



ANGERS ADVENTURE

Recently six Concordia students across four different majors participated in a faculty-led study abroad program to Angers, France. They spent three weeks in this vibrant city, about 185 miles southwest of Paris, with two Psychology faculty, Drs. Reed & Erin Mueller. The program consisted of a seminar on the Psychology of Religion, running workshops for middle- and high-school students about American culture, daily “Survival French” classes, homestays with French families, and many cultural and historical excursions. Lifelong lessons continue to be gleaned from this amazing intercultural experience!

The students reflected on their time in France, sharing that, “even though not everything went perfectly, I would

highly recommend this experience to other students. Being away from home, studying in a new and interesting place, and getting to connect with people in a far-away place was one of the most rewarding things I have ever done in my life. I know I will not forget this experience and I hope more students will participate in programs in the future.” Another student shared, “I would most definitely recommend an experience like this to other students. Unlike with a regular class, it is impossible to summarize what I learned by listing off a few formulas or ideas, but the value of the experience I had is substantial. Not only did this experience open my eyes to a completely different culture, with its own set of beliefs, values, traditions, and ways of life, but it showed me that intercultural relations are possible and important to sustain. Though at first I doubted that our group would be able to nurture meaningful relationships with our participants (in the workshop) given the language barrier and time limit of three days, I think that, in the end, we were successful, and had lots of fun learning and teaching each other.”

“I would highly recommend this trip or anything similar to it to anyone I know. I found the experience enriching and eye opening. Everything from the city to my host parents and Sue and Camille (local instructors), the food, excursions, the people in the program and you and your family was just amazing. Traveling to a new place no matter how far is always a learning experience. I got to learn French and about the French culture and history as well as about myself. It was definitely a growing experience to go to a country where you do not know the language. I think if someone is interested in traveling or doing study abroad this would be a great choice. It is a long enough time that you feel like you become immersed and short enough that you do not get home sick or miss too much of your summer break.”

“My experience in Angers is one I will never forget. I am beyond grateful that I was able to be a part of this amazing trip. I found a new sense of appreciation for other cultures and languages. I also have so much more respect and admiration for people that speak multiple languages and who have patience with those who do not speak the native language. There are so many wonderful things that came from this experience. I found a new love for traveling as well as Angers and France.” Finally, “After a few weeks back home, the dust has finally settled on what will be remembered as a wonderful experience in a beautiful country. The summer of 2016 has taught me in many different ways just how big and small the world can be. The workshop, for example, was an eye opener in that I realized how interconnected and engaged young people can be, and how they can surpass language and culture barriers in order to eagerly learn about one another. This, combined with the many excursions we took to various sites of historical significance made for a great journey, one I will not forget.”

The Psychology Department is committed to offering these rich experiences to Concordia students. They have a regular rotation of tested programs, including those in Cape Town, South Africa, and Dublin, Ireland, in addition to Angers, France, and they occur every-other summer. So...watch for the next program to be offered, coming in 2018!