

AMIGOS DEL SUR FORMER STUDENTS

AMIGOS DEL SUR

Institute for Cultures, Languages, and International Service
(Buenos Aires, Denver, Brazil, Colombia)

MAX SZOLLOSI (AMISUR 2010)

Amigos del Sur is by far the best name for this program, because in the end what the students gain most are lifelong friends and great memories, all obtained while learning Spanish. To say the least, this program puts its students in the most fun and real life situations for learning the language. Your lesson doesn't start when you get to class, but as soon as you wake up. The students are forced to learn how to get through the city, by using the subway, the train, and asking real life people for directions. It may sound hard or scary at first, but this process really helps to let the students assimilate to the city.

One of my best experiences on this trip was simply getting lost in the city, merely to find myself in the end. This trip helped me to see life in another way. Getting to live with a foreign family helped me to see the things that are most important in my life. It was truly a cleansing experience.

I must warn the future applicants that this trip isn't for the average person. You must have passion, drive, and determination to fully take advantage of all the classes and experiences this trip has to offer. You need to go with the flow, and say "yes" to every opportunity offered to you. With those simple elements you are guaranteed to have the time of your life and learn a lot of Spanish while doing it.

Thank you to all of the staff of Amigos del Sur for making my trip amazing. You have truly become friends and family which I will remember forever. I highly recommend this program to anyone who's looking for a once in a life time experience.

Max Szollosi

Email: actionpackedmax@yahoo.com

AMY BOLGER (AMISUR 2010)

Going to Argentina through the program AMIGOS DEL SUR has been of the best experiences of my life. On top of being full of fun and laughter, I have learned so much about the culture and the history of Argentina and my Spanish has improved drastically. It is a total immersion program that I don't think any classroom setting could top. In addition, I have formed lifelong friendships that I may have otherwise not been able to have. Andrés is the best teacher, full of life, compassion, and love. I highly recommend this program to anyone who wants to learn Spanish and travel abroad.

Amy Bolger

Email: ditzyaaims@yahoo.com

DEB COTÉ (AMISUR 2010)

This program is by far the best possible language immersion program ever conceived. I am unable to even describe the immense gains this program has offered me even beyond language acquisition, but the advantage of learning Spanish amidst native speakers cannot be underestimated. If you are at all considering studying abroad, do it! The best way is through the knowledgeable, patient, and caring professors and directors of AMIGOS DEL SUR. I had the opportunity to converse with participants of other programs based in Buenos Aires and other programs do not compare. AMIGOS DEL SUR allows you to be not only a student, but also a resident of Buenos Aires—as only this program allows. Far beyond tourism, this program allows you to experience Buenos Aires as a true "porteño."

Deb Coté

Email: debdebaplomb@yahoo.com

BILL FARRITOR (AMISUR 2009)

I was by far and away the oldest of our 5 member group. I think we all had a great time and I was able to participate well in all activities. The time and money spent on my eight weeks in Buenos Aires were well spent. It was an adventure every week and a great and enjoyable learning experience. The program was fast paced to match the fast paced life-style of Buenos Aires. You get to know Andrés and his colleagues as friends and associates. Andrés presents a nicely balanced mix of Spanish grammar and local history with an emphasis on the several famous Argentinean women. The recent wars and dictatorships are another topic I found very interesting. Wine classes, cooking and sign painting classes and weekend day trips were great activities enjoyed with local people. The food is varied with lots of beef and with a great Italian influence. Beef is the national food of Argentina and pizza comes in a close second tied with empanadas. I enjoyed all aspects of the program, especially the architectural tours of the city which has a look and feel of the old architecture of major European cities. A great weekend pastime I found very enjoyable and unique to the city was visiting the street fairs and markets. They sell leather goods, locally made jewelry and textiles, food and food goods. The street performers and musician at these fairs are very entertaining and some fairs have traditional Argentina street dancing. Another great aspect of Buenos Aires is theater. I attended 2 enjoyable plays and could have seen many more at very reasonable prices. My stay in Buenos Aires, June, July, and August 2009, was a memorable time!!

Biography.— Bill Farritor lives in Aurora, Colorado, and is still taking Andrés’s classes at The University of Colorado Denver. In fall 2009, he took Ibero-American Cultures through Films (SPAN 3230) and in spring 2010, he took Advanced Conversation and Composition (SPAN 3020). Email: Slowrdr62@aol.com

ILONA DAVIS (AMISUR 2008)

I have always enjoyed traveling and seeing different parts of the world. I knew I wanted to travel this summer, but I didn’t know where, so when I saw the poster for *Amigos del Sur* I was interested in the program. I went to the meeting in late February and I decided the next day that I wanted to participate in AmiSur. I chose to go to Argentina because it was an excellent opportunity to travel (I had never been to South America before) and a great way to improve my Spanish.

