

**BEN SAMUEL THOMAS**

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**EMPLOYMENT****Archaeological Institute of America (AIA), Boston MA: 2004 to Present**

- **Director of Programs**, 2008 to present
  - Responsibilities include oversight of:
    - AIA Membership (6000+ Supporting Members, 220,000+ Total Membership)
    - All Outreach and Education programs including ArchaeoCon (700+ participants annually from over 20 countries)
    - Professional Services including all Fellowships and Grants (between \$145,000 and \$250,000 awarded annually)
    - 100+ AIA Local Societies (US, Canada, and Europe)
    - National Lecture Program (over 200 lectures organized annually)
    - AIA Conservation and Site Preservation Program
    - International Archaeology Day.
- **Education and Outreach Coordinator**, 2004 to 2008

**Berklee College of Music (BCM), Boston MA: 2005-Present**

- **Associate Professor**, 2022, Liberal Arts and Sciences (promoted in 2022)
- **Assistant Professor**, 2005-2022, Liberal Arts and Sciences
  - Courses: *Mesoamerican Art and Archaeology*; *Great Discoveries in Archaeology*; and *LENS: Engaging with Artistic Space*

**EDUCATION****PhD in Archaeology**, Boston University, Boston, MA, January 2005

- Dissertation entitled "Maya Settlement and Political Hierarchy in the Sibun River Valley, Belize, Central America."
- Dissertation Supervisors:
  - Dr. Patricia A. McAnany, Kenan Eminent Professor and Chair, Department of Anthropology, UNC Chapel Hill
  - Dr. Norman Hammond, Professor Emeritus of Archaeology, Boston University, Associate of the Peabody Museum at Harvard University, Senior Fellow of the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research at Cambridge University
  - Dr. Pat Farrell, Professor (retired), College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, University of Minnesota Duluth.

**MA in Archaeology**, Boston University, Boston, MA, May 1999**BA in Anthropology**, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, May 1991**OTHER EXPERIENCE**

- **Instructor**, Summer Session II, 2003; Summer Sessions I and II, 2001; Summer Session II, 1999, Department of Archaeology, Boston University, Boston, MA.
- **Research Assistant**, 2001-2002, Department of Archaeology, Boston University, Boston, MA.
- **Teaching Assistant**, 1998, La Milpa Archaeological Project, Belize, C.A.
- **Teaching Assistant**, 1993, Department of Archaeology, Boston University, Boston, MA.
- **Instructor**, 1996-2000; 2002, Museum of Science, Boston, MA.

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)

