

Community College Humanities Association

c/o Essex County College * 303 University Avenue * Newark, NJ 07102-1798

October 12, 2001

Dear Colleague:

Thank you for your interest in the "The Maya World: Cultural Continuities and Change in Guatemala, Chiapas and Yucatán," an NEH summer Institute for college and university teachers sponsored by the Community College Humanities Association. This letter from the project directors will set out the general scope and aims of our project; appended to the letter you will find an application packet, consisting of NEH's general "Application Information and Instructions" and an Application Cover Sheet.

This project will be held on site for six weeks, from June 23 through August 3, 2002. Institute sessions, led by eighteen internationally distinguished scholars, will be based in Antigua, Guatemala, and in San Cristóbal, Palenque and Mérida in Mexico, with field trips to ancient Maya sites at Copán (Honduras), Quiriguá, Iximché, Toniná, Bonampak, Yaxchilán, Uxmal, Chichen Itzá, Balankanché and Ek Balam. We will also visit contemporary Maya communities in Tecpán, San Antonio Aguas Calientes, Santiago Atitlán, Chamula and Zinacantán. The "Maya World" Institute will afford an unparalleled opportunity for academics to travel and learn together, visiting so many of the most important sites for the study of Maya culture, and studying under the guidance of a group of distinguished visiting scholars and writers.

The two of us directing the project -- George Scheper and Laraine Fletcher -- and our project manager, David Berry, Executive Director of the Community College Humanities Association, have worked together directing a similar Maya World Institute in the summer of 2000. This is the sixth NEH Institute George Scheper has directed or co-directed for the Community College Humanities Association on topics related to the New World cultural encounters. George directs an interdisciplinary program in humanities for

adult learners at the Community College of Baltimore County--Essex, and regularly teaches interdisciplinary courses for The Johns Hopkins University School of Professional Studies; his research and publications focus on studies in comparative religion. For more than twenty years Laraine Fletcher (Anthropology, Adelphi University) has been involved in analyzing the settlement patterns of the Classic Maya cities of Cobá and Calakmul. This work was conducted in conjunction with the Centro de Investigaciones Históricas y Sociales of the Universidad Autónoma de Campeche. Recently she began a photo-ethnographic project to document with photographs and oral histories changes in the lives of Maya women living in the villages near Valladolid.

We've had a great experience working together with our visiting scholars, and with the wonderful Guatemalan and Mexican travel agencies who will be handling our travel arrangements. We trust that the experience we've gained as a team, along with the resources of CCHA, will translate into a fruitful, collegial and stimulating experience for our participants. We do know that the on-site commitment makes this a particularly demanding travel/study experience, and that participants must be willing to be very flexible and to go with the flow as group arrangements demand. A generous spirit of collegiality and good will do go a long way toward making a complex project such as this work successfully!



FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS, EXPENSES and STIPEND

The first thing we should stress about this six-week project is that because it is being held on-site in Guatemala and Mexico, with a series of field-study visits, the grant monies usually allocated as stipends have been pooled to cover participant travel and lodging expenses, all of which will be covered directly by the Institute. Participants will receive roundtrip transportation to and from the Institute, all lodging, local travel and site-visit costs for scheduled activities during the Institute, a set of institute Readers, and a few pre-arranged meals.

Until participants are selected and the individual travel arrangements have been made, we cannot be sure whether there will be monies available for participant cash stipends. Based on our previous on-site projects, we do anticipate that a small cash stipend may be possible, which would help defray meal costs and your other Institute expenses, including purchase of requisite textbooks. In the meantime, selected participants should anticipate budgeting between \$30 to \$50 per day for meals and other personal expenses for the duration of the project.

STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The Institute will run for six weeks, from June 23 through August 3, based primarily in Antigua, San Cristóbal, Palenque, and Mérida, with additional field study in a variety of ancient and contemporary sites of Maya culture in Guatemala, Honduras, Chiapas and Yucatán. Sessions with Institute scholars will generally alternate between seminars and field trips to archaeological and cultural sites. Because of the intense schedule of the “Maya World” Institute, as much of the required reading as possible should be done prior to departure. There will be a core reading list of about a dozen books which accepted participants will need to acquire as soon as possible, and in addition we will supply a set of Readers consisting of duplicated additional selections assigned by the Institute scholars for their respective sessions; these Readers will be sent ahead to each selected participant upon our receipt of her or his agreement to participate. To help ensure a high level of informed discussion, this project will require of participants quite a substantial amount of reading in a variety of disciplines. So, once again, we’d like to stress how greatly it will contribute to the success of the project if accepted participants undertake as much of the required reading as can realistically be done in advance.

