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CSUSB Study Abroad Granada 2017

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The study abroad program to Granada 2017 meant more to me than just a trip to another country. My daughter, Annelise, a non CSUSB student, was able to accompany me as a gift for her recent graduation from UCR as well as a birthday present which she celebrated while on this trip. She was my faithful companion throughout this trip. This program was my second study abroad experience as a mature adult and what made it extra special is the fact that I have multiple sclerosis, a debilitating disease which makes it very painful for me to walk. I had to walk to school and to every local event almost every day which really took a toll on my legs. I knew what I was in for and I knew that this would be my last adventure so far away from home.

The ladies and gentlemen that went on this study abroad were very kind and considerate to me. I enjoyed their company as much as possible.



This is the entire group having dinner on the first night in Malaga. Dinner included a sampling of many dishes: albondigas en salsa, croquetas de jamón, salpicón de pulpo to name a few.

*Granada 2017*

A very pleasant outing during the trip was to “El Mirador de San Nicolás” (an observation deck) to view the entire width of the Alhambra from a distance. Thank goodness I was able to take a taxi because it was located on top of a very steep winding hill in the Albaicin District. The afternoon was breezy and a relief from the heat we had been experiencing. This little outing prepared us for the actual visit to the majestic Alhambra Palace a few days later.



Below is a beautiful garden at the Alhambra. We just passed through it but it was enough to see how peaceful it would be to sit there to practice some mindful meditation and enjoy the view. Orange trees, blooming Lily of the Nile plants and well trimmed bushes outline this little space and the fountain in the middle is such a pretty focal point.



One of the reflective pools in Alhambra

When we weren't on an adventure somewhere, Annelise and I could be found in the hotel lobby with one of the long-term guests, Matilde, an 84 year old retired tour guide. We enjoyed a cup of coffee and some pastries from the bakery a few doors down the street while listening to her amazing and colorful stories about Spain from the past. I love making friends with the locals!

This program offered more than what I mentioned above but I chose to share what I will cherish the most – calm, relaxing moments.



pastries filled with warm chocolate



café manchado = light coffee, more milk

Thank you CSUSB Center for Global Management, President Morales for the award, all of the individuals for putting together this program which had a great itinerary and facilities for us to use for our classes. I would like to give a special heartfelt thank you to Professors Jerez-Gómez and Habich for preparing the lessons for this program and our guide, Inmaculada Correa for being patient and understanding with me and cheering me on to the finish line!

¡Hasta Luego!