

May 15, 2019 • Maya Ceremonial Era Long Count: 0.0.6.8.16 • 13 K'ib 4 Sip • G5

## Survey Reveals New Discoveries in the Northern Sector of Calakmul Biosphere

### Interview with Ivan Šprajc by Teena Clipson

The Calakmul Biosphere Reserve of Campeche has revealed more secrets of the ancient Maya; with LiDAR aerial surveying exposing agricultural modifications, ceramics confirming previously unknown settlers from the Mamom era, evidence of survivors of the Maya collapse, unique stucco on stela, and a mystery that has archaeologists puzzled.

National Geographic documentaries and mainstream media revel in reporting on the recent archaeological discoveries made with LiDAR technology and traditional field work in Guatemala. Yet, just over the border in Mexico's Calakmul Biosphere, similarly exciting work is taking place with far less media attention. However, less attention does not mean that



An architectural group identified by LiDAR and located a few kilometers north of Chactún, was the residence of a local lord. He commissioned this altar with hieroglyphic text that was found at the center of the plaza. Photo: ZRC SAZU.

there is less to discover.

A survey of a part of the northern sector of the Calakmul Biosphere was completed in 2018 and the analysis of its data is currently underway, led by Slovenian professor and archaeologist Ivan Šprajc of the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

*"We are still processing the information," Šprajc explains. "We have an enormous amount of data now, the last two seasons were based on LiDAR surveys, and we have 200 sq. km. of imagery to process, analyze, and interpret."*

Šprajc, who has sometimes been referred to as the real Indiana Jones, has studied Mesoamerican history in Mexico since 1985, and worked as a researcher for INAH (Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia of Mexico) from 1992 to 2000. His life, as dramatic as any film, found him as a young archaeologist fleeing the



Maya sites within the Calakmul Biosphere archaeological research area. Map recreated by the editor incorporating Google satellite imagery, based on a version in Spanish that appeared in *Arqueología Mexicana*.



**Jim Reed,**  
Editor

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with **Dr. Dominique Rissolo**  
University of California, San Diego

war in the former state of Yugoslavia, but with perfect timing he won a grant in archaeoastronomical research, which would relocate him to Mexico for the next ten years. Since 1996 he has

*continued on page 3*

# Golden Kingdoms: Luxury & Legacy in the Ancient Americas

Exhibition at The Met Fifth Avenue through May 28

This landmark exhibition of luxury arts of the Incas, the Aztecs, and their predecessors traces the emergence and florescence of goldworking in the ancient Americas, from its earliest appearance in the Andes to its later developments farther north in Central America and Mexico. In the ancient Americas, metalworking developed in the context of ritual and regalia, rather than for tools, weapons, or currency.

**Golden Kingdoms reveals the distinctive ways ancient Americans used not only metals, but also jade, shell, and feathers – materials often considered more valuable than gold.**



The Señora de Cao, a powerful Moche ruler, had 44 gold-and-silver nose ornaments in her funerary bundle, ca. 400 CE.

These translucent obsidian earspools, on loan from Belize, feature a delicately incised name of a royal Maya lady.



Bringing together newly discovered archaeological finds and masterpieces from major museums in Latin America, Europe, and the United States, this exhibition casts new light on these ancient civilizations and their place within world history.

**Golden Kingdoms** focuses on specific places and times – crucibles of innovation, moments of exceptional achievement in the arts – to explore how materials were selected and transformed, imbued with meaning, and deployed in the most important rituals of their time. This unprecedented exhibition features more



A mosaic of the Maya god of death from 600-800 CE, with the distended belly of a rotting corpse.

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For an Exhibition  
Overview, see the museum's  
website at: <https://metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2018/golden-kingdoms>

## Unbundling the Past: Events in Ancient and Contemporary Maya History for May by Zach Lindsey

**3 May 374 CE:** On 8.16.17.9.0 11 Ajaw 3 Wayeb G9, Jatz'ohm Kuh (aka Spearthrower Owl) ascended to the throne. But where? Most people think he ascended to the lordship of the great city of Teotihuacan in Central Mexico. But his influence was enormous, spreading more than 1,000 km. He was so important that he changed the direction of the Maya city of Tikal forever, but we know surprisingly little about how and why. Was he a good king or a frightening despot? Was he an economic genius or a military tactician? We don't know.

