

New Maymester Program

Last spring, Franklin Pierce University introduced the Maymester program to students interested in studying abroad for a short period of time, either because their schedules prohibit an entire semester of study abroad, or because they prefer a shorter period of time abroad for personal reasons. Two different Maymester program courses and accompanying trips which took place May 20 through June 7, offered students unique opportunities for brief but fascinating journeys of discovery to either England or Ireland.

Prof. Mary Ann Gaal taught an "International Management" class which culminated with a trip to London to observe and understand the complexities of tying cultures together through business. "The students had a great experience observing the similarities and differences between London and the United States," says Prof. Gaal. "They were excited and impressed with the two businesses we visited and were able to talk with two multinational companies, one which was started by an American that has expanded overseas. Everyone remarked that they enjoyed the trip, found it to be a great learning experience, and would recommend it to others."

"The Role & Influence of Leisure on the Culture & Commerce of Ireland" was taught online by Prof. Rodney Blackman, followed by a trip to Ireland. Visits were made to the Cliffs of Moher, Kilmainham Goal, Giant's Causeway, Guinness Storehouse, and St. Patrick's Cathedral. Prof. Blackman gave an enthusiastic report of the class trip upon their return. He and six students visited the four largest cities in Ireland – Dublin, Cork, Belfast, and Limerick – and spent several days in the countryside visiting castles, tracing the tales of the history of Ireland (as well as chasing leprechauns), tasting delicious Irish traditional food, and touring the bold and beautiful sights of the island.

"We forged what is expected to be an enduring relationship with University College Dublin," says Prof. Blackman, "our fine academic counterpart in Dublin, where the student experience is the focus, not unlike our approach here at Franklin Pierce." By all counts, Maymester was a success and will be built on each spring.

