Norman B. Schwartz

Tributes to our beloved friend, colleague, and mentor

Middlebury, 1963
Norman B. Schwartz

by Liza Grandia and John Hawkins
January 26, 2018

Throughout his life, Norman B. Schwartz has been both a productive scholar and, more important, a human being of enormous character, compassion, service to others, and wry good humor. In this note, we briefly summarize his academic life and university service, but choose to focus more on how many of us have experienced his wonderful characteristics as a friend and fellow on the path of living a good life among, and to the benefit, of others.

Norman Schwartz had deep roots in the Jewish tradition. His grandparents on both sides—Polish Jews who had moved to Russia—had immigrated to the United States in about 1913. Sadly, relatives who stayed disappeared in the tragedies of the Russian Revolution, World War II, and the Holocaust. Born in 1932, in a working-class factory district of Brooklyn, Norman was the first of his family to attend college. At CUNY, he majored in Philosophy, graduating in 1958.

When sharing a ride in a train car, Norm spotted Delia Tyvand, known to all as “Dilly.” He didn’t speak to her, but luckily, found her again at the university. They became friends, dated for a year, and married in 1955. They remained side by side seatmates in their life travels until Dilly died in August 2015.

Trained in four-field anthropology by Ruben Reina at the University of Pennsylvania, Norman excelled at his discipline’s meticulous social, cultural, political, and economic understanding of human lives. He first traveled to Petén with Dilly in 1960 for his dissertation fieldwork with milperos of San Andrés. Upon his return, he taught for six years at Middlebury College before completing his PhD in 1968 and moving to the University of Delaware that same year.

At Delaware, he was tenured, served as chair for five years, and taught courses in general anthropology, development, Mesoamerica and the Middle East until his retirement in 2005. Both at Middlebury and at the University of Delaware, he served for many years as advisor and guide in the Hillel programs of Jewish campus life. He was an active reviewer of numerous scholarly journals and university presses; he also edited or coedited the Delaware Review of Latin American Studies for 17 years. Norman presented at no less than 95 conferences since 1970, including at least two score after retirement.

His interests spanned the full gamut of cultural anthropology, with publications on the micro-economics of making a living in the Petén, religion, family life, politics, education, and ecological conservation, always with an eye to understanding intense and complex local detail set in national and global context. Norman consistently contributed to academic publications where ethnographic detail and implications for theory mattered. Throughout his life, Norman focused on the issues arising from progressive and increasingly rapid deforestation and consequent loss of bio- and cultural-diversity. Anyone seeking to master social and economic life in the Petén, or wishing to understand the forest/human interface anywhere in the world, must engage with Norman’s life-work.
Petén was his passion and the lifelong center of his research, informal teaching, and mentoring. Forgoing the romance and conveniences of working in and out of highland Guatemala and the capital city, Norman devoted his career to understanding the Maya lowlands. A true Mesoamericanist, Dr. Schwartz conducted comparative fieldwork and engaged in applied projects in central Panama, Belize, Quintana Roo, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and he also consulted colonial archives in Spain.

When he first traveled to Petén, this region (a third of Guatemala's territory) was home to just a few thousand people in towns more aptly described as forest outposts. Interested in cross-cultural psychology as well as milpa, his early scholarship spanned a range of topics about Petenero worldview—from conflict/law/factionalism, religious life, folk tales, assimilation, community values, and even dream analysis. He remained friends of the families who were his "key informants" for decades and delighted in the birth of their children, grandchildren, and onto great and great-great grandchildren. With Dilly, he followed and also kept touch with many San Andreseños who emigrated to “El Norte.”

They helped untold numbers of Petén youth with costs for their studies, including the late Carlos Soza, ProPeténo’s esteemed director from 1992 to 2003. Recognizing Carlos’s intelligence, Norman introduced him to an oilman, who later supported Carlos as an exchange student in high school. The English skills he acquired enabled Carlos to navigate complex politics with foreign donors and NGOs after the creation of the Maya Biosphere Reserve. After Carlos’s passing, Norman managed a scholarship fund for Petenero youth named in Soza’s honor.

Over five and a half decades of fieldwork, Norman was witness to one of world's most dramatic frontier settlement processes. Although Petén was an area of conflict during the Guatemalan civil war, Norman was one of the few anthropologists with the courage to continue fieldwork in the 1980s, even after military authorities once hauled him to the military base for questioning about his land research. He logged 49 trips to the field for an estimated 15 years of fieldwork and likely walked the length of Petén twenty times over with his favorite ethnographic subjects, the gum tappers of Petén known as "chicleros."

Norman had eye for patterns and repetitions, and a strong sense of continuity permeates his scholarship. An expert on swidden on par with Hal Conklin, his longitudinal fieldwork on milpas (spanning 57 years) is an ecocultural treasure. From copious notes from the colonial archives, he can show that the price of a hundred pounds of corn was basically the name number of labor days in 1765 as 2015. Ground-truthing research he led with NASA helped advance understanding of the promises and limits of satellite forest cover images as a proxy measure for conservation. His 2015 co-authored publication "Swidden Counts: Production, Carrying Capacity and Sustainability in the Southern Maya Lowlands" (Journal of Anthropological Research) is an ethnographic masterpiece that challenges the conventional wisdom of archaeology, climate change, demography, and conservation strategy of the last several decades.

Officially the director of “ecotourism” for Conservation International’s ProPeténo project, Norman's real job from 1992-1995 was general advisor to the MAYAREMA project (a ten-year USAID program in support of the Maya Biosphere Reserve) and to prevent the gringos from total folly. Thus began his famous “coffee talks” at his favorite Las Puertas restaurant with
legions of project managers, technicians, students, donors, and others interested in Petén’s conservation. Always wrestling with the “damned machines” (computers) in ProPetén, he led a stunning number of surveys for applied and basic research—from village questionnaires about project benefits to thousand-person stratified surveys endorsed and used by the government for planning. Norman excelled at developing proxy indicators that were better representatives for household wealth than income.

An active scholar into his late eighties, his most recent work documenting the value of traditional home gardens for household nutrition and income is a must-read for scholars and agencies interested in helping to improve food security. All told, he was the author of seven books and monographs, thirty-three technical reports, and eighty-one articles (with more in process even as he approached the end of life).

He was honored on multiple occasions with honorary diplomas and invitations for the prestigious inaugural lecture of the Petén branch of the San Carlos, Guatemala's public university (Centro Universitario de el Petén). He received the Petén Order for Cultural Merit, the highest prize awarded by Petén's governor's council. A founding board member of ProPetén when it became a Guatemalan nonprofit in 2002, he was elected into honorary emeritus status by its governing assembly in 2005.

In the Petén, to refer to someone as an “hombre de maíz” is a complement of the highest order. From his expertise on milpa to his love of conversation over coffee, eggs, tortillas and copious amounts of habanero sauce, Norman is and always will be a true Man of Maize.

*Even as his illness progressed, Norman was delighted and refreshed by calls and notes from friends and mentees about the impact he has had in their lives.*

*It is to those tributes we now turn.*
Liza Grandia, a.k.a. "Kiddo", cultural anthropologist UC-Davis, Dept. of Native American Studies

"Kiddo, my ulcer's killing me; let's get a cup of coffee and talk about your time in El Cruce." I first met Norman June 18, 1993 when I arrived to Petén to spend six months as a volunteer for a Guatemalan conservation organization, ProPetén. Norman and ProPetén's director, the late Carlos Soza, apparently made side bets on how long I would last and if I would be blond or brunette. A previous gringa volunteer had just melted down and marshaled her considerable political capital to question whether foreign volunteers should be placed in communities where (heavens!) pigs roamed the streets. Carlos decided that if I was to stay, I would be sent to a remote village about five hours via bus to teach environmental education in the local school and work as a village extensionist under Norman's supervision.

Off I went. Norman told told me to check out the village, come back after a few days. He said the villagers would figure I would never return, so when I did, they'd be impressed and trust me. His trick worked. Every week, I would hop a ride back into town for the required staff meeting and then hustle back to the village that afternoon or the next day. Once a month, I'd come for a Sunday and write a technical report for Carlos and elaborate on it in another report for Norman. In our debriefs about those dot-matrix printed reports which I have kept all these years, he taught me how to ask questions and observe meaning in the most everyday circumstances. In retrospect, I realize he extracted a lot of fieldnotes from me (je je), but in the process, I discovered my life's destiny in anthropology.

Norman had taken a three-year leave from the University of Delaware to work as an advisor to Conservation International's Guatemala program called ProPetén. Advising everyone on cultural matters, he was a genius at planting ideas that others embraced and believed to be their own. In this he was like the sage Lao Tzu whose instruction for social change is now legend ("Go to the people. Live with them. Learn from them. Love them. Start with what they know. Build with what they have. But with the best leaders, when the work is done, the task accomplished, the people will say 'We have done this ourselves.") In the chasm that Norman's passing will leave in our lives and hearts, many of us should give pause about how much of ourselves and our projects are due to intellectual gifts from Norman. To give but one example, the "Eco-Escuela" was Norman's brainchild. While everyone else was fretting about peasants cutting down the forest, he realized early into the USAID project the necessity of building a cadre of middle-class Petenero allies for what otherwise appeared to be gringo imperialism disguised as conservation.

As senior advisor to everyone, he patiently briefed legions of gringos—consultants, project managers, students, volunteers—that passed through the region. At last count, he and I put together a database of almost 400 of them. Even though development bank bureaucrats routinely ignored his advice and too often stiffed him with the restaurant tab, he never stopped being generous with those seeking nuggets from his deep knowledge of Petén. Had the World Bank listened to his advice about land tenure or IDB managers actually read his report they commissioned on participation, a good deal of human tragedy could have been saved.
An excellent judge of character, Norman could also smell when someone was pumping him for intelligence for the wrong reasons. Perhaps my favorite memory of Norman was the night the night he put a DEA agent to sleep in Las Puertas. A persistent fellow, this agent had pressed both of us separately for information. When he spotted us at the restaurant, he just invited himself to join our table. "That's a very interesting question," Norman remarked to a pointed inquiry, "but to understand what's happening today, we need to return to colonial history." Two hours later, Norman was purposefully droning on about Spanish archives and that DEA agent never bothered us again.

When the money dried up in 2002 and the gringos left, Norman devoted countless hours to raising funds to help the struggling Guatemalan nonprofits survive — sending out fundraising letters, penning grant proposals, making trips to DC, leaning on colleagues to help. He held a World Bank manager to a light promise "to help" after visiting the Itzá town of San José. Because Norman had been at that meeting with the community, Norman felt his reputation was at stake since he'd introduced the Bank manager to the BioItzá leaders. I remember he was terribly busy at the university, but he nonetheless he stepped forward to design and co-author a proposal that became the first instance anywhere in the world that the World Bank through the Global Environmental Facility directly funded a grassroots indigenous group. In his final days, he wanted to make sure the projects were in good financial standing and salaries assured for respected colleagues.

With the creation of the Maya Biosphere Reserve in 1992, the Petén produced a tropical "boom" in graduate degrees. Regardless of how poorly conceived a prospectus might be, Norman Schwartz mentored everyone who came through.

When the time came for me to leave applied projects and go to graduate school in the early 2000s, he helped me advise the staff who took over the reproductive and environmental health program, *Remedios*. When it came time to design my own dissertation research, he saved me from a ridiculous plan to survey migration patterns in twenty or more Q'eqchi' villages and instead inductively allow my questions to emerge from a smaller set of places. Whether credited as an external member of not, Norman served on dozens of degree committees. For most of us, Norman reviewed our drafts in more detail than our actual advisors. With his love/hate relationship with computers, Norman never learned the use of track-changes or graduated to .docx. Always generous with doughnuts, he convinced secretaries to help him download and open files. He would then send his comments back in the long style of annotations by page and paragraph.

In an all-to-fast academic world where no one seems to have time to be generous anymore, Norman was the inspiration for my recent article "Slow Ethnography." Indeed, from the beginning, his infectious love for fieldwork saved me from the temptations of staying in town to attend this or that meeting or workshop. These could seem urgent, but were really forgettable. Norman always emphasized to me that good ethnography required spending the longest stretches possible in the villages.

Novices often start ethnographic interviews trying to prove to their informants how much they know. Norman taught me that humility, goofiness and starting with easy questions was the best
way to convince someone to open their local wisdom and knowledge. "Really? That's how you milk a cow?" will get you a lot further with a cattle rancher than letting him know you already know about the cost price points of veterinary products. You have to listen to fifty repetitive stories about pasture management until an informant surprises you with surprising new information about herbicides. Understanding pattern and variation is the soul of anthropology. In aberration we learn something novel about the rule. Well into his 80s, Norman was still questioning what he knew about milpa. He'd always remark that the more he learned about Petén, the less he knew.

Norman traveled only with a carry-on bag from the U.S. to Petén (usually with his famous red shirt) and could melt into the countryside for days on end with only a small "manpurse." No one in Petén knew he could drive. He learned more hitchhiking or talking with a driver. If a ride wasn't available, Norman would just start out walking, figuring someone would be curious to pick up a white-haired gringo. However, after Carlos Soza heard from a neighbor that Norman was picked up near the bandits' curve, a lonely stretch of road from San Andres to San Benito, Carlos gave him a scolding and required Norman to get a cell phone, but Norman never gave up walking Petén. He could also be seen in the early morning around the island of Flores taking a jog.

Norman had a gift for eliciting stories and gossip. He was always taking mental field notes, but also managed to maintain the privacy of key informants who, over the years, grew old with him. Though aligned with conservation, Norman had a knack for maintaining ethnographic neutrality. People of all persuasions—loggers, looters, business men, doctors, scientists, politicians, road engineers, even soldiers—confided in Norman. "How do you know that?" I often wondered. Any debrief with Norman after a meeting invariably elicited amazingly interesting details about power and politics--even from the most tedious USAID logframe workshop, Norman could notice something intriguing. The only thing, I think, that bored him were the interminable discussions in ProPetén meetings about the Toyota Hi-lux truck maintenance.

