Who am I?

• Year – 2019 (Junior)
• Hometown: Princeton, NJ
• Major: Electrical Engineering
• Certificates: TBD
• Extra-curricular activities:
  • A cappella - Old NasSoul
  • Environmental activism – Green Princeton
  • OA Leader
My Work

• Bioversity Peru, an NGO, aims to protect biodiversity in Peru and surrounding areas by doing studies in the field, designing methods for how countries can protect biodiversity, and through advocacy to local governments

• My supervisor created a long-term project for me which involved analysis of data that had been taken of trees in the Colombian dry forest. The data concerned the genetic and physical traits of different species of trees, as well as information about the climates in which they grew. My job was to look for patterns across species in the ways in which their genetic and physical diversities correlated. I also observed how the different environmental conditions in which trees grew affected such correlations
Examples of my Work

• I completed my project by using computer programming to search for correlation, which I often represented using graphs. Here are some of the graphs:
Photos!

• Me at the office (left) and me with Frank, a friend I made in Lima (right)
Trip to Quillabamba

• As part of my internship, I traveled to a tropical and rural part of Peru to assist Thibault, a graduate student from France who was doing his masters thesis there.

• Thibault was studying the flowering of cacao chuncho, a variety of the cacao plant that is native to the Quillabamba area. Cacao is a tropical fruit whose seeds are used to make chocolate.

• Thibault and I spent nine days together in a rural agricultural area, working together to study the pollenization of Cacao Chuncho plants.
Photos!

- Cacao pods (left) and me holding an opened cacao pod (right)
More Photos!

• Me taking data (left) and cacao flowers and buds (right)
Conclusion

• Although I learned a lot from my own project, I also learned a lot from talking to my supervisors/coworkers about their work. I enjoyed becoming more acquainted with the careers that real scientists have, how scientists’ work affects the real world, and just how intricate issues of agriculture and global warming can be. I also learned a lot about the importance of statistics and computer programming – they were just as useful for my internship (population genetics) as they are for my major (electrical and computer engineering). This heightened the importance I place on learning them well, and that may affect the academic paths I take at Princeton
Conclusion Part Two

• I also learned a lot from being able to live and travel in a society so different from my own. One person who made me think a lot was Thibauld – although his Spanish was worse than mine, he was better at holding meaningful conversations and connecting with people, and this made me think a lot about what it means and takes to communicate with others.

• It was also interesting to observe social patterns that seemed foreign but that I soon realized happen just as much where I am from. Living in the wealthy/expat-ish area of Lima, I noticed how much attention the local government gave it while giving less attention to other districts. Although this at first startled me, I realized that similar things happen in the US, and have begun to see my own society with a more critical eye.