FACULTY MEMBER – INTERNATIONAL TRIP

We congratulate BSHSA Director and MHSA faculty member, Dr. Rick Browne, who was part of a Xavier faculty community and traveled to Managua, Nicaragua in early December 2016. Below is his account of the experience with editorial assistance from fellow traveler Jennifer Tighe, senior academic staff in the Communication Arts Department.

“Nicaragua Immersion Experience”

While a week may seem like a short period of time, the time of December 3-10, 2016 was packed with a host of engaging experiences. This Faculty Learning Community (FLC) focused on experiential learning, immersion pedagogy, and personal enrichment. Along with seven other faculty members from different departments, Dr. Browne stayed in a working class barrio and visited health clinics, schools, social service agencies, and small businesses.

He practiced his Spanish language skills and enjoyed meals with his host family. He also heard the personal stories of many Nicaraguans. Their narratives ranged from experiences during times of war and turmoil to the life-giving joy they find in their families and communities. The group experienced both the extraordinary poverty of this country as well as the warmth and industriousness of its people. Dr. Browne will spend the spring semester 2017 unpacking his experience with fellow FLC members as well as planning a similar immersion experience for students in the future.

The group is pictured outside “Casa Materna”, a non-profit organization serving young mothers facing high-risk pregnancies. It provides prenatal health care to persons in the mountainous region of Nicaragua. Pictured left to right: Tammy Sonnentag (Psychology), Tom Knestrict (Education), Laney-Bender-Slack (Education), Rick Brown (HSA), Diane Ceo-DiFrancesco (Modern Languages), Stacia Galey (OT), Tori Zascavage (Education), and Jenny Tighe (Communication Arts).