

Bridgewater senior travels to Uganda for medical mission

A Bridgewater College rising senior is in the Republic of Uganda this summer for a two-month medical and teaching mission.

Bethany Hansberger, an athletic training and psychology double major from Sterling, Va., left the United States on May 25 headed for Masindi-Kitara in northwestern Uganda. Although her mission is under the guidance of the Society of Anglican Missionaries and Senders (SAMS), Hansberger's effort is an individual one and she traveled alone to the impoverished East African nation.



Bethany Hansberger

Once in Uganda, Hansberger was met by SAMS missionary Janine LeGrand, who has worked for years to improve basic health, nutrition, malaria control and sanitation in Uganda. Hansberger will stay and work with LeGrand until her departure from Uganda July 27.

While there, Hansberger will work with children, teaching them lessons related to health and hygiene. "For example, I will teach the importance of hand washing, as many people there do not use soap if they even bother to rinse their hands under water at all," Hansberger said. "I also received donations of toothbrushes and dental floss, which I will use in a dental hygiene lesson."

Hansberger said that, in addition to teaching, she would like to work in a clinic in Masindi-Kitara.

"I am really grateful to be able to go on this trip," she said. "Ever since high school I have felt called to go on a medical mission trip, and I am very glad that the time has finally come for me to get to go. I know that I will be doing things that I will always remember, and I want to leave a lasting impact on the people that I meet, and show them God's love through the things that I do while I am there."