

*Third Annual
South-Central Conference on
Mesoamerica*



*Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Texas
October 26 and 27, 2012*

**Third Annual
South-Central Conference on Mesoamerica**

**Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Texas**

October 26-27, 2012

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Conference Schedule at a Glance

Friday, October 26 (12.19.19.15.4 13 Kan 7 Sac)

Registration	1:30 pm to 5:00 pm, Canyon Room, Human Sciences Building
Official Welcome	2:00 pm to 2:15 pm, Room 0169, Human Sciences Building
Presentations	2:15 pm to 5:00 pm, Room 0169, Human Sciences Building
Keynote (Looper)	5:00 to 6:00 pm, Room 0169, Human Sciences Building (Name tag or ticket required to attend keynote)
Reception	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Merket Alumni Center (Name tag required to attend reception)

Saturday, October 27 (12.19.19.15.5 1 Chicchan 8 Sac)

Registration	8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Canyon Room, Human Sciences Building
Silent Auction and Book Tables	8:15 am to 4:00 pm, Canyon Room, Human Sciences Building (Silent auction bids close at 4:00 pm)
Official Welcome/ Announcements	8:15 am to 8:30 am, Room 0169, Human Sciences Building
Presentations	8:30 am to 12:00 pm, Room 0169, Human Sciences Building
Lunch	12:00 pm to 1:30 pm
Presentations	1:30 pm to 4:45 pm, Room 0169, Human Sciences Building
Closing Remarks Gary Elbow	4:45 pm to 5:00 pm, Room 0169, Human Sciences Building
Keynote (Aveni)	5:00 to 6:00 pm, Room 0169, Human Sciences Building (Name tag or ticket required to attend keynote)
Reception	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Skyviews Restaurant (Name tag required to attend reception)

Conference Highlights

Keynotes

Friday's keynote speaker, **Dr. Matthew Looper**, is a professor of Art History at California State University, Chico. He is the author of six books on Mesoamerican art history and is well known for his research on the art of the ancient Maya city of Quirigua. In his most recent book, *To Be Like Gods: Dance in Ancient Maya Civilization*, Dr. Looper examines several types of data relevant to ancient Maya dance, including hieroglyphic texts, pictorial images in diverse media, and architecture, using an innovative interdisciplinary approach. Friday's keynote is entitled "Celestial Raiment: The Netted Costume in Maya Art." During the Maya Classic period, monuments and vessels from a variety of sites depict men and women clothed in tunics or skirts composed in a beaded lattice pattern. In this presentation, Dr. Looper will explore the distribution of this garment, which associates it with a number of distinct celestial deities.

Saturday's keynote speaker, **Dr. Anthony Aveni**, is the Russell B. Colgate Professor of Astronomy and Anthropology, serving appointments in both Departments of Physics and Astronomy and Sociology and Anthropology at Colgate University, where he has taught since 1963. Dr. Aveni helped develop the field of archaeoastronomy and now is considered one of the founders of Mesoamerican archaeoastronomy. Dr. Aveni is a lecturer, speaker, and editor/author of over two dozen books on ancient astronomy. His most recent book, *The End of Time: The Maya Mystery of 2012*, explores theories surrounding 2012 doomsday prophecies, explains their origins, and measures them objectively against evidence unearthed by Maya archaeologists, iconographers, and epigraphers. Saturday's keynote is entitled "Maya Apocalypse Soon?" This lecture will explore theories about the widely prophesied end of the world on the December solstice of 2012 by measuring them objectively against the evidence of archaeology, iconography, and epigraphy. Special attention will be given to information from the earth sciences and astronomy about the likelihood of world wide Armageddon. Finally, the prophecies will be placed in the broader cultural and historical context of how other cultures, ancient and modern, thought about the "end of things" and why cataclysmic events enjoy wide spread appeal in contemporary American pop-culture.

Because space is limited, only registered conference attendees or those with a ticket will be able to attend the keynotes.

Receptions

We will have beer, wine, and appetizers at receptions following each keynote address. Only those attendees registered for the conference will be invited to the receptions, so be sure to wear your nametag. That is your ticket in the door!

Silent Auction and T-Shirts

On Saturday, we will have a silent auction in the Canyon Room, and we will be selling conference t-shirts. All the proceeds from the silent auction and the t-shirts will go to the 2013 SCCM scholarship fund, so be sure to bid on your favorite items and pick up a t-shirt or two.

Detailed Conference Schedule

Friday
October 26, 2012

12.19.19.15.4
13 Kan 7 Sac

Sessions are located in Human Sciences Room 169, 13th and Akron, TTU campus.

- 1:30 PM **Registration table open**, Canyon Room
- 2:00 PM **Welcoming Remarks and Announcements**
- 2:15 PM **Sarah Boudreaux**, Texas Tech University
Life on the Edge: An Overview of Settlement and Ceramic Data on the DH2GC Archaeology Project
- 2:30 PM **Matt Harris**, Texas Tech University
Investigation of Kaxil Unic Ruins: Its Place on the Maya Map and Evidence of Ritual Deposits
- 2:45 PM **Debora Trein**, The University of Texas at Austin
Use and Access to a Monumental Structure at the Site of La Milpa, Belize
- 3:00 PM **Robyn Dodge**, The University of Texas at Austin
Hun Tun: Only a Stone's Throw Towards Social Complexity
- 3:15 PM **Vincent Sisneros**, Texas Tech University
An Analysis of Form and Variation of Late Classic Maya Range Buildings at La Milpa, Belize
- 3:30 PM **Coffee Break in Canyon Room/Questions and Discussion in Auditorium**
- 3:45 PM **Fred Valdez**, Professor, The University of Texas at Austin
Three Decades of Research in the Three Rivers Region, NE Peten and NW Belize
- 4:00 PM **Wendy Earle**, Curator, Museum of the Southwest
Casas Grandes and the Interplay between Mesoamerica and the Southwest
- 4:15 PM **Janet Stock**, The University of Texas at San Antonio
Garment Construction and Fabric Design as Depicted in Maya Art; Preliminary Findings
- 4:30 PM **Rex Koontz**, Professor, University of Houston
Stone Yokes and Perishable Protectors: Late Classic Ballgame Costume in Eastern Mesoamerica
- 4:45 PM **Flora Clancy**, Professor Emerita, University of New Mexico
The Imagery of Binding on the Monuments of Tikal
- 5:00 PM **Keynote Address: Matthew Looper**, Professor, California State University, Chico
Celestial Raiment: The Netted Costume in Maya Art
- 6:00 PM **Reception, Merket Alumni Center**
TTU Campus, 17th Street and University Avenue

