

Paul Cristofano
Cusco, Peru-Summer 2010



Over the summer, I spent 6 weeks volunteering in Cusco, Peru. Cusco is one of the biggest cities in Peru. It is known for its deep culture as well as tourism in the heart of the city. Not only was Cusco a beautiful place, the people of the city made the experience much more enjoyable. From arrival we obtained a sense of the warm nature of the local Peruvians as they brought to our volunteer site and showed us around the city.



Me on top of one of the many historical sites of Peru, Pacha Mama.

We lived with a host family in a nice section of town. Our host parents Sonia and Juan were very generous and welcoming and I was able to learn some Spanish from them and their three daughters, Lisa, Sele, and Chibelli. The experience of living with a host family allowed us to embrace the culture more and ultimately led to a better experience.



Marissa, Lauren, Me and James along with Lisa, Chibelli and Sele.



Me, Eddie and James embracing the culture.

I worked with 3 fellow classmates, James Anderson, Lauren Moy and Marissa Potenza, at a local clinic. There, we were assigned different departments for our volunteer work and rotated throughout the 6 weeks. The departments were gynecology, pediatrics, emergency, dental, general and adolescent. While working in these departments I was able to check vitals and give

vaccinations if necessary as well as help the doctors prescribe treatments.



Me and James along with one of the doctors we worked with



The clinic was located in a very poor part of town and most of the people who came in seeking treatment were extremely grateful for any help I could give them. Not only was I able to pick up medical experience from this trip, I also interacted with the patients on a personal level and developed relationships with them as a caregiver.

