

# SPORTS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2017

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## Cross country ventures to Peru

KRISTIAN EVANS, SPORTS EDITOR

The Augsburg cross country team traveled to Peru over winter break to both build team chemistry and do some sightseeing. The trip, organized through a company called Strive, saw the Auggies spend a week working with a service group to help restore Incan ruins by planting trees, cleaning up trash and digging irrigation trenches.

After a long flight and a quick stay in a hostel, the team moved to the site of their restoration project in the city of Cusco, 11,152 feet above sea level.

With all the travel and activity, some of the team expressed difficulty in slowing down to smell the

roses. "The most challenging part of the trip was taking the time to really soak in the fact that I was experiencing something so extraordinary," sophomore Caitlin Olson said.

Trips like these have a tendency to push people out of their comfort zones; this one was no different as the team was forced to rely on mostly Spanish to get around.

In addition, many of the basic necessities available in the U.S. were not to be found in the remote parts of Peru. Instead the team poured themselves into their work, helping to foster environmental growth by planting indigenous trees.

After completing their

part of the restoration project, the team used their last days to do some adventuring. A highlight of the adventuring was a bike trip through the mountains, which resulted in a fair share of adrenaline rushes.

Ben Erickson, a sophomore on the team, described one such intense moment in a bike ride down the face of a mountain. "The ride consisted of biking through rivers, navigating numerous switchbacks and an almost near-death experience involving one of our teammates," Erickson said. "Despite all this, the views were stunning and it was the first time I could say I biked through a cloud." That near-death

experience is chronicled in this week's Features section with a piece from Taylor Morton, the runner who experienced the scare.

Overall, the team returned from Peru with some perspective and has grown closer as a unit. According to Erickson, closer can be used in a literal sense. "I feel trips like these are beneficial in forming closer relationships with your team," Erickson said. "Nothing gets a team closer than cramming into a tiny bathroom to brush your teeth."

### UPCOMING SPORTS EVENTS

#### Friday, February 3

Women's Swimming & Diving at University of Minnesota Challenge  
6:00 p.m. Minneapolis, MN

Women's Ice Hockey vs Hamline University  
7:00 p.m. Minneapolis, MN

Men's Ice Hockey at Hamline University  
7:00 p.m. St. Paul, MN

#### Saturday, February 4

Women's/Men's Track and Field at Bethel University  
Gene Gladder Classic  
11:00 a.m. Arden Hills, MN

Women's Basketball at Carleton College  
1:00 p.m. Northfield, MN

For more information about Augsburg College athletics, players and upcoming events please visit:  
[athletics.augsburg.edu](http://athletics.augsburg.edu)