He took fieldnotes in large caps in small 3" by 5" notebooks that he diligently typed up. Meticulous with numbers and measurements, he could pull out details years later about the number of hectares for reforestation discussed at some meeting in 1992. One of his most remarkable papers was a simple essay on weights and measurements that showed (rather than stated) that policy makers had made erroneous decisions because they failed to understand that a Peten "cuerda" (the amount of land that could be worked in a day) was different than a highland "cuerda." Even while going through chemotherapy, he continued his constant mental measurements... he figured it was 7/10ths of a mile to walk the hospital from one end to another.

Irreverent and provocative in the classroom, he relished telling stories about how students reported him to his dean (football players apparently did not appreciate having their protective padding compared to the regalia worn in indigenous masculinity rituals). Of his own scholarship, he never took criticism personally. He shrugged and said, perhaps even those with whom he most vehemently disagreed about milpa or forestry were right. He taught me to play it cool and to remember the expression that 'revenge is a meal best eaten cold.' He often also quoted the Chinese proverb to 'be careful what you wished for.' Both saved me from send a lot of hot-headed emails in my indignant youth.
Over twenty four years of friendship and collaboration, we sent 1,677 letters back and forth by email. I do say "letters" rather than messages, because like his generation, Norman had a flair for correspondence. Most made me chuckle if not chortle. With an infectious laugh, his sense of humor was more like the guys on NPR's "Car Talk" than Eddie Murphy; he could spark amusement from the most mundane observations of human character. In lieu of anger, Norman chose to laugh at absurdity. Just in December he got me giggling about one particularly nutty USAID contractor who nearly drove us both batty by spoon feeding us random tables riddled with errors that we had to compare line by line with draft printed tables I managed to swipe from the office.

Over a quarter century, Norman and I have shared data, compared fieldnotes, and gossiped relentlessly. His wit, compassion, and impeccable manners were present in every letter. Knowing my penchant to work too hard, most messages closed with kindly advice to rest, read a trashy detective novel, and with the salutation: "Take it easy, Norman."

Many well-educated people in Petén believe that Norman is my father or my professor and cannot be convinced otherwise. How else to explain our camaraderie across so many generations? Norman and I were the best of friends, but in a sense, he was my intellectual father, as I would not be an anthropologist without his influence.

He is the only human being with whom I've repeatedly had fourteen hour continuous conversations. My favorite memories of academic conferences are those days when we would meet at a greasy spoon diner for breakfast, then eventually move to another greasy spoon diner for lunch, wander back to the conference and rope someone else into the conversation, and keep talking til it was time to find some place where he could get french fries or pizza (Norman's diet was always atrocious) and I might find some kale.

Although he made me play hooky from many a AAA or LASA panel, he always made a point of attending the Sunday morning 8 am panels where conference organizers tended to relegate the graduate students. He wanted them to have an audience since often no one would show up but the students.

That was quintessentially Norman—as ever, intellectually generous and never expecting credit--always ready for a cup of a coffee and chat.
**John Hawkins**

I early experienced Norm’s generous willingness to help anyone engage with Guatemala. He did so with many, as a friend and mentor, no matter the stage of their career. I first met Norm, I think, in a 1979 LASA meeting in Vancouver. We chatted about his and my work. The thing I remember most about the interaction, however, was that, compared to his wry, humorous, and ironic commentary on the nature of life swirling around him in the field and in academic corridors, I felt like a very dull conversationalist indeed. Throughout the nearly 40 subsequent years I have known him, Norm has been just fun to be around—never malicious or gossipy but always able to contribute a hilariously funny interpretation of ethnographic, academic, or personal life experience. Thank you, Norm, for making a lot of otherwise dull and pretentious conferences worth going to! You were a good and encouraging ray of light when I, as a young scholar, was feeling alienated and wondering if I could ever talk the language of this lot. More than being a friend, after laying out the conundrums I was struggling with in trying to convert my dissertation into a publishable book manuscript, Norm volunteered to read my work. He gave it a very helpful and thorough critique. Some of his advice I took, some I did not. In nearly forty-year retrospect, I wish I had taken and deployed all his advice! The thing that impressed me, however, was that at the earliest point in my career, he lent a substantial hand, He had no reason to do so other than his profound humanity and earnest friendship, for I was not his student, not his grad-school classmate, not his department colleague. We were just fellow academic travelers sharing a love for Guatemala. But, Oh—How he helped me begin my career! And he still helps, sick as he has been. Forty years later, both of us retired, Norm encourages me on my current work on religious change in Guatemala. He compares the religious practices of Petén now and in his 197xxxx publications on the subject, with what I found in the western highlands. He has read my latest manuscript a couple of times as it has evolved, and listened to me detail my thinking about aspects of religious life in the areas I worked. He still shares sage advice on how to deal with what has become an over-long manuscript and he offers insightful remarks on religion and ethnicity. A better personal and intellectual friend one could not have.

Other friends of Norm will now take over this essay and reveal aspects Norman’s career and commitment that I am aware of, but at a distance: Norman’s persona as a teacher, as a department colleague, and as a mentor of young scholars and aid managers in Guatemala.

**Brian Gurr, fellow board member ProPetén and co-coordinator of the Carlos Soza Scholarship Fund**

There is one memory of Norman in particular, that I will forever be able to recall with total clarity, which I feel captures our friendship, his personality, and his influence on me. Quite simply, it is sitting in Las Puertas restaurant, in the island town of Flores, Guatemala, sharing cups of strong coffee. I could have sat there for days. Our conversations usually started with Norman sharing a story or an insight, that provided guidance on work I was trying to support in La Maquina, or Cruce Dos Aguadas. But invariably the conversation spawned other stories, whether on conservation or Peten history, generously sprinkled with jokes, that always left me
enthralled, inspired, and in fits of laughter. I thank Norman for those experiences, perhaps better described as gifts.

**Mark Brenner, paleolimnologist**

I spoke with Norman (and son Mike) near the end of December, and as you said, his condition is grim. But as always, his sense of humor is intact. He mentioned that his only regret was that he hadn't eaten more pastrami sandwiches. I crossed paths many times with Norman when I was a grad student, doing research in Peten. I spent considerable time with him (and son Mike) at Macanche back in the late 1970s or 1980. I read his papers on the lives of chicleros and later referred to his book often (and recommended it to others). He was certainly a role model for me, especially in his ability to operate so effortlessly and ethically in a foreign culture and make fast friends so easily. I considered him THE expert on Petenero culture, and we met at a time when Peten was being transformed by in-migration of so many people from elsewhere in Guatemala. I had the good fortune to run into Norman later (by chance) on several occasions, when both of us were in Flores, and it was always a treat to connect again and hear his stories. Shortly after our conversation last month, Norman sent me some of his publications, co-authored with Amilcar Corzo, dealing with traditional food production in Peten (huertos familiares, milpa). I will undoubtedly use one or more of those papers in my summer Tropical Ecology class, taught in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico.

As a natural scientist, trained in biology and now in a geological sciences department, it is difficult for me to assess Norman's impact on Anthropology/Sociology. But there is no doubt that his work was of great interest to me, as it dealt with humans and their exploitation of natural resources. As I mentioned, even more so, just watching Norman interact with people in the field, hearing his stories, getting his take on things, and receiving encouragement, served as a model for the academic life. To say nothing of the fact that he was living proof that fieldwork and research were great fun. I am very sorry that his health is failing. I hope we can all take some consolation is knowing that he has lived a rich and good life.

**David Kaimowitz, Ford Foundation**

Norman Schwartz is the father of research on the Peten, and an example we all aspire to. When I first began work on the Peten two decades ago Norman's “Forest Society, A Social History of Peten, Guatemala” was the basic starting point. For decades Norman has shown an unwavering commitment to and demonstrated his deep understanding of the Peten’s rural communities. Norman probably doesn’t know how much I admire him – we only exchanged a few short messages -but I know I am not alone among the many researchers, practitioners, activists who have been quiet beneficiaries of Norman’s great wisdom and teachings. Thanks Norman, for all of it.
Jennifer Mathews, Trinity University

Norman is a true gentleman and a scholar. He reached out to me years ago when he saw that we shared a common interest in tourism in the Maya region and we co-authored a conference paper for the AAA's. We have spent many years talking about the anthropology of tourism and I marvel at how widely read he is and how he has stayed on top of the current literature. He is humble, gracious, curious, and still an avid learner, often downplaying his own accomplishments and knowledge. I loved running into him at conferences or getting a phone call or email asking my opinion of something he had been thinking about, as he always got me to think more deeply about things. He is great at making the effort to stay in touch and did so even when I was so bad at reaching out to him. It has been an honor to know Norman and I deeply admire his work and his keen mind. Thank you for being my colleague and keeping me on my academic toes all these years. Te mando un abrazo fuerte, Jennifer Mathews

Keith Kline, USAID director MAYAREMA project

Stormin’ Norman” has been an inspiration since our first meeting in the late 1980s. During 22 years working with USAID and more recently in other capacities, the importance of getting out into the field, on the ground, walking and talking, and most importantly, listening to the “real people” has been a recommended practice in large part because of Norman’s influence. The dog-eared and highlighted pages of his book, Forest Society A Social History of Petén, which holds a prominent place in my library, are one small testament to the lasting impact he has had on my life and that of countless others. I remember fondly his sly smile when confronted with questions that have no easy answers and soft-spoken insights that forced me to think about things from a different perspective. Thank you, Norman.

Bayron Milian, CUDEP

Conocí a Norman allá por los años 90, cuando trabajaba dentro del Proyecto Mayarema, desde esos años iniciamos una amistad que ha durado casi 30 años, toda una vida. Es amigo de toda mi familia, con quienes siempre comentamos su calidad humana, su humildad, su gentileza, su dedicación, y su lealtad. Es un amigo con el que siempre te quieres encontrar, porque te habla de una forma tan entusiasta, calmada, equilibrada y cálida, que te hace querer no separarte nunca de él. Cálido, cordial, amable, simpático, ese es Norman.

Lo recuerdo siempre caminando por las calles de Flores, saludando personas de la isla, con su andar pausado y determinado. Acá valoramos mucho el tiempo que dedico a Petén, pero, sobre todo, recuerdo mucho los desayunos, almuerzos y otras reuniones donde compartimos anécdotas de su vida en San Andrés y San José. No hay otro Norman aún, con esa dedicación, ese entusiasmo y esa entrega al Petén. Yo quisiéra ser un poco como él, seguir su ejemplo de vida y su trayectoria profesional. Se que siempre estará en nuestros corazones y que él nos llevará también en el suyo. ¡Hasta pronto amigo Norman!!

Bayron, Rina, Briss, Allison y Dylan
Collin Palkovitz, student

I first met Dr. Schwartz when I was an undeclared sophomore at the University of Delaware. I attended the first session of his "Applied Anthropology" class with the intention of adding it as an elective. I had an extra spot that I needed to fill that semester and Lindsay, my girlfriend at the time (now spouse of almost 15 years) was signed up for the class. After the first class was over, I stood up, walked out of the class, and into the departmental office to declare a major in Anthropology. That class was just the beginning of what would become a lifelong passion to learn about responsible development work and make a career out of it.

Dr. Schwartz is truly one of the key trajectory-altering figures in my life. His passion for his work and his standards for a job well done gave me the confidence that it was possible to make a positive difference in what had previously seemed to be an impossibly complex world. His commitment to rigorous application of best practices to help facilitate community led projects opened my eyes to a way of working that I had never known before. To this day, I can hear his voice in my head asking me to consider all possible outcomes for all parties when I'm evaluating an approach or a project. If something seems too good to be true, I can hear him insisting that "there is no free lunch." I reference him almost daily in both my professional and private life.

On a personal level, Dr. Schwartz is someone I simply love to be around. His skill for blending wit and wisdom is one of a kind. I spent many afternoons as an undergrad in his office discussing coursework or sitting on the steps of the anthropology department simply shooting the breeze. Whether it was a formal meeting for an independent study or a friendly lunch with Dilly and Norman years after moving away, every moment shared with Norman left me better than before. I'll cherish these memories forever.

Jim Nations

Norman,

During your decades of work in Guatemala, you've been the wise mentor who grounded us in the history and reality of the Petén, reminding us to treat the forest and the people--especially the people--with respect. You are the historian of the Petén's tropical forest and the conscience of the individuals who worked to conserve it. You're our link to the traditions of the Itza and their gentle way of caring for the Earth. You're our spokesman among the chicleros, xateros, and pimenteros who walk the forest and care for it. You're our shaman, our wise man, our Yoda--the man who launched a dozen careers with the words, "Let's go have a cup of coffee and talk about it."

Your legacy lives within the people who listened to your wisdom, within the organizations you helped create, and within the forest that lives on because you guided it toward a better future. Today, they all say, "Thank you."

Peace and Light, Jim Nations
**Jim Sexton, Regents’ Professor Emeritus**

24 January 2018

I have known Norm Schwartz and his works since 1972 when I was a doctoral candidate. I have not met a finer gentleman and scholar. His legacy includes numerous first-rate journal articles, reviews, and his superb book, *Forest Society: A Social History of Petén, Guatemala*.

James D. Sexton

**Pru and Don Rice**  
**Southern Illinois University Carbondale (emeriti)**

Don and I met Norman so long ago that we can’t even remember it. It was sometime in the early 1970s as we were starting dissertation archaeological fieldwork around Lake Yaxhá and Salpetén, in Petén, Guatemala. Norman was a beloved fixture in Flores and the general area. He knew everyone and everything and everywhere, and for two very green would-be Maya archaeologists he was a wonderful source of friendship and wisdom (and gossip). We always delighted—then, and ever since—in having a drink or a meal with him and hearing his stories. He’s a wonderful raconteur, and his cheerful disposition and optimism were contagious in easing us through the inevitable newbie trials of fieldwork.

We have a few great memories of Norman. One was being invited to join him and his family for Passover Seder when they were in Guatemala City, probably sometime in the early 80s. Another was some years earlier, when I was in Philadelphia for a meeting. We had dinner together and then he got lost driving me back to my hotel. We had apparently ventured into some fairly unsavory part of the city because I distinctly remember being stopped by police and told sternly “you don’t belong here!” We gratefully heeded their directions to get out.

