey

continued from page 1

able to imagine the ancient Maya as a vibrant, living group, as complex as their contemporary descendants or any other culture. He certainly presented them that way to the Mexican general public.

After receiving his masters at UNAM, Ruz launched into his career with enthusiasm, serving as Director of Archaeological Excavations at Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) for Campeche, Yucatan, and Palenque. Though his work at Palenque led to international recognition, his work in Campeche and Yucatán brought a more rigorous, disciplined spirit to regional archaeology.

In Ruz's day, the prevailing viewpoint was that the Yucatan peninsula had been settled by Maya groups almost exclusively during the Postclassic era. This idea came partly from the work of Morley. But beginning in 1943, Ruz and others used ceramics at Edzna in Campeche to suggest the city was populated by individuals from the Maya culture complex in the early Classic at least, and probably much earlier.

Ruz's precise measurements of Uxmal, too, are valuable, especially since Uxmal has been heavily altered by restorations, weathering, and tourist footsteps since his time. His updated maps of the Casa de las Tortugas and the Casa del Gobernador in 1947 were still considered accurate in the 1980s.



“The Palace” at Palenque is featured in a prominent 3-D diorama within the on-site museum named in honor of Alberto Ruz Lhuillier. Photo by Zack Lindsey.

Sunset casts its shadows across the mosaic facade of the Casa del Gobernador with the Pyramid of the Magician in the distance, at Uxmal. Courtesy of Macduff Everton, #00994. At:

<http://www.macduffeverton.com/stock/>, you can check out his archives of stock images.

For all his archaeological work, I haven't mentioned Ruz's (deeply) political side. In a complicated Cuba, Ruiz was influenced by his grandparents who were some of the first to free their slaves. Ruz had strong beliefs about the rights of marginalized groups. Perhaps ghosts of this naturally emerge in his work. He attempted to turn the archaeological narrative from one describing outsiders to one describing indigenous Mexicans.

His personal and political life is described aptly in Elaine Schele's dissertation. (Elaine Schele acquired her PhD with her dissertation about the life of Alberto Ruz downloadable at: http://www.latinamericanstudies.org/palenque/Ruz_Palenque_dissertation.pdf)

Other aspects of Ruz's life have been detailed by Ana Luisa Izquierdo y de la Cueva, especially in the collection of his essays she edited in the 1980s, *Alberto Ruz Lhuillier: Frente al pasado de los mayas*. (She was still using her pre-marriage name.) If you read Spanish and can find it used somewhere, it's a wonderful little book compiling his most important short-form studies and Izquierdo's thoughtful exploration of which of his assumptions about Maya culture were correct and which were not. (Spoiler: he was right a lot!)

Another fine source comes from Elaine Schele and Izquierdo y de la Cueva together; in 2015, they were the first to try to remind Mayanists of Ruz's contributions in the Spanish-language *Estudios de Cultura Maya*, which can be viewed here: <https://revistas-filologicas.unam.mx/estudios-cultura-maya/index.php/ecm/article/view/719/1004>

Ruz was certainly not acting in isolation. He was one part of a change in thinking about the ancient Maya that climaxed in the 1970s and 1980s with the



Photo of the Temple of the Inscriptions and the small monument containing the remains of Alberto Ruz, by IMS Fellow George Fery. Check out George's most excellent website at Maya World Images (MWI): www.mayaworldimages.com See the Alberto Ruz page on the IMS website at: <http://www.instituteofmayasudies.org/index.php/features/archaeologists/alberto-ruz-lhuillier>

decipherment of glyphs and the redefinition of the ancient Maya from a time-obsessed peaceful democracy to a more nuanced web of city-states and familial rivalries as described by contemporary scholars like David Stuart, Simon Martin and Nikolai Grube, Jaime Awe, and a hundred others.

And it's no surprise he's linked to Palenque; he's buried there. But his imprint on the science and art of Maya studies exists at many Mexican Maya sites, and not just at Pakal's tomb.

continued on page 5



2,500-Year-Old Burials Unearthed in Quelepa, El Salvador

In late August, archaeologists in El Salvador unearthed the remains of skeletons dating back 2,500 years. The well-preserved human remains, along with shards of pottery, were found in Quelepa, in eastern El Salvador.

Michelle Toledo, an archaeologist from El Salvador's ministry of culture, examined the skeletons of two individuals found lying on top of each other. In a state press release, Toledo described the bones as being deliberately placed with a bowl resting on one of the skulls.

