

EMPHASIS

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA • SPRING 1993



OUR COVER

Editor's note: Arlen Chase describes the unveiling of one of the most beautiful artifacts that he and his wife, Diane Chase, have discovered during their excavations at the ancient city of Caracol in the Central American country Belize. The photograph on the cover was taken by Diane Chase.

At first it looked like nothing — a large stone located in a small open chamber. Yet, we were over six yards deep in Caracol's Temple of the Wooden Lintel. A pit had been cut through the floor, covered with large stones and then sealed. So, something besides a rock could have been placed there.

After removing the covering slabs, it became clear that no ordinary stone occupied the hole. Visible on one corner of the gray rock was a circular area sealed with red clay. The stone was hollow!

We carefully recorded the position of the container, lifted it out of the hole and took it to the archaeology laboratory at our camp. There we lifted the stone's lid. The day was February 20, 1991.

Inside the stone, the preservation was fantastic. A piece of cloth hung off the edge of a jadeite earflare and was draped over the top with a large seashell. This shell formed part of a pair that held the main offering. A pearl lay near the edge of the bottom shell in a bed of small pebbles of malachite. A large jadeite bead also protruded above the many stones. Shimmering at the bottom of the stone was a pool of silver mercury. The visible contents of the deposit were so spectacular that we decided to wait on the full excavation of the

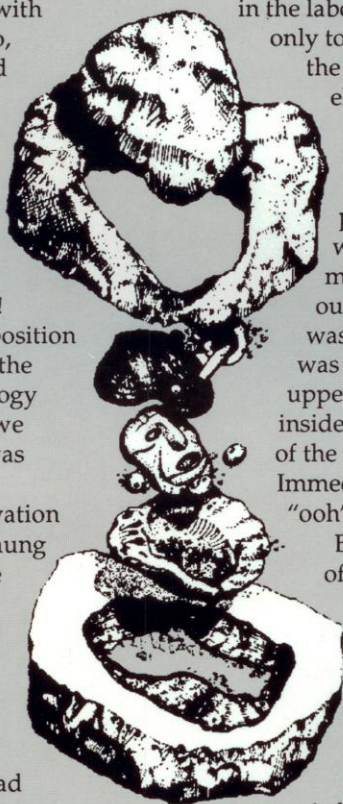
stone until appropriate video equipment was on hand to record the moment.

That moment did not come until March 22, 1991. For a month, the stone sat untouched in the laboratory; it was occasionally opened only to marvel at the preserved cloth or the mercury. Little did we realize what else rested inside the rock.

After the video shots were taken, the visible contents of the deposit were drawn. The cloth, the pearl and a partially preserved seed were then removed. Next, the malachite pebbles were slowly picked out, one at a time. Finally the earflare was brought out of the container. It was now necessary to remove the large upper shell in order to see what else was inside. With a little difficulty, it came out of the opening through the rock. Immediately there were exclamations and "ooh" and "aahs."

Beneath the shell, bedded on a layer of powdered red hematite within the lower shell, lay one of the larger jadeite heads we had ever seen.

It peered up at us after 2,000 years of blackness. Its crevices were dusted with the red powder on which it lay. A separate jadeite claw pendant was at its neck. The jadeite bead noted earlier was positioned as its right earflare; a red shell bead formed its left earring. The whole scene was dramatic, totally unexpected, and all on video.



This drawing by Joe Ballay shows how the various parts of the discovery (featured on the front cover) looked as they were lifted out of the hollow stone where they had been placed centuries ago.

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EMPHASIS

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA • SPRING 1993

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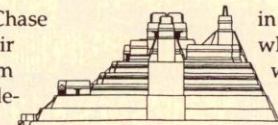
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Diane and Arlen Chase reveal some of their latest findings from their almost decade-long excavations



in Central America, which will redefine how we view the ancient Maya people.

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John Morris came to the States to earn a degree from UCF to further develop his ability to help archaeologists who come to his country to unearth ancient civilizations.

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In his Inaugural Speech, President John C. Hitt calls for all members of the University and the community to join forces in a partnership to make UCF "America's leading metropolitan university."

