Service Trip to Nicaragua

By Sharon On ’18

Spring Break 2016. Many would say that they went home, visited a friend, or went on a beach vacation. I on the other hand, was given the amazing opportunity to go to Nicaragua with the Bucknell Brigade on a service-learning trip. The Bucknell Brigade involves a delegation of Bucknell students and staff going to Nicaragua for service-learning in partnership with the Jubilee House Community, and takes place over winter break and spring break. Prior to heading to Nicaragua, several Bucknell Brigade members help raise money for the free health clinic in Nueva Vida, a facility largely built with donations raised by the Brigade. In Nicaragua, we helped with the current project of building a third clinic building at the JHC clinic in Nueva Vida. I was able to get my hands dirty while helping dig holes for the structure and tying wires to construct metal frames for concrete columns with other Bucknell Brigade members. In addition to that, several of us had the chance to shadow the doctors and nurses of the clinic and go out to the community during house visits and health promotion to interact with Nueva Vida community members. Some other people helped with filing the 27,000 patient files, helped with prescription medicines in the pharmacy, and helped organize all the medical supplies and medicine that we collected through donates. On one of the days, we went to El Porvenir, a Nicaraguan mountaintop village, also home of a coffee cooperative, which grows the organic, fair-trade coffee that is sold on Bucknell’s campus. It was amazing to walk up and around the mountain while learning about the people and the process of producing the coffee by one of the foremen of the coffee cooperative. We also explored the city of Managua and Leon while learning the history of Nicaragua. The nine days that we spent in Nicaragua was packed with lots of learning, service, culture, and experiences. I am very grateful to have been able to have this opportunity to learn so much about Nicaragua and its people and also providing my service. Service-learning trips are truly amazing experiences, and I would encourage everyone that has the chance to participate in service-learning trips to do it! It’s an experience of lifetime that has taught me a lot about myself and about a whole world outside of here. Service, learn, and experience life!
Trip to Costa Rica

By Christian Swartzbaugh ’18

I felt much trepidation as I boarded the plane late at night. I had looked forward to the trip to Costa Rica the entire semester, but now in the moment I was experiencing much hesitation. Would I be able to hold my own in a country I didn’t know the language of? Would I get some tropical disease that would incapacitate me for the rest of the trip? Or did I just forget my toothbrush? As these thoughts raced through my head, the plane lifted off the ground. I would not set foot on American soil for 10 days. What a treat! As nervous as I was, I was beyond excited to get to experience the ins and outs of another culture. I wanted to try all the food, converse with locals, and take in the breathtaking scenery and day-to-day life of Costa Rica.

The first day was reserved for travel from the capital, San Jose, to a city called Turrialba where we would be based for the next few days. Nestled in the mountains, Turrialba was a small but sprawling city with a wonderful vibe to it. The people were friendly and the local food was delicious. After finding our way to our hostel and settling in for the night, I began to feel the thrill of being surrounded by a new culture. I fell asleep hours later from the anticipation of the coming week. Our next day was full of adventure, just as Bucknell’s Outdoor Ed and Leadership had promised. Zip-lining through the canopy and rappelling down waterfalls took up most of our day. The sheer amount of species of plants and animals and the noises they made completely overwhelmed me. The next few days were spent white-water rafting down the Pacuare River, a truly unforgettable experience made even better by the knowledge and humor of our local guide, Eduardo. After the rafting, our next stop was Puerto Viejo, a small town on the coast populated not only by locals, but ex-pats and spring breakers. From there we were given more freedom to do what we wanted. One day I snorkeled, the next I hiked along a jungle/beach trail that may have been the most beautiful place I had been. Poisonous snakes, birds of all colors, and lizards by the hundred all captivated me during my wanderings.

When it finally came time to leave, I felt a weight sinking in my heart. My heart was now in the jungles and beaches of Costa Rica, and I knew a piece of me would always be here. My eyes were opened to the lives of the people of Central America, and I had many wonderful conversations with many wonderful people. I can’t recommend backpacker style travel highly enough, even for this short time it has changed my perspective on myself and the world around me. I consider myself beyond fortunate to have been given this opportunity and I encourage any and all to take any opportunity like this that they can, and to get outside! After all, adventure is out there!
Asian Gala 2016
By Nigesh Prajapati ’18

Friday, March 25, 2016. The atmosphere of Larison dining hall was completely different than usual. Students, dressed in their traditional clothes, were bustling around, preparing for the Annual Asian Gala. The hall was decorated with lanterns, streamers of vibrant colors, and flags representing different Asian countries.

The Annual Asian Gala is a signature event held by the Students for Asian Awareness at Bucknell (SAAB), one of the largest cultural clubs on campus that strives to establish an inclusive and enthusiastic community amongst our members and on the Bucknell campus by promoting Asian culture. We seek to promote social, racial, and cultural tolerance by offering an opportunity for our members to understand, appreciate, and respect the Asian cultures through social, educational, and cultural events. We host several social events throughout the year, but is best known for our signature event, Asian Gala, which is held every spring.

With the hall fully packed, the show kicked off with SAAB’s group performance: Yosakoi dance from Japan and Chinese Umbrella dance. The proceeding acts included a variety of traditional and modern performances from Japan Society, the Filipino Club, and CCSA in addition to featuring students’ talents from Afghanistan, Yemen, China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Myanmar, Nepal, Tibet, and Vietnam. Midway through the show, guests also dined on numerous dishes provided by Sushihanna and Siam, and watched as students modeled traditional clothing during the Heritage Fashion Show.

