

## Stay up to date with all the news at Yanapuma!

A bimonthly newsletter

Issue No. 28: Mar-Apr 2012

### Introduction

After a busy first two months of the year things quietened down in March and April for the Spanish school, as they usually do. We have continued to receive students of all ages and from all corners of the globe. We did set a new record for Yanapuma though with our youngest ever student, at only 4 years old!

In addition, our online Spanish classes continue to grow, and we now have over 60 regular students studying Spanish online with us from all over the world.

We also continued to receive volunteers, both individual volunteers and groups of volunteers for a variety of projects around Ecuador.

And in the foundation our work continues in the Tsá'chila communities of Bua, Los Naranjos and El Poste, as well as in the coastal community of Estero de Plátano. You can read more about what we have been up to over the last two months on the following pages.

### Small Donation News . . .

We are always happy to receive donations of any size, and can commit 100% of the funds received to a particular project or use.

**Andrew Duncan** donated \$30 to the Ugshapamba project in April.



**James Ramirez** donated \$100 to Yanapuma in March.

This fund was used to provide nursing training to a single mother in Estero de Plátano, Yadiria Rios (left). The 8-month course will cost \$200 in total and Yanapuma hopes to receive other small donations in the coming months to complete the funding for Yadiria to allow her to qualify as a nurse and be able to support herself and her son in the future.

C o n t e n t s	Page 1	Intro & News
	2	Project and School News
	3	Student, Intern, & other news
	4	Photo Gallery

### Semana Santa!

A noteworthy event at this time of the year is "Semana Santa" or Holy Week. On Good Friday students went as a group with their teachers to the historic center to watch the annual parade.



### Día del Maestro!

After a meeting of the staff and teachers in the school on Friday, they all went to the Hostal Mirasierra in the Valle de los Chillos just outside Quito, for a day of fun and games and team building.

We believe it is an important part of the development of the school to create the right atmosphere of collaboration between staff and teachers in order to offer the student the best experience while they are studying with us.

The following week we held another in our regular series of teacher training workshops to work on developing an understanding of key methodological issues and how to translate these into methods and materials that best represent the communication methodology that we promote at Yanapuma as the best way of teaching Spanish to our students.

For each session several teachers prepare materials that explore different aspects of the new methodology and show their relevance to the learning process as well as how they have thought about ways to develop exercises that put it all into practice.



## Foundation News . . .

In Bua Giovanni has been busy over the last two months working with the "cacaoteros." Eight cacao farmers have sown between 500 to 1000 cacao plants to sell to Yanapuma for a project in the community of Los Naranjos. Any surplus plants to our requirements they will plant out on their own farms. After 4 years, the first sustainably managed national varieties with strong aroma have begun to bear fruit and impress the Tsa'chila sufficiently to create increased interest in producing this kind of cacao in contrast to engineered varieties that produce larger quantities of inferior cacao. It is also gratifying to see that the art of grafting to produce cloned hybrids is catching on as the farmers begin to have more confidence in their abilities and realize that they can save money by applying this skill that Giovanni has worked to teach them over the past years.

Giovanni has also been busy in the Tsa'chila village of El Poste, mapping farms and river banks with a GPS unit so that we can plan a reforestation project with the community. In general the Tsa'chila river banks are in better shape than their mestizo neighbors who tend to deforest right down to the rivers and streams themselves to maximize the amount of arable land.

In the community of Los Naranjos Guadalupe and Silvia delivered kilos of worms to 23 families as part of a project to grow vegetables. We have created enclosed areas for sowing vegetables, and the worms will convert vegetable waste into rich humus to fertilize the vegetables they are growing. This project is partly sponsored by the Onaway Trust of Scotland, and will also include a nutritional and dietary component, teaching the women to prepare the vegetables as part of their daily diet.

Silvia and Guadalupe have also been busy setting up the project funded by the UN Fund for indigenous peoples that we are starting in May. This project will involve aiding residents of the community of Bua in developing sustainable economies through crafts production and other activities related to adding value to locally produced materials.

