

Dear Class of '55,

I greatly thank you all for your contributions that make the Class of '55 award possible. With your help, I was able to spend the month of October conducting a research project in a lowland rainforest. It was an amazing experience I will never forget and you helped make it possible.

My trip to Peru has shaped both my growth as a Cornell student and my future goals as a Cornell graduate. My colleagues and I were able to design and conduct an experiment investigating the courtship behaviors of the fruit fly, *Blepharoneura*. As a student, I learned more about the scientific method and exercised my analytical thought process. By conducting a student led research project I gained these valuable skills necessary for a future in biological research. It peaked my excitement for a career as both a field biologist so I can explore the natural world, and as a professor so I can share my love of biology with others.

I have included some photos of my trip highlighting some of my favorite memories. Again, thank you so much for providing me with this wonderful opportunity, it truly helped open a door for me.

Happy Trails,  
Laura (LB) Blythe