Saturday
October 27, 2012

12.19.19.15.5
1 Chicchan 8 Sac

Sessions are located in Human Sciences Room 169, 13th and Akron, TTU campus.

- 8:00 AM **Registration table open**, Canyon Room
Coffee and Pastries
- 8:15 AM **Morning Welcome**
- 8:30 AM **Catherine Sword**, The University of Texas at San Antonio
Report of Excavations of Structure E-3 at Group E, Xunantunich
- 8:45 AM **Dolores Urquidi**, Independent Scholar
A Nova from Yesterday; and a New One Today
- 9:00 AM **Stacy Drake**, The University of Texas at Austin
Considering Burials as Units of Materiality
- 9:15 AM **Leah McCurdy**, The University of Texas at San Antonio
Learning from Modern Architectural Conservation in Belize
- 9:30 AM **Grace Lloyd Bascopé**, Maya Research Program
with Josie Lawlor, Lauren Rochelle, and Iona Bruckner
Restoring the Yaxunah Cenote: A Design/Build Case Study
- 9:45 AM **Dawn Crawford**, Southern Methodist University
with Brigitte Kovacevich and Michael Callaghan
It's Not "Im-plaza-ble": Excavating Plazas to Uncover Presclassic-Period Residences at
Holtun, Guatemala
- 10:00 AM **Coffee Break in Canyon Room/Questions and Discussion in Auditorium**
- 10:30 AM **Reinaldo Morales Jr**, Assistant Professor, University of Central Arkansas
with Melisa A. Quesenberry (Art History, UCA)
A Fertile Crescent: Mesoamerican Cave Art from an Antillean Perspective
- 10:45 AM **Erlend Johnson**, Tulane University
Rolling Back the Eastern Maya Frontier: Identity and Interaction in Southwestern Honduras
- 11:00 AM **Haley Holt**, Tulane University
Locating Identity Among the Dead: An Examination of Burial Practices at the Zapotec
Enclaves of El Tesoro and the Oaxaca Barrio
- 11:15 AM **Carla Pezzia**, The University of Texas at San Antonio
Understandings of Alcoholism in the Highlands of Guatemala
- 11:30 AM **Joyce Bennett**, Tulane University
The End of Traje? Traditional Clothing Use, the Paca, and Revitalization Among the Kaqchikel
Women of Highland Guatemala

Saturday
October 27, 2012

12.19.19.15.5
1 Chicchan 8 Sac

- 11:45 AM **Michael Saunders**, Tulane University
Sin Arboles No Hay Lluvia: Ecological Understanding in a Highland Maya Community
- 12:00 PM **Lunch Break**
- 1:30 PM **Jason Whitaker**, The University of Texas at San Antonio
Archaeological Investigations at San Lorenzo, Belize: An Examination of Data from the 2012 Field Season
- 1:45 PM **Brett Houk**, Associate Professor, Texas Tech University
Chan Chich, Belize and the Texas Tech Maya Research Initiative
- 2:00 PM **Whitney Lytle**, The University of Texas at San Antonio
Implications of Recent Excavations at Xunantunich for Residential Unit Ancestor Shines
- 2:15 PM **Rachel Horowitz**, Tulane University
Chert Extraction and Lithic Production at Callar Creek Quarry, Belize
- 2:30 PM **David Chatelain**, Tulane University
with Maxime Lamoureux St-Hilaire
Site Planning at Minor Centers in the Periphery of La Corona, Guatemala.
- 2:45 PM **Jennifer Mathews**, Professor, Trinity University
with John Gust
Life on the Costa Escondida: Sugar and Rum Processing at the Site of Xuxub, Quintana Roo
- 3:00 PM **Coffee Break in Canyon Room/Questions and Discussion in Auditorium**
- 3:15 PM **Logan Wagner**, Independent Scholar
Placemaking in the Preclassic: The Case of the Sunken Court of Teopantecuanitlan
- 3:30 PM **Susan Morehead**, Independent Scholar
Placemaking in the Contact Period: Mesoamerican Symbolism at San Andres Calpan
- 3:45 PM **Mirela Conner**, Prescott College
Walls that Break the Silence
- 4:00 PM **Silent Auction Closes** at 4:00 PM; Pick up your items starting at 4:15 PM
- 4:00 PM **Servando Z. Hinojosa**, Associate Professor, University of Texas - Pan American
The Place of Effigies and Surrogation in Maya Ritual Life
- 4:15 PM **Alejandra García-Quintanilla**, Profesora, Investigadora Titular, Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán
Living in a World of Subjects: Ethical and Political Consequences
- 4:30 PM **Carolyn Tate**, Professor, Texas Tech University
Coming into Being: the Implications of Embryo Images in Formative Mesoamerica
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Saturday
October 27, 2012

12.19.19.15.5
1 Chicchan 8 Sac

- 4:45 PM **Closing Remarks by Texas Tech University Vice-Provost Gary Elbow**
- 5:00 PM **Keynote Address: Anthony Aveni**, Russell B. Colgate Professor of Astronomy and Anthropology, Colgate University.
Maya Apocalypse Soon?
- 6:00 PM **Reception at Skyviews Restaurant**
Top Floor, Bank of America Tower, 19th Street and University Avenue



Start Making Plans Now to Attend the
Fourth Annual South-Central Conference on Mesoamerica
University of Houston
November 1-3, 2013

Abstracts, Arranged Alphabetically by Primary Author

Aveni, Anthony (Russell B. Colgate Professor of Astronomy and Anthropology, Colgate University)
Saturday, 5:00 PM

Keynote Address: Maya Apocalypse Soon?

