Dear Smith Alumna,

In response to the popularity of our 2005 Oaxaca program, we are pleased to offer a repeat custom-designed trip to Oaxaca, one of Mexico’s most beautiful colonial cities, led by guest lecturer, Ann Zulawski, Ph.D., Smith professor of History and Latin American Studies, a former resident of Oaxaca. Located southeast of Mexico City and surrounded by the majestic Sierra Madre mountains, Oaxaca has a rich artistic legacy that stretches back for centuries. Largely shielded from modernity in the Oaxaca Valley, the city is an ideal haven for artists and craftspeople alike, many of whom have been creating masterpieces in Oaxaca for decades. These artists have drawn inspiration from the rich indigenous traditions of the valley, the brilliant surreal light peeking over the mountains, and the images of lush bougainvillea spilling into historic colonial courtyards.

From our base in Oaxaca’s historic center, we meet with artists and craftspeople in their studios and uncover the artwork of internationally renowned painters, sculptors and craftspeople in the city’s phenomenal galleries. We embark on excursions through the countryside to remote craft-producing villages to explore wood-carvers’ workshops, artists’ studios, ceramicists’ homes, and weaving centers. We examine the colonial architectural masterpieces of the city, including magnificently adorned convents, monasteries, and churches. At Monte Albán and Mitla, we learn about Zapotec and Mixtec culture and civilizations under the masterful guidance of a local expert. Most importantly, we have plenty of leisure time to find our own inspiration in magical Oaxaca.

Throughout the week, we sample the succulent molés and tamales that are renowned across Mexico and the world during delightful meals in the company of fellow alumnae and friends. Evenings are at leisure to further explore Oaxaca’s incredible restaurants and be serenaded by the smooth sounds of the marimba as we relax at a sidewalk café in the festive zócalo, Oaxaca’s main plaza. We enjoy Oaxaca’s finest accommodations in the five-star Camino Real, a converted colonial convent located a few blocks from the zócalo.

Please join Smith alumnae and friends in experiencing Oaxaca’s unique cultural heritage and traditions.

Sincerely,

Carrie Brown, Ed. M. ’82
Executive Director
Alumnae Association of Smith College
OAXACA: A CELEBRATION OF MYTH, MAGIC AND CULTURE • FEBRUARY 18-24, 2009

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Travel with Professor Ann Zulawski, Ph.D., Smith professor of History and Latin American Studies, for an enlightened perspective of Oaxaca.
- Enjoy a reception in the private home of Smith alumna Margaret Barclay ’62.
- Journey into the Oaxacan countryside to explore the whimsical and vibrant craft traditions of the Zapotec and Mixtec cultures.
- Meet with Oaxacan painters, sculptors and craftspeople at their homes and studios, learn about their techniques, and observe works in progress.

- Explore the archaeological sites of Monte Albán, an ancient Zapotec ceremonial center, and Mitla, a Mixtec complex of palaces.
- Visit Oaxaca’s finest art galleries presenting world-renowned Oaxacan painters and sculptors.
- View firsthand the traditional Mexican village life in the surrounding countryside.
- Sample delectable Oaxacan cuisine.
- Experience the grandeur of Spanish colonial architecture in the plazas, convents and colonial buildings.

TRAVEL WITH SMITH COLLEGE PROFESSOR ****

Smith Travel
Alumnae Association of Smith College
33 Elm Street
Northampton, MA 01063
OAXACA:
A CELEBRATION OF MYTH, MAGIC AND CULTURE

FEBRUARY 18-24, 2009
DEPARTURES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18
Fly to Oaxaca on independent flights, and check into the five-star Camino Real Hotel, Oaxaca’s best hotel. Formerly the 16th-century Convent of Santa Catalina, this luxurious hotel is a lovely colonial oasis situated in the heart of historic Oaxaca.

OAXACA’S COLONIAL CENTER
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19
We begin this morning at Santo Domingo Church, described by Aldous Huxley as "one of the most extravagantly gorgeous churches in the world." Coated with gold leaf throughout, highlights of the church include the remarkable "family tree" of the Dominican order carved on the ceiling, and the richly painted Capilla del Rosario. At the Museo Regional de Oaxaca, housed in a former Dominican monastery, we see magnificent Zapotec jewelry discovered in "Tomb 7" of Monte Albán. Next, we enjoy a short walk along Oaxaca’s charming cobblestone streets to the zócalo, the main plaza and heart of the colonial city. We are treated to a festive welcome lunch overlooking the vibrant zócalo. In the afternoon, we visit the colorful city market, filled with mountains of flowers, hand-woven textiles, mounds of freshly ground Oaxacan chocolate, breads formed in every shape imaginable, and clusters of fresh produce. The afternoon is at leisure to relax, tour a museum, explore Oaxaca’s upscale boutiques, or simply be inspired by Oaxaca’s artistic muse. This evening we are invited to the home of Smith alumna Margaret Barclay ’62 who will host a reception in our honor. (B, L, REC)

