

ANTHONY F. AVENI

CURRICULUM VITAE

ANTHONY F. AVENI

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of Astronomy, Anthropology and Native American Studies
Colgate University, Hamilton, NY 13346
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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Anthony F. Aveni joined the Colgate University faculty in 1963 as Instructor in Astronomy. Prior to that he was a 1960 graduate of Boston University where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in physics. He was a teaching assistant and research fellow during graduate study at the University of Arizona, and received the Doctor of Philosophy there in 1965. He is now the Russell Colgate Distinguished University Professor of Astronomy, Anthropology, and Native American Studies - serving appointments in the Departments of Physics & Astronomy and Sociology & Anthropology.

With a colleague on the Colgate faculty, Aveni founded the academic concentration of astrogeophysics and Colgate thereby became the first undergraduate college in the country to offer study in that discipline. He has served as Acting Director of the Observatory, Visiting Professor at the University of South Florida and, held the Mellon Chair in the Humanities at Tulane University. He has also has taught in the University of Padua, Italy.

In 1966 he attracted a National Science Foundation grant which enabled Colgate to upgrade its observatory by installing a 16-inch Ferson reflecting telescope. He has long taught undergraduate courses in the use of the telescope and has offered regular programs for the general public at the Colgate Observatory, of which he served as Director until 1986.

Aveni helped found and develop the field of archaeoastronomy and is considered one of the founders of Mesoamerican archaeoastronomy for his research in the astronomical history of the Maya Indians of ancient Mexico. At Colgate he presently teaches courses in astronomy, archaeoastronomy, cultural anthropology, and the history of science. His students are involved in his research through regular field trips to Mexico and Peru to study history, astronomy, hieroglyphics, and architecture. Frequently, his students are involved as junior authors in the publication of his research findings. In 1981 and 1982 he was nominated as Colgate's representative for Professor of the Year, a national award sponsored by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, Washington, DC. In 1982 he won that award.

As Director of Colgate's Division of University Studies from 1979-1984, Aveni oversaw the college's programs of General Education and elective courses of a cross-disciplinary or interdisciplinary nature. He directed a project that involved administration, faculty and students in the formulation of a new General Education Program for Colgate.

Aveni has been awarded research grants by the National Geographic Society, the National Science Foundation and various private foundations for work in both American continents as well as in Europe and the Middle East. He has more than 300 research publications to his credit, including three cover articles in *Science* magazine and key works in *American Scientist*, *The Sciences*, *American Antiquity*, *Latin American Antiquity*, and *The Journal of Archaeological Research*. Two of his short pieces have been cited as “notable essays” in the volumes *Best American Essays of 2002* and *Best American Science Writing of 2002*.

Aveni has spoken or written on astronomy-related subjects on the Learning Channel, the Discovery Channel, PBS-Nova, BBC, NPR, *The Larry King Show*, NBC's *Today Show*, *Unsolved Mysteries* and the *N.Y. Times*, *Newsweek*, and *USA Today*. He has lectured in more than 300 universities around the world. Aveni helped develop and now is considered one of the founders of cultural astronomy, in particular for his research into the astronomical history of the Aztec and Maya Indians of ancient Mexico. He has done similar research in North America, Peru, Israel, Italy and Greece. Aveni has involved his students in research through regular field trips to Central America and Peru to study history, hieroglyphic writing, calendars and architecture; they often contribute as co-authors in the publication of new discoveries. In 2004, Aveni was the recipient of the H.B. Nicholson Award for Excellence in Mesoamerican Studies, given by the Peabody Museum and the Moses Mesoamerican Archive at Harvard University