Buenos Aires is a huge, multicultural city. It is more or less easy to navigate (maps are definitely helpful) because there is a big subway network and you can always take a taxi. On weekends I went to street fairs in various neighborhoods, I went to clubs, museums, and restaurants. In addition to the restaurants there are bakeries on almost every corner—they are big temptations, but so delicious! There is so much to do in Buenos Aires, you will never get bored. I also learned to dance a little tango, which was very fun, but I really enjoyed watching the professional dancers (they are amazing).

I had a busy schedule, but I learned a ton about the culture of Argentina. My favorite classes were poetry, architecture, and filete (a particular style of painting). The professors were wonderful and very knowledgeable in their subjects. Apart from classes, there are also opportunities to travel outside of the city. I went to the waterfalls in Iguazú and a little gaucho town, San Antonio de Areco. It was really nice to get out of the city for a few days.

I was really nervous about speaking so much Spanish, but the people in Argentina are so nice and helpful—they encourage speaking the language. My *castellano* improved significantly and now I am very excited to travel to more Spanish-speaking countries and to study abroad in Spain. I have a lot of confidence in my Spanish!

Andrés, of course, is amazing. If I had a problem or was worried about anything, he would immediately help me. It is also nice to know someone who knows the city well. My host mother, “Muchy” (María Ester Lara), was also great. She was so nice and helped me with my Spanish as well as suggested things to do and sights to see.

It was difficult being in a foreign country for so long, but I really enjoyed the experience and got a lot out of it. I will definitely go back to Buenos Aires someday! And I definitely recommend the program to anyone who is interested! You can contact me at davisie@whitman.edu if you have any questions!

Biography.— Ilona Davis studied Spanish Literature with Andrés for a semester and loved his passion and energy in the classroom. Ilona adores traveling and learning about different cultures. As a music major (and Spanish minor), she also enjoys singing as well as cooking and taking walks! Email: davisie@whitman.edu

EMMA FULKERSON (AMISUR 2007)

The experience of *AMIGOS DEL SUR* came at the perfect time for me. I knew that I wanted to study abroad again (I had spent a semester in Madrid the previous fall) but sought a more cultural approach than most big University programs offer. As a recently converted Spanish major, I was worried about my level of fluency in the language and especially needed toning in my colloquial speaking abilities. AMISUR offered me all of this and more. The moment I stepped off the plane I was received with Andrés’ warm greetings and felt an unusual sense of comfort when traveling in a foreign country. My host mother, Francis, could not have possibly been any more hospitable and as a result I NEVER felt homesick (again, something that is rare when outside of one’s native country). In each class I took I learned more than just the course material: in *filete* (a traditional form of Argentine painting), I not only learned how to paint in this style, but through this I learned the history of Tango, how to navigate the *colectivo* (bus system) in order to get to class, and my Spanish greatly improved since the entire class was conducted in the language. Each week I looked forward to my internship at the Henry Moore Institute, where I worked with cancer patients conducting art therapy workshops. Since the elderly patients didn’t speak a word of English, I was forced to speak Spanish and did so in a helpful and encouraging atmosphere. More importantly, I made connections with the *porteño* community and look back on my experience in Buenos Aires knowing that I made a difference in a few lives.

My only criticism of AMISUR is that there is not enough time to do everything! Between stimulating classes and incredible fieldtrips, endless shopping and dance-till-you-drop *boliches* (think *discotecas* with an Argentine flair), meaningful internships, tasty restaurants, caring host families and fun, amazing friends, it can be hard to balance your time!! I can assure you that you will never be bored, and as a result you will have the time of your life experiencing everything that Buenos Aires and AMIGOS DEL SUR have to offer.

