

Rio Bravo Archaeological Survey (RBAS)

# Maya Archaeology in Belize

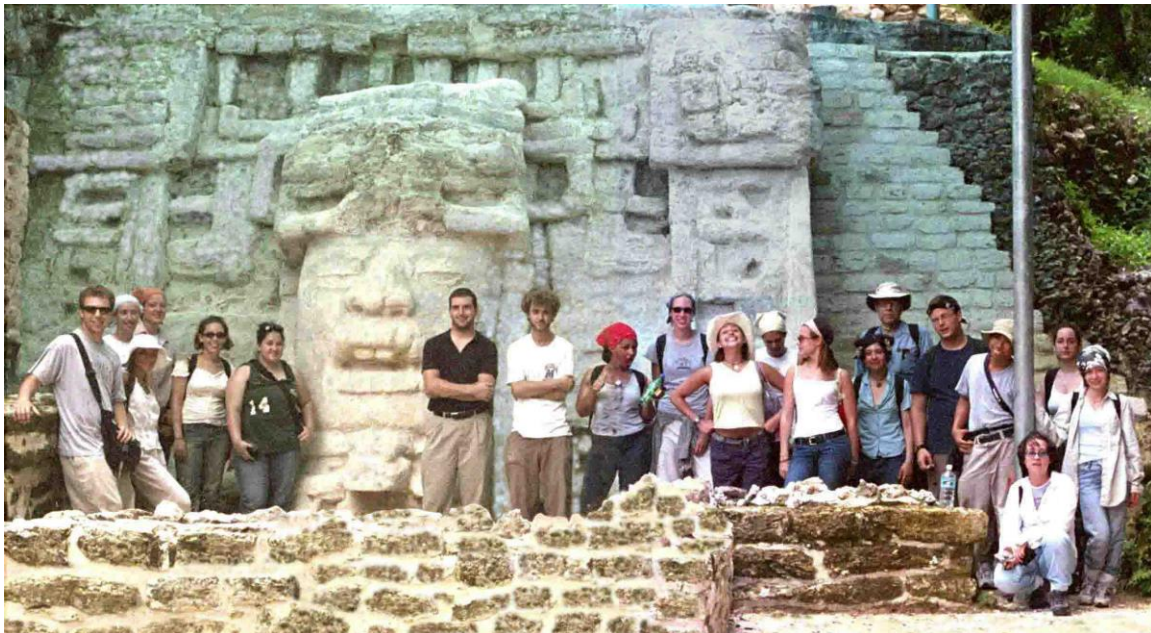
May 26<sup>th</sup>-June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019\*

## Information Packet

Ritual, Household, and Settlement at Chawak But'o'ob,  
an Ancient Maya Commoner Site  
(v. 12/21/2018)

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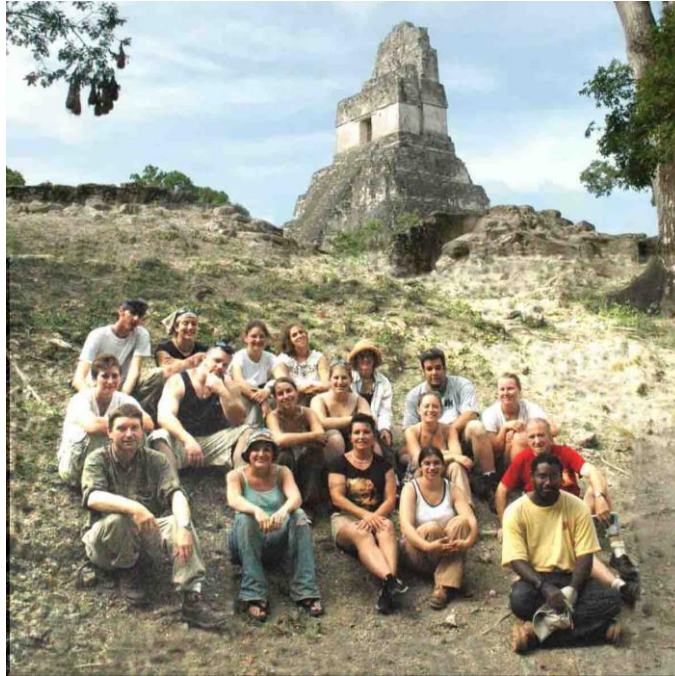


*RBAS volunteers and students at the site of Lamanai, Belize (2002)*

\* Estimated Dates— these might change once the exact schedule is released in February 2019

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*Several members of RBAS at Tikal, Guatemala (2007)*

## Introduction

The Rio Bravo Archaeological Survey (RBAS) is looking for students and volunteers to assist in the archaeological investigation of Maya commoner households and a newly discovered sacred ballcourt in an unexplored tropical forest in Belize, Central America. The RBAS is a cutting-edge archaeological research project that trains students in the essentials of field archaeology: excavation, electronic survey, record keeping and laboratory artifact processing. The RBAS gives volunteers and students the opportunity to explore and investigate an ancient archaeological site in a previously unexplored tropical forest in Central America for four weeks in May and June, 2019.

The RBAS is a long-running, state-of-the-art project directed by Dr. Stanley Walling through his research position with the University of Texas. Since the 1990s, the RBAS has attracted motivated students and volunteers to help investigate the site of Chawak But'o'ob, a commoner Late Classic-period (AD 600-850) Maya village in northwestern Belize. This project is providing valuable insights into the richness and complexity of the day-to-day lives of non-elite "commoners" in ancient Maya civilization. In 2019, we will be focusing on the excavation and mapping of an unusual Ballcourt at the site (one of few known from commoner contexts) and a cluster of house foundations situated on residential terraces just north of the Ballcourt group. This packet provides an overview of the project and important details for anyone interested in participating in the 2019 summer field school.

## Field School Fact Sheet

- **Dates for 2019:**

Pre-season: May 19-26 (staff only)

Field-school: May 26-June 23

Post-season: June 23-July 5 (veterans/staff only)

*Students who complete a four-week season are considered Veterans (Junior Staff) and are welcome to stay for the post-season.*

- **Location:** Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area, in the Programme for Belize Wildlife Reserve in Belize, Central America
- **Minimum Stay:** 2 weeks<sup>1</sup>
- **Academic Credit:** An optional 3-9 undergraduate credits
- **Volunteers:** Non-credit volunteers welcome!
- **Prerequisites:** None -- no class or field experience prerequisites. (But a formal application process with recommendations and final approval by the Director is required.)
- **Costs:** \$1990 base for four weeks of food and housing in Belize, *not including airfare, personal expenses, or academic credit.* (See "Costs" below for breakdown of all estimated costs)
  - See "Estimated Costs" section for two and three-week options
- **Accommodations:** Dormitory space or large, covered tent stations at a comfortable archaeological field camp in the middle of a subtropical rainforest
- **Who is eligible to apply?** Students and volunteers of varied ages from schools and communities from across the country take part in the Field School. We have had participants up to the age of 72. Minimum age for participation: 18.

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<sup>1</sup> Students are strongly encouraged to participate in a full, 4-week session, as this ensures the most satisfying experience and qualification in archaeological field methods. Nonetheless, for special circumstances, we also offer two and three-week sessions. See "Estimated Costs" below for details.

## Field School Highlights May and June 2019

- First-hand discovery and exploration of the forest-covered remains of an ancient Maya village.
- Learning the basics of field archaeology: excavation, digital survey, and record-keeping in a state-of-the-art field experience.
- Optional availability of 3-6 academic credits from CCP or up to 9 credits from the University of Texas- Austin (academic credit is not required to participate)
- Mapping and excavating a previously unseen 1200-year-old Maya ballcourt, as well as ancient homes, ritual features, and water-control devices
- Archaeological reconnaissance and survey in unexplored sections of a subtropical forest in the survey area extending beyond the limits of Chawak But'o'ob.
- Field investigations with students and volunteers from all over the United States.
- Living in a modern archaeological research camp with students and staff from several universities and research projects.
- Visiting restored Maya cities as well as temples and palaces of forest-covered
- As time and opportunity permit, participating in paleobotanical and geoarchaeological analysis of the modern forest and terrain in which these sites are found.

## Location

The Field School will take place at the site of Chawak But'o'ob in the Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area (RBCMA), a 650 square kilometer subtropical forest reserve in the Orange Walk District of northwestern Belize. This reserve is operated by the Programme for Belize, a private, non-profit organization. The RBCMA and surrounding region has not been occupied since the collapse of Classic Maya civilization around A.D. 850. Because of this, participants in the Field School will be carrying out research in a beautiful and unusually pristine



forest surrounded by creatures, such as howler monkeys and toucans, that have not previously seen humans.

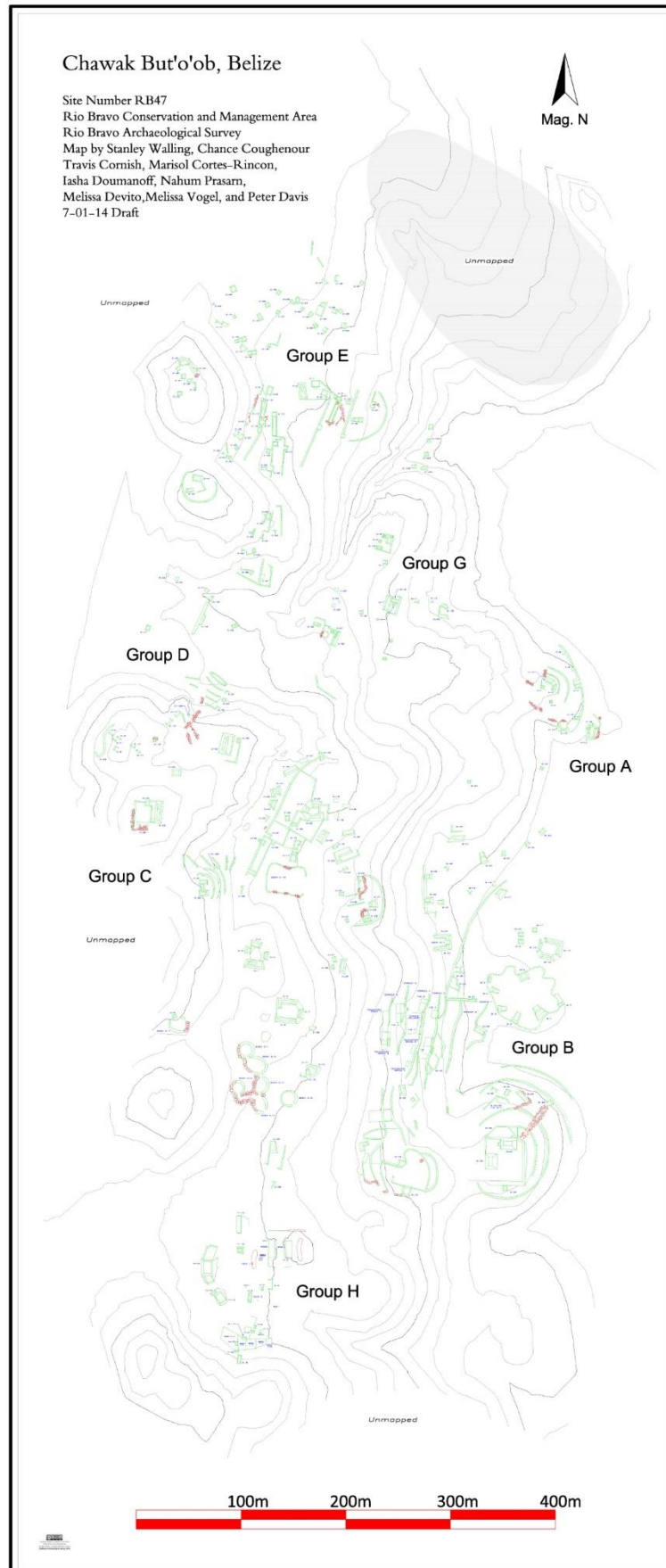
The recently discovered site of Chawak But'o'ob covers an area about a kilometer long and half a kilometer wide on a 200 foot- tall, forested escarpment. Given the site's elevation, and assuming some of the thick forest growth that exists today was cut back in Prehispanic times, the inhabitants of this densely distributed village likely looked down on the urban center of Dos Hombres some 2 kilometers distant, as well as the winding Rio Bravo less than a kilometer away, and the adjacent lake-like floodplain that extended to the east. The ridges and deep natural drainages that cross-cut the site must have added to the dramatic character of the landscape.

