ALMA VENTURE EXPERIENCES

2015 AND 2016

An overview of Alma Venture experiences by academic area
Where have Business students Ventured?

Finance and Economics major Zaccari Bell '17: “I spent the summer in Chicago, IL working as an intern for VALIC, a subsidiary of AIG. I learned a variety of sectors of the financial planning field. Some weeks I shadowed and aided financial advisors, others I learned about tools and how data is collected and processed. Each week was a new perspective on the industry. This was a great way to get a glimpse of why I want to do this and how I can be a great advisor in the future.”

International Business Administration major Jacob Chittenden '17: “I studied Spanish Language and Culture in Segovia, Spain. I greatly improved my Spanish but I learned so many other skills that I would have never learned in school or even in the U.S. I learned how to live in another country. I learned that culture shock is real. I learned how to travel. I want to have a career that involves Spanish and traveling and now I have the tools to use both.”

Marketing major Greg Goffee '17: “I was a Business Administration intern at Greater Gratiot Development Inc. in Ithaca, MI. I learned how to conduct myself in a real-world business environment, and I gained knowledge in marketing and communication. I also developed my quantitative skills through the completion of numerous reports.”

Health Care Administration major Taylor Manfroni ’17: “I interned at Heartland Hospice and Home Healthcare. This experience was wonderful at giving me a chance to see my field in action, and get that hands on experience. I learned a lot and was in charge of a couple projects for the organization, and it really helped to prepare me for real life after college. This was like a little reality check as to what life will be like outside of the Alma bubble. I learned that emotional intelligence is a huge part of your everyday life in a business setting.”

Business Administration major Sara Stemen ’17: “I had an internship with Friends of the Parks as part of a semester at The Chicago Center. I learned so much about myself professionally and personally. I have gained confidence and independence that I never would have been able to do in Alma or in my hometown. It has also made me more sure about my choice of major and what I plan to do with it once I graduate from Alma!”

Accounting
Business Administration
Economics
Finance
Health Care Administration
International Business Administration
Management
Marketing
Pre-Law

Sara Stemen ’17 interned with Friends of the Parks in Chicago.

32 Business students have received Alma Venture awards
Community Partnerships
“Over thirty years, GGDI has provided 33 Alma students the chance to learn and develop skills in a professional business environment. GGDI has also benefited significantly from each intern’s unique innovation, talent and expertise. Ultimately, this valuable partnership has been a tremendous benefit to the entire Gratiot community and GGDI and is a positive trend that will continue in the future.”
- Kasey Zehner (’13), project coordinator, Greater Gratiot Development, Inc.

Applied Learning Opportunities
“Brooks was able to grasp many aspects of the business that can’t be taught in a classroom. Our simulated trading experience allowed him to gain some knowledge of equity and energy markets and how they react to global news/events.”
- Lead GCC Analyst, CME Group

Business Students’ Ventures
Here is the full list of Venture experiences that Business majors have pursued:

Internships
- CME Group, Chicago
- Friends of the Parks, Chicago
- Greater Gratiot Development, Inc.
- Heartland Hospice and Home Care
- Philadelphia Center
- VALIC, Chicago

Study Abroad
- Europa-Kolleg Kassel, Germany
- GEO Language and Culture, Segovia, Spain
- Regent’s University London, England
- University of Wollongong, Australia

Spring Term Courses
- BIO 180/380 - Medical Ethnobotany of the Amazon
- BUS 380 - Strategic Leadership
- BUS 433 - Exploring Health Disparities
- HUM 180 - Holocaust and Cold War in Berlin
- POL 115/315 - Ethnic Politics-Scotland
- POL 127/327 - Presidential Library Research

STC 012 - New Zealand Experience
STC 014 - Bustle and Grit-China and its People
ENV 380 - Comparative Sustainable Development: MI and the EU
REL 180/380 - Martin Luther and Reformation
IPH 380 - Meals on Wheels

“Throughout the class we met with successful and distinguished Alma College alumni who gave us insight on what it means to be successful in business.”
- Business Administration major Lars Murray ‘18 participated in the in the class Strategic Leadership.

I think I have gained critical thinking skills that will last my entire life.”
- Business Administration major Miranda Stutzman ‘16 studied at Regents University London
Where have Creative Studies and Performing Arts students Ventured?

