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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

November 21

[1971]

Dear Uncle Wilson & Aunt Alice,

I am so sorry it has taken me so long to write. I got caught up in studying for midterms. This quarter is turning out great with only two weeks left. Dec. 3 ends the quarter then I'll be home working for a month. Last Thursday was pre registration and I got all the classes that I wanted and at the times I wished. My schedule is getting more into line ~~now~~ ^{now}. Here is a list of subjects for next quarter:

Human Origins (anthropology)
2 quarter Behavioral Science (required)
Freshman English (required)
Spanish

I will be taking the natural sciences in my 2nd year along with my anthropology classes.

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I aced my Anthropology midterm with a perfect paper covering 10 essay questions. I felt so good and so did dad. All of the others are in the B range so that I feel that I have accomplish something. I am ~~being~~ beginning to like it here as far as courses go. The Social life is terrible but I'll have ~~plenty~~^{lots} of time for that when I'm out of school, besides studying doesn't go with socialing.

I am still writing to Frank. He is going to try and visit my family sometime over the coming holidays, in fact he should call sometime this afternoon.

I am going home next Wednesday night so that I can spend Thanksgiving at home, but then I am leaving on Friday afternoon so I can come

back up here and put in a good weekend of studying before finals the following week.

When are you coming back to the states?

Fall is really in the air up here. The weather has been beautiful with cold nights in the 30's and 40's and mild days in the 50's and 60's.

That is all of the news that I can think of for the moment. I have about 90 pages in Anthropology to read to finish the book so I had best be getting it done so that I can study. Take care and I'll write again later.

Loads of love,
Debbie

March 28, 1972

Dear Uncle Wilson,

Sorry I haven't written for some time. It seems that last quarter was just one big mess. It's a long story which would be very difficult to make short. Thursday we start our third quarter which I hope turns out better than the second. I ~~had~~ ^{had} a nine day break between quarters so I was able to go home and rest and I think now everything is straight. While at home we had a very nice visit with Hugh, Dad, Hugh and I talked quite a lot. I am going to transfer to the University of Florida after next year. U.F. will be alot better plus I can work on graduate work there. I came out first quarter with a 3.1 - still not very high - and last quarter I have a 3.0 standing with one incomplete grade still missing. Today I

registered for the new quarter.

My new classes are as follows:

Social Anthropology

Man & Culture (Behavioral Science)

English

Spanish 2

It looks like it will be a very interesting quarter.

I hope you are feeling better. I heard you were quite ill for sometime. Antigua isn't the place to be sick; it is too beautiful to have to be sick there.

When are you planning your next trip to Florida?

I am going to stay home this summer and work so that in the summer of 1973 I can go to the University of the Americas in México for the summer session, and then travel around through México and see the "ruins". I am going to take a few days off from

work through so that I can go to Gainesville and visit with Hugh and see the Anthropology department there. Hopefully I will get some advise as to what classes to take here next year and in Mexico so that I'll be prepared to transfer - haven't gotten the best classes South Florida and Mexico offer.

That is all the news for the moment. I would love to hear how things are going down your way. I hope you and Alice have a Happy Easter.

Loads of love,
Debbie

24 de mayo 1972



Querido tío,

I was very happy to receive your letter. I guess I should have sent it to Tegucigalpa so you wouldn't have to wait a month to get it. Hope you are feeling much better now.

We only have a week and a half left of classes and I'll be a full sophomore. I can't wait to go home and work ; I hope I can get a job. There is one thing that upsets me about leaving school is that I'll have to be separated from Bob most of the time. He isn't just another boyfriend. For the first time I am pinned. I'm sure you would approve of Bob. He is the all american boy. He is in pre-med

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and wants to be a doctor. He belongs to $\Sigma \Phi E$ fraternity and is so sweet and good to me. His family (mother & Father) live in Fort Lauderdale so he won't be too far away. He has one older brother who is married. His family also has a weekend house in Lake Wales on Crooked Lake. It is beautiful and twice as big as our house. Bob and his father built the whole thing together. His father is an educator of handicapped children. We go to the house on the weekends and spend the whole time water skiing and swimming.

It sounds as if you are going to have a busy summer.

My español is coming along great. Next year I am going to continue taking it along with some classes in Spanish classics.

I am looking forward to your next trip to the good ol' U.S.A. whenever it is. I hope it ~~won't~~ ^{won't} be too long.

