

St. Andrew's Students and Faculty Arrive in Haiti for Spring Break Service Trip

Will Robinson, Mar 3 2014

St. Andrew's is back in Haiti. Two years after helping bring needed infrastructure improvements to Lafond, Haiti a group of eight students and two teachers began their spring break this week by returning to the small village in the mountains outside of Port-au-Prince.

The group will spend ten days working alongside the people of Lafond on a solar electric project that promises to supply village with clean, renewable energy. They arrived on Friday and enjoyed the spectacle of carnival in Port-au-Prince before embarking on the arduous trip over the unpaved, mountain roads to Lafond early Saturday morning.

"We arrived in La Fond, unloaded the cars, and had a meditation in a beautiful clearing with a view of the near clouds, and the valley far below," shared Isabel Navarro '15 on the group's blog. "We then had a delicious lunch, before our tour of the school and the houses we will be wiring for two light bulbs each. We were joined by two sort-of friendly dogs and a cadre of children. We walked for about 3 hours, greeting homeowners with a 'bonjou' or 'bonswa,' sometimes accompanied by energetic hugs. We were also gifted with many ripe oranges and grapefruits, and the promise of yams for later in the week. We came back to camp to yet another beautiful and copious dinner, with rice and beans, pasta gratine, fish, spicy coleslaw, and plantains. Now, we are engaged in the second furious round of UNO."

This is the second time St. Andrew's students have traveled to Haiti since a 7.0 magnitude earthquake devastated the island in 2010. Modern Languages Chair Diahann Johnson organized the trip with Chaplain Jay Hutchinson and in partnership with the World Leadership School, a non-profit that empowers young leaders to find new and innovative approaches to the world's most pressing problems.

Students hope to provide updates, when possible, on the group's blog, <http://standrews-haiti-2014.blogspot.com/>