

What was your undergraduate alma mater? Program-of-study?

Kenyon College. Political Science with a minor in Studio Art.

Where did you serve? When?

I served in Peru from 2010 to 2013.



What was your primary job? Did you have any secondary projects? How did you go about starting those?

Youth Development Volunteer. I mainly worked in the schools, serving as somewhat of a teaching assistant and project coordinator with programs in English (to get my foot in the door), then eventually computer literacy, youth health promotion, college/graduation prep and soccer coaching.

Secondary projects included a greenhouse and gardening program with a neighboring volunteer, a summer school program (teaching a hands-on 'architecture for kids' curriculum

that was unique for the students and a whole lot of fun), and volunteer translating with visiting doctors on medical campaigns in the region. The secondary projects were often the most successful and came about through being in town long enough (the first year was tough, the second made it hard to leave) and regularly enough to make friends with active parents and teachers.

If you had to only name one thing, what was your favorite part about being a Volunteer?

Mama Eulalia. The matriarch of my host family who raised five very successful children (all professionals in their 40s and 50s), spoke to me only in Quechua, raced up and down a mountain daily to take care of alpaca and dairy cows, and laughed more than anyone I've ever met. (See photo at right.)



What did you do for fun while you were a volunteer? Did you travel while serving? Where?

There was much more travel than I expected. During Peruvian holidays, when not with the host family, I was able to reconnect with the volunteers I came into country with. We rafted the Amazon, swam in northern beach towns, climbed Machu Picchu, and danced at holy week destinations tucked into tiny mountain towns. Food (ceviche, the many cremas, delicious meat dishes) were often a focus of travel and fun.

Was your program-of-graduate-study choice influenced by your Peace Corps experience? What led you to choose the University of Arizona?

Ironically, serving abroad and getting to be part of a close-knit and community-engaged family made me realize I wanted to work a little closer to my own community – effect change in a world I understood more deeply. I worked as a community organizer in New Mexico for two years following service before finding my way to UA for Landscape Architecture. I plan to keep social activism a part of my design career and I chose UA because of the Coverdell Fellows program, hoping it would keep me active in the community while I earned a degree. It very much has.