

“Lesser Known Maya Sites of the Yucatan” is August Program

Our next meeting is Thursday, August 19 at 7:00 pm in Robertson Hall, Room 116, at the University of St. Thomas. The program will be presented by Dr. Craig Mayer, an archeologist who is currently the President of iuXta America Corporation, an information technology outsourcing company focused on the creation of eBooks / eNewspapers for major US publishers, working with technical partner firms in Mexico. His talk will be on “Lesser Known Maya Sites of the Yucatan,”

In his e-mail to VP Michael Bailey, Dr. Mayer said, “I’ll focus on Ek Balam, Oxkintok, Sayil, Labna’, and Coba’ (some are better known than others, but as a group they fit nicely together), and, with the exception of Coba’, are pretty much off the major tourist track to Maya sites.” It should be quite interesting to learn about these little-known and little-visited sites.

Craig Mayer holds BA, MA, and PhD degrees in Anthropology from Southern Methodist University, plus a Diploma in Archaeology (Masters Equivalent) from Durham University, Durham, England, in Anglo-Saxon and Viking Studies.

From 1970 to 1975, he was Associate Professor of Anthropology/Archaeology at Southern Methodist University and Dallas College, teaching courses in Medieval European Archaeology, Hominid Evolution and Genetics, Linguistics, and Lab Methods in Archeology.

In 1979 he founded the South Suburban Archaeological Society, Homewood, Illinois (now the largest avocational archaeological society in Illinois), and served as its president.

His resume shows an amazing and varied number of fieldwork projects in England, Illinois, and Texas. A partial list of those in England includes Monkwearmouth and Jarrow, two 7th Century Anglo-Saxon Monasteries in Durham, England; Hartlepool Medieval Harbor; Whittonstall Deserted Medieval Village;

Binchester Roman Fort; Milecastle 32A on Hadrian’s Wall; Escomb Village Church Yard Wall; and Craigleuran Viking Period Farm Sites in Scotland.

In Illinois, his projects include Rathje Windmill (1872) in Peotone; Wannemacher Multi-component site at Tinley Park; Vollmer Archaic Site at Olympia Fields; Irons Oaks Historic Estate at Olympia Fields; and a number of paleo, archaic and Mississippian sites in and around the Koster site at Kampsville.

In addition, he has organized and led trips featuring “Roman and Medieval Archaeology in Northern England and Southern Scotland,” “The Archaeology and History of Northeastern France,” “Southern Germany and Austria,” and “The Archaeology of the US Four Corners Region.” There is a proposed trip in the works for 2011 on “Roman Ruins and Contemporary Wines of the Rhine and Mosel River Valleys, Germany.”

All in all, this promises to be a very interesting lecture, presented by an archeologist with a wide range of interests and experience. We hope to see everyone there.

A Note About Refreshments: As indicated in Charlie Gordy’s message on page 2, no one signed up to bring refreshments in August, so either plan to eat dinner before you come, or bring some goodies to share!

Lab Scheduled for Aug. 16 and 30

August Lab Nights: Monday, August 16th & 30th, Room 103, Sewall Hall, Rice University, 7-9 p.m.

We will continue to process a private surface collection from a prehistoric coastal margin shell midden site, **Reminder:** A credit card is necessary to access the parking lot near Sewall Hall. For a map, check www.houstonarcheology.org.



President's Message

Note: this month's meeting will be in Room 116 of Robertson Hall at the University of St. Thomas. This is the same building as the July meeting, but the room is different. Time if the same: 7:00-9:30 pm, August 19. See you there.

