This was taken from a mountain in the village of San Pedro, which sits just above Cusco, Peru. The five of us students decided to go climb a mountain and get out of the city. It was nice to be able to get away from all of the “touristy” things and go see the real beauty of Peru.

We got to meet a lot of interesting people in Peru. Meeting these people also helped me improve my Spanish-speaking skills. We met Fernando and Megaliz while we were hiking up a mountain. They told us more about their way of life—Fernando is 14 but tends the sheep for his family while also going to school—and their traditions. L to R: Fernando, Megaliz, A. Boettcher, M. Buel, C. Lucke.
This was taken at the “Plaza de Armas,” or the main square in Cusco, Peru. This is the Cathedral, one of the most famous churches in Cusco. Religion is very important to many Peruvians. We were in Cusco for Easter Sunday and we saw many people coming and going from church. We even followed an Easter parade. It was really neat to see how other people celebrate the same holidays and traditions but in different ways.

The most famous place in Peru is Machu Picchu, and for good reason. I was blown away when I saw it for the first time. I knew it was supposed to really neat but I had no idea how big it was or how well-preserved it would be. There are so many different things to see there—even more so if you’re interested in geological engineering.

March 2008
Five students went on the trip hardly knowing each other, but by the end of the week we were all really good friends. Going to Peru is amazing in itself, but it was even more fun because I got to share it with people my own age who are in my department. We shared an experience that I doubt any of us will ever forget and we all came out of it with four new friends—what could be better?