## **The Archaeological Site: Chawak But'o'ob**

Chawak But'o'ob (Yucatec Maya for "long land" or "long terraces") is an unusual and beautiful Maya community from the Late Classic period (A.D. 600 – 850). This ancient town is in the distant outskirts of the Prehispanic city of Dos Hombres. Chawak But'o'ob is today covered by built-up earth and subtropical forest, which requires modern investigators to carefully excavate and map its remains. In ancient times, when this town housed between 1,000 and 2,000 people, its appearance was probably much like that of a modern suburb, with shade trees and economic trees around homes and interspersed between buildings.

The site is named for the numerous terraces that cross much of the terrain of this ancient community. A number of long terraces wind along the surface of the escarpment and among household patios, reservoirs, dams, artificial channels, and the more than 350 stone and earthen platforms that once supported perishable houses. These platforms date exclusively to the last century or so of the Classic period, when Maya culture was reaching its apogee, in terms of population size, architectural sophistication, and political complexity. It is also the time when Maya culture was facing a series of crises, which eventually overwhelmed it. Archaeologists are still trying to reconstruct this final century of Classic Maya civilization to understand what happened to this culture. Our investigations at Chawak But'o'ob are providing insight into this dramatic period.

The site consists of eight occupation groups of between 10 and 80 structures a piece. These closely situated groups are distributed across the site, at the edge of the flood plain, on the face of the escarpment, and at the escarpment's upper edge. The fact that most of these buildings occur as individual platforms and not elements within larger



Draft map of Chawak  
But'o'ob showing 5-meter  
elevation and contour  
lines (30 m to 110 m  
above sea level)

patio groups is unusual for a Classic-period Maya site. Also unusual is the tremendous density of habitation here, which is at an urban level, even though the site lacks the monumental public architecture, such as temple buildings, that are found in Maya cities.

Our research at Chawak But'o'ob is shedding new light on the sophistication of Maya commoners, including their ceremonial life. This site, which is among the few Maya commoner sites to be thoroughly investigated, is helping researchers understand the high degree of Maya utilization of wetlands and escarpments, which modern and historic westerners have seen as largely undesirable for habitation. In addition to its striking escarpment location, the site is known for several remarkable traits, which are under investigation:

- a ritual ball court (extremely unusual for a commoner site), including two caves, which may have had ritual use (also unusual for a commoner site)
- extensive evidence of sophisticated ceremonial and religious life and perhaps an underlying mythological belief system distinct from that of the elites
- very high population density for a suburban or rural pre-industrial site (perhaps 1000 – or more - people on half a square kilometer when the site was at its peak)
- complex water control architecture (dams, channels, basins, reservoirs, cross-channel terraces, and linear water direction features) of the type not previously observed outside of Maya cities
- agricultural-style terraces covered with the relics of commoner housing (rarely seen in the Maya area)
- extensive modifications to the ancient natural landscape
- a complex subsistence system, which probably included flood plain farming and perhaps managed forestry.

## **The Rio Bravo Field School**

The Rio Bravo Field School is expected to have up to 35 students, volunteers, staff and visiting researchers in 2019. We maintain a student-to-staff ratio of about four to one, which is among the lowest of archaeological field schools. Each of the staff has years of field



experience at the site or on other archaeological projects. The senior staff in 2019 will be the Project Director (Dr. Walling), the Ballcourt Director (Christine Taylor), the Survey Director (TBD), the Map Director (Chance Coughenour), and the Residential Terrace Director (Dr. Jonathan Hanna). Senior and junior staff will oversee cave, soil, geophysical and botanical investigations. (Note that research agendas can change depending on circumstance.) A team of visiting researchers will oversee cave, soil, and botanical investigations.

## **Research Issues and What the Field School Teaches**

The Field School exposes participants to the multi-cultural world of Belize, which includes Spanish and English-speaking Mestizos, German-speaking Mennonites, and various native Caribbean and Maya groups. The Field School and Research Project will acquaint you with state-of-the-art research and how it is practiced in an international field situation. The Project and Field School will assist you in learning to work collaboratively with others in a project-based setting (similar to what occurs in many graduate study and corporate work environments), to work within a defined research schedule, and to take on task responsibility in a group-oriented context.

In terms of archaeological skills the Field School teaches you survey techniques (used to create site maps), excavation methods (test-pits, trenches, and post-holing), archaeological record-keeping (in the form of standard archaeological record sheets, notebooks, and photographs), historical interpretation of ancient architecture, processing of artifacts in the field laboratory, and if resources permit, geo-archaeological procedures for soil coring and analysis.

Even though archaeological practices vary somewhat from one culture area to another, this experience is designed to give you the education you will need to be useful to archaeological projects around the world. If you have previous experience, the staff and the director would be happy to talk to you about what type of supplemental education you might want beyond what you have learned already -- perhaps in a more focused area of field work, such as survey, geoarchaeology, or the study of ancient ritual or hydrology.

The educational goals of the research project are to provide all participants with an intensive grounding in archaeological field methods and instill a sense of what archaeology can tell us about the past. Although the program has produced a number of professional archaeologists over the years, it is not meant only for those who want to pursue archaeology as a career. The field school is intended for students with varied personal educational goals who want to learn through direct experience how archaeologists decipher the remains of

ancient cultures. The educational atmosphere in the field school benefits strongly from the fact that we have a mix of experienced and



**An excavation crew exposing the basal construction layers of the ballcourt playing alley.**

non-experienced students and volunteers, with diverse backgrounds, who come from all over (and outside) the United States.

Previous archaeological experience is not a requirement for admission, nor is a major or minor in archaeology or anthropology. We also do not require a specific GPA, but we do require recommendations from responsible individuals who know you well. We often follow this up with a face-to-face or telephone interview. About half of the students we accept have no specific archaeological class work or field experience and many of our students and volunteers are following career paths other than archaeology, but all participants accepted in to the field school have in common the fact that they want to get a realistic understanding of what field archaeology is about. This diversity of

backgrounds and common purpose helps create a cohesive mix of participants and staff in the field.

Many participants return year after year to an environment far different from what most of us experience in the United States, for the purpose of participating in the process of discovery in a shared learning environment. They value the opportunity to take responsibility for uncovering and recording the structures and artifacts left to us by a fascinating ancient non-western society.

## Research Issues

Classic Maya civilization is one of the most intriguing of ancient cultures. Its enigmatic rise and fall in a tropical forest setting more than a millennium ago has been drawing people to Central America for a century and a half. They have come to use this culture's ancient architecture, burials, and ceremonial remains to reconstruct its history and tell the story of how it thrived for centuries. Recently, there has been a shift in focus among some Maya archaeologists away from the study of ancient cities to an examination of outlying areas in order to fill in gaps in our understanding of how Maya culture worked on a day-to-day basis. The Rio Bravo Archaeological Survey is part of this shift. The RBAS is a cutting-edge project focused on the study of ancient households and the environment in which they developed in order to understand ancient beliefs, ritual patterns, household economics, and other aspects of this culture. Current research issues in Maya archaeology the project is investigating are:

- **Ballcourt and household ceremonialism**
- **Ceremonial use of caves**
- **The complexity of commoner life**
- **Maya household organization**
- **Settlement and social organization**
- **Water Management and landscape modification**
- **Subsistence and economy**
- **The Collapse of Classic civilization**

## The Maya Ballgame

Until recently, scholars believed that all Maya ballcourts were found only at the centers of ancient cities, where they were the focal points for religious and other ritual – as well as what must have been a popular sport. This sport, which has been called the “game of life and death” was more than an athletic event. The game and the ballcourt in

which it was played embodied the religious, political, and mythological beliefs of a complex civilization. The game, which must have been challenging in terms of its physical brutality and the athletic skill needed to play it, had on occasion, severe consequences. At the end of at least some important games, the captains of losing teams were sacrificed to the gods.

The degree of padding worn by ball players suggests that the solid rubber, which was similar to but a few times larger than a modern lacrosse ball, must have bounced with great speed off the angled ballcourt walls and impacted the players with substantial force. A form of the game survives in Western Mexico where it has been observed by anthropologists, although this game is played on open ground, without a stone ballcourt. Nevertheless, the modern game gives some suggestion about the strength, agility, and quickness required to play the game on a "professional" level among the Prehispanic Maya.

Prehispanic mythology indicates that on the Maya Day of Creation, around 3000 BC, the Gods of Death were defeated in a ballgame by Hero Twins who then resurrected the Maize God, who in turn created humankind. This seminal mythic event started the fourth Maya Creation cycle. Thus, every ballgame was a reenactment of this victory over death that had religious and political significance. Maya Kings played the roles of the hero twins in ballcourt ceremony and ritually defeated captured enemies in the ballcourts of their home cities. Archaeological evidence suggests that Royal Coronations took place not in temples, plazas or palaces, but in ballcourts.