MONTE ALBAN, POTTERY & PAPER
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20
We begin at awe-inspiring Monte Albán, the ancient Zapotec capital that was inhabited for 3,000 years and became a leading center for artists and merchants. This mountaintop archaeological site features a ceremonial plaza as well as a ball-court, observatory, various tombs, and a number of pyramids. Special attention is given to the building of Los Danzantes, one of the most evocative features of the site. We continue to the craft village of Santa María Atzompa, renowned for its production of emerald green-glazed pottery, famous all over Mexico and the world. Stop at an artisan’s studio and then the Mercado de Artesanías, a village cooperative for artists. Following free time for lunch in Oaxaca, we visit the Oaxaca Paper Workshop, the brainchild of famed Oaxacan artist Francisco Toledo. The main building was a textile mill from 1883 and has been beautifully restored. We will observe paper being made by hand out of locally grown plants and trees before visiting the wonderful gallery. In the evening, we are treated to a reception at one of Oaxaca’s most important contemporary art galleries. (B, REC)
CRAFT VILLAGES
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21
We travel into the Oaxacan countryside to San Bartolo Coyotepec, known for its black pottery, where we are invited for a private pottery demonstration in a renowned family studio. We continue to San Martin Tilcajete, home of the internationally famous Oaxacan woodcarvers. A family of carvers will open their home and invite us to examine the whimsical and imaginative styles produced by various craftspeople in the area. Oaxaqueños have carved masks and toys for hundreds of years, but recently their magical carvings have captured the imaginations of collectors and enthusiasts from all over the world. In Ocotlán, we visit the delightful Popular Arts Museum, founded by the late artist Rodolfo Morales, and view Morales’ whimsical murals in the old town hall. Following our private luncheon of local cuisine in the refectory of the town’s colonial convent, we visit the home of Josefina Aguilar. She and her sisters hand shape brightly painted ceramic figures that playfully depict everyday life in the village. Her work is internationally recognized and exported worldwide. We return to Oaxaca late this afternoon. (B, L)

OAXACA & MITLA
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22
We take an excursion into the Oaxacan Valley to the palatial ruins of the Mitla archaeological site that features impressive stone mosaics. Original Mitla designs are incorporated into the patterns of distinctive textiles displayed in the textile market near the site. Following lunch in a local restaurant, we continue to Teotitlán del Valle, a major Zapotec-weaving village famous for its traditional weaving techniques and use of natural dyes. We meet one of the village’s most famous families of weavers, who will demonstrate the hand dying of wool and weaving on treadle looms. Return to Oaxaca in the afternoon. (B, L)

OAXACA
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23
This morning, we visit the Museo Rufino Tamayo, donated to Oaxaca by the artists Rufino Tamayo. This museum contains the personal collection of the artist, containing almost a thousand priceless artifacts representing the artistic developments of the pre-Hispanic era. The afternoon is at leisure to explore Oaxaca independently. This evening, bid adiós to Oaxaca during a festive farewell dinner celebration. (B, D)

OAXACA / USA
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24
Transfer by taxi to the Oaxaca airport for your return flight to the United States. (B)

STAY IN THE FIVE-STAR CAMINO REAL HOTEL
The Camino Real, formerly a 16th-century convent, is the ultimate in colonial atmosphere and the most prestigious hotel in Oaxaca. Located in the heart of Oaxaca only four blocks from the festive zócalo, this elegant hotel features rooms decorated with Mexican tiles and regional textiles, centered around bougainvillea-filled courtyards, bordered by hushed passageways lined with fine historic paintings. The hotel has an excellent restaurant, bar, and outdoor pool.
Tour Cost

**OAXACA * FEBRUARY 18-24, 2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Only Package</th>
<th>$2,995</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Supplement</td>
<td>$695</td>
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Tour price is per person based on double occupancy, with a minimum of 20 paying participants. Land prices are calculated as of August 2008 and are subject to change. Participants are responsible for all aspects of their air arrangements. Final balance must be paid by check to ISDI. Final payment is due on October 21, 2008. Registrants will be accepted beyond this date on a space-available basis.

**INCLUDED IN THE TOUR COST**

- Six nights accommodations at the five-star Camino Real
- Breakfast daily, three lunches, one reception, and one dinner
- Services of an experienced ISDI Tour Manager
- Land transportation by private coach
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers
- Taxes, services and porterage fees

**NOT INCLUDED:**

- International or domestic airline tickets, taxes and fuel surcharges; gratuities for chamber maids; transfers to and from airport and hotel; personal items such as wines, liquors, and mineral water except where noted in the itinerary; personal services; airport tax, fuel surcharges, and travel extensions; personal insurance for health, baggage, and tour cancellation; any other items not specifically included in the itinerary.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** International Seminar Design, Inc. (ISDI) and The Alumnae Association of Smith College reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason, including insufficient number of participants, and to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour at any time. All cancellations must be received in writing (letter or fax) by ISDI, and charges are calculated as of the day notification is received in writing by ISDI. If a tour member cancels, the following scale of charges is incurred: There is a nonrefundable administrative fee of $500 per person. The costs of any tickets purchased for events in the itinerary are nonrefundable. Written cancellation received by ISDI before October 21, 2008: full refund minus $500 per person administrative fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI between October 22 and December 4, 2008: full refund of any recoverable land costs, less $1,000 per person cancellation charge (includes administrative fee). Written cancellation received by ISDI between December 5, 2008 and January 15, 2009 days prior to tour departure: results in forfeit of majority of funds, including a $1,500 per person cancellation fee (includes administrative fee). Cancellation in this time period could involve a loss of as much as 100% of land costs per person. Cancellations received on or after January 16, 2009: no refund. After the tour has commenced, it is not possible to issue any refunds. No refunds can be issued for missed meals or sightseeing tours. No refunds for any unused portion of the tour. Costs for promotion, staff, and other group expenses are not refundable. If due to weather, flight schedules, or other uncontrollable factors you are required to spend an additional night, you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers, and meal costs. Tour cancellation-interruption insurance is strongly recommended. A confirmation letter and travel insurance application will be mailed upon receipt of your deposit.

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