1992 UCF FOUNDATION HONOR ROLL

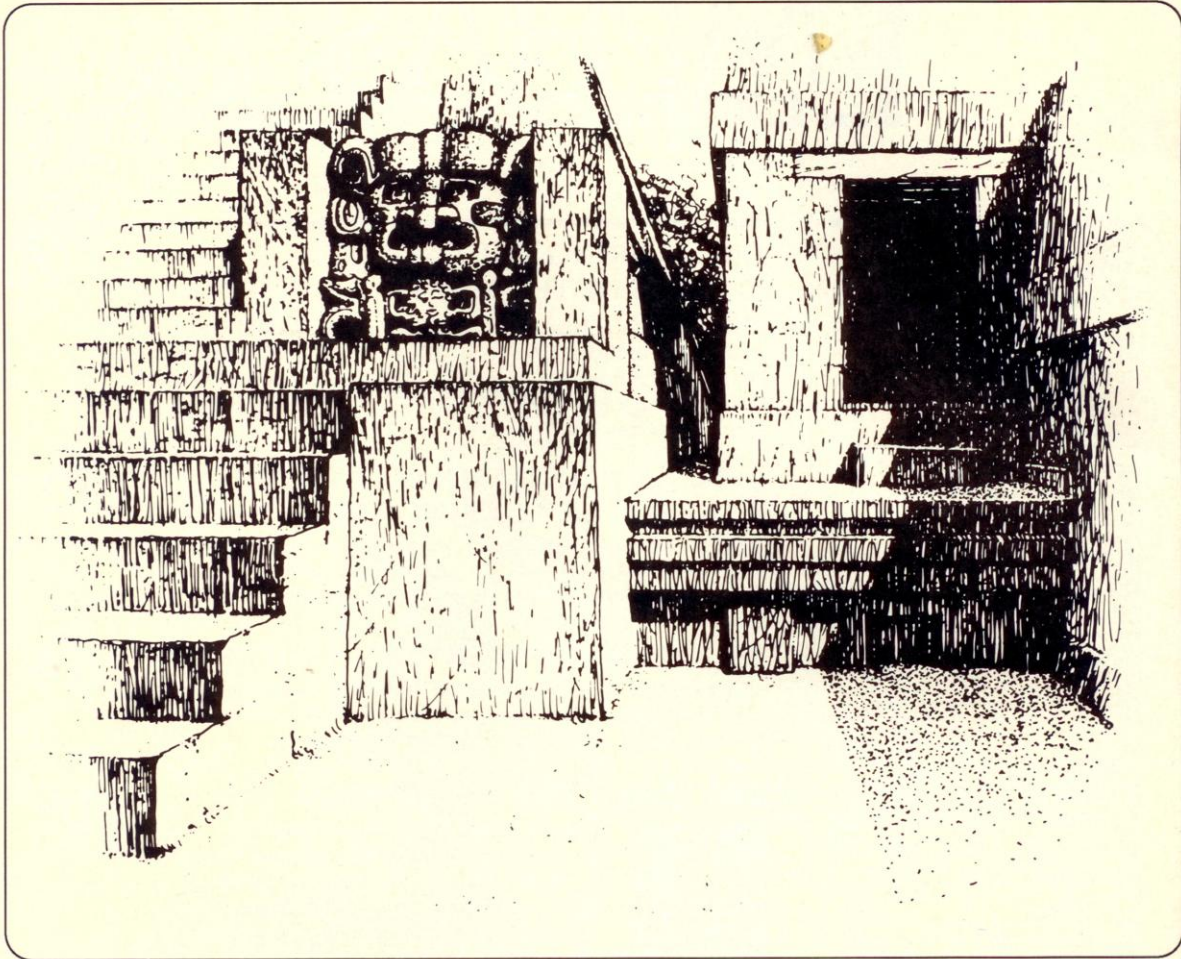
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The Honor Roll lists all the friends who have contributed to UCF over the last fiscal year. This insert has its own sequential numbering 1 through 23.



CAMPUS NEWS

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UNCOVERING THE ANCIENT SECRETS OF THE MAYA

TWO UCF ARCHAEOLOGISTS, DIANE Z. AND ARLEN F. CHASE, BEGIN THEIR NINTH YEAR OF EXCAVATING THE ANCIENT MAYA CITY OF CARACOL IN CENTRAL AMERICA. THEIR FINDINGS POINT TO NEW BELIEFS ABOUT THE MAYA CIVILIZATION.

It's the job of archaeologists to clear the cobwebs away from the eyes of the living as well as the bones of the dead.

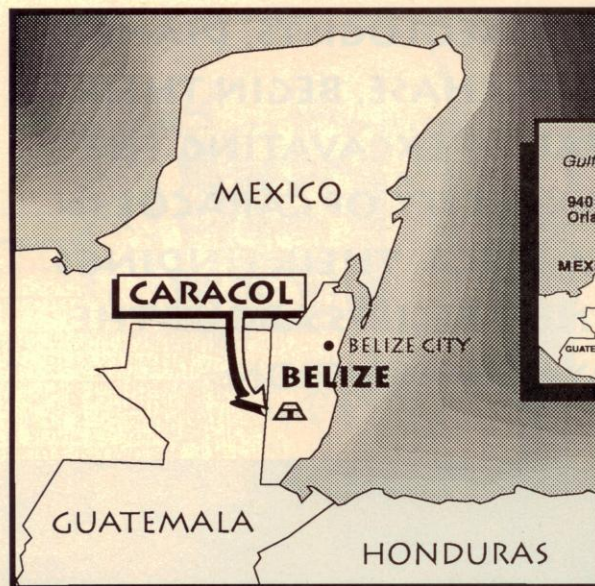
While uncovering the tomb of an ancient king, archaeologists Arlen and Diane Chase discovered that our vision of the Maya civilization will indeed be clarified if not shaken up. The excavation was the culminating find that has led the team to challenge current Maya history.