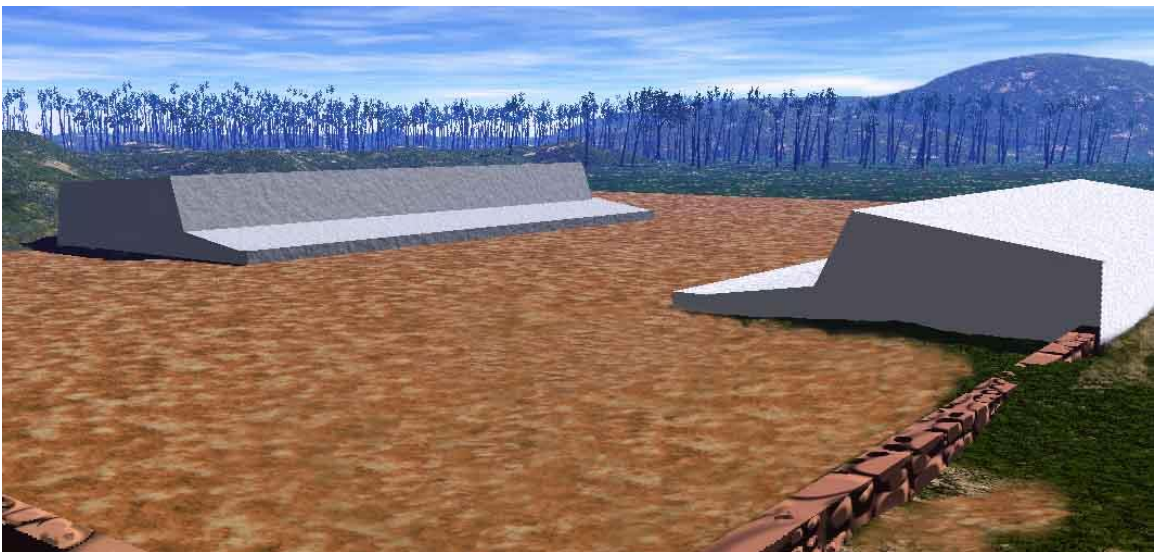
**Excavated and restored Maya ballcourt at the site of Copan, Honduras**



The Maya ballcourt consists of two parallel buildings between which two teams bounced a heavy rubber ball, most likely, primarily off their hips as they attempted to score in the two end zones at either ends of the paired buildings. Excavated and restored ballcourts, such as the



Chawak But'o'ob's ballcourt, as discovered and before excavation - shrouded by trees and partially covered by earth.



Reconstruction image of the Chawak But'o'ob ballcourt (without surrounding buildings) by Arthur Danek.

one at Copan in Honduras, reveal the original contours and size of these buildings. Among other things, restored ballcourts reveal the hard stone



surfacing of the playing walls off of which the heavy rubber balls must have ricocheted with great speed and energy.

The ballcourt at Chawak But'o'ob, by contrast, is in an unrestored state. It still wears the mantle of built-up earth and forest growth that have covered it for 1200 years. A reconstruction image by Arthur Danek of the CCP faculty (above), reveals the general appearance of this stone ballcourt as it might have looked with its original plaster structure surfacing around AD 800.

Beyond its location outside of a city, the ballcourt at Chawak But'o'ob is distinctive from its urban cousins in several ways. Evidence suggests that the playing alley surface was dirt rather than plaster and



Ball player figurine

the Ballcourt buildings are not surrounded by structures or other features sufficiently tall to provide a reasonable view of the playing alley. Moreover, its location well away from the center of the site suggests a set of natural locational priorities for these structures. In this instance, the positioning of the ballcourt so that its southern boundary lined up with a cave entrance strongly references the Maya underworld, to which caves were seen as an accessway. The underworld was the abode of both gods and ancestors in Maya mythology and the underground water to which caves allowed access had both symbolic and practical value. Water had a strong association with fertility and water sources of all types were central to Maya survival in a climate dominated by a yearly months-long dry season.

The heavy padding worn by ancient ballplayers on the hips, arms and legs, as recorded in carvings, painting's, and figurines, suggests that these ricocheting solid rubber balls must have impacted the players with bone-crushing force. Some ballplayer images and figurines exhibit extremely thick and cumbersome protection. Certain pieces of paraphernalia, such as the deer headdress in the adjacent image, were likely worn for ritual rather than play. With the exception of Maya Kings shown wearing ballgame garb, Maya ball players re depicted as young males, which raises the question of what role Maya women may have played in the ballgame and related ceremony.

## The Residential Terraces

Terracing is a common landscape modification throughout the New World, typically built for agriculture and water management. At some large cities, the large platforms on which monumental temples reside are also called “architectural terraces.” Chawak But'o'ob is named after its substantial relic terracing that crosses four kilometers of the Rio Bravo escarpment. Up until 2003, however, it was believed that most of this was agricultural, including the stack of seven, parallel hillslope terraces at the southern end of Group B. During the 2003 season, however, we began an investigation of a series of enigmatic stone alignments atop some of these terraces. It was thought that, if they weren't simply field walls, they were probably small field houses. Extensive clearing and mapping of this area between 2003-2005, however, revealed ten house foundations, each exhibiting substantial domestic artifacts, multi-roomed units, double-lined stone walls, stone-fronted armatures, and open patio extensions as part of a consistent architectural style quite different from the house mounds and patios found throughout the rest of Chawak But'o'ob.

The Residential Terraces were built in the manner of most agricultural terraces, but they appear to have been intended only for habitation. Continued excavation in 2006 and 2007 revealed ritual elements, including early evidence for a Maya house altar (considered a Postclassic trait) and a ceramic, ceremonial mask. In 2013, excavation of a ramp/stairway feature uncovered a unique conch-shell cache buried upright in the center of the accessway. A rich lithic assemblage indicated that the former occupants of this structure were probably quite wealthy compared to other residents at the site (a sort-of “noble” commoner class). In 2015, beautiful chert and obsidian (including a rare translucent obsidian point) and a ceramic necklace with monkey-face amulet were found in the corner of one of the rooms. Clearly, these terraces were not agricultural! Finally, during the 2016 season, in the final quarter of the stairway excavation, fragments of dispersed animal bones and the teeth of at least five individuals were found. This was not a burial but a “tooth cache,” likely in dedication to the house. In 2019, another room of the same house will be excavated, where what appears to be a cyst burial was partially exposed in 2016, along with continued excavation of other areas on the Terraces.

What we have learned from the past decade of research on the Residential Terraces corroborates findings from the Ballcourt: the common Maya people were not a faceless mass of farmers and temple-builders— they lived rich, diverse lives and were engaged in rituals once thought only the bailiwick of elites. Indeed, what is beginning to emerge from this research is that the ritual lives of the elite were probably

amplifications of common ideologies, emulated and manipulated to legitimate their political power over the population.



Screenshot from a 3D Animation of  
the Stairway Excavation and Conch Cache



Plan View of the Group B Residential Terraces  
(2013 Excavations Highlighted)

## Suggested General Readings

Several texts provide good summaries of Maya history and the nature of Maya ruins, as well as how we investigate and interpret Maya culture. If you have taken a course in Maya or Mesoamerican archaeology previously, it is assumed that you have read and understand one of the basic texts regarding Mesoamerican archaeology and the ancient cultures of the region. If you have not, you are expected to read one of the following books before the beginning of the field school. Of these texts, the work by Coe is most recommended for those without previous experience in Maya study. For those who request them, I am happy to provide suggested readings on field techniques, Maya politics, hieroglyphic writing, or other topics. Be sure to get the most recent edition of the book(s) you buy (used or new)— newer versions than what are listed here may be available.

### **Coe, Michael and Stephen Houston**

2015 The Maya. 9<sup>th</sup> edition. Thames and Hudson, New York.  
ISBN 978-0500-29188-7 (paperback).

Coe's book is a standard in the field. It is a relatively short – approx. 250 pages of text – and very well written. This work conveys Coe's fascination with Maya culture, particularly Maya art and architecture. Previous editions cover much the same material, though lack coverage of some of the recent discoveries.

### **McKillop, Heather**

2004 The Ancient Maya: New Perspectives. W.W. Norton and Co., New York. ISBN: 0393-32890-2 (softcover)

McKillop's text provides a basic consideration of the major topics in our understanding of ancient Maya civilization, such as political structure, social organization, material culture, and ideology. McKillop also considers the antiquities trade and areas of disagreement among Maya scholars.

### **Webster, David**

2002 The Fall of the Ancient Maya: Solving the Mystery of the Maya Collapse. London: Thames and Hudson.

Beyond its focus on the ninth-century collapse of Maya society, Webster's text provides a very good overall discussion of our understanding of the character of Classic Maya politics, history, and economics.

## Life in Field Camp

You will live and work in a very comfortable and well established archaeological field camp that is shared by Maya research teams from several universities. The camp, known as the Richard E.W. Adams Research Facility is operated by the Programme for Belize Archaeology Project (PfBAP), which is directed by Fred Valdez of the University of Texas at Austin. The RBAS is one of a handful of independent projects that operate under the umbrella of the PfBAP. Camp typically has about 110 people in it during the four weeks we are there. The Rio Bravo contingent often consists of 40 or more students and staff.

Other than the University of Texas at Austin, universities sponsoring research in the RBCMA include Bowdoin College, UMass-Boston, the University of Northern Illinois, Texas Tech, Howard University, Santa Monica College, and the University of Cincinnati. Typically, each school-sponsored project takes a region or site as its study focus. These schools have been investigating the ancient villages, towns, and cities of the RBCMA cooperatively over the last decade in a very successful effort to increase our understanding of the latter half of Classic Maya history. The shared experience of living in camp and exploring this interesting and enigmatic ancient cultural environment has fostered a cohesive living experience and cooperation between the projects.

Camp includes a number of structures built over the last ten years— a student dormitory, a large dining hall, a field laboratory, a generator station that provides electrical power, and covered cement-based tent stations. The project provides four-person tents that are typically occupied by one or two students or volunteers. A covered patio serves as the informal social and relaxation center for camp.

Movies are usually shown in the dining hall one or two nights a week. Lectures on archaeological topics are given once a week in the dining hall or in the library in the neighboring PfB research camp. Lectures on ancient settlement, ceramics, Maya cultural history and similar topics are provided by the directors of the various projects or visiting scholars. Hired cooks prepare three meals a day in camp and laundry is done once a week off-site by Mennonite farming families. Field showers are provided with water from storage tanks in covered shower stalls on cement bases.

This well-organized camp is one of the most comfortable remote archaeological field camps in the world. Twenty-four-hour electricity is now available in camp. Telephone access is provided to participants during weekly visits to a Mennonite general store, a half-hour beyond the limits of the wildlife reserve in which camp is located.





Volunteers and students relax at the covered patio with members of other field projects.

## 2019 Investigations and Field Schedule

This coming season, the Field School will carry out a series of investigations – most in the southern half of the site in Groups B and C of Chawak But'o'ob.

