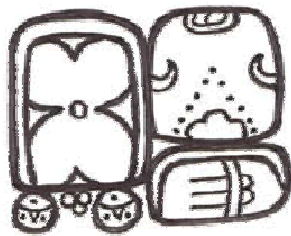


K'in al Winik Cultural Center Newsletter



Cleveland State University

2005 Summer Teacher's Institute



© K'in al Winik Cultural Center Photo by Nadine Grimm 2005

The Ohio Humanities Council and the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences recently collaborated with the Center to present the summer 2005 Teachers Institute in the Humanities, *Translating Tradition: Mayan Values through Expressive Form*. Seventeen K-12 teachers participated in classroom studies, hands-on arts workshops,

and media presentations to enhance their understanding of ancient and contemporary Mayan culture through the expressive forms of weaving, music, poetry, and ceremony. *K'in al Winik* received \$15,000 for the project, the largest grant awarded this year by the OHC for a Teachers Institute.

Domitila Curuchich de Miculax, a backstrap loom weaver, and Delfina Solloy Jutzuy, a ceremonial specialist (both from Guatemala) were cultural presenters.

The Center's director, Dr. Laura Martin, led the Institute that also included K-12 master teachers and presenters from disciplines of Anthropology, Music, Art, and Literature. The Institute gave

Ohio teachers opportunities for development or expansion of curricular ideas for different grade levels. They made clay whistles, worked in teams to translate poems, and dramatized the fable of the "Hummingbird," among other activities. The Institute ran from June 20th - 24th and was closed by a full scale Mayan ceremony performed by Delfina Jutzuy at Lincoln Park in Tremont.



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KWCC Director, Dr. Laura Martin

CSU colleagues, staff, students, and friends congratulate Dr. Laura Martin on the occasion of her retirement! What, Laura retired? Not so fast!!

We are delighted to say that while Laura retires from some obligations, she continues to direct the Center, write, research, and do field work. **Doesn't sound much like retirement does it?** We hope that Laura now has a little more relaxation time and many opportunities to devote to other pleasures while she continues her work



Dr. Laura Martin Photo: William Reiter 2005

with the Center part time. **Congratulations, Laura!**

Dr. Martin is a co-investigator with scholars, Dr. Lyle Campbell (University of Utah) and Terrence Kaufman (University of Pittsburgh), on the highly com-

petitive joint program of the National Science Foundation-National Endowment for the Humanities "Documenting Endangered Lan-

guages." They received \$375,000, the largest grant awarded in the competition for their project, *Xikan, Pipil and Mocho': Bringing Three Endangered Language Documentation Projects to Completion*. The team will document these languages in peril and will produce materials that will benefit language training for community members and bi-lingual classrooms. Dr. Martin will present research at CILLA II, the Second Conference on Indigenous Languages of Latin America, to be held

(continued on pg. 2)

Volume 1, Issue 2

August 29, 2005

Center Staff

Ix'loom
Laura Martin, Ph.D.
Director



Nadine Grimm, M.A.
Program Manager

Jenny Huth
Student Assistant



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CSU Group Travels to Guatemala - March 2004

Robert Thurmer's Experience

I was interested in going to Guatemala because I have always been fascinated with Maya culture, both ancient and contemporary. I hoped to be able to organize an exhibit... or exhibit exchange with our sister University, Rafael Landívar, and I have always had a sense of adventure—this would be my first trip to the tropics!

Upon arrival I could not believe certain experiences—I had expected a certain amount of culture shock, but I experienced very little—the Maya seemed familiar, like old friends. However, I had not anticipated the physical sensations. Perhaps it was the flight, or the airline food ... I had the distinct sensation of moving very fast upon the face of the planet. It was like moving from the hub to the rim of a fast spinning wheel. I felt as though I was about to be flung out into space by centrifugal force and I had to hold on to the surface of the earth for dear life!



© K'in al Winik Cultural Center
Photo by Laura Martin 2004

All of the familiar heavenly constellations were there but they were all in unfamiliar places—no longer calmly parading along the horizon, but racing along almost directly overhead—dizzying! I acclimated and began to enjoy the new sensations, but these feelings never ceased.

