Global Navigators Travel Abroad During Summer

Fourteen BLS students participated in study abroad programs this summer as part of the CIEE Global Navigators program. This was the fourth summer that BLS has partnered with CIEE to provide students with this opportunity. BLS students received over $50,000 in financial support provided by Ro Fallon ’65 and CIEE. Xiadi Zhai traveled to Ghana to get out of her comfort zone and participate in a school based service project. She taught at a school for students age 4-14 and made strong connections with the students there.

Tokyo was the destination for Leo Gearin who participated in a Japanese language immersion program and pursued his interest in Japanese art, architecture and food for four weeks. Leo said that even though he had not studied Japanese previously, his language studies at BLS prepared him for learning a new language. He is considering returning to Japan for his college study abroad program.

Sontaya Ban yen traveled to Costa Rica where she pursued her interests in environmental studies, sustainability and conversation. She visited San Jose, the cloud forest at Monte Verde and participated in mangrove replanting on the coast. According to Sontaya, the most difficult part of the program was adjusting to the new language and culture.

BLS Topol Fellows and students from Facing History participated in the Technologies of Peace, U.S.—Japan Youth Summit on September 18, and hosted students and teachers from Hiroshima and Nagasaki at Boston Latin School the following day.

At the conference, students learned about the Hiroshima Archive, a website that uses an interactive mapping program to illustrate the human impact of the Hiroshima atomic bomb. They watched several presentations, listened to speakers and worked with their Japanese peers on anti-nuclear proliferation strategies.

The following day the BLS students hosted the Japanese students and teachers, who spent the day at BLS learning about the school and its culture.

“It was great to meet students from Japan with similar interests and passions,” stated Max Tamer-Mahoney, one of the BLS Topol Fellows.

BLS & Japanese Students Share

Every summer, rising juniors and seniors participate in Summer Search programs that take them to sites in the United States & around the world.

This year, three students traveled south, to Mexico, Belize and Guatemala, where they participated in service learning programs.

Senior Scotty Loujiame spent part of his summer helping build a school in Guatemala. With an interest in Central America, but little knowledge of Spanish, Scotty mixed cement by hand and built cinder block walls for the school.

Cynthia Pages traveled to Belize where she empowered youths age 4-14 by helping them improve their English grammar and strengthening their character and learning styles.

In addition to her work with the students, Cynthia and her team learned about the history and culture of Belize. “It was nice to see the American students develop an understanding of the poverty and social issues faced by the children,” stated Cynthia.

Mexico was the destination for Vanessa Foster, who spent six weeks on the Yucatan Peninsula.

She worked with students age 6-12 on nutrition and physical fitness, in addition to building a new soccer field in town. “I developed great relationships. It felt like I was living there,” stated Vanessa.

BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL

Global Perspectives

Clough Center for Global Understanding

Michael Contompasis, Head Master

Thomas Kennelly, Program Director & Editor

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