

# *¿DÓNDE ESTÁN?*

## *Alumni Newsletter of the Mexican Migration Field Research and Training Program*

*Center for Comparative Immigration Studies, UCSD, June 2009*

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**Editor's Note:** Please send your news and photos for the next edition to Ana Minvielle, [aminvielle@ucsd.edu](mailto:aminvielle@ucsd.edu). I am retiring on June 29; *mucha suerte y un fuerte abrazo del Profe C.*



## *2004-2005: Tlacuitapa I*

### **James Beseda**

James is currently working at a private school in Hawthorne, CA as a middle-English teacher. He is completing an M.A. in Spanish Literature at Cal State Fullerton and plans on pursuing a doctorate in literature. He also speaks to groups of Muslims about immigration issues.

**William Chiu**

For the past year I have been working in Shanghai, China, at a third-party logistics company as a sales executive. It's been an eye-opening experience, seeing a country of this size grow at such a fast pace, very similar to the U.S. post-WWII, but instead of reading about it in books, I'm actually part of it. My plans are to stay in China for the next few years. I am also planning to take the Foreign Service Officer exam this year and see if that pathway is a possibility for me. I see so many migrant workers in Shanghai, a city of 17 million people, at least one-third of them migrants. I've even casually interviewed some of them. Their stories are amazing. It makes me miss the days of MMFRP.

**Monica Cornejo**

Monica will be attending the McGeorge School of Law at the University of the Pacific in Sacramento, Calif., beginning in fall 2009. She reports that "the MMFRP was a tremendous asset" in being admitted to law school.

**Luz Maria Enriquez**

Luz earned her J.D. at the Boalt School of Law, UC Berkeley, graduating in 2008. She is currently working as a Law Clerk with the Labor and Employment Group at Hogan & Hartson LLP, New York City, one of the nation's premier law firms.

**Jezmin Fuentes**

Jezmin has participated in three rounds of MMFRP fieldwork: twice in Tlacuitapa, Jalisco; most recently in San Miguel Tlacotepec, Oaxaca in December 2007. While studying abroad in Spain, she interned at La Modelo, Barcelona's male prison, interviewing immigrants and wrote a research paper on Spain's border enforcement policies and rehabilitation programs. In 2007, she received the prestigious McNair Scholarship, which she used to delve deeper into the people-smuggling industry in the San Diego/Tijuana region. She interviewed dozens of human smugglers for her final project, a paper on the economics of human smuggling. Her project caught the attention of producers at CBS News' "60 Minutes," who have been working with her to develop a segment on human smuggling at the U.S.-Mexico Border. Her reflection on the MMFRP: *"Being a part of amazing field research teams that worked together to accomplish remarkable results is the most rewarding experience I had at UCSD. MMFRP gave me the tools and confidence to research any subject. I was able to carry out an exciting and controversial research project that led to the opportunity to work with renowned journalists."*

**Jessa Lewis**

In June 2005 Jessa received her Master's degree from UCSD in Latin American Studies with a concentration in International Migration. Upon graduation, she and her then-beau, now-husband Brent Valentine spent a year in southern Mexico, coordinating field research for a study exploring the impacts of migration on indigenous coffee-producing communities in Oaxaca and Chiapas. Jessa's Master's thesis, published on-line by CCIS as Working Paper #118, <http://www.ccis-ucsd.org/PUBLICATIONS/wrkg118.pdf>, served as the pilot for this larger study. Fearing that the climate in San Diego and Mexico was making her soft, she reluctantly agreed to move to Madison, Wisconsin with Brent, who is a native to the Midwest, following their marriage. Jessa now works as a Senior Research Specialist with the Center on Wisconsin

Strategy (COWS), a policy center and field laboratory for high-road economic development housed at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She continues her involvement with the coffee-migration study, and at COWS she co-authored a report outlining models of immigrant-friendly policies for U.S. cities to pursue, which was presented in May 2008 at a CCIS conference on state and local immigration policies in the United States. A native of southern California, Jessa's heart remains in San Diego, though she is now a Green Bay Packers fan. She and Brent and have an eleven-month-old daughter, Aela Mae Valentine.