This lecture will explore theories about the widely prophesied end of the world on the December solstice of 2012 by measuring them objectively against the evidence of archaeology, iconography, and epigraphy. Special attention will be given to information from the earth sciences and astronomy about the likelihood of world wide Armageddon. Finally, the prophesies will be placed in the broader cultural and historical context of how other cultures, ancient and modern, thought about the “end of things” and why cataclysmic events enjoy wide spread appeal in contemporary American pop-culture.

Bascopé, Grace Lloyd (Research Associate, Maya Research Program), Josie Lawlor, Lauren Rochelle, and Iona Bruckner
Saturday, 9:30 AM

Restoring the Yaxunah Cenote: A Design/Build Case Study

This paper investigates the process by which a Maya-speaking community restored the sensitive landscape around its cenote. The degraded area of this ecologically and culturally important karstic pool was rehabilitated through a partnership between the community and a non-profit group. Landscape designers and horticulturalists facilitated a collaborative design-build process guided by village stakeholders. The community considered how the cenote could function: environmentally, part of the ecosystem and aquifer; culturally, the center of town life; and economically, part of the eco-tourism industry. Design-build projects that restore natural capital can bring knowledge, interest and ownership, ultimately strengthening links between nature and culture.

Bennett, Joyce (Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Anthropology, Tulane University)
Saturday, 11:30 AM

The End of Traje? Traditional Clothing Use, the Paca, and Revitalization Among the Kaqchikel Women of Highland Guatemala

Clothing styles and use among the Kaqchikel-speaking women of highland Guatemala have been changing more rapidly than ever before. Several factors are influencing these changes, including increased connections to mass media, more access to used Western clothing that comes in bundles called pacas, and the grass-roots revitalization movement focusing on indigenous culture. This paper will discuss the current clothing practices and ideologies about clothing use as observed during 15 months of participant-observation research and as reported in 160 interviews conducted in the towns of Santa Catarina Palop—and San Juan Comalapa. Analysis of the data will show how the traje of the Kaqchikel Maya is changing in design and use. While it is clear that traje is in danger of dying out, this paper will also discuss elements of revitalization in the region that indicate traje and women’s use of it will not end in the foreseeable future.

Boudreaux, Sarah (M.A. Student, Texas Tech University)
Friday, 2:15 PM

Life on the Edge: An Overview of Settlement and Ceramic Data on the DH2GC Archaeology Project

A vast amount of the Programme for Belize Archaeological Project (PfbAP) permit area in northwestern Belize is unexplored terrain. As a result, the location, number, and size of ancient settlements is unknown, and the relationship between settlements is not well understood. Projects such as the Dos Hombres to Gran Cacao Archaeological Project (DH2GC) are trying to create a detailed picture of the PfbAP area by way of an

interdisciplinary inquiry including: archaeological, ecological, and geoarchaeological survey efforts. DH2GC completed its fourth field season during the summer of 2012. This paper gives a brief overview of the findings during the four field seasons and offers a unique look at hinterland settlement discovered on the survey transect. The analysis offers insight to the ancient Maya site-planning principles and settlement patterning with respect to the environment.

Chatelain, David (Ph.D. Student Anthropology, Tulane University), and Maxime Lamoureux St-Hilaire
Saturday, 2:30 PM

Site Planning at Minor Centers in the Periphery of La Corona, Guatemala.

The ancient Maya center of La Corona was a major polity in the northwestern Petén during the Classic Period. The larger polity encompassed a handful of minor centers, two of which, La Cariba and El Jobillo, were surveyed during the past two field seasons. These two sites exhibit markedly different layouts. La Cariba is quite nucleated and appears to have been carefully planned. On the other hand, El Jobillo is segmented in several groups and seems to have grown in a decentralized way. Using settlement patterns, preliminary archaeological and architectural data, and elements of geography, we discuss differential site planning strategies from a regional perspective, which may reflect on different developmental histories. This discussion leads to the broader question of the socio-political organization of the La Corona polity.

Clancy, Flora (Prof. Emerita, University of New Mexico)
Friday, 4:45 PM

The Imagery of Binding on the Monuments of Tikal

The contexts, texts, and poses characterizing the bound figures depicted on the monuments of Tikal are outlined. Iconographic analysis of the "belly-down" pose, unique to Tikal during the Early Classic period, provides insight into the metaphorical and allegorical functions carried by these images of binding.

Conner, Mirela (M.A. Student in Cultural Anthropology/Regional Studies, Prescott College)
Saturday, 3:45 PM

Walls that Break the Silence

Visual histories often play a fundamental role in generating a sense of community out of a shared and continually re-narrated past. In this presentation, I will address visual art in the form of public murals in San Juan Comalapa and San Juan la Laguna in highland Guatemala. As somewhat a novelty in artistic expression, murals depict stories of Maya historical upheavals, stories of their respective communities, ethnic identity, and cosmology, serving as a testament to Maya resistance. Through these murals Mayas and Maya artist are reclaiming their long-lost voices and communicating strong messages that are travelling way beyond Guatemalan borders.

