

CURRICULUM VITAE  
OF  
James R. Riach  
Department of Earth and Environment  
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**EDUCATION:**

|       |   |                       |      |
|-------|---|-----------------------|------|
| Ph.D. | University of Georgia, Athens, GA           | Anthropology          | 2001 |
| M.A.  | Florida International University, Miami, FL | Comparative Sociology | 1995 |
| B.S.  | Florida International University, Miami, FL | Environmental Studies | 1989 |
| A.A.  | Miami Dade Community College, Miami, FL     | Marine Sciences       | 1980 |

**FULL TIME ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

|                                  |                   |                       |                         |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Florida International University | Lecturer          | Environmental Studies | August, 2008 - present  |
| Florida International University | Visiting Lecturer | Environmental Studies | August, 2006 - May 2008 |

**PART-TIME ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

|                                  |                              |                       |                           |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Florida International University | Fellow of the Honors College |                       | August 2006 - present     |
| Florida International University | Adjunct                      | Anthropology          | January - May 2008        |
| Florida International University | Adjunct                      | Environmental Studies | May 2000 - June 2006      |
| NOVA Southeastern University     | Adjunct                      | Anthropology          | January 2004 - April 2005 |

**NON-ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

Officer, Project Amazonas, Inc., Fort Lauderdale, Florida and Iquitos, Perú, 2000 - present  
Coordinate humanitarian and environmental research opportunities for students. Develop collaborative, multi-disciplinary basic and applied health research programs among indigenous communities in the Departamento de Loreto, Perú.  
Develop promotional and documentary material and grant-writing.

**EMPLOYMENT RECORD AT FIU**

|                              |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Lecturer                     | August, 2008 - present  |
| Adjunct                      | January 2008 - May 2008 |
| Fellow of the Honors College | August 2006 - present   |
| Visiting Lecturer            | August, 2006 - May 2008 |
| Adjunct                      | May 2000 - June 2006    |

**TEACHING**

**Graduate Courses Taught Between 2006-2012**

EVR 5935 Environment and Health

Graduate level Special Topics elective introducing students to interdisciplinary approaches for studying and addressing the interconnections between environment and health.

EVR 5061 Ecology of South Florida

Graduate level version of Life Science University Core Course that introduces students to ecological principles and to the South Florida environment to analyze processes that have influenced the existence of plants and animals within South Florida from ancient to present times.

## Undergraduate Courses Taught Between 2006-2012

### EVR 4934/IDS4920 Global Environmental Issues

Liberal studies colloquium on global environmental issues in which students analyze human-environment relations from the perspectives of Western science as well as from the perspectives of other culture's systems of belief and knowledge.

### EVR 4934 Environment and Health

Undergraduate level Special Topics elective introducing students to interdisciplinary approaches for studying and addressing the interconnections between environment and health.

### EVR 4594 Ecosystems of South Florida (co-taught with Dr. Jayachandran)

Environmental Studies BA required course providing in-depth studies of major ecosystems of South Florida, the environmental issues with which they are faced, and the management strategies being used to sustain their natural resources.

### EVR 4415 Population and Environment

Environmental Studies BA required course synthesizing literature about the nature of humanity with analyses of the relationships between environmental conditions and population dynamics.

### IDH 4007/4008 Amazon Seminar and Study Abroad Program (two semester course)

Interdisciplinary research service program offered through the Honors College at FIU exploring the natural and social history of the Amazon, learning about the current environmental and human challenges facing the region, and culminating with four weeks of field work in the Peruvian Amazon to help address some of these challenges.

### SYO 3400 Medical Sociology.

Undergraduate elective offered by the Global and Sociocultural Studies Department focusing on the study of human confrontations with disease, illness, and medicines and medical systems made by human groups for dealing with these dangers.

### EVR 3013 Ecology of South Florida

Undergraduate level version of Life Science University Core Course that introduces students to ecological principles and to the South Florida environment to analyze processes that have influenced the existence of plants and animals within South Florida from ancient to present times.

### IDH 2003/2004 Honors College Second Year Seminar - Inhabiting Other Lives (one-year course)

Required Honors College seminar examining issues of identity, community, human-environment relations to explore the commonalities of humanity.

### EVR 1017 Global Environment and Society

Social Science University Core Course that introduces students to the study of human-environment relations by integrating information from the natural and social sciences to examine the roles of culture, worldview, and other evolutionary forces in shaping the relations.

