The Institute for Mesoamerican Studies (IMS) is a nonprofit scholarly research center dedicated to the study and dissemination of knowledge about the ancient and modern peoples and cultures of Mesoamerica (Mexico and northern Central America). IMS helps coordinate the work of the Mesoamericanist faculty at the University at Albany – SUNY. We have the largest number of full-time Mesoamericanists of any institution north of Mexico, and our members are among the most active and prominent scholars in the field of Mesoamerican anthropology. The primary activities of IMS are research and publication. This report summarizes our recent activities.

Letter from the Director

Dear colleagues, supporters, alumni, and friends,

Greetings from the faculty, students, and associate members of IMS! We are pleased to be able to report on a variety of exciting research and publication developments during the past year, and to inform you about some big plans for the 30th Anniversary of the Christopher DeCormier Scholarship Program, coming up in about 15 months (next May 2008). We hope that you will mark your calendars for the weekend of May 9 and 10, 2008, and join us for an IMS reunion that will include a symposium, an anniversary banquet and ceremony, a major concert event, and of course, a chance to socialize! Other big news items described in the pages of this newsletter include the publication of our second edition of the Legacy of Mesoamerica textbook by Prentice Hall. The proceeds from our first edition, published ten years ago (1996) supported many of IMS’s benevolent activities, including publishing important data monographs, creating additional student scholarships (First Encounter Program and Graduate and Undergraduate Essay Awards), and faculty research. Please feel free to communicate with me if you have any questions about current or planned activities – I would love to hear from you.
We hope to feature additional profiles of our alumni’s activities in future editions of this newsletter. Also please consider joining us at this year's DeCormier Awards Ceremony, Friday, May 18, 2-4pm at the Alumni House on campus.

Best Wishes,

Marilyn Masson

WEBSITE UPDATED

Check out our updated website at: www.albany.edu/ims

Faculty Activity Updates

Dr. Louise Burkhart’s new book, *Nahuatl Theater Volume Two: Our Lady of Guadalupe*, co-edited with Barry D. Sell and Stafford Poole, was published in December by the University of Oklahoma Press. This volume presents the only two known colonial Nahuatl dramatizations of the Guadalupe apparition story, plus other Nahuatl Guadalupan texts never before published. Volume Three, on the seventeenth-century dramatic works of the mestizo priest don Bartolomé de Alva, will come out in January, 2008, and Volume Four is in preparation. In August she participated in a symposium on “Angels and Devils in Colonial Latin America” at the University of Bristol in England; the papers will be published as an edited volume. Her graduate students Annette McLeod and Nadia Marín Guadarrama presented papers along with her in a session on colonial Nahuatl texts that she organized for the American Society for Ethnohistory conference in Williamsburg, Virginia, in November. She has also begun translating the material that she will include in *Aztec Civilization: Readings from Native Sources*, a textbook anthology under contract with Hackett Publishing.

Dr. Robert Carmack is presently collaborating with our former linguistic student, James Mondloch, in preparing a new translation into Spanish of the Título K’oyoi at the request of the Universidad Mesoamerican in Guatemala. This important native chronicle follows the tradition recorded in the Popol Wuj, but also contains invaluable new information on Tekum, the national indigenous icon of Guatemala, the sociopolitical organization of the Mayas in the important Quetzaltenango area, and a highly interesting account of the Spanish invasion of that area in 1524. Besides a new transcription of the text, and translation to Spanish, they are preparing copious notes on new insights provided by recent re-translations of the Popol Wuj, Titulo de Totonicapán, and Rabinal Achi.

James Mondloch and Robert Carmack are also preparing a new transcription, translation, and analysis of the Título K’oyoi. This was requested by the Universidad Mesoamericana in Guatemala. The new translation into Spanish will be complemented by extensive footnotes as to the significance of the document, and the many new interpretations of phrases and information on K’iche documents such as the Popol Wuj, Titulo de Totonicapán, and Rabinal Achi. The K’oyoi document has key information on Tekum, the Guatemalan hero, political organization in the Quetzaltenango area prior to the Spanish invasion, and fascinating information on the Spanish invasion itself.

