

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT Visiting Scholars Grant Application
2008-2009**



Proposal Title

Mayan Calendar: Year 2012 and the End of the World

Proposal Originators, Titles and contact information

Melissa Berta, Ed.D.- Professor, Mathematics Department
Bill Breece, Ph.D. - Professor, Anthropology, Archaeology Department
Nick Contopoulos, M.S. - Professor, Astronomy Department
Irene Naesse, M.A., - Professor, Department of Geography
Irene Rickerson, Ph.D. - Professor, Art

Description of the proposed Visiting Scholar (Please include recent speaking history.)

"Dr. Barnhart has worked in Mexico and Central America for the last fourteen years as an archaeologist, an explorer and an instructor. During his four years as the student of Dr. Linda Schele (world renowned for finally breaking the Mayan code of hieroglyphics in 1973), he developed a strong background in Mayan hieroglyphics, iconography and archaeoastronomy. From 1998 to 2000, Dr. Barnhart was the Director of the Palenque Mapping Project, an archaeological survey that discovered over 1000 new structures in the Mayan ruins of Palenque. Dr. Barnhart received his PhD in Anthropology from The University of Texas at Austin in 2001 and is now the Director of the Maya Exploration Center, a non-profit research center based in Austin, Texas and Palenque, Chiapas, Mexico. He and his team are currently investigating archaeoastronomy and ancient geometry in the ruins of Chiapas."

Which campus departments or disciplines will be involved in the program? (Priority will be given to applications which demonstrate the ability to integrate several academic disciplines.)

Disciplines that will directly benefit from the presentations: anthropology archaeology, architecture, astronomy, art history, engineering, geography, history, sociology, mathematics, philosophy and other related fields.

Which topics do you anticipate being addressed in the interdisciplinary academic panel presentation? Which departments might be asked to participate? (Guidelines and examples of successful proposals and program agendas are available on the Staff Development page of the OCC website)

Topics include:

The Maya Calendar as it pertains to the Sun, Venus, other planet's, stars, moon and constellations as markers
 Archaeoastronomy (alignment of important buildings with respect to stars)
 Hieroglyphs and their translation
 Architecture of the region
 Mathematics and the concept of zero
 Geography of the Mayan sites
 Art history of the region
 Archeology and anthropology of the Yucatan Peninsula
 Sociological impact on the empire by a conquering army

How does visit of the proposed Scholar benefit students and faculty?

- Exposure to the Mayan culture and their place in the cosmos.
- Mayan Calendar and how it coincides with pop – cultures interpretation of the 2012 phenomenon.
- Awareness of long term astronomical cycles such as precession, lunar and solar eclipses predictors, constellations and identifying planets with deities.
- Sophisticated numerical counting cycles that include the concept of zero.
- Collapse of a great empire in a short time and loss of most of the written records

Please itemize the anticipated costs of your proposed project.

Maximum amount is \$7,500

Items	Cost
Visiting Scholar fee and panelists payment	4000
Luncheon expenses	700
Campus-Wide Reception	1500
Promotional expenses (Flyers, mailers and handouts)	1000
Misc	300
TOTAL	7500