Biography.— My name is Emma Fulkerson. I am a senior Spanish major/Politics minor at Whitman College. I was born and raised in Reno, NV and have always had a passion for Spanish and traveling (so AMISUR was the perfect combination for me!). I studied abroad in Madrid, Spain my junior year and have enjoyed being able to study Spanish language and culture in both Europe and South America. If you have any questions, I would love to answer them! I can be reached at fulkerel@whitman.edu

MORGAN BACH (AMISUR 2007)

Traveling to Buenos Aires with the AMIGOS DEL SUR program was an experience I will always cherish as a Spanish student and avid traveler. I have traveled my entire life but am proud to say that *AMIGOS DEL SUR* gave me my first experience abroad as an independent adult. I learned how to navigate a large city on my own--after getting lost for at least two weeks I could point strangers in the right direction—and my knowledge of academic and street-smart Castellano improved daily to the point where I could check my watch and realize I’d been conversing in Spanish for an hour. I had the opportunity to study painting, poetry, tango, cooking, wine tasting, Castellano, and the lives of famous Argentine women from amazing, passionate teachers. Not only are they friendly and fun to be around, but they are also very respected in

their fields. I became fascinated by Borges, Eva Peron, and the tragic history of Argentina's "Dirty War." Being able to explore what I was passionate about through museums, plays, and the people around me was an incredibly empowering feeling, one that has shaped my expectations of myself, my academic life, and my abroad experience. I went to Buenos Aires because my eight years of classroom Spanish had left me with very little confidence in the language. I left *AMIGOS DEL SUR* not only with that, but a new confidence in myself as a student, adult, and traveler.

Biography.— My name is Morgan Bach, and I'm a Race and Ethnic Studies major at Whitman College. I grew up overseas but had no experience with Spanish-speaking countries until my trip to Argentina. I'm now studying Arabic and plan to go to Jordan next spring. Email: bachjm@whitman.edu

ALEX GRAVES (AMISUR 2007)

I think my favorite day of my AMISUR experience was our last fileteado class. We were all finishing up our paintings-masterpieces that we can say we created ourselves. I have no artistic talent whatsoever and Roberto actually helped me create a painting that was unique, my own, and pretty good (if I do say so myself)! I can still smell the paint of his studio, feel the crisp winter air, and hear queen playing in the background. Roberto's friend is on the sidewalk grilling chorizo sausages for us. We had a small buffet of Argentinean wine and cheese, and chori-pan (chorizo in classic yet amazing Argentinean bread). It was a bittersweet goodbye. This is just one of my many amazing experiences from *AMIGOS DEL SUR*. The program was a great opportunity to experience an entirely different culture, and really be on my own. I always had access to teachers and friends and mi mama-Rosa, and yet over the month I developed my own sense of self. I was finally being independent, getting around on my own in a big, bustling city, and it was wonderful. My Spanish certainly improved, along with my cooking, tango, and wine tasting abilities. There is no other program that gives you the kind of opportunities AMISUR does, it is truly a once in a life time chance. Not only did I get to take some great classes and experience a fabulous nightlife for the first time, but I also got to explore the city's many architectural and artistic wonders, work with impoverished children and mothers in Tigre (a suburb of Buenos Aires) and got to know Rosa, mi anfitriona. This is a 75 year old woman with more energy and passion than most people my age. Stevie Wonder, Frank Sinatra, or classic Tango was playing all day long, and I'd often hear her chime in "I've got you, under my skin" with her cute Argentinean accent. Her neighbor, Lumbardo, an adorable little man of 85 years, could sometimes be heard singing classic tango; he used to sing in tango bars "back in the day". Rosa and I had our 8:30 dinner date pretty much every night, and I learned so much just from those glorious little conversations. In an odd way, she made ME feel young! She encouraged me to continue Tango, and would practice with me in her cozy little living room. She also had a sweet tooth just like me, so she'd let me help her make apple strudel or dulce de leche pancakes. She is such a strong, cultured woman, and I will truly never forget her. All of the people I met in AMISUR were one of a kind, and I have formed some great relationships I would have missed out on otherwise. There are so many opportunities to learn with this program, and I hope everyone who wants to go gets the chance to, there is so much to be exposed to and learn.

Biography.— My name is Alex Graves and I'm a sophomore at Whitman College. I'm from the bay area in California, and my parents just moved to Ashland, Oregon. I have taken Spanish for 7 years now, and hope to study abroad in Spain the spring of my junior year. My email is gravesah@whitman.edu, please email me if you have any questions!

MARIA OLDIGES (AMISUR 2006)

When I first found out about AMISUR, I thought it was too good to be true. But the experience was very real. The program caters to such a wide range of interests, and remains loyal to the authenticity of Argentina. I never found myself at a loss of fascinating new opportunities and new modes of learning more about the Argentine, as well as the specific *porteño*, identity. There is nothing superficial about AMISUR for the casual tourist. The learner, however, will find her or himself deeply enriched and increasingly intrigued by all that is encompassed in AMISUR. It almost feels as though it were designed to incite more and more curiosity as the weeks progressed. Armed with outstanding instructors and tangibly cosmopolitan experiences, AMISUR promises to bring its students closer to the very core of what it means to be from Argentina, and for me, it did just that.