## Graduate Student Supervision (all independent studies)

|                |                           |                     |  |
|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Emily Hite     | MS, Environmental Studies | Independent Studies | Production of video documentary of conservation program in Mexico  |
| Freddy Aguirre | MA, Education             | Independent Studies | Environmental Curriculum Proposal for K-12 in Dade County, Florida |

## Undergraduate Student Supervision

|                |                           |                     |  |
|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Rudy Gadala,   | BA, Liberal Studies       | Independent Studies | Internship with National Park Service    |
| Shanlyn Cribbs | BS, Environmental Studies | Independent Studies | Ecological Experiential Learning         |
| Stephanie Sims | BA, Environmental Studies | Independent Studies | Reflections on Sustainable Development   |
| Camille Arca   | BA, Environmental Studies | Independent Studies | Wildlife Health Impacts of Muscovy Ducks |

|                    |                             |                              |   |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Dana Foligno       | BA, Environmental Studies   | Independent Studies          | Development of Online Arctic Conservation Network for Sierra Club and Gwich'in Peoples  |
| Cindy Kohn         | BS, Environmental Studies   | Independent Studies          | Finding the Missing Link: A Case Study in Experiential Learning   |
| Maria Millan       | BS, Environmental Studies   | Independent Studies          | Mata Atlantica: Social Conservation at the Iracambi Research Center in Brazil   |
| Sebastian Ortiz    | BS, Environmental Studies   | Independent Studies          | Mata Atlantica: Ecological Conservation at the Iracambi Research Center in Brazil   |
| Danielle Goveia    | BS, Environmental Studies   | Independent Studies          | Training as a teaching assistant  |
| Jessie Rodriguez   | BA, Environmental Studies   | Independent Studies          | Training as a teaching assistant  |
| Vanessa de la Ossa | BA, Sociology/Anthropology  | Independent Studies (Honors) | An Ethnographic Study of Prostitution in Italy  |
| Roydel Wedderburn  | BS, Environmental Studies   | Independent Studies          | Water Quality Analysis: A Methodological Overview   |
| Marie Annoual      | BA, Chemistry               | Service Research             | Methodology for Field Testing of <i>E. Coli</i> in Drinking Water Sources in Rural Amazonian Communities  |
| Andrea Roca        | BS, Biological Studies      | Journal Publication          | <i>A Study of Health Knowledge and Hygiene Practices in the Peruvian Amazon with Water Testing Using Petrifilm™ E. coli/Coliform Count Plates</i> |
| Andrea Roca        | BS, Biological Sciences     | Service Research             | Health and Environment Surveys in Three Amazonian Communities, Loreto, Peru   |
| Adrian Badana      | BS, Biological Science      | Service Research             | Health and Environment Surveys in Three Amazonian Communities, Loreto, Peru   |
| Tricia Callahan    | BA, Environmental Studies   | Service Research             | Knowledge and Beliefs Regarding Fish Resources and Management in Four Amazonian Communities, Loreto, Peru   |
| Hollis Bubla       | BS, Environmental Studies   | Service Research             | Knowledge and Beliefs Regarding Fish Resources and Management in Four Amazonian Communities, Loreto, Peru   |
| Jennifer Gloudeman | BA, Chemistry               | Service Research             | Assessment of the Sustainability of the One Laptop Per Child Program in Loreto, Peru  |
| Karina Livingston  | BA, International Relations | Service Research             | Elicitation of Conservation-Based Life Plans of Three Amazonian Communities along the Orosa River, Loreto, Peru                                   |
| Christian Machado  | BS, Chemistry               | Service Research             | Elicitation of Conservation-Based Life Plans of Three Amazonian Communities along the Orosa River, Loreto, Peru                                   |
| Carla Migliaccio   | BS, Biological Sciences     | Service Research             | Identification of Dental Problems in Three Amazonian Communities and Medical Strategies Used to Address Them                                      |
| Janneth Rodriguez  | BS, Biological Sciences     | Service Research             | Identification of Eye Problems in Three Amazonian Communities and Medical Strategies Used to Address Them   |
| Dana Mekler        | BA International Relations  | Honors Thesis                | <i>Addressing Yagua Concerns Over Indigenous Rights in the Peruvian Amazon, 2012</i>  |