In Estero de Plátano our scholarship students prepared for the start of their high-school year in April. We welcomed 2 new students in Estero, as well as 2 new students in the nearby community of Quingue, funded by the Coléje Edouard Montpetit of Quebec, Canada. This brings the total number of students receiving scholarships to 13. The scholarships are maintained by a combination of the \$20 registration fee that each Spanish school student pays and private donations that we receive from our Christmas fundraiser.

This year we have a slight problem in supporting the students at the start of their school year. In past years we have been fortunate to have long-term volunteers stationed in Estero at this time, in addition to the in-

terns from Union College who arrive in July to stay until the beginning of April. But this year we have not been so fortunate, so we are struggling to provide the tutoring and social support that especially the new students need as they adapt to life at high-school.

Our two Union College interns, Alex and Shelby took the scholarship students to visit the Rio Muchacho organic farm at the end of their winter holidays (*below*).



*A public speaking class for the scholarship students in Estero de Plátano*



## Volunteers and Interns . . .



We were delighted to welcome **Angela Winston** as a new volunteer coordinator for Yanapuma at the end of April. She is one of two new employees who will take over the daily management of our volunteer and internship programs when current coordinator Kelly Schussler leaves at the end of May. Angela is a graduate of Tufts University and has already studied at the PUCE in Quito as well

as volunteered in CEMOPLAF clinic, as well as volunteering in Nicaragua and interning in Peru.

In mid-April our two interns from Union College, **Alex Brockwehl and Shelby Cutter**, left us after 9 months working with the community of Estero de Plátano. During their time there they made a huge impact on the community, working with the scholarship students and other school children, keeping the library open, helping them with their studies, carrying out workshops on sexual and reproductive health and rights for the youth, taking them on various excursions out of the community, and encouraging the youth marimba group. In addition they set up a summer reading project, raising nearly \$800 to buy books for students to read and discuss during their annual school holidays.

They also worked with other social groups such as the women's group, local council, the artisans group and the local community bank, helping them to organize themselves and plan for future development. Their efforts are appreciated both by Yanapuma and by the community itself and they will be missed.

Dutch tourism student **Lara Cygan** continues to work as an intern for the Spanish school, and was also conscripted into working as a group leader for the Leap UK volunteer group while they were stationed in Otavalo taking Spanish classes and volunteering in Chilcapamba community.

**Laura Zuiderma**, another Dutch student, continues to work with Kelly in the volunteer department, greeting and orienting new volunteers and accompanying them to their projects, as well as answering emails and other office duties.

**Alina Gluckstadt and Solveig Schroeder** are two tourism interns working in the Cabo San Francisco area, creating a destination analysis and tourism development plan for the community of Estero de Plátano and other parts of the same coast. Yanapuma will be able to use the results of their studies to help the communities along the coast to seek help in developing sustainably in the future.

**Nick Haitel**, a Dutch tourism student is helping us develop some marketing ideas for the Spanish school that we can put into practice as part of his internship.

## Growing the Volunteer Department . . .

Angela (left) is one of two new coordinators for the volunteer department. She will be joined by Victoria from Argentina in June, and together they will help us to refine our administration system for volunteers, update all our programs and redefine our internship openings.

By the end of the summer we hope to be well set to substantially increase our volunteer traffic, both for individual volunteers as well as for groups that come from other organizations, universities, colleges, and high schools from all over the world.

## New Volunteer Blog!

Volunteer Nathalie Chase, besides volunteering in Ambato, has also been instrumental in setting up a new blog specifically for volunteers on the foundation website: <http://www.yanapuma.org/en/blog/wordpress/>

If you are a previous volunteer who would like to get the word out about your experiences in any of our projects we will be happy to hear from you. The blog will be a vital tool to help would-be volunteers to decide which project best suits their particular interests, and to know that the project is worthwhile.



## Leap in Otavalo and Los Naranjos!

A group of 12 volunteers from the Leap UK began volunteering in the sierra community of Chilcapamba while they stayed in a hostel in Otavalo, taking Spanish classes in the afternoon.

After two weeks of this they moved to the Tsa'chila community of Los Naranjos where they worked on the creation of vegetable plots for a project that we are currently working on in the foundation.

Next they are off to Montañita for a well-earned break before the team heads off to projects in the Galapagos or in Estero de Plátano.



## March and April Photo Gallery

