REMINDERS:
1. Next Meeting!
   a. Dr. Delind, sociocultural anthropologist, will be speaking about her urban gardening research! Please check your email for more details. 😊
   b. Monday, October 8th, 2012 at 7:00pm in 155 Baker Hall
2. Dues:
   a. Dues are only $5 a semester! They help to pay for the pizza and pop we provide at each meeting, as well as help to defer costs of field trips and other activities for our Club.
3. Homecoming parade:
   a. If you have yet to express your interest in walking with us in the MSU Homecoming Parade, please let us know! Our email address is anthro@msu.edu
4. Painting the Rock!
   a. If you are interesting in helping us plan to Paint the Rock, please send us an email! We are currently gauging interest and ideas, so please let us know your thoughts.

MEETING NOTES:
• **2012 MSU Field-school in Belize: What to expect!!!**
  o Point of the field school: be involved in the research!
  o Lectures, exams, notes, learning to be a professional anthropologist in the field...DOING research!
  o “Discovery Channel is crap!” ➔ You actually get your hands dirty. You learn what archaeology actually is
  o Running project since 2005
  o Central Belize Archaeological Survey ➔ changed from the “Caves Branch Belize Archaeological Survey”
  o Limestone is important! ➔ water cuts out the earth (limestone) to create beautiful caves
  o 20 student limit for the trip!!! Please keep this in mind if you are interested in attending.
  o Food
    ▪ Delicious!!
    ▪ Great quality and all you can eat for every meal
  o The Setting:
    ▪ Belize, the East Coast of Guatemala
    ▪ 250 miles long, 50 miles wide
- Has the world’s smallest capital city (“like Okemos”)
- Site: 20 minutes from the capital
- Caves Branch River, part of which is underground
  - Forms caves! Where many of the original excavated sites lie
- Roaring Creek creates many sites as well

○ Foci:
  - *Belizean* Maya culture and history
  - Excavation of human remains, excavation of architecture, mapping of caves...a little of everything!
  - Involvement with other archaeological surveys
  - Divided into groups of 2 to 7 people
  - Rotate through each focus
    - Maya history → culture!
    - Bioarchaeology → human remains
    - Speleology → cave archaeology
    - Settlement → where people lived, etc.
    - Lab methods → “when you find the things, what do you do with them?”

○ Calendar:
  - People all over the United States and world are involved!
  - 5 week program
  - Sunday, May 26th (picked up from the airport with a school bus)
  - Monday, May 27th
    - TUTORIAL
    - How to take notes, what artifacts will look like, how to excavate, etc.
  - Tuesday, May 28th → Out in the field!!!
  - Jun 3-7: Long weekend in San Ignacio
  - Jun 12: Day trip to Zoo and Belize Institute of Archaeology
    - All the animals of Belize!
    - Governmental wing of Archaeology in Belize! Run and manage all of the sites; maintenance and security; restored sites; cultural heritage
    - Meet all of the important people associated with the Belize Institute of Archaeology (no other field school does this)
    - Get to visit “The Vault”
      - No one else gets to visit this area; special artifacts no one else gets to see
  - Jun 16-20th: long weekend (independent travel)
  - Jun 24th: day trip to Caracol
    - Amazing architecture (peripheral zone to the Maya)
    - “Gaudy! Big!”
  - Depart Saturday, June 29th, or so...
    - Goodbye dinner and rides to the airport
  - OR: Belize Archaeology Symposium begins on July 1st, 2013
• Cheap, safe lodging
• Affordable
• Every single project director working in the country MUST present at this conference
• Meet everyone and ask about Belize with important, “Big” people who work there
• “Introduction to the archaeology community of Belize”

○ The Accommodations:
  ▪ The Sibun Research Center
  ▪ 4 people per room
  ▪ 1 bathroom per 4 people
  ▪ Air conditioning!
  ▪ Beautiful surrounding and activities
  ▪ “Ridiculously nice...people tease me and call it ‘resort archaeology’...”

