



ELMIRA COLLEGE

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

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Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar Lecture Open to Community

Elmira, New York – The Elmira College Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa and the Phi Beta Kappa Society invite the campus and community-at-large to attend a presentation by Visiting Scholar, Dr. Jeremy Sabloff at 4:00 p.m., on Monday, October 17 in the Tripp Lecture Hall, Gannett-Tripp Library. The presentation, “Beyond Ancient Maya Temples, Palaces and Tombs” is free and open to the public.

Current scholarly understandings of Pre-Columbian Maya civilization are quite different from the traditional model of ancient Maya civilization that dominated the field of Maya studies until recently and still dominates public perception of the ancient Maya. In part, this new view is due to both the significant increase in archaeological studies in the Maya area in the past few decades and the decipherment of Maya hieroglyphic texts, which have provided new insights into Maya history. However, much of the change is due to the introduction and rapid spread of settlement pattern studies more than a half a century ago. This lecture examines the major impact of the methodology of settlement pattern research on Maya archaeology and how such studies have moved archaeological studies away from their concentration on the ruling elites to a broader, more realistic approach that looks at elites and commoners alike.

Dr. Sabloff is Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, Emeritus, and former director of the University of Pennsylvania Museum (1994-2004). An archaeologist, he recently retired as president of the Santa Fe Institute. He has written or edited 21 books and monographs on ancient Maya civilization, the rise of complex societies and cities, the history of archaeology, and the relevance of archaeology in the modern world. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Philosophical Society, as well as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Society of Antiquaries (London).

About the Phi Beta Kappa Society

Founded in 1776, the Phi Beta Kappa Society is the nation's most prestigious academic society. Its mission is to champion education in the liberal arts and sciences, to recognize academic excellence, and to foster freedom of thought and expression. Since 1956, the Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar Program has been offering undergraduates the opportunity to spend time with some of America's most distinguished scholars. The purpose of the program is to contribute to the intellectual life of the campus by making possible an exchange of ideas between the Visiting Scholars and the resident faculty and students.

About Elmira College

Elmira College is a private, coeducational, Phi Beta Kappa college founded in 1855, located in Elmira, New York. The College has an undergraduate enrollment of approximately 1,200 full-time mostly-residential students, and is the guardian of Quarry Farms where Mark Twain summered for decades and where he wrote many of his most iconic novels and is today a research center for visiting Twain scholars. The College has been ranked as a Best College in the Northeast by the *Princeton Review* and a National Top Tier Liberal Arts College by *U.S. News & World Report*, which has also ranked Elmira College as one of the leading colleges nationally for student internships. *The Philadelphia Inquirer* cited the Elmira College campus as 'picture postcard perfect.'

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Photo attached: Sabloff, Jeremy.jpg

Caption: Dr. Jeremy Sabloff, author and Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, Emeritus, at Penn, will give a lecture on Maya civilization on Monday, October 17 at 4:00 p.m. at Elmira College. The lecture is free and open to the public.