

is presumed to have died after falling some thirty meters into the still-dry karstic hole from a dark confluent branch tunnel, although more specific causes of death might be revealed once the whole skeleton is retrieved from the bottom of the sinkhole.

The ongoing Proyecto Arqueológico Subacuático Hoyo Negro is led by Dr. Pilar Luna Erreguerena (Subdirección de Arqueología Subacuática, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia) and Dr. James C. Chatters (Applied Paleoscience and DirectAMS) and includes the participation of several Mexican and international institutions. Besides prospection, dating and mitochondrial analyses, which affiliated Naia to haplogroup D1 (consistent with Beringian populations), recent interdisciplinary efforts have focused on understanding the taphonomy of Naia's remains and preservation, her living conditions and lifestyle, and her population affiliation, which based on dental morphology falls within the range of variability of more recent Mesoamerican populations. The preliminary results of this research indicate that the gracile youngster had sustained antemortem trauma and already suffered from a heavy oral load of caries and gingivitis at the time of her death

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### New Research at La Florida

PHILADELPHIA (Joanne P. Baron). In 2015, I spent the month of July in the town of El Naranjo Frontera, Peten, Guatemala investigating the archaeological site of La Florida. The site lies on the banks of the San Pedro River, just a short drive from the western border with Mexico. I direct the La Florida Archaeology Project together with Lilita Padilla, and we were joined in 2015 by students Josh Freedline, José Subuyuj, and Walter Ochoa. During the course of our 2015 field season, we updated and expanded the map of the site and photographed two previously undocumented inscriptions.

#### Mapping

La Florida has been mapped by previous investigators, most accurately by Ian Graham (1970) and Paulino Morales (1998). Both of these archaeologists relied on tape-and-compass methods and restricted their mapping efforts to the site's mon-



6 Figure 1. Map of La Florida showing the three identified groups.



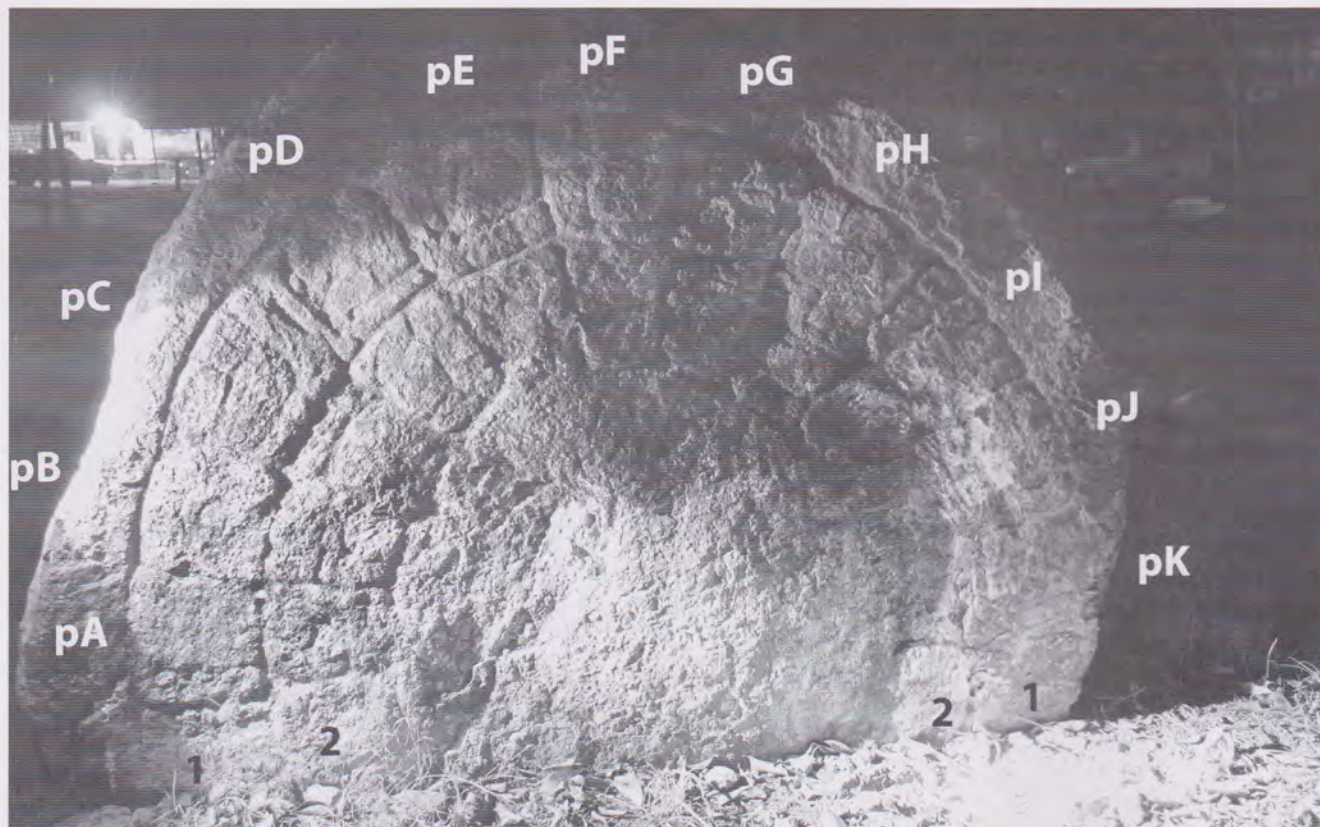


Figure 2. Photograph of “Altar X”.