- Fonseca, Sofia, Ben Thomas, and Aurélie Basterrachea, Editors  
Forthcoming *New Ways of Communicating Archaeology in a Digital World*. New York City: Springer.
- Fonseca, Sofia, Ben Thomas, and Aurélie Basterrachea,  
Forthcoming "Introduction—From In-Person to Virtual: Archaeology Moves Online." In *New Ways of Communicating Archaeology in a Digital World*, edited by Sofia Fonseca, Ben Thomas, and Aurélie Basterrachea. New York City: Springer.
- Thomas, Ben S., and Meredith A. Langlitz  
Forthcoming "From Interactive Digs to Mystery Cemeteries: The Role of AIA's Electronic Resources in Engaging and Educating the Public." In *New Ways of Communicating Archaeology in a Digital World*, edited by Sofia Fonseca, Ben Thomas, and Aurélie Basterrachea. New York City: Springer.
- 2019 "Archaeotourism, Archaeological Site Preservation, and Local Communities." In *Feasible Management of Archaeological Heritage Sites Open to Tourism*, edited by Douglas C. Comer and Annemarie Willems, pp. 69-78. New York City: Springer
- 2016 "The Archaeological Institute of America Site Preservation Program." In *With a World of Heritage So Rich: Lessons from Across the Globe for US Historic Preservation in its Second 50 years*, US/ICOMOS <https://usicomos.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/ThomasLanglitz.pdf>
- 2016 "Archaeology Fairs and Community-Based Approaches to Heritage." In *Advances in Archaeological Practice*, 4(4), pp. 462-475
- 2013 "Sustainable Site Preservation: AIA and the Future of Saving the Past." In Tampereen Museoiden Julkaisuja Publication, City Museum of Tampere, Finland
- 2012 "Sustainable Site Preservation: The Future of Saving the Past." In *The European Archaeologist*, Issue 37
- Langlitz, Meredith A. and Ben S. Thomas  
2012 "Public Outreach through National Archaeology Day." In *The European Archaeologist*, Issue 37
- Thomas, Ben S.  
2010 "Digging in the Classroom." In *NSSSA Leader*, Volume 24, No. 1, pp. 24-25
- 2004 "Visualizing the Political Landscape of the Sibun River." In *Archaeological Investigations in the Eastern Maya Lowlands: Papers of the 2003 Belize Archaeology Symposium*, edited by Jaime Awe, John Morris, and Sherilyne Jones, pp. 311-322. Institute of Archaeology, National Institute of Culture and History, Belmopan, Belize, C.A.
- McAnany, Patricia A., Eleanor Harrison, Polly A. Peterson, Steven Morandi, Satoru Murata, Ben S. Thomas, Sandra L. López Varela, Daniel Finamore, and David G. Buck  
2004 "The Deep History of the Sibun River Valley." In *Archaeological Investigations in the Eastern Maya Lowlands: Papers of the 2003 Belize Archaeology Symposium*, edited by Jaime Awe, John Morris, and Sherilyne Jones, pp. 295-310. Institute of Archaeology, National Institute of Culture and History, Belmopan, Belize, C.A.
- McAnany, Patricia A., Kimberly A. Berry, and Ben S. Thomas  
2003 "Wetlands, Rivers, and Caves: Agricultural and Ritual Practice in Two Lowland Maya Landscapes." In *Perspectives on Ancient Maya Rural Complexity*, edited by Gyles Iannone and Samuel V. Connell, pp. 71-81. Monograph 49. Los Angeles: Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA.
- McAnany, Patricia A., Ben Thomas, Steven Morandi, Polly A. Peterson, and Eleanor Harrison  
2002 "Praise the Ajaw and Pass the Kakaw: Xibun Maya and the Political Economy of Cacao." In *Ancient Maya Political Economies*, edited by Marilyn A. Masson and David A. Freidel, pp. 123-139. Blue Ridge Summit: Altamira Press.
- McAnany, Patricia A. and Ben Thomas, eds.  
2002 *Sacred Landscape and Settlement in the Sibun River Valley*. Occasional Publication No. 8. Albany: Institute for Mesoamerican Studies at University of Albany.

- Thomas, Ben and Corlyn Secchiaroli  
2002 "Settlements in the Middle and Lower Valley." In *Sacred Landscape and Settlement in the Sibun River Valley*, edited by Patricia A. McAnany and Ben Thomas, pp. 117-122. Occasional Publication No. 8. Albany: Institute for Mesoamerican Studies at University of Albany.
- Morandi, Steven and Ben Thomas  
2002 "First Shovel at the Samuel Oshon Site." In *Sacred Landscape and Settlement in the Sibun River Valley*, edited by Patricia A. McAnany and Ben Thomas, pp. 177-188. Occasional Publication No. 8. Albany: Institute for Mesoamerican Studies at University of Albany.
- Thomas, Ben and Kimberly Berry  
2001 "Rivers and Lakes." In *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Mesoamerican Cultures*, edited by David Carrasco. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Hammond, Norman, Gair Tourtellot, Gloria Everson, Kerry Lynn Sagebiel, Ben Thomas, and Marc Wolf  
2000 "Survey and Excavation at La Milpa, Belize, 1998." *Mexicon*, Vol. XXII, pp. 38-45.
- Hammond, Norman, and Ben Thomas  
1999 "Another Maya Throne Room at La Milpa." In *Context* 14 (1): 15-6.

**Production Staff**, *K'axob: Ritual, Work, and Family in an Ancient Maya Village*, edited by Patricia A. McAnany (2004). Assisted with illustrations, editing, and layout of publication.

