

**Dear Cather Circle alumnae,**

It is because of your selfless service and unparalleled devotion to the future of Cather Circle and the futures of Cather Circle students that I am able to receive this scholarship. Thank you for giving me this life-changing opportunity to pursue one of my dreams.

After I graduate in August 2009 with a degree in advertising, I am heading to Peru for an internship in social and economic development communications September through October. I was admitted into a program called ProPeru Service Corps' NGO Internship Program. Over the next few months, the ProPeru site director will be assessing the community needs and analyze how my skill set can be useful. I will learn about the specifics of my internship project two to four months before my departure.

I am grateful for the opportunity to make a difference in any way and hope to use my strengths in project management, creativity and problem-solving to help improve the efficiency of Andean communities and the wellbeing of the communities' residents. It has been my lifelong dream to travel abroad to further develop my cultural resourcefulness, to help the less fortunate and to experience a greater understanding of international affairs.

A few of the unique aspects about this NGO internship program is that I will also be able to explore the cultural and historic delights of Peru, take daily Spanish lessons and live with a Peruvian family. The ProPeru Service Corps internship program includes full room and board, daily Spanish classes, trips to local cultural events and archeological sites of interest, health and travel insurance, onsite transportation, the funding of my NGO development project, and 24-hour emergency access to ProPeru Home Base and support staff.

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the Cather Circle fall meeting because I leave for Peru September 4. However, **I will be keeping a travel journal through the ProWorld Web site with pictures and stories about my internship, my observations and my excursions. I will also be at the spring meeting in 2010 to share a more personal account of my experience.** Perhaps, we can create a link on the Cather Circle Web site that redirects viewers to my travel journal on the ProWorld Web site, or we can e-mail the link to everyone – if anyone has a suggestion, please contact me.

I cannot help but wonder the extent at which my world will be turned upside-down while living and working in Peru this fall. I am humbled by the prospect of undergoing such a feeling. I look forward to the chance to be completely immersed in a foreign culture while using my skills to improve the social and economic strains within the Andean communities. **Thank you, Cather Circle, for supporting me in making one of my dreams a reality.**

Michaela Brown