OTAVALO, ECUADOR

JING WU

Jing’s Major: PharmD/MPH

Program: UW Global Health Ecuador Field School, Summer

Academic Life: All program participants were given a reader with articles, stories, and information pertaining to public health, anthropology, and general information about Ecuador. There was also a required text on similar topics. Everyone in the program, all American students, read from the required literature and then discussions would be held on the activities we did and the readings in either formal or informal settings. The classroom setting depended on the environment that the program was located. For example, for the first week, we were located in the Amazon off of the Napo River where our courses were held in lodge that was exposed to the outdoor elements. We were divided into thirds for Spanish class based upon our language abilities and each small group had their own teacher. For the following two weeks afterwards in Otavalo, our Spanish classes were held in a more formal setting.

Most Memorable Moments: It is very difficult to pinpoint one memorable experience as there were many experiences that influenced me greatly, however I certainly was in love with the dancing culture in Ecuador. I loved dancing with my families and friends because sometimes when the words were not there, due to the language barrier, our body language of having fun and being together really made me feel close to the people I was interacting with. I learned so many different types of dances and I was really impressed by how unafraid men were to just go out and shake it!

How Study Abroad Sets Jing Apart: I can speak Spanish better, especially pronunciation. I also feel like I understand more about Latin American culture and this program helped me think about how to be more culturally responsive. Being a health professional student, both Spanish and cultural competency are very important tools that I will be able to use to provide optimal patient-centered care.