

May 2008

Spring Break Meant Service for Some Otterbein Students

Some students spent spring break escaping the last throes of winter by traveling to warmer climates, some went home to visit their friends and family and perhaps work for some extra money, and others chose to devote their time off from classes to a worthy cause. At Otterbein, these are some of the alternative spring break service trips offered:

Costa Rica

Eleven students traveled to Costa Rica to conduct research on tropical ecology and agriculture over spring break. While on their two week adventure, they experienced the dry forest, cloud forest and rain forests of Costa Rica. Students stayed with the local Bribri people in the rainforest. For more information, contact Jeffrey Lehman at jlehman@otterbein.edu.

Honduras

Five faculty and students from the Department of Nursing traveled to La Ceiba, Honduras, over spring break to provide medical assistance for the local people of this small village. While they were there, they worked with a medical group from Hilliard called Total Health, Inc. Total Health provides medical teams to a small clinic in collaboration with a church down there. The volunteers stayed with members of the church for the duration of their trip. In previous years, the nursing department has sent students to Mexico for spring break. Although this was only an exploratory trip, they were hoping to use a similar model they set up in Mexico for the clinic in Honduras. If you would like to know more about this trip, contact Marjorie Vogt, one of the coordinators at mvogt@otterbein.edu.

Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Challenge (Bluffton, South Carolina)

Habitat for Humanity's Collegiate Challenge is part of the alternative spring break program. The Otterbein chapter sent a crew of 14 down to the Hilton Head Regional Habitat for Humanity affiliate in South Carolina to help build homes and provide safe affordable living spaces for people in the area. This year alone, HFH's program sent 12,000 students to work in 210 locations throughout the country, while raising \$1.5 million to help build houses at these sites. The students stayed in a retreat center throughout the week. For more information about this trip, contact Monty Bradley at mbradley@otterbein.edu.