**English and New Media studies major Zachary Baker ’18:** “I participated in the spring term course Intro to Creative Writing in Key West, FL. As an English major, I feel as though this is one of the most valuable experiences a young writer could have. I think the habit Professor Vest has forced us students into (that is: writing every single day) is a habit I will take to my grave.”

**Art History and Museum Studies (POE) major Hannah Hilditch ’17:** “I studied abroad at the Alliance Française in Paris, France. In the future, I would like to become a museum curator, so communication skills are necessary, foreign language skills are extremely useful, and firsthand knowledge of the objects of my research is irreplaceable. I feel more capable in travel, in academics, and in life. I also learned how to manage stress and when to take action versus when to let it go.”

**New Media Studies major Allie Koning ’16:** “The most influential thing I learned [during the spring term course Photojournalism/Documentary in Southern Spain] was that communication does not necessarily always have to do with language. I was able to have conversations using gestures, body language, and facial expressions even with the language barrier. It definitely improved my photography skills and my communication of culture with my photography. I think that this trip expanded my portfolio and bettered my photography skills.”

**Art and New Media Studies major Jodie Sabo ’17:** “[After taking the spring term course Backpack Filmmaking in Italy,] I am definitely more comfortable with a camera and how to experiment even in stressful situations. I will be able to apply this towards future projects by managing tasks and staying open to new solutions.”

**New Media Studies major Aaron Leonard ’17:** “This experience was extremely valuable to me as I was able to both grow in my creativity and my technical camera skills. Being able to experience and capture the feel of a culture with my camera [during the Backpack Filmmaking spring term course] was an amazing experience. I want to travel and incorporate photography and media-based work with my career after college. This experience will help my future academic and career goals by allowing me to capture some amazing images and video clips that I will be able to place in my portfolio.”

**Art and Design**
**Art History**
**Dance**
**English**
**Music**
**New Media Studies**
**Theatre**
**Writing**

**Brianne Schafer photographed Ray Visser ’15 on the 2015 spring term course Backpack Filmmaking in Italy.**

### Alma Venture

**2015 and 2016**

**Creative Studies students have received Alma Venture awards**
Advice for future interns...
Anna was so professional – she set the bar pretty high!
My advice for students seeking internships:
- Make sure you are prepared for a professional work environment
- Meet your commitments
- Have a “can do” attitude

-Sara Sternberger
Executive Director
Free Arts Minnesota

Students’ Venture Experiences

Here is the full list of Venture experiences that Creative Studies and Performing Arts majors have pursued:

Internships
- Free Arts Minnesota, MN
- Cecchetti Teacher’s Seminar (Dance)

Off-Campus Study
- Alliance Française, Paris, France
- The New Group (off-Broadway), through New York Arts Program

Spring Term Courses
- ART380/NMS380 - Photojournalism/Documentary in Southern Spain
- ENG 190/290/390 - Intro to Creative Writing
- HUM 180 - Holocaust and Cold War in Berlin
- NMS 380 - Backpack Filmmaking
- STC 012 - New Zealand Experience

“I focused on nonverbal communication and the tone in people’s voices to understand what they were trying to communicate. Bringing this thought process back to the United States has helped become a more effective observer and communicator. I will use this skill every day.”
- Patrick Mallet ’17

“The Cecchetti Teacher’s Seminar was one of the best experiences of my life. Whereas before I was a bit cautious with my teaching because I wasn’t sure if I was doing and saying the right things, now I feel confident as a [ballet] teacher.”
- Dance and Accounting major Laura Lowe ’17
Where have Communication, English, Philosophy, and Writing students Ventured?

English and New Media Studies major Zachary Baker ’18: “I participated in the spring term course Intro to Creative Writing in Key West, FL. As an English major, I feel as though this is one of the most valuable experiences a young writer could have. I think the habit Professor Vest has forced us students into (that is: writing every single day) is a habit I will take to my grave.”

Communication major Victoria Coykendall ’17: “I took the spring term course Holocaust and Cold War in Berlin. The most important thing that I have learned is that the story of the Holocaust must be shared. I would definitely recommend this experience because it is so important to understand what individuals are capable of doing to each other and the best way to prevent such atrocities is to study our history.”