Eight years of research in Central America at one of the largest and least known Maya sites — Caracol — reveal that these ancient peoples did not perish during a class struggle between an elite priesthood and the peasants as has been believed. Instead, the Chases' research points to self-destruction through widespread warfare that lasted many years between the major cities, of which Caracol was one of the more successful during the sixth century. Until now, the cause for the disappearance of the ancient Maya civilization had remained a mystery.

But the Chases' research will render even a greater impact on the Maya history books. The findings by the Chases will force a rethinking of our basic



Opposite page, this architectural rendering was drawn by Joe Ballay, who teaches at Carnegie Mellon University. It shows how the eastern-side temple on top of the pyramid Caana must have looked in the sixth century. Above, Arlen and Diane Chase record information about their findings inside a royal tomb, which they uncovered during the spring of 1992 at Caracol. Photo by B. Fuller.



MAP OF BELIZE AND SURROUNDING AREAS.

understanding of the Maya.

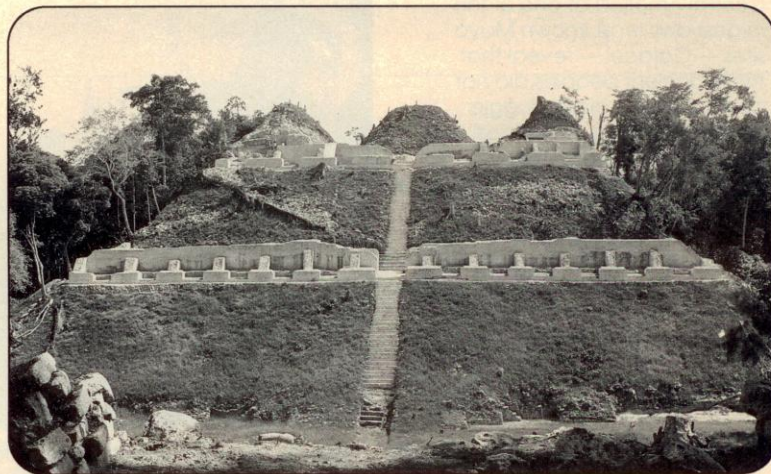
"We've always interpreted them as being very much like us. We have a Westernized version of how they thought and lived," Diane Chase said. "But we know now that despite similarities, they were very different from us in their beliefs."

Arlen Chase said that their research indicates a shift in our overall picture of the Maya. "For one thing, the Westernized burial patterns that have been ascribed implicitly to the Maya by researchers for many decades are incorrect. The Maya actually integrated the dead into the world of the living," he said.

Unlike Western practice which calls for the dead to be buried far off from the living in special, secluded spots, the Maya placed their dead in buildings that were a part of their living

complex, yet were specially constructed for their dead ancestors. "They had the dead 'live' with them. The dead may have even been formal participants in rituals carried out by their living descendants," Arlen Chase explained.

Investigations by the Chases at Caracol also dispel the popular belief that Maya society included two opposing groups — a small and wealthy elite and the downtrodden and larger group of peasants. "There was a large middle class who lived very



The large pyramid Caana, which is the highest structure in Belize today at more than 150-feet, was the focal point of the ancient city of Caracol. When the Chases began work at the site nine years ago, the pyramid was not visible because it was completely overgrown by the rain forest.

WHAT DID CARACOL LOOK LIKE?

We'll never know everything about the Maya and how they lived their daily lives, but archaeological findings can tell us a lot.

According to the Chases, Caracol was a large city with a busy, bustling center (not so different from the downtown of a modern city), which had a large pyramid (Caana, today the highest structure in Belize), temples, palaces, and a ball court. There is evidence that civic planners took

great care to design a city that was beautiful and grandiose. The architecture was massive with structures made of very white marbled limestone. The floors and the plazas were all plastered. The buildings, which were plaster and stucco, were often white or painted bright red. Other colors were used, but the Maya used red more than any other color. Some buildings were white with red stripes while others were entirely red.

The city is located away from any natural source of water; a number of reservoirs with special clay-lined bottoms provided the Maya with their main source of water. The rain forest was cleared away from the city and

only trees that were for decorative purposes remained in the major plazas.

Causeways that extend out from the core of the city like spokes in a wheel were built of boulders with

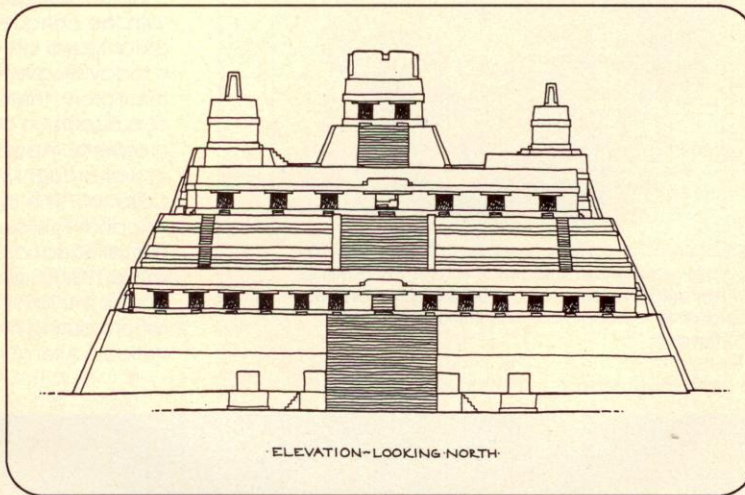
more causeways over the next three years. They have already found one interconnecting causeway to the main ones leading into the city. They also expect to find more of these side

roads. The archaeologists had wondered during their earlier visits to Caracol as to why a certain section of the jungle road that they drive on was so easily traveled until they realized that it had been a part of a well-constructed ancient causeway.

