Here I am standing with some of the local mountain kids just outside of Cusco. They were very nice, I gave a few of them some money and they were so grateful for just a few dollars. Seeing them reminded me of just how fortunate we are to live in the United States (even if our economy is declining). It was certainly a humbling experience.
This is a picture of the top of a house in Peru; I know what you’re thinking, “that’s very interesting.” As we were driving, we wondered why all the “pigs” were on top of the houses. Turns out they are bulls not pigs, and they are there for good luck; it is a local tradition. The cross indicates that the residents are Catholic.
This is a view of Machu Picchu from the top of the ruins. The view was already amazing and we had only started going up the trail to reach the highest point available. Visiting Machu Picchu was one of the best parts of the trip; imagine all the work it must have taken to build the place…incredible.
These are a few of the many llamas that roam around Machu Picchu. I assume that their purpose is just to help keep the grass cut and entertain visitors. They were pretty tame but would not eat out of our hands. Just watch where you put your hand while climbing around; the lamas seemed to use that exact place as a restroom…
This is a group picture of all the students who went on the trip. We all got along great and had a lot of laughs. We also learned a lot about the local culture and geology while on the trip. It was a very exciting trip and I would recommend it to anyone in the GE department.

This is Dr. Gertsch givin’ me the crazy eye while on the train coming back from Aguascalientes! Dr. Gertsch did a great job explaining the formations of all the local rocks, mountains, valleys, etc. while on the trip. “PG” or “Professor Gertsch,” was fun to be around, easy going, and we learned a lot from her.