|                   |                               |                   |   |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Dana Mekler       | BA International Relations    | Conference Mentor | The Yagua: Environmental Threats and the Path Towards Legal Recognition, NCUR, 2012   |
| Dana Mekler       | BA, International Relations   | Service Research  | Addressing Degradation of Environment and Indigenous Rights In the Peruvian Amazon  |
| Camille Arca      | BA, Environmental Studies     | Service Research  | Improving Canine and Human Health in the Peruvian Amazon  |
| Celeste de Palma  | BS, Biological Studies        | Service Research  | Water and Sediments Assessment in the Orosa, Arambassa, and Matahuayo River Watersheds, Loreto, Peru  |
| Sylvie di Pietro  | BS, Biological Studies        | Service Research  | Quality Analysis of Water Used for Drinking in Communities on the Orosa River in the Peruvian Amazon  |
| Amnha Elusta      | BS, Biological Studies        | Service Research  | Ethnographic Assessment of Perceptions and Attitudes about Threats to Well-Being and Health in Communities on the Orosa River, Loreto, Peru |
| Fernando Intriago | BA, English                   | Service Research  | Using Video to Help Revitalize the Language and Culture of the Yagua Peoples of the Peruvian Amazon   |
| Yamilet Lorenzo   | BA, Economics                 | Service Research  | Strategies for Development of Social Tourism among the Yagua Peoples of the Peruvian Amazon   |
| Danny Tapanes     | BS, Biological Studies        | Service Research  | Amazonian Helminthic Parasites in Fish Hosts Consumed by Residents from Communities along the Orosa River, Loreto, Peru                     |
| Ernesto Alfonso   | BA, International Relations   | Service Research  | Using Participatory Video for Language and Cultural Revitalization among the Yagua of the Peruvian Amazon                                   |
| Mario Londono,    | BA, Geography                 | Service Research  | Mental Maps of the Amazon and Rural Communities as Drawn by their Residents   |
| Emma Lopez        | BS, Environmental Engineering | Service Research  | Design and Development of Rainwater Collection Systems in Rural Amazonian Communities in Loreto, Peru                                       |
| Jenny Tovar       | BA, Psychology                | Service Research  | Using Participatory Video for Language and Cultural Revitalization among the Yagua of the Peruvian Amazon.                                  |
| Jessica Heinrich  | BA, Environmental Studies     | Service Research  | Comparative Analysis of Indigenous and Mestizo Gardens along the Orosa River, Loreto Peru   |
| Jessica Heinrich  | BA, Environmental Studies     | Conference Mentor | Sustainability Analysis of Subsistence Farming in Two Riverine Communities of the Peruvian Amazon, Agroecology Symposium, 2010              |
| Darrayl Mincey    | BA, Sociology/Anthropology    | Service Research  | Observations of the Yagua and Mestizo Communities along the Orosa River,  |

|                    |                              |                   |   |
|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Karina Rodriguez   | BS, Social Studies Education | Honors Thesis     | Loreto, Peru<br><i>An Insider's Perspective on the Educational Trends in the Peruvian Amazon, 2009.</i> |
| Karina Rodriguez   | BS, Social Studies Education | Service Research  | Yagua Perceptions about Changes in their Educational System   |
| Gabriela Cardona   | BS, Elementary Education     | Honors Thesis     | <i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings: A General Overview of Parrots, 2009.</i>                            |
| Desiree Hurtado    | BS, Health Studies           | Honors Thesis     | <i>Use of Medicinal Plants in the Peruvian Amazon, 2009</i>   |
| Desiree Hurtado    | BS, Health Studies           | Conference Mentor | Yagua Medicinal Plants: Cultivation and Use, SRAI, 2009   |
| Desiree Hurtado    | BS, Health Sciences          | Service Research  | Revitalization of Traditional Knowledge   |
| Tina Free          | BA, Environmental Studies    | Service Research  | Animal Parasites in the Peruvian Amazon   |
| Tiara Thanawastien | BA, Environmental Studies    | Service Research  | Biological Slow Sand Filtration   |
| Carla Cao          | BA, Biological Sciences      | Service Research  | Recording Oral Histories and Traditional Knowledge for Yagua Cultural Revitalization                    |
| Chris Gillette     | BS, Environmental Studies    | Service Research  | Impacts of Hazardous Animals on the Health of People in the Peruvian Amazon                             |
| Jennifer Meyer     | BS, Biological Sciences      | Service Research  | Traditional Perceptions of the Healing Aspects of Plants and Animals in the Peruvian Amazon             |
| Yirama Medina      | BA, International Business   | Service Research  | On a Visit to the School of the Yagua Community of Comandancia  |
| Dave Bush          | BS, Mechanical Engineering   | Service Research  | Biological Slow Sand Filtration   |