Read Janice Van Cleve's report at: [www.mayas.doodlekit.com](http://www.mayas.doodlekit.com)

**7 May 755 CE:** On 9.16.4.1.1 7 Imix 14 Sek G3, two soldiers got memorialized for a bad reason. Jewelled Skull and Kok Te' Ajaw were captured (or fell "under the sharpened spear" to use Guillermo Bernal Romero's translation) by Yaxuun B'ahlam (Bird KJaguar IV) of Yaxchilan and one of his vassals, K'an Tok Wayib'.

They appear bound on Yaxchilan Lintel 8, which, as a side note, is a great place to cut your teeth if you want to start reading the glyphs. Most of the monument is deciphered, and you already know the dates and names of people since I just told you!



Yaxchilan Lintel 8 depicts Bird Jaguar IV and his chief sajal taking captives in warfare. To the right, the king holds a spear and flexible shield in his left hand, and grasps the wrist of his captive (Jeweled Skull) with his right. To the left, K'an Tok Wayib' grasps his captive (Kok Te' Ajaw) both by the hair and his heavy rope bindings. ([www.latinamericanstudies.org](http://www.latinamericanstudies.org))

# Survey Reveals New Discoveries in the Northern Sector of Calakmul Biosphere Interview with Ivan Šprajc by Teena Clipson

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directed eleven field seasons of archaeological reconnaissance in the southern part of the Mexican state of Campeche.

“The survey we just finished, is in the Northern sector of the Calakmul Biosphere. There are three major sites, first located in 2013 and 2014, Chactún, Tamchén, Lagunita (see map on page 1). During the first seasons we worked from the information of local informants, and then with the aid of large-scale aerial photographs which helped, but what Lidar has done is incomparable. It is drastically better.

I mean you can see almost everything on LiDAR.

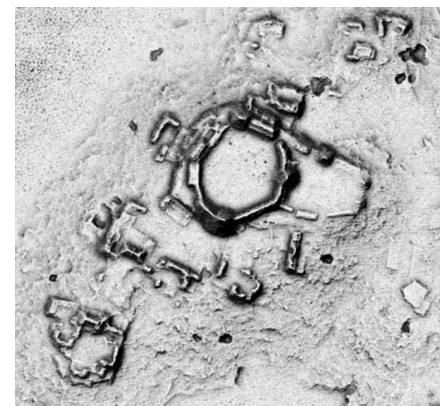
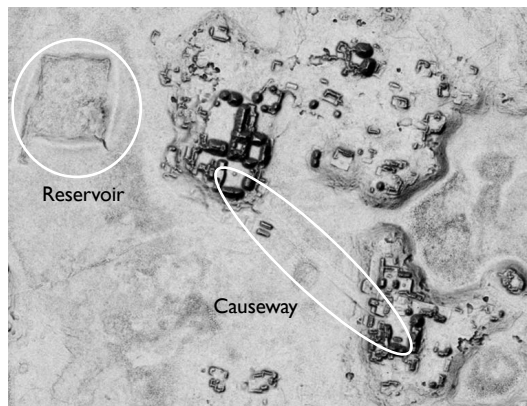
“What we discovered are many landscape modifications related to water management and agriculture, terraces, water reservoirs, sacbes (causeways), modified bajos (wetlands), and several other features that we don’t even understand yet. We weren’t aware of these before because of the jungle cover – without LiDAR we just don’t see many things in the field and with this information we can do so much, like analyze demographic estimates and political organizations.”

The LiDAR findings from Campeche are similar to the recent findings in Guatemala, which helped to discover over 60,000 more structures and to expose irrigation channels, reservoirs, and causeways. The findings also provide new data in agricultural modifications and



Editor’s addition: One of my Facebook friends, Yuriy Polyukhovych (right), posted this recent photo of he and Ivan Šprajc (left) inside the Departamento de Monumentos Prehispánicos, DEMOPRE, Guatemala, 4.11.2019. Yuriy works at California State University – Chico.

Stela I of Chactún, showing the back side, where the glyphs modeled in stucco and adhered to the stone are particularly well preserved. The inscription on the back side is a Long Count date; although some portions have fallen off, it can be safely reconstructed as 9.16.0.0.0 2 Ajaw 13 Sek (May 5, 751 CE). Remnants of red paint that used to cover the glyphs can be seen in the close-up image. Probably alluding to this color of the monument is the text on its right side, mentioning that on that day the “red stone” (chactun) was erected (this inspired us to name the site). Photo: Epigrapher Octavio Esparza Olguin.



