



## **Walter R. T. Witschey, Ph.D., RPA Research Professor of Anthropology and Geography (ret.)**

### **Education:**

- **PhD 1993 and MA 1989 Anthropology (Maya archaeology) Tulane University**
- **MBA Operations Research – Darden School, University of Virginia 1965**
- **BA Physics - Princeton University 1963**

### **Work:**

- **2014-2020 Research Professor of Anthropology and Geography, Longwood Univ.**
- **2007-2014 Professor of Anthropology and Science Education, Longwood University**
- **1992-2007 Director, Science Museum of Virginia**
- **1985- present Maya archaeologist; Co-PI: Electronic Atlas of Ancient Maya Sites**
- **1985-1992 Independent consultant / Teacher / Doctoral student / Field archaeologist**
- **1969-1984 The Computer Company, a profitable IT management and time-sharing business of 1200 employees**
  - **1970-1984 CEO, Director**
  - **1969 Co-founder, VP, Director**
- **1965-1969 IBM Corporation, installing scientific computer systems applications**

### **Offices, appointments, and awards:**

- **2016-2020, Board Member, Longwood University Foundation**
- **2007-2020, Professor, Longwood University**
- **2006-07 Leader-in-Residence, University of Richmond, Jepson School of Leadership Studies**
- **2006-07 Professor of Life Sciences, Virginia Commonwealth University**
- **2003-04 President, Virginia Academy of Science**
- **2001-03 President, international Association of Science Technology Centers**
- **2003 Virginia Biotechnology Educator of the Year Award, Virginia Biotechnology Association**
- **2001 Humanities and Sciences Distinguished Adjunct Award - Division of Social Sciences, Virginia Commonwealth University**
- **2001 – present, Research Fellow, Middle American Research Institute, Tulane University**
- **2016 – present, Research Fellow, Institute of Archaeology, Longwood University**
- **1992 Outstanding Adjunct, University College, Tulane University**

## Walter R. T. Witschey, Ph.D.

Walter R. T. Witschey, is a Maya archaeologist and geographer. He is senior author of the *Atlas of the Ancient Maya World* (in press for April 2025), *Historical Dictionary of Ancient Mesoamerica* and Editor of the *Encyclopedia of the Ancient Maya*, has 60 years' experience in teaching, in business management in both the public and private sectors, and in Maya archaeology. He served 14 years as President and CEO of a computer services business and has an extensive background as an independent business and systems management consultant. He has also taught at several major universities in the southeast. From 1992–2007 he served as the Director of the Science Museum of Virginia, a large state-agency multi-site science center network. He is past president of the international Association of Science-Technology Centers, and past president of the Virginia Academy of Science. In July 2007, he took a full-time appointment to the faculty of Longwood University where he served as Research Professor of Anthropology and Geography until 2020.

After receiving a BA in Physics from Princeton University, and an MBA in Operations Research from the Colgate W. Darden Graduate School of Business Administration of the University of Virginia, Witschey joined IBM as a Systems Engineer and Marketing Representative for Scientific Systems, serving the Medical College of Virginia, the University of Virginia, the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, as well as business clients throughout Virginia.

In 1969, he co-founded The Computer Company, and under his leadership for fourteen years, the business grew from zero to a profitable \$32 million enterprise with 1,200 employees. The Company served the Virginia Medical Assistance Program (MEDICAID) for more than two decades. His business provided Medicaid-related services to more than a dozen states. Other services included nationwide timesharing services in the pre-internet era, airline strategic decision systems, microform production, and Richmond's first retail computer store. In 1983, he arranged for the sale of the business to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Virginia. The successor company operates as First Health Services Corp.

In 1985 he entered the Ph.D. program in Anthropology at Tulane University. He directed a six-year program of archaeological field research at Muyil, an ancient Maya site on the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico, with the Mexican National Institute of Anthropology and History. His field research continues today, with focus on settlement pattern theory. He is a research fellow of the Middle American Research Institute, Tulane University and of the Institute of Archaeology at Longwood University. He is Co-PI of the Electronic Atlas of Ancient Maya Sites, and produced a chapter for *Quintana Roo Archaeology*, published in late 2005. He published the *Historical Dictionary of Mesoamerica* in 2012 with Clifford T. Brown, and the *Encyclopedia of the Ancient Maya* in 2015.

Upon completing his M.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology (Maya Archaeology), Witschey accepted appointment in 1992 as director of the Science Museum of Virginia, the second Director in the Museum's 30-year history, where he served for fifteen years.

At the Science Museum of Virginia, Dr. Witschey directed the expansion of statewide outreach programs, including science-mobile trailers, satellite/cable video to schools, Internet and other network services, Wonderplace for pre-schoolers, and science after school for at-risk urban middle-schoolers, among other business partnerships for improved science education. During his tenure, the Science Museum enjoyed substantially increased state and private support. A \$20 million project was completed at the Museum's headquarters (the Broad Street Station—a National Register Site). A \$30 million capital campaign (\$10 million for construction, \$12 million for exhibits, and an \$8 million endowment increase) raised over \$36 million. During his tenure at the Science Museum he raised more than \$100 million in support of science education.

The Children's Museum of Richmond, at his suggestion, joined the campus of the Science Museum. He opened the Danville Science Center in 1995. Rice RiverCenter, a gift of Inger and Walter Rice and site of a unique Richard Joseph Neutra home, and the historic Five Mile Locks of the James River and Kanawha Canal, was presented to the Museum in 1996, and recently sold by the Museum. The Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum, an affiliate, opened the same year. The Science Museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums (AAM) and is one of the Governing Members of the 500-member international Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC).

Witschey is responsible for two Guinness world records, both at the Science Museum of Virginia. In 1981, he constructed a highly accurate record-breaking giant analemmic sundial. In 2004, the Earth Kugel in the Museum's Mary Morton Parsons Earth-Moon Sculpture received the record for the world's largest floating granite ball (29 tons).

From 2007 to 2020, Witschey served as Professor of Anthropology and Science Education, then Research Professor of Anthropology and Geography at Longwood University where he conducts GIS-based research. He is a Registered Professional Archaeologist. In 2016, Witschey was elected a Director of the Longwood University Foundation board where he served for five years.

Throughout his career, Dr. Witschey has served as consultant to federal and state agencies and to businesses for management, strategic planning, computer systems design and management, geographic information systems, computer networks, and client management systems, and to non-profits for fund-raising and development. His university-level faculty work includes curriculum design consulting, as well as teaching computer programming and systems management, business management, entrepreneurship, and archaeology.

Dr. Witschey wrote a monthly science column for the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* for a dozen years. He is the author of published articles in fields as diverse as computer mapping of Colonial Virginia Land Patents and linguistic analysis of sixteenth century Spanish Colonial documents in Mexico. He has served on numerous boards and committees of non-profit organizations in Richmond and New Orleans. He is a frequent guest lecturer at business and professional organizations on his varied interests.

Most recently, his research interests are focused on completing a print version of the *Electronic Atlas of Ancient Maya Sites*, entitled *Atlas of the Ancient Maya World* scheduled for publication in April 2025. He is a native of Charleston, West Virginia, married to Joan DuRelle Vincent of Danville, the father of five children, grandfather of thirteen, and great-grandfather of two.