### Course, Curriculum Development Activities

Currently designing a new Indigenous Environmental and Rights Issues EVR course to be cross listed with LACC. The course will be developed in conjunction with the Department of Social Studies of the National Amazonian University of Peru (UNAP). In addition to lectures, the course will involve videoconferences with UNAP anthropologists and researchers working in the Peruvian Amazon to discuss ongoing fieldwork. It will also involve guest speakers from FIU whose research deals with environmental and rights issues affecting indigenous peoples. The focus will be on S. American indigenous peoples, but will also include North American indigenous issues.

Redesigned the Population and Environment (EVR 4415) course from a course on human demography to one on the evolution of humanity, emphasizing human behavioral ecology and the human-environment interface. Taught in Spring 2009 and Fall 2010.

Designed Health and Environment (EVR 4934/5935 special topics) and taught in Fall 2007 and Spring 2010. The course overlaps disciplines in environmental studies, medical anthropology, and various fields in health, including conservation medicine.

Co-developed the Amazon Study Abroad Program (IDH 4007/4008) as a service research course for the Honors College at FIU. Taught on campus and in the Peruvian Amazon during Spring and Summer since 2008.

### Innovative Teaching Tools

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| Research Service Learning Study Abroad              | IDH 4008                     |
| Student Video Projects                              | EVR 1017, EVR 3013, EVR 4934 |
| Digital Video Conferencing with Department of State | EVR 1017                     |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Scavenger Hunts                           | EVR 1017, EVR 3013                                   |
| Frost-Guided Environmental Art Initiative | IDS 4920/EVR 4934                                    |
| Guest Speakers                            | EVR 1017, EVR 3013, IDS 4920/EVR 4934, IDH 4007      |
| Online Discussion                         | EVR 3013   |
| Ethnographic Assignments                  | EVR 1017, EVR 4415, IDH 4007                         |
| Discussion, Videos                        | ALL  |
| Research                                  | EVR 4415, EVR 4934, EVR 4594, IDH 4007               |
| Skits and Other Interactive Assignments   | EVR 1017, IDS 4920/EVR 4934, IDH 4007, IDH 2003/2004 |

### Other Teaching Related Activities

Served as official mentor/supervisor of funded proposals of several students involved in service research in the Peruvian Amazon. To date, students have received a total of \$28,600 in funding from university and outside funding sources. Funding information is detailed in the student supervision section of the supportive evidence provided in my NTT promotion application documentation.

### PUBLICATIONS IN DISCIPLINE

"Unhealthy Landscapes: Policy Recommendations on Land Use Change and Disease Emergence." Patz, Jonathan A. et al. as part of the *Working Group Land Use Change and Disease Emergence*. Available at <http://dx.doi.org>, Online 22 April 22, 2004. NPR.

"An Ecosystem Approach to Rapid Health Assessments among Indigenous Cultures in Degraded Tropical Rainforest Environments: A Case Study of Unexplained Deaths among the Secoya of Ecuador." ECOHEALTH, 1(1): 86-100, 2004. NPR.

"Health Patterns of the Secoya of the Northeastern Ecuadorian Amazon" Ph.D. Dissertation. 2001 NPR.

"Preliminary Health and Nutritional Assessment of the Athens Clarke County Hispanic Community." C. Adams, G. Luber, J.R. Riach, K. Sweeney, F.S. Wyndham. Laboratories of Ethnobiology, Anthropology Department, University of Georgia Research Report No. 8, 1998. NPR.

A Cultural-Historical Study of Land Use in Dade County, Florida. Master's Thesis, 1995. NPR.

"The Florida Cupresseaceae Cedars." Palmetto. Spring, 1993. NPR.

### PRESENTED PAPERS AND LECTURES

"Conservation-Based Life Plans and Protection of the Orosa Watershed: Anthropological Contributions" Invited Lecture National Amazonian University of Peru (UNAP), Iquitos, Peru, June 22, 2012.

"Potential Collaborative Social and Environmental Projects with the Yagua", Invited Seminar, National Amazonian University of Peru (UNAP), Iquitos, Peru December 9, 2011.

"Addressing Environmental and Social Issues in the Peruvian Amazon", Invited Lecture, Environmental Science Department, Broward College, Pembroke Pines Campus, November 9, 2011.