L) LiDAR image of Chactún: Two complexes of monumental architecture in the urban core of Chactún are connected by a causeway. The sunken area to the west is a water reservoir surrounded by embankments. R) LiDAR image of Round Structure: While the plazas in Maya settlements most commonly have rectangular ground plans, in this area some of them are oval or circular and surrounded by almost continuous curved structures. This is a close-up LiDAR view of the residence of the local lord mentioned on page 1. Photos: ZRC SAZU.

confirm that the ancient Maya population was three to four times larger than was originally thought.

“An article by Marcello Canuto and his colleagues was recently published in Science. They have done marvelous work based on this LiDAR imagery in Guatemala. But they have a big team, I don’t have such a big team,” said Šprajc. “So, for us it takes more time. But, of course, we are talking about it with them and exchanging information. In many aspects the surveys are similar, as in all over the Maya lowlands. But there are also so many peculiarities, found in different areas, which only now have been discovered.”

And although LiDAR gives an impressive bird’s-eye view of what is under a jungle canopy, the investigation cannot be completed without boots on the ground.

“Of course, you still need boots and machetes,” Šprajc explains. “Without the ground work you don’t have ceramics, chronology, you don’t see inscriptions, you don’t see standing architecture, sculpture, façades nothing like that. LiDAR is a big help, but it is only helping us spend less time in the field and to go straight there, to where we know there is something.”

## TO BE CONTINUED:

See the June IMS Explorer for the continuation of this interview. Until then, check out Teena’s blogsite at: <https://teenaclipston.com/ivan-sprajc-calakmul-biosphere-campeche/>

Catch an INAH video of Ivan Šprajc discovering Chactún at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S\\_FgdJ2yJMY&list=UU\\_xhX-IK\\_aV3GsIJacenZ3g&index=223](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_FgdJ2yJMY&list=UU_xhX-IK_aV3GsIJacenZ3g&index=223)



# Exploring Lamanai, Ka'Kabish, and Marco Gonzales

featuring **Dr. Elizabeth Graham**, Archaeologist, and Researcher of all things Maya

University College London (ULC), Institute of Archaeology – see: <https://ucl.academia.edu/ElizabethGraham>



**Editor's note:** In April, I was in almost daily email correspondence with Elizabeth Graham. Liz mentioned her various interests that are motivating her lately, and the archaeological projects that she is involved with. "My research is quite varied from work on the collapse to sea traders to the long-term environmental impact of human depositional behavior." I did a little digging, and I can't believe all that I discovered. In each of these endeavors, you have the chance to help out in one way or another. *Read on, and get inspired...*

**Liz notes:** "I am an archaeologist, and my research focuses on the Maya of Precolumbian and early colonial Mesoamerica. I work in Belize and have done so since 1973. I am presently directing excavations at the site of Lamanai on the New River Lagoon in northern Belize, and at the site of Marco Gonzalez, on Ambergris Caye.

"I have several research projects in which I am engaged. I have most recently published on the mission churches of the early Spanish colonial period in Belize. My work at Lamanai has centered on lesser known periods of transition, such as the years of the Maya collapse, during which time Lamanai's population continued to thrive, and the transition from to the colonial period. My work on the coast reflects my interest in the environmental impact of human populations in these environments, particularly with regard to resource exploitation and the mitigation of the effects of rising sea levels. I am also interested in coastal trade and exchange, and in neotropical urbanism.

"I have also been focusing on exploding the myth of human sacrifice, which is generally believed to have been practiced in the Maya and Aztec worlds.

"I have taught a variety of courses over the years in both Canada and the U.K. Most courses focus on origins of civilizations, but I have also taught human evolution, and environment and urbanism in the humid tropics. Here at UCL I teach lectures in a variety of courses but focus on Mesoamerica, the Maya, and the Aztecs at the undergraduate level and on the Maya at the graduate level. I also supervise a range of Ph.D. students from around the world who come to the Institute to study Mesoamerican civilizations, although I have also supervised students who work in Cuba and the Caribbean, as well as in the fields of cultural heritage, conservation, and the rise of urbanism."