Crawford, Dawn (Ph.D. student in Anthropology, Southern Methodist University), Brigitte Kovacevich, and Michael Callaghan
Saturday, 9:45 AM

It's Not "Im-plaza-ble": Excavating Plazas to Uncover Preclassic-Period Residences at Holtun, Guatemala

The archaeological site of Holtun is located in the central lakes region of the department of the Peten, Guatemala situated approximately 12 km to the south of the Classic-period Maya site of Yaxha. Holtun is considered a medium-sized civic-ceremonial center and comprises part of a group of epicenters located to the south of Lake Yaxha, all of which contain major architecture dating to the Preclassic period (600 BC–AD 250). In an effort to uncover Preclassic-period residences we excavated test units into major plaza floors at



the site with a high degree of success. The Preclassic occupation at the site turns out to be larger than previously believed. Activities associated with these residences include feasting, shell production, and domestic ritual, among others. While analysis and excavations are still ongoing, preliminary results and future directions for research will be presented.

Dodge, Robyn (Ph.D. Student, The University of Texas at Austin)

Friday, 3:00 PM

Hun Tun: Only a Stone's Throw Towards Social Complexity

Maya Household archaeology provides a platform for inquiry into every social actor of Maya civilization. Additionally, commoners constitute the bulk of Maya civilization. The “commoner” Maya site, Hun Tun is located in northwestern Belize on the Programme for Belize Property. Research at Hun Tun focuses on a household oriented study examining how households contribute to the “broader Maya social universe.” This paper discusses information pertaining to Maya hinterland complexity at the household level. By examining data sets pertaining to features and associated artifact assemblages, arguments can be made for social complexity operating at commoner settlements such as Hun Tun. Settlement patterns, architecture, a chultun, and limestone megaliths are among the features discussed. Artifact assemblages such as lithics, ceramics, obsidian, seashell and greenstone are discussed in context.

Drake, Stacy (Ph.D. Student, The University of Texas at Austin)

Saturday, 9:00 AM

Considering Burials as Units of Materiality

The traditional analysis of mortuary data examines the material goods found with the human remains of a burial and considers the purpose or function that such goods served for the interred individual. Performing this method of “material” analysis can yield useful conclusions regarding the deceased individual and the corresponding artifacts. However, applying this same “material” interpretation to the burial unit as a whole (including osteological remains, artifacts, and architectural context) might prove even more useful by considering possible intentions behind the practice of human burials, and the ways in which such burials might be utilized by living members of the community to manipulate social relations. Focusing on specific excavations from the ancient Maya of Northwestern Belize, this presentation argues that mortuary events should be considered as singular entities from a material perspective in order to provide a more thorough analysis of mortuary practices involving both the deceased and the living.

Earle, Wendy (Curator of Collections and Exhibitions, Museum of the Southwest)

Friday, 4:00 PM

Casas Grandes and the Interplay between Mesoamerica and the Southwest

This presentation will examine Casas Grandes culture, its iconography, and its status as a bridge between the Mesoamerican and Southwest Puebloan societies. This part of northern Mexico was an important area that moved exotic goods—chiefly copper bells, macaws and turquoise—between the two regions. Yet this culture is often marginalized and untouched by both Mesoamerican and Puebloan scholars. Examining the art and architecture of the Casas Grandes area allows us to recognize how Mesoamerican and Puebloan cultures exchanged materials and ideas. However, Casas Grandes was not simply a passive recipient of the two cultural zones. This presentation will illustrate that Casas Grandes was a regional innovator whose elite population forged a new identity and created a visual culture to illustrate their power and belief systems. Studies of Casas Grandes iconography are still rare, but can help scholars understand the significance of this region.



García-Quintanilla, Alejandra (Ph.D., Profesora Investigadora Titular/History, Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán)

Saturday, 4:15 PM

Living in a World of Subjects: Ethical and Political Consequences

Drawing mostly from the Yucatec Maya contemporary oral tradition and from ancient Maya sources (i.e., the Popol Wuj, ceramics from the Classic Period) I will argue that the Maya people live in a world of subjects, of persons where only a minority are human. It is a world where trees feel pain, animals give warnings (tomoxchi') and, as Humberto Ak'abal has said, "It is not that stones are mute: they are only keeping silent." Building on the Maya Humanities, I will also present some thoughts on the basic ethical and political consequences for the Maya.

Harris, Matthew (M.A. Student, Texas Tech University)

Friday, 2:30 PM

Investigation of Kaxil Uinic Ruins: Its Place on the Maya Map and Evidence of Ritual Deposits

This summer marked the first field season of excavation at the ancient Maya ruins of Kaxil Uinic in northwestern Belize. The goal of the investigation was to gain a better understanding of the site and its relationships to the historic Maya village of the same name, a nearby aguada, and the larger site of Chan Chich. The original map of the site was modified, and two previously unidentified structures were added to it. The stela and altar and several structures at the site were targeted for excavation to better understand the chronology of the site. This presentation discusses what was found during excavation at the site and provides possible explanations for the nature of certain concentrations of artifacts found.

Hinojosa, Servando Z. (Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Texas - Pan American)

Saturday, 4:00 PM

The Place of Effigies and Surrogation in Maya Ritual Life

Kaqchikel Mayas sometimes make ritual effigies to treat individuals suffering from soul-loss. They fashion these effigies by wrapping the sufferer's used clothing around a wooden armature. But to transform this bundle into a viable ritual surrogate, the ritualist must subject it to some specialized handling that includes striking and splashing with water. This treatment is intended to kindle normative body states in the bundle, states that must be stimulated in the sufferer's own body for it to spiritually reintegrate. Taking this and other Maya ritual substitution practices into account, this paper examines how Kaqchikel Mayas deploy ritual surrogation processes that hinge on both a close understanding of the body and knowledge of the sacred landscape. By exploring different cases and applications of ritual surrogation, I enlarge the conversation about Maya material culture and demonstrate that surrogation is a recurrent, pliable feature of Maya ritual.

