What experience had the most impact on you?

I would say looking over the countryside from various points of view, this would be the great hills of Aberyswyth (where I could see both the ocean and the Welsh countryside), and traveling through the country via train and bus. On a deeper level, I enjoyed sharing this experience with a group of students, not just seeing the country as a tourist, but delving into it as a student.
What were your expectations for the trip? How did your experience differ from your expectations?

I honestly did not know what to expect, I thought we would just be ushered from place to place and everything would have a strict itinerary. While we had an itinerary that told us where to be and when at certain points, for a part of the time we had free reign (within reason) to explore and take in where we were on our own accord, this made the program even better.

What were some of the biggest cultural differences you witnessed or experienced while abroad?

I did notice a change in religion. The locals were shocked when I mentioned my "church friends", from what they told me, church did not play as big as a role in their culture as it does in America. I hate to admit it, but people were generally friendlier over there and for one who is generally leery of big cities, I never felt uncomfortable in Cardiff or any of the towns we visited.

Here in America, it seems that everywhere you turn things are closed off; signs tell you "Do Not Enter", roads are blocked. This was not the case over there; our group was able to explore castle ruins and mines that if they existed here in America we couldn't have dreamed of entering; of course everything was safe."

What surprised you the most about your time abroad?

I was surprised by how quickly our group bonded, it’s neat how 2.5 weeks can make such an impact and bring together a group of strangers. What really got me though, was how quickly I utterly fell in love with the
country, I am one who gets homesick easily, and during my stay in Wales really did not feel lonely for home, but had a harder time leaving that country.

Has this experience changed or had an impact on you? If yes please explain how.

I would say it has changed me in a way. Before the trip I never really had much energy or care for nature; but after climbing mountains, walking through the forest trails, and crawling through mine shafts I now have this little sense of adventure sparked inside me. I also have a better understanding of a country, its people, and culture that I never gave much thought to. Now everywhere I study or look I search for any hint of Wales; and am often surprised when I do find it without looking; beforehand I would have never noticed.

Willing to be contacted by prospective study abroad students about your experience?

Yes