- Continued mapping of small structures and natural features near the ballcourt in Group G, including water control features and the arroyo into which water drains out of the ballcourt
- Continued excavation in and around two small caves near the ballcourt, with a particular focus on ceremonial use. A cave investigation specialist will be joining us with his students to participate in the project
- Continued excavation of Foundation Brace A and other features on the Residential Terraces
- Investigation and mapping of several smaller mounds on the Residential Terraces
- Investigation of several locations beyond the limits of Chawak But'o'ob, based on the activities of reconnaissance, mapping, forest survey, or excavation or some combination of these

### Anticipated Project Calendar (All Dates Approximate)

Oct. 2018 — May 17, 2019	Application period. You <i>must</i> be formally accepted before May 17th to join the field school. Be aware that openings may be filled well before May 1st. After you are accepted, a non-refundable \$400 deposit will be due
May 7, 2019	Approximate date of the all-day orientation session for new participants and volunteers; required for those living in the Philadelphia area
May 19, 2019	Dr. Walling and several senior staff will fly to Belize to begin preliminary investigations and make preparations for the field school (pre-season)
May 26, 2019	Beginning of Field School (May 26-June 23, 2019) Arrival of field school volunteers and students; Settling in at camp. End of pre-season.
May 28, 2019	Field orientation; local site visits. Beginning of 5 ½ or 6-day/week field schedule with weekend site visits. Beginning of two-week & three-week sessions
June 13, 2019	Possible voluntary overnight stay at a resort and archeological site or visit to Belize Zoo
June 23, 2019	End of Field School; post-season begins
June 26-28, 2019	Belize Archaeological Symposium in San Ignacio
July 5, 2019	Approx. end of project; departure from Belize

We will maintain a 5 1/2 or 6-day investigation schedule and will be in the field most days from about 8 AM to 4:00 PM. In our free time on weekends or during the week, we will visit other archaeological sites, go swimming, and take other day trips. (Note that given the nature of field research in a foreign location, dates are subject to change, in some cases *after* the field season has begun. Flexibility and adaptation to circumstances are necessary in archaeological research.)

## Estimated Costs

The average costs for a full (4-wk) participant include:

- \$1990 Basic fee for room, food, laundry services, in-country project transportation, field instruction, field equipment
- \$750 Estimated roundtrip airfare (varies)
- \$250 Anticipated misc. personal expenses for site visitations, snacks, possible overnight stay outside camp, etc.
- \$200 Estimated Inoculations (see below)
- \$100 Estimated Medical Insurance

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**\$3,290** Total Estimated Costs (*not including academic credit*)

Under special circumstances, two and three-week options can be arranged. It should be noted, however, that the program is organized as a four-week field school: **students taking the field school for less than four weeks will miss important parts of the program**, including orientation and trips to nearby sites. Additionally, only the four-week session qualifies students to work as a contract archaeologist in the US. That said, academic credit can still be acquired for the two and three week sessions, and these shorter sessions are great for anyone who wants the experience but cannot commit for a full month. Costs for roundtrip airfare, inoculations, medical insurance, and personal expenses are roughly the same for all sessions.

### Other Options

Base Fee for 2019 Six-Week Option (Full program + Post-season)

- \$2990 basic fee for room, food, laundry services, in-country project transportation, field instruction, field equipment  
(Note: for RBAS veterans, Pre-season + full program=\$2400)

Base Fee for 2019 Three-Week Option

- \$1680 basic fee for room, food, laundry services, in-country project transportation, field instruction, field equipment  
(Note: for RBAS veterans, this fee is \$1200.)

Base Fee for 2019 Two-Week Option

- \$1330 basic fee for room, food, laundry services, in-country project transportation, field instruction, field equipment  
(Note: for RBAS veterans, this fee is \$800)



Survey Team members use the Electronic Mapping Station and attached Data Collector to take survey points near the ballcourt in the forest-covered southern section of Chawak But'o'ob

Note that airfare, inoculations and personal expenses are under the purview of individual participants and are not governed by the Project (see expanded sections for each cost below). A non-refundable deposit of \$400 is also required from each participant (paid to the Project Director) after he or she is formally accepted into the Project and before departure. The balance of the Field School fee will be paid in camp to the Camp Director within the first few days of the project. Keep in mind that the above figures are estimates. *Costs may change slightly as field expenses take shape*, based on equipment needs, changing costs for gasoline, and the prices for other supplies. Another variable that participants should keep in mind is fluctuation in the price of aviation fuel, which can radically affect airfare.

That said, these cost estimates are very reasonable for a state-of-the-art project such as RBAS, particularly one that is focused on providing an intensive field education in an exotic, tropical forest. Despite the high staff:student ratio, which insures focused instruction, the staff strive to keep costs low and make the experience affordable.

Many projects that offer similar experiences cost more than twice as much and in some instances, much more.

### Academic Credit

Taking the Field School for academic credit is not required, and “volunteer” participants in RBAS are encouraged. Students and volunteers receive the same instruction and have the same general experience. The only difference is that volunteers do not get academic credit for their efforts, but both volunteers and students participate in field activities and get to list the Field School as an experience on their *curriculum vitae* or resumes. After successful completion of the Field School, volunteers and students are able to request recommendations from staff in support of applications for graduate school and employment (see *Benefits of Attending the Field School*).

For those who wish to receive academic credit, up to six credits can be acquired through CCP and up to 9 through UT-Austin. Students interested in this option should contact Dr. Walling for the procedure. Below are costs from last year.

### Approximate Out of State Summer Tuition Cost Comparison

	Community College of Philadelphia <sup>1</sup>	University of Texas at Austin <sup>2</sup>
<b>Summer Tuition</b>		<i>n/a</i> (flat rate, per credit)
<b>One-time Fees</b>	\$95	<i>n/a</i> (flat rate, per credit)
<b>Per credit (1 credit)</b>	\$515 (incl. per-credit fees)	\$4,245
<b>3 credits</b>	\$1,535	\$6,225
<b>6 credits</b>	\$3,070	\$9,195
<b>9 credits</b>	-----	\$11,315

<sup>1</sup> <http://ccp.edu/college-catalog/college-costs#F10> Costs differ for in-state and in-city residents

<sup>2</sup>Based on Summer 2015: [http://www.utexas.edu/business/accounting/sar/t\\_f\\_rates.html](http://www.utexas.edu/business/accounting/sar/t_f_rates.html) Actual Summer 2019 rates may be slightly higher (projected release is March 31), and in-state tuition is several thousand dollars less per credit

### Financial Aid/Grants

A number of students seek financial aid each year. Students should contact the financial aid departments of their colleges or universities to determine if they are eligible for support from their school or financial aid packages. Dr. Walling will be happy to provide an explanation of costs to financial aid offices upon request.



Note that some community organizations provide small grants to students who are engaged in special college programs, such as archaeological field schools. Organizations such as Kiwanis, Knights of Columbus, Rotary, and religious groups sometimes provide these grants. Local women's organizations often provide students with educational grants. Several of our students have received grants from these and similar organizations. We suggest investigating these avenues for funding in your hometown – the place where you are best known. Remember, financial aid issues need to be resolved *well before* the advance-team leaves in mid-May. If you are interested in financial aid from your college or university, you should contact your financial aid office early in the application process. Dr. Walling will be happy to provide information regarding costs to any interested funding organization.

### **Airfare and Ticket Purchase**

Roundtrip airfare from the US to Belize City, varies according to airline and your point of departure. It is usually about \$750 from New York and Philadelphia, but variation in fuel prices, among other things, causes this figure to vary. Student airfare discounts, which are offered by a number of airlines, can make airfare far less costly than it is for typical tourists. A number of travel web sites offer substantial discounts to students. We will purchase our tickets individually, so students should thoroughly investigate these sites to find the most reasonable airfare. *Tickets should not be purchased until discussing your date of arrival with Dr. Walling.*

Be sure to make reservations for an arrival in Belize before 2:30 PM, and a departure after 1:00 PM on your last day. This will allow us to pick up or drop off in a timely fashion.

***We ask that all participants – students, volunteers and staff, make certain that Dr. Walling knows your full travel itinerary, including your date of departure from Belize.*** Please email Dr. Walling your flight information -- including the name of the airline, point of origin, flight numbers, time of departure from the States and the time of arrival in Belize. This should be discussed before purchasing your tickets.

To make this easy, you can send a PDF of your itinerary or you can cut and paste your flight information from a confirming email from the airline into an email to Dr. Walling. With so many participants making their own flight arrangements, it is important to keep track of who is arriving at what time. This information can be extremely useful if we are waiting for you at the airport in Belize because your flight happens to be delayed.

**A brief note about the flight reservation:** don't assume that you will be able to change your return flight once you are in Belize. Every year, a number of students who make reservations for the first two-week or the first three-week sessions decide they want to stay for the remainder of the Field School. This is often impossible, even if the Project has an open slot that will allow you to stay.

Note that the Rio Bravo Archaeology Field School begins when you are picked up at the Belize International Airport and ends when you are dropped off at the same location. Once that bus trip is completed, the project is officially over and you are responsible for your own welfare. For legal reasons, all first-year participants attending the full field school from the Community College of Philadelphia are required to fly home that day. Non-CCP students are permitted to travel elsewhere if desired, but these arrangements should be made well before the season begins.

### Medical Travel Insurance

This section concerns medical coverage for the time you are in Belize. It is a requirement that you have comprehensive medical insurance for the time you are in Belize – and very importantly, coverage for *medical evacuation*. If you do not have this coverage, you cannot be a part of the field school and the research project. Some of those who enroll already have comprehensive medical coverage that provides coverage outside the United States and have provided the project with documentation of this, but many students who enroll in the Rio Bravo Archaeological Survey either do not have coverage for the time they will be out of the country or want additional coverage to supplement what they now have. Enrolling in a short-term program offered by organizations such as STA or Seven Corners is easy and relatively inexpensive (usually \$50-\$100 for 4-5 weeks). **Be aware that your insurance policy must include medical evacuation coverage—** we recommend at least \$250,000 in coverage in this category. This is perhaps the most critical part of the policy. This guarantees that an injured party can be safely and effectively evacuated to the United States for treatment at a medical facility, a process that typically costs many tens of thousands of dollars.

All students, volunteers, and staff are required to have full medical insurance that includes emergency medical evacuation coverage. You will be required to provide proof of insurance coverage upon arrival.

### Inoculations and Preventive Medication

We do not know what inoculations will cost each of you individually, but we recommend that you see your family doctor, a specialist in internal

medicine, or an infectious disease specialist about this several weeks in advance of our departure. You can call your doctor ahead of time and ask what inoculations he or she recommends and what the cost will be. Many students do. But before calling, I would review some of the recommendations regarding inoculations made by the U.S. Federal Center for Disease Control (the CDC) at the web page addresses listed below. The doctor you visit will probably use the same CDC recommendations in determining what preventative medical treatment you should be given.

The link for the travel site for Belize, which includes vaccination recommendations, is:

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/belize.htm>.