In more recent years, Norman always took an interest in the grad students we brought into the field, and they in him. In one seminar I had them read *Forest Society* (1990; University of Pennsylvania Press), his deeply insightful book about the history of Petén through the chicle era. The students loved it and all wished he’d write a follow-up. So did I.

Over the last 15–20 years, Petén has been changing rapidly, losing many of those unique characteristics that inspire equal amounts of affection and exasperation. Sadly, one of the most wonderful Flores characters we are losing—an adoptive Petenero through and through, who inspired joy in all whose lives he touched—is Norman Schwartz. We already do, and long will, miss him dearly.
**Don Marcedonio por parte de ACOFOP**

Conocí a Norman cuando estábamos iniciando la discusión y los debates de la creación de la Reserva de Bósfora Maya, él estaba entonces en el Proyecto Propeten, desde entonces Norman se convirtió en un gran amigo, en un compañero de las comunidades y en todo un personaje en la Reserva.

El conocía a profundidad gran cantidad de los temas de la RBM, sobre todo de la realidad comunitaria, por eso nos ayudó con amplios análisis dados sus conocimientos como antropólogo.

En los primeros años de nuestra lucha por el acceso a las concesiones forestales, recuerdo un día cuando estaba desayunando, entro Norman, no nos veíamos desde hacía mucho tiempo, y me dijo, cómo va ACOFOP?, le dije, ahí luchando, yo no siento que hayamos avanzado mucho; y él calmado me pregunto, pero se han mantenido? Si le conteste; Ah! respondió él, eso ya es un éxito! Que gran verdad siguen siendo hasta ahora sus palabras

Norman, gracias por tu gran trabajo, tus recuerdos son imborrables en nuestro pensamiento, estas siempre presente en nuestro proceso y en el camino que seguimos las comunidades forestales de Petén, eres siempre inspiración para seguir adelante y vamos a seguir necesitando tu apoyo.

Norman, aquí esta ACOFOP para decirte que nos seguimos manteniendo!! Gracias por tus palabras de aliento en el momento preciso.

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**Erick Cotom Guzmán**

Tuve la dicha de conocer a Norman Schwartz, inicialmente en mi etapa formativa y académica cuando indagaba y realizaba un ensayo de maestría (2008-2009); aunque inicialmente lo hice a través de sus publicaciones, fue suficiente para entender que su obra y contribución en la documentación de los procesos migratorios y colonización en el departamento de Petén, son un regalo vivo, que me permitió abrir la puerta hacia la comprensión de aquellas corresponsabilidades en su degradación ambiental.

Cuando recibí la invitación (2 años después, agosto 2010 hasta 2011) para participar en el equipo de investigación y elaboración del Informe Tierra e Igualdad, Desafíos para la Administración de Tierras del departamento de Petén, Guatemala, nunca pensé que iba a conocer Norman (él fungía un rol de revisor y asesor de nuestro equipo). Durante ese proceso, se estrechó un lazo de respeto, hacia ese ser humano, que desde la sencillez de sus palabras, me brindó su amistad y su guía.

Durante la elaboración de mi tesis de maestría (durante el 2013), intercambiamos información de la misma, ya que, le pedí que me hiciera llegar sus observaciones y resultaron muy atinadas y enriquecedoras. Posteriormente (2014 en adelante), de manera inesperada me llegaba un e-mail donde él siempre me deseaba muchos éxitos y yo le preguntaba “cuando lo vería por tierras peteneras”. Mi última comunicación (por la misma vía) fue el 30 de diciembre de 2017, donde él
me respondió: “Espero que tú también estés gozando el año Nuevo con ánimo, y que el año nuevo te traiga amistad, salud y prosperidad”.

No me cabe duda, que soy afortunado en haber intercambiado palabras contigo y mi gratitud infinita por el valioso aporte que dejas en la historia de Petén; pero sobre, por tu gratificante amistad.

Dios te reciba en sus brazos amigo.

**Santiago Billy**

DON NORMAN

. TE CONOCI CON UNA GRAN SONRISA EN LOS LABIO Y UN CIGARRO.
. TE CONOCI CON UNA CERVEZA GALLO Y UN FUERTE APRETON DE MANO.
. TE CONOCI CON MUCHAS HISTORIAS DE PETEN Y NUNCA DEJAMOS DE COMPARTIR NUESTRAS AVENTURAS.
. TE CONOCI COMO VIEJO SABIO Y TU SABER ERA TAN AGRADABLE.
. TE CONOCI COMO AMIGO Y QUEDASTE COMO HERMANO.

MUCHO RESPECTO PARA DON NORMAN

SANTIAGO

**Andrew Hofling**

I first met Norman around 1980 while conducting dissertation fieldwork. I really got to know him in the 1990s, when he was active with ProPetén's conservation and sustainable development projects and I was busy doing fieldwork documenting Itzaj Maya in San José. I saw him at least once a week when I'd come to Flores. He was a wonderful companion in the field. I was immediately impressed by his generosity with everyone around him and his huge network of friends. He seemed to know everyone in Petén. We got to know each other and have been good friends ever since. Norman was very funny and a gifted storyteller. He has always been a kind and helpful senior colleague and was instrumental in helping me find a job. Don and Pru Rice have directed many excavations in the region and sent many students to the field. Norman was always helpful to them and they continue to ask for news about him. In more recent years he has shared his research on Petén gardens and milpas, and on economic development in Petén, which has greatly improved my understanding of those topics. I will always be indebted to him for his friendship and eagerness to share his understanding of life in the Petén. Whenever Norman and I talk we catch up family news and it was a great shock when Dilly died. They were one of the most loving couples I have ever seen. As sad as his death is, I have wonderful memories of our encounters.
**Oscar Obando**

Conocí a Norman, (Don Norman como suelo llamarle), allá por los inicios de los años 90. Recuerdo que fue a través de Carlos Soza y Amilcar Corzo. Poco a poco fui construyendo con él una relación que marcó mi vida en lo profesional y humana. Fue don Norman quien con su calidad académica me fue introduciendo en el campo de la investigación social. Esto me ayudó a entrar en contacto con la realidad socioeconómica de Petén. Recorrimos muchas comunidades de las áreas protegidas del departamento, a veces por encuestas, otras veces para entregar becas a jovenes favorecidos. Caminamos con él por lugares no imaginados, como aquella vez que fuimos a Dolores buscando el rancho petenero. Esa vez brincamos cercos, cruzamos arroyos, subimos cerros. Siempre admiro su energía, asimismo su capacidad acusiosa por todo aquello que llama su interés. Su magnífica forma de disertar una conferencia en el ámbito universitario. Estas abordadas con seriedad, profundidad y con su dosis de humor para hacerlas agradables e interesantes para el público.

Se hizo amigo de la familia, por la que siempre se preocupó. Compartió con mis hijos e hija y con mi esposa. Cuando hablamos me pregunta por cada uno de ellos. Uno a uno me pregunta como les va, como están, que hacen y que piensan para su futuro. He aquí su calidad humana. Las veces que platicamos de la vida familiar o de otros aspectos profesionales mostró tener algo que compartir, una experiencia que contar.

Hay tantas cosas que escribir de Don Norman, pero quiero decirle desde mi corazón que agradezco todo lo que ha dado por Peten; decirle que agradezco su influencia para creder en mi vida profesional. Gracias por su amistad y cariño hacia mi familia.

Siempre estará con nosotros.

Oscar, Aracely, Francisco, Oscar René, Ricardo y Andrea

**Nora Haenn**

Norman, by way of Uehli, taught me about the nuances of long-term fieldwork. The idea that the longer we spend immersed in a place the better we know it was not really true for Norman. He had spent enough time in Guatemala to know that any long-term relationship survives on long-term silences. Awkward differences of opinion, painful memories that people prefer remain buried, just don't bring these up if you want to remain welcome and if you want to care for other the way they have cared for you!

I give this advice to junior colleagues and my own students. Norman's wisdom endures. I just wish I had had the chance to sit at his feet more. In these days of fly-in and fly-out research, dissertations that chop up the material into three discrete articles, Norman's depth of experience is unequaled.

Thank you Norman for including me in the Guatemalan crowd!!! I send much love, Nora
**Scott Atran**

I have met many leaders of countries, movements and fields but few with Norman's honesty and humanity, and knowledge and appreciation of its limits. Always a sincere friend, no matter how intermittent our contacts, Norman helped me and others try to see things as they are rather than as we are, shown us you can lighten a large part of life's darkness with laugh, and taught in storied ways that because we all stumble we should not be fast to criticize or seek to punish. "In some oddball way," Norman once wrote to me, "the safest way to get campesinos in the nuclear zones to lay off damaging bio stations, etc. is to recognize their need and even their right to be there.... That primordial sense of justice seems to over-ride material interests when push comes to shove." And in dealing with bureaucracies, Norman mused: "It's a nutty world; we've got as many rituals as any New Guinea headhunter, but there it is." But a world better because of you, Norman.

**Alfred Nakatsuma**

I recall the first time around 1991 when I heard about Norman from Conservation International's Bob Heinzman in the original USAID "Mayarema" Project. CI spoke of him with such respect. He seemed to be considered a guru of social issues in the Peten. Frankly, I was surprised that an American, not a Guatemalan, was held in such high regard for something that I thought should be the domain of a local. I was skeptical, and expected a pompous academic, perhaps somebody who had done some fieldwork, developed a thesis, crunched some numbers and finished a Ph.D. dissertation on some arcane socio-historical aspect of the Peten. I met Norman soon afterwards during one of my field trips to the project. I was wrong.

Norman was, and I'm sure has continued to be not only an informal, warm, humble man, but he also clearly demonstrated profound knowledge that could only be gained by sharing, and not just studying. I saw that he treated people as friends, not just as colleagues or beneficiaries. He seemed to be a part of their lives, not merely knowledgeable about them. In my humble opinion, you can not understand people unless you truly are a part of them. This is what Norman was in my eyes. He was a part of the Peten and its people, and I'm sure he still is. I had a warm and thoughtful relationship with him, and called on him for insights and advice. I respect and admire the man, and still treasure the relationship we developed such a long time ago. He has my unending and profound thanks for the privilege of working together for the Peten. I am very proud to be his friend.

I have scoured my slides, and have not been able to find any shots of him. Though a wholly unsatisfactory alternative, the attached slide of the original USAID project team may bring a smile to his face and be an enjoyable memory. Hugs and love to a great man.

I hope folks don't mind that I have copied you all, with the simple intention of sharing a few words of admiration for Norman and a photo that may bring warm memories of those who somehow worked with him and together as a huge family over many years on something as precious as our beloved Peten.
Eva Kalny, Leibniz University of Hannover, Germany

I got to know Norman Schwartz in 2006. After having worked before in the Guatemalan highlands, I had decided to learn also more about lowland Petén. I already knew his book “Forest Society. A social history of Petén”, and when I had the chance to travel to the US, Norman invited me into his house. He and Dilly picked me up at the train station, and I stayed several days with them. I utterly enjoyed these days of warmth and hospitality. Both would do everything possible to make this a wonderful stay for me, and our conversations went on for hours and hours and would touch many different topics. Norman would generously share his knowledge and allow me to revise his huge library on Petén. He would also generously provide me with many contacts in Petén.

Since then I have had the opportunity to enjoyed Norman’s generosity, his warmth and laughter as well as his knowledgeable advice.

It is impressive how much people love and respect Norman in Petén. In fact, Norman is so much part of Petén. In so many different places people recall him warmly and so many people readily share happy memories of their encounters with Norman. Whenever I am Petén I can feel his presence there.

Michelle Asturias

…Norman from the first day I met him in the living room of my in-laws home on the island of Flores Petén was a great friend and a trusted mentor.

Kind, considerate, street smart, book smart, generous, funny, practical, intuitive, protective, respectful, honest, loyal, hardheaded sometimes (ha ha), patient, hardworking, humble…of course he would always tell people he doesn’t speak Spanish that well (which everyone know is a big fat lie!!) …what can I say but that I will truly miss him – he has been a part of our lives in Peten for over 25 years. Through the years we have kept in touch and he is like family. I can’t recall ever being angry with him…I can only remember the joy and laughter he brought to my life and to Sergios and the kids. We loved having him near us and sharing the warm Petén days and long conversations. I am honored to be able to say I am his friend…and he and Dilly will live in my heart forever.

Amilcar Corzo

Conocí a Norman en octubre de 1996. Carlos Soza, un amigo que dirigía una ONG de conservación me dijo que necesitaban a alguien que apoyara estudios socioeconómicos, creyó que yo podría ser y me pidió que asistiera a una entrevista como candidato. En el restaurante Las Puertas me esperaba un “gringo”, llamado Norman Schwartz, con una taza de café humeante, y la entrevista fue una plática abierta con la que hablamos más de una hora ese día. A partir de ahí nació una relación de trabajo, amistad, aprendizaje y aventuras académicas con muchas
anécdotas que algún día tendrá que escribir. Norman me enseñó lo que es hacer investigación comprometida y cómo cuestionar la realidad social entendiendo perspectivas contrapuestas. Su calidad humana, su acuciosidad, su compromiso con Petén me hace estar eternamente agradecido de un gran hombre, un maestro, un amigo, pero fundamentalmente un ser humano sencillo. Lamento no haberlo llevado a cenar y a conversar con la familia tan frecuentemente cuando estuve en Petén, porque además tenía temas para todos los gustos. Norman es de las personas que dejan huella y son insustituibles.

**Stephen Goodman**

Norman was one of the first seasoned, experienced colleagues that set my high expectations. He always had confidence that my experience in the field, in my case the jungles of the Peten, would be a priceless, enduring experience no matter the slow and challenging pace of the daily work.

**Luis Arriola**

Estimado y recordado Norman: 
Me hubiera gustado que nos conocieramos más. Pero el poco tiempo que compartimos juntos fue determinante para marcar mi vida académica y ayudarme, en cierto modo, a dónde estoy ahora. Gracias por tu legado como ser humano e investigador.