#### SELECTED CONFERENCE SESSIONS AND PAPERS

- **EAA 2022:** Session co-organizer, *Visualizing, Interpreting, and Presenting Archaeological Sites to the Public*, 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists, August 31-September 2, 2022, Budapest.
  - Will present paper entitled, "Contextualizing Archaeotourism and the Visitor's Experience."
- **EAA 2021:** Session co-organizer, *Creativity and Resourcefulness in an Online World: How Archaeologists and Heritage Educators Overcame the Pandemic and Reached the Public in New Ways*, 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (Virtual), September 6-11, 2021.
  - Presented two papers co-authored with Meredith Langlitz in the session:
    - "Community and Networks in a Digital Age: Coming Together to Learn New Ways to Present Public Programs during a Pandemic"
    - "A Global Event During a Pandemic: Celebrating International Archaeology Day through Online Activities and Content"
- **SAA 2021:** "Is There a Place for Mock Digs in Archaeological Outreach?" Co-authored with Meredith Langlitz and presented at the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, April 15-17, 2021, Chicago.
- **EAA 2020:** Session co-organizer, *Sensitizing and Engaging the Public: The Role of Online Learning in Archaeology and Heritage Education*, 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (Virtual), August 24-30, 2020.
  - Presented in the session: "From Interactive Digs to Mystery Cemeteries: The Role of AIA's Electronic Resources in Engaging and Educating the Public"
- **EAA 2019:** Session co-organizer, *Archaeology for the Public: Developing Models and Tools for Assessing Public Outreach in Archaeology*, 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists, Bern, Switzerland, September 4-7, 2019
  - Presented in the session: "Peers, Partners, and Mentors: Establishing a Network of Heritage Educators"
- **EAA 2018:** Session co-organizer, *Are We Getting the Message Across? An Assessment of Public Outreach in Archaeology*, 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists, Barcelona, Spain, September 5-8, 2018
  - Presented in the session: "Archaeology Fairs." Co-authored with Meredith Langlitz
- **EAA 2017:** Session co-organizer, *Visualizing the Past. Exploring Meaningful Approaches in Interpreting the Archaeological Record, Part 2*, 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists, Maastricht, Netherlands, August 30 to September 3, 2017

- **EAA 2016:** Session co-organizer, *Visualizing the Past. Exploring Meaningful Approaches in Interpreting the Archaeological Record, Part 1*, 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists, Vilnius, Lithuania, August 30 to September 4, 2016
  - Presented in the session: “Using Archaeological Reconstructions for Outreach and Community Engagement”
- **EAA 2015:**
  - “Archaeotourism and its Impact on Sites and Local Communities.” Presented at the 21st Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists, Glasgow, Scotland, September 2-5, 2015
  - “Considering the Future of Archaeology and Outreach,” co-authored with Meredith Langlitz and presented at the 21st Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists, Glasgow, Scotland, September 2-5, 2015
- **SAA 2015:** “Bridging the Great Cultural Tourism Divide: Working with the Tourism Industry, co-authored with Meredith Langlitz and presented at the 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, San Francisco, CA. (2015)
- **EAA 2014:** “Site Preservation, Heritage Tourism, and Local Community Involvement,” co-authored with Meredith Langlitz and presented at the Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists in Istanbul, Turkey. (2014)
- **UMASS Amherst 2013:** “Preparing for Archaeotourists: What Can We Do?” co-authored with Meredith Langlitz and presented at the International Conference “The Past for Sale? The Economic Entanglements of Cultural Heritage” University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA (2013).
- **WAC 7, 2013**
  - “Community-Specific Approaches to Preserving Archaeological Sites,” co-authored with Meredith Langlitz and presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the World Archaeological Congress, Dead Sea, Jordan (2013).
  - “Public Engagement through Archaeology Day,” co-authored with Meredith Langlitz and presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the World Archaeological Congress (WAC 7), Dead Sea, Jordan (2013).
- **EAA 2012:** “Sustainable Site Preservation: The Future of Saving the Past,” co-authored with Meredith Langlitz and presented at the Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists, Helsinki, Finland (2012).
- **SAA 2012:** “National Archaeology Day and Public Outreach,” co-authored with Meredith Langlitz and presented at the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Memphis, TN (2012).
- **SAA 2011:** “Sustainable Site Preservation: Beyond Bricks and Mortar,” co-authored with Meredith Langlitz and presented at the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, St. Louis, MO (2011).
- **SAA 2009:** “The Need for a Unified Approach to Public Education in Archaeology.” Presented at the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Atlanta, GA (2009).
- **SAA 2007:** “From House Floors to Pyramids: Assessing Maya Architectural Variety and Variability in the Sibun River Valley in Belize.” Presented at the 72<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Austin, TX (2007)
- **BU GSC 2000: Co-chair**, with Eric Vrba and Kevin Mullen, of Graduate Student Conference entitled, “Siteless Archaeology: Contextualizing People and their Landscape.” Keynote speaker: Carole Crumley. Graduate Student Conference Committee, Department of Archaeology, Boston University. November 2000.

#### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIPS

- Board Member, Editorial Board, *Journal of Archaeology and Education*, 2017-present
- Board Member, Massachusetts Archaeology Educators Consortium (MAECON), 2012-present
- Board Member, Saving Antiquities for Everyone (SAFE), 2007-2009

- Member (current), Archaeological Institute of America (AIA); the Society for American Archaeology (SAA); European Association of Archaeologists (EAA)
- Research Fellow, Boston University Department of Archaeology, Boston, MA, 2006 to 2013

#### **COMMITTEE SERVICE**

- Archaeological Institute of America (current)
  - Staff Liaison to AIA's Site Preservation Committee, Outreach and Education Committee, Research Grants Committee, and Lecture Programs Committee
- European Association of Archaeologists (current)
  - Co-chair EAA Community *Integrating the Management of Archaeological Heritage and Tourism*
- National Arts Club, New York (current)
  - Education Committee for the Archaeology Program
- Society for American Archaeology
  - International Government Affairs Committee, 2013-2020
  - Public Education Committee, 2006-2013

#### **SELECTED LECTURES AND PUBLIC TALKS**

- "Preserving Belize's Archaeological Wonders: Visit (or Revisit) Belize Over Your Lunch Break!" AIA Virtual Presentation in support of Belize MoU, July 14, 2022.
- "From Fairs to International Archaeology Day: My Life in AIA Programs" Department of Classical Studies, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, November 5, 2021.
- "Exploring Xibalba: The Maya Underworld," Boston Public Library, Boston, MA, June 4, 2015.
- "Chocolate, Caves, and Christianity: The Ancient Maya along the Sibun River in Belize," The National Arts Club, New York City, NY, February 21, 2013
- "Ancient Maya," Boston Public Library, Boston, MA, December 13, 2012
- "Caves, Chocolate, and Christianity: Maya Archaeology in Belize," University of Evansville, Evansville, IN, February 23, 2012
- "Building the Maya World," Boston Public Library, Boston, MA, November 5, 2009
- "Searching for the Maya, Chocolate, and Christianity in the Shadow of the Sleeping Giant," Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA, October 30, 2009
- "Searching for the Maya, Chocolate and Christianity in the Shadow of the Sleeping Giant," Boston Public Library, Boston, MA, October 23, 2008
- Nadzia Borowski lecturer 2006/2007, National Lecture Program, Archaeological Institute of America. Gave lectures at Dickinson College and Pennsylvania State University.
- Doris Z. Stone lecturer in New World Archaeology 2005/2006, National Lecture Program, Archaeological Institute of America. Gave lectures at University of Iowa and Monmouth College.

#### **SPECIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL OUTREACH AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

- Created International Archaeology Day in 2011. Currently celebrated in over 27 countries by over 500 organizations. Over 1000 events are held for IAD and annual attendance is estimated at over 250,000 people worldwide.
- Co-created ArchaeoCon—a public outreach event featuring archaeological speakers, media personalities, interactive activities, and an archaeology fair. The first ArchaeoCon was featured in the Baltimore Sun, "Can you dig it? Archaeology conventioners descend on San Diego," by Rob Nikolewski (write-up <https://www.baltimoresun.com/sd-me-archaeology-convention-20190105-story.html>), January 5, 2019. The second ArchaeoCon was held in Washington D.C. in 2020. In 2021, we transitioned the program to an online platform and hosted the first virtual ArchaeoCon.
- Co-organizer and host, Archaeology Abridged, a series of short talks followed by Q and A for a public audience ([www.archaeological.org/archaeology-abridged-webinars](http://www.archaeological.org/archaeology-abridged-webinars))

- In response to the pandemic, co-organized a series of Listening Sessions to support heritage educators whose public programs were facing uncertain futures because of lockdowns and quarantines. We continue to hold regular listening sessions.
- Organized a series of workshop for Heritage Educators and teachers.
- Co-created new layer for Google Earth. Project described in "AIA's new Archaeology of America and Canada on Google Earth," and "Google Earth's New Layer: Archaeological Sites in the United States and Canada October 22, 2011." (<http://ancientworldonline.blogspot.com/2011/10/aias-new-archaeology-of-america-and.html>)

