



London

Adventures in
Experiential
Learning

Calling



DON'T MISS
THE 2016
EXPERIENTIAL ED
TRIP TO:

New Orleans

March 28-April 1



“It’s not really about the mastery of a subject; it’s about experiencing subjects in new venues and with all the glories and pains that travel brings. The discovery process goes on 24-7.”

—ASHLEY TIDEY

AT LAGUNA, the campus serves as a home base for learning that extends beyond the boundaries of the classroom and into the world, and the process doesn’t stop during school breaks. Building on the model of last year’s interdisciplinary trip to New York, this year seven teachers from the departments of English, History, and Theater Arts took fifty students—mostly freshmen and sophomores but also an enthusiastic assortment of juniors and seniors—on another urban and cultural adventure. The trip’s curricular focus included the World War I Centenary, British Modernism—the arts and literary movement that exploded concurrently—and London theater.

In the new World War I galleries of the Imperial War Museum, students encountered physical evidence for what they had been learning about in history and English classes. At the Tate Modern, which houses the most-visited collection of modern and contemporary art in the world, students went from looking at images online or in books to standing in the presence of some of the twentieth century’s most iconic paintings and sculptures. By walking through Bloomsbury with stops at Virginia Woolf’s house and the British Museum, reading assignments in English class became embedded in a real world of bricks and mortar. Through attending a special for-students-only Globe Theater production of *Othello*, which

was set in WWI, the Laguna group joined students from around the world in an unforgettable direct experience of the English language’s greatest author. The students also enjoyed a “Career Journey” talk with James Montgomery, the BBC’s head of digital content and technology. While touring the BBC studios, students practiced reporting British weather and world news and produced a collaborative radio show. They also saw the room where Charles de Gaulle gave his famous speech in June of 1940 as France fell to the Nazis, a speech that history teacher **Kevin Shertzer** shares with his students every year.

For many, a highlight of the trip occurred on the last day when the group attended the National Theatre’s award-winning production of *War Horse*—and when they experienced, a few hours before the show, an interactive puppetry workshop led by veteran National Theatre *War Horse* actors. Recalling the experience, chemistry teacher **Katie Pointer** explained that by attempting to “embody the horse (its movements, its noises, its gestures), we were better able to imagine how difficult it is to create a puppet with which the audience will connect. It changed our experience of the play. We were able to appreciate it for the ways it tied in to the history and English World War I curriculum, but because of the workshop, we also understood the incredible imagination and artistry that went into the production.”

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For Laguna history teacher and soccer coach Kevin Shertzer—and for the many Laguna soccer players and soccer fans—the trip to London would not have been complete without attending a British football (soccer) game. Shertzer’s biggest moment of the trip came before play even started, on the tube ride to West Ham stadium. When a singing contest broke out between the Sunderland and the West Ham supporters on the train, Shertzer said that “it was exactly the atmosphere I had hoped to experience when we first decided to go to a game.” For fellow historian **Richard Nathan**, “a leisurely stroll through Hyde Park which included a session at Speakers’ Corner” was the occasion for one of his unforgettable moments. Nathan reports that, “**Clay Rodgers ’18** was the star here for challenging a looney speaker ... and then becoming totally transfixed by what the looney had to say.”

» 10 things we learned about each other

Tiffany is a wanderer • Fernanda and Camila are really, really loud • Zane loves selfies • Jason loves video games • Jack Fry can sleep on an airport floor like a baby • Mr. Nathan has a big heart • Rose likes to hit • When it comes to “football,” Mr. Shertzer is like a kid in a candy store • Ethan has a love for “soccer boots” beyond anyone else in the world • Ms. Tidey sleeps with a fancy neck pillow and matching eye mask when she flies

Laguna football fans watch West Ham beat Sunderland at Boleyn Ground Stadium.



Students have a go at making their own radio play at the newly restored BBC Radio Theatre.



Through Laguna’s experiential travel programs, teachers and students encounter the whole wide world together. It’s real-time, real-life learning; we seek unforgettable situations that change us, and those experiences generate intrinsic motivation that carries over into our work on campus. Through travel, learning moves from the passive to the active. “What I love about these trips is that faculty are learning alongside the kids,” says Experiential Learning Coordinator and English teacher **Ashley Tidey**. “It’s not really about the mastery of a subject; it’s about experiencing subjects in new venues and with all the glories and pains that travel brings. The discovery process goes on 24-7.” Student **Eric Chen ’17** says his biggest moment came “when I saw the U.S. students dancing in front of the National Gallery, and I thought ‘Americans bring some color to this grey city.’” **Camila Lemere ’18** adds, “Going to London shaped my relationships with my classmates and teachers in a way that I didn’t expect, and I wouldn’t trade it for anything in the world.”



Students follow teleprompters and practice their tasks as BBC newscasters.