### **Henry L'Esperance**

In May 2008 Henry completed his M.A. in Latin American Studies with concentration in International Migration Studies at UCSD, with a thesis on Brazilian immigration to the United States.

### **Rob Oliphant**

Rob is currently living in Oceanside, CA with his wife and teaching Spanish at Tesoro High School in Orange County. In September he will be starting an M.A. program in Education at CSU-San Marcos.

### **Fawad Shaiq**

Fawad completed his MA requirements at the end of 2008 and is now in the third year of the joint MA/PhD program in History at the University of California, Los Angeles. His dissertation is a comparative study of modern Islamic movements in both the Middle East and South Asia.

### **Anjanette Urdanivia**

I started my own business this year doing consulting work for charter schools. I work with non-profit, inner-city charter schools in San Diego and LA: establishing new charter schools, preparing them for WASC Accreditation, evaluating their instructional program, analyzing student data, and writing grant proposals. I predominately work with low-income schools with a high proportion (>80%) Hispanic migrant students (many undocumented). I'm hoping to write a paper on the improved performance of three of the schools I've worked with, which were the lowest performing schools in San Diego, and another paper on best practices models adopted by former low-performing schools. I'll be applying to grad school (M.A. at the University of San Diego) in Fall 2009 and hope to continue my work with non-profits.

### **Elisabeth Valdez Suiter**

After graduating from UCSD in 2005 I went on to get an MBA from Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, CA. I then moved back to San Diego (Chula Vista) and have been working as an Export Compliance Specialist at Qualcomm Incorporated. Export Compliance means ensuring that the company conducts business in compliance with U.S. and applicable foreign export laws and regulations, through creating and implementing policies and procedures, technology transfer control plans, contract language, export licenses, etc.

### **Caitlin White**

Last fall, Caitlin migrated from the west coast to Bloomington, Indiana, where she is now pursuing the joint MPA-MS Environmental Science graduate program at Indiana University. Graduate school is intense, but she wouldn't feel nearly as prepared for its challenges had it not been for her experience in MMFRP and working with Professor Cornelius. She writes: *"Muchas felicidades to Profe Cornelius on concluding 40 years of excellent, admirable service to students and inspiring many to do better policy work (including myself)!"*



## **2005-2006: Tunkás I**

### **Guadalupe Castillo**

I finished the Executive Fellowship Program in Sacramento this past August and the state agency where I had been placed offered me a job. My new position is Policy Associate for CaliforniaVolunteers, Office of the Governor. I work with federal and state stakeholders in various policy issues and also take care of legislative issues for the state agency. I'm planning to stay until the end of Schwarzenegger's time as Governor and will then apply to a joint degree program in Literature and Law.

**Rebecca Dames**

After consulting with Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR), a resource to foundations on immigrant and refugee issues, I joined GCIR's staff in January 2008 as a Research and Program Associate. Based in Los Angeles, I am utilizing my knowledge of the immigration field to lead GCIR's California Immigrant Integration Initiative. With funding from The California Endowment, I am using my research and writing skills from MMFRP to write a report on the need for culturally and linguistically competent health care in California, to be published in 2009. [Rebecca's reflections on the MMFRP: *"The critical thinking skills I developed while analyzing MMFRP data have been invaluable to me in my job. I am also responsible for evaluation in our organization, and analyzing MMFRP data to find the most relevant and accurately descriptive data for the book really helped me in this capacity."*]

**Angela Garcia**

After receiving my Master's from UC San Diego, I relocated to Chicago. During the last year or so, I have been working on a research project on public education at the University of Chicago and teaching Spanish at a local college. I'm also a research consultant for a study of immigration and citizenship laws in Latin America based in UC San Diego's Department of Sociology (and directed by Prof. David Fitzgerald). I have been admitted to the Ph.D. program in Sociology at UCSD and will begin my studies in fall 2009. I had the chance to return to Tunkás in February 2008 to present our book, *Mayan Journeys*, to the townspeople. It was a great experience and brought back lots of fond memories of our time there in 2006.