Communication major Karen Flesh ’18: “I participated in the spring term course Environmental and Risk Communication. This trip helped me understand how communication with other nations, organizations, and people are vital for bringing awareness to any topic. Being active on social media, hosting summits or conventions, and talking with all sorts of people is what solidified my choice to being a Communication major.”

Communication major Steven Luomala-Kipp ’17: “I interned with the Tri-City Lightning softball team. This season helped my communication skills tremendously. I also began to understand that coaching is NOT about making everybody happy. You have to do what you know is right for your team and its players. I am seriously considering coaching as a career so this experience helped me realize how much I enjoy it. I built a good foundation of skills, and I know how I want to coach a team from here on out.”

English and German major Deve Wishart ’18: “I studied at the University of Heidelberg, Germany. Studying abroad is something I recommend to everyone. There is no better way to broaden one’s horizons while learning so much about oneself. I will cherish the time I was able to spend in Germany and I hope that others may be given this same opportunity to explore the world.”

ENGLISH MAJOR ELIZABETH WEBB ’17 STUDIED ABROAD IN PARIS, FRANCE

“Where Will You Venture?”

Communication
English
Philosophy
Writing

15 Critical Thought and Analysis students have received Alma Venture awards

Steven Luomala-Kipp ’17 worked with the Tri-City Lightning softball team.
Internship a win-win situation
“I would like to thank Alma College and Steven Kipp for this opportunity. This was a great experience for myself and the organization. Steven represented himself and Alma College at the highest level.”
- Bill Henderson, Tri-City Lightning

Students’ Venture Experiences

Here is the full list of Venture experiences that Critical Thought and Analysis majors have pursued:

Internships
- Tri-City Lighting
- Women’s Resource Center of Traverse City

Study Abroad
- Alliance Française language immersion, Paris, France
- GEO Liberal Arts in London, England
- University of Heidelberg, Germany

Spring Term Courses
- ENG 190/290/390 - Intro to Creative Writing
- COM 253/353 - Environmental and Risk Communication
- HUM 180 - Holocaust and Cold War in Berlin
- MUS 380 - Alma Choir Ireland Tour
- STC 014 - Bustle and Grit-China and its People
- PSY 280D - Origins of Psychology
- HST 180C/380C - China: History and Culture

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This experience gave me a perspective on life that one cannot get by staying in the same corner of the world that one grew up in.”
- English major Taylor McAllister ‘16 took the spring term course China: History and Culture. (Photo by Bergen Jome)
Where have Education students Ventured?

Educational Studies major Margaret Atwater ’17: “This experience [at Silver Bay YMCA] has shown me that working with children is still what I want to do with my life. I want to help further children’s knowledge and show them that every child can learn.”

Special Education major Calin Deck ’17: “Not only will I be able to share my stories and better inform those around me of the conditions of a third world country such as Rwanda, but [as a result of my independent study at Kigali International Community School in Rwanda,] I will be able to better communicate with English language learners.”

Music Education major Rachel Dobyns ’18: “I spent over 150 hours in the Kigali International Community School, where I mostly observed. Towards the end of my time, I was able to teach a few lessons which I have never done before. The supervising teacher gave me feedback and tips to help me teach better in the future. Not only did I get to work with students and teachers, but I got to do it in a new and amazing place. Teaching placements near Alma allow learning in the classroom, but in Rwanda, you are always experiencing something new in or out of school.”

Secondary Education major Laura Kelly ’17: “In my career as a Spanish teacher, the experiences I had during my study abroad at the Academia Latinoamericana in Peru will be invaluable. I had first-hand experiences in a Spanish-speaking country, had a language immersion program to help me provide a more authentic Spanish class, and lived with a Peruvian family to better understand the culture.”

Education major Julia Palaian ’17: “To plan an independent study abroad program [at the Our Lady of Armenia Orphanage in Gyumri, Armenia,] took much work and determination, but this was something I truly envisioned for myself. My efforts paid off and my journey to Armenia was the experience of a lifetime.”

