



## The Transformation of The Pangaea Project's 2009 Participants



It can take a lot to make that first step towards change, but once you've begun, you can only move onto greater things. These are the people who will have a big impression on my heart. These are the people that let me know that change is achievable. That leadership is possible and that I can be that leader. I can be that one to make the change happen. It is all up to me.

Carly Jo, Thailand Program Graduate



Through The Pangaea Project, I have gained so much awareness about other people in the world and what kind of effect I have on them and their lives. I learned also about who I am and have taken it on myself to be a better person as I grow older because of the good-hearted people I have met.

Mila, Ecuador Program Graduate



I was personally impacted by the hospitality of the Ecuadorians. The way that they were so willing to let a stranger into their home and even feed them. Never have I met a group of people who were so genuinely nice. Also, I was impacted by the drive of people facing oil and copper threats to find an alternative source of income. They avoid these transnational corporations so that they can preserve their land and homes.

Adrion, Ecuador Program Graduate



One of the biggest reasons that I decided to join Pangaea is because I can just imagine how much it will help me develop as an individual and expand my global awareness more in depth, allowing me to see what I can do on my behalf. I really hope to expand and grow as a person and that it will allow me to see things in a different way.

Francisco, Thailand Program Graduate



Being in The Pangaea Project impacted me profoundly. It has opened my eyes and brought on a new perspective of who I am and where I want to go in life. Most of all on how I spend my money and on what. I've been more concentrated on being involved in the community and trying as best I can to go green. Going to Ecuador has really changed me.

Sarah, Ecuador Program Graduate





It wasn't until we actually went over there, farmed with Thai people, and heard directly from farmers that the things we learned in Portland about the green revolution made sense. Learning about it in Portland is not the same as going. The trip made it more real to me. I've completely changed my eating habits and don't eat fast food anymore. I'm starting a garden to grow and cook my own food, and my goal now is to teach other Portland youth about our impact on the planet as an Environmental Educator.

Jazmin, Thailand Program Graduate

## Graduate Corner

See what our Graduates are doing



Autumn, 2006 Ecuador Graduate

A member of the inaugural group of Pangaea participants, Autumn attended Franklin High School where she favored

Global Studies and developed an interest in the world. Autumn never thought that college was for her until she participated in Pangaea's 2006 Environmental Justice program in Portland and Ecuador. A motivated young woman, she procured a full scholarship to the Evergreen State College, for all three years she has studied there. As a full time student, Autumn is studying Consciousness, Art, and Matter and working as a Lead for Residential and Dining (R.A.D.) Services at the school. She looks forward to graduating in 2011 and putting her leadership skills to use in the community.

Dan, 2008 Ecuador Graduate

Dan joined the 2008 Ecuador program as a member of the Student Representing Body and a star student at Open Meadow Alternative School. His experiences with The Pangaea Project in Ecuador altered him dramatically. He knows he wants to be more deeply involved with the non-profit community and to make a difference in Portland. Before immersing himself in the community, though, Dan took advantage of a partnership that Pangaea has with Carpe Diem Education, a locally-based organization that facilitates three-month international service journeys. Dan became one of Carpe Diem's first full scholarship recipients and is spending the fall of 2009 in Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda. Dan has volunteered at Soft Power preschool in Kampala, seen chimpanzees in Rwanda's Murchinson



Falls National Park, gone on safari in at Terenggerri National Park in Tanzania, and worked with youth affected by HIV/AIDS with Youth Encouragement Services in Uganda. He will certainly return with a global perspective and the leadership skills to take on change at home.



It changed me. Before I entered this program, I didn't know if I would follow up. After one month abroad and being in a different country, it changed my whole perspective on me and my life. Now I'm at home helping my mom garden early in the morning. It brings back memories of planting during our homestay. Now I don't want to spend my money on junk food when I could grow my own food and eat it.

David, Ecuador Program Graduate



The experience makes me want to do more things and help people. I want to go to other places and learn about the issues. I want to be a part of something bigger than myself. Normally, I'd be like, "That's their problem," but now I want to do something. I think outside the box now.

Jessica, Ecuador Program Graduate



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This program really opened my eyes on different things and how people live. I don't judge people anymore on how they look or what they do because I realized that there are so many different people out there. I look at things a lot different, and for me, ever since I got back, people say I've matured a lot. Before I was afraid to do things and I wanted to stay home in my comfort zone, but now not at all.

Ty, Ecuador Program Graduate