**Paola Guzmán**

Currently I am attending California Western School of Law, which is amazing, and I hope to pursue a career in Immigration Law. I was inspired by the MMFRP program and hope to expand my involvement in immigration policy issues.

**Zoila Jiménez**

Estoy participando en los siguientes proyectos de investigación: "El mercado de trabajo en la Península de Yucatán en el contexto de la economía global: el papel de las políticas activas de mercado de trabajo," y "Vacantes y desempleo: Las incongruencias del mercado de trabajo en el contexto de la economía global." Participé de nuevo en el MMFRP, en su trabajo de campo en Tunkás en enero-febrero de 2009. Fue ganadora por el Global Knowledge Partnership como "Young Social Entrepreneur 2007," premio otorgado en reconocimiento de las labores realizadas en materia de desarrollo social en la Empresa de Manejo Cultural A.C. en los últimos años. Siendo la única representante de México.

**Blair Lyman**

I'm currently managing and teaching at an independent yoga studio in San Diego. I'm also set to begin volunteering as a *doula* (birthing coach) at the end of this month. The doula program specifically looks for Spanish speakers to comfort women in the birthing process, and I'm excited to find myself around that population once more. By the end of the year, I'll be packing my bags for a year of travel through New Zealand, South East Asia, and Southern Africa.

**Vanessa Molina**

Right after graduation I worked as a Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) Accredited Representative at the Casa Cornelia Law Center in San Diego. I worked in the Center's asylum program, helping people fleeing persecution in their home countries. The summer grant I received from CCIS/Ford Foundation made it possible for me to start my work as an intern at Casa Cornelia, the experience that motivated me to pursue a JD. I am now in my second year of law school at American University's Washington

College of Law, where I am a Dean's Fellow in the clinical program. So far I have worked at the DC Superior Court assisting victims of domestic violence. I would like to work for the BIA in Virginia sometime during the next year if possible. On a personal note, my cooking skills have increased significantly since moving to the East Coast. I really enjoy cooking and use it as a way to unwind and relax. I remain interested in seeing the world. Last year I toured the Middle East and this year I plan to tour South America. And that is all in my life. It is true when they say law school is all-consuming.

**Patricia Pasillas**

I am now working on my Masters in Social Work, at California State University, San Bernardino. I will be done by the end of the year. I currently work at a homeless shelter in Downtown, Los Angeles.

**Maribel Pineda**

I am currently the advisor for Improving Dreams Equality Access and Success, as self advocacy club for AB 540 students at Santa Ana College that provides support and information on existing resources, such as scholarships, cross enrollment, and research programs. Immigration and education are two very important areas in my life. Therefore, I have decided to apply to the master program in Social Work at CSU Long Beach this April.

**Sonia Prelat**

Sonia is a full-time staff assistant/paralegal working at the Casa Cornelia Law Center in San Diego. She works with undocumented, mostly Latina immigrants who are victims of domestic violence and helps them to secure "U" visas (provided by the Victims of Domestic Violence Act) to legalize their status in the United States. *[According to Casa Cornelia's executive director, Carmen Chávez, Sonia is already regarded as an indispensable member of the Center's staff. -Ed.]*

**Oscar Ramos**

I am currently in my second year of teaching at The Preuss School, UCSD, where I plan to teach for the near future. *[In April 2009, Oscar gave an invited talk on migration and religion, based on his research in Tunkás, to the Honors Seminar of Eleanor Roosevelt College. -Ed.]*

**Milton Jovanni Sarria**

After graduation from UCSD, Milton Jovanni worked with the SDSU Foundation as an instructional assistant in economics and math. He then took a job with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, working as Minority Veterans Program Coordinator and as Contract Specialist in the Department's San Diego regional office. He expects to start an M.A. program in Economics at SDSU in fall 2009. He plans to do research on Latin American economic development, particularly the subject of remittances.

**Luis Tapia**

I just finished my year-long fellowship with the California Latino Legislative Caucus' Institute for Public Policy, where I worked in the office of Assembly member Kevin De Leon, the current chair of the Appropriations Committee. Recently I started Tapia Holdings Corporation, which focuses on selling, financing, managing and developing real estate. I have been admitted to the Marriott School of Business at Brigham Young University, on a full fellowship; I will begin studying there in fall 2009. After completing my MBA I intend to head back into public life.

