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Graduate Students and Faculty Explore Educational Opportunities in Uganda

Teresa Thetford, Sacred Heart University
Faculty members and graduate students from Sacred Heart University’s College of Health Professions and College of Nursing visited Kampala, Uganda, recently to investigate potential educational opportunities for students studying to be physician assistants and family nurse practitioners. The group included Constance Glenn, a clinical assistant professor from the College of Nursing; Teresa Thetford, the physician assistant studies chair; Christina Gunther, director of global health programs; occupational therapy graduate student Cassie Colucci; and physician assistant graduate student Nicole Tittarelli.

Glenn said they visited Makerere University, Mulago Hospital, St. Stephen’s Hospital, Sanyu Babies Home and the African Community Center for Social Sustainability (ACCESS)—sites where the University’s partner, Western CT Health Network, has agreements. They explored clinical and cultural learning experiences and considered prospects for engaging students in global health awareness by setting up clinical rotation opportunities.

“This visit helped to solidify our partnership with Western CT Health Network, Makerere University, and ACCESS,” said Gunther. “The global health clinical rotation in Uganda will provide students with the opportunity for multilevel global health clinical learning, with an emphasis on cultural competence and interdisciplinary learning in a resource-poor, challenging environment.”

The trip was funded by the University’s global health programs, the physician assistant studies program and the College of Nursing.