#### OTHER OUTREACH AND SERVICE ACTIVITIES

- **Tour Leader**, Jungle Kingdoms of the Ancient Maya, AIA Tours, January 14-27, 2023. A 14-day VIP (small group) tour to visit archaeological sites in Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras.
- **Tour Leader**, Pyramids and Temples of the Yucatan, AIA Tours, February 18-26, 2017. A nine-day VIP (small group) tour to visit archaeological sites in the Yucatan peninsula.
- **Consulted** on various archaeology and anthropology career guides including Chronicle Guidance Publications (2009) and Bureau of Labor Statistics Career Guides (2004-2017).
- **Expert Review** of Archaeological Content, Highlights Magazine, 2013
- **Content Advisor** for Museum of Science exhibit that was supposed to accompany the release of the fourth Indiana Jones movie, "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull."
- **Co-creator** with Adventure Travel Trade Association and Archaeology magazine, "AIA-ATTA Guide to Best Practices For Archaeological Tourism" <https://www.archaeological.org/programs/public/site-preservation/tourism/>

#### MEDIA

- Interviews
  - Dippin In Lindsay Randall Massachusetts Archaeological Society, March 22, 2021 (<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=253967636379590>)
  - Annually on WBCN's Boston Sunday Review with Mat Shafer, 2009-2018
  - Two-part interview (International Archaeology Day; Searching the Jungle for Maya Artifacts) with Jeanne Timmons for the blog Mostly Mammoths, 2016. (<https://mostlymammoth.wordpress.com/2016/02/19/dr-ben-thomas-part-1/>; <https://mostlymammoth.wordpress.com/2016/02/22/dr-ben-thomas-part-2/>)
  - 10/23/2013 Celebrating Archaeology: International Archaeology Day, guest on Indiana Jones: Myth, Reality and 21st Century Archaeology with Dr. Joseph Schuldenrein, October 23, 2013 (<https://www.voiceamerica.com/episode/73692/celebrating-archaeology-international-archaeology-day>)
  - inTravel Magazine's interview with AIA Director of Programs Ben Thomas and ATTA Vice President Chris Doyle AIA-ATTA Guide To Best Practices For Archaeological Tourism <https://intravelmag.com/intravel/interview/guarding-the-past-an-interview-with-ben-thomas-and-chris-doyle>
  - Segment for WGBH's radio show "The World." ([www.theworld.org](http://www.theworld.org), go to the Geo Quiz segment, March 31, 2006)
- Quoted in
  - Stay Home and Build Miniature Monuments, From Stonehenge to Giza: Who needs stones when you have marshmallows or foam? By Jessica Leigh Hester, in *Atlas Obscura*, April 21, 2020. (<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/quarantine-crafts-archaeology>). Article featured Build-Your-Own-Monument and was picked up by *Smithsonian Magazine Online* and *Newsela*.
  - How scientists are finding lost cities: Is this the 'City of the Monkey God'? By Lisa Suhay, March 2, 2015 (<https://www.csmonitor.com/Science/2015/0302/How-scientists-are-finding-lost-cities-Is-this-the-City-of-the-Monkey-God>)
  - Digging our past, events to mark Archaeology Month, October 1, 2012 (<https://www.milforddailynews.com/article/20121001/NEWS/310019934>)

- Dirt on an Archaeology Gala, Wall Street Journal, April 28, 2011  
(<https://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424052748704187604576289372374487528>)
- Uncovering Archaeological Treasures, in International Educator, July-August 2007
- Blogpost
  - Presenting, Supporting, and Celebrating Archaeology, created for A Day in Archaeology 2021, Council for British Archaeology (<https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/day/posts/presenting-supporting-and-celebrating-archaeology-1627490226>)

#### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EXPERIENCE**

- **Field Director**, Airport Link Road Project, Belize, C.A., 2002.
- **Field Director**, Xibun Archaeological Research Project (XARP), Belize, C.A., 2001 and 1999.
- **Operation Director**, K'axob Wetlands Research, Belize, C.A., 1998.
- **Operation Director**, La Milpa Archaeological Project, Belize, C.A., 1998.
- **Operation Director**, K'axob Archaeological Project and XARP, Belize, C.A., 1997.
- **Operation Director**, Santa Rosa Archaeological Project, Guatemala, 1996.
- **Field School Supervisor**, Carr Site, Rhode Island, 1995.
- **Operation Director**, K'axob Archaeological Project, Belize, C.A., 1995.
- **Crew Member**, Office of Public Archaeology, Boston, MA, 1993-94.
- **Field School Participant**, Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, MA, 1992.