Dr. George Aaron Broadwell continues research on Mesoamerican indigenous languages. He is currently working with graduate students in the Anthropology, Education, and Spanish
department on projects involving the documentation of Copala Trique, an endangered language of Oaxaca, Mexico. Copala Trique is spoken by several hundred immigrants to the Albany, NY area, and three of these speakers have been collaborating with UAlbany in the study of their language. The Albany Trique Working Group is nearing the completion of its translation and an analysis of a long Trique folktale "The origin of the Sun and the Moon", and plans to finish its monograph on this subject this semester. The working group is also compiling an audio-visual dictionary of the language. Two of the graduate students in the group are currently working on dissertations on the language.

Dr. Robert Jarvenpa  Following our participation in a May 2006 conference at the University of Costa Rica on hydroelectric dam development in the township of Buenos Aires, several University at Albany anthropologists (Lee Bickmore, Tom Brutsaert, Tim Gage, Bob Jarvenpa), met with UCR anthropologists and representatives of the Curre indigenous reserve. After our visit to the Curre reserve in early June 2006, all parties (UAlbany, UCR and Curre) agreed to collectively develop a four-field anthropological survey to be administered to all 400 households in the Curre/Yimba territories comprising the indigenous reserve. A survey instrument was developed over the summer and fall of 2006 incorporating biological measures, sociocultural dimensions (political ecology, migration, community wellbeing, identity), sociolinguistic features, and ethnoarchaeology. Authors of the survey include Uriel Rojas from Curre; Felipe Montoya and Frederico Guevara from UCR; and Lee Bickmore, Tom Brutsaert, Bob Carmack, Tim Gage, Bob Jarvenpa, and Rob Rosenswig from UAlbany. Tom Brutsaert returned to Curre in January 2007 to set-up the field survey team under the local direction of Uriel Rojas. The work will progress through the spring of 2007 with assistance from UAlbany graduate student Tim Comer. When completed, this holistic anthropological survey will provide a baseline on biological variation and health, socioeconomic conditions and cultural parameters which may prove useful to the community in dealing with changes from a proposed hydroelectric dam and other economic development in future years.

The Curre survey also represents a new phase of UAlbany’s longstanding anthropological research activity in southern Costa Rica (since the mid-1980s). We anticipate that the survey results will help identify new topics and problems for more prolonged, intensive field study by graduate students and faculty. At the same time, analyses of the survey data may be used as a basis for securing additional funding from external grant agencies to support an expanded research program in the years ahead. This new phase of UAlbany’s activity in Costa Rica coincides with the development of a new Master's program in Chibchan studies at the University of Costa Rica. This augurs well for a variety of new initiatives, collaborations, and exchanges between anthropologists at UAlbany and UCR and with the indigenous communities and other residents of Buenos Aires township.

UAlbany grad. student Timothy Comer and associates, Costa Rica, Spring 2007
Dr. Walter Little and his students conducted ethnographic research over the past summer on tourism and urban social relations in Antigua, Guatemala. Aside from providing training in ethnographic research methods, their research is part of a long-term project that looks at the relationships among political organization, economic strategies, and the uses of public urban space. The students and professor focused on complimentary research projects. This coming summer this research will continue, but with less of a focus on tourism per se. In addition to the research Professor Little and his students also took time out from research to learn about other parts of Guatemala and have fun.

Above: Lindsey Phelps and Alison Rendinaro talk to a woman and observe people in Antigua's Central Plaza.

Below: The 2007 class (standing L-R: Shaun Bennett, Katherine Anderson, Ashley Bycel, Alison Rendinaro, Angela Baldeck, Alex Fregeau; kneeling: Charlie Colon, Patrick Buonacore, Lindsey Phelps) meet renowned Maya sculptor, Diego Chavez Petzey, in his Santiago Atitlan home.

Above: Charlie Colon, Angela Baldeck, and Alison Rendinaro learn about traditions and weaving in San Antonio Aguas Calientes.

