

# Pegasus

UCF ALUMNI LIFE  
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## Window into the Ancient World

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BELIZE, UCF'S INTERNATIONAL  
REPUTATION GROWS AS TWO  
PROFESSORS AND THEIR EAGER  
STUDENTS UNEARTH THE  
SECRETS OF THE MAYA.





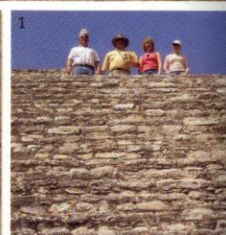
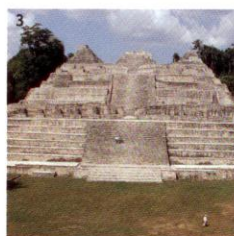
*In the dense jungles of Belize, UCF's international reputation grows as two professors and their eager students unearth the secrets of the Maya.*

# Window into the Ancient World

BY JACK ROTH, '94

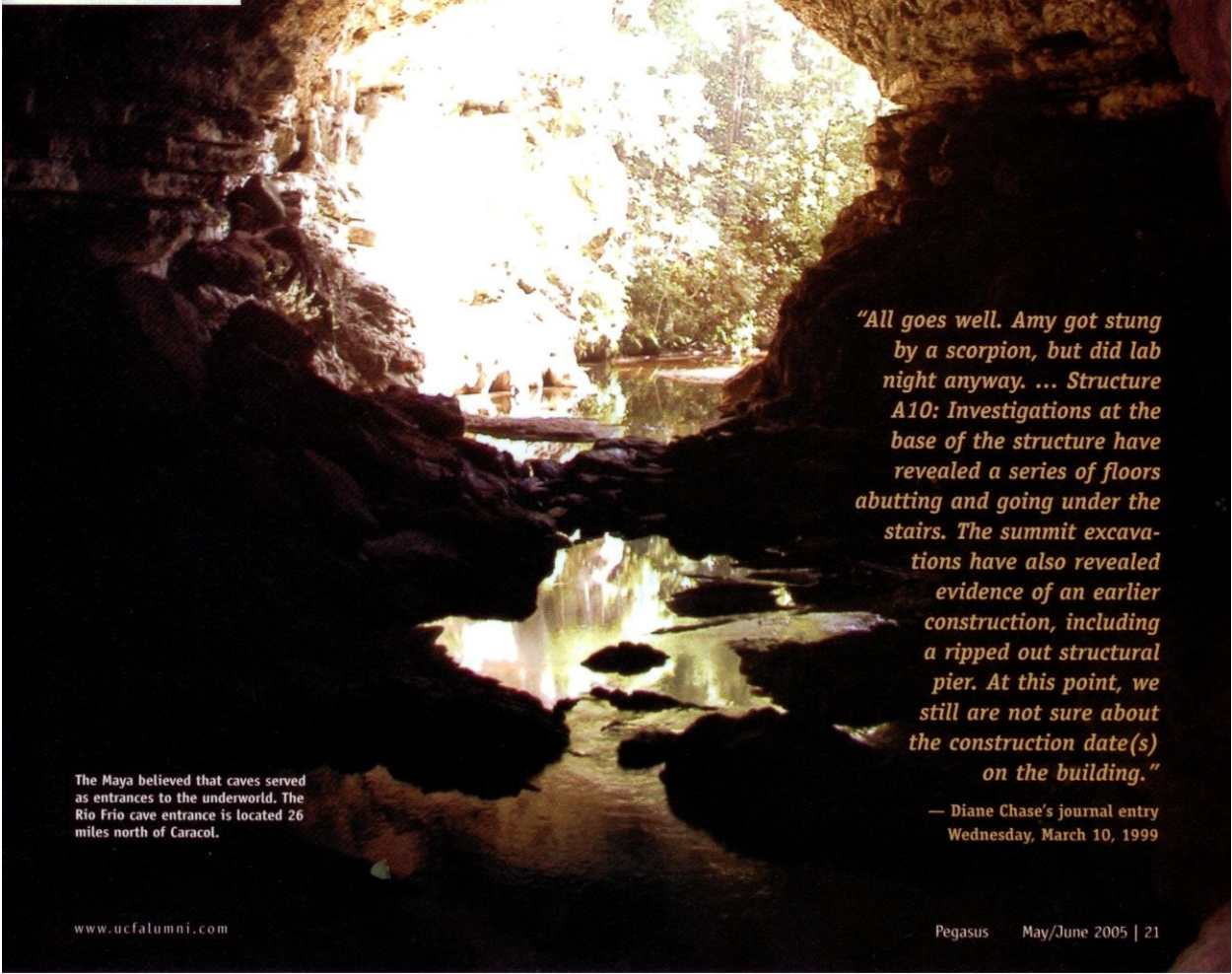
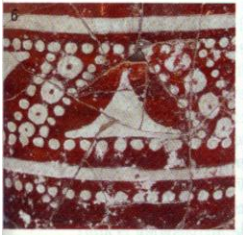
Gaining worldwide recognition in the remote and unwelcoming jungles of Belize is no easy task. As Arlen and Diane Chase will tell you, there's nothing glamorous about what they do. Their humble dispositions suggest they are merely two anthropology professors who have worked hard searching for answers regarding the mysteries of ancient civilizations. The reality, however, is that their collective research at Caracol in Belize has reaped immeasurable benefits for UCF students and the university's Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

