

# MAYA LANGUAGE STUDY IN GUATEMALA

## OXLAJUUJ AJ: Kaqchikel Maya Language & Culture Intensive Summer Institute

ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA

June 14 – July 23, 2004

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 26, 2004

By working closely with their Kaqchikel colleagues, course participants gain new perspectives.

**K**aqchikel, one of the principal Mayan languages, is spoken by more than half a million people in highland Guatemala. The region's long traditions of language and literature, including texts from the 16th Century, continues today as new works in modern Kaqchikel are published in ever-growing numbers. Efforts to preserve and protect the language are playing a pivotal role in the Mayan struggle to regain control over their political and cultural destiny.

The Stone Center for Latin American Studies offers an intensive six-week course in this vital language and its culture, a unique opportunity to observe and study the complex process as a traditionally marginalized language is standardized for use in education and publication. Judith M. Maxwell, associate professor of anthropology and director of the Interdisciplinary Program in Linguistics at Tulane, is co-director of the program and serves as a resource and guide for students. Walter E. Little is co-director of the program and a cultural anthropologist who focuses on the interrelationships between livelihood and identity among Kaqchikel Mayas. With the assistance of Kaqchikel teachers he plans cultural activities, guides discussions about Maya life, and invites noted Maya scholars, activists, educators, and health professionals to speak to students. The program is open to graduate students and advanced undergraduates with appropriate academic backgrounds and a working knowledge of Spanish.

This program is envisioned as a shared learning experience between students and teachers. While gaining access to Mayan culture, students also provide their Mayan collaborators with access to the large body of scholarship on their culture which has been published in the United States and in Europe.

### Fees

The cost of the six-week program is \$3,000 for the three-credit option and \$3,200 for the six-credit option. The cost includes the following: three or six undergraduate or graduate credits from Tulane University, medical insurance, specialized tours and outings designed for participants in the program, and travel in between sites on the program. Housing and airfare are not included in the program cost.

### Courses

The following courses will be offered during the program. Students have the option of taking either language-only for 3 credits or the 6-credit option: Beginning Kaqchikel Maya (3); Intermediate Kaqchikel Maya (3); Advanced Kaqchikel Maya (3); and Introductory, Intermediate, and Advanced Kaqchikel Culture (3 credits each).

### FURTHER INFORMATION

*For more information and an application, contact:*

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