Secondary Education major Deve Wishart ’18: “I studied at the University of Heidelberg, Germany. Studying abroad is something I recommend to everyone. There is no better way to broaden one’s horizons while learning so much about oneself. I will cherish the time I was able to spend in Germany and I hope that others may be given this same opportunity to explore the world.”

“Where have Education students Ventured?”

Early Childhood Education
Elementary Education
Secondary Education
Special Education - Learning Disabilities
Educational Studies

15 Education students have received Alma Venture awards
Alumni Ambassadors

“It is so special to me that a connection is being made between Kigali International Community School and Alma College. It has been an honor to be a part of both schools and it means so much to me that the two are partnering for these internships and a future spring term class.” – Kelsey Merz ’11

Education major Matilda Ennis ’18 and education alumna Kelsey Merz ’11 at Akagera Safari Park in Rwanda

Students’ Venture Experiences

Here is the full list of Venture experiences that Education majors have pursued:

**Internships**
- Kigali International Community School, Rwanda
- Silver Bay YMCA of the Adirondacks

**Study Abroad**
- Academia Latinoamericana in Ecuador and/or Peru
- University of Heidelberg, Germany

**Spring Term Courses**
- BUS 380 - Strategic Leadership
- EDC 180 - Teaching in Informal Settings
- HUM 180 - Holocaust and Cold War in Berlin
- MUS 380 - Alma Choir Ireland Tour
- STC 012 - New Zealand Experience
- STC 014 - Bustle and Grit-China and its People

**Volunteer/Independent Study**
- Our Lady of Armenia Orphanage, Gyumri, Armenia
- Kigali International Community School, Rwanda
- Beyond Sports Soccer Program, Costa Rica

“You need to get out and interact with students in different environments to truly prepare you for a career in teaching.”
- Secondary Education major Alyse Townsend ’18 worked with children in Chicago during the spring term course Teaching in Informal Settings

This will be a great addition to my resume as I want to teach overseas after college.” - Music Education major Rachel Nemeth ’17 leading a music class at the Kigali International Community School, Rwanda

**FAST FACTS**

93% Percent of students who applied to the Venture Program since 2014 who received a Venture award.

$2,357 Average amount awarded to Venture recipients

181 Number of Venture awards approved in 2015 and 2016.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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Where have Global and Cultural Studies students Ventured?

Anthropology major Ashleigh Strand ’17: "I think that this experience [as an interning archaeologist at the Castle Museum] will help my future academic and career goals because now I have experience in working in a museum and I know how to use a database common among museums. I learned how to not be intimidated and shy and to just ask questions instead of holding them in."

Art History and Museum Studies (POE) major Hannah Hilditch ’17: "I studied abroad at the Alliance Française in Paris, France. I feel more capable in travel, in academics, and in life. This trip was challenging in new ways day to day. So, I also learned how to manage stress and when to take action versus when to let it go."

Anthropology and History major Reanna Averill ’18: "I am studying abroad at Ewha Women’s University in Seoul, South Korea and I have definitely grown academically. I have also gone out of my comfort zone to try new things, make new friends and discover some favorite foods."

Anthropology and Political Science major Luke Ashton ’17: "I participated in an archeological dig in Sozopol, Bulgaria, through the Institute for Field Research. I got to have an experience in a foreign country that was very unfamiliar with, allowing me to gain valuable travel, communication and social skills. The archeological dig associated with the trip gave me an extraordinary insight into archeology abroad, the careers associated with ancient archaeology, and the ability to test my anthropological and archaeological skills in a real-world environment."

Foreign Service and Spanish major Samantha Kulhanek ’17: "I took the spring term course Leadership in the Law of War, Conflict Resolution, and Human Rights. This experience has made me more motivated in achieving my academic goals, specifically in my goal of becoming fluent in Spanish as I have realized how important learning a second language is and how helpful it can be in my future career. It has also helped me decide what track I would like to take after Alma and I am now strongly considering pursuing my J.D. and my master’s in international studies in a dual-degree program at a law school."

"I have become so independent, so much more culturally aware, and I feel that I am much more prepared to take on the world after college."
- Spanish and Math major McKenzie Fox ’17

American Studies
Anthropology
French
German
History
Religious Studies
Sociology
Spanish
Women’s and Gender Studies

14 Global and Cultural Studies students have received Alma Venture awards
Hands-On Experience

“Ashleigh gained experience in excavation, interpretation and documentation in the field and in the lab, experience processing and handling artifacts, record-keeping and using museum database software. Ashleigh was a great representative for Alma College.”