**Arturo Vazquez**

Before joining the Rady School of Management at UC San Diego, Arturo worked for Bayside Community Center, a nonprofit organization offering education, social services, housing and other public safety

programs to immigrants in San Diego County. In fall 2008, he joined the MBA Admissions Team at the Rady School of Management. He currently coordinates MBA admission programs, recruitment events and applications for the MBA graduate program at UC San Diego. He is currently pursuing a graduate degree in education and has been admitted to the MA in Higher Education Leadership at the University of San Diego to start in fall 2009. His comment on the MMFRP: *“The Mexican Migration Field Research Program at CCIS was a life-changing experience for me. The program enables students to explore the culture, religion, politics and socioeconomic status of migrants across international borders. I thank CCIS for its continuing efforts in training, motivating students and addressing contemporary migration policy issues around the world.”*



## *2006-2007: Tlacuitapa II*

### **Laura Cajigal**

Durante el año pasado, participé en la Evaluación Cualitativa de Largo Plazo del Programa Oportunidades 2008, en el estado de Oaxaca, en la micro-región de la Costa. Actualmente estoy trabajando para el Centro de Estudios de Género de la Universidad de Guadalajara, en el Observatorio para la Transparencia y Rendición de Cuentas en la Aplicación de los Presupuestos y Programas de la Administración Pública Federal en Jalisco. Soy responsable de la evaluación del Programa Impulso Productivo para Mujeres del FONAES (Fondo Nacional de Empresas en Solidaridad).

**Olivia García**

Since Olivia graduated from UCLA in 2007, she has been working as an Investigative Associate with Barboza & Associates, a Los Angeles law firm specializing in employment law. Her duties included interviewing Spanish-speaking prospective witnesses in cases concerning worksite abuses. In June 2009 she will be moving to San Diego. Her long-term plans include law school.

**Genevieve Hernández**

I am currently working as a tobacco cessation counselor for the California Smoker's Helpline, at the UCSD Moores Cancer Center. The job consists of answering incoming calls from the helpline in English and Spanish, following established protocols of the program (which are very similar to the questionnaires we administered for MMRP). We guide people into counseling or other services as appropriate. Right now we are conducting a double-blind study to see which services are most effective in terms of helping people quit smoking. I feel the MMFRP program really prepared me for this job by allowing the more outgoing side of my personality to come through during field work in Mexico. In the future I'm hoping to become more involved on the research side of things and will hopefully be pursuing a postgraduate degree in public health within the next couple of years.

**Jonathan Hicken**

I am now a senior and plan on graduating in June 2009. I just returned from my third research trip with MMFRP to Tunkás, Yucatán, the last of the three MMFRP research sites that I have come to know. I look forward to returning to Tlacuitapa next year as a full time staff member of CCIS. I continue to do improv comedy with FOOSH, play and write music, and get into more trouble than I should.

**Justin Jarvis**

I'm a seventh-grade math teacher in Soledad, CA. I have been a teacher for 2 years, since I graduated from UCSD. I have no idea about future plans.

**Jorge Jimenez**

During the last 12 months I resigned as a Community Health Representative with UCSD Research and accepted a position with the Department of Homeland Security. I attended the U.S. Border Patrol Academy in Artesia, New Mexico. I currently work as a Border Patrol Agent in San Diego. My plans for the future are still uncertain, but I plan on residing in San Diego and possibly applying for law school.

**Mohan Kanungo**

After graduation I backpacked through Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, and India for six months (*see photo below*). I am now based in New York City, teaching Yoga part time with South Asian Youth Action (SAYA!) in an after-school program. I work primarily with South Asian, Inter-Caribbean and other low-income students of color. I bring Yoga to those who don't have access to the exclusive studios of 5th Avenue! I am also interning with DROM, a live music/events venue in the East Village to develop a socially responsible business model around the selling of fair trade tea/coffee and community-based programming. I have been presenting workshops on how to support undocumented students' access to higher education and put together a guide specifically for such South Asian students here in New York. I am starting to work with the labor union SEIU/CIR, which represents doctors (interns and residents). I'm seeking a full-time paralegal position and preparing for the LSAT. I have plans to pursue public interest law and continue my work on immigration.