**Miriam Castillo**

Conocí a Don Norman en Petén, Guatemala, en el año 1999, cuando llegué a PROPETÉN a terminar una práctica de la Universidad. Tuve la dicha de conversar siempre que pude cuando coincidíamos en sus visitas a Petén, durante 4 años que viví por allá. Siempre admiré su forma de ser: sencillo, honesto, directo, alegre y con ganas de compartir sus conocimientos. Estoy segura que cada plática con Don Norman me dejó un poco de alegría, luz, esperanza y gana de trabajar en mi país. Le dejo un abrazo fuerte don Norman, aún guardo el libro que me regaló, siempre recordaré con cariño las pláticas que tuvimos con usted y Zucely. Muchas gracias por tener a Petén cerca de su corazón. con cariño, Miriam Castillo

**Barbara Dugelby**

I was introduced to Norman by Jim Nations, when I began my dissertation research on the chicle latex industry as part of the USAID Mayarema project in the Petén. Norman, in his fatherly way, immediately took me under his wing, introducing me to chicle contractors, local field assistants, and filling my head with important information and stories about how things worked (how to get research done and how to stay out of trouble) in Petén. I would venture that few would disagree
with me when I say that he was Mayarema’s “academic father”. I have fond memories of many afternoons and evenings sitting with him at a café or restaurant in Flores, listening to his stories, advice, and jokes – all interspersed with that sweet smile and signature throaty chuckle.

When I think of Norman, I think of a brilliant yet humble man who cares so deeply for everyone that he befriends, works with, or helps – from the farmers in Petén, to his academic colleagues, and graduate students. He shows this care through his honesty, his questions about our families, and his continual encouragement and support for our own work. When I had my first child and was home on maternity leave, Norman called me and said (quite sincerely), “Now you have time to write your book!”. That child is now 17 and about to graduate from high school, and I have finally started that book -- still very much inspired by Norman’s encouragement and confidence. Should I succeed in publishing, I will dedicate the book to him.

I am deeply grateful for the honor and privilege of having Norman as an advisor, colleague, and close friend.

**Ericka Moerkerken**

Let’s see how these words get together… I am quite emotional thinking of the idea that you are getting ready to leave this world, Norman, yet when I think of you, I always feel so reassured (and a tad bit guilty for not writing more often…) about life and how it will keep on going.

…

I met Norman for the first time in 2004, in the first months of coordinating a two-year project with Fundation ProPetén, in Flores, Guatemala. That was fourteen years ago… Though perhaps more in touch in those years than in more recent years, I consider Norman my friend, a very dear Friend, and in spite of me being such a lousy correspondent, which he has always so kindly forgiven, and beyond all the ups and downs on those roads taking us through the years, this friendship has remained constant over the years, especially through e-mails. They say “the devil is in the details”, but I feel that love is in the details of the work, words and just existence of a friend like Norman.

To me, Norman has been and is an “Elder” though not old, a guide, or a sort of mentor, - not in an academic sense, but someone whom I met at an important point in my life, both personally and professionally. I learned a lot from him, in ways that are hard to express, yet simple. I felt and still feel, I could write to about things that were not always easy, and he would share advice, thoughts, in a way that was so attentive, non-judgmental, understanding as if we were talking over a cup of coffee (and some peanuts) just like ordinary human beings.

I can resist some excerpts of messages Norman was written over the years (yes, I have keep them all!):

«I know you work very hard and have a lot on your own plate, do enjoy it all. Even the crises rarely turn out to be fatal” (2004), or ““In the meantime, be well and happy - the work is hard, the crises endless, but it's all interesting. ” or yet: “Write when you get a chance, and in the
meantime rest when you can, enjoy it all - even the bumpy parts - and be safe”. Or even” don't worry about long silences and such - I know you're busy working out your own destiny (2006) .... “So stay well, accomplish what you want to, and midst all of it, savor those moments that are warm and pleasant, including those that you can share with others. (2014).

Ah,… the bumpy roads. There have been a few over these past years, for all of us, for Norman especially… yet he has always shown strength and a form of serenity that is a lesson to us all. I remember how he would say that his mom must have rocked him quite energetically, or something of the sort, because on those bumpy roads in Peten, he would tend to fall asleep…

He loves Petén, as he once wrote: “I don't know if it's my imagination or the social intimacy of life in Peten, and the challenges of doing project work, but somehow, I find life is more vivid there, or perhaps more intense? “…. His commitment to Petén and ProPeten have been an inspiration.

And “retirement”… “It's cold here, y me hace falta Peten, but I am so over-committed with work that it seems less like retirement and more like another job. ! ... in 2007: “”I'm fine, fat and fit. Retired or not, there seems to be too much to do, but that's partly the American way of life.”

Norman is also so generous, caring— I remember how, after my mom (also so some extent an anthropologist) lost all her books to her house burning down, he sent a box of books.

Norman is an inspiration to be loving, attentive, a better human being and to keep a sense of humour. Though he would surely say I shouldn’t, I wish I could have been more present, especially in recent years. “Ailleurs n’est jamais loin quand on aime” – you are in my heart and will always be. Gracias por ser, y por estar, Don Norman!

**Conrad Reining**

I think I met Norman for the first time in the late 1980s. His book on the Petén’s forest society was a revelation, and helped open up a world that I cherish to this day. Later, as the Mayarema project got going, he was an anchor. His knowledge, respect for the Petén and its people, humility, and resolve were touchstones. I also appreciated his blend of creativity and rigor—he was as comfortable carrying out an academically oriented socioeconomic survey as he was chatting with a beer distributor on the events in far-flung villages. And I’m sure there are many of us here who can remember him saying, “let’s go get a cup of coffee” when something important needed to be discussed.

As Liza and others remind us, Norman has always taken a profound interest in our families. Just last night, my wife reminded me of the time that he and Dilly opened their house to the two of us—and our puppy. Later, when we sent a picture of our young children, Norman wrote back with the most wonderful, heartfelt note. He never failed to ask about my wife and children, deeply curious.
**Bruce Ferguson**

I did my dissertation fieldwork in Petén in the 90’s and Norman, through his writing and conversation, helped me understand what was going on around me. But beyond his invaluable scholarship and wonderful, earthy sense of humor, what sticks with me are his warmth and generosity. Norman always seemed genuinely excited and grateful that a new generation of scholars was working in Petén. He was encouraging with me and understanding of my naiveté. He also frequently lauded the work of Liza and other young researchers. His deep affection and respect for *peteneros*, his generosity, and his scholarship came together in the support he lent to institutions that will enrich lives far into the future. As I’ve moved on in academia, I've understood that generous, constant commitment to people and place combine with good scholarship in a rare and valuable blend. I aspire to carry on in that tradition, as I am sure is the case for many of us who have had the good fortune to learn from Norman's example.

**Dan Irwin**

I first met Norman in March of 1993, when I started working at ProPetén, as a volunteer right after graduate school. I will never forget Norman’s big smile, his warmth, and firm handshake when he greeted me in the lobby of the office upon my arrival. Shortly thereafter, Norman learned that I had a knack for fixing computers, and we instantly became close. It seemed that his computer was always crashing, his data was getting lost, it wasn’t saving on the flopping disk, or he couldn’t get the formatting right on his document in WordPerfect 5.1. So, Norman was always showing up at my desk for tech support. But the best part was that every time I fixed Norman’s computer, he would simultaneously share long and detailed stories about is early days in the Petén, the interesting people he had met, and about the local culture and livelihoods. He would also share wonderful stories about his youth and his own family. These were magical moments that I cherished, and although Norman was apologetic every time he showed up with a computer problem—and it was frequent—I was secretly delighted, because I had dedicated one-on-one time to listen and learn from the legendary Norman Schwartz.

My wife Julieta and I have a second home in San Andres. Literally every time I go down there, I smile as I recall the stories Norman shared, and how what he taught me helps me better understand my own Petenero family members, the people I meet, as well as the history and culture of the place that has now become my second home. Thank you, Norman!

**Anabel Ford**

There are not many days that pass that I do not think of Norman. Working in the same arena of the gran Petén but on the archaeological side, we were happily surprised at our convergence. His depth of on-the-ground experience, his cheerful but realistic perspective, and his connectivity lent weight to what may have appeared as off hand. Norman was both a friend and a critic, and that is the best kind. Challenging yet thoughtful, incisive but gentle, always clear as a bell, Norman brought his experience to every query. Wonder at Maya forest and the value of traditional land use are our shared experience. I can recall when he argued that his friend in San
Andres has had continually used his home garden since his first visit in the 50s, how could that be? Thinking of my visit to my Irish family in County Claire in 1966 and going out back and checking the wind... I inquired: where they relieved themselves? In the garden! This is the logic that plays well with Norman; practical and down to earth. I am sitting in LAX awaiting my flight to the Maya forest and El Pilar. How many times has Norman waited on his travels to the Maya forest and his Forest Society that dominated his career? This is the life of the academic world we live in and I am honored that Norman has visited me there. I see in him the same commitment I have one that goes beyond the research and reaches to the essential of what is native to the place. To be a part of Norman’s domain is been a reward. Con Cariños. Anabel Ford

David Carr

Norman:

authentic
classy
tough
passionate
wise
loving father and husband
mentor
just

Deeply and passionately caring about Peten and, aun mas, los Peteneros
Who says you can't be a scholar-advocate?
Who says you can't be an applied social scientist?
Norman showed us how to do it right.
From the deepest place of admiration and respect, from my ach'ol, Thank you Norman for all you have given us through your example.

Ileana Monterroso Ibarra

I met Norman in Peten just a recently undergrad returning home, trying to embark on my first research work, that was 18 years ago. As a surprise to me, a well-known expert, Peten legend and professor agreed to meet me in Las Puertas for breakfast. I would never forget that talk, although the content was enlightening it was the touch of the kind and encouraging words that made me feel I could actually have something interesting to say despite the lack of experience. I cherish all the conversations I had in the following years whenever we could meet over coffee. Talking to Norman has always been a good reminder of the importance of keeping a curious mind, a kind and humble spirit aiming for the understanding of life and trying to contribute to a better society, to improve the livelihood of people. His constant reminder that we could all, generate knowledge together, that there was always something new (and good) to learn, from
each other. Distances and time never changed that, I would email him, sure that he would always respond, so I did last year when I sent an email and you wrote me back letting me know you were sick, even then you took the time to write me... Norman would always have time to talk to people, always would be willing to share and to listen.

There are many things I could say about you, but there is one that is close to my heart. I took a long time to finish my PhD work, I struggled for several reasons, I felt a bit lost. One day I decided to write you, share with you my concerns, you wrote me several pages - single space. I still have those pages as I still have the notes from that first discussion with you. You reminded me of the inspirations I had to finish, you sent me articles, you shared with me links, you put me in touch with people, you reviewed the things I shared and you commented on every single thing I sent (and I sent several things). You gave me more time that I ever received from any other mentor to finish that work. It is impossible for me to think of Peten, of that place that dear to my heart without you coming to my mind. I consider myself extremely thankful to life, for the wonderful joy of those conversations with you, because I was able to learn more from Peten (and all that this means) through your words.

Guatemala, January 25, 2018

Meredith Fort

As I sit here in the Houston airport waiting for my flight to Guatemala, I wonder how many of these trips Norman has made and how the traveling experience has changed during decades of visiting his second home. He would surely laugh and raise an eyebrow at the doggie bathrooms and high-end "street" food that I have walked by during my layover. Norman, what was it like when you first traveled? I am sure there are many great stories filled with lots of jokes.

When I moved to the Petén in 1997, I remember the respect Norman's colleagues had for him every time anyone mentioned his name. His life-time commitment to supporting communities to build a sustainable future - and contagiously sweeping up the younger generation - is anthropology in its best form. But for Norman, his academic career appears to have been a pursuit from the heart - more of a magnetic attraction to people who he learns from and teaches. Thank you Norman for bringing our global community closer together.

Georg Grunberg

Querido Norman, te conocí en pleno Petén, el lugar certero para los encuentros imprevistos y fortuitos. Eso fue a mediados de los años 90 y contigo encontré un maestro que en mi tierra nunca había tenido, convirtiéndose, sin dejar de serlo, además en un buen amigo. Dos regalos que me marcaron mis años en Guatemala. Lo mejor de nuestra convivencia fueron los desayunos "filosóficos" y los muchos viajes, cruzando el Petén por todos los caminos existentes, siempre con los ojos bien abiertos (como los huevos estrellados en el desayuno donde la Doña Irma ) y con una sonrisa olímpica de contemplación profunda y alegre de todos los desastres habidos y por haber. Alegre, por tu aprecio imperturbable del potencial humano de hacer las cosas mejor, y
critico por todas las experiencias vividas. Y siempre, incluyendo con cariño mi familia un poco dispersa y complicada...que te manda un abrazo. Seguiremos viajando contigo!

Nancy Lee Adamson

Dear Norman,

Liza asked us to share our thoughts to be shared with you and possibly your children and colleagues. I have many regrets about not pursuing ethnobotany or other loves, so this is more personal than professional, so it’s up to you if you’d like it shared or not, whether with your family or colleagues.

I met Norman while working in San Jose, Petén in 1992 as an intern with Cultural Survival. When he and his friend and colleague Andy Hofling were in Petén, we would visit over a meal. I remember marveling at how the two of them would be fully engaged talking about literally any subject, something I suspect all of you anthropologists take for granted, but was a rare treat for me. Besides learning about Peténeros and the history of the region during out meetings, I learned about Norman and his family and I never left without some new tidbit that made me smile and wonder. I never would have guessed he was a boxer, but then he’d talk about his grandfather faking out thugs, and I’d get an inkling of the tough world he knew growing up. I remember his love for Dilly, worrying a bit when he’d come to Guatemala and then later doing research when she had cancer. What great love and warmth, insight and humor.

Later, Norman recommended me for helping Andy with an Itzaj-Maya dictionary, an extraordinary opportunity for me. I would see the two of them at anthropological meetings and I applied for an ethnobotany program, but did not pursue it. Recently, knowing I still seek an academic position after all these years, he helped me improve my C.V.