The Maya were a fascinating people. Originating in the Yucatán by 1200 B.C., they once occupied a vast ▶





1| Members of the UCF Board of Trustees climb the steps of Canaa, the largest pyramidal building at the Caracol site in Belize. 2| Stucco hieroglyphic text from Structure B19 on Caana (2002). 3| In the 13 years since the cover photo of Caana was taken, the pyramid has been fully uncovered and now looks like this (2005). 4| Diane Chase enters a tomb in Structure B19 (2001). 5| Arlen Chase excavates a cache in Structure B42 (2005). 6| Decoration on a vase recovered from a tomb in Structure B19 (2001). 7| Shoshana Caplan, '04, excavates in Structure D11 (2003). 8| Stucco face from Caana excavations (2001). Years in parentheses refer to the timeline on page 25.



*"All goes well. Amy got stung by a scorpion, but did lab night anyway. ... Structure A10: Investigations at the base of the structure have revealed a series of floors abutting and going under the stairs. The summit excavations have also revealed evidence of an earlier construction, including a ripped out structural pier. At this point, we still are not sure about the construction date(s) on the building."*

— Diane Chase's journal entry  
Wednesday, March 10, 1999

The Maya believed that caves served as entrances to the underworld. The Rio Frio cave entrance is located 26 miles north of Caracol.



geographic area in Central America. Their civilization extended to parts of what are now Mexico, Honduras and El Salvador, as well as most of Guatemala and Belize. From the third to the ninth century, Classic Maya civilization produced awe-inspiring temples and pyramids, highly accurate calendars, mathematics and hieroglyphic writing, and a complex social and political order. This great civilization collapsed quickly, however, leaving many questions for those who study its impressive remains.

For more than 20 years, the Chases have been focusing on gathering the evidence that will eventually yield answers to these questions. Since 1983, they've been directing the Caracol Archaeological Project (part of the certificate program in Maya Studies) as part of an international research partnership with the Belizean government and its Institute of Archaeology (IOA).

Diane Chase, project director and interim assistant vice president for International and Interdisciplinary Studies, describes the educational and research benefits of the project: "Caracol is important for understanding ancient Maya Civilization, and the investigations have an impact for us today in terms of sustainable agriculture, impact on enhanced group identity, and the development of urbanism in a non-western setting. But most of all, the work at Caracol reminds us of how fragile civilization can be and of the potential ways of doing things that are very different from our own."

