“From the Cascades to the Andes: Environmental issues in Peru and the Pacific Northwest”

12 Students from UW Bothell, Environmental Sciences

20 Students from UPCH, Biology

Spring 2015
Connecting the Dots Between Our Consumption and Environmental Degradation

- **Gold Mining**
  - Phones, Computers, Jewelry
  - Deforestation, Pollution, Labor Rights, Social Impact

- **Anthropogenic Climate Change**
  - Resource Consumption, Waste Produced
  - Reduced snowpack, Drought, Fire, Loss of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

- Highly valuable in class discussions between students about how we can make changes in our own lives to reduce our environmental footprint.
- Especially valuable for non Environmental majors.
Online Discussions with the Peruvian Students

- **Facebook**
  - Scholarly conservation discussion posts
  - Sharing links to pertinent environmental issues
  - Fun scientific posts on species and biodiversity

- **Skype**
  - Discuss lectures from in class and make comparisons between Peru and U.S.
  - Discussions for Collaborative Facebook Posts

- Amazed by how similar our outlooks and perceptions are of the current state of ecosystems worldwide.
- Great way to connect with Peruvian students on a personal and emotional level.
Visit From Professor Armando Valdes-Velasquez

- **Hike to Crystal Lakes Mt. Rainier NP**
  - Hands on discussions comparing ecology of PNW to Peru
  - First time experience for some students

- **In Class Session and Presentation**
  - Gold mining presentation by international conservationist
  - Sharing real life experiences from Peru and PNW in class

Professors Ursula Valdez and Armando Valdes-Velasquez using a tablet to record and share our experience with the Peruvian students.
Applying Our Knowledge to Make a Difference

- **Tabling Event to Raise Awareness on UWB Campus**
  - Impacts of climate change on the Quechua, Petitions to support water quality in Puget Sound, Discussing construction on campus
    - Encourages students to share their voice
    - Helps students convey social and environmental topics to the public in a constructive manner

- **Reaching out to Professionals**
  - Dr. Ken Feeley, Florida International University
    - There is still so much unknown about how species ranges are reacting to climate change.
Making Personal Changes in Our Own Lives

- **Diet**
  - Eat lower on the food chain, locally and organic

- **Reduce Use of Fossil Fuels**
  - Public transit or bike

- **Reduce Our Waste**
  - Track the amount of garbage we produce

- Educating students on how to reduce blind consumption and their ecological footprint.
- Students share knowledge with their community.
International Community

- Sharing my knowledge and passion with other students
- Living with the Quechua
- 7 students
- A cultural submersion that forever changes one’s perception of how we live
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