As always, SAAB was incredibly proud to host such a memorable event. SAAB’s main goal is to share Asian culture with the Bucknell community as well as to encourage an increasingly more diverse student population at Bucknell, and in the future, SAAB members hope to collaborate more with other Asian clubs on campus in a joint effort to reach these goals.

There was a lot of behind-the-scenes work involved to make the event a success. All the members of the club worked for the past three months preparing for the gala. They dedicated their time outside their own time. As the president of the club, I was very pleased that the event went well and all the people who joined us for the evening enjoyed it. SAAB would once again like to thank all of those who contributed their time and effort into the making of Asian Gala, as well as sending thanks to all who came to support the event.
BISON SPECTRUM | Issue 51

B.A.C.E.S service trip to Dominican Republic

By Christian Limawan ‘16

Every spring break, B.A.C.E.S (Bucknell Advancing Communities: Educating & Serving) offers a service trip to the Dominican Republic to participate in a wide variety of service projects such as medical outreach, food drives, building homes and teaching in a local school. We have also worked on construction and maintenance projects, participated in various educational programs, traveled to the historic district of the city and visited rural farming communities. I was part of the team this year.

For the trip this year, we worked in three different places. In the first part, we worked in Santo Domingo Este, which is basically where we were staying. We did medical drive at a local school for the local community. We also painted the basketball court, cleaned the park, and delivered food drive in the neighborhood where we were staying. It was pretty striking to see the socio-economic contrasts in the neighborhood. We stayed in a nice house that was once used as an academia. The water was limited there to the point that we had to do "military style" shower. We didn't flush our urine, unless it really needed to be flushed, to save up water. When we visited the neighborhood for food drive, it was obvious that a lot of families lived in a dire poverty. Some of their houses were as big as our dorm room in Kress, but for the whole family.

One thing that surprised me was we all might have come with our preconception of how miserable living in an impoverished neighborhood could be, but throughout my limited interaction with the locals, I would say that we shared our human connections regardless of our background! We smiled to each other, tried to overcome our language barrier with body gestures and got connected to each other as humans. It was priceless.

On the trip, we were 25 students with 2 chaperones. It was delightful to get to know these people and work together in different project. Even as a senior, I still had to get to know more people from my year! I am very happy to be able to meet everyone on the trip and have our paths crossed through BACES! Every single person brought different perspectives and we bonded quickly through a simple game of Hearts!

Continued...
Senior Student Profile

Name: Erik Giesen Loo
Major(s) and minor(s): Civil Engineering
Hometown: Arequipa, Peru
Favorite/Most meaningful Bucknell Experience(s):
International Student Orientation and Summer Research
Plans after graduation:
Graduate School. Yay!! I want to become a professional structural engineer. Graduate school is indispensable for my objective.
Advice for non-seniors:
Three pieces of advice. 1) Get to know yourself: discover the things that are truly important to you and plan your life around these. It may seem like there are always fires you need to put off, but what matters is that you take time each week to work on what you really want to achieve. 2) Smile with confidence and lower your expectations. In other words, be kind to people and don’t expect anything in return: nobody owes you anything, even if they are your friends. 3) Take one step at a time. Most of the time it is wiser to just take a step back and observe before jumping into action. Finally, make the most out of your time at Bucknell but don’t try too hard. Sometimes, it is good to have the joy of missing out.

B.A.C.E.S...

We encountered a lot of new experiences, personally and collectively as a group, throughout our work during the day. There was a lot to process when we were faced with extreme poverty after having Bucknell experiences under our belt. For some of us, it was a whole new experience, but for other people on the trip, it was similar to the environment where we grew up. As a result, we saw the same thing from different lenses and it was really rewarding to learn from each other during our discussions.

The most rewarding part of the trip for me was the friendships that I formed. Though our time was just a week, we forged a strong friendship between us. We came in different groups, but we came out as a group. We created human connection amongst our team as well as with the local people that we worked together with. I believe this connection will last a long time and will benefit each of us in one or many ways.
Upcoming IEA Events

Global Women’s Film Series:
No Le Digas a Nadie
Date: Thursday, April 21
Time: 7 pm.
Venue: ELC 045

ISS and MSS Senior Recognition (Class of 2016)
Date: April 20
Time: 5:30 pm.
RSVP required

Admitted Students Day
Date: April 16, 2016

Chrysalis!
Date: April 29
Time: 9 pm-midnight.
Tickets at the CAP Center

Lavender graduation
Date: April 26, 2016
Time: 6:30-8:30 pm.
RSVP required

ISS and MSS Senior Recognition (Class of 2016)
Date: April 20
Time: 5:30 pm.
RSVP required

Global Women’s Film Series:
No Le Digas a Nadie
Date: Thursday, April 21
Time: 7 pm.
Venue: ELC 045

ISS and MSS Senior Recognition (Class of 2016)
Date: April 20
Time: 5:30 pm.
RSVP required

Admitted Students Day
Date: April 16, 2016

Chrysalis!
Date: April 29
Time: 9 pm-midnight.
Tickets at the CAP Center

Lavender graduation
Date: April 26, 2016
Time: 6:30-8:30 pm.
RSVP required

Professional Staff:
Jennifer Figueroa (ISS)
Bill McCoy (LGBTQ Resources)
Tracy Russell (WRC)
Rosalie Rodriguez (MSS)
Myrna Perkins
(Administrative Assistant)
Sue Radel (Office Coordinator)
Rose Saville-Iksic (ISS Grad Assistant)
Editors: Chanda Singoyi,
Nigesh Prajapati

Intercultural Equity and Advocacy Offices
ISS || MSS || WRC || LGBTQ
064 Elaine Langone Center
Bucknell University
570-577-3216
Monday – Friday: 8:30 – 4:30
Visit IEA at: www.bucknell.edu/IEA