

TESTIMONIAL

Between March and July 2011 I had the incredible opportunity to teach in Chile as a Fulbright Scholar at Universidad Mayor. I traveled with my husband (a sociologist on sabbatical) and our daughters, ages 8 and 12. Professionally and personally it was a wonderful opportunity for me and my family. We learned so much, gained new language skills, and have a new perspective as we return to our work and lives in the US. Interacting with new colleagues, students, teachers, and parents gave me the opportunity to share ideas and collaborate with a wide variety of people, and I return now to my teaching, scholarship, and service with new ideas and new questions.

At Universidad Mayor I worked with the English Pedagogy Program at the Santiago and Temuco campuses to support the professional development of teachers of English. I taught curriculum planning and a test preparation course and also delivered a series of 20 lectures for students, practicing teachers, and university faculty on topics that included curriculum, assessment, differentiated instruction, the use of literacy strategies, and culturally responsive pedagogy. During this time I also helped the English Pedagogy Program initiate three projects. (1) Through the Global Book Project, teacher candidates used children's literature with global content to promote English language learning for children at *Escuela 25* while practicing pedagogical skills in a school setting. (2) The Professional Portfolio will help teacher candidates document their development as teachers of English, and (3) the Mentoring Program matches 4th year candidates with 1st year candidates to provide pedagogical practice for experienced students and promote English language learning for newer students.

The Fulbright Commission provided another source of new colleagues, friends, and opportunities. For those Chilean students seeking opportunities to study in the US, I was asked to speak about graduate study in the US and developing a CV. I also had the opportunity to serve on an interview panel for students pursuing graduate study in the field of education. Moreover, there



were several social events hosted by the Fulbright Commission where I met Chilean and US scholars who have become colleagues and friends.

For my family the experience of living, studying, and working in Chile brought us closer together as we had to depend on each other and as we shared what we were learning each day. Initially my daughters did not want to travel to Chile, but by July, they did not want to leave because of the friends they made and the new perspectives they gained. They attended the Grange School, a British bilingual school where the large majority of students are from Chile. Here they had wonderful teachers, made many new friends, and had a chance to try new activities and experiences. Their Spanish language skills developed with the support of their teachers and friends, and we also enrolled in a Spanish intensive language school which increased our understanding of Chilean language and culture and also gave us the opportunity to meet people from all over the world.

I am so grateful for the Fulbright experience and wish to thank my wonderful colleagues and students at Universidad Mayor, the wonderful teachers, students, and parents at the Grange school, and most especially the wonderful staff and administration at Fulbright who made this opportunity possible. My family and I will take the many the many new understandings we have gained back home to Buffalo, New York where they will influence our future work, studies, and perspectives.