Biography.— My name is Maria Kei Oldiges and I am from Poughkeepsie, NY. I study at Cornell where I am in my second year of Development Sociology, in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. I currently work as a waitress, but previously had a volunteer position at the Institute of Ecosystem Studies (IES) in Millbrook, NY. My email address is mko22@cornell.edu if you'd like to contact me and get more information about AMISUR.

TERRY FEDIGAN (AMISUR 2006)

I feel proud to say that my first real trip abroad was to Argentina. In fact, I feel proud, in a strange way, of the country itself – as if I were the first traveler (ha!) to step foot in that beautiful country. Since I've been back, my mind pricks in interest at the slightest mention of the country, and it occupies a new, forceful place in my worldly conscience. I have not only my memories, but the *weight* of the time I spent there. And that, I think, is the highest compliment I can pay *AMIGOS DEL SUR* – it gave me a country.

But what memories they are: Exploring the nightlife of Buenos Aires, one of the poshest cities in the world; standing in awe before the night and beauty of Iguazú falls, a must-see for any traveler; exchanging games, jokes, and food from our respective cultures with the neighborhood children of El Tigre, to the north of Buenos Aires; breathing the Andean air thousands of feet above sea level; drinking *café* in the home of a famous Argentine playwright; shopping at their imperial, ultra-chic malls; eating tiramisu; drinking *maté*; conversing in *castellano* with strangers; sitting down for dinner at 11:00 PM; watching the best of Argentine cinema; visiting museums.

And that's the best way I can describe an indescribable experience. So that's it: Argentina is there, *AMIGOS DEL SUR* is there, and Andrés is always there. All that's left is you, and if you have the desire (of which I'm sure), then I highly recommend you go. Then you too will have Argentina with you for the rest of your life.

Biography.— My name is Terry Fedigan. I am a sophomore in the College of Arts and Sciences at Cornell University, and I study Government and International Relations. I was born, and have lived all my life in, Auburn, NY, which is not too far from Ithaca. My trip to Argentina instilled in me a passion for Hispanic cultures and a desire to travel further. Next year, I hope to study abroad in Barcelona, Spain. Email: tpf4@cornell.edu

STEPHANIE MARTINEZ (AMISUR 2006)

Hola! I'm Stephanie Martinez, a current sophomore at Cornell University, majoring in economics and information science. Allow me to recommend a wonderful program I went on last summer... *AMIGOS DEL SUR* was an experience that I will never forget. It not only gave me the opportunity to travel, but it allowed me to be completely immersed in another culture. When I went to Argentina, I was living as a *porteña*, meaning someone from Buenos Aires, and not as a tourist. Living as a *porteña* I met Argentinians that I will never forget and continue to stay in contact with to this day, I discovered new passions such as tango-dancing and wine-tasting, I learned about fascinating topics varying from Argentina literature to Argentina slang, and so much more. *AMIGOS DEL SUR* has motivated me to travel as much as I possibly can, and I definitely hope one day I'll be able to return to beautiful Argentina.

Biography.— I am a Cornell undergraduate student. For questions or comments, feel free to email me at: smm228@cornell.edu

ANGELA DEFELICE (AMISUR 2005)

After traveling in several Latin American countries and studying in three of them - I have realized the value of stepping out of the backpacker role, sleeping in one room for a while, and putting all of my energy into really knowing the people and place. Andres and the other professors of AMISUR allowed me to do just that. We jumped head first into the literature, poetry, theatre, film, architecture, food, and the night life of Buenos Aires. It was an intense and challenging month, both personally and academically. My Spanish skills improved immensely; I realized that people really do dance until the sun comes up; and I will never see another film or read another play in the same way again. My time in BA was truly unforgettable.

Buenos Aires is a unique city, overflowing with culture and life on every corner. Cafes and bookstores, parks, restaurants, theatres, bars, museums and universities, BA has it all – and you don't need to participate in any program to visit and see it with your own eyes. But to experience a city and a culture, to understand and appreciate it, you need something more. AMISUR gave me the tools, information, and access to explore Buenos Aires on a different level. As the coordinator of a cultural exchange program in Central America, I can say that AMISUR is one of the best you will find.

