

La Compañera



Latin American Studies Department Newsletter

First Issue Winter 2013

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Upcoming Events:

Latin American Studies and OCS invite you to an evening of sharing stories and experiences from your study in Latin America!

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**Thursday
February 7 at 5 PM
Library Athenaeum
Food by El Triunfo,
stories by YOU!
RSVP@hkaufman**

The Footsteps of a LTAM Concentrator

Adele Daniel '14

I'm not in Kansas anymore...

It did not make much sense to declare a Latin American concentration without actually having been to Latin America (or, for that matter, out of the United States). So, I decided to spend nine months of travel and cultural immersion in Central and South America.

I started in Lima, Peru on the Carleton study abroad program. Over three months, I hiked the Inca trail to Machu Picchu, discussed the daily news with my host family's housekeeper, partied (and did research) in the chic discotecas, visited the oldest city in the Americas, appeared on Peruvian television, worked with Limeñas to combat air pollution, played soccer with my host cousin, and trekked on an illegal mining trail in the high jungle. At times, the clash and fusion of cultures, geographies, religions, in Peru overwhelmed me, a history major. We spent the majority of our time in Lima, where some things, like the mass transit system and hillside housing, seemed improvised. Meanwhile, other qualities, like the importance of family and the desire to progress, seemed like more durable qualities of the growing city. Before we departed, two weeks in the Andes let us experience firsthand the tensions between economic progress and maintaining tradition, often via tourism.



Next I went to Monteverde, Costa Rica, a small town in the cloud forest. My ten weeks there were funded by Carleton's Initiative for Service Internships in International Development. Living with the happiest host family imaginable, I taught environmental education and did maintenance at an underfunded K-11 school. Playing soccer and working hard, my coworkers (middle-aged Tico men) and I became very close. With them I discovered both the complex ecosystem of the cloud forest and the art of balancing work and play, the "pura vida." Every day we strove to strengthen the kids' love for their environment. Perhaps surprisingly, my friends ultimately favored (and actually practiced) sustainable agriculture instead of leaving forests untouched. For better or for worse, "ecotourism" brings more and more foreigners to Monteverde every year, and the conservationists there are winning the economic argument.

Land use versus conservation was the issue I explored on the final leg of my journey. From September through December I camped, bird-watched, and studied in Conservación Patagónica's Future Patagonia National Park with a study abroad program. A term packed with time-consuming environmental research projects left little time for cultural immersion. Still, we managed to protest a wildly controversial proposed hydroelectric dam with a local organization in the nearby town of Cochrane. When we were not observing Patagonian waterfowl, presentations at the park headquarters and conversations with Cochrane residents helped us understand the challenges and responsibilities of conservation, especially in a developing region. Overall, the experience solidified my belief in the necessity of compromise on environmental issues.

New LTAM Concentrators

Schuyler Rowe '14



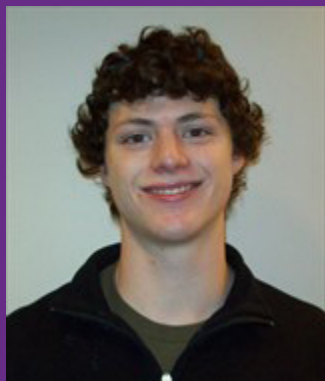
Since I spent a month in Argentina as a high schooler, I have always been interested in Latin America. I knew I wanted to study in Latin America when I went abroad in college, and I wanted to be able to learn more about this area of the world that I was so interested in. I am interested in the growth of Pentecostalism within Latin America (combining both LTAM and my religion major!). I was in Peru for fall term (which is where this photo is from - this is inside a temple at Machu Picchu), so I got to do research into this topic in person, which was great! I don't know what my next step will be, but it will definitely center on Latin America.

Emily Lamberty '14



Hello! My name is Emily Lamberty. I'm a SOAN major from Lincoln, NE. I chose to become a LTAM concentrator because through both classroom and personal exposure to Latin America, I have fallen in love with the people and culture of the region. I'm interested in identity politics, subaltern theory, migration, and contemporary culture practices--my SOAN major-ness is pretty obvious. Last winter I had the amazing opportunity to go on the SOAN trip to Guatemala, and the people I met there and the conversations we had most certainly changed my perspective on the world. I'm hoping to spend my summer in Bolivia doing research for comps.

Zach Wood-Doughty '14



I decided to concentrate after I took Issues in Latin American Studies last spring, and really just fell in love with the department. I'm very interested in how new technology is transforming Latin America, and I'm hoping to mix my interests in the area with my computer science and math background by getting involved with tech programs such as Startup Chile.