Norman is one of those friends whose voice I can hear the moment he comes to mind, not only words, but warm, gentle laughter, always thinking, noticing, contemplating, engaging. He would talk about his kids in a roundabout way that made me feel like he understood them and me better than we did ourselves.

When I had the chance to see him in November, he was both older and skinnier, but also younger, with a boy’s face, radiating clear, bright warmth, still listening and sharing with all his heart.

Thank you, Norman, for your friendship, guidance, and love.

Con mucho cariño,

Nancy
Marshall Becker, West Chester University, PA 19383

Norman and Dilly arrived at Penn while I was still an undergraduate in the Department of Anthropology. Sixty years later I continue to be impressed by everything I learn from and about Norman. The student population in anthropology at Penn was very small in the 1950s. The small department’s focus was on training the relatively few graduate students and a couple of undergraduates. Norman knew them all. With an able and charming wife, and children on the way, Norman successfully negotiated a program that was actually in the process of formalizing its requirements. Ben Reina had arrived in 1957 (Becker 2017a), into a program that considered itself as integrating the four fields of the discipline but had no formal structure. There were actually very few courses offered by a relatively small faculty, most of who were affiliated with The University Museum. To take a degree one needed to take most of what was offered, and most of the courses were at the graduate level. With glee, Reina gradually built a “rational” curriculum, whether we liked it or not. Reina’s concern with formality and order were duplicated in his fieldwork techniques. He rented space with a table at which he conducted formal interviews with his “informants.” Norman’s field techniques were, as far as I know, entirely intuitive. Yet they provide the epitome of the ethnographic method. Norman Schwartz is truly an anthropologist’s anthropologist.

By pure chance Norman went to Petén to begin ethnographic fieldwork at a location only a four hour walk from where I was doing archaeology. Although I began as a student of ethnography, the Penn department lacked the kind of ethnographers whom I envisioned as collecting data in an organized fashion (see Becker 2017b). I drifted into physical anthropology in graduate school, and by chance went off to do some of this archaeology stuff when Norman and Dilly went to San Andrés. I never walked the forest trails to visit them there, and to my knowledge Norman never came to the dig site to pay us a visit. I do not recall if Norman visited when Reina was at the site, planning an ill-fated “ethnographic” project. For reason’s to be reviewed, largely involving anthropological ineptitude, Reina’s project never came to pass.

My experience with William R. Coe (Becker 2011a-c) led me to leave Penn without a doctorate. After five years I returned to the Philadelphia area to be able to go toe to toe with my supposed supervisor. I saw that as the only way to wrest a degree and to have a career in anthropology. My good fortune was to be located at a small university less than an hour drive from The University of Delaware. Between frequent visits to Norman and a student population unlike anything I had experienced, I finally began to learn anthropology. Norman also was in a similar situation as regards the anthropology program at Delaware. Having no graduate students leads one to do a great deal of work on one’s own. Norman read everything, knows everything and everyone, and remains an incomparable resource. All the serious archaeologists in Petén know him and benefit from his understanding of life in a tropical rain forest.

The people at San Andrés benefitted from inclusion of Norman in their fictive family in ways that are made clear by so many scholars who benefitted from his efforts. Not only did every serious archaeologist and ethnographer in that region know and appreciate Norman, but his “fame” extended to people who had never heard of him. I have no notes to confirm a brief narration told by Norman on one of my many visits, but I’ll offer the gist of this relation. Seems a young man from San Andrés or the area had, for whatever reasons, decided to come to the
United States – crossing illegally, as I understand it. He would up in California, without friends or support group. The only person he knew in American was Don Norman de Delawar. Not speaking English, he tried to telephone, and managed to communicate that Don Norman taught at a university. The operator tried to connect this young man with The University of Delaware. As soon as that connection was made, they found that everyone knew Norman Schwartz – and the call went through.

Norman is also extremely gracious in every aspect of his life. His generosity led him to counter my comments of the many failings of our faculty by ignoring them, or laughing them off. His curt, short phrase that assessed the work of Anthony F. C. Wallace puzzled me for a very long time. I knew better than to ask for an explanation as that line of negativity was not one that Norman would follow. Gradually, over many years, I came to see what Norman had recognized about Wallace almost at once; information that I’ll have to consider only for the memoires of my later years. The recent passing of so many of our mutual faculty marks an interesting phase in the history of anthropology. Norman’s incredible knowledge of the people with whom he has worked for three score years, his generous sharing of those data with scholars of any age and the support and encouragement of so many scholars of the present and the next generation remain unique. He remains a pivotal figure in anthropology; one that we should all strive to emulate.

Becker, Marshall Joseph


2011c The Inked Line Memo (p. 32), Bill on Writing (p.35), The Broken rung (p. 38) in “Recollections of Bill Coe and His Career as a Maya Archaeologist, Part 2: After Tikal – Chalchuapa, Quirigüa, In the Classroom, and at Home.” Compiled by Robert Sharer. The CODEX (Pre-Columbian Society, The University Museum), Volume 19 (3): 12-46.

2017a Memories of Ruben E Reina. THE CODEX (Pre-Columbian Society at The University Museum, Philadelphia) 25 (3): 12-22.

Emily Altimare

When I am asked why I chose to study Anthropology, I share the significance of one undergraduate course in particular. That course was Dr. Schwartz’s Applied Anthropology class. It was this course and Dr. Schwartz’s guidance that led me to pursue my M.A. in Applied Anthropology from NAU and then my Ph.D. in Anthropology. Dr. Schwartz introduced me to the world of possibilities for applied research something that I am actively engaged in as a practicing anthropologist. It is remarkable that one professor and one course could so significantly impact the direction of my academic pursuits and subsequent career. I am forever thankful and honored to have worked with him.

Abigail Adams

Liza and Norman, I do not have the depth of acquaintance with Norman as many of those who responded so beautifully. Norman, the “field” where you and I met was always the AAA meetings. You added so much to that complex and often tough setting with your face-splitting smile, deep respect and interest in other researchers, your intelligence always offered generously and in uplift, never in my presence to undermine another person or possibility.

You have always been available for phone calls, advice, emails and useful attachments— I bet Liza was born with this quality as well but she sure had it reinforced by you! I could share anything with you and know I would receive a fair hearing, and interesting creative approaches to tackling situations.

I am so sorry that we never made it to the High Line together with my son, who is now eleven. I would have loved for him to meet you. But I got to meet you and now carry your energy and example forward.

Jorge Cabrera

Liza, que decir de Norman y su gran calidad humana y profesional, de su pasión por poner en primer lugar a las personas, yo guardo un muy buen recurso de el y agradezco mucho el haberme compartido parte de su sabiduría y sus sabias enseñanzas.
un abrazo

Avrum Shriar

I first met Norman in late 1997 or early 1998, soon after I arrived in Petén (for the third time) to do a long stretch of fieldwork for my dissertation. I believe we met that first time, by chance, in Las Puertas, (over coffee, and probably, cigarettes). To some extent I felt like I already knew Norman through his excellent book, Forest Society, and other work. And although I had
intended to get in touch with him sooner, I had been reticent on account of being intimidated to meet such a great scholar and overall authority on all things Petén.

Not surprisingly, I was immediately struck by his warmth, kind-heartedness, humility, and sense of humor, and felt completely at ease within seconds. I was greatly appreciative of the interest he took in my own work and impressed by his genuine concern for virtually everyone doing research or other work in Petén. Norman had the wisdom to recognize how complex are the challenges facing the region, and to question everything we think we know about it.

Over time, we became good friends and I have nothing but fond memories of the laughs and discussions we shared. A former girlfriend of mine was with me for much of that year of fieldwork in 1997-98. Her family name was Caudle, and Norman clearly took a shining to her, forever referring to her as “Ms. Cuddles.” It was one of many things he said that always cracked me up.

I feel so honored to have earned Norman’s friendship and mentorship. In one of the recommendation letters he wrote for me (and shared with me), he proclaimed that I knew more about agriculture in Petén than anybody! Clearly he was exaggerating, but I will forever appreciate his selfless efforts to promote my work and to help me professionally. And I will always be impressed by his genuine and unwavering love of Petén, and by the many decades he dedicated to improving lives and protecting nature therein, often under very difficult and dangerous conditions. Norman will be sorely missed, and working in Petén will never be the same without him.

Matthew Peters, Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center

I want to send out my sincerest thanks to Norman and all the amazing work he has done for the communities of the Peten, Guatemala. Most of my life’s work is a continued tribute to the work that Norman began decades I ago. I was fortunate enough to have lived and worked in San Andres Peten from 1999-2012 and managed programs and projects that were reflective of the work that Norman began. As I navigated the waters of community projects and programs, Norman always seemed to pop up at the right time to give me some insight into a lot of the roadblocks that I encountered. He would often just stop by on a random afternoon to my house in San Andres and a quick hello often turned into a lengthy 3-4 hour discussion. From 2009-2012, we communicated often about the social changes engulfing the region or “modernization with no development” as he explained to me. We mulled over the effects of the recent social changes such as remittances, mass emigration, family separation and anxiety, land ownership, drug cartels, etc. had on the community and what, if anything, could be done to understand the effects better. Sadly, my time in the Peten came to an end in 2012 and I migrated back north to the US. I am again fortunate to say that now back in the United States, I am blessed to be a director of an organization that focuses on immigrants on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and, by coincidence or design, I have the opportunity to work on a daily basis with hundreds of Guatemalan families that have relocated to this region. So thanks must be given were thanks is due, and without the groundbreaking work of Norman, my personal story and journey would not have been possible.
Gustavo, 
Gracias y usted
Rosita para seguros y hacia embargo Generalmente R
Juanita With mine.
be for a You managed aspired.
people and a mean projects sitting
It Dear Juanita Sundberg
critical
Rosita Contreras y familia

generalmente a las personas se les conoce por sus acciones más que por sus apariencias; sin embargo por primera vez en nuestras vidas hemos experimentado un caso muy singular, percibimos y recibimos la energía positiva que por su mismo ser irradiía hacia sus alrededores y hacia personas que han tenido la dicha de compartir parte de su existencia. Don Norman, lo anteriormente descrito es un “don” que su persona ha podido generar, cultivar e irradiar; por eso y mucho más, apreciamos infinitamente el que usted nos reserve un espacio en su vida, estando seguros que su gran legado cognoscitivo y espiritual continuará irradiando esa energía positiva, para su propia satisfacción y la de quienes le apreciamos de sobremanera. Rosita nos ha contagiado tanto el cariño y admiración hacia usted desde que le conocimos a inicios de los años 1992, nuestros hijos a quienes vio nacerse se han identificado mucho con usted y les encanta conocer sus historias, todos le enviamos nuestro más sincero reconocimiento y agradecimiento familiar por compartir momentos alegres con nosotros.

Gracias infinitamente por su cariño y amistad.

Gustavo, Rosita, Irene María y Cristian, Pinelo Contreras
Dan Griffith

Norman, we met in the Petén when I was doing my dissertation at the University of Michigan. Bruce Ferguson and I were studying post-agricultural succession on 8 farms between Las Cruces, CPR-Petén and San Andrés. An incredible experience when I think back. We studied Zacarías and Nehemías’ farms, where I recorded 83 bird species in less than a month as part of my dissertation work (equal to 9% of all bird species in the US and Canada!). I still present their system as a model of sustainable agroforestry in talks on agroecology and integrated management.

You were like an unofficial advisor, opening my eyes to important social and cultural aspects of agriculture and land use dynamics in the Petén. As a young ecologist, I remember feeling frustrated that you wouldn’t give me a straight answer about the “causes” or “mechanisms” of deforestation and agricultural intensification. I suppose I was still a victim of reductionist science. But in retrospect you were teaching me that the real world is messy, subjective and often best explained through anecdotes - not to mention juicy gossip. The lessons you taught me then still guide me today in my (attempts at) interdisciplinary and participatory work in the tropics.

So thank you for befuddling this naïve ecologist. You’ll be happy to know I’ve embraced the complexity and continue to muddle forward. I’m now teaching and doing research on biodiversity and integrated management in the Andes and Amazon of southern Ecuador, thanks in part to your inspiration that we can and should try to make this world a better place.

Milton Cabrera

Hey Dear Norman. I take some time to send my best wishes for you. There are many years since I had great honor to know you and have the opportunity to see the relationship between human bean and nature in an integrate point of view, cause you show me this relationship. Your humility and simplicity did easy talk and interact with you. Best thing in life, I think, is to see behind in the way of life and to see many lives you had touched for construct a better world. You are this kind o persons that inspire many lives that know you. Thank you very much for your teaching and friendship.

Estuardo Secaira

Estimado Norman:

Su ejemplo, inspiración y lecturas me animaron muy temprano en mi carrera profesional conservacionista. Muchísimas gracias Norman, por todo lo que hiciste por el Petén y los peteneros, y la inspiración que nos brindaste a los que nos hemos acercado, apoyado y trabajado por la conservación y el desarrollo sostenible de ese hermoso terruño.

Sinceramente, con todo mi aprecio y admiración
Lindsay DiNatale Palkovitz, former student

I liked Dr. Schwartz from the moment I saw him, as he was getting ready to teach my very first Applied Anthropology 101 class at the University of Delaware. Everything about his demeanor indicated that he had good stories to tell. And boy, did he. He had so many good anecdotes and stories from his rich life—whether the back drop of those stories was when he taught at different schools, whether it was from his time in the field, whether it was about his life as a father and husband—he always brought whatever he was sharing to life with his dynamic personality.

When I picture him, what I remember most is the way he often had a slightly hidden smile curling at the corners of his mouth like he was ready to crack a slightly off-color joke at any point. And he often did. And I always laughed. I loved his sense of humor just as much as I respected his brilliant intellect. But what he had to offer wasn’t just theory and ideals; he also had the rich wisdom he had gained from his experience in the field. That is why he was able to crack jokes and be so comfortable teaching us about applied anthropology; he truly possessed the knowledge in a way only those who live it, can.

He was the single most influential professor I had as an undergraduate, and he is the reason I went on to do applied anthropology work in Kenya. But more than that, he is the reason that I was inspired to continue learning, growing, and living fully in this world. He was one of the most genuine and good people I ever had the good fortune of knowing, and I will always remember him with great appreciation and fondness.