*Mohan and friend on the road to Lamayuru Monastery in India, July 2008*

### **Alejandro Macias**

Desde enero de 2007 me reintegré a mis actividades como profesor investigador en la Universidad de Guadalajara luego de haber terminado el Doctorado. Soy profesor titular de la materia de Entorno Económico en la Maestría de Administración y de la materia de Estudio del Entorno Económico y Productivo en la licenciatura de Agronegocios. Desde enero de 2007 soy miembro del Sistema Nacional de Investigadores en México. Hasta finales de 2009 me encuentro dirigiendo el proyecto de investigación: "Desarrollo frutícola en el Sur de Jalisco (La producción de aguacate en la Sierra del Tigre)", mismo que ha sido financiado por la Secretaria de Educacion Publica de Mexico.

En 2008 coordiné la publicación del libro *El sur de Jalisco de cara al siglo XXI*, Guadalajara: Universidad de Guadalajara. Además escribí un libro sobre Macroeconomía (en proceso de edición). Pienso realizar una estancia posdoctoral posiblemente en Colorado State University, en Europa (European University Institute), o bien en el Centro de Estudios México-Estados Unidos de la UCSD.

### **Beth Oristian**

I continue to work at the business litigation firm in Los Angeles where I have worked at since graduating in 2007(Fairbank & Vincent). While I have enjoyed my experience there and it has undoubtedly prepared me for a successful career in law, I have made the drastic decision to leave in August to pursue a career in the culinary arts (my passion since I was a child). I continue to read up on immigration issues in my free time and never pass up an opportunity to brag about the unique migration studies program UCSD has to offer.

### **Veronica Puentes**

I interned in Assembly Member Lori Saldana's office in San Diego from April - June of last year, helping them with immigration research. I graduated UCSD in June of 2008 and recently got married! I have applied to the CILAS M.A. program in Latin American Studies, hoping to participate in MMFRP again in 2009-10. Couldn't get enough the first time around!

**Erica Valencia**

In winter quarter 2008 I interned with the Municipal Government in Chile, as a social worker for delinquent teens. From April-June 2008 I lived in Culiacán, Mexico, and interned with a human rights attorney, Mercedes Murillo. I also worked with a professor at the Universidad Autónoma de Sinaloa on immigration issues. I wrote an article, "El paso del centroamericano por México," that was published in an academic magazine. From September 2008 to the present I have been working in Garden Grove, Calif., with a non-Profit called OCCORD (Orange County Communities Organized for Responsible Development), as the Immigrant and Workplace Rights Program Coordinator.

**Laura Vázquez**

I am back in Washington, D.C., serving as the Immigration Legislative Analyst at the National Council of La Raza.





## *2007-2008: San Miguel Tlacotepec I*

### **Clare Appleby**

After completing her M.A. in Latin American Studies at UCSD this spring, Clare will be attending the UCLA School of Law in September. She reports: " I am confident that UCLA is the best place for me to pursue my goal of becoming an immigration lawyer. MMFRP inspired me to pursue this career path. It truly changed my life."

### **Eduardo González**

During 2008 I defended my dissertation prospectus. During the summer I went to the IMISCOE Summer Workshop in Migration in Lisbon, Portugal. During the fall, I was a guest scholar at the Kellogg Institute for International Studies in the University of Notre Dame. In 2009 I returned to work at El Colegio de la Frontera Norte and I must finish my dissertation!

### **Emily Erickson**

In the last twelve months I have been working part-time for the UCSD Alumni Association - go Tritons - and working on my M.A. thesis, which examines how California cities are limiting immigrants' rights through the regulation of day laborers' access to public space.

**John Cárdenas**

Upon graduation from UCSD in June 2008, I relocated to Phoenix, Arizona and began training as a Teach for America Corps member. I currently teach a class of 24 first graders at John F. Kennedy Elementary in Southern Phoenix. This school serves a community of low socio-economic means and many of our students come from immigrant families. I am also a graduate student at Arizona State University in the College of Teacher Education and Leadership, working towards a Masters of Elementary Education.