Holt, Haley (Ph.D. Student, Tulane University)

Saturday, 11:00 AM

Locating Identity Among the Dead: An Examination of Burial Practices at the Zapotec Enclaves of El Tesoro and the Oaxaca Barrio

Ethnic identities and cultural affiliations are often displayed in highly charged ritual spaces, such as individual burials. Aspects of these rituals may be carried with immigrant groups to far-flung locales and replicated there to varying degrees. This paper will investigate the ways in which burial practices in two Zapotec enclaves, El Tesoro in southern Hidalgo and the Oaxaca Barrio of Teotihuacan, may have worked to reaffirm and maintain ethnic and cultural identities for groups living among foreigners. By comparing burial data from these enclaves with similar data from sites in the Valley of Oaxaca, it may be possible to understand elements of mortuary behavior that were salient in the construction of a Zapotec identity outside of the homeland.



Horowitz, Rachel (Ph.D. Student, Tulane University)

Saturday, 2:15 PM

Chert Extraction and Lithic Production at Callar Creek Quarry, Belize

This paper will discuss recent excavations at Callar Creek Quarry, a chert quarry in the Mopan Valley of western Belize, focusing on the processes of chert extraction and the sequence of production of lithic materials at the quarry area. Evidence from Callar Creek Quarry suggests the quarry was utilized from the Preclassic through Historic times, with the most intensive utilization in the Late to Terminal Classic. This paper will utilize an organization of technology approach to examine raw material acquisition and lithic production. Discussions of chert extraction and production will shed light on the importance of chert resources in the Mopan Valley and the role of chert production and distribution in the regional economy. Investigations at Callar Creek Quarry demonstrate the importance of chert as a raw material and contribute to the relatively understudied area of quarry extraction and production.

Houk, Brett (Associate Professor, Texas Tech University)

Saturday, 1:45 PM

Chan Chich, Belize and the Texas Tech Maya Research Initiative

In 2012, I revived the Chan Chich Archaeological Project (CCAP) after an 11-year hiatus. Chan Chich is a medium-sized Maya ruin in northwestern Belize, very near the Guatemalan border. The ruins sit at the southern edge of the 135,000-acre Gallon Jug Ranch, a mostly forested and largely unexplored property. The 2012 season of the CCAP had two research agendas: extensive excavations in the Upper Plaza at Chan Chich and preliminary assessment of the prehistoric and historic remains at the nearby site of Kaxil Uinic. In this paper, I contextualize the archaeology at Chan Chich and examine the tremendous potential the area has for research and student involvement.

Johnson, Erlend (PhD student, Tulane University)

Saturday, 10:45 AM

Rolling Back the Eastern Maya Frontier: Identity and Interaction in Southwestern Honduras

The Cucuyagua and Sensenti valleys of southwestern Honduras open 20km south of Copan and run to the El Salvadoran border. J Eric Thompson (1971), John Longyear (1948) and Antonio Herranz (1992) all define the area as on the eastern border of the Ch'orti and Classic Maya area. This paper re-examines previous work and presents new archaeological and ethnohistoric data questioning these conclusions. These areas probably did not have a Maya population during the Postclassic, as the names of contact period towns and toponyms are Lenca rather than Ch'orti. Both valleys contain evidence of both influence and interaction with Copan during the Classic period. During that time, it seems unlikely that the Sensenti valley contained a Maya population as it lacks many hallmarks of elite Maya culture. Furthermore sites there lack both the centralization and monumentality typical of Maya sites. Data from Cucuyagua, including the site of La Union are ambiguous.

Koontz, Rex (Professor, School of Art, University of Houston)

Friday, 4:30 PM

Stone Yokes and Perishable Protectors: Late Classic Ballgame Costume in Eastern Mesoamerica

This paper examines the yoke and chest protector in the iconography of the ballgame and its attendant ceremonies in Late Classic Maya and Classic Veracruz cultures. I argue that these objects have specific historical trajectories in each of the areas. We will explore differences in yoke form, material, and context and how these differences may describe more than mere ballgame uniform preferences. I propose, following



other scholars, that Late Classic Maya elites used the stone yoke and associated accoutrements to mark a potent foreignness. Further, and what is new here, is the idea that the Maya may have been marking an important group of secondary tier nobility when they deployed the nominally foreign stone yoke form in their art and in actual performance.

Looper, Matthew (Professor, Art History, California State University, Chico)

Friday, 5:00 PM

Celestial Raiment: The Netted Costume in Maya Art

During the Maya Classic period, monuments and vessels from a variety of sites depict men and women clothed in tunics or skirts composed in a beaded lattice pattern. In this presentation, Dr. Looper will explore the distribution of this garment, which associates it with a number of distinct celestial deities.

Lytle, Whitney (Ph.D. Student, The University of Texas at San Antonio)

Saturday, 2:00 PM

Implications of Recent Excavations at Xunantunich for Residential Unit Ancestor Shines

Residential ancestor shrines have been documented throughout the Maya Lowlands and clearly played an important role in Maya place making. This paper examines patterns of ancestor shrine use in residential areas of both major and hinterland sites beginning in the Preclassic. Results of excavations in the 2012 field season at Group D by the Mopan Valley Preclassic Project shed new light on these shrines. As determined by excavations in the 1990's by the Xunantunich Archaeological Project, Group D was the residential unit of a royal family related to the ruler of the site. By further analyzing the ancestor shrine and the plaza area directly in front of the pyramidal structure, I hope to expand our understanding on the use of this significant pan-Maya residential site component. Additionally, this work highlights the importance of plaza excavations in order to truly understand the formal arrangement of architecture associated with residential ancestor shrines.

