

CARPINTERIA Coastal View News

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Andrea Delgado explores the Atacama Desert in Chile, the driest non-polar desert in the world—with a lagoon in its midst.

Chilean adventure expands horizons for CHS grad

Andrea Delgado, who may be familiar to CVN readers for her many newsworthy accomplishments, has notched another: an eight-week trip to Santiago, Chile where the Harvard pre-med student shadowed doctors, residents and medical students, observing surgeries, volunteering in the local community and learning about Chile's health system and culture.

The 2013 Carpinteria High School graduate, who was Salutatorian and Junior Carpinterian of the Year, is a product of Girls Inc., where her involvement started at age 5. She credits Girls Inc. with boosting her self-confidence, goal setting skills, physical fitness and mental strength to help her get where she is today. Delgado was selected as a 2012 Girls Inc. National Scholar in her junior year, and received a \$15,000 college scholarship.

Now in her senior year at Harvard University, Delgado is working toward her bachelor's degree in history and science with a minor in psychology.

During her time in Santiago this summer, Delgado sat in on primary care appointments, examined patients, scrubbed in to observe surgeries, and performed rural home visits. She also did community service with Teletón, an organization that began in Chile to provide physical therapy to children with neuromuscular deficits.

"I learned the career of a doctor varies a lot depending on whether you work in a clinic or hospital setting, and the re-



Andrea Delgado, right, and a fellow student snap a scrub selfie at the Hospital Clínica de la Universidad de Chile. Delgado observed three surgeries that day: a gynecomastia surgery, a thyroidectomy and a lymphadenectomy.

sources available at your place of work," said Delgado. "I realized I value connecting with people and being in a position where I can utilize and communicate my knowledge to help someone else, so I now plan to pursue a primary care position, possibly as an obstetrician."

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