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## Conclusion

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## Chapter 10

### Conclusion

Julius A. Amin

The Global Education Seminar--South American was memorable as shown by the articles. When participants initially applied for the trip few anticipated the educational value of the experience. Given the varied nature of the disciplines each participant gained something different from the trip. Yet there were commonalities. The experience reaffirmed that the challenges which confront human beings are universal. "All the great things are simple," wrote Winston Churchill, "and many can be expressed in single words: freedom, justice, duty, mercy, hope." In Argentina and Peru we saw people continuously wrestling with those issues. Whether in discussions with students at school, or with university faculty, or with Rev. Brother Felipe Melcher, or at dinner table among ourselves we continuously focused on those universal values. South America altered our thinking in several ways.

As educators, no longer can we ever teach the culture of Indians the same way we did prior to the trip. The experience at Machu Pichu was in itself humbling. As one of the Seven Wonders of the World, Machu Pichu provides avenues for discussion at many levels including civilization, colonialism, modernity, and human capability to endure. As the chapters attest participants have already altered sections of their lectures devoting more time to Native people and their contemporary plight, and more importantly placing issues within a broader perspective.

There was also the issue of identity and its role in determining what it means to be human. The experience was a reminder of the importance of identity. Who we are and what an institution is matters. For example, at Marianist institutions in those two countries visitors are greeted with large statues of the Virgin Mary, Rev. Father William Chaminade, and more; and as a result participants reflected on whether or not UD does enough to showcase its identity.

A particularly significant aspect of the experience was that it helped faculty to experience globalization in a new way. Faculty developed a new awareness of the importance of other cultures, and became more determined to integrate that knowledge into their classes. It offered opportunities for comparative analyses at several levels. Faculty learned that genuine efforts at intercultural education only strengthened the university.

Finally, the trip reaffirmed that the goals articulated in the University's mission statement are universal. Issues of justice, inclusion, and human rights are worldwide and seeing them in practice in other nations was enriching. The trip helped participants to separate fiction from reality. The experience was a triumph and consistent with what was scrawled on a wall in Lima, Peru: "*EL MUNDO ES UN LIBRO Y AQUELLES NO VIAJAN SOLO LEEN UNA PAGINA*" translated as "The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page."