Aveni has written sixteen books and edited thirteen. His works include *Empires of Time*, on the history of timekeeping, *Conversing With the Planets*, a work that weaves together cosmology, mythology and the anthropology of ancient cultures by showing how they discovered harmony between their beliefs and their study of the sky; *Behind the Crystal Ball: Magic, Science and the Occult from Antiquity through the New Age*, *Stairways to the Stars: Skywatching in Three Great Ancient Cultures*, *Between the Lines*, and *Nasca: Eighth Wonder of the World*, chronicle his 10 year research program on the mystery of the ground drawings of Nasca, Peru; *Ancient Astronomers*, *Foundations of New World Cultural Astronomy*, *The Book of the Year: A Brief History of Our Seasonal Holidays*, and most recently, *The End of Time: The Maya Mystery of 2012*. *Skywatchers*, his revised updated version of *Skywatchers of Ancient Mexico* has served as a basic textbook in archaeoastronomy. *The First Americans: Where They Came From and Who They Became*, the first of three books for children, received the 2006 Golden Spur Award for Western Juvenile Nonfiction, and made the 2006 Children’s Top Ten list of the International Readers’ Association. Other children’s books are *Grandma’s Magic Map* and *Americas First Great Cities*.

Professional Positions Held

1963-1965	Instructor in Astronomy, Colgate University
1965-1968	Assistant Professor of Astronomy, Colgate University
1970-1971	Visiting Professor of Astronomy, University of Arizona, University of South Florida
1968-1975	Associate Professor of Astronomy, Colgate University
1973-1974	Visiting Professor of Astronomy University of South Florida
1975-1980	Professor of Astronomy, Colgate University
1980-1982	Professor of Astronomy and Anthropology, Colgate University
1982-1988	Charles A. Dana Professor of Astronomy and Anthropology, Colgate University
1988-	Russell Colgate Distinguished University Professor of Astronomy and Anthropology Colgate University
2002-2002	Mellon Chair in Humanities (Spring Term) Tulane University
2004-2017	Russell Colgate Distinguished University Professor of Astronomy, Anthropology, and Native American Studies Colgate University

List of Publications

Books

Archaeoastronomy in Pre-Columbian America (Editor) 1975. Austin, University of Texas Press.

Native American Astronomy (Editor) 1977. Austin, University of Texas Press, (Spanish Translation: 1980, Astronomia en la America Antigua (Siglo XXI, Mexico City).

Skywatchers of Ancient Mexico, 1980. Austin, University of Texas Press. Second edition 1991, Third Edition 1996.

Ethnoastronomy and Archaeoastronomy in the American Tropics (Editor) with G. Urton, 1982. Ann. NY Acad. Sci., Vol. 385.

Archaeoastronomy in the New World (Editor), 1982. Cambridge University Press.

Calendars in Mesoamerica and Peru. Native Computations of Time (Editor) with G. Brotherston. British Archaeological Reports - International Series, No.174, 1983.

World Archaeoastronomy (Editor). Cambridge University Press, 1988.

The Lines of Nazca (Editor). Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1990

Empires of Time, New York: Basic Books (Harper & Row) 1989; British reissue (I.B. Tauris) 2000; Revised Edition 2002 (University Press of Colorado).

Observadores del Cielo en El Mexico Antiguo, Mexico City: Fondo de Cultura Economica, 397 pages. (Spanish translation of Skywatchers of Ancient Mexico, updated.) 1991; second edition 1997; revised and updated edition, 2005.

The Sky in Mayan Literature. (NY: Oxford) 400 pages, plus Introduction and contributed article. 1992

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Rhythmen Des Lebens. Stuttgart Klett-Cotta. (German translation of Empires of Time.) 1992 (also translated into polish and Russian).

Ancient Astronomers, Smithsonian, 1993.

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Stairways to the Stars: Skywatching in Three Great Ancient Cultures, Wiley, 1997.

Between the Lines: The Mystery of the Giant Ground Drawings of Ancient Nasca, Peru, University of Texas Press, 1999.

Nasca: Eighth Wonder of the World, British Museum Press, 2000. (displayed in authors' case of the British Museum).

Skywatchers: A Revised and Updated Version of Skywatchers of Ancient Mexico, University of Texas Press, 2001.

The Oxford Encyclopedia of Mesoamerican Culture, Associate Editor, D. Carrasco, Editor in Chief, Oxford University Press, 2001.