Outside of the city's center, there were many clusters of housing

(what we would consider suburban areas) on raised plazas. There were agriculture fields between these clusters. The Chases have found evidence of thousands of agricultural terraces. They can only guess that the Maya grew the usual corn, beans, and squash as the other natives of the Americas did since the Chases have not found any preserved pollen as of yet. But implements that were used for the making of cloth also suggests the cultivation of cotton.

Many low-lying buildings have yet to be explored. Excavation of these structures will answer many questions. In downtown Caracol, some of these buildings could prove to be the ancient form of fast-food stands.



Joe Ballay drew this archaeologically correct drawing of what the pyramid Caana looked like back in the sixth century.

plaster over the top to make them smooth. These roads cross over hilly, rugged terrain, but are raised and straight. When first uncovered, the causeways were thought to extend no more than two or three miles. Now the Chases have found that many of them extend at least five miles. The causeways are from nine to thirty feet wide and end in large complexes of civic architecture. The Chases speculate that these areas served as markets and stations to monitor the flow of goods going in and out of Caracol. Certainly, these areas would have allowed the travelers of these roads to enjoy the splendor of the city's architecture. The vistas from all ten of the known causeways are awe-inspiring. The Chases expect to find



This pottery piece found in a Caracol tomb is an effigy vessel from the Late Classic Period, dating to about A.D. 620. Photo by Richard Spencer.

much in the manner of what we thought was reserved for the wealthy," Diane Chase said. The belief that a peasant revolt erupted which brought about what is called the Classic Maya collapse is untrue. "Instead of a widening of the gulf between two disparate classes, the elite and commoners grew closer and closer together over time."

The Chases suspect that the middle class arose because of Caracol's success in warfare. That success began in A.D. 562 with the conquest of Tikal, the great Maya city located in what is today Guatemala. Following this victory, there are indications of a dispersion of wealth and prosperity. Apparently, the spoils of war brought shared wealth to Caracol. "The city expanded its kingdom to include an area of almost 55-square miles with some 180,000 people. It became one of the largest cities on record during the Classic Period," Arlen Chase said. The



The Chases removed these pottery vessels from the royal tomb of a ruler who died about A.D. 480.

Classic Period ran from A.D. 250 to 900.

It was through the study of Maya burial practices that the Chases have been able to chart a pattern that indicates a large, flourishing middle class who mimicked the elite class throughout the Late Classic era (A.D. 550-900). The findings for their last season at Caracol in 1992 include two intact royal burials. The study of the king's tomb, one of Caracol's early rulers around A.D. 480, and a second tomb of a royal family dated around A.D. 690, demonstrates that the burial practices of the middle class were very similar to the elite, except the royal tombs were more elaborate. The second 1,300-year-old tomb held members of a royal family that reigned over a kingdom of more than 7,000 square miles, almost the size of the modern country of Belize.

For the husband-and-wife team, funded by the United States Agency for International Development and the Government of Belize, the H.F. Guggenheim Foundation, UCF, and private donations, the findings last March and April substantiated what they have suspected for years. The discoveries were also filmed by National Geographic Television.

Out of several hundred excavated burials, approximately 70 formal tombs have been investigated at Caracol, the largest tomb sample known from a single site in the Maya area. Seven tombs were investigated during the 1992 archaeological season at Caracol. The two intact royal chambers each contained multiple bodies and large numbers of ceramic vessels and other remains.

The older ruler's tomb contained 17 vessels, some

SOME OF THE LOGISTICS AT CARACOL



Huts, built from materials out of the surrounding rain forest, serve as the sleeping quarters for the students who work on the dig. Wild turkeys (foreground) are common visitors to the camp site.

Although the Chases have been journeying to Belize for more than a decade, the last three years have proven to be more difficult than former years. The Chases' two young sons, Adrian and Aubrey, accompany their parents to the excavation at Caracol each spring. This year, the Chases will drive about 3,000 miles to Belize with their three- and one-year-old children along and a goodly supply of diapers packed in their jeepster.

Once at Caracol, one of the Belizean cooks will also act as a nanny for the children while the work for the day is carried out, although the Chases take turns caring for their offspring during their off hours. During the evenings around the camp, the UCF students often take time to play with the youngsters.

The camp has 18 buildings, which includes two kitchens, a laboratory, and a recreation hall, though the Chases hesitate to call the small building a hall. But it is used for showing movies, playing cards, and socializing. The camp was first built from very basic materials during one of the earlier seasons at Caracol. The buildings are constructed from

trees in the area and the roofs are thatched from palmetto-like leaves. Most of the residents at the camp choose to sleep in hammocks with mosquito netting. Breakfast is often flour tortillas and beans. Drinking water is collected from the rain; water for showers, which does not include running water, comes from one of Caracol's ancient reservoirs.