Biography.— I grew up in Bergen, small town in Upstate NY. I studied and lived in Ithaca, NY for six years and currently call Ocotla, Nicaragua my home. I have traveled and/or studied in seven Latin American countries and hope to explore Bolivia and Colombia in the near future. I am passionate about homegrown produce and dancing salsa, and hopefully someday will have a small farm of my own. I plan to study International Sustainable Development in grad school with a focus on small scale agriculture. Please get in touch if you have questions about AMISUR, Angela DeFelice amdefelice@yahoo.com

MARSHALL BALLARD (AMISUR 2006)

AMIGOS DEL SUR 2005: Truly a unique experience! The best birthday present I have had in nine years was being in Buenos Aires with *AMIGOS DEL SUR 2005*. Not only did I leave Argentina with several different perspectives of literature, cinema, and art, but I also left knowing I met the woman I would marry. Andres encouraged us to look into Buenos Aires with a different perspective every day. Using all of our senses to best understand the city was pivotal in our studies. After classes with Andres, I would hustle off to the *subte* and meet up with my girlfriend Susi at Obelisco. Taking photos as we walked up the bustling Avenida Corrientes, we would chill out in a *café* for an *alfajor* and a *cafecito cortado*. Window-shopping was definitely fun, especially conversing with shopkeepers who were curious why we were there. Some wanted to practice their English, most wanted to converse for ½ hour on current events, either *fútbol* or politics. The bookshops along the street included all the Spanish classics and contemporary literature often with diverse subject matter. The bookstores provide you with an amazing resource to better your Spanish on any subject matter. The pesky subjunctive followed us from *café* to *café* with Ariel. Julio introduced us to magnificent poetry and music, with special help on *lunfardo* vocabulary not in any dictionary. Gustavo exposed us to the insanity of the buses as we traveled to historic cafes and happening nightclubs. Mercedes provided a challenge to the vegetarians diet but the hospitality of her family and openness to non-meat alternatives made an excellent atmosphere for discussion and learning Argentine cuisine. My host family was spectacular with terrific meals, personal discussions and a mellow at home atmosphere. Eclectic bars and restaurants of *barrio Las Cañitas* were located midway between Susi and I, perfect for any evening, whether we started at 7 pm or 1 am, as we could always hang out in bars or cafes until dawn if we chose to. *AMIGOS DEL SUR* offers you the opportunity to explore endless sources of entertainment in Buenos Aires and now in other parts of Argentina. Mendoza is a must, if not just for the wine, but also the potential for skiing and hiking in the Cordillera of the Andes. My experience was unforgettable.

Biography.— Marshall Wilson Ballard, AMISUR 2005, formerly of Ithaca, NY now of Santa Cruz, CA, is a graduate student in Geography. Email: marshall.wilson.b@gmail.com

LEO SPOSATO (AMISUR 2004)

My account of AMIGOS DEL SUR August 2004 My experience with *AMIGOS DEL SUR* has been one of growth and excitement. I learned much more Spanish than I thought I would and I experienced a country, a city and a people that have left me in awe and in admiration of Argentina. It is truly a great city of the world with a proud people. The environment created by *AMIGOS DEL SUR* was one of the professionalism with the highest priority given to the academic as social experience of the trip. A normal day became an hour or two of classes studying with some of the most accomplished scholars in Argentina followed by hours sharing the city with some of the friends and instructors that I met there. My experience was profound enough and it impressed me enough that I was motivated to join the staff for this year's literature/film class. I am proud of the month of study that I experienced in Argentina and it was worth everything that I devoted to it. I owe much of my gratitude to my soon to be colleagues, H and Andres Lema-Hincapie and to the wonderful group of instructors and classmates with whom I shared a lifelong memories.

Biography.— Leo Sposato, School Teacher in Manhattan Email: leospo1@hotmail.com

JOAN CAISSA WILLMER (AMISUR 2004)