**Laurel Korwin**

After graduation last June, I went to Washington, D.C. and then to New Hampshire to work on Jeanne Shaheen's campaign for the U.S. Senate, through a PAC called Emily's List. I was based in Concord, NH organizing field operations in a lot of very conservative towns. Campaign life is an incredibly hectic thing. We worked 90-hour weeks, and by November I had lost my voice completely and hadn't spoken to anyone except New Hampshire voters in an eternity. I am happy to say that our efforts paid off: We sent John Sununu to retirement after only one term, and Jeanne Shaheen is now the first woman ever to be elected to the Senate from New Hampshire. We also had a hand in the Obama campaign in the last weeks before the 2008 election, which was incredible. I watched the election returns at the NHDP party headquarters in Manchester, NH; I have never seen so many happy people crying together in my entire life. After the election, I came home and slept for approximately two months. Now I've taken a seasonal position doing international research support for a financial advisory firm in San Francisco, helping to compile information on companies in Europe, Latin America, and Japan. When that's over in June I plan to move to DC and hopefully find a job in some kind of advocacy or research organization.

**Bribilia Cota Cabrera**

De enero a junio cursé el 4 semestre del doctorado en Ciencias Sociales en el Colegio de la Frontera Norte, donde se me dió la candidatura a doctora. En el verano, participé en un seminario de migración internacional que se llevó a cabo en el COLEF. De agosto a octubre hice una estancia de investigación en la Universidad Autónoma de Sinaloa. En noviembre continué con una segunda estancia de investigación en Phoenix (Arizona State University). Estoy viviendo allá, haciendo el trabajo de campo para mi tesis doctoral.

**Nishma Doshi**

After graduation, I received the MMFRP summer internship stipend to volunteer with Bay Area Legal Aid as a law clerk in San Francisco. I also worked part time for six months as a tutor for urban youth at the Making Waves Education Program, then traveled in Latin America. I plan on interning this summer in Washington DC, and this fall I'm attending law school. I don't know where yet, but I have been accepted to NYU, U. of Michigan, and Georgetown. I plan to focus on international law while also looking into public interest work.

**Whitney Duncan**

Whitney is continuing to work on her Ph.D. in cultural anthropology, and will be returning to Mexico in the fall for a year to do dissertation field work on how migration and the rapid growth of clinical psychiatry in Oaxaca have affected Oaxacans' mental and emotional health conceptions, experiences, and treatments. She successfully defended her thesis prospectus in May 2009 and continues to practice her Mixtec.

**Jonathan Hicken**

I am a senior and plan on graduating in the spring. I just returned from my third research trip with MMFRP to Tunkás, the last of the three research sites. I look forward to returning to Tlacuitapa next

year as a full-time staff member at CCIS. I continue to do improv comedy with FOOSH, play and write songs, and get into more trouble than I should.

### **Emily Hildreth**

I survived my first semester of law school at George Washington University; it has been a challenging and exciting time. I have been doing my best to soak up all that DC has to offer by attending the Supreme Court, celebrating the election, attending events with former Secretaries of State, seeing performances at the Kennedy Center and (of course) the museums. I am also interning at the Embassy of Mexico's Office for Environment on a weekly basis, doing small projects in Spanish and English. I live in a neighborhood that is about one-third Salvadorese and I can't help but be reminded of MMFRP when I look at the complex immigrant community here in DC.

### **Da vid Keyes**

David is completing his second year in the Ph.D. program in Anthropology at UCSD and working as a Graduate Research Assistant for CCIS. He participated in the MMFRP's 2008-09 field study of Yucateco migrants in Tunkás and southern California. His M.A. thesis in anthropology, entitled *Shaping a New Destination: Mexican Immigrants in Clark County, Ohio*, was published on-line in January 2009 in the CCIS Working Papers Series, <http://ccis-ucsd.org/PUBLICATIONS/WP%20174.pdf>. His Ph.D. dissertation research will focus on migration from Michoacán to new destinations in the state of Ohio.