A solar-energy system was installed at Caracol by Jim Dunlop of UCF's Florida Solar Energy Center in 1987. This addition has made work a little easier and a little less primitive. Prior to the solar system, the Chases had to rely on a gas generator to recharge their two-meter FM radio (their only means of communication with the outside world), video cameras, meters, walkie-talkies, and portable lights, which meant that the use of energy had to be severely restricted.

Caracol is fifty-six miles from the nearest town accessible through the dense growth of the rain forest, which has an abundance of wildlife including jaguars. The road to the camp was made all-weather by the Government of Belize in 1992, which will make future logistics much easier for the Caracol Project.

WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR CARACOL AND THE CHASES?

During their current season, the first task at hand for the Chases will be to repair the roofs of six of the 18 buildings at their camp, which is located near the center of the excavation site. Storms since last spring damaged the buildings, which are relatively primitive. Most of the labor force, which consists of Belizeans hired to help at the excavation, will be diverted to carrying out the repairs during the first weeks of the dig. The Chases will be limited in what they can accomplish during the early part of the season without the Belizean helpers available to do most of the heavy work of the excavation. So the Chases will have the archaeology students work near the camp site uncovering low-lying structures, which requires less physical labor. "That way we can supervise them more closely and teach them the techniques of working in the field," Diane Chase said. Later in the season, the students will have the opportunity to work in more remote areas.

The season runs from February to

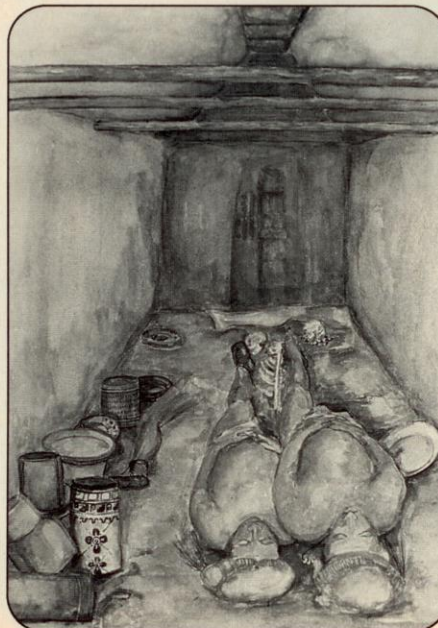
June. This year there will be several experienced graduate students from other universities. (UCF does not have a graduate program in this area of study.) But most of the students will be undergraduates from UCF, as has been the case since this project started. This year 10 UCF students will work at the site.

While the repairs are being finished, the Chases will begin a stabilization program and also a study of settlement patterns. Architects and surveyors will be coming down to Caracol to help with this work. "The settlement survey will take us three years to accomplish," Arlen Chase explained. Caracol is such a big place that the two archaeologists will not be sure of its size or layout until the mapping is completed. The architects will render archaeologically correct drawings of the various structures and buildings that have already been uncovered. Other specialists will also visit the site. Joe Ballay, who teaches at Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh, will again render architectural drawings, and a soil

specialist, C. Lynn Coultas from FAMU, will do some testing, too. Ceramic sourcing will be done by Ron Bishop of the Smithsonian Institute.

"Our work has raised more questions than we've answered so far. At least now, we know what questions we're seeking to answer. We'll need two more years to answer them," Arlen Chase said. Of course, in two years there will probably be a new set of questions to answer. The Chases expect to uncover much more over the next few years. In fact, the current season will probably bring several big discoveries. The Chases already have several locations that they suspect will yield more exciting finds, but are unwilling to speculate any further. "We may have to wait. If circumstances are not right, we may not excavate the locations we planned to do this season. Those excavations may have to wait until the following season," Arlen Chase explained. "Patience is essential for the archaeologist."

A reconstructed painting by Barbara Stahl based on the Chases' findings shows a royal tomb from the Late Classic period (around A.D. 690).



elaborately painted and stuccoed, as well as obsidian earflares, bone figurines, and the remains of a jade and shell necklace. Both an adult male and an adult female were placed in this chamber.

The more recent royal tomb housed four people, all resting on a plaster floor that was covered with jade flakes. Two males were placed on their backs with their heads to the south; one had a necklace of human teeth. The remains of two other individuals, including an adult female, rested among the 20 vessels and other artifacts recovered from the chamber. A painted text dated the tomb construction to A.D. 686.

A third royal tomb was empty save for a fragment of a human femur, indicating that at least one body had once been



Richard Spencer, a photographer for UCF's Instructional Resources, has visited Caracol several times to photograph many of the buildings and objects.