Regarding rabies, it is known to exist in Belize, but it is rare. You should discuss with your physician whether to get this vaccination or not. You should also discuss with your physician which malaria medication to take. Note that Chloroquine-resistant malaria has been reported in areas just across the border from the RBCMA in Guatemala. The link for the CDC page on malaria medications is:

<http://www.cdc.gov/malaria/travelers/drugs.html>

**Travel Clinics.** Be aware that there are specialized travel clinics, some of which are housed in hospitals. The Federal Center for Disease Control maintains a web page listing of travel clinics throughout the U.S. (<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/find-clinic.htm>).

Getting your inoculations at one of these travel medicine offices may be cheaper than a visit to the private office of a specialist in internal medicine or an infectious disease specialist. Keep in mind, though, that your family physician may be an even cheaper option. It is your responsibility to find the inoculation source option that is right for you. *Wherever you go, we suggest calling in advance to make certain that the needed inoculations are in the medical office you will be visiting – and we strongly recommend calling to check on exactly what the costs to you will be.* You may be able to negotiate with your family physician.

For those of you in Philadelphia, there are several travel medical clinics located near the airport - this is true in many cities. Typically, you will pay a consultation fee plus fees for individual inoculations. Many participants get inoculations for typhoid and boosters for Tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis, plus a malaria preventative, such as mefloquine or doxycycline. Of the malaria preventatives listed by the CDEC on its web site, Malarone tends to be the most expensive and

doxycycline the least costly. Investigate all prices before you commit to a medication.

We rely for current information about disease in Latin America on the Federal Center for Disease Control web page, which lists recommended inoculations for U.S. citizens traveling to various parts of the world. The general CDC web page for travelers is <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/destinat.htm>.

### **Other Suggested Medications and Remedies**

We have access to a nurse's station that sells some medications in the Mennonite community of Blue Creek, but we strongly recommend bringing your own supplemental medications. Some commonly used OTC and prescription items are below. Keep in mind that what works for one person may not work for another. Also, you should always check with your physician before buying or using any of the following:

**Pepto Bismal:** For slight stomach upset and diarrhea (can be purchased in Belize)

**Diarrhea treatment:** You may want to take with you a prescription-strength diarrhea treatment in case of severe diarrhea. Sulphur-Based and other prescription antibiotics and the prescription medication Lomotil have been prescribed for various participants in the project at different times.

**Benadryl/antihistamine cream, or an organic equivalent such as tea tree oil:** To stop the itch of bug bites. Some prefer to use alcohol on bug bites as a disinfectant and to reduce itching – this can be purchased at the Mennonite general store.

**Aloe:** Is often used as an antibacterial agent and to promote healing of bites and burns

**Vitamin B-12 and garlic:** Said to act as a deterrent to mosquitoes in alternative medicine sources.

**Electrolyte Solution:** We recommend use of an electrolyte solution to replenish the electrolytes that are depleted through sweating. (See also the sections *Safety Precautions* and *Other Useful Items*.)



Taking and Recording measurements in a test pit on the Residential Terraces of Group B in preparation for making a field drawing.

## Passports

You will need a passport to go to Belize. The process takes several weeks for first passports (less if you put a rush on it). Check the State Department web page for information if you do not have one. Be aware that the Foreign Ministry in Belize would like all visitors to Belize to have passports that expire at least **six months after** the scheduled end of their visit to their country.

## Deposits

*Non-refundable* deposits on the food and housing fee can be mailed to Fred Valdez of the Programme for Belize Archaeology Project in Austin Texas in the months before the field school. Make certain that you pay this deposit only if you are committed to joining the field school. The money submitted goes toward buying field equipment and is usually spent shortly after payment is made. You also have the option of mailing a larger payment to Dr. Valdez to minimize the money that you will need to carry into the country.

## Clothing and Equipment

Suggested clothing and equipment lists can be found below. Any large Army-Navy store and any good camping store will have many of



the items you will want. Good catalog sources, particularly for outdoor equipment, include **Forestry Supply**, **Bass Pro Shops**, **Dick's**, and **Cabelas**. Another site, which has deeply discounted overstocked and discontinued items, is **Sierra Trading Post**, which has a web site of the same name. **Amazon** can also be a good source. Be aware that much of your field clothing can get torn, worn, faded, or stained during the field season. For this reason we don't recommend bringing anything you value to the field. Archaeologists are expert hoarders of old clothes for this reason! We do not recommend buying new clothing for use as daily field clothing. For field pants and shirts, bring breathable clothing (all cotton or nylon micro-fiber) that you won't mind ruining.

A number of students and volunteers, both men and women, who have taken part in the project over the years have saved substantial amounts of money by buying shirts and pants at discount stores, warehouse reduction stores, consignment shops, or second-hand stores for use in the field. Particularly for those who are joining the field school for the first time, we recommend you consider purchasing at least some of your clothing from a second-hand store (e.g. Goodwill) and/or borrowing equipment and clothing from friends and family. We also recommend borrowing as much of your equipment as possible if this is your first time with us. If you decide to return for subsequent seasons, you will then be in a position to decide what you would like to purchase for more continued use.

### Field Clothing

Generally, clothing that is light and can breath – 100% cotton, nylon-cotton blends, and micro-fiber nylon -- is preferable. A number of clothing manufacturers make tropical travel clothing – Ex-Officio, Sportiff, and Columbia Sportswear, to name a few. Note that these may be expensive when purchased new. You may prefer to visit consignment shops or second-hand stores to keep your expenses to a minimum.

**Pants:** Thin cotton jeans are okay, but most people find they make them feel too hot. Better would be lightweight, light-colored, all-cotton, nylon-cotton blend, or micro-fiber pants. It is suggested that if you can get pants that are so long that they can be tucked into your boots, do so. Tucking pants into your boots will function as an insect barrier for your ankles and legs.

**Shirts:** The same is true for shirts, which should be light and breathable and have sleeves you can roll down for protection from sun and insects.

**Camp clothing:** A couple of pairs of shorts and several short sleeve shirts are okay as camp clothing, but not for fieldwork. Many prefer to

wear full pants and long-sleeved shirts in camp as a guard against insect bites.

**Swimming gear:** There is a swimming pool at Chan Chich, a beautiful birding resort that we sometimes visit on weekends. To swim there you need a bathing suit -- cut off jeans are not allowed by the manager of the resort.

**Socks:** All-cotton or nylon-wool blends designed to be very breathable are probably the best. Bring socks that come up to your calves -- you may want to roll your socks up over your pants hem to keep insects off of your ankles.

**Boots:** A Necessity. You should have all-leather hiking or work boots. These will protect and support your feet and keep them dry as you walk through the forest -- and they will provide a level of protection against snakebite as well. None of the project participants have been bitten by a snake, but we do see snakes and it is important to be cautious. Mesh-section boots although popular and “breathable” are **not** okay, as the mesh sections will not protect you from snakebite. Perhaps the cheapest options for the purchase of all-leather boots are standard leather work boots of the type sold in Target and similar stores. Whatever you buy must cover your ankles, for reasons of safety.

**Other Footwear:** Sneakers or jogging shoes are good around camp. Some people wear sandals, but you should be aware that snakes have been occasionally seen in camp. You wear sandals around camp at your own risk. Some people wear shower shoes when taking a shower for the added protection they provide in the shower from bacteria, etc. If you wear these outside the shower stall, you do so at your own risk.

**Snake Guards:** The project issues snake guards that are to be worn by everyone in the Rio Bravo Project when we are in the forest. These protect the wearer from the knee down to the top of the boot. If you wish to buy your own, you have a number of options. Forestry Supply, Cabelas, and Ben Meadows offer them for sale (see above). Contact Dr. Walling if you have any questions. The project will provide snake guards to those who don't bring them.

**Bed Gear:** This is not exactly clothing, but two sets of single-size sheets are a necessary item. See below.

**Clothing Quantity:** You should have at least 10 days-worth of clothing for field and camp. Your clothing will be washed once a week by

Mennonite laundresses, but delays of a day or two are known to occur. This means that you should have some back-up clothing to get you through a few extra days. When thinking about the quantities of shirts and pants you should bring, do not assume that you will be able to wear any field clothing for more than a day before it needs to be washed.

## Luggage

The durability of luggage is an important factor, particularly because your luggage will be transported long distances by a variety of handlers when you travel to and from Central America. Portability is important because you (and others) will have to lug your own backpacks, duffels, and foot lockers (and any other luggage you bring) to your tent or dorm room and perhaps while you travel at the end of the project. Luggage with wheels and shoulder straps can be very useful. The capacity of individual bags is important because the airlines typically limit the number and size of bags you may take. Make certain you know and follow the luggage size and weight limitations of your airline carrier. (See Luggage Limitations, below.)

Campmor and Sierra Trading Post have good selections of luggage. The latter tends to have far better prices than the former. Lockable plastic footlockers made by Rubbermaid, Tucker and similar companies may not be as easily carried as back-packs and duffel bags, but they do offer probably the best protection from clumsy airline and taxi luggage handlers for the items you are taking to and from Belize. The wheeled models are the easiest to transport. Make certain you stay within the luggage size and weight limitations of the airline on which you travel. Making a mistake in this regard can be very costly.

Regarding the size, number, and weight of the pieces of luggage you will bring – most airlines limit passengers with respect to checked and carry-on luggage. A number of airlines have radically changed what they permit as carry-on and checked luggage – and what they charge for it, so please check your airlines luggage rules and pack accordingly. To limit weight in checked pieces (and what you might have to pay for it) you might consider putting heavier items in your carry-on luggage. Also, travel stores sell portable hand-held scales that allow you to weigh your luggage at home (and in the field) before traveling. For all of the trouble they save and the extra fees they prevent, these scales are a useful investment

Also, for those who are invited to return to Belize as a member of the Rio Bravo Archaeological Survey next year, you have the option of leaving a duffel or footlocker with clothing and equipment in our locked storage area during the off season. If you think you might want to do this, please pack an extra piece of luggage (for example a cheap military canvass duffel bag) that can be left with your belongings in it.

### Misc. Other Useful Items

**Alarm clock – Battery Powered:** Always a good idea on an archaeological project. A back up would not hurt.

**Rain gear:** We strongly recommend having a long poncho (not one of the short plastic ones) which you can keep rolled up in your backpack until needed when you are traveling or working at the archaeological site. A poncho will keep you dry in the rains that sometimes come up quickly when we are travelling from the site or to the General Store a half-hour outside camp (or elsewhere) as you sit in the back of an open pick-up truck (our primary means of transportation).

**Umbrella:** Strongly recommended. *We also recommend a small folding umbrella you can use while walking around camp in the rain --* this keeps you from having to take your poncho on and off as you go from the lab to the kitchen or to the showers. These are also useful in the field in a light rain. Folding golf umbrellas are probably the best choice. Some manufacturers make folding golf umbrellas that are no larger than a standard folding “Totes” umbrella.