Dr. Little also published two books this past year, including *Kaqchikel Tijonïk Oxlajuj Aj: Curso de Idioma y Cultura Maya Kaqchikel.* (Judith M. Maxwell and Walter E. Little) Antigua, Guatemala: Editorial Junapu’ (2006) AND *¿La útz awäch?* Introduction to Kaqchikel Maya Language (McKenna Brown, Judith M. Maxwell, and Walter E. Little, Illustrations by Angelika Bauer) Austin: University of Texas Press (2006). The first language book (Kaqchikel Tijonïk) was written with the goal of providing Spanish speakers a
dynamic textbook to learn one of Guatemala's major Maya languages, Kaqchikel. It presents a series of 52 lessons, which are based on real cultural contexts and life situations and was conceived of as an aid to the Oxlajuj Aj Kaqchikel Maya Language and Culture Class (Tulane University and co-directed by the authors). Kaqchikel is one of approximately thirty Mayan languages spoken in Belize, Guatemala, Mexico, and, increasingly, the United States. Of the twenty-two Mayan languages spoken in Guatemala, Kaqchikel is one of the four "mayoritarios," those with the largest number of speakers. About half a million people living in the central highlands between Guatemala City and Lake Atitlán speak Kaqchikel. And because native Kaqchikel speakers are prominent in the field of Mayan linguistics, as well as in Mayan cultural activism generally, Kaqchikel has been adopted as a Mayan lingua franca in some circles.

The second book (¿La ütz awäch?), an innovative language-learning guide, is designed to help students, scholars, and professionals in many fields who work with Kaqchikel speakers, in both Guatemala and the United States, quickly develop basic communication skills. The book will familiarize learners with the words, phrases, and structures used in daily communications, presented in as natural a way as possible, and in a logical sequence. A grammar summary provides in-depth linguistic analysis of Kaqchikel, and a glossary supports vocabulary learning from both Kaqchikel to English and English to Kaqchikel. These resources, along with sound files and other media on the Internet at ekaq.stonecenter.tulane.edu, will allow learners to develop proficiency in all five major language skills—listening comprehension, speaking, reading, writing, and sociocultural understanding.

DR. MARILYN MASSON’s TOUR OF OAXACA THIS AUGUST 3-11, 2007

As the enclosed brochure indicates, Marilyn Masson is helping to lead a group on a tour of the Valley of Oaxaca. Please help SPREAD THE WORD about this educational and recreational activity to anyone who might wish to sign up and please POST OUR BROCHURE if possible.

We will be visiting some famous sites, including Monte Alban, Dainzu, Yagul, Mitla, and Lambityeco, along with some renowned local craft communities. Dr. Masson is one of three experts leading and lecturing on this tour. Part of the proceeds will be donated to the DeCormier Scholarship fund!

ALUMNI UPDATES WANTED!
PLEASE SEND YOUR NEWS TO MARILYN MASSON FOR THE NEXT IMS NEWSLETTER ISSUE
2007 DeCormier Awards Ceremony and Reception – May 18, 2007

Please join us at the Alumni House from 2-4pm on Friday, May 18, this year for our annual Christopher DeCormier Scholarship ceremony. Bob and Louise DeCormier will once again travel to Albany to confer the scholarship to this year’s UAlbany graduate student winner. Other IMS awards will also be granted, including the First Encounter graduate research grant and David Scotchmer graduate essay and undergraduate essay competitions. A scrumptious reception will follow. YOU’RE INVITED! We look forward to seeing you there...

IMS Legacy of Christopher DeCormier – 30th Anniversary Weekend Celebration 2008

The Institute for Mesoamerican Studies will mark the 30th year anniversary of the Christopher DeCormier Scholarship Program May 9 and 10 of 2008 (that’s next year) with a weekend of celebration events highlighting three decades of student and faculty research in the fields of Mesoamerican ethnology, linguistics, and archaeology. Events planned include a Mesoamerican Symposium of invited speakers (including distinguished alumni), a photographic exhibit of IMS faculty, student, and alumni research themes, a poster symposium where alumni and students alike can gather to share and discuss their current and past research, the 2008 DeCormier Awards ceremony and luncheon banquet. The grand finale of the weekend will be a fundraising concert at the Performing Arts Center Recital Hall featuring Louise and Bob DeCormier, members of their musical group, Counterpoint, and perhaps some very special musical guests. The concert will include music of Latin American inspiration.

Proceeds from the concert will be donated to the Christopher DeCormier Endowment fund of IMS; the interest from this endowment each year underwrites a research grant awarded to one or two UAlbany graduate students to perform their own studies in Mesoamerica. The DeCormier Scholarship was established in memory of Bob and Louise DeCormier’s son, Christopher, who made important contributions to Mesoamerican studies as a student at UAlbany in the 1970’s. Bob and Louise DeCormier initially suggested the anniversary celebration to us last year. Please mark your calendars!