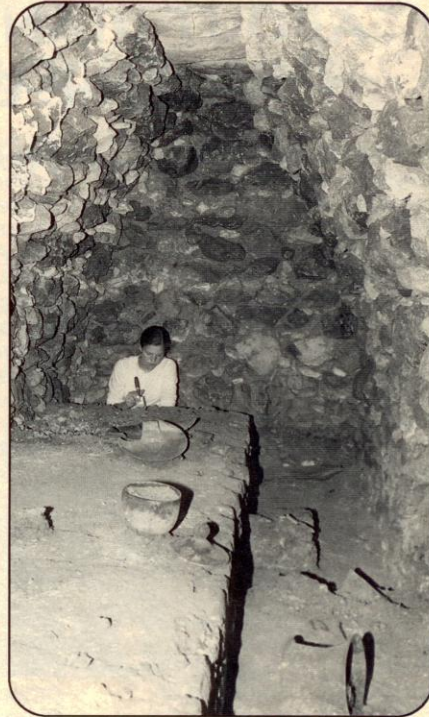
housed there. The contents of the chamber had been emptied by the Maya in antiquity.

Prior to the Caracol discoveries, it was generally believed that the Maya buried their dead rulers and royals in ways that differed significantly from the rest of the population. The Caracol data show that this was not the case. Shared patterns include the following: the interment of more than one person within the same chamber tomb; the movement of bodies, bones, and offerings from one resting place to another; and the use of identical ritual deposits.

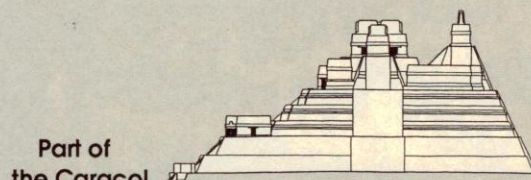
The Caracol archaeological data point to even more destructive and widespread long-term warfare as ultimately leading to the collapse of the Maya. The final archaeological record at Caracol demonstrates that the site met a violent end. "Its buildings were burned, and a child was left unburied on the floor of an elite palace," Arlen Chase said.

The two researchers said scientific understanding of Classic Maya society is at a

turning point. Their research shows that our beliefs about the Maya have been hampered by idealized views of their society, such as the two-class model that is prevalent today. They noted that simplified views of the Maya predominated in the past because long-term, intensive archaeological investigations were rare. "As more committed projects like ours at Caracol are undertaken, a more realistic view of the Classic Maya will emerge," said Diane Chase.



UCF Student Tara Hatfield works in a royal tomb from the end of the Early Classic Period (A.D. 550).



Part of the Caracol findings was presented in two National Geographic programs which were aired on January 10, 1993 (National Geographic Explorer on the Turner Broadcasting Systems)

and on January 20, 1993 nationally ("Lost Kingdoms of the Maya," a National Geographic Special for Public Broadcast Channels). The second film will be aired March 3 in the Central Florida area on PBS.

ABOUT DIANE Z. AND ARLEN F. CHASE

DIANE CHASE first began archaeological field work in Central America in 1974 as an undergraduate and in the country of Belize in 1978 while still working on her doctoral degree at the University of Pennsylvania. She has returned to Central America to study Maya civilizations every year since then. After completion of her Ph.D. in 1982, she was hired as a lecturer at Princeton University the following year.

ARLEN F. CHASE started field work as an archaeologist while still a high school senior in California in 1971. He did his undergraduate and graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania. His dissertation for his Ph.D. was based on some of his early field experiences in Guatemala. He first worked in Belize in 1978 along with Diane Chase. The following year he returned to Guatemala to finish his doctoral research, earning his degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1983. That same year he was named

acting assistant dean for the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1984, Diane and Arlen joined the faculty at UCF, where they are currently associate professors in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Starting in 1985, Diane and Arlen Chase began their work at Caracol, Belize, a project that they have worked on for the last eight years. The Chases have received over a million dollars in funds to date to support their work in Caracol. They are currently working on a 60-minute film, "Visions of Empire," with Pyramid Films for PBS. Diane, who has several specialties including forensic archaeology, has published three books in conjunction with Arlen. They are currently working on three more books. Arlen, who has a specialty in ceramic analysis, has a fourth book published. Both of the Chases have also published extensively in scientific journals, together and individually, and are in demand as lecturers.

WILL CARACOL BECOME A TOURIST SPOT?

After four years of support from the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Government of Belize, major funding from the European Economic Community and the Government of Belize will pay for work at Caracol over the next 24 months to help prepare it as a tourist destination in the near future. Once an area has been completely excavated, a consolidation team moves in to refurbish the remaining structures. Cement, stones and lime are used to refurbish the buildings. This is done not only to enhance the structures, but to make them tourist proof. In other words, tourists will be able to visit the site without causing any damage. Currently, three areas — a major plaza that was an observatory complex, a residential palace area, and the large pyramid, Caana — are being refurbished. As Caracol gains more notice, the Belizean Government anticipates the development of the site as its country's number one inland tourist destination.



All members of the Caracol Project for the year 1992 gather together for the traditional end-of-the-year group picture.

BELIZEAN ARCHAEOLOGIST JOINS THE RANKS OF UCF GRADUATES

JOHN MORRIS'

first impression of the United States was not very favorable.

Not by a mile.

Make that downright disturbing and frightening.

