Gabriela Xilonen Aquino Dehesa

Gabriela Xilonen Aquino Dehesa used her 2011 Decormier Scholarship to conduct fieldwork in Oaxaca, Mexico, specifically in the Mixtec region and the Triqui’s Highlands, in the towns of Tlaxiaco and San Andres Chicahuaxtla. She gathered data about, family, migration and marriage. Her project titled “La Fuerza de la Costumbre? Triqui Family and Migration: Between tradition and Change” explores the relationship between traditional marriage and family in the migration context. Poverty, political conflicts and lack of opportunities, lead Mixtecs and Triquis to look for more economic opportunities in the biggest cities of Mexico and United States. The migration is a way of life in this area of Oaxaca and the characteristics of the indigenous migration and the mestizo migration are quite different. With this research, Gabriela seeks to understand how migration has changed the traditional indigenous family.