The Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA believes that archaeology can be a transforming force for the global community. As part of this philosophy, we are launching a major Archaeology Field Schools Program that will allow students to choose from a range of locations and projects where they can put archaeological methods and theory into practice. Participants will come to a better understanding of the discipline and of the world through immersion in archaeological practice and local culture. Covering a wide swath of ancient time periods, the field schools are directed by leading scholars. Each offers 12 units of UCLA credit. Four these field schools are in South America:

1. Argentina – A museology field school, this is a joint project with the National Natural History Museum at La Plata and UCLA. The project is directed by Dr. Barbara Balesta from the University of La Plata. Its focus is on north–west Argentina archaeological collections and their presentation to the public. For information and enrollment, visit http://www.archaeology.ucla.edu/Argentina/overview.htm.

2. Chile – This field school is part of a major research initiative at the Tarapaca Valley at the heart of the Atacama Desert in northern Chile. Its temporal focus is on the Middle Horizon (Late Formative) to the Late Horizon (Inca) occupation of the valley, and it is directed by Dr. Ran Boytner from UCLA. The project is a joint UCLA, University of Chicago and Universidad de Chile effort. In addition to field archaeology, there will be a pre–conservation field school, directed by Dr. Ioanna Kakoulli from UCLA. Information about the pre–conservation field school will be available only after Jan. 1, 2008, but inquiries may be directed to Dr. Kakoulli at kakoulli@ucla.edu.

3. Peru – This field school is focused on the Sacred Valley of the Incas and the Late Horizon. A period of study of the Inca, their empire and its emergence to dominance will culminate with a four day track to the Lost City of the Inca at Machu Picchu. This project is directed by Dr. Alexei Vranich from the University of...
Pennsylvania.~ For information, see http://www.archaeology.ucla.edu/Peru/overview.htm.

4. Ecuador – This field school is focused on the Inca's last frontier and a place of continued struggle between the empire and the Ecuadorian tribes of the north.~ Warfare and resistance are constant research and exploration themes.~ This project is deeply embedded within local communities and careful attention is given to the study and understanding of modern indigenous populations as well.~ This project is directed by Dr. Sam Connell from Foothill College.~ For information and enrollment, visit http://www.archaeology.ucla.edu/Ecuador/overview.htm.

All field schools are priced to attract students from a wide range of colleges and universities.~ No previous experience is required.~ For all those interested, please visit our web site at http://www.archaeology.ucla.edu/.

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