**Hats:** A necessity. We recommend having a good cotton or canvas hat with an all-around brim to protect your head and neck from the sun. A chin strap is not a necessity, but a few prefer a hat with a chin cord to keep the hat on their head while we ride to and from the site, to the store, etc. in a pick-up truck. Baseball caps are popular, but they don't do a very good job of protecting your neck and face from sunburn. The tropical baseball-type caps that have a “sun skirt” on the sides and rear provide good sun protection.

**Bandanas:** Some like to use bandanas to keep their hair out of their face while bent over a drawing or excavation, or to wipe sweat from their brow. I suggest having having three or four , if you use them.

**Towels:** We suggest two bath towels, so while one is being washed, you have the other to use. Face cloths are a matter of personal preference. Some people prefer to use them for showering when the water is too cool for their taste. (Showers in camp have water that is ground temperature – if you want to have an warm shower, it is suggested you bring a camping shower bag that you can fill and leave to warm in the sun.)

**Bed Gear:** The project supplies every one with a single-size mattress. You will need I two sets of single-size sheets, two pillowcases, a light blanket (for the early morning hours when the temperature may drop



below your comfort threshold), and your own pillow. The project does not supply pillows. Note that you can buy a blow-up camper's pillow to save room in your luggage).

### **Basic Field Equipment**

This is equipment everyone going to Belize as part of the field school should have.

**Compass:** A Necessity. Everyone should plan on having a compass with them in their pack or in a pocket whenever we leave camp and go to our field sites. Compasses vary in cost and quality. We suggest having at a minimum, a basic \$25 or so compass made by Silva, Brunton, Suunto, or one of the other well-known manufacturers. The most important reason for having one is to give you direction -- particularly if you should become separated from our group while in the field, a compass like this will always tell you in which direction the main road and camp is. Small "button" compasses are not adequate. (FYI, The main road is due West of our site and Camp is 10 miles to the North of our site on the main road-- ask a staff member if you forget). Be aware that no students in all the years we have been working in Belize have gotten lost at any of the sites in which we have worked, but we believe in being cautious and prepared.

If you want to survey the types of compasses that are commonly available -from inexpensive to very expensive, we recommend going to the web pages or catalogs of some of the outdoor outfitters -- Forestry Supply is probably the best known. Others are Cabelas and Campmor.

A step-up from the standard flat plastic field compass are the sighting compasses, or see-through compasses, which typically have a mirror that allows you to see the compass heading as you sight directly on a target. The cheapest of these about which we know are the small Suunto and Silva models. Silva makes a small mirrored compass for slightly more. Brunton tends to make slightly more expensive and better models.

If you want to buy a high quality compass we suggest calling or emailing Dr. Walling and he will make some recommendations. To give you some perspective, good pocket transits will cost \$400 or more. Probably the cheapest high quality compass is the see-through aluminum-bodied compass made by Suunto that sells for over \$100. A plastic-bodied version of this compass is available for about two-thirds of that and will certainly get you through the field season, but generally speaking, the plastic model is not as durable as the aluminum-bodied version.

**Flashlight:** A Necessity. You will need at least one of these to navigate around camp at night after "lights out" at about 9 PM. We suggest having two (one as a back-up). Pocketsize is the most convenient. Headlamps allow you to walk hands-free. "LED"-type flashlights have the longest battery life.

**Daypack:** A Necessity. This is useful for carrying your lunch, water and other equipment in the field while leaving your hands free. It can also be used as luggage to hold clothing and other personal gear during short trips to see archaeological sites, a birding resort we sometimes visit on weekends to the south of our research area, and during the travel period after the close of the field school.

**Mosquito Net:** A necessity. For those sleeping in tents this will not be necessary. If you are sleeping in the dorm or a cabana, this can keep mosquitoes and other insects away while you sleep. Most outdoor stores carry these. Campmor usually has a good selection that is reasonably priced. Be certain to get one with fine mesh. Select one that is appropriate for at least a single-size bed. You can request a specific type of accommodation, but because this cannot be assured, everyone should bring a mosquito net with them.

**Sunglasses:** Very useful on the bright white (crushed limestone) Belizean back roads we will be traveling. We suggest bringing an extra pair in case your first pair gets lost or breaks.

**Machete:** Many Project participants will use one of these during the field season. You can purchase a Machete at the Hardware Store in Linda Vista (Blue Creek). If you want a leather sheath (required if you buy a machete), these can be purchased at the same store. It is not recommended that you buy a machete in the States and bring it to Belize.

**Canteens/water bottles:** You can buy bottled water in Belize, but I suggest bringing some durable water bottles with you that can be cleaned and re-used. You should probably expect to carry about 3 quarts with you each day.

**Pocket Knife:** A very useful tool in camp and in the field. Even more useful can be one of the "leatherman"-type combination tools that have built-in pliers and screwdrivers, but this is not a necessity. Remember to pack this and all tools with blades in your checked luggage, not your carry-on.

**High SPF Sun Block:** Bring plenty, particularly if you are sun-sensitive. Be aware that even if you tolerate the sun very well, some malaria and other medications can make your skin very photosensitive.

**Sun Hat:** This was mentioned before, but it bears repeating. Your hat should have a full brim or a flexible “sun skirt” on the sides and rear to shade your face and neck. An adjustable chinstrap will help keep the hat on your head as you travel in the back of one of the Project’s pick-up trucks.

**Shower Kit:** And related things, such as a towel and face cloth according to what makes you comfortable. A kit bag or cloth bucket is convenient at the end of the day to hold towels, shampoo etc. You may stand in line for five or ten minutes while waiting to take a shower in one of our camp's enclosed tin-roofed shower stalls.

**Sealable One-Gallon and Two-Gallon Plastic Bags:** We recommend bringing ten of each. These are useful for keeping all sorts of things dry in a tropical forest – in the field, camp, and while traveling. They are also useful for organizing your things and keeping them separate from those with whom you are staying, while living in the dormitory or in a tent. At the very least, in case of rain, you should have a sealable plastic bag for the paper records on which you will be working while you are at Chawak But’o’ob during the day.

**Electrolyte Solution:** We strongly recommend that everyone bring with them a solution to replenish depleted electrolytes (sodium and potassium). Gatorade makes a powdered electrolyte solution that is available in U.S. grocery stores, but note that this product has a lot of refined sugar in it. For those who want something without refined sugar, you might ask your druggist for a substitute. A brand with less refined sugar is "Emergen-C," which can be purchased in small, portable packets. You should have sufficient solution for the full time you are in Belize.

## **Recommended General Equipment**

These are the things that may make your life more comfortable. They are not required. Nevertheless, we definitely recommend them.

**Battery Powered Lamp:** For reading, finding items in the dorm or in your tent, and going to the latrine at night. The florescent type is popular, as are LED versions, including small book lights. There are electrical lights in many places in camp, but not in all areas. (Electrical power in camp is limited and lights go out at night when the generator

is turned off, usually around 9 PM.) You may wish to periodically supplement electrical light with a lamp of your own, for example when you may be working in the lab at night on artifacts or on a site map.

**Head Lamp:** Some prefer a headlamp to a flashlight because it leaves their hands free. This type of light is particularly useful when reading or when walking around camp at night. Simple, lightweight, and durable is the best rule for selecting one of these. There are a number of brands of headlamps available. Most outdoor stores carry several. LED models are recommended for brightness and battery life.

**Sewing Kit:** You may have to repair pants or shirts or other clothing. Note that dental floss is an excellent means for repairing backpacks, jeans, and other durable items.

**Small Fan:** Strongly Recommended. Several manufacturers offer small battery operated fans (typically about 5 inches wide by 5 inches long by 2 inches deep) that are built for battery efficiency. The best cost around \$20 apiece and last about 300 hours on four "D" cell batteries. These are not generally effective in the field when you are excavating or mapping, but they are good for keeping you cool while you are stationary -- while in the dorm or a tent, when working on notes in the lab or cafeteria, or when sleeping. We recommend bringing two. Campmor is one internet source of which we know that regularly has these available.

**Camera:** Strongly Recommended. In the field you will learn how to take 35 mm photos as excavation records using project cameras. If you want to bring your own 35 mm camera to record field photos that is fine. Some type of camera, 35 mm, digital or otherwise is recommended for personal use to record archaeological sites we will visit, camp life, etc. We suggest bringing all of the photo chips or cards that you might need with you from the States because availability in Belize is not assured.

**Binoculars:** Primarily for "birders." These are not at all necessary, but they are useful for watching wildlife at a distance and for looking at the planets and moon, which are particularly clear at night in northern in Belize, away from the lights of the industrialized world. For convenience, we recommend small, light binoculars of 6 to 8 power with a lens width of 25 to 40 millimeters (2.5 – 4.0 centimeters -- represented in sales catalogs as 6X 25, etc.) Pentax and Bushnell make serviceable compact binoculars for under \$100.



**Kneeling Pad and Knee Pads:** Recommended. Kneeling pads are single rectangular sections of flexible foam padding that are placed under your knees while you excavate. They protect one's knees from being scraped against rocks. Typically, they are used by gardeners and can be found in gardening sections of hardware stores. Knee pads are usually made of plastic with some sort of nylon backing and are attached individually to your knees with Velcro or similar straps. They are difficult, if not impossible to get in Belize.

**MP3, Radio/Tape or CD Player:** As a rule, people listen to these in camp with earphones. Some like to listen to music or Radio Belize when excavating. This is fine with us as long as everyone in the excavation team is in agreement about to what they want to listen.

**Bug Spray:** Good for keeping away mosquitoes. If you are bothered by flying insects, you may want to bring Cutters or Off, or something similar. I suggest eight or more spray cans for the four weeks we will be in country. We are told that Vitamin B-12 is a deterrent for mosquitoes. Some people also maintain that garlic and a low-sugar diet can make you less attractive to mosquitoes. A frequently-used anti-mosquito agent is Avon's "Skin So Soft" lotion.

**Lunch Container:** Some people bring a Tupperware or similar container to hold their lunch, which we make ourselves after breakfast and before we load up our trucks.

**Sun Shower Bag:** Not required. This is a durable flexible plastic bag, typically with one side transparent and the other dark and a capacity of a gallon or two, which is available from several manufacturers. For those who might strongly dislike cold shower water (all we have in camp), this can make your showers more enjoyable. One leaves the bag out in the sun to get warm during the day. To use it, you hang the bag up in a shower stall and release water as needed from the spray nozzle. This can be purchased at most outdoor stores.