#### AN INVALUABLE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

The work at Caracol involves students in the hands-on process and represents a rare opportunity for them to gain invaluable international research experience. According to Diane Chase, students learn specific content knowledge (archaeology, ancient Maya), but also critical thinking (they need to learn what to look for and how to make interpretations of the past using only material cul-

ture) and communication skills (they must communicate with tourists, visitors and the Belizean crew).

"They learn different ways of looking at things, the value of teamwork, and research by involvement in an actual research project," she added. "Most people think about international education in terms of short-term study abroad or international exchange programs, but there are international research efforts like Caracol that involve students in learning by doing."

The concept of "learning by doing" has produced positive results for both UCF and the Belizean government, as students have helped to enhance research both at the Caracol site and in the field of anthropology in general.

Currently, two of the three associate directors of the IOA (Brian Woodye and John Morris) graduated from UCF with bachelor's degrees in anthropology. A third Belizean student, Melissa Badillo, is a junior anthropology major at UCF and the first recipient of the Judy Glick Memorial Scholarship. When she graduates, Badillo will be the only female member of the IOA with a bachelor's degree.

#### INSPIRED PROTÉGÉS

Brian Woodye, '94, was born and raised in Belize. His lifelong interest in ancient civilizations brought the Chases' work to his attention at an early age. As a 19-year-old staff member at the IOA (then known as the Department of Archaeology), he worked on getting

permits for the Chases. Once inspired by their work, he decided to attend UCF and earn his degree in anthropology.

In 1993, he spent his first season in the field at Caracol, and it changed his life forever.

"The experience of excavating large structures and getting to work in the jungle with the Chases was incredible," he said. "Most students never leave the classroom; it's all books, lectures and films, so the Caracol project represents a unique opportunity."

Today, Woodye, who married Katie (Pope), '94, whom he met as a student at Caracol, helps manage all archaeological sites in Belize. He ensures that visitors have good experiences, and he helps to maintain pristine environments on the project sites. He credits UCF with giving him a broader perspective of his field that has enabled him to apply effective management skills. He also credits the Chases with helping make his childhood dreams become a reality.

"To many people archaeology is all glory and fun, but the reality is that it's tough work," he said. "The Chases offer



## MAYA PREHISTORY AND CARACOL

Timeline revised from A. Chase and D. Chase 1996

### 1200 B.C.-A.D. 250

Preclassic small sedentary villages followed by development of monumentality and larger centers.

### ca. 600-900 B.C.

Earliest known habitation at Caracol.

### ca. A.D. 70

Structure A6-1st, "Temple of the Wooden Lintel," constructed and consecrated; locus B34 burial; full Maya ritual complex present at Caracol.

### ca. A.D. 150

Elaborate burial placed in Structure B34 locus.

### A.D. 250-900

Classic "Peak" of Maya civilization; pyramids, tombs, inscriptions, widespread trade; by A.D. 800 Maya "collapse" is underway.

### A.D. 331

Caracol Royal dynasty "officially" founded.

### ca. A.D. 480

Unknown ruler's tomb placed in Structure D16.

### A.D. 531

Accession of Lord Water's predecessor.

### A.D. 537

Use of initial tomb in Structure B20-3rd.

### A.D. 553

Accession of Caracol Ruler Lord Water.

### A.D. 556

"Axe-Event" involving Tikal.

### A.D. 562

"Star-War" defeat of Tikal by Caracol.

### A.D. 575

Birth of Smoke Ahau.

### A.D. 577

One of three tombs in Structure B20-2nd used.



students the opportunity to see what archaeological field work is really like. Their guidance and inspiration is the best learning experience a student can get."

Melissa Badillo took field notes, washed and catalogued artifacts, and woke up every day to monkeys "sere-nading" her during her six-week program in Caracol. Working in the jungle was hard to get used to, but it gave her a greater appreciation for the work archaeologists do in general. When she graduates from UCF with a degree in anthropology (spring 2006), she will return home to Belize and apply her experiences in a positive way.

"I can say that I worked in Caracol, which for a Belizean is very prideful," she said. "The Chases taught me so much, and everyone in the field knows of their work at Caracol. Other archaeologists always mention them, so me having worked with them puts a notch in my belt."