Fredy R. Rodriguez-Mejia, PhD, Assistant Professor, Michigan State University

I was fortunate to have been in one of the last classes Dr. Schwartz taught at UDel before he retired. I can’t articulate in words what Dr. Schwartz has meant to me as mentor and advisor throughout these years. It was because of him that I decided to become an anthropologist, it was because of him that I was able to get into a MA program in applied Anthropology and later go on to get my PhD. His teaching and constant amount of support truly helped me see life from a different plane. His work has impacted my life as well as other colleagues I know in ways that will continue to shape our academic careers. I am forever thankful to have met him, learned from him, and remain in touch with him. More than a mentor he has been a wonderful friend who has always remained in touch. His words of encouragement and affection always seemed to come at the right time. Thank you for that and everything else you did for us all.
**Cameron McNeil**

I first met Norman when I went to the University of Delaware graduation of Fredy Rodriguez, a student from Copan, Honduras in 2004. Fredy graduated last year with his Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology, and over the years in conversations with me he has often brought up Norman and his influence on his studies. I met Norman for the second time in Petén in 2007 out by the water on a dock, when I was working near Flores for a month. That was the period where we spoke the most. He was full of interesting advice. He later encouraged me to give some presentations to local communities and I went to San Andres and spoke about the research I was conducting in 2010. And he put me in touch with Matthew Peters, who had founded Volunteer Petén. Matthew was managing a tropical forest in San Andres, had built a library which Norman praised, and was working on educational programs. Over the years, Norman has sent me various of his publications, which are always interesting and always useful. Norman’s work is important for those studying modern Maya people, but also for those of us who are researching the ancient Maya. There are few anthropologists who understand Petén ecology as Norman does. And just as important as his deep knowledge has been his drive to help local people, and his efforts to promote the education of those who he works with.

**Allen Kilgore**

I had little interaction with him because he was not down much (I can't recall why) during my tenure in the Peten. I do recall that my interaction with him led me to be intimidated -- he was tough, but in a good way. He expected the best from people even if it was something small I was working on. Later, when I returned to the Peten for a visit with my wife, Scarlotte, we had dinner with Norman, he was a joy. He was curious about what Scarlotte and I were doing and he was so fascinating to spend time with (were you at this dinner with us -- I can't recall -- and no offense, but Norman's presence dominated the dinner).

**Laura Hurtado, Ph.D.**

sólo quería agradecerle todas sus contribuciones al conocimiento y a la comprensión de Petén. Yo afortunadamente he podido acercarme a la realidad petenera en distintos momentos: a los pocos años de creada la Cooperativa Manos Unidas en San Juan Acul, a la orilla del río La Pasión, pasé mis meses de vacaciones de estudiante de secundaria ahí con una de las maestras españolas (Julia González, amiga mía y de toda mi familia todavía) y esa experiencia (y otra previa de Huehuetenango con los Maryknoll) me terminaron de convencer de que quería dedicarme al trabajo social. En ese entonces mi papá se estableció en la cooperativa La Palma para hacer su tesis de Antropología Médica. Norman y mi papá se reconocían colegas de aquellos años y se mandaban saludos.

Después, el trabajo me llevó de nuevo a Petén para entender "los asentamientos humanos en áreas protegidas" vistos desde el CONAP y adopté el libro de Normen como una referencia infaltable. Sé que Margarita, mi hermana, quien murió en 2010, tuvo una relación estrecha con Norman y recibió de él muchas contribuciones para su trabajo en Petén. Norman siempre se mostró interesado en mis trabajos posteriores sobre la expansión de la palma africana y yo le...
mandaba lo que íbamos sistematizando y formulando. Finalmente, el año pasado me llenó de alegría que él y Amilcar Corzo me invitaran a colaborar en una revista de la USAC sobre Petén. Su interés sobre el devenir de Petén y de seguir contribuyendo a hacerlo un mejor lugar para su gente, no habían menguado.

Nos íbamos a ver una tarde en un hotel de la zona 10 de la ciudad de Guatemala, cuando apareció la acusación en mi contra de la Fundación Contra el Terrorismo. Fue tan falsa, tan inventada y tan sorpresiva, que necesitaba tiempo para analizarla, entenderla y pensar cómo debía reaccionar. Llamé a Norman para cancelar nuestra cita y él se mostró inmediatamente comprensivo y solidario. Fue la última vez que hablamos.

Karen Rosenberg

…a little story about Norman. I have been at Delaware for 31 years but I had heard of Norman before I got here because in my years at Michigan, I was a long time research assistant for Stanley Garn. Stanley had taught at Antioch many years before and had had Norman as a student. When he found out I was coming to Delaware, Garn told me that I would meet "Norman Boris Schwartz" (he always said the "Boris" and as far as I can remember is the only person (other than Norman of course) who even knew that was what the B stood for). Garn told me that when Norman (who must have been 18 or 19 at the time) had been (briefly, I think) at Antioch, he had done some work for him and one day after Garn gave him some tables to compile, or some data to analyze, Norman sat at the desk to begin and then after Garn walked down the hall, he ran after him and said, breathlessly, "Dr. Garn, Dr. Garn, am I doing science?" So this young naive kid was in my mind when I met Norman, and it didn't really fit the seasoned, brilliant person I met and came to know, but I found that that kid was there too under all the experience, stories and knowledge. I can't begin to think of how many cups of coffee I drank with Norman, how many fascinating conversations we had or how much insight he shared with me when I came to him with issues to discuss, whether they were explicitly anthropological questions or ones connected to family or departmental drama which he was able to see through an anthropological lens. His stories about his childhood, family and his fieldwork were fascinating, often funny but always insightful. Although he has been around and we have gotten together since he retired, I have already missed him as a regular part of my environment, as a wonderful friend and colleague and as a mentor.

Isabel Rodas, Guatemala

Muchas gracias Liza por compartirnos la noticia. Tenemos todo un legado de Norman. Esperemos que siga vivo en nuestros trabajos y pensamientos. Lindo ver los mensajes de toda la gente a la que influenció con su trabajo académico. Todo un legado.

Un abrazo para su familia y amigos cercanos.
Silvel Elias

Guardaremos en nuestros recuerdos las valiosas enseñanzas que compartió con todos nosotros y sobre todo el gran cariño que tuvo por su querido Petén. Su don de gentes siempre fue especial. Gracias Norman por tu amistad!!!
Hasta siempre !!!!

Kenneth Ackerman

norman was a colleague.
i think it is important to add he was not a particular friend in the sense that we did things together outside the boundaries of the department.
we had been graduate students at penn and we shared the tutelage and support of the same penn faculty member - ben reina -
so we'd known one another since 1958 when we both matriculated at the penn anthropology department
we got our m a's at the same graduation - 1960
and soon thereafter set off to do field work - he to guatemala and i to argentina

several years later i was hired by u of d
and several years after that norman became available after having taught at middlebury
(the department chair, an africanist, hoped to move toward a graduate program that focused on africa and latin america. norman and i were the foundation for the americanist part of that design.)

some time in 1966 we learned that june had lymphoma. eighteen months later, true to the awful prediction, she died.

and every night, for weeks after her death, norman was at my house. just being there. after my children were off to bed, there he was. i said he was not a particular friend - we both had wives and children and both had dissertations to write and both had classes to teach and lives to live - and thus not much time for socializing. i had never asked that he come - but i was so glad that he did. we talked. i have no memory of what we talked about. i imagine he wouldn't have had either. but i remember `to this day` how kind and generous that was, especially kind and generous because we were not particular friends.

i will probably spell it wrong but when i learned the word 'mitzvah - which i understand to be a kindness done without wish for reward but simply for the rightness of doing it - i knew i had received a mitzvah. he was a good and decent human being and i have no doubt that there are many others out there who had the benefit of that kindness during his lifetime. he is missed.
Jay Custer

I first met Norman in February 1979 when I had the interview for my job here at Delaware. I arrived extra early and no one was around, except for Norman. He invited me into his office, gave me a cup of very strong coffee, went out of his way to put me at ease, and then proceeded to be present at all of my interview events as a very supportive presence. That support continued for the next 39 years, often preceded by "Let's go get a cup of coffee. He was a constant source of good advice, great stories, and profound commentary on a very broad range of topics in anthropology. He chaired the departmental promotion and tenure committee for one of my promotions and was incredibly concerned with making a daunting process much less scary for me. I have since learned that such concerns are rare.

Norman had served as department chair for several years before I arrived at Delaware, but he remained an incredibly energetic advocate for the department within the university as a senior faculty member. He knew how to pick his fights with administrators and was fearless and determined in them when he chose to be. An indignant Norman Schwartz is a force of nature all its own, especially when the rights of others are being infringed upon.

When I think of Norman, I see him standing at the top of the steps at the entry to our office building taking a smoking break, very much the sentinel, with a greeting for all who passed by. But Norman did not spend all his time smoking or telling stories. There were many times when I was working at odd hours and find see him in his office, writing a manuscript by hand with his radio playing softly in the background. He was a consummate scholar and had an incredibly deep knowledge of the anthropological literature that enhanced his teaching. His advanced tutorial in cultural anthropological theory was legendary for its scope and rigor, and his introductory classes were equally rigorous and drew many students into the world of anthropology. Norman is an outstanding example of how research and teaching enhance one another.

As many others have noted, Norman was also always concerned with his colleagues as people. He always inquired about my children and grandchildren, and had stories to tell about his own lively family, to whom he was especially dedicated.

These tributes are evidence of how he touched the lives of many people. I am glad to be one of them.
A sampling of Facebook comments after Norman’s passing

Jeanne Simonelli Thanks for sharing this. May he cross the river gently

Carlos C Nassar Qué pena, no lo conocí pero, leí sus textos y tenía imaginación y creatividad, virtudes muy raras entre sus colegas.

Henry Cano I have very good memories With Norman. He was my father's friend for a long long time. In fact for years in christmas time Norman and his wife, send christmas cards to my family. I know many people in San Andres, Petén will be sad for this news. We pray for his family are fine.

Juanra Girón Triste noticia, un gran amigo, profesional Y una gran persona. Hasta siempre querido Norman!

Hanny F. Tzec May he travel on, along the Saq'be' and may the great spirits guide him to his next task.

Leslie Mejía Una gran persona, en todos los aspectos. Norman B Schwartz lo recordaré con la sonrisa y carisma que lo caracterizaba.

Bruce Ferguson What a life he lead! We are fortunate to have known him. O sea, si se junta en una vigila en la oficina para él - que lo hagan con pizza y cafe. Liza

José Antonio Castillo M. Vaya si es una triste noticia; ciertamente como persona fuertemente influida por su vision como antropólogo hacia asombrosos los almuerzos en Flores, los días que inicie en CI. Ya se habran reunido con Carlos Manzanero su gran colega. RIP.

Jx Ross (Native California/Pomo colleague of Liza's) How wonderful to have such good memories of mentorship and friendship. May he travel peacefully

David Kupfer So very sorry for your loss, sending good grief, and celebrating all you gained from this special gentleman.

Kathryn Cameron Porter Loved him too. So very sorry for the world’s loss - and especially yours,

Eunice Kelderman Grandia Sorry for your loss. Your dad was telling us about him when we talked Sunday night. He told us about what a great mentor and friend he was to you. He has made a difference in many lives. A great legacy.

Eva Carola Vallejo Rivera Una gran pérdida y un gran amigo de ProPeten. Que en paz descansé. Liza, te quedan los bonitos recuerdos que tienes de él y el conocimiento
que compartió contigo. Un abrazo.

**Gustavo Pinelo Morales** QEPD Don Norman

Jeanne Simonelli Thanks for sharing this. May he cross the river gently

**Eva Carola Vallejo Rivera** Una gran pérdida y un gran amigo de ProPeten. Que en paz descanse. Liza, te quedan los bonitos recuerdos que tienes de él y el conocimiento que compartió contigo. Un abrazo.

**Magalí Rey Rosa** RIP Norman Schwartz and a huge hug to you dear Liza!!!

**Gloria Castillo Grünberg** · Friends with **Norman B Schwartz**

Querido Norman que descanses en Paz, Te recordaremos siempre con mucho cariño

**Oswaldo Morales** En paz descanse, una gran persona y un gran amigo

**Sara Mingorría Liza Grandia** mil gracias por compartir la noticia y gracias por tus palabras. Big big hugs to you!!!

**Ericka Moerkerken** Que descanse en Paz, muy querido don Norman. Para siempre estarás en los corazones de muchas personas que te quieren.

**Chris Gurr** Rest in peace Norman. What an amazing life!

**Violeta Luz Foregger Velasquez** This was wonderful to read about, I would very much like to share it. My condolences Liza!

**Marta Martí** Hoy estamos de luto junto a la familia Schwartz, no cabe duda que esta noticia nos dejó con un gran nudo en la garganta. Todos sabemos que llega ese día en el que los grandes amigos tienen que partir pero está más que claro que nunca estaremos preparados para tan grande pérdida. Un gran amigo, un embajador de la consercación de los recursos naturales en la Reserva de la Biosfera Maya en Petén, socio fundador, que lo recordaremos por siempre. Que paz descanse y Dios lo tenga en su gloria. Nuestro mas sentido pesame de la Familia Fundación ProPetén.

**Mary S. Willis** It's a lovely tribute **Liza Grandia**. So sorry to hear of the loss of a great scholar, a terrific human being, and a person with both commitment and compassion, a mind and a heart. You were lucky to have the opportunity to work with and be trained by him.

**Josh Levs** I'm so sorry for this loss, and so appreciate your beautiful words.

**Walter Little** Thanks for posting this. Such a lovely tribute you and John wrote. Norman was such a generous person and I am glad that I got to know him.
Miriam España Me uní al dolor y mi agradecimiento a don Norman como yo le llamaba Dios lo tenga en su gloria

Laura Wexler Thank you, Liza, for sharing your memories of this tremendously beautiful and consequential relationship. I’m so sorry for your loss, and so moved that you had such a person in your life. You must have brought great joy to him.