That is all the news for now. Write again when you get a chance. Give my best to Aunt Alice.

Loads of Love,
Debbie

Miss Deborah I. Popenoe
USF - 0239 Univ. of So. Fla., Tampa, Fla. 33620

Nov. 14, 1972

Dear Uncle Wilson,

How have you been? Sorry it has taken me so long to write back. Life has been very busy. I worked all summer without a break of any kind as a salesgirl in a department store. I hate that type of work. Now that this first quarter of this school year is drawing to a close everyone is busy studying for exams.

Mom and Dad and the girls came up to Bob's parents summer house in Lake Wales last weekend so that we could visit. That is the first I have seen of them since the first week in September. When I wrote to you last towards the end of Spring I told you that I was dating a guy named Robert Smith. We are

now pinned and I am going to get⁻²
a ring this summer. In the fraternity
pinned means engaged. We plan
to be married when we graduate
or the Christmas before. So that
kinda brings you up to date on
my love life.

Dad said that you were coming
up to the States in the spring,
please stop by Tampa and visit
if you get a chance or let me
know when you will be in Miami
and I could fly home for the
weekend. It seems ages since I
have seen you. Will Alice be
coming up with you?

This week has really been
exciting; Sunday night when we
got back from Lake Wales Bob
had a fraternity meeting. At the
close of the meeting they made me
a little sister for life of the $\Sigma\Phi E$

Miss Deborah I. Popenoe
USF - 0239 Univ. of So. Fla., Tampa, Fla. 33620

fraternity.

Bob is coming to get me for lunch in a few minutes so this letter is a little short. I'll write more later. Write when you get a chance. My address is the same; the one on the top of this stationery.

Loads of love to you both,
Debbie

August 25, 1973

Dear Uncle Wilson & Aunt Alice,

How have you been? It has been so long since I have heard from you.

School finished up really great this past year and now in a few weeks I'll be returning for my junior year. I'm still dating Bob Smith and in December we will announce our formal engagement to all. Mom and Dad aren't expecting it then so we'll surprise everyone. No date has been set yet for the wedding, but a good possibility will be December or March the following year. We are shopping for rings now I would love to have an emerald solitaire but they don't sell them so I'm settling for a round diamond solitaire set in yellow gold.

It is so much fun shopping. Irene will be down for Christmas and to make sure, I told her about our plans so she could help us plan a surprise dinner party for the two families. I wish you could be there. Don't tell any one because you and Irene are the only two that know.

I wish that I were in Guatemala with you now. I have been working all summer to fill a closet with clothes

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and a shoe chest full of housewears. All I have now is my stainless set for 12 which is very beautiful and something that you would like. It is like your silver (a Colonial Spanish pattern) very plain and beautiful. Now Bob said we could look for silver. But I want everything colonial Spanish like yours but it is just like the stainless. So we'll have to keep looking. I'm so excited about everything.

This summer I am working for Burdine's at Dadeland as part of their security force (store detective). It's fun, I know you would love the job you should see how the ladies are dressing now. Remember when we use to sit and watch them walk past while we were waiting on Mom. There aren't as many Cubans in Burdine's as there were in Sears.

Mom and Dad and the girls should be coming back tomorrow night. They have been on vacation to Western Maryland for a month. I'm very glad they are coming back - I've been watching

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the house for them and doing Mom's yearly cleaning. The house is spotless now but give them a few days and it will be a disaster area again.

I can't wait to come and visit you again, I think about it all the time. This fall I'll be taking Pre-Columbian archaeology in school and art, but all of that makes me homesick for the land of eternal spring. How I wish I could live down there and work.

They just put a masters program in at ^{the} Univ. of South Fla. in anthropology and I will be applying this year. I only have 16 hours to go for a B.A. which will be completed in March or by Dec. and then I still have a year and a half to get the outside courses done which I could do and work on my graduate work in anthropology at the same time.

Another thing I did this year at school was join a sorority, KAO (Kappa Alpha Theta). You might have heard of it, it was the first woman's fraternity. It has helped me so much having so many close friends

(40 sisters) who are a great deal alike.
It makes me feel apart of the Univ. now.

When are you coming to see me? You never showed up in March. If you don't come to see me I might have to come to see you which I would love. By the way I'm old enough to order a beer or a pitcher of Sangria any where in Fla. now. In April I'll be 21 and old enough everywhere. How about some good Spanish food and a large pitcher of Sangria. I'm game if you are.