○ The Fieldwork—Daily Schedule:
  ▪ 6:00am sharp!!! → Breakfast
  ▪ 7:00am → Leave for the field
  ▪ 30 minute drive, 1 hour walk (3 to 4 miles) to the site
  ▪ 12:00 pm → Lunch (half hour)
  ▪ 4:00pm → leave the field
  ▪ 1 hour walk (3 to 4 miles) to the site, 30 minute drive
  ▪ 5:00pm → lab work
    ▪ Lab maintenance, processing of the artifacts that you find that day, etc.
  ▪ Go back to rooms, shower, get presentable
  ▪ 6:00pm → dinner
  ▪ 7:00pm → lab work/study time/lectures
  ▪ BE PREPARED!!! Must be physically fit and adaptable

○ Maya History
  ▪ Heather McKillop, “The Ancient Maya”
    ▪ The textbook for the class; will get to meet the author!
  ▪ How are “our” groups of Maya different from the Mayan groups that live elsewhere?
  ▪ Working with some workmen who are direct descendants of the Maya!!!

○ Bioarchaeology
  ▪ Working in two sites during the field season
  ▪ Actun Cabul (“Cabul Cave”), in the middle of the jungle
    ▪ Near large settlement site
    ▪ Strapped to ropes...doing some spelunking!
      ▪ Need this to get to 100 feet X 500 feet burial chamber that is a mass of scattered bone
  ▪ Dental morphology patterns, inventory, drawing, mapping, cranial modification identifications, bone distributions...ALL documentation will be completed in the caves!
• Will be keeping the bones in the caves unless absolutely necessary to remove them
• Reason: maintain the integrity of the site

○ Speleology
  ▪ Huge scatters of artifacts
  ▪ Difficult to take photos in caves! “A subtle art…”
  ▪ Back burial chamber: involves spelunking over a 50 foot drop...
  ▪ Remains of ancient rituals performed in the caves
  ▪ Heavily looted site, but still a lot to learn!
  ▪ Analyzing all pottery in situ! Again, maintaining integrity of the site...
  ▪ Drawing pottery, documentation, descriptions, temper, paste, morphologies...how to determine what it was and what it was used for
  ▪ Mapping the huge cave → everyone doing their own portion of the cave to create a large overall map

○ Settlement Survey
  ▪ Discovered in 2009: Tipan Chen Uitz
  ▪ “Told that there was a huge site...yeah, right...we hear this all the time...but it was real!!!”
  ▪ Largest site that has been found in Belize for the last 40 years
  ▪ Will get to excavate on it!
  ▪ Surveying → figuring out the boundaries of the site, the different chambers/rooms, etc.
  ▪ Found carved stone monument with glyphs...and a date!!!
    • December 1st, 711 A.D.!!!! → only found half of the monument!
    • Looking for the second half this summer
    • HUGE find in archaeology
  ▪ Will be able to find shapes of buildings by the end of the school. At the beginning, it will all just look like rubble and rocks

○ Lab Methods
  ▪ Drawing artifacts
  ▪ Analyzing and documenting various artifacts (pottery, shells, archaic spear heads, carvings, etc.)

○ Downfalls
  ▪ Muddy
  ▪ Bugs everywhere
  ▪ Rain = harder to travel
  ▪ Potential for forest fires
  ▪ Bott flies!!!
  ▪ Lots of blisters
  ▪ BE PREPARED!!!
  ▪ Dirty clothes...so don’t dig in nice things

○ Field Trips
  ▪ San Ignacio
• Lots of sites, tours, tourists, amazing restaurants (especially Thai and pizza)
• 1 free day: relaxing, horseback riding, Maya medicine trail, cave tours, sailing, etc.
• Local hotel, meals together, archaeological sites, hiking
  ▪ Belize Zoo
    • Can pet a jaguar!!! ($5)
  ▪ Caracol
    • Three pyramids built on the summit of a pyramid
    • See across the top of the jungle
    • Incredible hike, but completely worth it
    • “Your calves will be BURNING”
    • Terraced waterfalls, swimming, etc.
  ▪ Institute of Archaeology
  ▪ Free Weekend
    • Going to the “Keys” (most popular)
    • Snorkeling and scuba diving
    • Fishing
    • Many islands to visit
    • Archaeological sites
    • Not allowed to go to Guatemala!!!!!!
○ Questions
  ▪ Focused mostly on archaeological methods
  ▪ Other fields that benefit from this field school:
    • Physical, cultural, archaeology
    • Meeting modern Maya!!
      ○ “Maya excavating the Maya”
  ▪ Not as formal anthropologically, but, obviously, anthropology is completely inherent
○ Study Abroad Fair is on Thursday, September 27th!!!
  ▪ Sign-up begins then