## What Do We Know about Lamanai?

The **Lamanai Archaeological Project** has enlightened us on the history of the Maya site of Lamanai in Northern Belize. As is always true of a large and long-lived community, the beginnings of Lamanai's 3,200-year occupation history lie hidden beneath the accumulation of the centuries. Judging by radiocarbon dates associated with abnormally high concentrations of corn pollen in a feature called *The Harbour*, as well as dates from cores taken by a team from the University of Nottingham, the Maya had established an agriculturally-based settlement at Lamanai by or before 1500 BCE. The concentration of pollen in *The Harbour* suggests very

The Lamanai High Temple (N10-43). Residents from the local village of Indian Church can be seen on the structure here, when they took a Cultural Heritage class conducted by Lamanai archaeologists and learned about the Lamanai site they live near.



New termite-proof steel and aluminum shelves were installed in the north room of the Lamanai site bodega and zinc artifact storage boxes were purchased. After the new shelves were installed, volunteers worked on rehousing some of the artifacts and the storage boxes were put back on the new shelves in the lab. As you can see, this room is already filled to capacity, and it is challenging for a large group of archaeologists to work in here, thus our need to build a larger bodega. This is just one room of the bodega – with your donations we hope to tackle the other rooms in future field seasons. To donate a "Box," see donations link on next page. The link is also on their website at: <http://www.lamanai.org.uk/index.html>

strongly that the material represents waterborne ceremonial activity in what was, probably throughout the site's occupation, a small arm of the great lagoon on which Lamanai faces. This in turn suggests that the settlement may have been of moderate size by 1500 BCE. There is a very small ceramic sample that is only a few centuries later in date, but the earliest extensive evidence associated with architecture, including both residential and communal structures, falls around 500-700 BCE, and reveals Lamanai as a nucleated community with a somewhat diffuse Central Precinct. By this time or slightly later, residential settlement had embraced what was to become the heart of the Classic-period Central Precinct, the area of Structure N10-43.

*continued on page 5*

# Exploring Lamanai, Ka'Kabish, and Marco Gonzales

featuring **Dr. Elizabeth Graham** *continued from page 4*

## The High Temple at Lamanai

Near the end of the Preclassic, probably around 100 BCE, a major transformation of the site took place. In a real “urban renewal” project, a group of small southern residential structures was supplanted by the massive initial stage of Structure N10-43, the High Temple (see photo on page 4), that served as the focal point for the first major plaza group to appear at the site.



L) The Mask Temple (N9-56) and R) The Jaguar Temple (N10-9), uncovered at Lamanai.

## The Mask Temple at Lamanai

N10-43 continued as a principal element during the Early Classic, and during this time the multi-structure N9-56 Mask Temple began to take shape. Beneath complex hoopwork domes, we found two comparatively rich tombs, which were covered in coarse textiles that were in turn swathed in fine textiles soaked in red pigment. The occupants of the two tombs lay surrounded by wooden objects, pottery vessels, and a variety of jade and shell mosaic ear ornaments and apparent pendants, among other artifacts. Unluckily, neither ceramic nor other evidence tells us which tomb preceded which. The issue is particularly important because the occupant of Tomb N9-56/1 is male and the individual in Tomb N9-53/1 is female.

## The Jaguar Temple at Lamanai

At about the same time as the construction of the two tombs, came the beginning of the southernmost plaza group in the Central Precinct, dominated by Structure N10-9 (the Jaguar Temple). This plaza and the assemblage of buildings raised on a high platform at its northern

border, known today as the “Ottawa” group, appear to have become the main focus of Lamanai public life during the Late Classic. In its original form the group consisted of two plazas at different levels, bordered by residences and buildings that probably saw combined residential and administrative use.

We have been able to get locally made galvanized “termite-proof”, “mouse-proof”, “weather-proof” zinc-boxes to store our large quantity of artifacts (things like pottery shards, obsidian, lithics, faunal remains, etc.). Please donate to our ‘buy-a-box’ campaign so that we can complete the rehousing and reorganization of the artifact collection.



Help preserve the cultural history of Lamanai!

– Buy a Box!  
only \$20 US today.