My address at school has changed this year. Just by chance it's 1192 just like our home address minus the 5. :

U.S.F. 1192
University of South Florida
Tampa, Fla. 33620

Enclosed is a picture of me that I had taken last year for Bob. I haven't changed any. I thought you might like it.

I will be back at school on the 16th of September. Please write and

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tell me the latest news and when
I'll be able to see you again.
Take care. I love you both.

Affectionately yours,
Debbie

P.S. Remember please don't tell
anyone our secret, Mom +
Dad will be so surprised
and very happy.

March 1, 1974

Dear Uncle Wilcox & Aunt Alice,

How have you been? I realize that it has been a long time since I have written, but you are always in my thoughts. I guess that by now you know that all my hopes fell through at Christmas time. Bob called off the engagement 3 days before Christmas and sold the ring. That leaves me still your pet. I have had a lot of time to think since then and have lost most of my bitterness. This quarter I have been very quiet and studying hard regarding my goals in life.

This summer I will be very close to you. I am going to the University of the Americas in Puebla, Mexico - June 17 - Aug 23. I decided that it was time to break away and do the things I want most in life now that I am not tied down. Mom & Dad are sending me I guess as a 21st birthday present. Notable may come also. By going to school this summer I will be able to graduate in 3 years.

I will then go home and work until the following September and then start graduate school. The Univ. of the Americas has been recommended to me through the Anthropology and Latin American section of the History department here at U.S.F. I plan to study the culture and personality of the Mexican peoples, ancient civilizations of Meso-America and Mexican history during the 20th century.

I am currently taking a course in Museum Research Methods in Anthropology, in which we plan, research and build a museum display for the university, which is on exhibit for 2 years. I am doing one on Mesoamerican ceramics which I have become very interested in and love.

When are you going to come state side for a visit? I would love to see you. We could go to a nice Spanish restaurant and get a huge dinner and pitcher of Sangria. Much to my fathers dislike (I am sure) I have learned to enjoy the pleasure of good wine, beer, etc. - you have to have something to show for 4 years of college besides

just grades.

The U.S. is becoming an awful place to live nowadays. You have to wait in line 2 1/2 hours around Tampa for \$3 worth of ~~gas~~^{gas} (5 1/2 gallons). The government is totally corrupt and the people are becoming violent with kidnappings. How is life down there? Black-Tailed Prairie Dog would love to be able to live in Antigua. It holds so many of my fondest memories.

A large ground squirrel about the size of a cottontail rabbit, the stout Prairie Dog lives in colonies where clusters of burrows surrounded by funnel-like mounds of earth cover an area of many acres. Playful and inquisitive, these little creatures will perch there in the sun and carry on with their neighbors incessantly, chattering and gossiping.

House-proud, the Prairie Dog constantly tends to his mound, tamping it with his nose to maintain its condition. He'll seldom wander far from home, and it only takes seconds for him to scurry to his hillock at the first warning signal of danger. Should the alarm prove real, down he goes!

The Prairie Dog has disappeared from much of his natural range in the West because of the competition for grassland with the stockman, and now the animal is found mainly in national parks.

Please write when you get a chance, I miss hearing from you. I hope that we can get together sometime in the near future.


With very fond affection,
Debbie

AMERICAN WILDLIFE ECOLOGY CARDS
100% RECYCLED PAPER



April 22, 1974

Dear Aunt Alice and Uncle Wilcox,



I just received your letter today, and needless to say it made my day. I was so happy to hear from you. When I was home at Easter I read the letter that you had sent to dad. Speaking of that weekend, I had flown home to visit with Betty and Paul. We had a lovely visit and talked over my final decision to go to the University of the Americas in Puebla this summer and to travel around Mexico. Natalie will not be going with me since she is at the present spending nine weeks in Spain. I would really love to be with her, she is going to visit so many of the places that I missed and someday want to visit. I was really hoping that she would be able to go to Puebla with me since I'm kinda chicken about traveling alone. But the University didn't really offer courses geared to

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freshmen and sophomores.

I will be leaving for the campus located in San Andrés de Cholula, Puebla, approximately June 13th. Class will then terminate around Aug. 23.

