STAYING IN TOUCH FROM AFAR

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- Preparing ‘journal’ entries and selecting photographs for posting on a public blog generate discussion that may not otherwise happen.
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- OVERVIEW

The goal of Interdis 422C, Exploring Medicine in Other Cultures, is to promote better understanding of how a people's culture impacts the health of individuals and populations as well as the delivery of health care. In Spring 2005, participants in this course explored the feasibility of using blogs and the supporting technology to advance the educational goals of the course during a medical outreach experience in a developing country. This spring (2006), course participants have greatly expanded utilization of the blog, including student submissions.

- OUTCOMES

- Promoted discussion, reflection, and integration of experiences.
- Challenged stereotypes regarding technology and internet access and use in a developing country.
- Increased visibility of experiences and goals to a wider audience beyond the immediate outreach team.
- Enabled family and friends to share in the experiences of the team.
- Stimulated interest among 2006 outreach team in facilitating discussion and reflection on experiences and observations while in country.

- SPONSORS

- Duke School of Medicine
- Duke School of Nursing

- TECHNOLOGY USED

- Movable Type
- Digital Camera
- Laptop Computer

- Course participants

- Spring 2005 trip blog