

Indigenousheritage

Passed to Present



Newsletter

October 2011

Vol. 1, Issue 2

InHerit is awarded *Catalyzing New International Collaborations* Grant by National Science Foundation

This September we were honored to be granted over \$40,000 by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to launch an InHerit archaeology project in the Yucatán Peninsula. This planning-visit grant will provide us with the opportunity to visit Mexico in summer 2012 to develop a project entitled: Investigating the Interaction of Macro-Political Change on Local Landscape and Residence through Collaborative Archaeological Research. The project will be highly collaborative with local and descendent communities, as well as indigenous researchers. Co-PI Dr. Adolfo Ivan Batún Alpuche, is Maya and a professor at the University of the West in Valladolid, Mexico. Students at the University of the West, an institution with a largely indigenous population, will participate in the project and contribute to its objectives of cross-cultural exchange.

The research resulting from the 2012 planning visit will focus on changes in self-representation and self-definition over time by looking at daily experiences reflected in household artifacts. To do this, we will investigate isolated domestic structures (e.g., homes, kitchen structures) from archaeological time periods between the Middle Formative (600 BCE) and the Early Republic (1890 CE). Our goal is to examine how the political changes taking place in the Maya world over time impact the daily activities of non-elite Maya households and individuals, especially women.

This archaeological project will also give InHerit the opportunity to put in to practice our ideals of community collaboration and bidirectional knowledge exchange. We plan to form sustainable partnerships with local non-governmental organizations promoting Maya culture and language and to work directly with schools and community-based institutions (such as the municipal government) to create venues for the exchange of western and indigenous knowledge about Maya heritage.



I AM. supports Maya heritage in Guatemala

InHerit is joining with a new social enterprise, I AM., to support artisans and weaving traditions in the Guatemalan Highlands. I AM. empowers artisans, alleviates poverty and participates in a unified community, with 'the world's most socially conscious' yoga mat bags and straps. Inspired by yogic principles I AM. aims to channel the power of choice into solving social problems, with a range of 'soul wares' designed to create sustainable solutions around the world. Read more about the inspiring I AM. journey or join the community at :

www.theIAMidea.com

www.facebook.com/theiamidea

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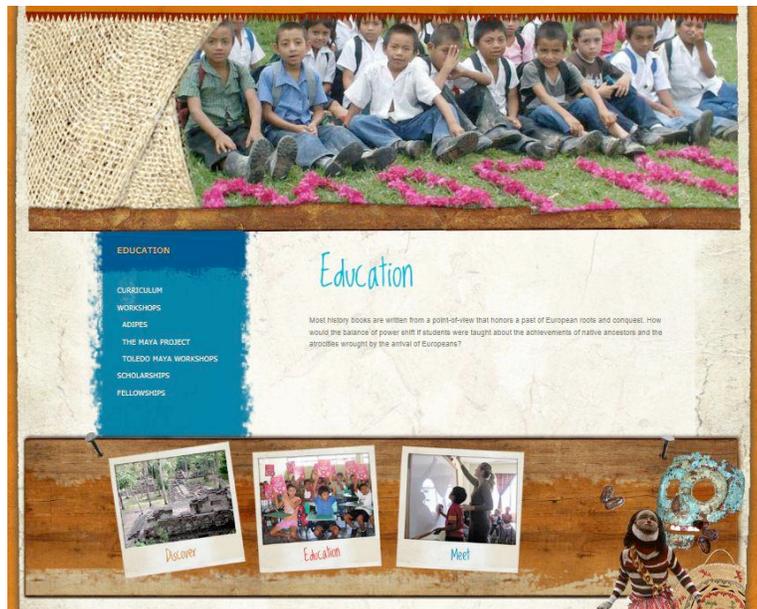
InHerit launches brand new website: www.in-herit.org

InHerit co-director speaks at a Maya seminar at the Smithsonian

InHerit's co-director, Dr. Patricia A. McNaney was warmly received at the Smithsonian's Ripley Center on October 1, 2011. Her talk, *The Vibrancy of Economy in Classic Maya Times*, discussed how marketplaces, taxes and debt, crafting, and agriculture, were integral parts of the Pre-Columbian Mayan world. She argued that archaeological discoveries, glyph decipherment, and material analyses all indicate the presence of a thriving non-capitalist economy in southern Mexico and northern Central America prior to the arrival of Spanish Conquistadors in the 16th century.



The Castle at the Smithsonian, Washington, D.C.



After months of anticipation, the brand new InHerit website is finally here! Though parts of the site are still under construction, when it is complete www.in-herit.org will offer an interactive blog for community voices, a bazaar that allows donors to choose exactly where their gifts will go, fun learning materials for children, and helpful links for scholars and travelers.

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BiDirectional Knowledge Exchange a hit in Ucí and Kancabal, Yucatán, Mexico

Last fall, InHerit awarded funding to two archaeological projects through our BiDirectional Knowledge Exchange (BKE) Grant. The objective of this grant is to foment greater collaboration between archaeologists and local and descendent communities as well as to assure that each group learns different knowledge about Maya heritage from the other. The first of these projects took place this summer in Ucí and Kancabal, Yucatán, Mexico under the direction of Dr. Scott R. Hutson of the University of Kentucky.

As the maiden voyage of InHerit's BKE Grant, the Ucí/Kancabal project can only be categorized as an unmitigated success. Enthusiasm for the collaborative and community-based elements of the archaeology project was high not just among community members, but among state government officials and media outfits.

Among the many highlights of the 2011 season? A visit to Chichen Itzá for 107 community members, a final talk about the project conducted in Mayan and written by local fieldworkers, several newspaper articles on the project, and numerous exchanges for project members to learn about local traditions including bee keeping, medicinal plants, and food. Congratulations to Dr. Hutson, his team, and all of the residents of Ucí and Kancabal!



Shamans perform the Cha' Cha'ak ceremony.



Villagers from Ucí and Kancabal visit Chichen Itzá.



Students learn about local bee keeping traditions.

InHerit enriches global diversity from its cultural roots

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