

FACULTY COLLOQUIUM
Wednesday
September 18, 2013
UC 222
12-12:50pm

Costa Rica an Educational Experience

Dr. Jennifer Daniels
Assistant Professor of Teacher
Education

I was able to travel to Costa Rica with 10 students on an educational biodiversity field trip, replicating the same trip the National Science Teacher Association (NSTA) took the previous year. By attending this field experience I was able to develop a more concise understanding for the cultural and biodiversity of the rainforests, volcanic, and coastal regions of Costa Rica.

This creative activity was to promote biodiversity, adventure/nature learning, human geography, and active science learning in the field. In conjunction with STEM research, we are attempting to promote scientific inquiry and develop strong science base backgrounds in CMU's pre-serviced teachers.

While in Costa Rica we were able to explore volcanos, rainforest, and the coastal ocean of Costa Rica's diverse environments, including taking guided hikes in the private

rainforest reserve at Selva Verde, discovering the geological history of volcanoes at Arenal and Rincon de la vieja, and snorkeling amount the abundant marine life of the Pacific.

By developing STEM action research projects and taking the students on local and international field studies my hope is that I have developed a more thorough understanding on how to develop students' scientific thinking and helped them to demonstrate inquiry skills. My goal was to provide these students with a way of understanding science beyond the text book and create a love of inquiry that will extend beyond the CMU classrooms and promote science inquiry learning in their careers.



Please come with your lunch,
bring your faculty and staff
colleagues