UCL keeps donor’s names confidential, so please be sure to let us know that you have donated so we can put your name on a box or boxes – contact us at: [Karen.I.pierce@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Karen.I.pierce@ucdenver.edu) or [e.graham@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:e.graham@ucl.ac.uk)

Donations can also be made via PayPal to: [karen@karenpierce.com](mailto:karen@karenpierce.com)

## Ka'Kabish Archaeological Research Project



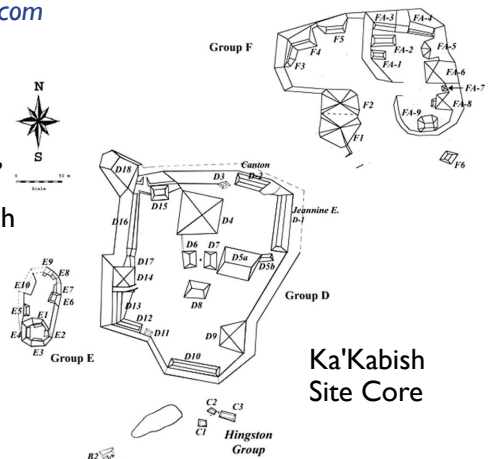
Each year, the field season is worked by students, Belizean archaeologists, and local villagers.

Ka'Kabish, an ancient Maya city in north-central Belize, was first identified by Dr. David Pendergast, in the late 1980s while working at Lamanai as part of a ROM research project. Although Ka'Kabish is only 10 km inland from Lamanai, accessing the site originally involved a tortuous overland drive of almost three hours along a logging trail.

Today, travel between the two sites takes less than 30 minutes courtesy of a graded dirt road created in the early 1990s. The new road, which connects the town of San Filipe in the west to the village of Indian Church and Lamanai in the east bisected Ka'Kabish into the north (Group F) and south halves (Groups B, C, D, E, and the Fenton Group). It caused the complete destruction of at least two buildings and damaged the plaza and several other cultural features

adjacent to the road. It also opened the site up to extensive looting, a challenge we face every year as the site is currently on private land and therefore not subject to patrol by Tourist Police or the Belize Defense Force.

The Ka'Kabish Archaeological Research Project was founded in 2007, with an initial focus on remapping the site center. Aided by a small team of local men



from Indian Church Village, and supported by equipment from MRP, we were able to clear and map the south half of the site. Over the next few years it quickly became evident that the site exceeded the initial structure count and to date the project has mapped over 100 structures in twelve groups.

*continued on page 6*

## Exploring Lamanai, Ka'Kabish, and Marco Gonzales featuring Dr. Elizabeth Graham continued from page 5

Excavation work at the site started in 2010 and has continued every year since. This work has revealed that Ka'Kabish enjoyed a long history of occupation. As part of our on-going study of the ancient Maya city of Ka'Kabish we have been engaged in documenting settlement clusters outside of the site-core. Documenting these settlements is not only important for understanding the type of urban design employed at Ka'Kabish, but also for understanding how the city functioned and thrived for 2,300 years.

Up until our work at Ka'Kabish, Lamanai was seen as the only polity to survive the transition between the Terminal Classic and Post-Classic periods unscathed by an abandonment phase. Ka'Kabish, while suffering a hiatus in the early Late Classic period, is not only revived in the Terminal Classic, but continued to flourish into the Post-Classic. We see evidence of Ka'Kabish's success and prosperity in the presence of copper artifacts. Ka'Kabish is one of the few Maya sites in Belize to have acquired copper objects (Tipu and Lamanai being the other two). Copper is not local to the Maya world, but originates in West Mexico and in Costa Rica. Other evidence of the continued prosperity is noted in the large quantities of obsidian still being imported into the site and ceramics with ties to Lamanai and Santa Rita.

*Help Save the Past for Future Generations!*

## The Marco Gonzalez Reserve on Ambergris Caye, Belize

The Marco Gonzalez Reserve is located near the southern tip of Ambergris Caye. It was first recorded archaeologically in 1984 by Dr. Elizabeth Graham and Dr. David M. Pendergast, and was named by them after their local guide. However, the existence of the site had been known to San Pedranos for many years before that, as had most of the many other sites that are present on the caye.

The site is approximately 8 km south of San Pedro Town, and is surrounded by dense jungle. Access to the site from the windward beach side was relatively easy, along cut trails, while the site was being excavated by Drs. Graham and Pendergast from 1984 to about 1994. Now, however, the trails are overgrown and visits to the site are difficult, especially during and immediately after the rainy seasons.