A typical non-travel working day of the Institute will consist of a seminar in the morning conducted by one of the visiting scholars, followed by lunch and informal discussion with the scholar. Once a week the project directors will conduct a brief roundtable to review the proceedings and to discuss individual project ideas. Days of field study either at archaeological sites or contemporary cultural sites will typically devote the full day to that activity.

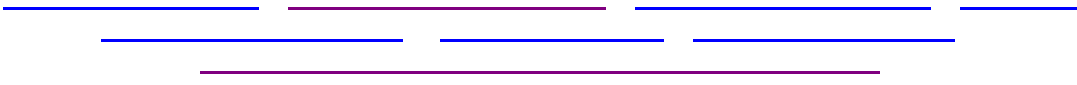
The visiting scholars will be available, during their respective scheduled days with the Institute, for consultation with participants about their individual research and curricular interests.

INSTITUTE LOCATION AND FACILITIES

Our Institute focuses on the ancient, the colonial and the contemporary Maya, in some of the most important and distinctive regions of Maya culture. It is fundamental to the design of the project, especially for the components that involve archaeology, art and ethnography, that our classroom seminar sessions be held in close conjunction with on-site field experiences

The first unit of the Institute is based in Antigua, the former colonial capital of Guatemala, and today a major tourist destination and a center for international study. Lodging and seminar space is at the Hotel Las Farolas, in a quiet neighborhood near the main plaza. Participants will also have access to the nearby facilities of CIRMA (Centro de Investigaciones de Mesoamerica), the most important study center in the region, with a major library and an unparalleled photo-archive. Phone and fax services are available at the hotel and convenient and very reasonably priced e-mail facilities are available within a block or two. Antigua is a convenient base for our overnight field trips to Copán, Chichicastenango, Santiago Atitlán and Guatemala City.

We leave Antigua for an overland trip to colonial San Cristóbal, Chiapas, where we will be based at the legendary hostelry and study center of Na Bolom. In San Cristóbal we will meet with Maya theatre groups, and the city will be our base for field trips to the towns of Chamula and Zinacantán. The second half of our stay in Chiapas will be based in Palenque, where we will stay at the Hotel Tulipanes, just across the street from the local headquarters of PARI (Pre-Columbian Art Research Institute). Currently PARI is co-sponsoring with INAH (the Mexican national agency that oversees archaeological projects) a major excavation and mapping project at the Group of the Cross at Palenque, and we will have a chance to see some of the current very important archaeological work being done. During our stay in Palenque we will also have the opportunity to take the exciting field trip to Bonampak and, by river, to Yaxchilan.



The final unit of the Institute is based in the colonial capital of Mérida, Yucatán, with lodgings at Hotel Casa de Balam, and seminar facilities at the nearby Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán. Mérida gives convenient access to our fieldtrips to Uxmal and other Puuc Maya sites, to Chichen Itzá and Ek Balam, and to such important colonial sites as Izamná and the parish churches of Ticul and Mani, as well as historic henequen haciendas.

INSTITUTE FACULTY

The eighteen distinguished scholars from the U.S., Canada and Mexico who will be presenting at the Institute are uniquely qualified to address the subject of Maya studies and colonial studies in Guatemala and Mexico. All are in the forefront of their respective fields as researchers; their field work, papers and publications are at the heart of current scholarly enterprise and academic dialogue, and all are distinguished teachers as well, with unusual ability to communicate the substance of their expertise and to generate enthusiasm on the part of non-specialists -- and we have found them a joy to work with.

George Lovell (Geography, Queen's University, Canada), is a specialist in Guatemalan social history in the colonial period; he's also written eloquently ([A Beauty that Hurts](#)) about the contemporary situation in Guatemala. George will conduct two days of seminar on colonial and modern Guatemalan history.

Victor Montejo (Native American Studies, University of California, Davis), author of [Testimony](#), will conduct two days of seminar in Antigua on the subject of testimonial literature and on Maya storytelling, with a focus on his own experiences and contributions as a Maya writer. Other Maya writers who will give discussions and readings will be Gaspar Pedro González, the first Maya novelist ([A Mayan Life](#) and [Return of the Maya](#)), and poet Maya R. Cu. These writers will be happy to share their experiences informally in social gatherings as well as in the seminar room.