IT’S OUT!!!! THE 2ND EDITION OF THE LEGACY OF MESOAMERICA TEXTBOOK (2006) is now available from Prentice Hall. This unique textbook written by IMS associates and their colleagues provides one of the best synthetic long-term, multidisciplinary perspectives on Mesoamerican societies currently on the market.

Once again, UAlbany will sponsor an archaeological field school in northern Belize. Robert Rosenswig will return to the San Estevan site to follow up on work begun by our previous field school during the summer of 2005. Newly run carbon-14 dates from that season document that by 800 BC a substantial population inhabited the site, prepared the central area with a cobbled construction surface and produced substantial quantities of domestic refuse. Then, by 50 BC, the entire central precinct of the site was covered with lime plaster. Soon thereafter, Cache #1 was interred as the first construction episode was undertaken that began San Estevan’s 15m high central mound and the site’s ballcourt.

The 2008 San Estevan Archaeological Project will document changes that occurred at the site throughout the Formative period (800 BC – AD 200). Who were the earliest occupants of San Estevan? Were they Maya? How did life change once people began to use ceramics and live in permanent villages? How were village leaders able to consolidate political power, build planned cities and sponsor the building of monumental architecture? Please contact Dr. Rosenswig (rrosenswig@albany.edu) for more information, or check out our website linked to the Anthropology Department’s homepage.
**Student Updates**

**Justin Lowry** is a Mesoamerican archaeology graduate student working at sites in the northern Maya lowlands (Yucatan peninsula). This summer he will return to an important site named Xuenkal, under investigation by his undergraduate advisor (Dr. Traci Ardren, University of Miami). This site is near the renowned political capital of Chichen Itza and work there will help document the extent and nature of this capital’s political and economic sway throughout the peninsula. Last summer he spent two months in Spanish language classes in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico, after helping Elizabeth Paris and Dr. Marilyn Masson visit and assess potential mountaintop sites in the area for Elizabeth’s dissertation.

**Elizabeth Paris**. With the aid of the Christopher DeCormier Memorial Scholarship, she completed preliminary work toward her dissertation in the area of San Cristobal, Chiapas, Mexico. The goals of the preliminary season were to visit previously excavated sites in the region to generate ideas for her own fieldwork; to make contact with local professionals and officials; and to examine existing artifact collections in the New World Archaeological Foundation. Together with Dr. Marilyn Masson, Jared Latimer, Justin Lowry and Jason Paling, she visited some of the large monumental centers in Chiapas such as Chinkultic, Tonina, Palenque, Mox Viquil, La Hermita (Cerro de la Cruz), and others. They obtained copies of maps of sites in the San Cristobal Valley at the New World Archaeological Foundation (NWAF), and determined the locations of sites excavated in previous archaeological projects in the region. She also talked to Thomas Lee of the Universidad de Ciencias y Artes de Chiapa and the staff of the New World Archaeological Foundation about the current condition of local sites. Dr. Robert Rosenswig provided immense assistance by introducing her to the NWAF staff and local archaeologists. The director of the NWAF, Dr. John Clark (BYU) graciously provided her with permission to study the collections housed there. Elizabeth spent two months learning the local ceramic sequences, including NWAF collections previous projects in the area. She then made the acquaintance of Dr. Sophia Pincemin of the Museo Na Bolom, the local archaeology and ethnology museum in San Cristobal, who gave her permission to study unpublished ceramic collections from the local site of Mox Viquil, excavated by Franz Blom in the 1950’s. This study of museum materials will represent one component of her dissertation. She is currently applying for grants for extensive investigations at the most promising local sites.


**Jennifer A.L. Newman** was funded by a university fellowship to train with phytolith (silica bodies found in plants and present in many ancient residues) analysts at the University of Minnesota. These skills were further developed in the field with Steve Bozarth (microfossil expert) as part of an ongoing study of the ancient Mayan raised fields. Additionally, she has continued to expand a ceramic database (established...
during her Master’s research) of various attribute information and measurements of Mayan polychrome vessels by adding observations of use-wear analysis. The end result will be a relational database that is compatible with several other epigrapher’s databases with the ultimate goal of creating a combined resource available to all researchers.