Mathews, Jennifer (Professor of Anthropology, Trinity University), and John Gust

Saturday, 2:45 PM

Life on the Costa Escondida: Sugar and Rum Processing at the Site of Xuxub, Quintana Roo

Since 2009, members of the Proyecto Costa Escondida/Yalahau Project have been documenting the site of Xuxub in northern Quintana Roo, Mexico. The site is a historic sugar and rum processing area dating to the 1870s in the coastal mangrove swamps. Using archival and ethnographic data, Paul Sullivan's book *Xuxub Must Die: The Lost Histories of a Murder on the Yucatan* documents the events surrounding an infamous murder that took place there in October of 1875. We are using archaeological methods to supplement this rich history through material evidence. During the summers of 2011 and 2012, we mapped the architectural remains of Xuxub, and collected and analyzed historic artifacts. This paper will document our latest findings and attempt to provide a snapshot of what daily life was like in this remote nineteenth century site.

McCurdy, Leah (Ph.D. Student in Anthropology/Archaeology, The University of Texas at San Antonio)

Saturday, 9:15 AM

Learning from Modern Architectural Conservation in Belize

Architectural conservation entails the deconstruction and rebuilding of ancient structures. Through these processes, architectural conservation practitioners come to be intimately knowledgeable about the structural qualities and interior fabrics of buildings while experiencing first-hand the procedures and challenges involved in the task of erecting monumental masonry buildings. Due to these facts, modern architectural conservation can provide insight for archaeologists interested in understanding ancient structures and



architectural processes. With a focus on Mesoamerican architecture, I will discuss how archaeologists can learn from modern architectural conservation practitioners and the work they carry out on ancient buildings. Additionally, I will present my plans to conduct ethnoarchaeological research with the Belize Institute of Archaeology conservation specialists as a component of my dissertation research.

Morales Jr, Reinaldo (Assistant Professor, Art History, University of Central Arkansas), and Melisa A. Quesenberry (Art History, UCA)

Saturday, 10:30 AM

A Fertile Crescent: Mesoamerican Cave Art from an Antillean Perspective

Pecolumbian cave art provides evidence of a significant cognitive and aesthetic connection between the Antilles and mainland Mesoamerica, a connection rarely acknowledged in Caribbean or Mesoamerican studies. This paper explores this world of art, politics and identity in precolumbian cave ritual through the associated modified speleothem sculpture. While there is no precedent for this cave art in South America—the presumed source for Antillean arts and ideology—the Yucatán peninsula and southern Mayan highlands boast dozens of sites with remarkably similar art. From Cuba to Barbados we find the same class and context of rock art as at mainland sites from Mexico to Nicaragua. Many mainland sites provide evidence of ancient and modern cave rituals. Similar roles are reported for caves and cave art in the Caribbean. This nexus of environment, imagery and ritual unites the Antillean archipelago with mainland Mesoamerica in a "fertile crescent" of precolumbian cave art.

Morehead, Susan (Independent Researcher)

Saturday, 3:30 PM

Placemaking in the Contact Period: Mesoamerican Symbolism at San Andres Calpan

The survival of Mesoamerican iconography in the architecture at the colonial period is evident at many sixteenth century sites; among the most fascinating is the monastic complex at San Andres Calpan. From site design that includes a sunken court, to orientation in the landscape, to the spatial and didactic use of quincunxial forms that echo and reassert Mesoamerica's most basic organization of the universe, Calpan is rich with symbols of its three-thousand year-old culture. Whether the Spanish friars incorporated this profusion of indigenous religious symbols into the Christian chapels, monasteries, and ritual spaces of New Spain intentionally or not, their inclusion was crucial to the colonization and conversion process. New sacred space was created and, as a result, new open air rituals followed familiar rhythms, and didactic ornament on facades was informed by ancient symbols, designed by a handful of Spaniards and a body of native artisans working together.

Pezzia, Carla (Ph.D. Candidate, The University of Texas at San Antonio)

Saturday, 11:15 AM

Understandings of Alcoholism in the Highlands of Guatemala

The Evangelical church is often considered a primary treatment resource for alcoholism in the Highlands of Guatemala. Implicit in this treatment modality is the belief that alcoholism is a spiritual weakness. However, in the town of Panajachel, this belief does not match current community understandings of alcoholism. In this paper, I discuss current beliefs that strongly favor a psychosocial understanding of alcoholism. While the spiritual support of the church remains beneficial, it is not sufficient to address the psychosocial underpinnings believed to cause alcoholism. As such, more culturally appropriate treatment modalities matching local understandings of alcoholism need to be considered. I base my discussion on 96 structured interviews conducted with Panajachelenses. These data are then contextualized through 12 months of ethnographic fieldwork I conducted in Panajachel. I end my discussion with examples of successful recovery experiences in the region drawn from 30 semi-structured interviews with local recovering alcoholics.



Saunders, Michael (Ph.D. Student, Tulane University)

Saturday, 11:45 AM

Sin Arboles No Hay Lluvia: Ecological Understanding in a Highland Maya Community

Prior field seasons researching sacred site location and utilization among the Kaqchikel Maya communities on the northern rim of Lake Atitlan, Guatemala, indicated that some sites (and their use) appear uniquely adapted to local weather patterns and ecological processes. Several appear to mirror climatic events crucial to local agriculture and subsistence, while others function to protect critical and ecologically sensitive microenvironments. Archaeological evidence shows inhabitation of the area dating from the Preclassic; it is apparent long-term familiarity with the local environment has allowed for the accumulation of critical knowledge of the area's ecological processes. This paper will review and present some of the ethnographic data recently collected that documents such local insight, as well as highlight the need for a more interdisciplinary research perspective when studying the rapidly vanishing traditional ecological knowledge still extant in many indigenous communities.