"Cultural Revitalization Efforts Among the Yagua", Invited Lecture, National Amazonian University of Peru (UNAP), Iquitos, Peru, October 10, 2011.

"Use of Video for Cultural Revitalization Among the Yagua", Invited Lecture on Visual Anthropology (ANT 4390), FIU, Pembroke Pines Campus, August 9, 2011

"Strategies for Protecting the Rights of the Yagua Indigenous Peoples of the Peruvian Amazon." Organized and moderated the workgroup conference. April 9, 2011, Florida International University.

"Service-based Research in the Peruvian Amazon." Organized panel presentation at the National Collegiate Honors Council 2008 Annual Conference, General session. October 22-26, 2008, San Antonio, TX.

"Consultancy and Education in the Peruvian Amazon." Invited presentation at the graduate and undergraduate seminar for environmental studies. October 9, 2007, Florida International University, Miami, FL.

"Culture and Tropical Infectious Disease Interventions." Seminar presented to upper level students in the College of Medical Science, NOVA Southeastern University, January 7, 2006.

"Native Peoples of South Florida." Lecture presented to senior level students in the South Florida Ecology course offered by the Honors College of Florida International University, November 4, 2005.

"The Yagua of the Peruvian Amazon: Making a Case for Integrated Intercultural Health Development." Lecture presented to upper level students in the College of Medical Science, NOVA Southeastern University, April 18, 2005.

"The Secoya: A Case Study in Ethnoepidemiology." Lecture presented to upper level students in the College of Pharmacy, NOVA Southeastern University, February 18, 2005.

"The Role of Culture in Health" and "Culturally Contextualized Approaches to Health Interventions." Seminar presented to upper level students in the College of Medical Science, NOVA Southeastern University, January 10, 2005.

"Conservation and Human Health: Synergistic Partners in the Peruvian Amazon." Poster presentation at the annual meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, July 12-15, 2004, Miami, FL.

Commentator for panel on Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers organized by the workgroup on Social Change, Ecology, and Viral Disease Emergence. April 28-29, 2003, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

"Emergence of Health Problems among the Secoya of the Ecuadorian Amazon: A Multi-level Transdisciplinary Analysis." Poster presentation at the 101<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, November 22, 2002, New Orleans, LA.

"Environmental Degradation and Disease Emergence among the Secoya of the Ecuadorian Amazon." Invited paper presented at the conference entitled Healthy Ecosystems, Healthy People: Linkages between Biodiversity, Ecosystem Health, and Human Health, June 10, 2002, Washington, D.C.

"An Anthropological Perspective on Emerging Diseases: A Case Study of the Secoya People of the Ecuadorian Amazon." Poster presentation at the International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases, May, 2002, Atlanta, GA.

"Environmental Change, Emerging Diseases and Indigenous Cultures: The Case of the Secoya of Ecuador." Invited presentation for the Department of Environmental Studies colloquium series, February 15, 2001, Florida International University, Miami, FL.

"Oil, Mosquitoes and Health Risks in Aguarico: Viewing Environmental Change from Outer Space." Paper presented as part of the symposium entitled "Biodiversity and Health" at the 97<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, December 6, 1998, Philadelphia, PA.

## CREATIVE WORK

"A Timeline Map of the Yagua People." A 64' X 4' mural. I collaborated with the Honors College at FIU and the FIU and the Art and Art History Department from the College of Architecture and the Arts at FIU to create the mural. It remained on display at the GC student art gallery throughout September, 2011. The mural was subsequently donated to the FIU College of Medicine. On March 24, 2012 the mural was permanently installed in the first floor hallway of AHC2.

"The Yagua: An Indigenous People in transition and Peril." Exhibit of artifacts of daily use from the Yagua tribe of Peruvian Amazon at the Frost Museum on the MMC FIU campus collected over a period of seven years of travels to the Peruvian Amazon. I created and incorporated into the exhibit, QR codes with links to videos demonstrating actual use and making of the artifacts. The exhibit was on display for the first of the Wednesday After Hours program for the Fall 2011 semester.

Untitled exhibition of selected photographs from the 2008 and 2009 Amazon photo exhibitions. On display in the lobby of the Office of FIU President, Mark Rosenberg, September 2010-August 2012.

"Art Showcase: International Education Week 2009." Invited exhibition of photographs and cultural artifacts from the Peruvian Amazon as part of the Office of Education Abroad Art Show. GC Art Gallery. November, 2009

"Peru Amazon Honors Study Abroad Exhibition" Photograph exhibitions of people, flora, and fauna of the Peruvian Amazon at FIU Green Library. December 15, 2009 - January 15, 2010.