These are four of the five photos released with the article – all without specific image captions. Courtesy of La Secretaría de Cultura El Salvador.

At the site, four other pieces of pottery were found with a metate, a type of mortar used to grind grain or corn. These additional findings, according to the release, also correspond to a period that occurred around 1,200 to 400 BCE.

In an interview, Toledo explained that offerings found near bones are not accidental. Cultural practices at this time involved



complicated burial rituals, and everything from a body's burial position to artifacts thrown in a grave were meant to aid the dead person's journey to the afterlife.

According to Toledo, the finding is unusual because it was found isolated from other large cemeteries and offering sites. The dig, which took place from June 12 to July 21, 2017, hoped to find more clues to ancient life in this region.

While western El Salvador was dominated by early Maya, eastern El Salvador is considered to have been largely the domain of an indigenous group of people known as the Lenca. While similar to the Maya, Lenca had their own language and pottery-making practices. This assumption is based on major excavations conducted in the 1970s by well-known archaeologist E. Wyllys Andrews V.

Toledo noted that much of her dating was based on conclusions published by Andrews's early findings about Quelepa.

The skeletons and pottery shards will be cleaned and documented before being added to El Salvador's National Collection of Archaeology. 🏹

Source: From an article by Sarah Gibbens on the Archaeology News Network website, released 9/3/2017, at: <https://archaeologynews-network.blogspot.com/2017/09/2500-year-old-burials-unearthed-in.html#Tmhx6F69DIC7mylP.97>
Submitted by Mike Ruggeri.

Pioneer in Maya Studies: Alberto Ruz Lhuillier (1/27/1906 – 8/25/1979)

by Zach Lindsey

continued from page 4

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2015 'Alberto Ruz Lhuillier mas allá del descubrimiento de la tumba del templo de las inscripciones de Palenque. Militancia política y arqueología maya.' *Estudios de Cultura Maya* 46. Accessed online, <https://revistas-filologicas.unam.mx/estudios-cultura-maya/index.php/ecm/article/view/7191004>

Martin, Simon, and Nikolai Grube
2008 *Chronicle of the Maya Kings and Queens*. New York: Thames & Hudson.



One of the Serpent's Heads at the base of the north stairway of the Temple of Kukulcan is artistically superimposed over a view of the Temple of the Warriors, at Chichen Itza. Courtesy of Macduff Everton, #01930. At: <http://www.macduffeverton.com/stock/>, you can check out his archives of stock images.

Editor's note:

Zach Lindsey will be presenting at the South-Central Conference on Mesoamerica at Tulane University on October 13 to 15. One of his two programs is very timely: "Fighting the Four Winds: Hurricane Resistance in Ancient Maya Architecture". The program schedule and all relevant info can be found at: <https://southcentralmeso.org/>



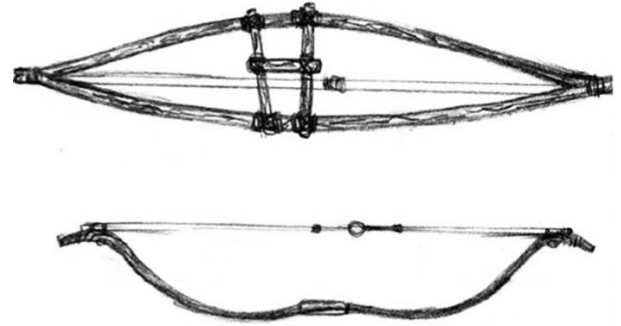
Painting of Zhang Xian shooting a pebble bow at the tiangou, who is causing an eclipse, below. Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_archery

The Pellet Bow – What is it? continued from page 3

by Mark F. Cheney

Now, this got me remembering my childhood days when I would find a forked stick and make it into a sling shot. Instead of relying on the bow's spring, however, these little weapons used rubber bands made from old inner tubes, with a leather pouch tied in the center to send the rock or ball bearing after its target.

Anyway, I continued my research, and found the following quote in a Wikipedia treatise on Chinese archery: "Aside from using normal bows and arrows, two distinct subgenres of hunting archery emerged: fowling with a pellet bow, and waterfowling (sic) with a tethered arrow. Shooting with a pellet bow involved using a light bow with a pouch on the bowstring designed to shoot a stone pellet. The discipline of shooting the pellet bow was allegedly the precursor to shooting with the bow and arrow, and the



From tutorial on manga drawing showing bow similar to the double bow pictured at the top of page 3.

practice of pellet shooting persisted for many centuries. By contrast, hunting with a tethered arrow (which was meant to ensnare rather than pierce the target) was featured in early paintings, but seemed to have died out before the Tang dynasty (618–907 CE)."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_archery

Other examples were found in the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford, England (See two photos at top of pg. 3), and many modern variations that merged cross-bows with sling-shots to shoot pellets or other objects. 🏹

Tomb of Early Classic Maya Ruler Uncovered in Guatemala

continued from page 3

identified as a mature man, was not accompanied by inscribed artifacts and is therefore anonymous, he is possibly King Te' Chan Ahk, a historically known Wak king who was ruling in the early fourth century CE, the research team suggests.

