Amy Verhey

BEIJING, CHINA

Amy's Major: Communication Arts

Program: China History & Modern Development of Environmental Health (Summer)

Academics: We traveled throughout China for lectures at many sites of the historical events that were being discussed. Professors focused on topics to give us a very extensive lecture about that time in history, or an important part of the Chinese culture. Many of the lectures were from professors who had translators.

Most Memorable Experience: During my trip the program decided to incorporate a home stay with the students from UW-Madison and students in Chengdu, China, who wanted to go to school in the United States. These students were at a very proficient level of English speaking and we were able to really get to know them and help them as well. I am still very good friends with my home stay, Xu Jiekun, who is now a student in Los Angeles. This was an experience I would not have had in any other program.

Interesting Course Work: For half of the course work for this program we composed a research paper on a topic of our choice. I am a communications major and am greatly passionate about food systems. I chose to explore the Chinese food system, as we were able to interview villagers about where their food comes from, what they ate on the day-to-day bases and what meanings their food held. It was a very interesting way to explore the economic system of the country and get to know the people through their consumption habits.

Advice for Those Considering Study Abroad: College is about having new experiences, meeting new people and finding who you are. Although the trip was only one month, we were able to experience so many amazing things that are a part of a culture so different than ours in the United States.

“Choose a place that is unique to your lifestyle and a program that you would not be able to replicate after college.”