When the native Belizean arrived at the Miami airport, immigration officials didn't like the look of his visa papers. There was talk about seeing a judge and possibly spending six months in a prison for trying to enter the country illegally.

Morris had some serious doubts about his decision to come to the States and study at the University of Central Florida.

Meanwhile, back at Orlando, Arlen and Diane Chase were getting frantic when Morris didn't show up at the appointed time and place. They decided that he was lost. Calls to Washington yielded some assistance from a government official who located Morris.

Arlen Chase flew to Miami and resolved any problems. By that time, Morris had been detained by officials for two days. Of course, their idea of detaining Morris was to send him home with one of their officials after Morris' friendly personality had charmed them.

On arriving at Orlando, Morris was amazed with the web of roads. But the Belizean, who has hacked his way through the tangles of rain forests armed only with a



John Morris, senior archaeologist for the Department of Archaeology in Belize, holds Aubrey (left) and Adrian Chase, who were about six months and two-and-half-years old at the time the picture was taken.

machete, was undaunted by the jungle of civilization.

Several days later after enrolling at UCF and settling into his living quarters in the dorms, Morris got lost again. Accepting an offer to attend a party in Orlando from a new found friend, somehow Morris found himself in Melbourne. But this time he didn't require a search team or any official intervention. All he had to do was figure out where or what Melbourne was. Belizeans speak English and Spanish, so his position as a foreigner was less difficult than it might have been.

Despite these misadventures, Morris quickly adapted to American culture; he joined intramural soccer and basketball teams, helped coach a children's soccer team, and met a lot of Americans. Despite his penchant for socializing, Morris was a diligent student,

graduating four years later from UCF with a 3.97 in his major in anthropology.

Morris' involvement with UCF began on a dusty road in Belize back in 1980. He had been working for the Department of Archaeology of Belize as an assistant archaeologist for more than a year. His department vehicle was in the shop when he needed to make a site inspection of an archaeological site in northern Belize. The Chases offered him a

ride since his destination was near Santa Rita Corozal where they were working. That casual beginning developed into an enduring friendship as well as a working relationship which has benefited all parties concerned.

In 1983, Morris was the one who led the Chases and other members of their party into the rain forest to show them the ancient city of Caracol. Caracol had been discovered in 1937 by a lumberman and had been investigated by three different archaeologists over the years, but their excavations were rather limited. The extent of the site wasn't even guessed at during those years.

Morris had been to the site in 1978 and 1979 to inspect it when his government received reports of people illegally

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PAINTING THE STORY OF CARACOL

UCF ART PROFESSOR CREATES A WATERCOLOR OF ANCIENT MAYA HIEROGLYPHICS

Luckily, UCF Art Professor **JAGDISH CHAVDA** doesn't suffer from claustrophobia.

If he did, he wouldn't have chosen to crawl into a deep narrow trench to do some painting.

Not exactly your idyllic sunflower or water lily-type of environment.

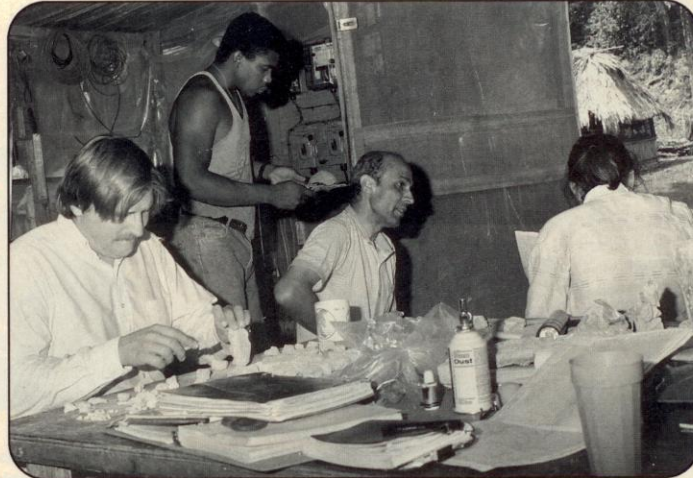
But for Chavda, it was interesting and fun. "I had to crawl down into a very small trench where only a handful of people have been. It was very tight in there. I had only a few feet to work in and the light was limited."

This was practically a stroll in the park for a man who has traversed hundreds of miles across the Great Desert in India by camel caravan to study the architecture in the ancient city of Jaisalmer.

Primitive conditions? Lack of the usual amenities? No problem: Chavda, a native of India, was raised in Tanzania, Africa. He knows all about existing in bare-bones situations.

The trench was part of the excavations made by UCF Archeologists Arlen and Diane Chase at their dig in the Central American country Belize. And getting there was relatively a cinch for Chavda: by jeep on a rugged, muddy road miles from civilization.

At the request of the Chases, Chavda went to Caracol, the ancient city the Chases have been working at for nearly a decade. A facade of hieroglyphics inside the trench was falling down and the Chases wanted



UCF Art Professor Jagdish Chavda (sitting, center) confers with Diane Chase concerning the large watercolor he created for them while on location at Caracol, Belize. Left to right, Arlen Chase and one of the Belizean workers go about their daily chores of working in the Caracol laboratory.

accurate representations before further deterioration occurred.

