

Red Wolves in London!

By Ray Winters

In June, 24 students and faculty from the College of Nursing and Health professions spent nearly 4 weeks studying in London. Dr. Marilyn Duran and Ray Winters, professors of nursing and radiologic sciences, guided 12 nursing and 10 radiology students through a study of health care in England. Other topics, such as historical contributions to modern medicine, were included. There were 4 basic objectives for the trip:

1. Compare and contrast healthcare and healthcare education in the U.K. and the U.S.
2. Identify historical treatments of illness and disease
3. Discover one's own cultural values and biases as they relate to other healthcare systems
4. Demonstrate knowledge of other cultures (including beliefs, values, perspective, and practices)

Students were housed at Regents University in London, which allowed them to have easy access to the London subway system as well as meal plan. Other students from around the world were staying there as well, which provided a unique opportunity for interaction and learning as well.

Venues used to meet the learning objectives were class room settings with local lecturers, museum visits and hospital visits. Students were required to interview a British citizen regarding their National Health Service to determine local thinking/opinions regarding the state of healthcare in Britain. They were also required to make a final presentation on any of topic covered during their time in London.

Another objective of the trip was to learn as much about the local culture and way of life as possible through "experiential learning". Students were given free time to explore London and time for "free travel" to other parts of the British Isles or Europe. They did just that! Students spent time in Paris, Edinburgh, Brussels and Dublin. This trip exposed students to a variety of experiences that challenged their thinking, entertained and allowed them to experience health unique to England.

One might ask "Why study abroad?" which is a fair question. Research has proven that those who experience another culture make better global citizens and view the world totally differently once they return. The University has 3 major goals across all disciplines: Critical Thinking, Global Awareness, and Information Literacy. We believe that experiences such as the CNHP Study Abroad Trip to London can go a long way in accomplishing all 3 areas.

We believe this is an opportunity that provides a unique learning experience for our students that might not be available at other universities. If you talked to any of the students who went they would tell you that it was a great experience and that they learned a lot. Plans call for this to be an annual event. If you have questions feel free to contact Ray Winters at 870-972-3329 or at rwinters@astate.edu.