Freidel has directed research at this site in collaboration with Guatemalan and foreign archaeologists since 2003.

Anthropologists Juan Carlos Pérez Calderón of San Carlos University in Guatemala and Damien Marken of Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania are project co-directors. Olivia Navarro-Farr, assistant professor at the College of Wooster in Ohio, is co-principal investigator and long-term supervisor of the site.

Calderon and Guatemalan archaeologists Griselda Pérez Robles and Damaris Menéndez supervised tunnel excavations inside the Palace Acropolis that led to the new tomb.

Identification of the tomb as royal is based on the presence of a jade portrait mask depicting the ruler with the forehead hair tab of the Maize God. Maya kings were regularly portrayed as Maize God impersonators.

This forehead tab has a unique "Greek Cross" symbol which means "Yellow" and "Precious" in ancient Mayan. This symbol is also associated with the Maize God.

Robles and Menéndez discovered the mask under the head of the ruler, and it may have been

Jade mask from Burial 80, painted red with cinnabar paint. Courtesy of Proyecto Arqueológico 'Waka' and the Ministry of Culture and Sports of Guatemala.

made to cover the face rather than as a chest pectoral. Archaeologists at Tikal in the 1960s discovered a similar greenstone mask in the earliest Maya royal tomb, dating to the first century CE.

Additional offerings in Burial 80 included 22 ceramic vessels, Spondylus shells, jade ornaments and a shell pendant carved as a crocodile.

The remains of the ruler and some ornaments like the portrait mask were painted bright red. Burial 80 was reverentially reentered after 600 CE at least once, and it is possible that the bones were painted during this reentry.

The project was sponsored by Guatemala's Foundation for the Cultural and Natural Patrimony (PACUNAM) and the U.S. Department of the Interior. 🏹

Source: Article by Gerry Everding posted on the Washington University in St. Louis website, released 9/13/2017, at: <https://source.wustl.edu/2017/09/tomb-early-classic-maya-ruler-found-guatemala/> Submitted by Scott Allen.



October 18 • 6 pm • IMS Feature Presentation Holmul: The Maya City That Doesn't Stop Giving

with **Francisco Estrada-Belli**, PhD, now at Tulane University

For many years now, Dr. Estrada-Belli has concentrated his efforts in a very particular area of the Guatemalan Peten, discovering details on how the ancient Maya developed into a full-fledged civilization. A great friend of the IMS, Francisco has presented at the IMS on many occasions, but this year, he's going to reveal this season's special discoveries at Holmul.



Burial of a woman from Room 1 of Building D, Group I, Holmul, June 2017. Photo: F. Estrada-belli.

Dr. Francisco Estrada-Belli, an Italian-born Guatemalan archaeologist, directs a multi-disciplinary archaeological project at Holmul, Guatemala. The Holmul project investigates the rise and fall of Lowland Maya civilization from its earliest beginnings. The new findings at Holmul are uncovering early ritual deposits and iconography that mark the early beliefs and activities at the core of Maya civilization, as well as shedding light on the political changes that occurred at the end of the Preclassic period.



Holmul around 800 CE. Artistic rendering by J. González. Courtesy of PACUNAM.

Dr. Estrada-Belli teaches archaeology and geographic information systems at Tulane University, having previously held positions at Harvard University, Boston University, and Vanderbilt University. A *National Geographic Explorer*, he is the author of *The First Maya Civilization: Ritual and Power Before the Classic Period*, a book on the origins of Maya civilization. In 2010, Francisco cofounded the Maya Archaeological Initiative, a U.S. non-profit organization that promotes education and preservation of the cultural patrimony of Peten, Guatemala.

Editor's note: The photo of Francisco in the event announcement on page 1 is of him seated in Room 2 of Building D, Group I after excavating a royal burial in June 2016. Photo: Holmul Archaeological Project.

