

Spring 2005

15. Kim Stiles, Nursing

Would like to pursue the development of an International Nursing course with a two-week field trip to a Spanish speaking country. This would expose students to immersion in Spanish language and culture, indigenous people with different expertise and ways of meeting health needs (herbs, Shamanism, etc.), provide an opportunity to perform a real community service based on the community's needs, and would expose students to an expanded global role/identity for their profession (beyond the typical hospital role).

While the students would have opportunity to practice Spanish during their field trip, obviously they will be able to learn/accomplish more if they have achieved some level of Spanish fluency before the trip. This got me thinking about our local Hispanic population...if we started encouraging health sciences students as they are doing their prerequisites to take some Spanish language electives, could one elective involve local weekend exchanges right here in town, where students could stay with Hispanic families and learn by immersion? This could be a win-win situation...Our students can learn Hispanic language and culture, while Hispanic families can be exposed to our students and perhaps get interested in Ohlone's programs.

If we were to go to an environmentally rich country like Peru (Amazon basin), what are the possibilities for creating a course that involves students from different majors working together (ex: nursing and environmental science focused on health from human and natural perspectives, etc.?) I believe creative solutions to our current and future problems will involve people from different disciplines being able to collaborate and work well together...can we create multidisciplinary think tanks that do more than think? What role can the new campus (and new technology) play in such endeavors?

16. Tom Holcomb, Deaf Education

To illustrate the differences between deaf and hearing cultures, I co-produced a 45 minute video in 2001 entitled "See What I Mean: Differences between Deaf and Hearing Cultures." The video is now being used in ASL classes here at Ohlone and throughout the country. I am working on a new video with August as the target date for dissemination. This product is designed to assist newcomers to the deaf community (1st level ASL students) with their initial contacts with deaf people. ASL students are required to attend deaf events as part of their course work and often they need additional guidance and support in making the experience more comfortable and positive and I'm hoping that this video will address this need. The working title of this project is: A Sign of Respect: Strategies for Effective Deaf/Hearing Interactions.

I have also been working with my colleagues from National Technical Institute for the Deaf/Rochester Institute of Technology and National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped in India to develop a grant proposal that would allow us to investigate the effects of electronic communication on the interactions between diverse deaf and hearing communities. If funded, we will be investigating how social factors such as race/ethnicity, hearing status, and gender influence IM networking. More specifically, we wanted to examine how a society functions in transferring information and in establishing social groups using new technologies, especially among deaf and hard of hearing people. Electronic media are often seen as providing a level playing field for deaf people because the hearing status are not immediately disclosed and thus stereotyping may not occur, resulting in a more successful relationship between deaf and hearing individuals.