Sisneros, Vincent (M.A. Student, Texas Tech University)

Friday, 3:15 PM

An Analysis of Form and Variation of Late Classic Maya Range Buildings at La Milpa, Belize

Research conducted at the ancient Maya city of La Milpa, Belize between 2007-2011 by the La Milpa Core Project (LMCP) investigated six range buildings in and around Plaza B, the second largest plaza at the site. Information from these buildings provides new data on the form and variation of architecture at La Milpa. This paper focuses on the Late Classic (A.D. 600–800) construction investigated by LMCP and discusses La Milpa's architecture in comparison to other Late Classic architecture in the region. Range buildings are commonly referred to as palaces. The term “palace” has a complicated history in Mesoamerica and is loaded with functional connotations related to elite use and occupation. Function, however, is traditionally considered difficult to determine in the absence of diagnostic artifactual data. In light of the architectural data from La Milpa, this paper asks if artifactual data are necessary to define an architectural unit as a palace.

Stock, Janet (Ph.D. Student, The University of Texas at San Antonio)

Friday, 4:15 PM

Garment Construction and Fabric Design as Depicted in Maya Art; Preliminary Findings

Garment styles and construction techniques depicted in ancient Maya art have been analyzed. Results indicate a variety of seamstress construction techniques. Techniques used vary from simple to complex. Some garments exhibit tailored techniques similar to western standards. Fabric designs have also been analyzed and indicate use of several techniques. Both garment style and fabric design may be attributed to the wearers status or role in society. Some designs identified appear to be courtly designs attributed to a particular ruler; others appear to be attributed to particular lineage or tribe.

Sword, Catherine (M.A. Student, The University of Texas at San Antonio)

Saturday, 8:30 AM

Report of Excavations of Structure E-3 at Group E, Xunantunich

The Mopan Valley Preclassic Project conducts investigations at Group E in order to understand the development of political authority during the Preclassic period in the Mopan River Valley. Excavations at Structure E-3 during the 2012 and 2009 field seasons investigated a period of reoccupation during the Late Classic with evidence of Postclassic use. Excavations of Structure E-3 also further investigated the form, function, and chronology of the structure in order to further understand Group E's role in Xunantunich.



Associated with this period of re-occupation is limited construction, craft production, and ritual activity in several areas of the site, including Structure E-3.

Tate, Carolyn (Professor, Art History, Texas Tech University)

Saturday, 4:30 PM

Coming into Being: the Implications of Embryo Images in Formative Mesoamerica

Monuments depicting gestational humans are at least as early in Mesoamerica as those of rulers. Around 1350 BC, people at La Merced, Veracruz, depicted the 9-week fetus in an axe-like form. What seems to be the earliest stone monument from San Lorenzo is a basalt column incised with an image of an embryo juxtaposed with an adult hand. This paper demonstrates that the ubiquitous Olmec supernatural image is based on observations of the miscarried human embryo. It tracks how the image of the embryo became conventionalized into a symbol and how the symbol was depicted on nearly all formats of Olmec visual culture, from jade masks, plaques, and celts to stelae. Finally, it considers why a symbol of gestation, of animate processes, was central to Middle Formative societies.

Trein, Debora (Ph.D. Candidate in Anthropology, The University of Texas at Austin)

Friday, 2:45 PM

Use and Access to a Monumental Structure at the Site of La Milpa, Belize

This paper discusses the 2012 excavations of Structure 3, a large monumental structure at the site of La Milpa, northwest Belize. These excavations form part of a multi-year doctoral dissertation research that aims to examine the ways in which all members of the Late Classic La Milpa community, not just elites, potentially interacted with monumental spaces. This research aims to complement elite-oriented perspectives that currently loom large in the investigation of monumental architecture in ancient Maya civilization, and extend studies of ancient Maya non-elite groups to monumental contexts. The evidence gathered in the 2012 field season suggests that a comprehensive analysis of the composition and distribution of artifact assemblages recovered in and around monumental spaces may infer on the heterogeneity of use and access to monumental architecture, going beyond elite-centered explanations of ancient Maya monumentality.

Urquidi, Dolores (Independent Researcher)

Saturday, 8:45 AM

A Nova from Yesterday; and a New One Today

On November, 2011, I presented Tlaltecuhlti, as in a brazier tied to the forehead androgynous Old Fire God with pendulous breasts, or a 2 year-old shown on K-7912 comparable to the Popol Vuh's Seven Macaw. This year NASA described a new star, born in January 2004 called V1647 in Orionis, near the peak of an outburst that has its beginning a bipolar jet swinging it within McNeil's Nebula. Since Orion and Deneb of Cygnus are in the same spiral of our galaxy, it may be possible, by skewing the 3-D angle, this "knife" could have been that clattering out of a ball [star] on the ball court in an erratic effort to kill Hunahpú; except that today, Hunahpú and Xbalenqué, the double comet, is nowhere seen. This star might be the 2012 event the Maya predicted, except that is about 1,300 light-years far, far from Earth.

Valdez, Fred (Professor of Anthropology, The University of Texas at Austin)

Friday, 3:45 PM

Three Decades of Research in the Three Rivers Region, NE Peten and NW Belize

Significant and continuous archaeological research in NE Peten and NW Belize, defined as the Three Rivers Region, began three decades ago with the Rio Azul Archaeological Project. This paper reviews some of the basic guiding research interests, the logistics of the research, and field/camp life for several of the projects.



Each significant project is noted for its contributions of knowledge to the greater region (1983–2012). The current status of research for the region is also discussed.

Wagner, Logan (Assistant Professor, Texas A&M University)

Saturday, 3:15 PM

Placemaking in the Preclassic: The Case of the Sunken Court of Teopantecuanitlan

Nestled in the rugged mountains of Mexico's Western state of Guerrero, Teopantecuanitlan's antiquity belies one of the earliest architectural forms and location on the landscape of a Mesoamerican ceremonial center. Replete with symbolism alluding to basic religious precepts that would permeate Mesoamerican ritual practices and spaces, Teopantecuanitlan's ceremonial sunken court embodies fundamental mythological concepts that persisted throughout Mesoamerican history and chronology. Suggested alignments of solar, astronomical and surrounding iconic landscape features, reveal a pattern throughout Mesoamerican settlements that shed light on the site design initiatives on the location on the landscape, orientation and architectural form of ceremonial precincts. Creating a setting for the ritual to unfold, these ceremonial precincts embody Mesoamerican core religious and mythological beliefs. Three thousand years later, during the sixteenth century colonization efforts by Spanish Mendicant friars, adopted, adapted and created Mesoamerican open air ritual spaces to facilitate the conversion of Native Mesoamericans to the Christian faith.