Juanra Girón Gracias por compartir toda esa información de la Vida de Norman Liza Grandia, quienes tuvimos el privilegio de convivir con él apreciamos Muchísimo esto.

Geovanna Puga · Friends with Mena Gustavo and 13 others
Un gran ser humano y amigo especial. Descanse en paz lo recordaremos con mucho cariño.

Teresita Chinchilla Gran legado el que dejó. Eso es lo que cuenta su huella imborrable.

Angie Garling What an homage Liza. He sounds like an amazing mentor and human being.

Clara Olm Arz Sorry for your loss... it must be wonderful to have had such a great mentor in your life.

Francisco Javier Romero Berges Lamentando el sensible fallecimiento de Norman Schwarts quien brindó apoyo a ProPetén y otras instituciones ambientalistas, Q.E.P.D.

Norman 🙏

Leticia Fion Rose no puedo creerlo ? Una gran pérdida tienes toda la razón .. una gran persona, amigo y un gran científico !!!
Trabajó mucho por Petén!!!
Descanse en Paz !!! Abrazos

Miriam Elizabet Salas Pol Lo siento mucho! Un gran profesional. Comprometido con Petén.

Sergio Waldemar Albizurez Ortega Seguramente el solo se retira de forma presencial pero estará presente en todas aquellas acciones que realizó a favor de Petén ahí la acompañara sabiendo que usted sigue sus pasa un abrazo amiga

Mayra Altan de Palacios Lamento la partida física del Doctor Schwartz, como Petenera le estaré profundamente agradecida por su aporte al desarrollo de Petén, que Dios le dé el descanso eterno. Un fuerte abrazo para ti amiga bella ha dejado en tí una gran huella y en los que tuvimos el honor de conocerlo.
Marielos Chinchilla Que tristeza realmente un gran hombre un abrazo querida.

José Antonio Castillo M. La noticia es triste, pero a la vez es tan grato recordar desde las entrevistas con Carlos Manzanero y Norman, muy observador, en el Hotel Plaza en la Capital de 1993, antes de posicionarme a vivir en Peten; reconozco que su forma de ver la situación de la RBM, me transformo. Descanse en Paz, su legado perdurara.

Oscar Mora No tuve el gusto de conocerle mas que por las platicas sostenidas con Usted. Mas petenero que muchos peteneros. Un abrazo solidario.

Eguizel MoRa Una triste noticia. Tuve la oportunidad de conversar algunas veces con él, alguien que si sabia. Dios lo tenga en su gloria. Mi más sentido pésame Rosa Maria Chan a ti y a quienes le apreciaron

Fernando Galeana Estimada amiga: no tuve el placer de conocer personalmente a Norman pero escuche muchas historias sobre él que confirman que era un gran ser humano. Su recuerdo vivirá siempre a través de las personas y organizaciones en las que él influyó. Mis mas sentido pésame.

Estuardo Puga Norman conocía el Petén mejor que la mayoría de peteneros. Se podía platicar con él sobre cualquier tema relacionado con este departamento; era una enciclopedia viviente sobre Petén. No obstante, era un hombre sencillo y amable. Sensible pérdida.

Julio Morales 😪 Lamentable pérdida para uno de los hijos del Mundo del Misterio Verde. QEPD

Calín Gómez Fue un grana profesional y lamento el fallecimiento de Norman Schwartz. Mis condolencia a su familia y todos sus amigos. Ayudó mucho y sistematizó información socio-ambiental muy importante para Petén. QEPD.

Sofía Paredes Maury Lo siento muchísimo!! Lo conocí en Petén también, Fantástica persona y profesional. Triste que se va gente buena

Aura Tartón Es un ejemplo a seguir.... que lamentable

Milton Rolando Cabrera Bellosio Dichoso él, que tras una vida fructífera pudo ver el camino construido y los frutos del cariño que sembró

Edy Barrios Hay!!!!! Don norman!! Lo conocí poco. Pero se la importancia de su presencia para él peten!!!! Una persona con conocimientos únicos!!!!! Adiós don Norman!!!!!!!!!!! Gracias por todo !!!!!!!

Erick Estuardo Sobernaís Pinelo Dios lo tenga en su santo reino, no lo conocí pero si
escuche varios buenos comentario del Antropologo Norman. QEPD. Buen día Rosa María.

Carlos A. Salas Ademas de conocerlo por algunas reuniones en las que coincidiamos... nos encontrábamos en la carretera haciendo ejercicio... le gustaba mucho correr... descanse en paz

Julio Enrique Lopez Dejo un gran legado para Guatemal, principalmente para los peteneros. Un hombre que amó la naturaleza y brindo grandes aportes a la conservación de la biodiversidad. Caroñosamente le llamamos Norman

Julio Morales 😥 Lamentable pérdida para uno de los hijos del Mundo del Misterio Verde. QEPD

Mena Gustavo Una gran persona tenia mucho amor a peten

Familia Dubón Trujillo Carlitos que lindo recuerdo. Una gran persona y muy respetado tu padre con un corazón para ayudar a su prójimo. Y don Norman Bnorm otro gran ser humano. Inseparables y comparto contigo que ya estarán en sus grandes platicas. Un abrazo Carl Soza

Ana Heydy Méndez Grandes amigos recuerdo lo alegre que se ponía tu papá al recibir sus visitas.
La FUNDACIÓN PROPETEN
se une de manera solidaria a la pena que embarga a la familia
por el lamentable deceso del

Dr. Norman B. Schwartz

Elevamos nuestras oraciones a Dios Todopoderoso para que les envíe fortaleza espiritual que les ayude a soportar el dolor de la irreparable pérdida.

Respetuosamente,
Socios, Consejo Directivo y Personal Técnico y Administrativo

"He peleado la buena batalla, he acabado la carrera, he guardado la fe." (2 Tim. 4:6-8).
Today, at the end of the lunar eclipse, the Maya spirits carried on Dr. Norman B. Schwartz (1932-2018) to his next journey. He was my mentor and dear friend of 24 years and the reason why I am an anthropologist. He was camera shy, but I will treasure these few images of us and memories of all our coffee talks.
Fieldwork in Buen Samaritano, courtesy of Ericka Moerkerken
Buen Samaritano
With Barbara Dugelby and Jim Nations

A visit with Norman and Dilly (Ericka Moerkerken)
Meeting up in DC with Oscar Obando
Wedding in Flores (Michelle Asturias)
From Hilda Rivera:
Garden fieldwork with Amilcar Corzo and Oscar Obando
The famous trip to Dolores
Early MAYAREMA meeting (Jim Nations)

With Carlos Soza in front of Priscilla Reining’s house, Washington, DC
With Liza Grandia, *Remedios* work, late 1990s
Early ProPeten photos (from Liza Grandia and Conrad Reining)
Carlos Soza with Norman (in front of Priscilla Reining’s house). Courtesy of Conrad Reining
ProPeten Founding Socios (with Sharon Flynn, Liza Grandia and Brian Gurr)

Discussing the separation from CI
Norman y Delia de Visita en nuestra casa (Amilcar Corzo)
With Fredy Martinez

With Delaware graduates
With Liza Grandia, NYC, May 2016 for LASA
ACADEMIC BIOGRAPHY
Norman B. Schwartz

53 East Park Place
Newark, DE 19711
Tel (302) 368-0260
Email: nbsanth@udel.edu
Email: nbschwartz1@yahoo.com

EDUCATION
1968 Ph. D. Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania
1960 M. A. Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania
1958 B. A. Philosophy, College of the City of New York

LANGUAGES
English - native language
Spanish - speaking/reading fluency; competent writing

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT
2005 Professor Emeritus, University of Delaware
1980-2005 Professor, Anthropology, University of Delaware
1971-1980 Associate Professor, Anthropology, University of Delaware
1968-1971 Assistant Professor, Anthropology, University of Delaware
1967-1968 Assistant Professor, Sociology and Anthropology, Middlebury College
1962-1967 Instructor, Sociology and Anthropology, Middlebury College
1959-1960 Teaching Assistant, Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania

1973-1976 Chair, Department of Anthropology, University of Delaware
1971-1973 Acting Chair, Department of Anthropology, University of Delaware

FIELD EXPERIENCE
August-September 2012 Petén, Guatemala
October-Nov 2011 Petén, Guatemala
Summer 2010 Petén, Guatemala and Merida, Mexico
October-Nov 2008 Petén, Guatemala
July-August 2007 Petén, Guatemala
October 2006 Petén, Guatemala
Summer 2005 Petén, Guatemala
Summer 2004 Petén, Guatemala
Summer 2003 Petén, Guatemala
Winter 2003 Petén, Guatemala
Winter/Summer 2002 Petén, Guatemala
Winter/Summer 2001 Petén, Guatemala
Summer 2000 Sololá and Petén, Guatemala
Winter 1999/2000  Western highlands, Guatemala
Summer 1999  Belize; Petén, Guatemala; Quintana Roo, Mexico
Winter 1999  Petén, Guatemala
Summer 1998  Central Panamá; eastern and northern Guatemala
March-April 1998  Petén, Guatemala
Jan-Feb 1998  Petén, Guatemala
Summer 1997  Petén, Guatemala
April 1997  Western Belize
January 1997  Petén, Guatemala
Aug-Nov 1996  Petén, Guatemala
May 1996  Petén, Guatemala
Jan 1992-Jan 1995  Petén, Guatemala and western Belize
Winter 1990/91  Petén, Guatemala
Summer 1985  Petén, Guatemala and Panamá
Winter/Summer 1984  Panamá
Summer/Fall 1983  Panamá and Costa Rica
Winter/Summer 1982  Panamá
Winter/Summer 1981  Panamá
May 1982  Petén, Guatemala
Summer/Fall 1980  Guatemala and Panamá
Winter 1979  Costa Rica
Summer 1978  Costa Rica; El Salvador; Petén, Guatemala
1974-1975  Petén, Guatemala; Belize; Honduras
Winter 1973  Morocco and Spain
Winter 1972  Mexico
Summer 1970  Petén, Guatemala and Belize
1960-1961  Petén, Guatemala

RELATED TRAVEL
2013  Villahermosa, Tabasco, Mexico
2008  June, China
2008  Jan-Feb., Israel
2007  Merida, Mexico
2002  Fall, Israel
2001  Summer/Fall, Israel
1996  Switzerland
1995  Brazil
1995  Quintana Roo, Mexico
1994  Quintana Roo, Mexico
1994  Sweden; Norway
1993  Quintana Roo, Mexico
1983  Winter; ethnographic reconnaissance, southern Spain and coastal Morocco
1981  Scotland; England
1980  Library research, Holland - on rainfed agriculture; Belgium
1979  Canada
1972  Canada
CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

2003 Counterpart International, Washington, DC
Eco-tourism and alternative economies for Petén, Guatemala

Socio-economic and cultural analysis of eligible communities; technical assistance in the development and implementation of the launch strategy for conservation concessions in the Maya Biosphere Reserve.

Evaluation of profiles of Indian and other ethnic populations.

Socio-cultural and socio-economic analysis of target communities.

Socio-economic monitoring and evaluating of project; ten-year evaluation for Propetén/Conservation International and US AID

Participation in design of the incentives program for northern Guatemala and for socio-economic monitoring and evaluation procedures.

2000 World Bank - Integrated Management of Natural Resources in the Western Highlands of Guatemala:
Socioethnographic Evaluations
Coordinator social and ethnographic studies in the western (Mayan) highlands of Guatemala, with reference to
private, communal, municipal and state management of natural resources (forests, land and water sources).

Primary responsibility for technical aspects of design and implementation of enviroment/migration module to be implemented in Petén, Guatemala as part of 1998 National Guatemala mini-DHS. Constracted through MACRO International, Inc.

Primary responsibility for design, adminstration and analysis of socio-economic and agricultural survey and ethnographic research; 1997-2000.

1998: Social assessment of fresh-water fish pond projects in eastern Guatemala and Panamá, for Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures, Auburn University.
Coordinator for social, economic and biological studies. Also directed socio-cultural field work (survey and ethnographic) for project.

Coordinator for social, cultural and ethnographic assessment, with reference to cadastral studies, land tenure and land use. Directed a team of investigators who administered surveys in twenty-seven rural communities, and carried out interviews with key personnel in municipal and national government and non-government organizations.

1997: El Pilar Review Committee. University of California at Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA 93106. Chair: Dr. Richard Appelbaum, Director of the Community and Organization Research Institute (CORI), Univ. of California at Santa Barbara.
Member of El Pilar, Belize Review Committee, 1997.

Monitoring and evaluating of project; development of special socio-economic monitoring and evaluation procedures for CI/ProPetén projects, including nature tourism carrying capacity studies; training CI/Propetén social analyst and enumerators; 1996-1998.

1996: Interamerican Development Bank, Washington, DC.
   Principal author of concept paper on how multilateral development banks can incorporate
   community consultation and participation in development programs and projects. October-

   Management Component of the Maya Reserve: Management Project (Mayarema). Contract No. 520-
   0395.
   Staff anthropologist and Coordinator for Tourism and Social Impact Studies. Included
   construction and administration of household, community, and tourist surveys; focus group
   discussions; directing enumerator team; training for guides, nature center staff; development
   of small business enterprises consistent with low impact tourism; rapid rural appraisal
   methods; tourism and land tenure policy recommendations for Guatemalan National Park
   Service; northern forest reserves; Petén, Guatemala, Nov. 1991- Jan. 1995, May 1996

1991: Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania
   External evaluator; evaluation of Anthropology Department academic program, curriculum,

   USAID/GOP/Auburn University, Contract No. 525-0216:Coordinator for technical,
   nutritional, economic and social impact studies - Pilot study of community managed


   Title XII Program (University of Delaware)
   Survey of indigenous and mestizo community managed fish ponds, Fall 1980.

1979: Universidad Estatal a Distancia, Costa Rica, under USAID Title XII Program (University of
   Delaware)

1978: American Institute for Free Labor Development
   Guatemala: Assessment of potential for cooperatives in Indian and non-Indian rural
   cooperatives, Summer 1978.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2012 Orden Petén Grande al Merito Cultural. La Gobernación Departamental de Petén, el Instituto
Guatemalteco de Turismo, Las Municipalidades de Flores y Sayaxché, Petén y ASOCULTA
(Asociación Petenera para la Cultura y las Artes). Festival Cultural Petén.
2005 Elected honorary emeritus board member of Fundacion ProPetén, a Guatemalan nonprofit nongovernment community development and environmental organization. In recognition of contribution to service to Petén.