The landscape was more spectacular than any photograph can convey—not merely visual, but also, strangely, visceral—I sensed that the earth was being sheared and twisted by plate tectonics—I could almost feel the North and South American continents moving past one another creating tremendous friction in the crust. Volcanoes, both active and dormant, confirmed my intuitions about the geologic stresses in action.

The Maya were in a sense the biggest surprise. I felt an immediate kinship with the small, brown

“The Maya were in a sense the biggest surprise. I felt an immediate kinship with the small, brown people in their traditional garb.”

people in their traditional garb. I sensed a profound spirituality and deep understanding of both Nature and human nature in the way they carried themselves, and most intensely, in the way they performed their sincere religious observances, rituals, prayers, and spectacular processions (we were there during Lent!)—no Sunday morning sermon in America can equal the depth and power of those ancient customs.

It may be too much to say that my trip to Guatemala was a life changing experience, but it comes close. I will never forget the landscape, the sky, the colors, the sun, the smells, and the sounds, and most profoundly, the people.

Robert Thurmer

CSU Art Gallery, Director



Announcements & News



Dr. Tarun Mal
Photo by Ralph Gibson
2003

KWCC regrets the recent death of our friend and colleague, Dr. Tarun Mal of the Department of Biological, Geological, and Environmental Sciences. Dr. Mal visited Guatemalan Mayan communities as part of the faculty tour conducted by K'in al Winik in 2003. His enthusiasm for Guatemala, his interest in its environmental diversity, and his cheerful willingness to try anything -- from new foods and languages to climbing an active volcano to exploring forests with guards carrying Uzis! -- will all be missed. We send our condolences to his family and friends.



KWCC congratulates Dr. Phil Wanyerka for his appointment as a visiting instructor jointly in the departments of Anthropology and Modern Languages. He will be teaching Maya Hieroglyph Writing M-W-F from 11:00am to 12:05pm, and also Latin America: Introduction to the Peoples and Cultures of Mesoamerica T-Th from 1:00 to 2:15pm. Please contact Phil Wanyerka at: p.wanyerka@csuohio.edu for more information.



KWCC congratulates Micheal Pérez, a KWCC volunteer, on his recent graduation.



KWCC congratulates Anne Swanson, a KWCC volunteer, on her recent graduation. Anne received a GA position in the College of Urban Affairs.



KWCC congratulates Jane Bell, a member of our Teacher Advisory Council, on her recent appointment as a supervisor for the students in the Modern Languages' student teacher practicum course. We look forward to seeing Jane around campus and sharing her talents and skills with CSU students!



Dr. Martin Continued from page 1

at the University of Texas at Austin from October 27-29, 2005.

Dr. Martin and Nadine Grimm, Program Manager for the Center, will present papers at *Crossing Over: Learning to Navigate the Borderlands of Intercultural Encounters* a conference hosted by the Cleveland State University Humanities Consortium that will be held October 6-9, 2005. Their papers will be presented during the session, "Mayan and Quechua Culture: Past and Present."



© K'in al Winik Cultural Center
Photo by Nadine Grimm 2005

Hold The Date! Maya Hieroglyph Weekend is Near

Last October we enjoyed having Mayan archaeologist and epigrapher, Dr. Peter Mathews, of La Trobe University and are pleased to announce that Dr. Mathews will be the presenter for our 2005 weekend. In addition, this year, a Mayan & Mesoamerican Research Symposium has been added and will take place on Friday, September 30 from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., with a lecture from Peter Mathews at 7 p.m.



Peter Mathews
Photo by William Reiter
2004

This year a beginner's session will be offered on Saturday, October 1, from 9:30-11:30 am. An intermediate/advanced class will begin later that afternoon at 1:30 pm and run until 4:30 pm. We will resume on Sunday at 10 am-4 pm. Lunches can be purchased at an additional cost through the Center.

All registered participants in past MHWs received a comprehensive workbook, which can still be purchased for \$15 through the Center.

This is bound to be an event you won't want to miss. So please set aside the first weekend of October and come to Cleveland to see and hear the amazing Peter Mathews as he discusses his latest epigraphic research!

