

UC SANTA BARBARA

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Bill Schlotter

UCSB Professor To Lecture On El Pilar Maya Archaeological Site

The Maya of southern Mexico and Central America built one of the world's great civilizations.

And they left a legacy of magnificent forest-shrouded temples and exotic artifacts that continues to mesmerize 20th Century

peoples as archaeologists unearth their past and seek to solve the puzzle of their mysterious collapse.

University of California, Santa Barbara archaeologist Anabel Ford has been at the forefront of that work for more than two decades, concentrating her efforts of the past six years at the ruins of a Maya city known as El Pilar along the border separating

Belize and Guatemala.

Ford discovered El Pilar 17 years ago.

At El Pilar, Ford has brought together representatives of the indigenous community, scholars and governmental officials to create an ecological and archaeological reserve.

Goals of the coalition are to preserve the site's antiquities and ecosystem while creating an economy based on tourism and agriculture to sustain the local work force.

Ford will discuss the many accomplishments of the El Pilar Program for 1999 and plans for the site's future at a public lecture and slide presentation from 5 to 9 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 25 in UCSB's Multicultural Center.

The event is free and starts with a pot-luck reception.

About UC Santa Barbara

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the edge of the Pacific Ocean.