

# Indigenously heritage

Passed to Present



P.O. Box 941 • Chapel Hill, NC • 27514

Newsletter

June 2012

Vol. 2, Issues 1 & 2

## From the Desk of Patricia McAnany, Executive Director

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce Ms. Sarah Rowe, who started on May 1 as Program Director of InHerit and its nonprofit partner, The Alliance for Heritage Conservation. Ms. Rowe brings to the organization graduate training in both archaeology and heritage studies along with an infectious enthusiasm for grassroots community initiatives and participatory research as well as a deep concern for pressing humanitarian issues of heritage conservation. Join me in welcoming Sarah



Rowe as Program Director and please read more about Sarah (in her own words). Also, I invite you to check out our continually refreshed website at **www.in-herit.org** and to

visit the donations bazaar! And please let us know (at [connect@in-herit.org](mailto:connect@in-herit.org)) if there is something that you would like to see featured on the InHerit website.

## Welcome, from Sarah Rowe, InHerit's New Program Director

This newsletter marks my official introduction as the new Program Director of InHerit. I come to InHerit from the University of Illinois, where I am completing a PhD in Anthropology and Heritage Studies.



In my work on the coast of Ecuador I work with local communities to investigate the prehispanic past and learn together about their cultural heritage. At the root of what I do is a concern to protect the past while laying the foundation for a better future for the communities I work with.

This is an exciting time to join InHerit. As you will see from this newsletter, we have many ongoing projects with partners in Central America, and more that are just getting started! We're expanding our reach through our Facebook page, an updated website, and a new blog, all to increase dialogue on cultural heritage between the public, scholars, and local communities. I encourage you to visit, post, and participate in the conversation on these pages.

## InHerit Sponsors Girls to Attend Youth Heritage Forum in Spain



InHerit, along with our non-profit partner The Alliance for Heritage Conservation, is very proud to sponsor **Dilcia Rosa López** and **Norma López García**, two Ch'ort'i girls from Honduras, who will attend the 4th Annual World Heritage Youth Forum in Seville, Spain this June. The girls will be accompanied by Ms. Carin Steen who is the Director of Proyecto Maya (one of our most enduring partners) in Copán Ruinas. Currently, Carin is facilitating passport acquisition and other paperwork necessary

for international travel for the two girls and also tutoring them on the fine points of Power Point presentation. While in Seville, Dilcia and Norma will present to an international youth audience a presentation about the cultural heritage of Copán.

This UNESCO-sponsored event represents a wonderful opportunity for the girls to develop leadership skills that will empower them to actively participate in the conservation of heritage on local, national, and global scales.

You can follow Carin Steen at our new InHerit blog, <http://inheritp2p.wordpress.com/>, as she chronicles what is sure to be an eventful trip to Spain!



*Dilcia and Norma continuing their education at Copán*

We are still accepting donations in support of their journey. You can donate online through the Donations Bazaar on our website, or by sending a check to the address listed on pg. 6.

### Special Acknowledgement of an InHerit Partner - The Alliance for Heritage Conservation

The Alliance for Heritage Conservation is InHerit's non-profit partner. As a registered 501(c)(3) organization, the Alliance is responsible for much of the fundraising that supports InHerit's programs. The Alliance promotes grassroots community participation that enhances the vitality and relevance of cultural heritage, particularly heritage materialized in places, objects, and structures. Both Alliance and InHerit follow a collaborative model of public education, technological empowerment, support for community-generated conservation initiatives, and the creation of space for indigenous communities and organizations to dialogue with government officials, tourists, archaeologists, and other stakeholders.



### Claire Novotny (InHerit affiliate) receives NSF Grant



Ms. Claire Novotny

Claire Novotny, doctoral student at UNC-Chapel Hill and InHerit team member, has been awarded a Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant by the National Science Foundation. Her project, titled *A Community Archaeology of Ancient Maya Household Identity in the Toledo District of Southern Belize*, focuses on the previously undocumented archaeology of households that were located between the Late Classic Maya centers of power at Uxbenká and Pusilhá. She is working closely with the community of Aguacate and her research features an indigenous field school taught at the alternative high school of Tumul K'in.



Young boy coloring, taking inspiration from the past

### UNC-Chapel Hill to Sponsor One-of-a-Kind 2012 Event

InHerit's Executive Director, Dr. Patricia McAnany, is collaborating with other units on the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill campus, including the Wilson Library and the Institute for the Study of the Americas, to plan a one-of-a-kind Maya 2012 event slated for October 25 and 26. This event will feature Maya poets, indigenous leaders, public talks and round-table discussions about Maya culture and, of course, the Maya Long-count calendar. The event will be book-ended by the premier of two exhibits from the rare-book and photo collections of Dr. George Stuart, which are now permanently housed in the Wilson Library. Stay tuned for more information about this event!

This March, the Aguacate Community Archaeology Project hosted a booth at Tumul K'in's annual cultural heritage celebration, Maya Day, displaying artifacts, maps of local archaeological sites, and providing a coloring activity for children.

## Lush Cosmetics Visits Xolsacmaljá



*The new mural at Xolsacmaljá*

Ms. Pearl Gottschalk, Charitable Givings Ambassador for Lush Cosmetics, visited Xolsacmaljá (a small K'iche' community in the Totonicapan region of highland Guatemala) to get a first-hand look at the ongoing community mapping activities organized by InHerit's partner, the Riecken Foundation. The mapping program, in part, is funded by a grant awarded to InHerit by Lush Cosmetics. While there Pearl participated in GPS mapping activities with local youth at San Juan la Laguna. Ms. Gottschalk, along with her husband, also helped to paint a mural for the library at Xolsacmalajá.