2004 Honorary member of Asociación BioItzá, Petén, Guatemala.

2002: “Diploma” from CUDEP-Centro Universitario de Petén, Guatemala

1990-91: Grant, Latin American Studies Program, Univ. of Delaware

1986-87: Grant, Center for Advanced Study, Univ. of Delaware

1980-81: Special Grant in Aid, University of Delaware

1978: Grant, Latin Amer. Studies Program, Univ. of Delaware     1974-75: Grant, University of Delaware Research Foundation

1973-74: Special Grant in Aid, University of Delaware

1970: Grant, Faculty Research Fund, Univ. of Delaware

1960-61: Portion of National Science Foundation Grant (Contract Num. 11573 and 22128) awarded to Dr. R. E. Reina, Univ. of Pennsylvania

1960-62: George Leib Harrison Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania

1958: YIVO Award, College of the City of New York

1958: Phi Beta Kappa, College of the City of New York

COURSES TAUGHT

Graduate                  Undergraduate
Proseminar in Anthropology Intro. to Social and Cultural Anthropology
Political Anthropology    Introduction to Sociology
Mesoamerica               Applied Anthropology
                           Community Development
                           Conservation, Environment and Indigenous Peoples
                           Culture of Mexico and Central America
                           Cultures of the Middle East
                           Social Anthropology
                           Drama, Ritual and Culture

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

American Anthropological Association (Fellow)
Anthropology Study Group on Agrarian Systems, of the Amer. Anthro. Ass'n. (founding member)
Guatemalan Scholars Network
Society for Latin American Anthropology
Society for Applied Anthropology (Fellow)
Association of Senior Anthropologists

OTHER SOCIETIES
Fundación ProPetén, Guatemala (Emeritus Board Member)
Asociación Bioltzá, San José, Petén, Guatemala (Honorary Member)
MAJOR AREAS OF INTEREST

Mexico; Central America; Panamá; Middle East

Social anthropology; Applied anthropology; Tropical productive systems (rainfed agriculture, extraction of non-timber forest products, aquaculture); Conservation and natural resources management; New lands settlement; Rural education programs; Rapid assessment procedures; Life histories; Eco-tourism.

PUBLICATIONS

Books and Monographs:


Articles and other essays


70


(77) 2012a Continuidades en la política guatemalteca para Petén: Uso de la tierra, etnicidad y rango social. En José Ulises González de la Cruz, Alfonso Castillo Domínguez, María Concepción de la Cruz Leyva, Sandra Aguilar Hernández, y Eloisa Mendoza Vázquez. Compiladores: Avances y Perspectivas de Investigación Multidisciplinaria Tomo I (960-993). Guatemala: Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala Centro Universitario de Petén y Universidad Juárez Autónoma de Tabasco, División Académica Multidisciplinaria de los Ríos.

(76) Ybarra, Megan and Norman B. Schwartz

(75) Ybarra, Megan, Oscar Obando Samos, Liza Grandia y Norman B. Schwartz.

(74) Amilcar Corzo-Márquez and Norman Schwartz

(73) Martínez Cruzado, América, Norman B. Schwartz and Luis Sotero Pantí Tzul.
2011 Introducción a la biografía de don Francisco Tzul, residente de San Andrés Petén. Delaware Review of Latin American Studies 12 (2). December

(72) Ybarra, M., O. Obandos, L. Grandia and N. B. Schwartz

(71) 2010 Algunas reflexiones acerca de la evolución de la sociedad petenera. Sak B’ej (Camino Blanco) Revista de Centro Universitario 1 (3):4-12


(64) 2004 Interview, with Dr. America Martinez. Delaware Review of Latin American Studies Vol. 5 (2).

(63) 2003 “Presentación.” In Oscar Obando Samos y Amilcar Corzo Márquez, Petén Contemporáneo a Travéz de Dies Cuentos. Santa Elena, Petén: Imprenta


(49) 1999e Lovshin, L.L. and N. B. Schwartz. Evaluation of Integrated Tilapia Culture by Resource Limited Farmers and Panama and Guatemala. In: B.W. Green, H.C. Clifford, M.


(47) 1996a Schwartz, N. B. and A. Calderón. San Andrés: Su Origen e Importancia Dentro del Contexto Petenero. La Revista San Andrés 1:10


Transcribed: Consulta Comunitaria, Desarrollo Sostenible y el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo: Un Marco Conceptual


[Reprivatización y Privación: Sistemas Tradicional y Contemporáneo de Tenecia de la Tierra en el Petén, Guatemala.]


(41) 1993a Comment on Atron, "Itza Maya Tropical Agro-Forestry" Current Anthropology 34:693-94


(34) 1986b Response to Alcorn, Hildebrand, Moran and Vickers. Culture and Agriculture 39:10-11


(32) 1985b A note on "weights, measures" and swidden. Culture and Agriculture 27:9-12


(24) 1983e Ethnicity, politics and cultural survival. Cultural Survival Quarterly 7:20-22, 50-51


(22) 1982b Villainous cowboys and backward peasants; Popular culture and development concepts. Journal of Popular Culture 15:105-113

(21) 1981a Ecology, equality and change: Maya Indian in Guatemala. Reviews in Anthropology 8:367-376


(18) 1980b Ackerman, K. and N. B. Schwartz. Myth, social reality and the urban poor. Reviews in Anthropology 5:463-464

(17) 1979a Ethnicity, world view and experience in two Mesoamerican communities. Reviews in Anthropology 6:403-413

(16) 1979b Economy and society in an urban shantytown. Cultures et développement 11:479-487


(13) 1978b Drinking patterns, drunks and maturity in a Petén town: (Guatemala). Sociologus 28:35-53


(10) 1974a Milperos, chicle ros, and rituals of change in El Petén, Guatemala. Cultures et développement 4:369-395


(6) 1972b Protestantism, community organization and social status: Different responses to missions in a Guatemalan town. Cultures et développement 2:585-600


(3) 1969a Goal attainment through factionalism: A Guatemalan case American Anthropologist 71:1088-1108

(2) 1969b Conflict resolution and impropriety in a Guatemalan town Social Forces 48:98-106

(1) 1965 Teachers view their disciplines: Anthropology. Middlebury College Newsletter Fall:13-15

BOOK REVIEWS:


TECHNICAL REPORTS


(7) 1993d Socioeconomic profile of six communities: La Cooperativa Bethel, La Libertad; La Cooperativa Buena Fe, La Libertad; El Remate, Flores; Santa Ana, Santa Ana; Cruce Dos Aguadas, San Andrés; San Andrés, San Andrés. Mayarema Project, US AID Cooperative Agreement Number 520-0395. Flores, Petén, Guatemala: CI/ProPetén.

(6) 1993e Primer Borrador sobre Lineamientos Provisionales a Ser Tomados en el Desarrollo de Unidades de Manejo por el Comité Consultivo Forestal (CCF) en el Area de Turismo. Mayarema Project. US AID Cooperative Agreement Number 520-0395. Flores, Petén, Guatemala: CI/ProPetén.


SELECTED SERVICE ACTIVITIES: UNIVERSITY, PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY

University of Delaware:
1980-2005 Latin American Studies Committee
1988-1989 University Faculty Senate
1983-1984 College Faculty Senate
1981-1983 Rural Development Advisory Committee
1981-1986 Women in Development Committee (Chair)
1980-1991 University Human Subjects Committee
1980-1983 Anthropology Dept. Advisory Committee
1980-1984 University Faculty Senate
1979-1981 University Senate Committee for Instructional Resources

Professional:
2006-present Emeritus Board of Directors, Fundación ProPetén, Guatemala
2002-2005 Vice-President of Board of Directors, Fundación, ProPetén (an independent Guatemalan NGO).
1998-2016 Board Member, REMEDIOS, Guatemala
1999-2001 Socio, Kanan Kaax (Conservation NGO, Peten, Guatemala)
1981-1988 Executive Committee, Northeast Council, WID (Member)
1984-1988 Interfuture Faculty Associate for University of Delaware
1986-1990 Corresponding Editor, Practicing Anthropology
On-going External reviewer for various professional journals, including Human Organization, Land Policy, American Ethnologist, Journal of Developing Areas, Conservation and Society, Geoforum, Ethnobiology, and so on. Also review applications to such agencies as National Science Foundation, etc. and several university presses.

Community: National
1986-1991 Executive Board, B'nai B'rith Lodge 480, Delaware
1985-1991 Hillel Advisory Board, Newark, Delaware
1984-1985 Hillel Faculty Advisor, University of Delaware
1983-1984 Hillel Advisory Board Member, Newark, Delaware
1965-1968 Hillel Faculty Counselor, Middlebury College, Vermont
1990-1991 DIPAC Faculty Advisor, University of Delaware
Dissertation and Thesis Supervision:
Have served as off-campus supervisor and/or committee member for dissertations and theses at University of Georgia,
Duke University, University of Missouri, and Reading Univ. (England)

PAPERS PRESENTED AT MEETINGS, INVITED LECTURES, ETC.


2013(b) Huertos y agricultura de tumba y quema (milpas) Presentada a 3er Simposium Internacional de Investigación Multidisciplinaria, 4to Encuentro Nacional de Investigación Científica. 21, 22 y 23 de Agosto. Universidad Juárez Autónoma de Tabasco (UJAT) y Universidad de San Carlos, Guatemala. Villahermosa, Tabasco, Mexico


2010(a) Reflexiones acerca de la evolución de la sociedad petenera: Cambios con y sin transformaciones. Centro Universitario de Peten (summer 2010).

2010(b) N. B. Schwartz and A. Corzo Gardens and milpas: Sustainable food production systems of Petén, Guatemala


2003 (a) Invited guest expert. Conference and workshop on Fondo de Alianzas para los Ecosistemas Críticos: CEPF-Mesoamérica Norte. Guatemala City (February 7)


2002 “Petén, su desarrollo desde la perspectiva de 40 Años.” CUDEP-Centro Universitarrio de Petén.

2001a “Lógica Capitalista, Localidades de Frontera y Economía Campesina..” “II Encuentro Sobre Desarrollo-Sostenible en Petén. Santa Elena, Flores, Petén (Nov. 31-Dec.2). Sponsored by FLACSO.


2000a Antropologia y III Curso de forestería comuntaria. FLACSO de Guatemala, delivered to the class in CUDEP, Sta. Elena, Flores, Petén (June 2000).


1998c "Conservation, Development and Democracy in the Petén, Guatemala Forests: Holy or Unholy Trinity?" Westchester State University, Westchester, PA. (19 February)

1997 "Life and Society in Petén, Guatemala." St. Mary's College, St. Mary's, Maryland (12 November).


1996d "Petén: Conservation, Tourism and Development." Group Discussion; St. Mary's College, St. Mary's, Maryland.


1995b "Conservation in the Tropical Lowlands of Guatemala: Who Gains?" West Chester University, West Chester, PA.


1995e "Experiencias en Ecoturismo en la Zona del Peten, Guatemala." La Universidad de Quintana Roo y el CIESAS-SURESTE. Chetumal, Quintana Roo, Mexico.

1995f "La Historia Socioeconomico del Peten, Guatemala." CIESAS-SURESTE, Chetumal, Quintana Roo, Mexico.


1993c "La Selva Maya." CCN news, originating in Guatemala. (March 5 and 6)

1993d "Mayarema and la Biosfera de la Reserva Maya." EcoEscuela, San Andres, Peten, Guatemala.

1993e "Land and ethnicity: The Itzaj of San Jose, Peten, Guatemala." Invited Session. 13th International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences. Mexico, DF.


1990 Panel Discussant: "Ethical problems of field work in Guatemala." American Anthropological Ass'n., New Orleans


1988b "Causes of social unrest in Central America." Institute of Lifelong Learning, Wilmington, DE

1986a "The development of capitalism in Latin America." Latin American Studies Program, Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA
1986b "Central America." Mirrors of Culture Program, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA


1985a "Land tenure in northern Guatemala." USAID/Guat. Guatemala City, Guatemala


1984a Representative Univ. of Delaware, Agriculture and Humanities Conference. University of Florida, Gainesville, FLA

1984b (With J. J. Molnar) "Integrated aquacultural development: Sociological issues in the cooperative management of community fishponds." International Center for Aquaculture, Auburn University, Alabama

1984c "Qué hacen los extencionistas?" Dirección Nacional de Acuicultura. MIDA, Divisa, Panamá

1983 "Agroaquacultural projects in Panamá." West Chester State University, West Chester, PA


1982b "Structural replication and technical assistance.: Dirección Nacional de Acuicultura. MIDA, Divisa, Panamá

1982c (With K. E. Eckhardt) "Social values, rural development and intermediate institutions." Conference on Technological Change and Rural Development. University of Delaware, Newark, DE

1982d "Social values and rural development. Society for Applied Anthropology. Lexington, Kentucky

1981a "Local level factors and the sociocultural impact of development projects." Social Impact Analysis and Development Conference. Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI


1980b "Race and culture in Latin America." Sister Cities of Wilmington, Inc. Wilmington, DE.

1979a Panel Discussant: "Heritage of Conquest Review." International Congress of Americanists, Vancouver, Canada

1979b Co-organizer of symposium on "Central Maya Lowlands: Overview and Research Prospects." Northeastern Anthropological Ass'n. Henniker, NH

1979c "Community structure in Petén." Northeastern Anthropological Ass'n. Henniker, NH


1977 "Community development in Latin America." West Chester State College, West Chester, PA


1976b "Folk history and environmental change." Southern Anthropological Society, Atlanta, GA


1974 "Work and transition to manhood among chicle tree tappers of Guatemala." Southwestern Anthropological Ass'n. Santa Monica, CA


WORKS IN PROGRESS

Autonomy and domination: Culture and society in a tropical lowland society.