



COURTESY PHOTO  
La Virgen Legarda (the statue) watches over Quito and protects

# TEACHING THE ANDES

Diane Goodman takes a one-month journey with Ohio State University's Fulbright Program and walks along the Inka Trail in Peru



COURTESY PHOTO  
Diane Goodman stands in the southern and northern hemispheres with her two classroom mascots, Carlita, the llama, and Carlos, the goat.



Left, the sacred water of the Peguche waterfall. Right, buildings in Quito, Ecuador are bright and colorful.

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Editor's note: In upcoming editions, we'll share Diane Goodman's one-month journey with Ohio State University's Fulbright Program, "Teaching The Andes," as she walks along the Inka Trail in Peru. Her blog of the trip can be found at [shantimaya1957.weebly.com](http://shantimaya1957.weebly.com).

### June 16: It all begins at Ohio State

The Fulbright participants' meeting of the minds and hearts come from Arkansas, Tennessee, Maine, New Hampshire, Kentucky, Texas, Virginia and Ohio. We begin our studies with an introduction to the Andes, through music, visits to cultural sites, the study of Kichwa (indigenous language), inquiry-based methods of teaching, and curricular design. One of the end goals will be to design curriculum based on "Teaching the Andes" for grades K-12 and to create a repository of activities for teachers all over the United States to use to increase the studies of Latin America in the classrooms. CLAS (Center for Latin American Studies) will be that repository.

### June 16-18: Quito, Ecuador

We arrive to the capital of Ecuador, Quito, the highest capital in the world (8,370 feet). It is a city of 3.2 million people. As we drive along the highway I can only imagine that this was the original route that Pizarro used to climb the Andes to find El Dorado (The city of gold) and thus began the Spanish colonization of all of the Andes from Columbia down to Chile. Quito is a huge valley and is approximately 9,350 feet above sea level. It is located on the eastern slope of Pichincha, an active vol-

cano. Quito is one of the first of two World Cultural Heritage sites declared by UNESCO in 1978. The city itself extends within 1 kilometer of zero altitude, the equator; hence the name of the country, Ecuador. This zero latitude line was used as a religious pre-Inka site. They say it is where the sun and the moon sit on top of the mountain. Zero latitude is marked by a huge tourist site known as La Mitad del Mundo (The middle of the world). Quito is known as the center of the earth and was the first city to get its independence from Spain in South America.

### June 19: Lago San Pablo

Sumac Causa (The good life/ the beautiful life). These words begin our life long learning process of Kichwa, the language that is used in the highlands of Ecuador; which is where we are heading now... into the big town of Otavalo. We make a huge tourist stop at Lago San Pablo, jump on a boat, and take in our first views of the mountains. These views will become our back drop for the next 2 weeks as we travel around the mountains of Ecuador and into the villages to learn more about the indigenous way of being, the traditions, the rituals, the music, the dances, and getting a better understanding about the public wealth of the indigenous communities. This beautiful life is not tied to wealth, possessions or material wealth but is rooted in the connection to the Pacha Mama, Mother Earth. We are all the Earth, the water, the air, and Nukakanchik which can be translated as we are one-you are me and I am you, we are us. On this journey we are trying better



COURTESY PHOTO

The mountain views around Lago San Pablo are endless.

to understand the connection to and care of the Earth, the notion that we live in the present but look forward to the past and behind us is the future, the balance of masculine and feminine, and the connection to their ancestors.

### June 21: The Summer Solstice has arrived in Peguche, Ecuador

I have returned to a place that was once a very special spot for me. It was 27 years ago that I walked these fertile mountains of Peguche when I was adventuring around the world in my 30s. I felt very connected to Pacha Mama (Mother Earth) and spent many of my days just wandering through

the highlands on my own. I have retraced many of my footsteps and realized so much of what I absorbed back then had become a central core to my spirituality. I have always enjoyed rituals in my life and being here during the Inti Raymi (Ritual that honors the Sun) allowed me the opportunity to become more involved with the local community and open my mind to new ways of being a part of another culture. (In Quechua Inti = sun / raymi = ritual). Rituals have allowed me to go deeper, touching upon culture in a more meaningful way. One important ritual for me, personally, was taking those solo walks in the early morning.

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