The Book of the Year: A Brief History of Our Seasonal Holidays, Oxford University Press, 2002.

The Madrid Codex: New Approaches to Understanding an Ancient Maya Manuscript (ed. with Gabrielle Vail), University Press of Colorado, 2004.

Publications (continued)

The First Americans: Where They Came From and Who They Became, Scholastic NY, 2005

Uncommon Sense: Understanding Nature's Truths Across Time and Culture, University Press of Colorado, 2006

People and the Sky: Our Ancestors and the Cosmos, Thames & Hudson, 2008

Foundations of New World Cultural Astronomy: A Reader with Commentary, (Editor) University Press of Colorado, 2008

The End of Time: The Maya Mystery of 2012, University Press of Colorado, 2009

Circling the Square: How the Conquest Altered the Shape of Time in Mesoamerica. American Philosophical Society, 2013

Buried Beneath Us: Discovering the Ancient Cities of the Americas, Roaring Brook Press, 2013

Class Not Dismissed: Reflections on Undergraduate Education and Teaching in the Liberal Arts, University Press of Colorado, 2014

The Measure and Meaning of Time in Mesoamerica and the Andes, Washington: Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, 2015

Apocalyptic Anxiety: Religion, Science, and America's Obsession with the End of the World, University Press of Colorado, 2016

In the Shadow of the Moon: The Science, Magic, and Mystery of Solar Eclipses, Yale University Press, 2017

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"Astronomical Orientations of Five Megalithic Tombs at Madau, Near Fonni in Sardinia", Suppl. Jour. Hist. Ast. No.11, Suppl. to Vol.181, pp.S35-S65 (with G. Romano and E. Proverbio).

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"Pecked Cross Petroglyphs at Xihuingo", Archast Suppl JHA No. 14, Suppl to Vol 20, pp S74-S115, 1989.

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"Observaciones Sobre el Planeamiento de Teotihuacan: El Punto Llamado Trazo Cuadrangular y las Orientaciones a los Puntos Cardinales" with H. Hartung (Mexico), Cuadernos de Arquitectura Mesoamerica, No. 13, pp 23-26, 1991.

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“Intellectual and Spiritual Expression of Non-Literate Peoples: Proceedings of the XVII UISPP World Congress; Stars and Stones: Voyages in Archaeoastronomy and Cultural Astronomy”
Time and Mind (on-line), 2017.

Major Fellowships & Grants

NSF Grant 1963, "Emission Lines in T Tauri Stars".

NSF Grant 1965, "Isolated Early Type Stars".

NSF RPCT 1965, "Catalog of Emission Lines" (with A.B. Meinel) (Fellowship, U. of Arizona)

NSF Grant 1968, "Study of BM Andromedae Complex".

NSF Grant 1969, "Properties of Early Type Low Mass Condensations in the Interstellar Medium".

NSF Grant 1971, "Mass Content of Six Potentially Isolated Low Mass Condensations".

Sigma Xi Grant 1971, "Survey of Sites in Mexico for Possible Astronomical Orientations".

NSF Grant 1973-1975, "Astronomical Orientations in Ancient Mexico".

OSCO Fund Grant 1973-1987, "Astronomical Orientations in Ancient Mexico".

NSF Grant 1975-1976, Cooperative Science Programs in Latin America, "An Investigation of Circular Towers in Yucatan" (with H. Hartung, University of Guadalajara).

Educational Expeditions International, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1980, "Field Study of Astronomical Orientation in Inca Ruins".

Educational Expeditions International 1981, "Field Study of Nazca Lines".

NSF Grant 1977-1978, "Investigation of Pecked Cross Petroglyphs in Mesoamerica".

NSF Grant 1980-1982, "Grid Structure of Mesoamerican Cities -- Astronomical Implications".

National Geographic Society 1981-1982, "An Investigation of the Nazca Lines."

NSF Grant 1982-1983, "An Investigation of the Nazca Lines".

Wenner Gren Foundation Grant 1982-1983, "An Investigation of the Nazca Lines".