*Ka'Kabish Project Director, Dr. Helen Haines founded the Ka'Kabish Archaeological Research Project (KARP) in 2007, after visiting the site in 2006 to assess the logistics of working in the region. She was part of the original MRP team of archaeologists that mapped the site in 1995. She is always happy to give a tour of Ka'Kabish, and equally happy to discuss the site and the work over a good G&T in the Lamanai Outpost lounge.*

>We are working to save a 3,000-yr-old Maya city from destruction. Please view our short video at: <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/help-save-the-past-for-future-generations#/>

## Bats at Lamanai and Ka'Kabish

Since 1998, Dr. Brock Fenton of the University of Western Ontario, has been making regular trips to Lamanai (and more recently Ka'Kabish) to learn about the bats that live there.

Over the years, he and students have caught or recorded 43 species of bats in these areas. By catching bats in mist nets or harptraps or by recording their echolocation calls, they have been able to assemble a picture of the bat fauna. Bats are small, long-lived animals, that play a variety of roles in ecosystems like those around Lamanai and Ka'Kabish. "We use our time with the bats and each other to come up with new ways of studying bats and better ways of gaining a perspective on how they 'view' the world."



Marco Gonzalez Reserve is unlike any Maya site in Belize. Ancient Maya civilizations were known for their remarkable trade system, and Marco Gonzalez was an important hub in a thriving maritime trade system that moved goods down the Yucatan coast all the way through Central America. This trading post, is thought to have been active from 100 BCE until about 1500 CE and consisted of at least 49 known structures.

Ambergris Caye is known to have been home to more than 20,000 Maya traders during the height of their occupation of the island. There are 22 recognized archaeological sites on the 25-mile island. Discoveries at Marco Gonzales have provided incredible insights into

*Elizabeth notes: "Marco Gonzales may not be the easiest site to care for, but we are glad we have someone with heart and spirit to share the beauty and importance of it. Thank you Jan Brown for your tireless efforts and dedication to the Marco Gonzalez Maya."*



the island's important role in Maya maritime trade. Check out the official website at: <http://marcogonzalezmaya-reserve.com>

# The Hidden World of the Maritime Maya: Reconstructing Coastal Landscapes in Northern Quintana Roo, Mexico

with **Dr. Dominique Rissolo**  
University of California, San Diego

**May 15 • 7:30 pm • K-413**

Dominique Rissolo and colleagues are leading a long-term, interdisciplinary study of the complex interrelationships between humans and the environment along the north coast of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. Shorelines are dynamic places, both culturally and environmentally, and the project explores this dynamism by employing earth, biological and social sciences to elucidate the linkages between human settlements and their coastline.

By focusing specifically on coastal settlements, this research adds an important dimension to the growing body of literature from various parts of the world that attempts to understand how the dynamic relations between cultural and environmental factors, at local and global scales, influenced the developmental trajectory of past human societies.

Over the past three millennia, rising sea levels and climate change have dramatically transformed the physiographic characteristics of this drowning coastline, while Maya society witnessed the rise and fall of divine kings and the emergence of a market-based economy. By correlating multiple facets of the changing paleoenvironment with broader social and economic changes, the research team reveals the challenges faced, and opportunities pursued, by coastal peoples as they adapted to their changing coastal landscape.

The settlement history of the ancient Maya port sites of Vista Alegre and Conil provides tantalizing clues to the vulnerabilities and resilience of these coastal peoples. Rissolo and team continue to investigate what social and environmental factors conditioned the resilience and vulnerability of the maritime Maya over the past 3000 years.

**The IMS is a Community Partner with Miami Dade College – Kendall Campus, Miami, FL**  
**This program will take place May 15 at 7:30 pm in K-413 (in Building K-4, Room 13)**  
**IMS Hotline: 305-279-8110**

Go to the college website at: [www.mdc.edu](http://www.mdc.edu) for directions and campus map.



**Dominique Rissolo**

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## First Human Remains Found In El Salvador's Joya de Cerén

The Directorate General of Cultural and Natural Heritage of El Salvador's Ministry of Culture reported in November 2018, about the discovery of a skeleton, human footprints, and cultivation furrows in excavations carried out as part of the project Construction of Protection Works and Improvement of the Joya de Cerén archaeological park.