Badillo has enjoyed her UCF experience, as well. Her anthropology classes are giving her a broad base of knowledge that she hopes to apply to



## Preserving His Heritage

John Morris, '88, didn't expect to be locked up with drug dealers in Miami on his way to attend classes at the University of Central Florida. But that's exactly what happened to him.

In 1984, Morris left his home country of Belize to study anthropology at UCF. When he arrived at the Miami airport holding the wrong kind of visa, immigration officials took him into custody. UCF professor and renowned anthropologist Arlen Chase flew to south Florida to vouch for him and bring him back to the university, where he studied with Chase and his wife, Diane.

"The Chases are great teachers, and they provide the right environment for young students to get a comprehensive overview of archaeological techniques combined with practical work in the field," Morris said.

The Chases inspired Morris to continue on to earn master's and doctoral degrees in anthropology at UCLA. Through it all, he has stayed connected with Caracol.

"The Caracol project allowed me to realize that in order to accomplish anything in life we need to set

goals and then work at them," Morris said. "When I consider the tremendous amount of work done at Caracol over the past 20 years, I realize how defining a moment it was when we first visited the site to commence working there."

Morris' education and experience as one of the principal site managers at Caracol taught him how to manage a large project, overcome adversity in a very hostile jungle setting and be responsible for other people working on a project. Today, as the associate director of research and education in Belize's Institute of Archaeology, he's using those lessons to manage and preserve the archaeological heritage of his native land.



her job with the IOA. She worked for the IOA before coming to Orlando and wants to return to their research department. Her role would include maintaining the Caracol site, as well as other archaeological sites.

"I want to contribute in as many ways as I can to the institute for both tourism and research," she said. "From a historical standpoint, it's very important, and I want to maintain the relationship I have with the Chases and the partnership they have with our government."

### UCF TOUR OF BELIZE

On March 7 - 12, 2005, members of UCF's Board of Trustees, as well as faculty, staff and alumni, made the journey to Belize to see the Caracol project up close. Among those who

bought tickets for the UCF Alumni Association travel program's first trip to Central America were UCF President John Hitt and his wife, Martha.

Rick Lee, '85, president and CEO of Citizens Bank of Oviedo and former UCF trustee, also made the trip. He discovered the hardships of field work in a foreign country almost immediately, as he and Dr. Hitt had to push their passenger van at the Belize airport in order to initiate a jump-start. In spite of this initial inconvenience, Lee still raves about the trip.

"It was incredible. I've been all over the place, but this was one of the most wonderful trips I've ever been on," he said. "There's no way to describe what we saw, but suffice to say the partnership between UCF and the Belizean government is going very well."

Lee believes the reputation of UCF has been enhanced greatly due to the efforts of the Chases. What impressed ▶



1 | These visitors got a special guided tour of Caracol during the UCF Alumni Association's travel program trip to Belize trip in March. 2 | Intact tomb dating to ca. A.D. 500 from within Structure B42 (2005). 3 | UCF student Melissa Badillo excavates a Terminal Classic building north of Structure B36 (2004). 4 | Drs. Chase stand with Brian Woodye, '94, (center), a Belize native who at age 19 helped get permits for the Chases' archaeological expeditions. He was so inspired by their work and Caracol itself that he decided to attend UCF (2005).

**A.D. 577 or 582**  
Front tomb in Structure A34 consecrated.

**A.D. 588**  
Birth of Caracol Ruler Kan II.

**A.D. 599**  
Accession of Caracol Lord Smoke Ahau.

**A.D. 614**  
Tomb in Structure L3-2nd covered.

**A.D. 618**  
Accession of Kan II.

**A.D. 626-636**  
Naranjo wars; major expansion of Caracol follows.

**A.D. 634**  
Woman's tomb in Structure B19-2nd closed.

**A.D. 658**  
Accession of Caracol Ruler Smoke Skull; Death of Kan II.

**A.D. 680**  
Naranjo's war of independence.

**A.D. 696**  
Tomb in Structure A3-1st covered.

**A.D. 702**  
Capture of Ixkun lord noted on Stela 21.

**A.D. 800**  
Capture of 3 prisoners, including Ucanal lord, by Caracol Ruler Hok K'awil or his underlings.

**A.D. 859**  
Last recorded date at Caracol on Stela 10.

**A.D. 900-1500**  
Postclassic. Most major sites located away from Classic Period centers, but near water. Sites are generally characterized by low-lying as opposed to monumental architecture.

