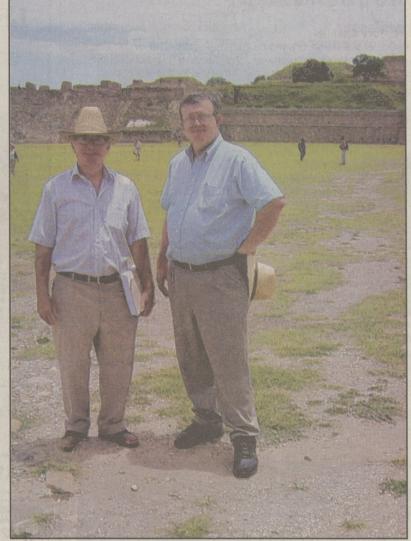


Dr. Stevan L. Davies stands atop a hillside overlooking Monte Alban. in Mexico



Dr. Stevan L. Davies, right, poses for a picture with Marcus Winter, chief of Oaxacan archaeology at Monte Alban.

He's passionate about his studies

valked along the shores of the Dead Sea, climbed 10,000 feet to explore cloud forests in Benito and should be a goal for Juarez National Park, savored rare encounters during a South African safari and trekked just keep rehashing through Tikal's dense jungles to reach ancient Mayan ruins all while researching the complex grade school." and diverse religions and cultures of the world. His adventurous experiences

aside, Davies is a self-proclaimed naturalist who passionately studies everything from ferns to or- the Humanities (NEH). chids and wildebeests to sea turnteresting foreign destinations. His musical play list reflects his globetrotting nature, as popular ethnic music from India and Bradimly lit office. Davies' eclectic nature is also fully displayed on his office walls where images of Buddha and the Arhats complement an icon of the Blessed civilization at Monte Alban. Mother and other religious sym-

A Back Mountain resident, Davies shares these divergent episodes in his life with his religious studies students at Misericordia University and through his six academic books and his appearances on international television documentaries.

writings and teachings: He is constantly intrigued by Catholicism and the distinct cultures and religions of the world.

"Professors and scholars need keep themselves intellectually live by trying and learning new things," Davies said. "Lifelong learning is a goal for our students hashing what we learned in grade school.

"I was able to create a course through journeying and reading I've done in recent years focusing on an area I never studied for an advanced degree. I've discovered that if you look for them carefully, opportunities for summer travel and learning are almost always available through the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Freeman Foundation and other sources, including our own Misericordia University," Davies

built upon his worldly experiences by participating in The Community College Humanities Ascolleagues from two- and fourby the National Endowment for new material and new regions for

Stevan L. Davies, Ph.D. has "Lifelong learning is a goal for our students ourselves, too. We can't what we learned in

Stevan L. Davies, Ph.D.

tles while hiking untamed lands pedition introduced educators to a doctorate in philosophy from n Mexico, Honduras and other the region's significant archeological sites and the Zapotec and Mixtec peoples' native cultures and religions.

Some of the world's leading auzil oftentimes plays softly in his thors and experts directed the daily excursions and roundtable discussions, including archeologist Marcus Winter who excavated the pre-Columbian Zapotec

pitting the past against the present and future. Indigenous people and special interest groups wrestle — sometimes violently with preserving their ancestors' beliefs and practices while attempting to simultaneously join the 21st century.

One common theme is woven tain the ancient culture and lanthroughout his explorations, guage and also decide to have a decent income and modern life," Dr. Davies said. "You can't really expect to do both, they're incompatible.

"There have been many at- ment. tempts to make a local craft industry, but the problem is they are tourist based. The political struggle is destroying the touand should be a goal for our-rism industry," he added. "It is a selves, too. We can't just keep re- local problem, but last year the main city (City of Oaxaca) was taken over by revolutionaries, and first-world tourists want to Mesoamerican culture relax and certainly not be in the presence of Molotov cocktails.

"There was no real violence when we were there but there was always a threat of it. The result is the indigenous people are poorer because they cannot get their products to tourists. Ironically, the struggle to benefit the indigenous people has ended up doing them considerable eco-

nomic harm," Davies added. Ten years ago, Davies participated in a similar institute that This summer the professor was funded by NEH. He studied Mayan culture and archeological sites in Guatemala, Honduras and Yucatan, Mexico, and incorsociation's 2007 Summer Insti- porated those lessons into a ute, "Oaxaca: Crossroads of a course at Misericordia Universiontinent," along with 23 other ty. His latest educational adventure will also benefit Misericoryear colleges and universities in dia's students by enabling the exthe United States. It was funded pansion of that course to include



An APPO encampment proudly displays pictures of Lenin and Stalin in Zocalo's city central plaza in Oaxaca.

Dr. Davies holds a bachelor's The July 1-Aug. 1 learning ex-degree from Duke University and Temple University.

He has taught religion at Misericordia for 29 years. During that time, he has been featured in six nationally televised documentaries and has published six books, including "The Secret Book of John Annotated and Explained."

He has appeared on the Discovery Channel's "Ancient Evi-Today's Oaxaca is a paradox, dence" series and was featured in a one-hour documentary, "The Miracles of Jesus," that was produced by the BBC.

National Geographic utilized his expertise for a documentary that delved into Jesus' medical techniques after Dr. Davies published, "Jesus the Healer: Posses-"It's a contradiction to main- sion, Trance, and the Origins of Christianity," in 1995.

The cable network, Arts & Entertainment had him appear twice to discuss Jesus' disciples and offer insight into Satan as he is depicted in The New Testa-



256-3221