Michael Coe (emeritus, Charles J. MacCurdy Professor of Anthropology, and Curator of Anthropology in the Peabody Museum, at Yale University), the "dean of Maya studies," will conduct three, we know, unforgettable days of field study at Quiriguá and Copán. Mike has an encyclopedic knowledge of the history of Maya studies ([Breaking the Maya Code](#)) and is an endless fount of information and anecdote.

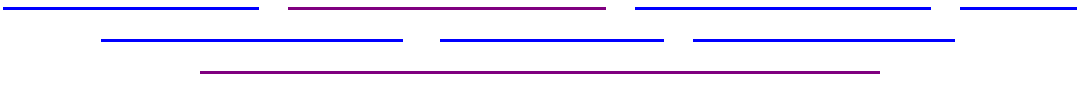
Carol Hendrickson (Anthropology, Marlboro College), author of [Weaving Identities](#), will conduct five days of seminar and field study in

Guatemala stressing the politics and economics of textile production. During her time with us, Carol will introduce us to Maya friends and colleagues in the communities where she has done fieldwork. Similarly, in two days spent with Vincent Stanzione, we will be introduced to the religious and cultural traditions of the Maya community of Santiago Atitlán; Vinnie, author of Rituals of Sacrifice, has long resided in the Atiteco community.

In Guatemala City, we will be guided to that city's museums by local historian and former ambassador of Guatemala to the United States Federico Fahsen. When the project moves to San Cristóbal, our guides to local culture and history in Chiapas will be Gary Gossen (chair of Anthropology at SUNY Albany), who has published widely on the traditional festivals of the town of Chamula; Robert Laughlin (Curator of Anthropology at the Smithsonian), who has collected the oral traditions of Zinacantán, and who, with his wife Miriam, is sponsor of local Maya theatre groups; and Jan de Vos, historian of Chiapas and a scholar intimately familiar with the history of the Zapatista movement.

We shift back to the archaeological mode when our project moves to Palenque, where INAH archaeologist Alfonso Morales and Julia Miller, who are conducting current archaeological work at Palenque, will be our "insider" guides to the exciting work being done at this most important classic Maya site, and will also be our guides to field trips to Yaxchilán and Bonampak. Similarly, INAH archaeologist Rebecca González Lauck, an authority on the Olmec, will conduct a study visit to Parque La Venta in Villahermosa, en route to Yucatán.

In Yucatán, our seminar days in Mérida will be led by Victoria Bricker (Anthropology, Tulane), author of the influential work, The Indian Christ, the Indian King, who will discuss the contact and colonial periods; Francisco Fernández (Chair, Facultad de Ciencias Antropológicas, Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán), who will offer a seminar on the period of the Caste War in the Yucatán; and Piedad Peniche Rivero (Director, Archivo General de Estado de Yucatán), who will offer seminars on Yucatec social and economic



history in the modern period, and lead a field trip to historic henequen haciendas.

Study of the extremely rich and complex archaeological history of Yucatán will be conducted jointly by Jeff Kowalski (Art History, Northwestern University) and Rafael “Rach” Cobos (Facultad de Ciencias Antropológicas, Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán), both of whom have extensive field experience in Yucatán; together they will co-conduct five days of seminar and field study of Yucatec Maya sites. This will bring our six-week project to a happily exhausted conclusion, as we all head home to digest and assimilate the proceedings, develop our slides and photos, and gear up to use the material in our upcoming Fall classes, and to present at upcoming conferences.

APPLICATION

The Institute is intended to function as a stimulus to individual study and research and as a seed-bed for course and curriculum development. In your application essay you should identify an area of personal research interest and/or of curriculum development that you intend to pursue during the course of the Institute. In the final week the project directors will conduct a roundtable at which curricular implications of the Institute will be discussed and preliminary individual and/or team project reports presented. By May 1, 2003, participants will be asked to submit a final statement on the impact of the Institute on their research and teaching for the project directors' Final Report to NEH.

For the reasons indicated above, you should note that perhaps the most important part of your application is the essay that must be submitted as part of the complete application. This essay should include any personal and academic information that is relevant; reasons for applying to this particular Institute; your interest, both intellectual and personal, in the topic; qualifications to do the work of the project and to make a contribution to it; what you hope to accomplish by participation, including any individual research and writing projects; and the relation of the study to your teaching.

Please follow the guidelines in the enclosed general "Application Information and Instructions" from NEH, and remember that your completed application **in hard copy** should be postmarked no later than March 1, 2002, and should be addressed to our project manager as follows:

David A. Berry, Maya World Project Manager
Community College Humanities Association
c/o Essex County College
303 University Avenue
Newark, NJ 07102-1798

email: dberry@earthlink.net
tel: 973-877-3577

We wish you all the best and look forward to hearing from you. If you have additional questions about the structure or content of our Institute, please contact David Berry, above, or one of us at either of the addresses below.