**ca. A.D. 1050**  
Last use of Caracol Structure A6; Caracol totally abandoned.

**A.D. 1500-present**  
"Historic" Europeans arrive in the New World; most native Maya populations disseminated by disease; others disrupted by warfare and forced population movements. Native populations still comprise over 50 percent of Guatemala and Yucatan.





Erik Stanley, '04, excavates in Structure D9 (2003).

## Graduate Certificate Program in Maya Studies

*Want to learn more about the Maya? Consider earning a graduate certificate in Maya Studies at UCF.*

The program focuses on the ancient and contemporary peoples of Mexico, Guatemala and Belize, a topic of local, national and international concern. The program is interdisciplinary with related offerings from history, political science and Spanish. The program is further strengthened by a community partnership with the Orlando Museum of Art.

The Maya Studies Graduate Certificate Program provides detailed and specialized knowledge of the ancient and contemporary Maya through a series of five well-integrated courses. Admission into the graduate certificate program is granted through the Office of Graduate Studies.

Visit [www.graduate.ucf.edu](http://www.graduate.ucf.edu) for details.

him the most was seeing the visiting paleontologists and anthropologists from other universities in the United States who were as excited as school children when they found out the Chases were at the site. "Being so well respected in educational circles means a lot for UCF," he said. "The fact that UCF officials realize the importance of this project opens doors for new international partnerships, not to mention unlimited support for the Chases."

As president and CEO of a bank, Lee understands the importance of relationships. A strong international focus, he stressed, has much more of a far-reaching impact than most people think. "Having win-win partnerships with other countries is critical to enhancing UCF's reputation worldwide," he said. "And after seeing Caracol, I know we are on the right track."

### MUCH WORK LEFT TO BE DONE

In A.D. 650, the urban area of Caracol had a radius of approximately 10 kilometers around the site's epicenter. "It isn't possible to completely excavate Caracol within a lifetime," said Chase. "We've been uncovering parts of the city and focusing on answering specific research questions each year or set of years."

And so there is much more work to be done, and many more students who will reap the benefits of hands-on field investigation work under the tutelage of the Chases. The Chases plan to focus next on the Classic Maya Collapse (abandonment of major cities ca. 900 A.D. or before). They have an idea of where to excavate to find the data they need to move forward on this problem, and they want to set up distance learn-

ing directly from Caracol to allow students who can't leave home to participate in the field experience.

Another interesting development has the Chases currently working with UCF biologists to develop research and educational opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students and faculty. They hope to develop a tropical biology and archaeology combined study abroad experience as well as research opportunities for conservation biology faculty and students. "Caracol is located within a nature preserve, so we would like to enhance facilities for joint use at the site," she said. "This would be an interdisciplinary effort at UCF and a partnership with the Belize Institute of Archaeology."

The possibilities are endless thanks to the strong partnerships nurtured and top-notch research conducted by the Chases over the years. It all adds up to benefits and opportunities for students, which in the end translates to a well-trained workforce for everyone.

"This represents an invaluable research project," said Woodye. "The Chases have shaped many careers by

enabling students to experience this site first-hand, and many of them are giving back to the field, and their communities, in many ways."

One can't help but think that Melissa Badillo is one of these lucky students who will be "giving back" very soon. "When I go back to Belize, I will tell everybody to try the anthropology program at UCF because it's so great," she said. "It's an experience that I will take with me for the rest of my life."