Whitaker, Jason (Ph.D. Student, The University of Texas at San Antonio)

Saturday, 1:30 PM

Archaeological Investigations at San Lorenzo, Belize: An Examination of Data from the 2012 Field Season

This paper summarizes recent archaeological investigations at the San Lorenzo site in the Mopan River Valley of Western Belize. The objective of fieldwork in the 2012 field season was to assess the feasibility of future investigations into household and community economy at San Lorenzo. Archaeological investigations focused on three areas of the site associated with structures SL-22 and SL-23. The areas north and east of SL-23 are purported to be undisturbed, while the physical space between SL-22 and SL-23 has been disturbed through plowing and other human activities over the past 50 years. My analysis of both macro and micro artifacts indicate that cultural formation processes in the past 50 years did not significantly impact the archaeological record near structures SL-22 and SL-23.



Location of SCCM

Registration and Presentations
Human Sciences, Room 169

3rd Annual South-Central Conference on Mesoamerica

Map of Event Locations

Tips on Parking

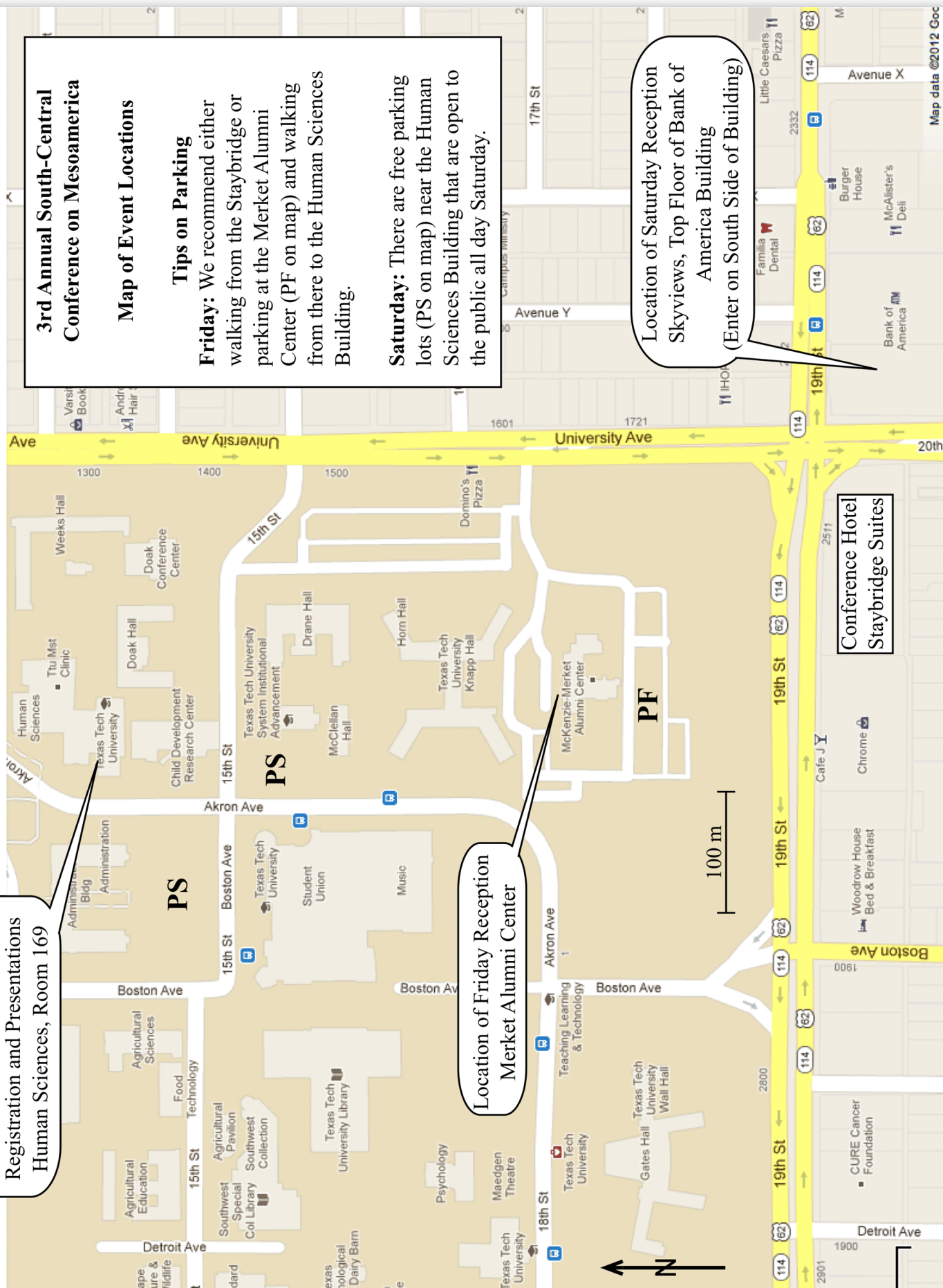
Friday: We recommend either walking from the Staybridge or parking at the Market Alumni Center (PF on map) and walking from there to the Human Sciences Building.

Saturday: There are free parking lots (PS on map) near the Human Sciences Building that are open to the public all day Saturday.

Location of Saturday Reception
Skyviews, Top Floor of Bank of
America Building
(Enter on South Side of Building)

Conference Hotel
Staybridge Suites

Location of Friday Reception
Market Alumni Center





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