Taylor’s Major: Biology

Program: UW Water for Life: Sustainability and Community Health in Ecuador, Summer

Academic Life: Being a two week course, our classes were wherever we could convene - in the forest, at the hotel, or even at a community center - which made them more interesting and fun. The students in our program were from UW and came from a wide variety of disciplines. Our lectures reflected that as well. We were lectured on ecology, environmental health, and microbiology from different professors, some of which were Ecuadorian.

Most Memorable Moments: Waking up to the sound of howler monkeys early in the morning at El Bosque Seco Lalo Loor. You’d be surprised how loud they can be when they are in the trees right outside your room!

Cultural Difference: Wastefulness. It seems normal in the US, but I was very conscious of being wasteful while in Ecuador.

Taylor’s Fieldwork: In a group, we looked for trends in water quality moving downstream a river alongside rural communities. We also looked to see if different population densities affected rivers differently. It was strenuous fieldwork, but fun at the same time.

“Ecuador is amazing; the people are even better. The program provides as many experiences as two weeks can afford, so get ready!”