

# LA COMPAÑERA

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER: FIRST ISSUE FALL 2012

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*After lunch at Mirador de Cuyuni in route to Andahuayillas from Ocongate, Peru, the group enjoys a beautiful view of the Andes .*

## Society, Culture, and Language in Peru-Spring 2013

The program will be based in Peru's capital city. A city of 8,000,000, with extensive neighborhoods sprawling outside the traditional and business centers, the Lima area has been the center of key cultural developments in the Americas since 5,000 years before the appearance of the Inca Empire, and later, together with Mexico, the center of Spanish dominion in colonial times. The program will also include two extended stays in the Northern coast (based in Trujillo) and Southern highlands (based in Cusco). Stays in Lima and in those areas (and shorter trips to other sites) will allow students to observe the differing sides and the contradictions and paradoxes of modernization in a "third-world" setting. The program's primary objective is to create conditions for the students to reflect on such reality and the cultural artifacts created by the peoples of Peru.

## WHAT'S INSIDE:

PAGE 2

BACK FROM PERU

PAGE 3

MEET THE NEW LANGUAGE ASSISTANT

## UPCOMING EVENT:

“WE OVERCAME TORTURE”  
LESSONS FROM THE FIGHT  
AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND  
STATE REPRESSION IN MEXICO”

ITALIA MENDÉZ, CAMPAIGN  
AGAINST POLITICAL REPRESSION  
AND SEXUAL TORTURE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER, 18  
12-1 P.M IN OLIN 141

## BACK FROM PERU-SPRING 2012

Nora Cassidy '13



As a part of the Peru program, each student was assigned a host family in Lima who we lived with for about eight weeks. These homestays were definitely my favorite aspect of the program both because of the close relationship I developed with my host parents and because of the deeper insight I gained about Limeno culture and values. As a member of a middle-class apartment building, I developed relationships with my neighbors, how to direct any taxi driver to the building, and where to find the best fresh bread within walking distance. Through the program's volunteering component, I was also introduced to another side of Limeno society as I went door to door trying to raise awareness about domestic violence in El Agustino, a densely populated impoverished neighborhood in Lima. While talking to women outside of their corrugated metal and cinder block homes, I learned something about what their life was like and the strength that they had in order to keep living it. Although I spent time in the upper class areas of Lima as well, I learned the most and enjoyed myself the most in the districts most tourist never see. I doubt I would have seen much more than any other tourist if I hadn't been on this particular study abroad program with Jose.

Having never travelled south of my home state of Texas and having only taken a year and a half of Spanish, the trip to Peru was extremely interesting. At times it was hard, but it was always amazing. In Lima, I had a wonderful host family with a Mama who cooked really delicious Peruvian food. This always consisted of rice, chicken, and potatoes. And then a few more potatoes and some more rice. My favorite experience by far was our time in the magnificent Andes. The mountains were gorgeous; the air was cool and crisp. The sun was warm and the people were beautiful. Plus, we had the opportunity to wear traditional Peruvian clothes and harvest potatoes with tools that looked like they were from the 1800s. It was truly an amazing experience! I am so thankful for the experiences I had in Peru, and would probably go back if I wasn't an ENTS major who probably needs to finish her requirements.

Julia Moen '14



Because of my experience volunteering in la casita Terrazas in the barrio, El Agustino, Lima, I have decided to apply for an education-based seminar this winter break. Working with children in a very different situation than one typically finds in the states, but especially different from that of my hometown in rural Vermont, made me want to further my knowledge within the sphere of education and pedagogical thought.

Holly Buttrey '14



## MEET THE NEW LANGUAGE ASSISTANT LUCIA GONZALES ZÚÑIGA



Hi I am Lucia, the Spanish Language Associate. I'm 25 and I'm from Lima, Peru. I just finished my studies to be a high school teacher trained to teach History and Philosophy, but my main interest is working with native communities in the rainforests of Peru. These picture were taken at the Ese Ejas communities, located at the border between Peru and Bolivia; it's a really magical place. This year I'll be sharing these experiences and more with you. We can have a nice and friendly conversation at the LDC every Tuesday and Thursday at noon. So come and join me at the Spanish table! You can also contact me at my email and I'll be glad to help you. Also feel free to come to and meet me during my office hours with any questions.

My phone is: x5268.

And my email: [lcollantes@carleton.edu](mailto:lcollantes@carleton.edu)

Hope to see you soon!  
Adios!