Jennifer Newman (La Milpa, Belize)

**Jared Latimer.** Last summer, Jared had the opportunity to conduct a preliminary investigation of the ceramic figurine assemblage of Mayapan. The research was funded by the IMS First Encounter award. He spent three weeks in the project laboratory, located in a small village two kilometers away from the Mayapan site. There he documented various physical attributes of the individual figurines (such as figurine morphology, size, clay type, temper, paint, etc.) along with the particular structures these figurines were located in, and associated artifacts. Although the data is still being analyzed, initial results suggest exciting and unique patterns in figurine use. For example, unlike other Classic and Postclassic Mayan sites, there were many figurines found in the ceremonial center, suggesting they played an important role in public or elite ritual practice. As Mesoamerican figurines are often argued to reflect gender specific production and consumption behaviors, the Mayapan assemblage has the potential to offer a unique perspective on women’s roles in public ritual. Another extremely important discovery that he reports from his short stay in the Yucatan peninsula is directly quoted as follows: “Off mosquito repellent is a gross misnomer. It should be called ‘Come And Get It’ because it works about as well as marinating yourself in blood and honey, and then ringing the dinner bell.”

Jared Latimer, Yucatan, Mexico, Summer 2006

**Erin Slinker.** Last summer, she participated in the Oxlajuj Aj Kaqchikel Language and Culture Program in Guatemala. In addition to studying Kaqchikel, Erin initiated her dissertation fieldwork on transnational adoption from Guatemala. This coming summer, she hopes to return to the Kaqchikel program and resume fieldwork on the same topic.

Fernando OCampo spent the last year working with Louise Burkhart learning Nahuatl. This summer he plans to enroll in Yale’s Intensive Summer Nahuatl Institute in Guerrero, Mexico.

Jerry Ek’s dissertation topic addresses the critical issue of the collapse and transformation of ancient New World states, and incorporates the study of rapid political decentralization, the development of post-collapse societies, and the reorganization of economic systems. The objective of his
project, the Champoton Regional Settlement Survey, is to document the political, economic, and environmental factors associated with collapse and regeneration at the important Maya coastal polity of Champotón, Mexico from the end of the Classic through Postclassic Periods (A.D. 800-1500). He departed for Champoton in January, 2007, with the support of Institute of International Education Fulbright Fellowship.

**Claudia Dary.** Since 2006, she has been conducting field research in Eastern Guatemala, specifically in the Poqomam and Xinca areas. The understanding of local history and collective memories has been the focus of her project. Here, local people are rejecting ethnic identity labels such as “mestizo” imposed upon them by the state and are claiming their Indian roots. Myths, legends and oral histories have been registered by Claudia’s project. Women from the Santa María Xalapán’s organizations have been interviewed. They have provided many accounts of their life experiences and changes they have witnessed since their participation in social and political groups at the regional level.

A recent photo of Claudia and friends from Guatemala.

**Ricardo Vazquez** After he left UAlbany in 1990, he was unable to secure permissions necessary to collect dental casts that were to be the basis of his dissertation on the phylogenetic relationships between modern-day and archaeological indigenous populations in Costa Rica. In 1992, he resumed his position as staff archaeologist at the Museo Nacional de Costa Rica in San José. For two terms, he was chair of the Departamento de Antropología e Historia. Other duties involved serving as: editor of anthropological publications, curator of human remains, CRM supervisor, and advisor for judicial authorities in forensic cases. Over the years, he participated in the study of cemetery, rock art, and village sites throughout Costa Rica; this work was disseminated in many publications and professional presentations.

Between 1999 and 2001, he directed a 120 km² survey and excavations within the Turrialba Valley in central-eastern Costa Rica, funded by the construction of a hydroelectric dam that impacted around 20 km² of the valley. In Fall 2006, he returned to UAlbany to pursue his Ph.D. in archaeology. His dissertation expands the analysis of the Turrialba Valley research, with a focus on the long-term trajectory of political change from Paleoindian times through the emergence of social inequality and complex chiefdoms. The journey has been a long, but very interesting one. Ricardo is committed to the pursuit of knowledge about the archaeology of Costa Rica, a small but diverse country.