Keeping Up With the Times: I believe everyone can agree that "communications" is an important key to the success of every organization. The better the communications, the more assured the success. Certainly, e-mail has been instrumental in communicating internal ideas and issues within the HAS organization. In fact, many important issues are discussed and ideas evaluated among our Board of Directors prior to (and sometimes in lieu of) a face-to-face meeting. We find that such communication reduces meeting frequency as well as time at the table. And HAS has *The Profile* newsletter for our membership, albeit a unilateral type communication. But what about "communicating" with the public? The public is our garden from which we grow. Currently the use of advertisement through our website to reach the public is the standard low-cost means with limited effectiveness. But recently our BOD has been kicking around a new idea for us to not only increase our awareness with the public, but to interact with our members and the public as well. OK, I'll get to my point. For the past few months, the Board of Directors has been exploring and drafting a plan to market HAS through the use of a Facebook page. HAS Director Kevin Bradley is the creator of our new page, and he, along with myself, form the administrative team until things get rolling. A growing number of organizations (and businesses) are making Facebook an indispensable part of advertising and publicizing their missions and activities. A few of these organizations you will recognize such as The Heritage Society; Houston Museum of Natural Science; ABC Channel 13; Rice University;...and the list goes on. It's seen as a good way to find new members, build online communities of fans/supporters, and it possibly may even be an encouragement for gift giving and donations towards goals and objectives. The interactive use of Facebook will allow us to communicate discussions/questions & answers. We can advertise our events and HAS information quicker than a website but can still offer a link to the website. And let's not forget the power of the photo! Photos of our events and fieldwork activities will offer motivational reasons our friends to keep coming to our Facebook page to learn what's new. The opportunity is excellent for these new friends to visit our meetings and to become our members. It will only take an administrative "fun team" of 3-4 members to keep our page current and interesting. It's not near as difficult as managing a website. So if you have a Facebook account of your own and get an invite from Houston Archeological Society, you'll know we want to be your "friend"! And if you don't have your own personal Facebook account, well it's time you open one. It's easy and it's *free*.

Welcome New Members & Guests. Some of our guests quickly turned into members during the July meeting. Welcome new members Peter Kurtz, Carol Roberts, Nicole Trayford, and Sam Morgan, Thomas Gibbs, and Ben, Tina, and Madi Shull. We also welcome Roy Connell, guest and husband of member Joy Connell.

August Refreshments: No one signed up to manage the refreshment table for August, so if you want refreshments, you're on your own to bring and share. Note: Cold drinks are available by vending machine in the building basement.

--Charlie Gordy, President

Nominating Committee Announces Slate for 2010-2011

The Nominating Committee, made up of Diane Baird, Linda Swift, and Roy Whitney, has completed its work of compiling a slate of nominees for 2010-2011. Nominees are as follows:

President, Charles Gordy
Vice President, Michael Bailey
Secretary, Phyllis Bradley
Treasurer, Michael Johnston

Director (3-year term), Linda Gorski
Directors Lucia Bonno and Kevin Bradley
have one year and two years, respectively,
remaining on their terms and will continue on the Board

The slate will be presented at the August meeting, and additional nominations may be made at the September meeting, followed by the election. The new Board will take office in October.

Minutes of HAS Meeting July 15, 2010

Meeting was called to order by Charlie Gordy, President, who welcomed all guests and members, and thanked Joy and Tracy Connell for providing refreshments.

Tom Williams and Charlie Gordy spoke on the Texas Archeological Society field school held June 12-19 in Hondo, TX. There were over 350 attendees this year, and about 99% will be in Hondo again next year for the 2011 field school.

After a short break the business meeting was called to order.

- No Treasurer's report was submitted for this quarter.
- Minutes of last May HAS meeting as printed in the Profile were approved with no corrections.
- Charlie gave an update on the work on the Bernardo property owned by Craig Brown. Lab is being set up. Work might be starting weekends during August and September.
- Charlie asked members for a vote in support of the Board's recent decision to continue to have HAS meetings at University of St. Thomas, third Thursday of each month from 7-9.30 p.m. Linda Swift made the motion to accept the decision of the Board, Carol Roberts seconded. Vote by members to accept was unanimous. Meeting in August will be in Robertson Hall, Room 116.
- We welcomed new members Peter Kurtz, Nicole Trayford, Sam Morgan and Carol Roberts.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

-- Phyllis Bradley, Secretary

Bylazora 2010 Field School Reaches Successful Conclusion

The Texas Foundation for Archaeological and Historical Research, (TFAHR) founded and operated by Dr. William Neidinger and Eulah Matthews, has just completed its 8-week Field School at Byzalora, a 6th-2nd



century BC site in Macedonia. Below is their last dispatch from the site, reprinted by permission from TFAHR. You can get more details on the web site, www.tfahr.org.