Joya de Cerén was buried in the ashes of the Loma Caldera volcano around 650 CE. Layers of ashes preserved the site and this has allowed archaeologists and researchers to appreciate the way of life of the Maya village: rituals, agriculture, commerce, space management, and citizen organization, etc.

Archaeologist Michelle Toledo, who directs the research at the site, commented: "A few days ago, a pit was identified that contained organic and skeletal remains; the cleaning was carried out, and it was



L) Excavation pit. R) Michelle points out the remains. Photos: Ministerio de Cultura El Salvador.

determined that it was a burial of a person who probably inhabited the village, but who did not die because of the eruption.

"There are long bones, and we believe that this burial is from the Late Classic period (600-900 CE), because inside the pit there is a layer of fine white tephra, known as 'Tierra Blanca Joven' (young white earth), a product of the eruption of the Ilopango volcano in 535 CE; if so, this individual would be from a burial from the time when the people of Joya de Cerén lived here before the devastating eruption in 650 CE."

This is the first time in more than forty years of research and excavations that human remains have been discovered in Joya de Cerén. Unfortunately, the skeleton – discovered next to an obsidian knife – is in a poor state of conservation. "But the discoveries have led us to decide to extend the excavations in the southern zone of Complex I", noted Toledo, "so the project continues".

Source: <https://archaeologynewsnetwork.blogspot.com> Submitted by Mike Ruggeri. 🏰

### Upcoming Events at the IMS:

May 15 • 7:30 pm: *IMS Public Presentation*  
**The Hidden World of the Maritime Maya: Reconstructing Coastal Landscapes in Northern Quintana Roo, Mexico** – To be presented by **Dr. Dominique Rissolo**, University of California, San Diego. Be there to welcome him to Miami!

June 19 • 7:30 pm: *IMS Public Presentation*  
**Dense Human Populations, Overexploitation of Resources, and Protracted Severe Droughts: A Recipe for Classic Maya "Collapse"** – with **Mark Brenner**, Department of Geological Sciences & Land Use and Environmental Change Institute, of the University of Florida.

#### IMS Program Note:

In alignment with MDC, we now offer nine IMS presentations during a calendar year: January – June and September – November. For more information, contact our Hotline at: 305-279-8110; or by email at: [info@instituteofmayastudies.org](mailto:info@instituteofmayastudies.org)

### Upcoming Events and Announcements:

May 6 • 6 pm: *Southwest Seminars Lecture*  
**The Chamber of Secrets at Xunantunich, Belize: Investigating Ancient Maya Graffiti** – with **Dr. M. Kathryn Brown**, Archaeologist and Lutzer Brown Endowed Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Texas-San Antonio, and Director, Mopan Valley Preclassic Project. Hotel Santa Fe, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Get more info at: <https://southwestseminars.org/lectures/ancient-sites-and-ancient-stories-ii-2019/>

May 18 • 9:40 am-5:00 pm: *ULC Seminar*  
**South American Archaeology Seminar** – with eight International speakers throughout the day. At the University College, London. Reserve your spot at: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/event-ticketing/booking/?ev=18068-1>

Thru April 3, 2021: *MIHS Museum Exhibit*  
**Paradise Found: 6,000 Years of People on Marco Island: The Key Marco Artifacts** – The Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) celebrates its 25th Anniversary and the realization of

a 25-year quest to bring "home" on loan the world-famous Key Marco Cat and other rare Precolumbian Native American artifacts discovered on Marco Island, Florida. In collaboration with Collier County Museums, the Smithsonian Institution, and the University of Pennsylvania Museum. See: <https://themihis.info/keymarcoartifacts/>

Editor's Tip: *Online all the time*  
**Ancient Americas Events** – Get in the know with Mike Ruggeri's "better-than-ever!" comprehensive list of upcoming Ancient Americas Lectures, Conferences and Exhibits: Go to: <https://mikeruggerisevents.tumblr.com/>

**Check out and get in on the fun on our IMS Facebook page:** Get in on all the action! IMS members post interesting links, as well as photos from their recent adventures. Join the **Explorer**-ation! at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MiamiIMS/>



## IMS EXPLORER

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](mailto:mayaman@bellsouth.net)