NSF Grant June 1984, "Calendar & Astronomy in the Templo Mayor, Mexico".

Educational Expeditions International 1984, "Studies of the Nazca Lines".

NSF Grant 1984-1985, "Archaeoastronomy of Paleovenetic Sites (Italy)".

NSF/CONACYT, Mexico 1986 to fund 2nd Oxford International Symposium in Merida, Yucatan.

National Geographic Society 1992, Research on the Origin of the Etruscan Calendar

Memberships & Awards

American Association for the Advancement of Science, Elected Fellow, 1980.

American Astronomical Society.

NY State Academy of Science.

Astronomical Society of New York State.

American Association of University Professors.

Latin American Indian Literature Association.

Consultant to Hansen Planetarium, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Advisory Editor, Archaeoastronomy (Supplement to Journal for the History of Astronomy),
Cambridge, England.

1982 National Professor of the Year, by Council for the Advancement & Support of Education,
Washington, D.C.

1984 Medal of the City of Pordenone, Italy.

1984 Distinguished Achievement Award, Fairleigh Dickinson University Board of Trustees.
Society of American Archaeologists.

1990 Mesoamerican Archive, University of Colorado, Elected Board Member.

1990 Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society Distinguished Teaching Award, voted by Colgate
University's Freshman Class of 1990.

1991 Rolling Stone Top 10 U.S. Professors.

Organizing Committee, Oxford International Conferences on Archaeoastronomy.

Board of Directors, Kilo Lokahi Institute of Cultural Astronomy, Kilauea Kaulai, Hawaii, 1995- .

Nominated for Einstein World Award of Sciences, World Cultural Council Oxford, 1994, 1995.

Editorial Board: Encyclopedia of Meso American Culture (Area editorship).

Editorial Board: Encyclopedia Italiana (Area editorship).

Editorial Board: Cosmos & Culture (Cambridge University Press).

1997 Colgate University Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching

1999 Council member to ISAAC (International Society for Astronomy in Culture).

1999 Advisory board of Kronoscope, the new international journal for the Study of Time.

2002 Mellon Professor in the Humanities, Tulane University.

Memberships & Awards (continued)

- 2002 Essay on “Aztec Timekeeping” in Natural History (2001) magazine was cited among some 50 essays as Notable Scientific and Nature Writing of the Year in The Best American Science and Nature Writing for 2002, ed. N. Angier and T. Folger.
- 2002 Essay on “Harmony” which appeared in the Wilson Quarterly was listed among the 50 notable essays of the year in Best American Essays for 2002, ed. S.J. Gould and R. Atwan.
- 2003 “Cultural Astronomy in New World Cosmologies: Papers in Honor of Anthony F. Aveni” symposium and festschrift held at Colgate University by scholars and colleagues in archaeoastronomy field and sponsored by Colgate’s President and Dean of Provost and the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University.
- 2004 The Colorado Endowment for the Humanities Publication Prize for 2004, book award for The Madrid Codex: New Approaches to Understanding an Ancient Maya Manuscript (ed. G. Vail and A. Aveni).
- 2004 The President’s Award of the University of Colorado for 2004, book award for The Madrid Codex: New Approaches to Understanding an Ancient Maya Manuscript (ed. G. Vail and A. Aveni).
- 2004 H.B. Nicholson Award for Excellence in Mesoamerican Studies. Jointly given by the Peabody Museum and the Moses Mesoamerican Archive at Harvard University.
- 2006 The 2006 Spur Award for Juvenile Non-Fiction, an award given annually by the Western Writers of America, Inc., for distinguished writing about the American West, for The First Americans (2005). That book also made the top 10 Teacher’s Choices list of the International Reading Association.
- 2012 The Balmuth Teaching Award, third annual award given in recognition of legendary skills as an educator.
- 2013 Fryxell Award for Interdisciplinary Research (in the Earth Sciences category) in recognition for interdisciplinary excellence of a scientist who need not be an archaeologist, but whose research has contributed significantly to American archaeology.