For more information or to download the registration form for the listed events please visit us on the web at www.csuohio.edu/kinalwinik/ or for questions contact us by email at kinalwinik@csuohio.edu or by phone 216-687-4797.

Also, KWCC is in need of volunteers for our upcoming events. Please contact us if you are interested.

October 1st and 2nd will be the dates of the 2005 K'in al Winik Maya Hieroglyphic Weekend at Cleveland State.



Volunteer Q & A

K'in al Winik's volunteers keep the cosmos in order

What made you first volunteer for the Center?

My background, I'm half Mexican-Xikano and proud and I feel it is very important to promote all Indigenous cultures.

How did you come to hear about the Center?

I was taking Phil Wanyerka's Native Civilizations class and we students were offered extra credit for attending the 2003 Maya Hieroglyph Weekend and we could attend this event for free by volunteering at the Center.

What is your major?

Major: anthropology; minor: philosophy

How long have you volunteered for the Center?



KWCC Volunteer Micheal Pérez
© K'in al Winik Cultural Center
Photo by Jenny Huth 2005

Since Fall 2003.

How has the experience of volunteering at the Center influenced your educational / career goals?

The Center has helped me to learn how to communicate with others better and I'm sure that will help me in the long run.

If you will be volunteering again this coming year, is there a specific goal or function that you hope to provide to the Center?

I will be volunteering next year and I will just continue to help the Center by any way I can.

What is your function as a volunteer, what do you do?

I drop off/pick up bags, letters, mail, and packages on campus; I help to move heavy things around in the offices; I have decorated one of the boards in the hallway and put pictures up in the hallway; I copy papers; and I help at events of the Center by various means.

What is the most rewarding thing about working at the Center?

Helping others and the Center and being able to attend the Hieroglyph Weekends for free and the various events of the center; the opening ceremony of this year's K'in al Winik Festival was a special thing for me.

Editor's note: Micheal participated in an Internship with the Center Spring 2005, and presented his research and a music expedition box he prepared at the Summer Teacher's Institute.

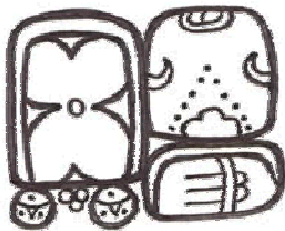


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We're on the web:

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www.csuohio.edu/yaxte

Cleveland State University is an AA/EOE committed to nondiscrimination.

M/F/H/V encouraged.

Calendar of Events

September 30, 2005

Mayan & Mesoamerican Research Symposium from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., registration fees are \$25 for the event, or \$15 for students with valid ID.

Peter Mathews Lecture from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., tickets are \$10, or \$5 for students with valid ID. Music & Comm Center, Drinko Hall.

October 1-2, 2005

Maya Hieroglyph Weekend with Archaeologist Peter Mathews. "Classic Maya Names & Naming Patterns". For more information about workbook and/or transcript purchases from past MHWs please contact us by email at yaxte@csuohio.edu or by phone 216-687-4797.

October 6-9, 2005

Fall 2005 Symposium: Crossing Over: Learning to Navigate the Borderlands of Intercultural Encounters. Co-sponsored by the K'in al Winik Cultural Center and Department of Modern Languages Cleveland State University.

Yax Te' Books Presents:

MR. PUTTISON'S ADVENTURES AMONG THE MAYA

by **VÍCTOR D. MONTEJO**

This book is a historical and satirical novel whose principal character is an American adventurer who suddenly turns up in a Maya community in the highlands of western Guatemala. Apart from the impact that he causes in the community by his strange customs and his very presence, the stranger also learns the customs and the traditions of Yulwitz, which maintain the unity of the community.

Lighthearted in tone, this novel nonetheless reflects some of the most serious concerns of the Maya in recent decades, and gives us a unique insight into their culture. Translation by Susan Giersbach Rascón and Fernando Peñalosa.



To order this book or for more information about Yax Te' Books please contact us at www.csuohio.edu/yaxte/ or (216) 687-4797.