Sincerely,

<p>Dr. George L. Scheper Maya World Project Director Professor of Humanities CCBC—Essex Baltimore County, MD 21237</p> <p>email: shepbklyn@aol.com tel: 410-780-6539</p>	<p>Dr. Laraine Fletcher Maya World Project Director Anthropology Adelphi University Garden City, LI, NY 11530-4299</p> <p>email: fletcher@adelphi.edu or larainefletcher@aol.com</p> <p>tel: 516-877-4114</p>
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**NEH SUMMER SEMINARS & INSTITUTES FOR
COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY TEACHERS**

APPLICATION INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

for the Summer Institute



“The Maya World: Cultural Traditions in Continuity and Change”

Summer Seminars and Institutes for College and University Teachers are offered by the National Endowment for the Humanities to provide college and university faculty members and independent scholars with an opportunity to enrich and revitalize their understanding of significant humanities ideas, texts, and topics. These study opportunities are especially designed for this program and are not intended to duplicate courses normally offered by graduate programs, nor will graduate credit be given for them. Prior to completing an application, please review the enclosed letter from the project directors and consider carefully what is expected in terms of residence and attendance, reading and writing requirements, and general participation in the work of the project.

Institutes provide intensive collaborative study of texts, topics, and ideas central to undergraduate teaching in the humanities under the guidance of faculties distinguished in their fields of scholarship. Institutes aim to prepare participants to return to their classrooms with a deeper knowledge of current scholarship in key fields of the humanities. [Please note: the use of the words “seminar” or “institute” in this document is precise and is intended to convey differences between the two project types.]

ELIGIBILITY

These projects are designed primarily for teachers of American undergraduate students. Qualified independent scholars and those employed by museums, libraries, historical societies, and other organizations may be eligible to compete provided they can effectively advance the teaching and research goals of the seminar or institute. Applicants must be United States citizens, residents of U.S. jurisdictions, or foreign nationals who have been residing in the United States or its territories for at least the three years immediately preceding the application deadline.

Applicants must complete the NEH application cover sheet (enclosed) and provide all the information requested below to be considered eligible. Applicants must have completed professional training by the application deadline. An applicant need not have an advanced degree in order to qualify.

Candidates for degrees are generally not eligible. Individuals may not apply to study with a director of a seminar or institute who is a current colleague or a family member. Individuals may not apply to seminars directed by scholars with whom they have previously studied. An individual may apply to no more than two NEH seminars or institutes in any one year.

SELECTION CRITERIA

A selection committee reads and evaluates all properly completed applications in order to select the most promising applicants and to identify a small number of alternates. (Institute selection committees consist of three to five members, usually drawn from the institute faculty and staff members.) Selection committees are charged to give first consideration to applicants who have not participated in an NEH-supported seminar or institute in the last three years.

The most important consideration in the selection of participants is the likelihood that an applicant will benefit professionally. This is determined by committee members from the conjunction of several factors, each of which should be addressed in the application essay. These factors include:

1. quality and commitment as a teacher, scholar, and interpreter of the humanities;
2. intellectual interests, both generally and as they relate to the work of the seminar or institute;
3. special perspectives, skills, or experiences that would contribute to the seminar or institute;
4. commitment to participate fully in the formal and informal collegial life of the seminar or institute;
5. the likelihood that the experience will enhance the applicant's teaching and scholarship

When choices must be made among equally qualified candidates, several additional factors are considered: Preference is given to applicants who have not previously participated in an NEH seminar or institute, or who would significantly contribute to the diversity of the seminar or institute.

Institute selection committees are advised that only under the most compelling and exceptional circumstances may an individual participate in an institute with a director or a lead faculty member who has previously guided that individual's research or in whose previous institute or seminar he or she has participated.

STIPEND, TENURE, AND CONDITIONS OF AWARD

Stipends are intended to cover travel expenses to and from the project location, books and other research expenses, and living expenses for the duration of the period spent in residence. Adjustments in cases where the stipend is insufficient to cover all expenses are not possible.

Because "The Maya World" Institute is being held on-site in Guatemala and Mexico, with a series of field-study visits, the grant monies usually allocated as stipends have been pooled to cover participant travel and lodging expenses, all of which will be covered directly by the Institute. Participants will receive roundtrip transportation to and from the Institute, all lodging, local travel and site-visit costs for scheduled activities during the Institute, a

set of institute Readers, and a few pre-arranged meals. Please see the accompanying letter from the project directors for further explanation of costs and expenses.