A month in Buenos Aires by Joan Caissa Willmer. Would that it had been three or four! The city is a rich one, though young by even our (USA) standards—and that is part of its charm and its intrigue. Its older parts hark back to Europe—cobble streets, outdoor antique markets with street performers, and, opening onto those streets, some of the narrowest and handsomest of polished wood doors leading down long corridors to private residences. Then there are the boulevards—broad and busy and lined with sidewalk cafés—where you may while away whole afternoons and evenings without feeling the need to give up the table to another customer. Bring your homework; bring a pack of cards and a couple of friends; AND, if you are taking a course with “Hache,” you may very well find yourself discussing Manuel Puig over strong coffee at one of those café tables with traffic humming by on one side and pedestrians with a dizzying variety of dogs sauntering along the other. Or you may be clustered round a stone bench in *El Jardín Botánico*, where slender cats of every color skitter by hoping for some crumbs from the *media lunas* you've brought to snack on with your fellow students. Later toward evening, you may find your way down one of those long corridors—*el zaguan*—to the home of Mercedes [Villarreal], who will be waiting to teach you how to make real Argentine empanadas, and after cooking and eating them, Cayetano [Guzman], Mercedes' husband, may bring out the “mate y bombilla,” and you will savor the warmth and community of Argentine life as you imbibe the piping hot tea from that aromatic herb. Cayetano may also ply you with marvelous books and prints exemplifying Argentine culture or chat about aspects of American poetry he's fond of and familiar with—quoting bits and pieces of Frost or Eliot. And then, of course, there's Andrés, who will toy with the rigors of Spanish syntax—first thing every day—or arrange morning forays to local cinemas to see the latest South American film and then herd everyone into a *parilla* for a lunch of grilled meat and lively discussion. There is a dizzying array of theaters to attend, tango displays in the weekend crafts markets, and expedition to an estancia in the countryside—these and so much more . . .

Biography.— J. Caissa Willmer: Writer and teacher, born and brought up in the States. She has had the privilege of traveling somewhat widely. Her passion is for Mexico, but since her adventure with *AMIGOS DEL SUR* she would be quite happy to have the means to spend a good year really getting to know Buenos Argentina and the interior of Argentina. And yes, Andrés, you may include my e-mail address: jew12@cornell.edu (Unfortunately, Caissa died in Ithaca in May 2006)

MARY PLEVYAK (AMISUR 2004)

ABSOLUTELY...!!! Do I recommend attending *AMIGOS DEL SUR* in Buenos Aires? *Absolutely*. After studying intermediate & beginning advanced Spanish with Dr. Lema-Hincapie for 2 1/2 years in Ithaca, I didn't hesitate to join his travel study program in Buenos Aires during August, 2004. I wasn't disappointed. His academic program offers a diverse and challenging immersion experience in a metropolitan city with something for everyone -even nature lovers. If you have a specific interest, just ask. Dr. Lema-Hincapie has brought together top professionals in their fields to be your guide through the literature, cuisine, architecture, history and culture of Argentina. I look forward to returning with another class in the future.

Biography.— Mary Plevyak, Cornell Account and student of Nursing in Baltimore. Email: mplevyak@hotmail.com

JO TODD (AMISUR 2004)

AMIGOS DEL SUR, August 2004. “A Short Account by Jo Todd”: AMIGOS DEL SUR is an extraordinary program. In addition to providing interesting and caring hosts in comfortable living situations, this program enables one to study Spanish and Argentine culture, as well as to meet porteños, such as professors, artists, and factory workers, and to experience a variety of stimulating and never-to-be-forgotten experiences. My memories of my month in Buenos Aires with AMIGOS DEL SUR seem to be inextricably connected to my taste buds. I can vividly remember.

- sitting outside in the sunshine at a cafe, sipping a rich cup of *espresso* and discussing Puig with Hache and my literature class.
- munching on exquisite pastries overflowing with dulce de leche, while reading Julio Cortázar's short story, “Casa tomada,” in Andrés' Spanish class.
- stirring the chocolate in my submarino while waiting for friends to go to the theatre in La Boca.
- indulging in a glass of Malbec red wine in a different restaurant everyday at lunch between classes.
- preparing delicious empanadas for our first cooking class with Mercedes, our sweet Argentine instructor, and her lovely family
- partaking in an asado, with a variety of delectable grilled meats, after seeing a film with my classmates and teachers, and sharing impressions with an Argentine film director

My heart, as well as all of my senses, were opened to this vibrant city, through a program rich in insight and inspiration. I know that I will always savor the wonderful memories of Buenos Aires and AMIGOS DEL SUR. Bravo, Andrés!

Biography.— Jo Todd has been fortunate to be a student in Andrés' Spanish classes for the past five years. As a classroom teacher, she can appreciate the patience, skill and enthusiasm in which Andrés excels. In addition to studying languages and traveling, she enjoys gardening, photography, reading, dancing, biking, and cooking. She can be reached at **jomarcia.todd@gmail.com**