Jeffrey D. Sommer
Curator of Archaeology
Historical Society of Saginaw County

Students’ Venture Experiences

Here is the full list of Venture experiences that Global and Cultural Studies majors have pursued:

**Internships**
- Castle Museum, Saginaw MI

**Field Work/Research**
- Institute for Field Research, Sozopol, Bulgaria

**Study Abroad**
- Academia Latinoamericana, Ecuador and Peru
- Alliance Française Language Immersion, Paris, France
- CIEE Warsaw, Poland – Central European Studies
- Ewha Women’s University, Seoul, South Korea
- GEO Spanish Language and Culture, Segovia, Spain
- Spanish Studies Abroad in Seville, Spain
- HUM 180 – Holocaust and Cold War in Berlin
- STC 012 – New Zealand
- MUS 380 – Alma Choir Ireland Tour
- REL 380 – Martin Luther and Reformation
- PAF 350/450 - Leadership in the Law of War, Conflict Resolution and Human Rights

“I learned that not all cultures are the same, but sometimes they can be very similar in certain aspects of everyday life.”

- Anthropology major Bryan Schutte ’17 took the spring term course Martin Luther and the Reformation

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Where have Government, Policy and Pre-Law students Ventured?

**Political Science and Anthropology major Luke Ashton ’17:** “I participated in an archaeological dig in Sozopol, Bulgaria, through the Institute for Field Research. I got to have an experience in a foreign country that I was very unfamiliar with, allowing me to gain valuable travel, communication, and social skills. The archaeological dig associated with the trip gave me a unique insight into archaeology abroad, the careers associated with ancient archaeology, and the ability to test my anthropological and archaeological skills in a real-world environment.”

**Anthropology and History major Reanna Averill ’18:** “I am studying abroad at Ewha Women’s University in Seoul, South Korea and I have definitely grown academically. I have also gone out of my comfort zone to try new things, make new friends and discover some favorite foods.”

**Political Science and Psychology major Erika Brown ’17:** “I participated in the spring term course China: History and Culture. I think the most important thing I learned through my experience was that other countries do not share the same values that I am used to, and that is okay. I now see the world in a very different way and I have become more open minded.”

**Foreign Service major Samantha Kulhanek ’17:** “[Participating in the spring term course Leadership in the Law of War, Conflict Resolution, and Human Rights] has made me more motivated to achieve my academic goals, specifically in my goal of becoming fluent in Spanish as I have realized how important learning a second language is and how helpful it can be in my future career. It has also helped me decide what track I would like to take after Alma and I am now strongly considering pursuing my J.D. and my master’s in international studies in a dual-degree program at a law school.”

**Political Science and Economics major Kelsey Postema ’18:** “My favorite part [of the spring term course Ethnic Politics – Scotland] was getting to spend time in Edinburgh and talk to people who work in their parliament. This experience has encouraged me to make other choices like this one that will help to set me apart from other applicants and students in internships as I start to think about my goals after Alma College.”

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“"This summer really helped me figure out what I want to do. I want to go back to Washington, D.C. to work on the Hill. I absolutely love the work and the fast pace at which everything moves.” - Jessica Isler
Students’ Venture Experiences

Here is the full list of Venture experiences that Government, Policy, and Law majors have pursued:

Internships

- Senator Debbie Stabenow’s (D-MI) Office – Washington, D.C.
- New York Arts Program

Field Work/Research

- Institute for Field Research, Sozopol, Bulgaria

Study Abroad

- Ewha Women’s University, Seoul, South Korea

"I was able to see the organizations I’ve been studying and how a day-to-day job there would work. It was pretty inspiring and allowed me to make some more concrete goals."

