Natalie Baus
XI’AN, CHINA

Natalie’s Major: Special Education
Term Abroad: Summer

Learning from Other Students: I participated in comparative education classes while studying abroad in Xi’an, China at the Shaanxi Normal University. As American students, we were able to have thought-provoking discussions with the Shaanxi Normal University education students to compare the U.S. and Chinese education systems. We were also given lessons on the many cultural aspects of China such as food, holidays, language and even weddings. Along with the academic classes, we got the opportunity to dive into Xi’an with the local students. Through this experience I have gained a different view on the approach to teaching students. After returning from China and reflecting on the education systems I have increased my awareness and appreciation for the diversity in this country.

Living Arrangements: The four of us UW-Madison students stayed in a very nice hotel that was on the Shaanxi Normal University campus. The hotel was right across the street from a convenience store and down the block from some local restaurants as well as an American café. We were also within walking distance of a very popular fountain water show and nightlife area.

Travel: During our short trip, we were able to see most of the major tourist sites in Xi’an, such as the Terra Cotta Warriors. We also got to spend two days in Beijing to see the many attractions including the Great Wall.

“This Xi’an, China trip is jam-packed full with sight-seeing opportunities, cultural lessons, school visits, and comparative education discussions. I believe this experience changes the way you will look at education.”