



*The Languages and Culture Studies Program, Latin American and Caribbean Studies Minor, and Historical Studies Program invite you to:*

## Simon Martin, Associate Curator, UPenn Museum "The Maya and 2012: Fact, Fantasy, and Phenomenon"

In recent years there has been a gathering storm of publicity surrounding an "end of time" arriving on 23 December 2012. We are told that the ancient Maya calendar will come to a conclusion, and that this will cause dramatic changes—whether regenerative or catastrophic—to our world. Books, magazines, and websites, not to mention Hollywood blockbusters, have all joined the clarion calls. But what is the story behind the disconcerting headlines? What did the ancient Maya really believe would take place on this momentous date? Using hieroglyphic texts—including some only recently unraveled—we can form a better, and truer, picture of ancient Maya beliefs about time-reckoning and the cosmos, and the 2012 phenomenon they have inspired.

**Date:** Thursday, October 25, 2012, 6:30pm

**Location:** Alton Auditorium

A group tour of the "**Maya 2012: Lords of Time**" exhibition at the Penn Museum is also scheduled on Saturday, November 3, 2012. Space is limited! Free transportation will be provided from Stockton College's main campus (departing campus at 1pm and returning at 6pm), and tickets to the exhibition are available at a subsidized rate of \$12.50 for adults and \$10 for seniors or students, and include a free audio tour (this is a \$12 savings per person off regular admission). "**Maya 2012**" features more than 150 objects excavated from Copan, Honduras (for more information, visit: <http://www.penn.museum/sites/2012/about/>).

Please contact either Gorica Majstorovic ([gorica.majstorovic@stockton.edu](mailto:gorica.majstorovic@stockton.edu)) or Michelle McDonald ([michelle.mcdonald@stockton.edu](mailto:michelle.mcdonald@stockton.edu)) for more information or to reserve your space.

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*Simon Martin, Co-Curator of the MAYA 2012: Lords of Time, is the Associate Curator of the American Section at Penn Museum. He is an expert on Maya hieroglyphic writing and specializes in the history and politics of the Classic Maya (250-900 CE). He previously worked on the "Courtly Art of the Ancient Maya," for the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. and co-wrote its catalogue with Mary Miller. Among his other publications is the book "Chronicle of the Maya Kings and Queens" (with Nikolai Grube) from 2000. His work has been featured in the New York Times, National Geographic Magazine, Archaeology Magazine, Science, and the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. He appeared in the Nova television program "Cracking the Maya Code" in 2008 and has collaborated on other shows for Discoverv and the History Channel.*

