



## Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

**Report Title:** Exploring the Culture, Language and History of Peru. **Name:** Doug Keel

**Other Team Members:**

**Program:** Nebraska Program

**Trip Dates:** 06/09/2012 - 07/14/2012 **Location Visited:** Lima, Peru; Cusco, Peru; Iquitos, Peru, and Puno, Peru

**Post Fellowship Reporting Template:** PFR Template 0

**Project Summary:** When I became a teacher-librarian, I knew I wanted to share the transformative nature of libraries. I began my journey as a librarian twelve years ago and I have observed many changes. Diversity, creativity and collaboration have all become part of a strong library program.

With that in mind, I prepared to visit Peru to explore issues that would enhance the learning of students. The goals of this grant project included studying Spanish, an exploration of the culture of Peru, and an examination of literacy trends.

I spent five weeks in Peru, studying the Spanish Language at Hispana School for four weeks and lived with a Peruvian family. Learning the language would help me serve my Spanish-speaking students. I would also be able to teach in Spanish for our dual language program.

I began my trip by visiting Ica, home to Paracas National Reserve and Ballestas Islands, where penguins, pelicans and sea lions roam freely. I explored Cuzco, the base of the Incan empire and then went to Machu Picchu, where I was able to climb the ruins and learn about the history. I took a boat ride on Lake Titicaca and visited the floating islands of the Uros. I also trekked through the Amazon Rainforest to visit some of the inhabitants by way of the Amazon River.

How is it possible to add up all of the experiences and have the journey be greater than the sum of its parts? The events and people all made this a life-changing experience for me, one that I hope to use to inspire.

**Career Impact:** \* Studied and used Spanish along with living with a Peruvian family.

- \* Visited three different geographic regions of Peru including the Sierras, the Coast, and the Jungle.
- \* Toured the Islas de Ballestas to observe fauna from different regions.
- \* Visited public and school libraries to gather information and insights about literacy in that country.
- \* Participated in several guided tours to learn more of the history of Peru.
- \* Lived and traveled through Amazonian Rainforest, visited Lake Titicaca, and met indigenous persons living in these areas and climbed Machu Picchu.

**Classroom/Community Impact:**\* Media-specialist able to meet the needs of a diverse population including students and parents whose first language is Spanish.

- \* Teach lessons in Spanish to support the goals and aims of dual language program.
- \* Share historical information learned from trip with classes and parents via lessons, website and blogs.
- \* Experience journey via photos, movies and research lessons of the various geographic regions of Peru.
- \* Exploration of various techniques and strategies used to promote reading and libraries.
- \* Shared experience and advantages of traveling abroad to increase global understanding.

**Open Response:** \* Partnership with Math Dual Language teacher, classes taught by Math teacher and librarian in Spanish.

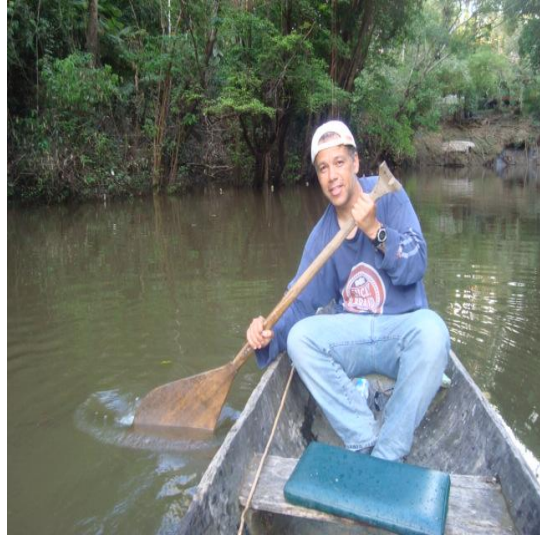
- \* Collaborative research with dual language Social Studies classes studying South America. Peru used as model to guide research.
- \* Writing labs to discuss writing about experiences (blogs, journals,) writing to persuade.
- \* Library orientation with theme, "It's a JUNGLE out there, SEA your way through it @ your library." Share literacy observations and cultural notes.
- \* Share travel blog to discuss narrative and personal writing samples.
- \* Youth Volunteer Corp activities designed to foster international communication with people of Peru.

**Quote:** My Peruvian journey will serve as a great way to inspire and teach about our global community!

Photos:



Llama encounter on the way to Lake Titicaca.



Navigating my way on the Amazon river.



Exploring a desert environment in Peru.



Sailing on Lake Titicaca with an inhabitant of the "Floating Islands."



Preparing to eat a traditional meal with my Peruvian family!



Standing atop Machu Picchu after visiting the museum.



Yagua natives in the Amazon rainforest demonstrate blowpipe techniques.



This monkey demonstrates his prowess in the Amazon Rainforest.