The IMS is a Community Partner with Miami Dade College – Kendall Campus, Miami, FL

This program will take place at 6 pm in K-422 (in Building K-4, Room 22)

IMS Hotline: 305-279-8110

Go to the college website at: www.mdc.edu for directions and campus map.

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“Disney-like” Adventure Park in Playa del Carmen

Mexico’s Riviera Maya already draws millions of tourists every year with its pristine beaches, adventure parks, and magnificent Maya ruins, but now, the country has unveiled a huge plan to lure even more visitors to the stunning region on its southeastern coast.

Mexican officials recently announced plans to break ground on a sprawling new theme park packed with wild roller coasters, water rides, an enormous hotel complex, and many more attractions – all designed to celebrate the country’s Maya culture and heritage.

Basically, Mexico is building its very own Disney World, and you’re going to want to go. Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto announced official plans for the \$840 million park, **Amikoo**, which is named after the Mayan

Artist’s conception of the proposed theme park now under construction, courtesy of the Presidencia Mexico.

pronunciation of “amigo,” or friend. The major destination will sit on nearly 300 acres just outside Playa del Carmen, and should be nearly finished by 2020.

According to *Riviera Maya News*, the park will boast at least 24 state-of-the-art rides and be split into four distinct zones: Park Maya Extreme (a lush jungle-themed area), Maya Adventure (a celebration of the “Maya City”), Maya Discovery (Maya anthropology and archaeology museums), and Amikoo Land (a family-focused area with shopping and restaurants).

While the development will occupy 300 acres total, more



than 200 acres will be set aside as a preserve. There aren’t many details on the specific rides quite yet, but it appears they’ll include such thrills as a giant wave pool, panoramic flight and submarine simulators, and something called “Pirates of Bacalar.”

During his presentation, Mexico’s president projected the park will attract some 4.5 million visitors yearly.

Source: Condensed by the editor from an original article by Joe McGauley, released 9/19/2017, at: <https://www.thrillist.com/news/nation/amikoo-mayan-theme-park-rides>

Upcoming Events at the IMS:

Oct. 18 • 6 pm: *IMS Feature Presentation*
Holmul: The Maya City That Doesn’t Stop Giving – with **Francisco Estrada-Belli**, PhD., who has been directing a multi-disciplinary archaeological project at Holmul, Guatemala. He’ll present the latest discoveries from this year’s field season. Be there to welcome our good friend back to Miami!

Nov. 15 • 6 pm: *IMS Feature Presentation*
Corn, Cotton, Chocolate: How the Maya Changed the World – with **James O’Kon**, Engineer, Georgia Tech. The amazing plants invented by Maya agronomists now feed and clothe the majority of the world and have shaped the geopolitical and cultural characteristics of the planet. Jim will present his latest book by the same name.

All IMS events will take place in Room K-422 at Miami Dade College – Kendall Campus. That’s Building K-4, Room 22. See map on www.mdc.edu

Upcoming Events and Announcements:

Oct. 13-15 • 6 pm: *Tulane Conference*
8th Annual South-Central Conference on Mesoamerica – The 2017 South-Central Conference on Mesoamerica (SCCM) is a regional conference that provides a venue to bring together scholars in the fields of archaeology, ethnography, art history, and others, as well as the general public, to share information and interpretations on current research focused on the cultures of the Mesoamerican region. The conference is free and open to the public. The South-Central Conference on Mesoamerica will be hosted by Tulane University. **Zach Lindsey** will be presenting two different programs. To see the program schedule and for all event essentials go to: <https://southcentralmeso.org>

Ongoing: *Museum Exhibit*
Revealing Creation: The Science and Art of Ancient Maya Ceramics – at the Los Angeles Museum of Art Exhibit. Drawing on collaborative research by LACMA’s

Conservation Center and the Art of the Ancient Americas Program, *Revealing Creation: The Science and Art of Ancient Maya Ceramics* integrates new insight gained from technical analysis of ancient Maya ceramic vessels with knowledge from Maya culture. Revealed is how Maya artisans worked to emulate acts of primordial creation through their labor of shaping, painting, and firing clay. Get all the info at: <http://www.lacma.org/art/exhibition/revealing-creation>

Join the IMS Facebook page under the group Institute of Maya Studies – Get in on all the action! IMS members post interesting links, as well as photos from their recent adventures. Plus, Marta Barber seems to always be there to help out if you have questions or comments. Get “hip”, go to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MiamilMS/>



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Join the **Explorer-ation!** Scholar or not, we welcome submissions from IMS members and other Maya enthusiasts. 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