**Alumni Updates**

**Dr. Timothy S. Hare (Class of 2001),** Assistant Professor of Anthropology, holds a dual appointment with the Institute for Regional Analysis and Public Policy (IRAPP) and the Department of Geography, Government, and History at Morehead State University and teaches anthropology, regional analysis, GIS, and economic geography.
He uses quantitative geographical analysis techniques in his research to investigate a wide range of issues focused on political economy and public health. His current research focuses on unraveling the social, political, economic, and cultural factors influencing regional health patterns in Appalachia, including morbidity, mortality, and health care service utilization. For instance, his article, coauthored with Holly Barcus (Macalester College), titled “Healthcare Utilization, Deprivation, and Heart-Related Disease in Kentucky”, is forthcoming in the *Southeastern Geographer*. He also continues research into new spatial analysis applications, for example, he recently published an article with Vicki Bentley-Condit (Grinnell College), titled “Captive Olive Baboon Maternal Time Budgets and GIS Technology: Adding a Spatial Context”, in the *Journal of Mathematical and Physical Sciences*. His ongoing archaeological research is represented in the recent acceptance of the article “Sources of Imported Obsidian at Postclassic Sites in the Yautepec Valley, Morelos: A Characterization Study Using XRF and INAA” in *Latin American Antiquity* and co-authored with Michael E. Smith, Adrian L. Burke, and Michael D. Glascock.

Dr. Edgar Martín del Campo (Class of 2006) received his Ph.D. in Anthropology in May 2006. He is currently adapting his dissertation on nagualism in Veracruz into an ethnographic publication. His dissertation is entitled: "The Nagual Hiding in Shadows: Metamorphic Supernaturals, Contested Discourse, and the Complications of Fieldwork in the Huasteca Veracruzana of Northeast Mexico."

Dr. Miguel Astor Aguilera (Class of 2004) is an Asst. Professor in the Dept. of Religious Studies at Arizona State University. He is currently involved in two collaborative projects, “City Life: Experiencing the World of Teotihuacan (NEH funded) and “Resplendent Quetzal in Art, Folklore, Music, Religion, and Liberation Movements (ASU Inst. for Humanities Research), in addition to his own continuing ethnographic work in Yucatan. His book “Maya Ancestors and Quadripartite Crosses” will be submitted to the Univ. of New Mexico Press this Spring, and he and Dr. Robert Jarvenpa have submitted a joint article “Comparing Indigenous Pilgrimages” to the journal *Current Anthropology*.

Childrearing in Colonial Mexico: The Archival Experience

Nadia Marin Guadarrama (Ph.D. student)

During the winter of 2006-2007, she performed archival research in central Mexico. Her objective was to locate places where she could find texts written in Nahuatl about childrearing in Early Colonial times. Thus, documents such as religious books, baptismal and marriage records were very important to find. Once located, she planned to either photocopy them or to take photographs of them (with a special camera designed not to harm them with a flash). The
photos that she took were of excellent quality, and even allow the texture of the paper to be viewed along with written words.

The result of her first encounter with the archives was better than expected. She visited the Archivo General de la Nación, Archivo General del Estado de México, Biblioteca Nacional, Biblioteca del Museo Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Archivo de la Catedral de la Ciudad de México, and the Biblioteca Conventual de Zinacantepec. Between December 20 and January 20, she learned much about how different libraries and archives operate in Mexico.

The Biblioteca Conventual de Zinacantepec was particularly important. This library is under the direction of ethnohistorian Yesica Carbajal. During the organization of the archives, she found two archives, part of them written in Nahuatl, from the middle of the XVII century. Those archives in Nahuatl consist in one book of baptism records, which was in restoration, and pictures could not be taken, and another book of marriage records, which Yesica and Nadia photographed.

Nadia also had the opportunity to visit Cuentespec, a community in the state of Morelos where 98% of the population speaks Nahuatl. Her cousin, Erandi Marín Sanchez, put her in contact with Victorino Torres Nava (Víctor), a young man from Cuentespec, Morelos whose first language is Nahuatl. Although only 20 years old, he is actively involved in the revitalization of Nahuatl among children of the community; he has been recognized for these efforts by the Premio a la Juventud del Estado de Morelos. He helped to search for Nahuatl documents, befriended Nadia, and helped to teach her Nahuatl. They searched archives of local churches in the Toluca Valley or Mexico City each morning, and each evening she attended a Nahuatl class.

Three relevant documents were identified in the archival search, from the Toluca Valley. These are sources of information on such important topics as interethnic relationships and childrearing. Relationships between ethnic groups that lived in Toluca at that time, including the Matlatzincas, Otomies, Mazahuas, Nahuas, and Tlahuicas are potentially reflected. Nadia has identified many potential research topics. This work was supported by an IMS First Encounter Award and also by a Graduate Student Organization award by UAlbany. Nadia is grateful to all who helped her with this project in Mexico.