ANTHROPOLOGY & GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES SEMINAR

Friday, November 15th, 4:00 – 5:00 pm, BSB 3.03.02

DOUBLE FEATURE

10 Years and 10,000 Square Kilometers: Empowering the Archaeological Geospatial Revolution in Mesoamerica

Juan Carlos Fernández Díaz, PhD, Nacional Center for Airborne Laser Mapping

During the spring of 2009 the National Center for Airborne Laser Mapping (NCALM) conducted the first survey of a Mesoamerican site employing airborne mapping LiDAR exclusively for archaeological prospection. This survey of 200 square kilometers surrounding the Maya site of Caracol in the Vaca Plateau in Belize sparked a revolution in the way archaeological settlement studies and prospection are conducted in the region. Since then NCALM has collected more than 10,000 square kilometers of high density LiDAR in Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador empowering advances not only in Mesoamerican archaeology but also in LiDAR instrumentation and mapping techniques. This talk will provide an overview of some of the projects that have made waves in the media and the academic/research communities as well as the technological innovations that have occurred in the past decade and that ones that are coming in the near future.

LiDAR Survey and New Insights into Ancient Maya Civilization in Central Belize

Jason Yaeger, PhD, University of Texas at San Antonio

Brief presentation focusing on some of the specific archaeological discoveries that have been made thanks to LiDAR data created by Dr. Fernández Díaz and his colleagues at NCALM.