umental core. To update these maps, we used a total station and handheld GPS unit. We have identified three principal architectural groups at the site, each named for the modern settlement that surrounds it (Figure 1). The El Naranjo Group is the largest of these. We used a total station to map this area, and our data are largely similar to the observations of Graham and Morales. The tallest structures in this group are 16 m high and command impressive views of the river. We were not able to map the entirety of the El Naranjo Group, however, since an active military base occupies part of the site. For this area, we relied on data collected by Morales. Though many of the smaller structures in the group have been damaged by modern housing, the large structures remain largely intact. Using total station data, we were able to superimpose the ancient structures on aerial photographs of the town of El Naranjo. We shared these composite images with local residents, who were excited to see where their own homes fell within the plan of the ancient city.

The other two groups had not been previously mapped. The Santa Marta Group occupies a hill across the river from the El Naranjo Group, placed in such a way as to increase visibility around a set of river bends. Though approximately two kilometers apart, the El Naranjo and Santa Marta Groups are inter-visible from their tallest structures. The project first visited the Santa Marta Group in 2014, and Christopher Martinez made a sketch map of the monumental architecture. We georeferenced this sketch with GPS data. Though smaller than the structures of the El Naranjo Group, Santa Marta includes a pyramidal platform, a possible ball court, and two uncarved altars. In 2015, we explored the slope between these structures and the San Pedro River. This area appears to have been artificially terraced. Caretakers of the property showed us two *chultuns*, and we also noted sherds from large storage

vessels on the surface. We believe that this area may have once served as the port of the Santa Marta Group. Finally, the El Niño Group, located on a *finca* of the same name, is also located across the river from the El Naranjo Group. Here, we noted the presence of four small platforms. These probably correspond to elite residential structures.

### Monument Photography

During a visit in 2014, we noted that a carved altar inside the military base does not correspond to any of the altars drawn or measured by previous investigators (see Graham 1970; Jørgensen and Krempel 2014; Krempel 2011; Lopes 2003; Morales 1998). However, it may correspond to an altar paired with Stela 7, noted by Shook (1943) and referred to as “Altar E” by Graham (197). For the time being, we will refer to this monument as “Altar X.” In 2015, we were allowed to photograph it. Clearly moved from its original location, it is currently set sideways, with part of its inscription planted in the ground (Figure 2).

Altar X is in a poor state of preservation, and unfortunately it gives little new information about the site. However, it is possible to propose tentative readings for some of the signs. The text consists of two concentric rings of glyphs. The first full glyph above the ground (pA1) opens with **K’AHK’**, and its neighbor (pB1) is consistent with **YOPAAT**. For this reason, I believe these glyphs name 8<sup>th</sup> century ruler K’ahk’ [?] Chan Yopaat, commissioner of Stela 7, Stela 9, and Altar G (see Jørgensen and Krempel 2014). Glyphs pA2–pB2 may include titles of this ruler. Glyph pC1 contains what is probably the La Florida emblem glyph—glyphs **AJAW-wa** are legible above and below the main sign. The main sign itself is badly damaged, though it is complemented by a **-ni**, lending support to the reading *Maan* or *Namaan*.





Figure 3. Photograph of Altar B.

The next section of glyphs may name the protagonist's grandfather. Glyph pD1 is possibly read **u-MAM-ma**, which would be followed by the grandfather's name at pC2-pD2. A similar construction appears on Altar G, where the grandfather is named as **UH-TI'-ku-yu** or perhaps **ja-la-TI'-ku-yu** (Jørgensen and Krempele 2014). Unfortunately, if Altar X does name a grandfather, his name is too poorly preserved to say whether it is the same person named on Altar G.

Glyph pE1 contains a legible **u** sign, but is largely eroded. It is possible that this glyph reads *ukabjiy*, which would theoretically be followed by the name of La Florida's political overlord at pF1. However, this glyph does not appear similar to any of the obvious overlords of the San Pedro River area. In fact, it is inconsistent with every emblem glyph I could think of. Simon Martin (personal communication 2016) noted that the glyph is more consistent with **ch'a-ho-ma-AJAW**, an elite title. Glyphs pE2-pF2 are badly damaged. Glyph pG1 contains an obvious **3** prefix, and probably reads "three k'atun ajaw" or something similar. After this glyph, however, I could find no additional legible information.

In addition to Altar X, Joshua Freedline noticed glyphs on the face of Altar B (Figure 3). This rectangular monument had been classified by Morley (in Graham 1970:454–55) as a stela. He records that it had fallen with its front face up (though he does not describe any carving on the upward face). He also describes lifting it far enough to discern carving on the back (downward face). The carving that is visible on the upward face today is in very poor condition, though clearly contains a grid of hieroglyphs. The surface of the monument is also so irregular that it could not be well photographed.

Additional work will be needed to get any information out of this monument.

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