The 2010 excavation season at Byzalora has drawn to a close. It has truly been one of the most successful seasons we have ever had in digging together for the last 31 years. As a result of this season's work, we have come to a greater appreciation of Paionian and Macedonian city planning and fortifications.

In Sector 3, which we first opened up in 2008, we returned this season to do a few select deep soundings. The result of these soundings has caused us to revise our initial concept of how the propylon (monumental gateway) was constructed. And we discovered that the northern acropolis wall of Byzalora was actually a casemate (double) wall.

Initial discovery of what would later turn out to be the gate of the wall.

Early in this season, we sighted a direct line from the propylon across the acropolis and came across the remains of a Doric temple. From the state of the stones of the temple, it became obvious that what little remained of the temple was on its way to be burned in the lime kilns.

Next to and beneath the remains of the temple, we uncovered the western wall of the acropolis of Byzalora. The size of the wall astounded us. At certain points the wall was slightly over 3 meters thick, and was preserved to a height of 2.7 meters. We reached the foundations of the wall in one trench, and began excavating those foundations, but never reached the lowest course of foundation stones by the time this season ended. In another trench, we came across what remained of a gate in this wall, but even working beyond quitting time on the last day, we were never able to reach the threshold of the gate. At this point, the remains of the wall were preserved to slightly over 3 meters tall (*continued on page 4*).

Bylazora (continued)

Work has already begun on the publication of the 2010 Bylazora season. We plan a public lecture sometime this fall in Houston (and perhaps Austin); dates and locations to be announced.

As we close this, our last weekly update, we would like to give our special thanks to the donors whose generosity made the 2010 season possible. The students of the TFAHR International Field School have expressed great gratitude for the opportunity to participate in this unique endeavor, and we pass their thanks on to you.

We look forward to another exciting season at Bylazora in 2011, and we hope for your continuing support and generosity.
--Dr. William Neidinger and Eulah Matthews

Please submit articles for publication to *Profile* Editor Linda Swift at swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net.
Submit articles no later than August 30 for the September 2010 issue.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ARCHEOLOGY IN THIS AREA, CONTACT THE FOLLOWING:

HAS BOARD MEMBERS

Charlie Gordy, President, chasgordy@yahoo.com

Lucia Bonno, Director-at-Large, 713-961-0455

Michael Bailey, Vice President, m Bailey@allusaonline.com

Kevin Bradley, Director-at-Large, kbradley110@hotmail.com

Phyllis Bradley, Secretary, pebradley@worldnet.att.net

Muriel Walker, Director-at-Large, murielwalker02@comcast.net

Ed Masten, Treasurer, edmondmasten@yahoo.com

AREA TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION STEWARDS

Elizabeth & Pat Aucoin, ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net

Sheldon Kindall, kindall1@peoplepc.com

Bob Crosser, 281-341-5251

Bev Mendenhall, bmend2@yahoo.com

Richard L. Gregg, rlgregg7@att.net

Tom Nuckols, annesullivan@andrewskurth.com

Marilyn & Walter Horton, fmhorton@comcast.net

Sandra & Johnny Pollan, pollanone@sbcglobal.net

Joe D. Hudgins, manso@jdhudgins.com

Sandra E. Rogers (Sandy), sojourne@att.net

Don Keyes, keyes_don@hotmail.com

Gary Ryman, ryman1@peoplepc.com

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION ARCHEOLOGISTS

Pat Mercado-Allinger, pat.Mercado-Allinger@thc.state.tx.us

Jeff Durst, jeff.durst@thc.state.tx.us

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Don Keyes, Region V Director, keyes_don@hotmail.com

Joe D. Rogers, President, tasinquiries@txarch.org

Pam Wheat-Stranahan, Executive Director, pamwheatstranahan@gmail.com Web Site: www.txarch.org

The Profile
Houston Archeological Society
PO Box 130631
Houston, TX 77219-0631

Return Service Requested