*Caracol Archaeological Project investigations have been sponsored by the University of Central Florida Trevor Colbourn Endowment, The United States Agency for International Development, the National Science Foundation, the Government of Belize, the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, the Foundation for the Advancement of Mesoamerican Studies Inc., the Ahou Foundation, the Stans Foundation, the University of New Mexico Foundation and private donations to the University of Central Florida Foundation, Inc. If you are interested in donating to the program, contact the UCF Foundation at (407) 882-1260 or visit <http://foundation.ucf.edu>.*

*For more information on the program, contact Jay Corzine, chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, at (407) 823-2227 or via e-mail at [hcorzine@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu](mailto:hcorzine@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu). Interested in taking the tour in 2006? Call the UCF Alumni Association at (407) UCF-ALUM or (800) 330-ALUM, e-mail [knights@ucfalumni.com](mailto:knights@ucfalumni.com) or visit [www.ucfalumni.com](http://www.ucfalumni.com).*

*For more information on Caracol, visit [www.caracol.org](http://www.caracol.org).*

**1950, '51, '53** Linton Satterthwaite (University Museum, University of Pennsylvania) conducts investigations at the site. His focus is primarily on recording monuments (stelae and altars) and gaining a sample for display in Philadelphia. He makes a limited map of the site and discovers two tombs and several caches.

**1956, '58** A. H. Anderson returns to Caracol and works in the A Group and South Acropolis, excavating two more tombs.

**1980** Paul Healy (Trent University) investigates agricultural terraces within the Caracol area and notes an unusually high settlement density for the area.

### Current Caracol Archaeological Project Investigations

**1983, '84** Preliminary visits to Caracol by A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase in preparation for the start-up of the Caracol Archaeological Project (1985 - present).

**1985** First full field season of the Caracol Archaeological Project; camp building started; cache found in Structure A6, the "Temple of the Wooden Lintel," and two looted tombs with painted texts are investigated in Structure B20.

**1986** Discovery of ballcourt marker (Altar 21) denoting Caracol's defeat of Tikal in war; this finding leads to new explanation of the "Maya hiatus" — the rise of Caracol to power. Intact painted tomb of a royal woman, dating to A.D.

### Previous Investigations at Caracol

**1937** Caracol rediscovered by Rosa Mai, a lumberman searching for mahogany trees. The ruins were named "Caracol," Spanish for "shell," in reference to the winding logging road that provides access to the site.

**1938** A. H. Anderson (Archaeological Commissioner, Belize) initially visits Caracol and notes large number of carved monuments at the site; spends next decade attempting to get an archaeologist to work at the site.



A fully uncovered Structure B19 at the summit of Caana (2005).



634, is investigated at Caana. Two other intact tombs with painted dates are also excavated.

**1987** Initiation of settlement research at Caracol; realization that there are tombs located throughout the site and not just in the epicenter. Extensive Caracol causeway system discovered.

**1988** First season of southeast sector settlement research (sponsored by H. F. Guggenheim); recognition that population increase and building boom directly follows Tikal and Naranjo wars.

**1989** Second season of southeast sector settlement work. Majority of agricultural fields, housing and causeways/termini prove to be post-war phenomena. Beginning of USAID and Government of Belize funding. Discovery that Caracol was extremely warlike post A.D. 800. Recognition that final phase of Caana, Caracol's largest architectural complex, was constructed post-A.D. 800.

**1990** Tomb in Structure A7; numerous caches in Structures A2 and A8; South Acropolis found to have a major Early Classic phase.

**1991** Causeway system and the site of Caracol are discovered to be ca. 7 km radius. Jade mask and mercury found in a stone box cache in Structure A6. Intact stucco frieze is found on an earlier building at Caana. Government of Belize declares whole of Caracol area a national park.

**1992** Discovery of ruler's tomb in South Acropolis and royal tombs in the Central Acropolis. Government of Belize builds all-weather road into site.

