Thirty Years of the Caracol Archaeological Project

The 2014 field season of the Caracol Archaeological Project, carried out from mid-January through mid-March, represented the 30th continuous annual excavation season by the University of Central Florida research team led by Diane and Arlen Chase. Initial visits to Caracol were undertaken by the Chases and Belize Department of Archaeology members in 1983 and 1984 with the first full excavation season taking place from January through April 1985. Few archaeological projects in the Maya area have maintained similar longevity and dedication of purpose. A major reason for the success of the project has been an on-going collaboration with, first, the Department of Archaeology and, subsequently, the Institute of Archaeology, NICH. This collaboration has involved two stabilization projects, the first carried out by the Chases in partnership with the Government of Belize from 1989 through 1994 and the second carried out by Belize’s Tourism Development Project directed by Jaime Awe from 2000 through 2004. Both the Caracol Archaeological Project and the Institute of Archaeology are committed to the scientific investigation and development of the site. In honor of 30 years of successful collaboration and research by the Caracol Archaeological Project, the Belizean band “Jade” has been commissioned to play for the Friday night gathering hosted by the Belize Archaeology and Anthropology Symposium.