Maymester Voyage of Semester at Sea

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Close to 500 people, including a contingent from Western Kentucky University, recently embarked on a condensed, four-week version of Semester at Sea.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham talks with WKU students and faculty who set sail on the “Maymester” voyage.

It’s nothing like a traditional classroom, but “Semester at Sea” is considered a floating college.

Being able to see multiple countries, work with faculty and get their perspective, meet all these students was just an exciting thing to do.”

Julie Ellis, WKU Engineering Department Head and WKU Scholar in Residence Bernard Strenecky were among the 62 faculty and staff members on the Maymester voyage.

“The theme of this voyage was Engineering a new tomorrow so it really was interesting to me and I got to see six or seven countries I’ve never seen before.”

Just twenty six days long, the short-term semester appealed to both faculty and students.

“This one was shorter, if fit my schedule, just the idea that they were going all these places.”

“Fits perfect because what I’m trying to do with my business degree is what Western’s motto is to see that international vision that Dr. Ransdell puts in everyone’s perspective.”

WKU Engineering major Emily Kinslow says its amazing to study with students from all over the world.

“Your just trying to speed friend everyone to get to know them as quick as you can it’s so much fun there are so many people to meet.”

It’s just another way for today’s students to be well rounded.

“I think work experience and internships are really helpful but studying abroad is just a category of it’s own.”

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

Ellis and Streneky also guided part of the group through a One Hundred Dollar solution course in a Belize village looking for inexpensive and sustainable solutions in the areas of water, jobs, energy and hurricane shelter.

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