**Batteries/ Battery Charger:** Bring plenty of whatever type of batteries your flashlights, MP3 player, tape player, etc. need -- or bring an AC battery charger. Batteries can be purchased in Belize, but they tend to be expensive. You are better off purchasing several packs of whatever size batteries you need in the States. Note -- for those interested in bringing a battery charger, students and staff have access to 24-hour electrical power in the dining hall. Most who buy rechargeable batteries prefer the Nickel-Metal Hydride (NIMH) to the older Nickel-

Cadmium batteries. The latter (and their chargers) are generally cheaper, but the batteries do not last as long as NIMH between charges.

**Notebook:** A necessity. Bring a small spiral or other notebook in which to take notes during lectures in the field or in camp.

**Personal Journal:** Not a necessity, but a small, durable notebook can be used as a personal journal or as a diary to record personal drawings, thoughts, and the details of experiences while they are fresh in your mind. A number of project participants refer to these later when trying to find addresses and phone numbers of friends they made during the project and when planning their own trips to Latin America.

### Things You Will Not Need (and Should Not Bring)

Don't bring a camping stove, gas lamp, candles or anything that requires a **flame** to operate. These are not allowed in or near the tents, the dormitory, or any of the wooden buildings in camp. All light sources you bring should be generated by battery power. Be aware that you will be living in a substantial field camp with a power generating system, cement building foundations, and gravel trails. The camp has been continuously under construction for about ten years – it is not a hastily put together tent-city in a forest. For photos of camp, see the Rio Bravo Field School Web page and the link to the University of Texas Web Page.

You will not need a four-week supply of snickers bars, ring-dings, or other **snack food**. A general store is about a half hour away by truck that has a reasonable selection of North American junk food. We will make weekly visits for phone calls and supplies. Do not assume that this store will have specialty items, such as organic foods or your favorite bon-bon. Most snacks will have to wait for your return to the States and the resumption of your normal snack habits. As the daily temperatures are in excess of 90 degrees Fahrenheit, most sweet or chocolaty things will not last long in your bag, tent, or dorm room anyway. Many people *do* bring their favorite breakfast bars and the like, but keep in mind that these can suffer from the heat too. Whatever snack food you bring, if any, should be well sealed in its original wrapping – and preferably some sort of strong container to keep out insects (e.g. ziplocks).

Do not bring **electrical appliances or gadgets** that need to be plugged into an electrical outlet to run (e.g., fans, hair dryers, radios, alarm clocks, cd and tape players, etc.). There is electrical power in camp that comes from the diesel powered generator we share with the adjacent Programme for Belize camp, but it is turned off at about 9 pm. Everything electrical you bring should operate on batteries.

Do not bring **Jewelry**, your stamp collection, or anything of substantial value that does not have a practical use in camp or at the

archaeological site. Camp is generally secure, but some of you will be in transit for at least part of the time you are in Belize. Hotel rooms and baggage-handling areas are not known for being the safest places to have things of monetary or sentimental value.

We suggest that you not bring **musical instruments** that are at all fragile, such as a guitar, which might suffer in the heat and moisture. If you do choose to bring a musical instrument, be aware that you will have to play it away from camp – most who have brought instruments, play them on the road, away from camp, usually at night. This is because we have a “quiet camp,” where all music to which people listen is heard through earphones. Loud music players of any type, including radios are discouraged. A radio or recorded music can be played away from camp without earphones – for example while excavating, or when sitting out on the road at night with friend -- but only if all those in the listening area agree to its being played.

You are not encouraged to have **visitors**. They are not allowed without prior permission from the Project Director and the Director of the PFBAP. Keep in mind that we are situated in a remote, unexplored forest. This is a controlled-access area with guards. Your friends cannot simply walk in off the street, nor can you walk out of camp and meet them at a local coffee shop.

Other things **not** to bring:

**Weapons** (crossbows, firearms, etc. – note that pocket knives, “leatherman,” and similar devices are useful, permitted tools for use around camp and in the field).

**Firecrackers** (or anything flammable, such as sparklers, gasoline, etc.).

**Illegal drugs** -- *this will get you thrown off the project and sent home immediately.* The project will suffer tremendously if we get a reputation for allowing drugs or other illegal items. If this were to happen, the whole project might be prohibited from returning to Belize.

If you have any questions about what is permissible, direct them to the Project Director (well before we leave for Belize).

### **Safety Precautions**

These safety concerns regard snakebite, dehydration, general hygiene, not going anywhere outside of camp alone, machete use, following staff directions in camp and in the field, and medical evacuation.

A recent study of the likelihood of snake-bite at Central American archaeological sites that was published in a health and safety journal concluded that snake bite was extremely rare (about one bite per several hundred thousand hours of excavation and mapping time), but we nevertheless require that all students and staff on the Rio Bravo Project wear full leather boots (that cover your ankles) and commercially made snake chaps (also known as "snake guards"), that cover the leg from boot-top to knee, while in the field. We are one of two teams of archaeologists (of about seven) in the PfbAP with this requirement. To date, none of the students in the RBAS have had a snake strike at them.

Another safety concern is dehydration, a serious issue in a sub-tropical environment in which the average daily high temperature is about 95 degrees (F). Students and staff are reminded to drink frequently during the day. I suggest in addition to drinking about three quarts of water a day (adjust to your requirements), students bring with them sufficient electrolyte solution (in powder form) from the States to last for the duration of the project. See the section, "Electrolyte Solution...", below for further comments on electrolyte solutions.

General hygiene consists of common-sense cleanliness, which amounts to simple procedures that minimize the amount of bacteria from the tropical environment that enter our bodies through food, water, and similar every-day sources. These procedures include keeping your hands away from your mouth unless they are freshly washed (even to wipe away sweat), not putting any instrument (such as a pencil) near your mouth unless it is intended for that purpose and has been cleaned (for example, a fork), thoroughly cleaning one's hands before eating, regularly cleaning out one's water bottles with a disinfectant cleaner (such as a bleach solution), and not consuming foods unless they have been thoroughly cooked or washed. This common-sense hygiene also includes not using any non-purified water to clean your teeth or as ice in a drink -- and not letting any non-purified liquid in your mouth (including shower water or even a bead of sweat that drips across your lips).

Outside of our field camp, where years of hygiene concern have produced a clean cooking and serving environment as well as a purified water system, we strongly recommend that our people do not consume:

- Any salad or other food that needs to be hand-washed, any food that has been directly handled by a preparer or waiter after cooking (including breads, such as biscuits),
- Fruits or vegetables unless they themselves peel them,
- Any cooked food that has sat in the open for more than a minute or two



We require (as do the other project directors) that all students and staff not travel alone, even when walking a short distance, outside of camp. This includes walks on the roadway that passes by camp, the conservation trails in the forest around camp, trails at our archaeological sites, and even trips to the general store and to communities such as Orange Walk. Our students and other project participants are told not to leave camp, even when accompanied by a staff member from another project, unless they have been given permission by the Rio Bravo Archaeological Survey Director or another staff member from the Rio Bravo Project. This rule is strictly enforced by this project and the Programme for Belize Archaeological Project. Violating this rule can result in your being sent home before the close of the Project.

Machetes are very useful tools in a tropical forest. Much of the forest in which we work is mature forest without a lot of low growth, but some forest trails, particularly those with recent tree falls, are impassable without doing some clearing with a machete. Machete use by students and volunteers is optional in the RBAS. A student is allowed to use one only after he or she is shown how to use a machete safely as a forest-tool (essentially, by always cutting away from their bodies, never toward them), how to sharpen them without risk of cuts, and how to store and carry them safely in a sheath when not in use. The student must show that he or she understands how to use a machete safely. The RBAS Director and staff reserve the right to prohibit anyone in the project from using a machete if he or they feel a participant is not using it correctly and safely.

Another issue is following staff instructions. The RBAS and Field School and the Programme for Belize Archaeology Project have established procedures for safety, camp activity (including cleaning and maintaining camp), and research activity that are based on many years of experience. Everything that you are asked to do has sound reasoning and a long tradition behind it. You will be expected to follow normal, well established procedures that characterize the RBAS and the PfBAP. Any questions about this should be directed to the RBAS Director.

A further issue is access to medical care. A 24-hour nurse is stationed in a Mennonite medical clinic about 30 minutes from camp in the community of Linda Vista. If more serious attention is required, we have access to a medical clinic and doctor about an hour and a-half's drive from camp in the town of Orange Walk. If rapid medical evacuation is required, we drive to Linda Vista airport where we have already radioed ahead to meet one of the local pilots and plane, which will fly the affected individual to the airport at Belize City (the former capitol and largest community in Belize), where ground transportation will take the individual to a hospital for emergency treatment. Medical Evacuation by air from the PFB area is only possible during daylight hours.

## Communication While in Belize

Please note the following. (This includes veterans, too.) Communication between our research area and the outside world has improved. Be aware that there are no telephone lines in the PfB camp, but we can now receive and send faxes fairly easily from a General Store in a nearby Mennonite community. The Mennonite community of Blue Creek now has at least one cell phone tower and cell phone communication with the United States may now be possible. (It is not known as of this writing, but you can ask Dr. Walling for information about this.) Be sure you check with your carrier about what your cell phone charges will be while you are in Belize and whether you might need to purchase a Sim card. Note that phone cards can be purchased in Belize that you can use to call the States from a pay phone (very reasonably), one of which exists at the nearby General Store in Blue Creek

### Postal Delivery

We can receive mail through the PfB postal box in Orange Walk. Note that this is not recommended because of mail delays and lost letters. For those who wish to try to receive something, letters are received in camp and sent out about once a week. Mail can take two weeks or more to arrive from, or reach its destination in the States. **Our post office box cannot handle packages.** Please have all letters to you addressed as follows:

Your Name  
c/o PfBAP (Texas Camp)  
P.O. Box 2  
**Orange Walk Town**  
**Orange Walk District**  
**BELIZE**  
**CENTRAL AMERICA**

### Contact After the Departure of the Pre-session Team

By the time the pre-session crew departs for Belize, we expect to have all matters relating to the field school in good shape, but issues sometimes crop up unexpectedly. In case an issue arises after we have left, we will ask that you contact Dr. Walling by email ([swalling@ccp.edu](mailto:swalling@ccp.edu) or [swallingccp@gmail.com](mailto:swallingccp@gmail.com)).

If you anticipate needing some information or having to deal with a problem you should contact Dr. Walling *well before* he leaves in May.

## **Legal Compliance While in Belize**

When you are in Belize you will be responsible for following the laws, customs, and accepted procedures of the country. Please go to the [U.S. Department of State Belize Consular Information Sheet](#) for travel advisories and other information about travel to Belize. Remember that what may be legal in some parts of the United States may not be legal in other countries, including Belize. The possession or consumption of illegal drugs will not be tolerated. Any person in possession of any illegal drugs will be removed from the Project and sent home if they do not find themselves in jail in Belize. Additionally, all artifacts are the property of the Government of Belize. Artifacts of any kind (including broken pot sherds and lithic debitage) cannot be kept by project members for any reason.

