

Otterbein ClassNotes from Madrid, Spain

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Almost every year in the spring, someone from my past comes to visit. This year I was blessed with the reunion of three great friends from Otterbein: Jason and Alex Green and Shigeru Kamada. They came on a Friday and left on Monday. While it was no big deal for Shigeru, who currently resides in Germany, Jason and Alex paused their hectic lives at home (including leaving their toddler Sophie in the safe hands of grandparents) and hopped the Atlantic from Ohio just for three days of sightseeing and vacation to celebrate their sixth anniversary. To call the days full would understate the ground we covered. We ate the best "pincho de tortilla" (Spanish omelet) in Madrid and drank a "caña" (small beer) within hours of arriving on Friday morning. We saw the Prado and mired at Bosch's Garden of Earthly Delights before visiting Madrid's legendary Movida bar "La Vía Lactea." We woke up early in order to hit the Rastro for more shopping and cañas before setting out to Atletico stadium to see Atletico play Almeria. Atletico won with an unusually high score of 6-3. Jason is now (and forever) an Atletico fan. As Sunday drew towards its dusk, we managed to come across a stunning view of Almudena, the Royal church of Madrid, take an indelible picture and sip on some late Sunday drinks. The smiles our faces show barely skim the surface of our content (and fatigue). On the way home we also ate ice cream and churros (deep-fried bread) and chocolate. I can't imagine having had such a full and enjoyable good time with any other visitors since I've been here.