



2007 EPS FELLOW

Barker Fariss

HOMETOWN: Asheville, NC

MAJOR/DEGREE:
Doctoral Candidate,
Anthropology/Archeology

PROJECT TITLE:
MOCHE Expeditions:
The Huaraz/Chavin Trek

FACULTY MENTOR:
Brian R. Billman,
Department of Anthropology

COMMUNITY PARTNER:
Residents of Ciudad de Dios,
Huaraz, and Olleros, Peru

PROJECT LOCATION:
Peru

“By broadening the traditional bricks and mortar perspective toward development and providing an alternative model for heritage protection, we have facilitated an environment of inclusion. It is our opinion that the best way to save archaeological sites is by helping rural communities, and the best way we can help rural communities is by saving archaeological sites.”



UNC ENTREPRENEURIAL PUBLIC SERVICE FELLOWSHIP (EPS)

***MOCHE Expeditions:
The Huaraz/Chavin Trek***

The village of Ciudad de Dios in the Moche valley of Peru has no electricity, no access to health care and a shoddy tap water system. Its main employer, the sugarcane industry, offers substandard pay for dangerous work. The nonprofit organization MOCHE uses long-term relationships with the community to create alternative avenues for employment and empowerment. Through my fellowship, I partnered with local communities to develop ecologically and socially responsible adventure tours in Peru, whose proceeds will support MOCHE’s community development projects.



Project Goals

1. Design a pilot tour, the Huaraz/Chavin trek, to serve as a model for future tours.
2. Identify three new potential tour sites in Peru, visit them and evaluate them for profitability and sustainability.
3. Train local community members to lead future expeditions.

Although a poor community, Ciudad de Dios has a rich cultural heritage, as it exists near or on top of pre-historic architecture. For nearly a decade, the area around Ciudad de Dios has been a UNC archeological field site, which faculty and students excavate each summer. Lacking other economic opportunities, community members were looting the site and selling its artifacts on the black market. When faculty learned of this problem, they realized the need to partner with the local community to protect the site.

In 1998, UNC professor Brian Billman helped begin a project to promote archaeological preservation within the context of community development. The community as a whole agreed to protect the site in exchange for assistance with community-based economic development. After a successful first year, the community received \$1,200 to build a new road. The partnership has continued each year, and with project funds, the community has created a soccer field and built a four-

room elementary school.

In 2007, I helped Billman incorporate MOCHE (Mobilizing Opportunities through Community Heritage Empowerment) as a nonprofit organization, whose mission is to protect, teach and study the rich cultural heritage of Peru by creating partnerships with rural communities. MOCHE Expeditions is an extension of this development model. Our pilot tour, the Huaraz/Chavin Trek, was both financially solvent and sustainable. The trek helped to fund the construction of a stone reservoir to provide safe, dependable drinking water to the village of Ciudad de Dios. Our hope is that additional tours in Peru will employ more local community members and generate more revenue to invest back into the community.



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