*Pearl Gottschalk (center) mapping at San Juan la Laguna*

## Knowledge Exchange Grants Support Community Collaboration

In 2011 InHerit awarded Bi-Directional Knowledge Exchange grants to Dr. Scott Hutson and Dr. Brent Woodfill to support their collaborative projects in Mexico and Guatemala. We have recently received applications for our second round of BKE grants and will announce the recipients soon!

Dr. Scott Hutson's project in the communities of Ucí and Kancabal, Mexico featured a visit to Chichén Itzá for community members, short visits with local knowledge specialists in the region throughout the field season, and culminated with large closing ceremonies at each community.



*The crew and local community from Dr. Hutson's project at Ucí*

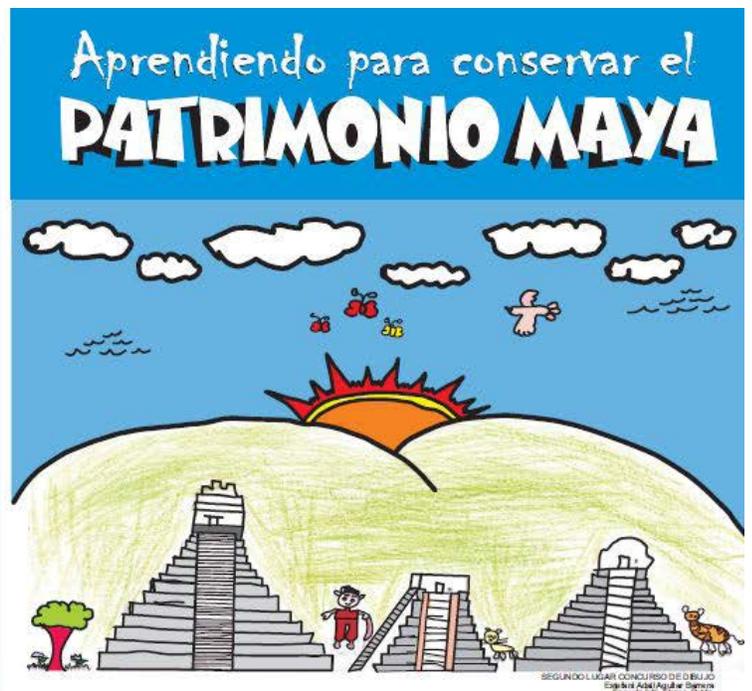
Dr. Brent Woodfill conducted his BKE at Salinas de los Nueve Cerros, in Guatemala. In addition to numerous talks conducted in Spanish and Q'eqchi' and visits to sites and museums, Dr. Woodfill's project also involves several civic engineering initiatives to improve the quality of life for people in Salinas de los Nueve Cerros.

## InHerit facilitates Curriculum Reform in Petén, Guatemala

New textbooks featuring a Maya-focused curriculum have been added to 3rd and 4th grade classrooms in select schools in Guatemala's Petén region. This on-going curriculum reform project is a joint endeavor of InHerit and ProPetén. The textbooks draw upon Maya heritage and archaeology to teach essential components of the national curriculum, including communication and language, mathematics, social and natural sciences, artistic expression, and civics.



Rosalí Rivas García, 8 años  
Escuela Ixú, Flores, Petén  
TERCER GRADO PRIMARIA  
CONCURSO DE DIBUJO



SEGUNDO LUGAR CONCURSO DE DIBUJO  
Eduardo Asma Aguilar, 8 años  
Escuela Ixú, Flores, Petén  
TERCER GRADO PRIMARIA

PUBLICADO POR:



**UN LIBRO para NIÑOS Y NIÑAS**

Con lecturas interesantes sobre la cultura Maya...  
...bonitas historias y muchas cosas que te gustarán

## Next Issue

Dr. McAnany has received support from the National Science Foundation to initiate a new program of collaborative archaeological research in Yucatán, México. With Dr. Ivan Batun-Alpuche of Universidad del Oriente (UNO) as co-Principal Investigator, the project will begin in June when project members will travel to the Yucatán in order to identify promising Late Postclassic to Early Colonial site locations and to lay the groundwork for collaboration with local communities. Keep an eye out for project updates in our next issue.



*Counting to 20 with Maya glyphs*

## Maya Epigraphy Workshops Added in Copán, Honduras

InHerit partner Proyecto Maya has added new workshops on Maya epigraphy to its curriculum in Copán. These workshops, which take place in ten schools and communities in the region, teach children how to read Maya glyphs and numbers up to 200.

## Cristina Coc Delivers Lecture on Maya Cultural Heritage at University of Pennsylvania Maya Weekend

Christina Coc, InHerit partner via the Julian Cho Society of Belize, delivered a lecture titled "Contemporary Maya Communities and the Politics of Cultural Heritage" at the 30th Annual Penn Museum Maya Weekend. Christina was in good company, as this 3-day event featured international scholars and indigenous leaders, and coincided with the opening of Penn Museum's Maya 2012: Lords of Time exhibit, attended by Honduran President Porfirio Lobo.



*Ms. Cristina Coc*

### Please Donate to InHerit!

You can support InHerit by making a donation to the Alliance for Heritage Conservation. The Alliance is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit, and donations are tax-deductible. Please visit our program-tailored donations page at <http://www.in-herit.org/bazaar.html> or send a check to

**The Alliance for Heritage Conservation**  
P.O. Box 941  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514