Photo Log

By Mark Bartel
For GE 401
Inca Civilization & Geotechnical Engineering Practices
Peru field trip, March-April, 2010
I took about 1200 photographs and about 30 short videos. With so much good subject matter, you cannot take a bad photo in Peru (unless it is out of focus). You will probably see plenty of photos of rocks and structures. I have tried to concentrate my photo log on the people and customs of Peru to try to capture some of the local culture.

Me, blending in

Notes: The modern spelling of “Cuzco” is “Cusco”. One nice thing about Peru---there are alternate spellings for just about everything. The Quechan way (usually includes the letter Q), the Spanish way, the phonetic way, etc. I think I saw Piquillaqta spelled four different ways. If you are a terrible speller, no one cares.

Overlooking Cuzco
Notes: Many of the locals come down from the mountains into the city and frequented archaeological sites and pose for photos (for tips). Although they may be wearing their best outfits, their outfits appear to be typical. We saw similar dress when we got to the local communities.
Musicians at Tunupa Restaurant, near Urubamba River

Lovers at Lovers’ Park, Lima, next to Pacific Ocean

Notes: The flute and bird sounds of these musicians was traditional and haunting—beautiful.
Dye demonstration, Chinchero

Notes: An amazing array of colors are possible from natural plant materials (even from a parasite that grows on cacti). Chemical alterations from heat, salt, etc. produce different colors. FYI, these cattle came out of the doorway of the building on the right.

Herding cattle in streets of Chinchero
Sheep near Coricanta

Notes: During our horseback ride near Coricanta (“gold neighborhood”) we encountered local people in addition to amazing scenery.

Residents near Coricanta, waiting for a bus to Cuzco to attend the Christo Negra procession
Notes: There was a large Arab immigration to Cuzco in the late 19th century. This white statue was actually donated by Arabs in the 1940’s. Christo Negra gets its name from the Llama skin that the sculpture of Christ was made of. Over the years, the skin has darkened in color. We were fortunate to be in Cuzco for this religious procession which started in the afternoon and continued into the night.
Young artist (Quilka) who showed me around Cuzco

Notes: The people of Cuzco are very friendly. This young artist offered to show me around Cuzco. He took me to some local neighborhoods that were not part of the regular tour. Yes, I purchased a couple of his watercolor paintings and some alpaca textiles hand-woven made by his sister. Bartering to lower the price is expected. All parties were all pleased with the final prices.
Enjoying chicha de jora

Notes: There are a number of neighborhood cafes off the beaten path in Cuzco where you can enjoy some home-made chicha de jora (maize beer). It only takes about two days to ferment. The home-made stuff is not like what you get in a downtown restaurant---no fancy sweeteners or spices.
All right, I could not resist including some engineering stuff. The wood bridge portion of the aquaduct connecting the mirror-image of this stone support has not been replaced. Simple channels continue in the mountains beyond for miles.
Notes: It’s all about the water! The Inca’s hydraulic engineering in stone has lasted over 500 years. The four fountains at Tipon represent the four sections of the Inca Empire.
The red arrow points to a bicycle wheel rim stuck in a tree next to the river. Hmmmmmm

Notes: March-April is near the end of the rainy season and rivers are still running high.

Pactacancha River, near Ollantaytambo
Notes: From a distance, the Urumbaba River looks peaceful, but up close, it is still raging.
Our tour guide, Nilo

Notes: Although every vendor will call you “amigo” when you flash money, there is no getting around the sincerity, decency and downright helpfulness shown by our tour guide Nilo and his brother Fidel. We met one of their sisters who is also involved with the business. When I lost my VISA card, Nilo personally accompanied me in taxis to three different bank branches until we found one that could give me a cash advance in Lima.
Notes: Nilo has great respect for his heritage and was eager to share his knowledge and perspectives with us.
Temple, Machu Picchu

Plant lore, near aqueduct

Inca Compass, Machu Picchu

Residence, Machu Picchu

Tipon
Maintenance at Machu Picchu
Alpacas at Machu Picchu

Enjoying the view

Notes: These may be Llamas---not sure.

Inspiration for shape of Inca roof? Who knows.

Alpacas at Machu Picchu
Waynapicchu ("Big Mountain")

Intrepid hikers at peak of Waynapicchu

Machu Picchu

Stone steps to guardhouse, Waynapicchu

View towards Machu Picchu