

*Alpha Sigma Foundation
Summer Enrichment Program
Final Report 2018
Ollantaytambo, Peru*

Dear Alpha Sigma Foundation,

I would like to begin my final report with a thank you. This scholarship has made my summer possible and has helped provide an opportunity to me that has developed into a longer-term commitment which I am both excited to experience and ecstatic to share what I learn. This experience thus far has amplified the importance of “the little things in life” and has deepened my understanding of cultural relativism. I’m learning the various nuances of small non-profits, the problems that arise with unsustainable implementation, and the various provisions one can take to ensure the sustainable growth and improvement of curriculum and funding. So, in total, thank you for caring to invest in us. Thank you for taking the time to listen to the various Alpha Sigma applications you receive and the crazy ideas we want to chase after. Below, I’ve outlined my summer experience in brief and added some information on the work I will be doing over the next few months.

In my mid-summer report, I gave insight into a ~normal day for me at Ayni Wasi. I discussed one of my “community visits” and gave some background to how the promotora and docente programs function. I finished my report discussing my need for permanent lodging here and my hope in flying back for alumni weekend. While my work has continued to be just as variable (which I will expand on soon), one of the biggest updates since my mid-summer report is my lodging! I have moved into a house with four other people and my feelings of unsettledness have vastly subsided. I’m living with three women I work with and one of their partners. We have a tiny house in “Old Town,” which is a four-minute walk from my office. We’re in the process of moving in and making it feel more like “home,” but I’m slowly starting to put down roots.

I want to share a new community visit with you to give a little more insight into the work we are doing here at Ayni Wasi. On the morning of Thursday, August 23rd I woke up at 3:30 a.m. to pack up and head to the office, as the car to Kelccanka leaves at 4:00 a.m. each morning. A two-hour car ride later we pulled into the community, put on an extra layer of clothing and walked to one of our promotoras house. We were greeted with a big hug and told to take a seat on a few alpaca blankets she laid out for us to sit on. She served us maté made from haba beans and a breakfast soup with carrots, potatoes, noodles, rice, red peppers, and sheep meat. After breakfast we moved outside for our review as the sun had come up and had started to warm the morning air. We spent the next two hours reviewing material from the most recent nutrition training and went through some old women’s health information as the promotoras we were meeting with had graduated from the women’s health program this past July, however, always appreciate being able to ask questions and tune their skills. We left around 9:00 a.m. to ensure we didn’t overstay our welcome. We choose to do many early morning or overnight visits in our higher up communities so we do not interfere with the many other jobs the women serve for their families. The women in these communities herd their sheep, milk their cows, tend to their *chacras* (farming fields), and make the trip down to Ollantaytambo for necessary goods

from the market, while many of their husbands work on the Inca Trail or work other jobs that take them away from doing many of the tasks around the house.

I've been with Ayni Wasi for nearly two months now and while my Spanish is still improving, I am starting to take more responsibility with community visits and am developing my voice within the organization. As I work with a colleague to fine tune our nutrition program resources and continue to train the current cohort of promotoras, I am becoming more impassioned with the goals of the organization and am feeling more confident in speaking my perspective from my public health background at UNC. The next six months will be a lot of the same in relation to community visits and training, however, the nutrition program will continue to grow and the reinforcement necessary to train effective community health workers will increase. It will be six months of growing and learning from the communities and colleagues I'm working with, but I am beyond excited to continue this adventure.

I hope this short report gave a glimpse into my current life and the incredible summer that is continuing on for me. If there are any questions, or any trips to Machu Picchu in the works, please don't hesitate to reach out (clarkwilliamson09@gmail.com). Once again, thanks for the support and help in creating a summer full of growth. Hope to see everyone soon!

Yours in the Bonds,
Clark Williamson



Huilloc Alto



View from an Inca Pool near Ollantaytambo



Taken on the road back from Kelccanka



Huilloc Alto



Taken on the road back from Yanamayo (6:00am)



Kelccanka



Kelccanka



Taken from the road near Patacancha