Chavda's first trip to Belize was in May, 1991; he completed a number of preliminary drawings to use as guides to create one large watercolor (16"x 24") during his two-week stay in the Chases' primitive camp in the rain forest. "The light was such that photographs with artificial lighting would have never captured the actual colors of the facade," Chavda explained. He'll complete the rest of his artwork based on drawings completed by Diane Chase. Chavda also was commissioned to photograph many of the artifacts found by the Chases.

The facade was buried in the highest structure in Belize, a huge, ancient pyramid called Caana, which was shrouded by

the overgrowth of the forest before the Chases began work on it in 1983.

"The facade provided new and important information about the chronological history of the city of Caracol. Some of the hieroglyphs are painted in beautiful colors — reds and blues."

While at the archaeological camp, Chavda went about his business like the professional he is and just made himself at home. "The Chases were at the end of their season at the site so they were very busy. They really didn't have much time to spend with me, but I made myself comfortable and just fit into the routine of the camp. One day when I knocked off early for lunch, I found that the Belizean cook had curry so I prepared a Muslim meat dish

**CHAVDA CONTINUED FROM
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for everyone."

Chavda's curiosity and initiative paid off in other ways on this trip. While in Belize, he made a point of visiting the Indian community that dates back to a time when the country was British Honduras and the British brought natives from India to the country. "I didn't find out much about the history of the Indians and I didn't get to talk with the people as I had hoped, but I did meet people who asked me to bring one of my art shows to Belize," Chavda explained. Lita Hunter Krohn of the Bliss Institute and Vinod Bhojwani, a Belizean businessman, were instrumental along with the Indian Community of Belize City in sponsoring Chavda's show —

Fatehpur Sikri: The Imperial Ghost City — for one-week, September 27 through October 5, 1992.

Chavda's show opened during the traditional Indian harvest festival called Navaratri.

Numerous consulars, dignitaries, prominent businessmen, and members of the Indian community attended the opening of the show. Chavda was interviewed on several of the local TV shows and gave a lecture to students at a Muslim school during his five-day stay in Belize.

The show included watercolors and drawings depicting Fatehpur Sikri, an ancient city which is located in central India. It was the capital of the Mughul empire for sixteen years in the late 1500s. Chavda completed these works while he was in India during a sabbatical leave for several months in 1984. This particular show has been

displayed in six other locations, including Mexico and Michigan.

Chavda, a teacher at UCF since 1972, has had some 70 one-man shows, has his works in 12 permanent collections, and has created the design for 18 books.

After two years as the chairperson for UCF's Art Department, Chavda recently began another sabbatical, which will include a trip to India this spring. This year's project includes following in the footsteps of two British artists — Thomas Daniell and William Daniell. "They traveled through India during the Colonial Period, producing black-and-white lithographs and watercolors; the original works are housed in India. I will be doing watercolors of the same exact sites. The comparison between their works and mine should be interesting."

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entering the ancient tombs and looting them. During those visits, Morris had done some preliminary mapping. Still, finding it in 1983 was no snap. In fact, the party got lost — temporarily. Morris' flair for getting lost has to be discounted in this case. In a rain forest, there is no such thing as finding a clearing and getting your bearings. Any vista or view is no more than a few feet in any given direction.

"It was so overgrown that we had problems. The trails were almost gone; we had to cut our way in," Morris said. "It took us most of the day to hike the twenty miles or so in."

In 1984, he worked with the Chases for most of the spring season. That fall, he decided after much encouragement from the UCF archaeologists to travel to Florida and become a student.

"Many of our people from the Department of Archaeology have gone to college in Britain or Canada. Since we work with

so many American archaeologists, I thought it might be advantageous to study in the United States," he said.

As an undergraduate at UCF, Morris worked as a student assistant, helping out in the archaeology lab. "He was very enthusiastic, but very naive," Diane Chase recalled. "We really enjoyed showing him the nicer parts of our culture. His first night here we took him out to dinner and he was so fascinated with the salad bar."

Arlen Chase said that Morris was a serious student, often taking seven classes during a term and getting mostly A's.

Over the years, Morris has been involved with the Chases and their work through his job at the Department of Archaeology. For three seasons, he acted as camp manager at Caracol.

His perseverance and interest in archaeology (and his degree from UCF) have contributed to his success at the Belizean agency. For two and a half years, he was the

Acting Archaeology Commissioner. He now holds the position of senior archaeologist.

Morris, who is very proud of his degree from UCF, says that his experience at the University has helped him understand the American system. "I really feel that I can do a better job with the archeologists who come to work in our country. But probably the single most important thing I learned was to write better. All of my professors at UCF, Allyn Stearman, David Jones, Ron Wallace, and the Chases, forced the students to write well."

Morris says that his University-acquired skills have spilled over into other areas of Belizean life. "There are not a lot of data on the history of Belize or the Maya people available in the schools. I have helped at the Ministry of Education in writing history pamphlets, and in my spare time I have instructed Belizean teachers on how to teach our history."