



YOUR GENEROSITY AT WORK

Vol. 7 No. 2

A publication of Quechua Benefit

April 2023

Xeina's First Semester at McDaniel

Casa Chapi Alumni, Xeina, took a few minutes out of her very busy second semester at McDaniel College to send our Quechua Benefit community an update!

Things have been going great! McDaniel is small, which is what I wanted. I am focusing on getting more involved in the college community this semester. My first semester was a unique experience. I met new people, made new friends, and my classes went well. My favorite spot on campus is the football and soccer field. Oh, and of course, Hilltop Pub (where everyone meets).

One challenge I had to overcome was living off campus because all my friends live on campus. So, our experiences are quite different, but in a good way. There are days when I have spent so much time on campus, around people, that I like to go back to my own room that I don't have to share with anyone else. One of the history professors at McDaniel, Professor Fang, is my housing sponsor.

Currently, my favorite class is math because it gets my brain working. This semester, I am enjoying my accounting class. The topic is new and unknown for me, which is exciting, and the professor is knowledgeable and engaging.

There are a few things that I miss. I feel fortunate that I have the experiences that have led me to miss 2 places I call home.



An aerial view of the McDaniel campus.



In Peru, I miss the food, my family, and friends. Currently, with the protests, things seem to be all over the place from one day to the next. In Oregon, I miss my family, Amanda, my friends, Vince's cooking, my dog Rosie, all the alpacas, and of course, skiing.

One piece of advice I would give to a new college student: Be yourself. Be respectful and kind. Take a chance, meet some new people, and get connected to the community. Don't focus too much on your physical grades but embrace the knowledge being passed onto you from your professors.



Left: Xeina

Donor Spotlight: Amanda VandenBosch



Amanda was first introduced to our organization in 2005. As a senior Judge Trainer, AOA Halter and Fleece Judge, owner of Flying Dutchman Alpacas (home of one of the world's most sought-after breeding programs, genetics and show stock) one can say she is alpaca royalty! Her support and advocacy for Quechua Benefit is one of the reasons our organization has been so successful at raising awareness.

Amanda served as President of our Board of Directors and her support for Quechua Benefit only grew stronger. From sponsoring Casa Chapi student Xeina (who is now a freshman at McDaniel College in Maryland) to volunteering her time as one of our stellar tour guides during our annual Peru Tours. Amanda has raised untold funds for Casa Chapi school.

Most recently, Amanda has partnered with Quechua Benefit, along with Marty Seymour, of CarbonRx, to support several international research projects crucial to the future of the alpaca industry worldwide.

- The first alpaca carbon footprint which intends to prove that alpaca is the most sustainable natural fiber on earth.
- The creation of a Life Cycle Assessment of alpaca products from cradle to grave along the entire supply chain. This project has the potential to raise the value of alpaca fiber for all alpaca farmers.
- The creation and analysis of a community breeding program in the highlands of Peru that examines, disease, nutrition, shearing techniques, and husbandry. This would raise the standard of living for the Quechua alpaca breeders in Peru.

- An environmental study on biodiversity, water conservation and carbon sequestration across 100,000+ acres in Picotani for 10,000 vicuña and 40,000 alpaca. This could lead to income to the community via the sale of carbon credits and the potential to sell carbon credits to fund future water conservation and pasture expansion projects.

Amanda continues to accompany Quechua Benefit around the globe during conferences and fundraising events. To top it all off, she donates a portion of the profits from her annual alpaca education series, Education with a Destination, to support our programs. We hope to see you at the upcoming 2023 EDU event in Bend, OR August 24th – 27th.

Thank you, Amanda for your decade's long commitment to Quechua Benefit, your generosity, energy, and kindness. You have changed many lives among the alpaca breeding families of Peru.



Amanda accepting an award for her years of work with the Picotani community.

BREAKING THE CYCLE
of
POVERTY

Education with a Destination Peru Tour 2023



Look who's back! Join us for an experience of a lifetime in Peru with esteemed international alpaca judge Amanda VandenBosch, Quechua Benefit founder Mike Safley and Co-Executive Director, Dale Cantwell. Visit Arequipa and the world-renowned Michell Group factory. Visit the campus of Casa Chapi, the Colca Canyon and the Condor Cross. Attend a regional alpaca show and a vicuna chaccu. Tour the historic town of Cuzco and much more.

Shop to support local artisans, experience authentic Peruvian cuisine and taste why Peru is one of the world's top gastronomy countries, meet the students at our Casa Chapi school and participate in and witness the sacred chaccu.

For further information, please visit quechuabenefit.org/peru-tours or send an email to info@quechuabenefit.org and receive updates regarding the 2023 Peru Tour.



Partnership with ONEHOPE

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Quechua Benefit has partnered with ONEHOPE winery to do more good. For every purchase, ONEHOPE gives 10% back to the cause you love. Select Quechua Benefit as your cause at the top of their page and start shopping!



Support Quechua Benefit at these Upcoming Events

- (Vicuña Salvation documentary selected to be screened at) **San Luis Obispo International Film Festival** in San Luis Obispo, California — April 25th to 30th, 2023
- **Parade of Champions** in North Salem, New York — June 2nd to 3rd, 2023
- **Family Night on the Farm** in Hillsboro, Oregon — Aug 19, 2023
- **Education with a Destination** in Bend, Oregon — August 24th to 27th, 2023
- **Education with a Destination Peru Tour 2023** — October 2023

Quechua Benefit at WAC



Amanda VandenBosch (far left) and Mike Safley at the Vicuña Salvation premiere in Graz, Austria.

Quechua Benefit attended the World Alpaca Conference (WAC) in Graz, Austria in February. You would have been heartened by the reception. Your generous support for the alpaca breeders in Peru, the kids at Casa Chapi, and the families receiving support is well-known and appreciated.

The conference was open to the public and 15,000+ people made it through the magnificent exhibition halls. Quechua Benefit hosted a panel presentation with our friends Raul (Michell y CIA), Amanda (Flying Dutchman Alpacas) and Marty (Carbon Rx) on the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of alpaca products and their sustainability. Vicuña Salvation premiered during Saturday night dinner to a large audience. After the premiere, Quechua Benefit was invited to premiere the documentary at the British Alpaca Society show on March 16th (Mike's Birthday) in Telford, United Kingdom. It will precede a fundraising auction where 100% of the proceeds will be donated generously to our organization.

We were introduced to Dr. Maria Wurzinger from the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU). She was intrigued by our presentation and wanted to dive deeper into research projects on water conservation and carbon sequestration in the highlands, the carbon footprint of alpacas, and community breeding programs and parasite control. Your generous support of our programs over the years has led us to opportunities where we can meet folks like Dr. Wurzinger to discuss grants and funding to keep our work going to break the cycle of poverty for our highland families.

These projects will benefit everyone in the alpaca supply chain, from the breeder to the suppliers, worldwide. Stay tuned for updates! If you are interested in participating, please reach out to us.

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*100% of your donations go
directly to education, medical,
and economic programs in Peru.*

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