## **Benefits of Attending the Field School**

To expand on what was said in previous sections, an important benefit of attending the Field School, beyond learning about the Maya, taking part in state-of-the-art scientific research, and expanding one's intellectual and personal horizons, is that veterans (both credit-earning students and volunteers) are welcome to ask the Director and other staff for written recommendations for college or graduate admission, college transfer, scholarships, employment and similar issues. In some instances, these recommendations carry particular weight because the staff evaluate participants outside of a classroom setting. Veterans also tell us that the listing the Field School on their CVs and Resumes enables them to use the RBAS as a talking point during interviews, by means of which they can highlight their ability to do several things:

- participate successfully in a multicultural and otherwise diverse work environment,
- operate in a time-sensitive context and carry assignments through to completion,
- work in a project-oriented setting,
- carry out problem solving,
- collaborate closely with others to achieve important results

All of these skills are desirable capabilities in the modern, professional, globalizing workplace – as well as in continued undergraduate and graduate education.

## **Rio Bravo Archaeological Survey**

## Statement on Sexual Harassment

Like all field schools, RBAS was shocked by the number of unwanted sexual advances reported by academic field students in Clancy et al. (2014),<sup>2</sup> which all students and staff are encouraged to review. We have never had such an issue in our program, but we nonetheless take the issue of sexual harassment very seriously. If anyone-- student or staff-- is made to feel uncomfortable while participating in the RBAS, there are several courses of action:

1. Tell a staff member (with whom you are comfortable) what happened. Even if you do not want to pursue further action at this time, it is important to begin the process of documentation. It is also recommended that the Director be made aware of the situation.
2. In cases of harassment, the perpetrators may not realize what they are doing, so it may be advised that a staff member make the individual aware of their behavior (without mentioning names, of course).
3. If the harassment continues or further intervention is required, the Director should be notified and the appropriate course of action determined.
4. If an assault has been committed, more serious measures are obviously necessary. Depending on the situation, medical care or hospitalization may be required, as well as disciplinary action for the perpetrators, who may be placed on the first flight home. If a criminal act has occurred, it will be determined which law-enforcement jurisdictions to engage.

### Statement by the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) and Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA)

The Register of Professional Archaeologists' Code of Conduct preface states that "archaeology is a profession, and the privilege of professional practice requires professional morality and professional responsibility." Section 2.1(f) of the Code of Conduct requires that an archaeologist shall "Know and comply with all federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, and regulation applicable to her/his archaeological

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<sup>2</sup> Available at: <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0102172> (accessed March 2, 2015).

research and activities..." Compliance with all applicable laws and regulations includes those prohibiting sexual harassment. The primary federal law in the United States dealing with this issue is Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits employment discrimination based on sex (gender).

Sex discrimination involves treating an applicant or employee unfavorably because of that person's sex or sexual persuasion (e.g. gender identity discrimination), but can also involve treating someone less favorably because of his or her connection with an organization or group that is generally associated with people of a certain sex, or because of a certain condition (such as pregnancy). Sexual harassment is a form of sexual discrimination that violates the Act.

If a Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA) violates one of these laws or regulations prohibiting sexual harassment and discrimination, and is prosecuted and convicted under one these laws or regulations, then that RPA has violated the Register's Code of Conduct. As a result, a grievance against this RPA can then be filed with the Register's Grievance Coordinator, implementing the Register's grievance process.

To reinforce its position on sexual harassment, the Register has modified its Guidelines and Standards for Archaeological Field School certification. The guidelines currently state, under "Section E. Sponsor," that the institution sponsoring the field school must provide for the safety and health of participants. The Register has added an additional statement that providing for the safety and health of participants includes maintaining an environment free of sexual harassment as defined by applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations; and, the sponsoring institution shall take steps necessary to prevent sexual harassment from occurring.

The Register joins its sponsoring organizations, the Society for American Archaeology, the Society for Historical Archaeology, the Archaeological Institute of America, and the American Anthropological Association, in using all available tools to eliminate sexual harassment in the archaeological profession.



## Contact information for Stanley Walling

Stanley L. Walling, Ph.D., R.P.A.,  
Director, Rio Bravo Archaeological Survey  
Center for Archaeological and Tropical Studies  
University of Texas at Austin

Associate Professor of Anthropology  
Department of Social Sciences  
Community College of Philadelphia  
Philadelphia, PA 19130

Email: [swalling@ccp.edu](mailto:swalling@ccp.edu);  
Tel. 215-751-8848, or, 973-349-4647



## Rio Bravo Archaeological Survey 2019 Application Form

The Field School is seeking Study Abroad students who are reliable and interested in an enjoyable, fascinating learning experience. Applicants can fill out the application below and either cut and paste it into a return email to [swalling@ccp.edu](mailto:swalling@ccp.edu) or hand-deliver to Dr. Walling. Alternatively, applicants can fill out the online application, available at: <http://www.belizearchaeologyfieldschool.com/application/> Feel free to expand any section as needed to provide the information requested. Please contact Dr. Walling if you have any questions.

Note that if you are a CCP student, this form is separate and distinct from the form you will be filling out for the College's Study Abroad Program. As a CCP student, you will need to fill out both forms.

Be aware that if you are accepted into the field school, to attend any of the field sessions in Belize, you will be required to complete several legal release forms, including, but not limited to general liability and photographic/video release forms before you can participate in any educational or other field activities.

**Full name:**

**Today's date:**

### **Contact Information**

Current mailing address:

Permanent mailing address (e.g., a parent's home address)

Email Address(es):

Telephone numbers:

Permanent Home:

Current Home:

Cell:

Work:

**Date of Birth:**

**Passport Number** (If you have one – if not, you will need to get one to travel to Belize):

**Academic Credit.** Are you taking the Field School for credit (3 or 6 credits through CCP or do you plan to apply for credit through the Univ. of Texas)?

**(For CCP Students Only) Non-CCP College Information.** If you have attended a college other than CCP, please provide the following with regard to that college:

College or University:

Number of credits completed:

Your Major(s)

G.P.A within major:              Overall G.P.A.

**College Transcript:** Please send a copy of your transcript to Dr. Walling. An informal web-based transcript of the type that many college registrar's offices maintain for student reference is acceptable. As long as your web-based transcript is clearly identified with semester dates and the name and location of your College or University, you can forward a copy of that transcript to Dr. Walling by email. If you prefer, you can have your registrar's office mail a copy to Dr. Stanley L. Walling, Dept. of Social Sciences, Community College of Philadelphia, 1700 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130 – or your Registrar can email a copy to Dr. Walling's email address.

**Prerequisites.** There are no prerequisites for the Field School with respect to classes taken (however, note the field school field manual requirement, below), but if you are a student, we do want to know about your academic background and interests. You are not required to have had any anthropology, archaeology, or related courses (history,

geography, etc.) to enroll in the Field School, but if you have taken any, we would like to know that. If the subjects of any course titles on your transcript are not self-apparent, you are welcome to provide some explanation of content in this section. Also, any explanations for class withdrawals and incompletes that you might want to make should be made in this section of your application.

**Field Manual Requirement:** If you are accepted into the Field School you will be issued and required to read and know the Rio Bravo Field School Field Manual, which includes sections of preparations, field procedures, and field safety. By indicating you will attend the field school (once you are accepted) you are agreeing to read and study this field manual in its entirety before you leave for the field.

**Specific Archaeological Interests** (if any):

**Previous Experience.** Please list and explain any field or museum experience:

**References.** The full names, email addresses, and telephone numbers of three faculty members or other responsible individuals, such as employers or religious officials, who know you well and will be able to provide a character reference. If you are a current student, please make certain that at least one faculty member is among your references. (As a courtesy, please notify your references that they will be emailed for a recommendation on your behalf.) Also, please specify your references relation to you (e.g., history professor, employer, etc.) We are looking for references who can certify from their own experience that you are a serious and capable candidate for the Field School.

Keep in mind that professional references cannot include family or friends.

For the sake of rapid processing of your application, you are encouraged to submit your application quickly, even if you do not have

your references finalized. They can follow once you have submitted the balance of the application.

**Medical Travel Insurance:** Proof of full medical insurance, including medical evacuation coverage (minimum \$250,000) for the entire period or more of the field season will be required by The Rio Bravo Survey and Field School. You cannot take part in the Field School without this insurance. You must have written proof of this insurance while you are in the field.

**Drug and Other Allergies:**

**List of medications you will be taking while in the field, including dosages and frequency.** List the full name and specific medical condition for which you are taking each medication. Note that you should plan on bringing all medications you will need for the duration of the trip with you, as access to medications for purchase in Belize may be limited.

**Medical or other conditions:** List any and all and explain any conditions, medical or otherwise that might affect your health or performance during the Field School, including those that affect your mobility, ability to perform tasks in a challenging environment, or activities that might cause you to need assistance.

**Emergency Contact Information:** In case of an emergency, whom should we contact? Provide *full name and contact information* for two individuals, as well as an explanation of their relationship to you.



Telephone numbers, including cell numbers, and email addresses, are required for all emergency contacts. If you list your parents and they have a common point of contact, please list an additional significant person with another point of contact with whom we should get in touch.

**Any Other Information?** If there is any other information that you should share with the Director and Staff concerning your interests or personal history, including special needs, please do so here. (Failure to disclose pertinent information about your conditions or needs in a timely fashion before joining the field school could negatively impact your ability to participate in field school activities – and the field school itself.)

**Agreement.** If accepted into the field school, I agree to follow directions of the Rio Bravo Survey and Field School staff when at the field site, in camp, and in any areas of Belize visited by the Field School. I also agree to follow directions given by the staff of the Programme for Belize Archaeology Project when at the field site, in camp, and in any areas of Belize visited by the Field School. I will read the Rio Bravo Field School Field Manual before taking part in the Field School. If living in the Philadelphia area, I will participate in the full-day orientation session before departure and all field activities and instructional activities that are part of the Field School. According to any reasonable standards, I am physically, medically, and otherwise fit to participate in the Field School and will inform the Field School Director if this fact changes before departure or while in the field. The information I am providing is up to date, complete and accurate. If any of this information changes before our departure or while I am in Belize I will inform the Field School Director immediately. I also understand that I will forfeit my deposit (due only after acceptance into the Field School) if I withdraw from the Field School before departure or while the Field School is in session. I also understand that any breach of this agreement, camp rules, rules established by the Programme for Belize Archaeology Project, or the laws of the Government of Belize will result in my expulsion from the

Field School and my required immediate return (at my own expense) to the United States with no refund of camp, travel, or other fees.

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**Signature**

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**Date**

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**Printed Name**

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**Witness Signature (Someone other than a Field School participant or family member)**

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**Date**

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**Witness Printed Name**

**Privacy Notice: All information provided here will be kept confidential and will only available to the Director, Staff, and appropriate figures, such as medical and government personnel, depending on circumstance.**