### **Tanya Menéndez**

After MMFRP, I was a research assistant for Leah and Tricia's research. During the fall of 2008, I was an assistant to Melanie Davidson at ERC for the International Migration Studies Minor. During the remainder of the academic year I participated in the Management Leadership for Tomorrow program and the Sociology Honors Program. I also worked to facilitate calculus workshops for OASIS. I am enjoying my undergraduate studies in sociology and my plan for the future is to pursue a Ph.D. in sociology.

### **Nancy Moreno**

I am currently a Site Coordinator for GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) at UCSD, a six-year program intended to prepare more low-income students to enter and succeed in post-secondary education. I work with all 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students at Farb Middle School in San Diego and will follow them to their feeder high school, Serra High School. I am responsible for planning events to create a college-going culture and raise the academic preparation and knowledge of postsecondary options of all GEAR UP students. Next year I will apply to SDSU to get my Masters in Educational Leadership. I'm really excited to be able to embark on another challenging learning experience after MMFRP. MMFRP gave me the research preparation I will need to continue my education, invaluable skills such as effective communication and teamwork, and a cherished bond with the people of San Miguel Tlacotepec.

### **Elizabeth Perry**

Liz successfully defended her M.A. thesis in Latin American Studies with concentration on international program at UCSD in May 2009. Writing on the decline of Mixteco language use among Oaxacan migrants to the United States, her thesis will be published on-line by CCIS in its Working Papers Series. She is currently seeking a position as an academic counselor at the community college level and is pondering her options for the longer-term future.

**Miguel Pinedo**

Miguel has been admitted to the School of Public Health at UC Berkeley beginning in fall 2009, garnering “a pretty great fellowship.” He will pursue a dual Masters program in public health and social welfare, concentrating on migration and health.

**Andrea Rodríguez**

During the last 12 months Andrea studied in Brazil and became fluent in Portuguese. She volunteered in a Brazilian *favela* (squatter settlement) where she taught at-risk youth Spanish and art classes. In the near future she hopes to gain employment in the non-profit sector and apply to law school next fall.

**Christina Velásquez**

I am continuing to work on my MA in Latin American Studies thesis, which looks at the impacts of codevelopment projects on migrant-sending and receiving communities. This past summer I conducted my field research in Cañar, Ecuador, and Murcia, Spain, using many of the skills I learned from my work with the MMFRP. Upon graduation, I plan to return to the Midwest to work with school districts experiencing significant increases in their immigrant student population.





## *2008-2009: Tunkás II*

### **Lauren Harris**

For the past year I have been tutoring through GEAR UP at Mission Bay High School and Pacific Beach Middle School in Math, English, and Social Studies. This summer I volunteered with the ACT program at St. Vincent de Paul, helping those living at St. Vincent with shopping and field trips. I will graduate this year with a BA in International Studies/Sociology and Latin American Studies, and a minor in International Migration Studies. I'm planning to take a year off of school to work or intern for a non-profit organization that focuses on helping immigrants or the homeless in San Diego. Then I hope to go to graduate school in social work or counseling.

### **Zoila Jiménez**

Soy auxiliar de investigación de la Dra. Beatriz del Socorro Torres Góngora, participando en los siguientes proyectos de investigación: "El mercado de trabajo en la Península de Yucatán en el contexto de la economía global: el papel de las políticas activas de mercado de trabajo," y "Vacantes y desempleo: Las incongruencias del mercado de trabajo en el contexto de la economía global."

### **Paola Pérez**

I'm a pre-med student at UCS, majoring in General Biology. My plans are to go to medical school.

**Lizette Solórzano**

I am involved with OASIS, a UCSD program committed to providing academic and instructional support to students of color at the University, many of them Mexican immigrants. I work as a student teacher of critical writing and coordinator of student teachers for the Language/Writing component of the program. I also provide my services at Casa del Migrante, a migrant shelter in Tijuana. Once I attain my B.A. I plan to continue my studies in sociology and immigration in graduate school. I also plan to continue my work with immigrant communities through non-profit organizations.

