What experience had the most impact on you?

It was SO helpful to travel with Eunice, who was originally from this country! It gave us great cultural background before we left for the trip, and she was very helpful to us while we were studying there. It was also helpful that the staff at St. Mary's were SO amazing and willing to assist us students. We had a fabulous experience with them. They are SIMPLY the best! It was helpful to have hands on experiences right next to them, and experience things from their eyes.

What were your expectations for the trip? How did your experience differ from your expectations?

I expected to see poverty and poor health conditions, which I did see. What I did NOT expect to see what such amazing use of their very limited resources. They are creative in their care of patients, and do a much better job of conserving resources than we do in the US.
What were some of the biggest cultural differences you witnessed or experienced while abroad?

We are so fortunate and blessed here in the US. We take so much for granted. I was prepared to see these differences, as I had been to India previously, but Kenyans are SUCH happy and joyful people. They are always smiling and so thankful for what they have and are given. They take care of EACHOTHER in a much better way that WE do in the US. Families are responsible for taking care of their family members while they are in-patient; verses in the US, nurses are expected to provide most of the care. Family members in Kenya are an important part of the healthcare TEAM.
What surprised you the most about your time abroad?

How much I did NOT want to come home! :)

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

Absolutely! I think about Kenya on a daily basis. I long to go back and see the friends I made while I was there. It made me a better nurse, and the entire experience will certainly make me a better nurse practitioner.

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

Yes