– Megan Isom (pictured here with Marianna Smith) participated in the spring term course Leadership in the Law of War, Conflict Resolution and Human Rights

Spring Term Courses

- HUM 180 - Holocaust and Cold War in Berlin
- HST 180C/380C - China: History and Culture
- MUS 380 - Alma Choir Ireland Tour
- PAF 350/450, Pol 380, HST 280 - Leadership in the Law of War, Conflict Resolution and Human Rights
- POL 127/327 - Presidential Library Research
- POL 115/315 - Ethnic Politics-Scotland
- STC 014 - Bustle and Grit-China and its People

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"My experience with Flying Doctors of America has forever changed my outlook on our health care system and the medical profession."
- IPH and Nursing major Taylor Tripp ’16

Where have Science and Health students Ventured?

Biology and Chemistry major James Arden ’17: “I was a veterinary assistant at the Clarksion Animal Medical Center. In my internship I performed restraints, ran analysis instrumentation, filled prescriptions, observed surgeries, took x-rays and performed some blood draws. The more clinics that I can shadow and work at the more of an understanding I will have of the differences in the treatment centers which will allow me to decide which track I would like to pursue in veterinary school.”

Computer Science major Earl Carr ’16: “I had a wonderful experience at Auto- Owners Insurance, and I have accepted a full time position beginning when I graduate in December. I learned about the technologies used in a corporate IT infrastructure. Students do not have the opportunity to work with a large IT infrastructure in a classroom setting.”

Psychology major Kayla Holz ’17: “I completed a clinical internship with Huron Behavioral Health. I learned the key differences between the main departments at a community mental health center while working alongside some of the workers there. My experience will help guide me towards my graduate school programs and narrowing down which part of social work I am most interested in.”

Environmental Policy major Jessica Isler ’17: “I was a political intern in the Office of Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) in Washington, DC. Prior to this experience, I wasn’t exactly sure what I wanted to do when I graduated. This summer really helped me figure out what I want to do - go back to Washington, DC, at least for a couple years to work on the Hill. I absolutely love the work and the fast pace with which everything moves.”

Mathematics and Physics major Cameron Spitzfaden ’17: “I completed an NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) at the University of Kentucky Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering. I primarily worked with micro/nanofabrication techniques, as well as optics techniques. In addition, the program helped me develop non-technical skills such as oral and poster presentations, as well as reviewing technical literature. Both of these are important in an academic career, and practicing now will help me work more efficiently in the future.”
Alumni Ambassadors

“This program with Flying Doctors of America will continue inviting nursing students to travel to different countries and learn from experienced doctors and nurses on how to give medical care without the luxury of x-rays, blood workups and using your skills to diagnose and treat patients.

Taylor Tripp did a great job on the medical mission to Jordan. She worked in dental and in pharmacy. We interacted with other medical students from Jordan and she was able to grasp the culture and get along with the Jordanian volunteers.”

- Michael Altman ’80 Chairman/CEO Flying Doctors of America

Venture recipient Alesia Ven Israel with 2015 Flying Doctors Chairman/CEO Altman - the Jordanian volunteers.

“I’ve always known that I love animals and that I want to do whatever I can to help them, but now that I’ve had this experience, I know this is where I belong.”

- Biology major Kyle Kansman ’17 was an animal rehabilitation intern at the Mote Marine Laboratory, FL.

Students’ Venture Experiences

Clinical Experiences
- Flying Doctors of America
- Huron Behavioral Health

Internships
- Auto-Owners Insurance
- Bird Center of Washtenaw County
- Clarkston Animal Medical Center
- Detroit Zoological Society
- Entertainment Cruises, Chicago
- Lexington Hospital for Cats
- Mote Marine Laboratory
- Senator Debbie Stabenow’s (D-MI) Office, Washington, D.C.
- Weiss Memorial Hospital (via The Chicago Center)

Research
- Alma College summer research with Dr. Aiken
- Alma College summer research with Dr. Ball
- Alma College summer research with Dr. Stupica
- University of Kentucky Center for Muscle Biology
- University of Kentucky Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering

Study Abroad
- Academia Latinoamericana, Ecuador and/or Peru
- Alliance Française, Paris, France
- Beyond Sports Soccer Program, Costa Rica
- Goethe Insitut, Germany

Spring Term Courses
- ANT 180, BIO-180/380 - Medical Ethnobotany of the Amazon
- BIO 180/380 - Bird Migration around the Great Lakes

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2016 spring term class – Medical Ethnobotany of the Amazon, Ecuador