Program: UW Agriculture, Health & Nutrition in Uganda, Winter

Madison’s Major: Biology

Academic Life: The academic component of our program consisted of traveling to different health facilities across the country and talking with health providers about their experience with the healthcare system in Uganda. We also had lectures from different health officers about the specific components of the health system. They discussed the strengths and flaws of the system and we were able to compare their healthcare system to the U.S. healthcare system.

First Impressions: Everyone was so genuinely nice and happy. Before going to Uganda, I really did not have any idea what to expect. I knew that it would be warmer there and that I had to wear long skirts that wouldn’t show my legs. I wasn’t sure how the community was going to feel about a group of college students entering their community. However, all of the community members were so welcoming to all of us.

Advice to Future Students: I would encourage other students to consider traveling to Uganda for a study abroad experience. When I began college I never thought I would study abroad and I definitely did not think I would be traveling to Uganda. However, this was one of the most amazing experiences of my life and I would love for other students to experience the Ugandan culture.

Finding Connections: One of the most memorable experiences was talking with Mariam, a young woman who was my age and lived in the community where we were staying. For two years, I had been a part of a student organization on campus that worked in the same village. Mariam was a member of the partner organization, Village Health Project-Uganda. It was so amazing to chat with her about ideas for future projects in the community. She was so passionate and full of ideas.