"Amazon Retrospective." Photograph exhibitions of people, flora, and fauna of the Peruvian Amazon at FIU Green Library and Biscayne Campus Library. October 15-December 15, 2008.

"Experiences from the Amazon." Multi-media presentation on humanitarian, educational, and environmental activities of Project Amazonas, Inc. . May 10, 2008, SUYU Cultural Affairs, Miami, FL.

"Amazon Festival Benefit Concert." Funds raised for Project Amazonas, Inc. to support a scholarship fund for FIU students involved in service research learning in the Peruvian Amazon. March 8, 2008. Tobacco Road, Miami, FL.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

### Research in Progress

Strengths, Interests, and Concerns of Three Amazonian Communities Regarding Large-Scale Conservation Programs in Loreto, Peru. Approved June 4, 2012. IRB Exemption # 051512-02. Currently active.

Collection of data necessary to help communities along the Orosa River watershed to develop and implement conservation-based life plans. Such efforts will be useful in grant-seeking efforts to support FIU students and faculty involved in the research and, hopefully, a more comprehensive conservation and indigenous rights project for Loreto, Peru.

### Participatory Video Approaches to Yagua Culture and Language Revitalization

Started in July 2009 with audio and video recordings of oral histories, traditional stories and musical performances by members of multiple Yagua communities. Continued in July 2010 with the training of the members of one Yagua community in the use of video equipment to record elements of their traditional culture. Continued as funded research in 2011, remains ongoing.

### Yagua Language Census

Started in July 2010 with samples from two Yagua communities to assess fluency in speaking and reading the Yagua language.

Service Based Research on the Peruvian Amazon. IRB Approved June 10, 2008. Approval # 052708-05. Closed May 19, 2012.

Started in July 2008 as part of the Honors College Amazon Program. Community-based research carried out in collaboration with members of mestizo and indigenous communities in the Peruvian Amazon to address their interests in improving the education of their children, improving the health of local residents, and revitalizing traditional culture.

## FUNDED RESEARCH

Title: A Mechanism for Conserving and Sharing Traditional Knowledge and Language for the Yagua Peoples of the Western Amazon.

Investigators: PI: Devon Graham, Ph.D.; Co-PI: James Riach, Ph.D.

Funding Agency: Genographic Legacy Fund, New York 2010

Project Dates: November 15, 2010 - November 15, 2011

Amount: \$23,212.91

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Formed FIU Yagua Workgroup, Spring 2012

The group is comprised of faculty and administrators from the Earth & Environment, Global, Sociocultural Studies, and Biology departments of the College of Arts and Sciences at FIU, the FIU College of Law, and the Honors College at FIU. It also includes officers of the Project Amazonas, Inc. and Kuyayky Cultural Foundation non-profit organizations. The mission of the workgroup is to identify strategies by which FIU can help in addressing prioritized issues of concern among the Yagua peoples of the Peruvian Amazon.

Professional Development Leave, Fall 2011

Worked on the project entitled A Mechanism for Conserving and Sharing Traditional Knowledge and Language for the Yagua Peoples of the Western Amazon, funded by the Genographic Legacy Fund (GLF), New York. My project involved providing equipment, training, and technical resources/access to members of indigenous Yagua communities in the Peruvian Amazon for the purposes of recording, sharing and archiving traditional knowledge, including stories, legends, songs, handicraft techniques and the Yagua language itself.

Research planning trip, Perú, South America, 2007

Met with forestry and wildlife specialists from the Instituto de Investigaciones de la Amazonia Peruana (IIAP), leaders of the Yagua communities in the Peruvian Amazon, and staff from Project Amazonas, Inc. to design integrated conservation, health, and development research strategies to be implemented as part of the Honors College at FIU Amazon Program.

Guide Ecology and Anthropology Field Experience, Perú, South America, 2006

Guided students from the Youth Amazon Research Program, San Juan Island, Washington through ecological and anthropological fieldwork with members of the Yagua communities, organized by Project Amazonas, Inc.

Invited on health expedition and research planning trip, Perú, South America, 2004

Met with leaders of the communities of native Yagua peoples and directors of health and conservation agencies in the northern Peruvian Amazon, and assisted medical teams during a health expedition into indigenous communities organized by Project Amazonas, Inc.