

June 13 – July 18, 2009

Program Description

Learn archaeological excavation and laboratory analysis techniques at a Wari village in the Andean foothills of southern Peru. Between 600 and 700 AD, a multi-ethnic colony was established at Cerro Mejía. The settlers had been forcibly relocated from their distant homes by a powerful empire. Many centuries later, archaeologists are excavating their house ruins to understand the daily lives of the colonists and how these people coped with their new foreign surroundings and their powerful Wari conquerors. You will be one of them.

The Cerro Mejía Research Project is supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation. The Contisuyo field school is sponsored by the University of Florida, Chicago's Field Museum, and the Contisuyo Museum in Moquegua, Peru. Students will participate in excavations at the large Wari village site of Cerro Mejía, learn a wide array of archaeological investigation techniques, visit other archaeological sites in the region, and experience the rich local culture of Moquegua, Peru.



The well preserved ruins of Cerro Mejía (600-900AD), nestled in the Andean foothills of southern Peru.



Student excavators carefully place a ritual bundle in a bucket for unwrapping in the research laboratory.

Eligibility

UIC students who have an overall UIC GPA of 3.0/4.0 with at least two previous courses in anthropology, and are currently enrolled in a degree program are eligible. Spanish skills preferred, but not required.

Logistics

Housing is provided in a rented house in the colonial town of Moquegua, founded in the 16th century by Spanish conquistadors on the site of an Inca town. Breakfast and dinner are served family style at the field house. Separate floors of the house are provided for men's and women's sleeping quarters, each floor with 2-3 shared bedrooms and a shared bath. Students should be in good health and sufficient physical condition to hike daily for 1 hour with a day pack.

Costs

The program fee of \$3000 payable to The University of Florida Foundation covers room and board, local transportation, instruction, and 8 credits of UIC coursework for UIC degree seeking students. Travel to the research site is additional; airfare from Chicago to Lima and local transport to southern Peru is estimated at \$1000-\$1200. UIC students are eligible for Financial Aid and Scholarships through Study Abroad for this program

Application deadline: February 27th

For additional information contact:

Bradley Elwood, belwood@uic.edu
UIC, Study Abroad Office
502 University Hall
Tel: (312) 413-7662, Fax (312) 996-9492

The Field
Museum *exploring the earth and its people*

Donna J. Nash, Ph. D.
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Department of Anthropology
1400 S. Lake Shore Dr.
Chicago, IL 60605

November 1, 2008

Dear Field School Participant:

Welcome to the Contisuyo Archaeological Field School. We are pleased you have decided to join us in Peru for an enriching educational experience. This year of the field school will feature an extremely high faculty to student ratio, and a wide range of opportunities. The large Wari settlement at Cerro Mejía (AD 600-900) will be our primary excavation site for the field school, but you will have the opportunity to visit other ongoing research projects and many archaeological sites in the region.

Faculty include: UIC professors and Field Museum curators Ryan Williams and myself, University of Florida Professors Susan deFrance and Michael Moseley, and Contisuyo Museum Investigator Monika Barrionuevo. UIC graduate students will be your TAs. While the primary language of the town in which we live is Spanish, all faculty members and graduate students speak English. You will certainly get to learn some basic Spanish, if you do not speak it already, and may even pick-up some Aymara from the local townspeople who work with us during excavations.

Details on the field school program are attached. The field school operates in conjunction with The Field Museum's sister institution in Peru, the Contisuyo Museum in the southern department of Moquegua. A program fee paid to the University of Florida Foundation funds the field school. Students are not required to sign up for university credit to participate.

For students at UIC who wish to obtain academic credit, we will be offering two classes worth a total of eight credits in Anthropology through Study Abroad (LAS 299; equivalent to ANTH 425 and 426). Students who enroll for at least six credits are also eligible for UIC financial aid during the summer 2009 session. Make sure you fill out your summer aid request as soon as possible. We look forward to your participation in the field school program, and wish you a warm welcome.

Sincerely,

Donna J. Nash
Field School Director

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO THE CONTISUYO SUMMER 2009
MUSEUM ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD SCHOOL IN MOQUEGUA, PERU

Name _____ UIN# _____

E-Mail _____

Present Address _____

Telephone _____

Date of Birth _____ Sex: M F

University/College now attending/Major _____ GPA _____

Academic interests _____

Name of Academic Reference _____

Please ask your reference to forward a letter on your behalf to the Study Abroad Office.

Passport # (if available) _____ Exp. Date _____

Date _____ Signature _____

I. Explain why you are interested in the program. Attach a 500 word (2 page double spaced) essay on how the Museum Archaeology Field School will advance your program of study and goals for the future.

II. Is there anything we should know about you that will impact your performance in the field program?

III. Health Profile

How do you rate your overall physical condition? Excellent Good Average Fair Poor

State any physical disabilities or anything in your medical history that we should know about (allergies, respiratory problems, contact lenses, etc.).

IV. Dietary Profile

Can you adapt to unfamiliar foods and a menu that includes "exotic" dishes?

Are there any medical, religious or personal restrictions on your diet? Are you a vegetarian?

V. Adaptability

What experiences have you had that reflect your capacity to adapt to unusual living conditions in a culture other than your own? You will be sleeping on mud floors and engaging with communities that rarely see Westerners. How will you deal with these challenges?