I was hoping that you might feel up to having company around Aug. 23. I will have almost a full month of September free before classes resume again up here. If you are going to be home, I would love to come to Antigua for a visit. I promise that I won't ask you to climb Volcan de Agua to see the sun rise.

School is going kinda rough this quarter with Mexican history; Caribbean history; history of Anthropological Theory; English vocabulary; Current Issues in Rhetoric and to rest, a course in Beginning Xenix. Last quarter I was elected to Lambda Alpha the honor society for Anthropology which has meetings every week. I must say though, I feel

with a letter
 it quite an honor because I had the
 maximum grades and the rest was on
 professor evaluation. Maybe that will
 help me get into graduate school. I am
 very seriously thinking about either
 Latin American Studies or Museology
 for a Masters, either way I can use
 my Anthropology B.A.

In my spare time I have been
 reading anything and everything
 connected with Latin America or regards
 to history, art and anthropology. Also
 trying to build a nice library because
 even in a university community in
 1974 the books dealing with Latin
 America are so slim, I could almost
 check them ^{all} out at one time.

That is about all the news from
 Tampa at the moment. I enjoy very
 much hearing from you and could
 use lots of advice on places to visit
 in Mexico around Puebla (3 day
 trips). Please write when you have
 the chance. Take care.

with fond affection,

Bill
I give my heart to you and the rest was or
minimum needed and the rest was or
professor education. Maybe that will
help me get into graduate school I am
very busy thinking about other
Latin American studies or anthropology
for a Masters, either way I can use
my anthropology B.A.

For my spare time I have been
reading anything and everything
connected with Latin American or regards
to history, art and anthropology also
trying to build a nice library because
even in a university community in
1974 the books dealing with Latin
America are so slim, I could almost
shel them out of our time.

Not to about all the news from
Lima at the moment. I enjoy very
much hearing from you and could
use lots of advice or places to visit
in Mexico around Puebla (3 days
Tupa). Please write when you have
the chance take care.

May 30, 1974

Dear Uncle Wilcox and Aunt Alice,

I would love to drive the Volkswagen for you. But first you would have to show me how. I can drive a 4 speed stick shift if it is the same.

Yesterday I called home and talked with mother about the subject and she felt that it would be great if you and Alice are able to.

My final exams in Puebla are over Aug 23 so I would be leaving for Antigua Aug 24 if things work out. I was kinda interested in taking the train from Mexico City to Guatemala if it is possible and the conditions not too bad. I would love to see the country while I am there and by plane all you see are clouds. Do you know anything about the current situations involving the trains?

You mentioned a friend of yours that works at the American Embassy in Mexico City, Ann Arnold. I would

I love to meet her and talk about Mexico and Guatemala. If Latin Americans didn't think of me as only a gurga I would love to get involved with some sort of foreign diplomatic service in either Guatemala and or Mexico.

School is almost over up here. My last day of classes is the 4th of June and Dad will be up the following day to collect me. I am so excited about Mexico and the summer that it is very hard to study now.

If you know, could you possibly tell me what the weather conditions are around Puebla except that it is raining during the summer? It has been so long since I have been traveling that I hardly know what to take to wear.

Take care and keep in touch. I wouldn't write after June. It is so much fun to get letters that brighten up your day. With loads of love,
Debbie

June 24, 1974

Dear Aunt Alice and Uncle Wilson,

I finally got an address here. I really don't know where to begin except I hate it here. The school is about 10 miles from Puebla and about 5 miles from Cholula out in the middle of ~~the~~ ^{no} where. I am completely disillusioned with the school I came down here to take 2 main courses and they were offered at the same time. My tourist card was changed to 30 days and I am now in the process of having it extended. The courses are so elementary that they are a waste of my time.

This area is just not Antigua. We arrived right in the ~~middle~~ ^{beginning} of the rainy season and it is cold and hasn't stopped raining. I had to buy warm clothes because Dad told me it was very warm here.

I don't know really what to do, for the first time in my life I am really homesick which is silly for someone 21.

I have airplane tickets for Guatemala if everything is alright, but I don't know if I will last that long. The tickets are for Aviateca arriving Sunday night Aug 25 and leaving in the morning of Sept 9. But also the lady at the travel agency coded the tickets wrong so I don't even know if they are worth anything. What luck.

Sorry this letter is so negative, maybe it will get better. I've only been here 9 days.