**1993** Investigations on Caana locate a royal tomb in Structure B20 and deeply buried ritual deposits in Structure B19. Hieroglyphic texts are found in non-elite contexts.

**1994** First of two seasons of National Science Foundation research program geared at determining settlement density and dating in the NE sector of Caracol.

**1995** Continuation of study of ancient settlement. No drop-off in settlement density is found in transects mapped outside the epicenter for 6 km to the north and south. Mapping and reconnaissance indicate Caracol (the city) to have a radius of 10 kilometers.

**1996** Mapping of the central 9-square-kilometer block of Caracol's settlement is completed; investigations in front of Structure B34 in the Northeast Acropolis uncovered a Preclassic shrine (dated to ca. 100 B.C.).

**1997** Investigations focused on Southeast sector residential groups with open/collapsed/looted tombs with primary support from FAMSI; mapping extended the core coverage to more than 16 square kilometers.

**1998** Excavations focused on basal architecture associated with Structures A1, A3 and A8, as well as on a residential group 500 m north of the A Group. Mapping recorded the Retiro and Ceiba termini and their associated causeways.

**1999** Excavations focused on axial trenching of the basal stairs of Structures A2 and A3. A residential group was investigated immediately north of the epicenter. Mapping concentrated on recording an east-west transect 6 kilometers north of the epicenter. The Caracol Site Museum opened in late March.

**2000** Excavations focused on structures within the southwest walled area and one residential group immediately south of this area. Mapping concentrated on terraces in the Chaquistero area. Belize's Tourism Development Project, under the direction of Belizean archaeologist Dr. Jaime Awe, began extensive "tourist-proofing" of Caracol's buildings. Front-page coverage in New York Times on Caracol as an "edge city."

**2001** Excavations focused on the palace structures in Barrio and Caana in preparation for their final stabilization by the TDP. Extensive Terminal Classic trash deposits were recovered in the Barrio excavations. On Caana, Structure B18 was investigated at its summit and base, the rooms in the NW Quad were completely cleared and recorded, and two elite tombs were found at the base of Structure B19.

**2002** Excavations focused on Structures A13, B28 and F4; a deep plaza test was also dug in front of Structure B33. A new stela was found in front of Structure B28 and a new stucco text was recovered in association with Structure B19. The contents and drawings of two residential tombs, recovered by the TDP, were processed.

**2003** Excavations focused on finding "attached specialists." Five smaller buildings adjacent to Caracol's South Acropolis were excavated. Four burials and intact garbage from a collapsed Protoclassic chultun were also recovered. Conjoined work was also done with the Belize Tourism Development Project as they began the stabilization of the buildings in the South Acropolis.

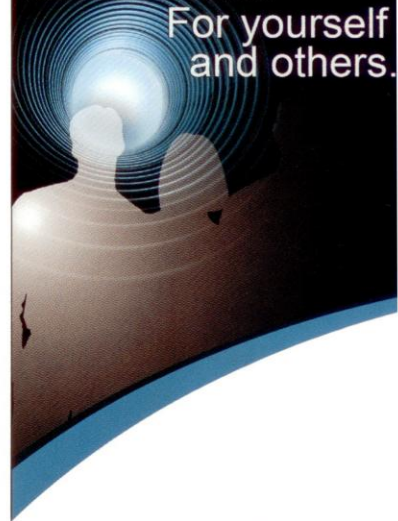
**2004** Excavations continued to focus on attached specialists. Small structures immediately east of Barrio and west of Caana were excavated. These investigations recovered Terminal Classic line-of-stone buildings and three Early Classic interments. The Belize Tourism Development Project concluded work in January; last 10 miles of the road to Caracol were paved during the summer.

**2005** Investigations focused on locating non-palace Terminal Classic occupation associated with small structures in the vicinity of the epicenter. Structure I20 produced a late burial and use-related materials dating to this era; Structure B59 proved to be a late vaulted building with interior stone piers. Structures B40, 42 and 44 yielded a series of tombs, burials and caches that spanned the Protoclassic to Terminal Classic Periods.

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