Seminar and institute participants are required to attend all meetings and to engage fully in the work of the project. During the project's tenure, they may not undertake teaching assignments or any other professional activities unrelated to their participation in the project. Participants who, for any reason, do not complete the full tenure of the project must refund a pro-rata portion of the stipend.

At the end of the project's residential period, participants will be asked to submit evaluations in which they review their work during the summer and assess its value to their personal and professional development. Special forms for this report will be distributed by each project director. Completed forms should be returned directly to the Endowment. They will become part of the project's grant file and may become part of an application to repeat the seminar or institute.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

This application packet should accompany a letter from the project directors that contains detailed information about the topic under study; project requirements and expectations of the participants; the academic and institutional setting; and specific provisions for lodging, subsistence, and extracurricular activities. If you do not have such a letter, please request one from the directors of the project in which you are interested before you attempt to compete and submit an application.

All application materials for the "Maya World" Institute should be sent to the project manager, as explained in the accompanying letter from the project directors. Sending application materials and reference letters to the Endowment will result in delay.

CHECKLIST OF APPLICATION MATERIALS

The following items constitute a completed application to a summer seminar or institute:

- three copies of the completed application cover sheet,
- three copies of a detailed résumé,
- three copies of an application essay as outlined below, and
- two letters of recommendation (to be sent separately).

The Application Essay

The application essay should be no more than four double-spaced pages. This essay should include any relevant personal and academic information. It should address reasons for applying; the applicant's interest, both academic and personal, in the subject to be studied; qualifications and experiences that equip the applicant to do the work of the seminar or institute and to make a contribution to a learning community; a statement of what the applicant wants to accomplish by participating; and the relation of the project to the applicant's

professional responsibilities. Applicants to institutes may need to elaborate on the relationship between institute activities and their responsibilities for teaching and curricular development.

REFERENCE LETTERS

The two referees should be chosen carefully. They should be familiar with the applicant's professional accomplishments or promise, interests, and ability to contribute to and benefit from participation in the seminar or institute. They should specifically address these issues in their recommendations. Letters from colleagues who know the applicant's teaching and from those outside the applicant's institution who know her or his scholarship are often more useful than letters from college or university administrators. Referees should be provided with copies of the director's description of the seminar or institute and the applicant's essay. If an applicant has previously participated in an NEH summer seminar or institute, a recommendation from the director or lead scholar of that program would be useful. It is the applicant's responsibility to ask the referees to send their letters directly to the project director (in the case of the "Maya World" Institute, to the project manager, as below) and to make certain that their letters are mailed to arrive not more than one week after the March 1 deadline.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS AND NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

Completed applications for the "Maya World" Institute should be submitted to the project manager to the address listed below, and should be postmarked no later than March 1, 2002:

David A. Berry, Maya World Project Manager
Community College Humanities Association
c/o Essex County College
303 University Avenue
Newark, NJ 07102-1798

Successful applicants will be notified of their selection by April 1, 2002, and they will have until April 15 to accept or decline the offer. Applicants who will not be home during the notification period are advised to provide an address and phone number where they can be reached. No information on the status of applications will be available prior to the official notification period.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

Endowment programs do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age. For further information, write to the Equal Opportunity Officer, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506. TDD: 202/606-8282 (this is a special telephone device for the deaf).

National Endowment for the
HUMANITIES

NEH Summer Seminars and Institutes
Participant Application Cover Sheet

If this Application Cover Sheet is reproduced by computer, the *information must appear with the headings listed in the order printed here*. Do not exceed the space allotted on this page. Incomplete or illegible applications may be deemed ineligible.

Name:

Home Address:

Work Address:

(department,
institution,
street address,
city/state/ZIP)

e-mail:

Institution Type: Public_____ Private_____

2-year College_____ 4-year College_____ University_____

Courses taught this year--indicate U (Undergraduate) or G (Graduate):

Number of students taught this year:

Degrees your department grants:

How many years have you been teaching?

Citizenship (if not U.S., specify country, month and year U.S. residence began):

Telephones, home and work (include at least one where a message can be left and indicate which):

Name of Director and Title of Seminar or Institute to which you are applying:

List Dates and Titles of NEH Seminars and Institutes you have participated in:

How did you learn about this seminar or institute?

e-mail___ NEH flyer (posted___ or sent to you___) NEH website___ other (specify)___

(printed name)

(signature)

(date)