Here is my address:

Universidad de las Américas

Calle Calvaria Martir, Pue., México

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Please write if you get a chance. I am going to
write Mrs. Arnold tonight and try to go into
the city sometime soon. Take care.

Loads of love,
Debbie

July 10, 1974

Dear Uncle Wilcox and Aunt Alice,

It was so wonderful to hear from you, especially yesterday. It seems Mexico finally caught up with me after almost four weeks. I thought I was immune by now. Anyway with modern medicine I'm up and well today. Although I'm a little afraid of the food at the school cafeteria. For the first few weeks I ate raw fruits that I picked up in the market in Cholula, and never had any problems.

Classes are a little better now, or at least two out of three are. Next week we have a mid-term or two of the classes, so even the time is going by fast. The only thing I regret is that I hardly ever get to use my Spanish, except when going into market. I have forgotten so much its terrible. The students here are about $\frac{1}{2}$ Mexican and $\frac{1}{2}$ American only the two never mix. You could equate it to segregation in the South among blacks and whites. Anyway the Mexicans won't have anything to do with us, except American girls who make a reputation for themselves, which unfortunately this university is well known for. If I had known the way the native population looks upon the gringos here I definitely wouldn't have come. Perhaps you have heard of the university under a former name when the campus was located in Mexico City - Mexico City College.

About Mrs Arnold, as of yet I haven't met her. I wrote to her the same day I wrote to you. It is possible she never received the letter, anyway I will write again after this one. We have been having problems with the mail here. It takes almost two weeks to send a letter home.

It is too late to send my ticket home, since my parents have already left for Baltimore.

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Mrs. Arnold could advise me as to how to go about changing the ticket. If I can't change the air-line perhaps I can change the day to Saturday or Friday. I will try and let you know. The reason I was going to fly Aviateca is one, to support a Guatemalan airline and two, they allow 66 lbs baggage and Dad won't pay excess baggage.

I am planning to spend the weekend in Oaxaca on a student tour. That is the cheapest way to travel. I hope everything works out and I can go. I figure I can read for exams on the way down and back since it is an eight hour trip each way.

That is about all the news I have for now. I am really looking forward to a vacation in Antigua, all this studying is getting to me. I've been going a full year now straight, at least the way things look now I will be graduating Dec. 7.

Also the weather has cleared up some around here. I just realized I have two snow capped volcanoes out my bedroom window, Popocatepetl and Ixtaccihuatl. Please write when you have a chance. I will keep you informed of life here.

Lots of love to all,
Debbie

July 30, 1974

Dear Uncle Wilson and Aunt Alice,

Sorry I haven't written for awhile I have been swamped with term papers for the past two weeks. I just finished a paper for international relations covering Mexico's expropriation of oil in 1938. Yesterday I presented it in a seminar and now I am totally finished with it, and the class.

I received one of your letters last week with the check in it. I will try my best to fix the preferred letter.

As of yet I still haven't heard from Mrs. Arnold after writing two letters. If I get a chance this weekend I will make a trip into the city. Perhaps the embassy will be able to give me her home address.

Now that things are beginning to come to an end around here it is looking better. This area is very scary though. The Federales have closed down all the places around school due to drugs. Just going into Cholula every policeman will stop you and ask for identification and search your belongings. Plus this weekend two friends of mine were killed in a car accident coming back from Puebla. The area is very depressing now because of it. Especially because my roommate was dating one of them. Everyone is looking forward to getting out of Mexico or at least this area.

I was wondering - I haven't found anything nice to take back to dad and was wondering if it would be possible to have a couple of nice Guatemalan shirts made for him. You know the kind that he ~~wears~~ wears for parties (with a small quetzal on the pocket.) Would it be possible for you to order a couple and I could pick them up when I arrive. He wears a medium ~~size~~ size, a pretty green & blue.

Do you know if the people who run the dress making business make long dresses? I have a very hard time finding long dresses and I was wondering if they made that kind. Last week my roommate picked up a nice Vogue Pattern Book with some beautiful patterns. If they could make one I could pick up a pattern and some material in town and bring it with me.

That is about all the news for now. I am trying to arrange my remaining two fixals so perhaps I will be able to catch an earlier flight, Aviateca if I can't switch to Pax Am. I am trying for a Friday or Thursday flight. Hopefully I can catch an afternoon plane. I will give you the details by next week.

Loads of love,
Debbie

[Daughter of John + Jeri Popovse]