VI. Do you speak Spanish? Yes No

Please rate your speaking ability: Excellent Good Average Fair Poor

VII. Emergency Information (emergency contact person)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____

Relationship _____

Contisuyo Field School 2009

June 13-July 18

The Contisuyo Field School is a collaborative effort between researchers from UIC, the Field Museum, the University of Florida, and the Contisuyo Museum. It is hosted by the Contisuyo Museum in Moquegua, Peru. Moquegua, known as the land of eternal spring for its constant sunny and dry climate, has been the focus of an ongoing archaeological research program for 25 years. The Contisuyo Museum was founded on this research effort in 1994 (see <http://bruceowen.com/contisuyo/MuseoE.html>).

This year's field school will take place at the large Wari village of Cerro Mejía, at 2500m (8000 ft) above sea level in the Moquegua Valley. Students will gain experience in survey methodology, mapping, remote sensing, excavation, and artifact analysis. The work at Cerro Mejía is designed to understand daily life in the early community and will also examine how local people contributed to the Wari state's economy in the Moquegua region.

The fieldwork day begins with breakfast and we will arrive on the site at 7:30am. Temperatures vary from 80 F at midday to a 32 F on some nights. The sun will be intense so bring sunblock, a protective hat, and long sleeve light weight shirts. A bag lunch is eaten in the field, and work continues until 3:30pm. A couple of hours of lab work before dinner allow us all to share the significant finds of the day. Dinner at 6:30pm will feature a typical Peruvian dish and dessert. Lodging at the research center is in dormitory style rooms. Evenings and Sundays are free time, one can visit an internet café, visit the bustling market, or take a stroll around the town's historic plaza. Saturdays are for lab sessions and lectures. Meals are provided throughout the week, however dinner on Saturday and both lunch and dinner on Sunday are not included. Weekly trips on Sundays are optional and will take students to other archaeological or historical sites in the valley.

What to bring:

The following items can be difficult to find in Moquegua: dental floss, sun screen, lip balm, deodorant, and tampons. Shampoo, toothpaste, soap, and lotion are locally available but if you have a preferred brand you should bring these items with you. Be sure you also bring comfortable hiking boots, a coat for cool evenings, modest field clothes (shorts are discouraged), a first aid kit, your own towel, and spending money. Sheets and a blanket will be provided, but if you plan to travel after the field school a sleeping bag is recommended.

You must bring your own excavation and lab equipment: a trowel with a flat, triangular pointed blade, a 3m hand tape measure (be sure it has cm), a clip board, plastic dial calipers in mm, 12 black fine point sharpies, and 12 black ultra fine tip sharpies (do not get the retractable kind). Students should also bring a flash drive to store homework files and pictures.

Travel:

Your final destination is Moquegua, Peru. You will need a valid passport, no visa is necessary for tourist visits up to 90 days. If you do not have a passport please make sure that you apply for one as soon as possible. If you have a passport make sure that it will not expire within 6 months of your trip. You will arrive on June 13. Students are encouraged to travel in groups. Approved travel itineraries will be provided in March. In general, the trip consists of an international flight to Lima, Peru, a domestic flight to Arequipa, Peru, and a bus ride to Moquegua. You will be met in Arequipa by field school personnel. Students are encouraged to purchase travel insurance.

Contact Information in Peru:

Email is readily available in town. You can receive mail via regular post c/o Proyecto Cerro Mejía, Museo Contisuyo, Jr. Tacna 294, Moquegua, Peru. Be aware that any package weighing more than 1 kilogram (2 pounds) will be opened by customs officials and duty on the items inside will be assessed. Please make your family and friends aware of this weight limit. Museo Contisuyo telephone from the USA 011-51-53-461844 (a Spanish speaker will answer). Dr. Nash can be reached for emergencies on her cell phone in Peru at 011-51-53-953-71-6614. Moquegua has several phone offices that offer international calling. Peruvian cell phones may be purchased for \$30 to \$50 and minutes are not charged for incoming calls. Please do not rent a cell phone in the Lima airport.

Insurance:

Each student must carry medical insurance in Peru. Check with your provider to insure you are covered internationally. You should also have medical evacuation coverage in force. Basic sickness/illness (\$3,000 accident - \$100/day sickness & hospital) and medical evacuation/repatriation (\$50,000/\$15,000) coverage is provided with the International Student Identity card, available for \$22 from STA Travel in the Loop in Chicago. UIC Study Abroad offers a comprehensive policy for ca. \$80. Proof of insurance is required prior to travel.

Program fee:

A tax-deductible contribution on behalf of the student in the amount of \$3000 made to The University of Florida Foundation supports the research and teaching program. This contribution must be accompanied by a letter of transmittal (attached). The fee will cover participant costs including room and board, local transportation, and local instruction. It should be submitted by April 1, 2009. International travel from the US to Arequipa, Peru is not included. For those who wish university credit and university financial aid, arrangements can be made through participating universities (UIC offers tuition suppression through Study Abroad for this program – you must register through that office, not via normal registration! Tuition suppression means that you will not pay UIC tuition, but will receive UIC credit for the coursework.)

Dr. Donna Nash
Department of Anthropology
The Field Museum
1400 S. Lake Shore Dr.
Chicago, IL 60605

(date)

Dear Dr. Nash,

Enclosed please find my contribution to The University of Florida Foundation in the amount of \$3000 in support of the research program at Cerro Mejia, Peru. It is my intention that these funds will be used for participant support costs in the archaeological training program.

Sincerely,

(Name and address of Contributor)

Name of student: _____