Nursing Faculty and Students Give Back at Nicaragua

By Gay Lynn Armstrong, Clinical Assistant Professor

The St. David’s School of Nursing participated in its 7th year as a study abroad program to Managua, Nicaragua. The 12-day trip began January 2nd and ended January 13th, getting the students back in time to start their final semester.

This year we traveled by ferry and set up clinic on the island of Ometepe, a small island in Lake Nicaragua formed by two volcanoes. We were able to bring healthcare to over 180 patients during our three-day clinic. Overall, students participated in a total of 60 hours of clinical community health nursing, including the clinic, children's home, nursing home and hospital visits.

One student had this to say about the trip. "Initially I was nervous about getting on planes and interacting with the doctors in our clinics. Now I realize I shouldn’t have been nervous about either thing. I was nervous about how I would communicate with the patients even with a
translator there but conversations were smooth for the most part. The patients were open and liked when we would try to say things in their language. An expectation that came true was the warm feeling I got from helping people in need. I hope that I will continue feeling this way throughout my career as a nurse.”