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Jennifer Jacobs Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEPS) travels to England

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Jennifer Jacobs

Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering

The UNH's Center for International Education grant provided financial support to accept a seminar invitation and to meet with colleagues at Nottingham University and Newcastle University, England about climate change and infrastructure. Upon my arrival in Birmingham on November 16, 2015 I was met by Dr. Jo Daniel at the Birmingham Airport. Jo is a colleague in UNH's Civil and Environmental Engineering, and my research partner in infrastructure and climate research. She was on a Fulbright at Nottingham University since August. From that point forward, we began a whirlwind week of travel, meetings and many opportunities for cultural events.

Because Jo had the time and proximity to get to know the individuals, work with them in person, and arrange our meetings in advance of my visit, it was relatively easy to get down to business in an extremely friendly environment. On the first day, we met with Jo's host research group at Nottingham University's Nottingham Transportation Engineering Centre (NTEC). We strolled from her faculty housing in a vivid red building to the campus. Notably, the campus has a range of architectural styles including modern mixed with traditional. Our host, Dr. Gordon Airey, had arranged an informal discussion with a group of NTEC researchers. We quickly identified common interests, mutual colleagues and were able to find numerous points for future collaboration. The day ended with a dinner at a traditional British pub, including the obligatory fish and chips.

The following day, Jo and I headed north to Newcastle by a series of three trains. The UK railway system was a marvel of efficiency. With only ten minutes between arrival and departures, we easily made the switch between trains. Throughout the trip, UK researchers asked about whether I was studying climate change impacts of the rail system. After traveling via rail extensively, it is clear why this is a priority research area in the UK but not in the US. The train also offered stunning views of the landscape. Recent rains from the remnant of the Hurricane that hit South Carolina had flooded much of the landscape in the northern portion of the route.



Dr. Hayley Fowler (l.) and Dr. Jennifer Jacobs (r.) at Gateshead Millennium Bridge in the UK

We were hosted at Newcastle by researchers Dr. Richard Dawson and Dr. Hayley Fowler, who work at the interface between infrastructure modeling, engineering, and climate change. Because Hayley had set up a jam-packed schedule with meetings and a seminar right up till our return train to Nottingham left, we got up early to see a series of bridges along the River Tyne. The highlight was seeing the Gateshead Millennium Bridge. The Gateshead Millennium Bridge is remarkable pedestrian and biking tilt bridge that is sometimes referred to as a Blinking Eye Bridge. While we did not get to see it lift, we were able to cross it during the busy morning commute. The remainder of the day was just as exciting with discussions about a number of extreme events across the globe that have impacted infrastructure in locations from major cities in Australia to small hillside villages in the Nepal.

The last event of the week brought us to London where we caught up with Michelle Day, formerly from UNH's EOS group. Michelle runs the

School of Geography's extensive laboratories at Queen Mary's University of London. Technical discussions about experimental instruments and methods including the potential use of their CT scanner to advance our snow research were sandwiched between some adventures. Michelle, Jo, Jo's family, and I met at [Warner Bros. Studio Tour London - The Making of Harry Potter](#). Surprisingly, the sets turned out to be an engineering marvel that included bridges, great halls, and the Hogwarts Castle. At the end of the tour, Jo and family returned north to Nottingham while Michelle and I headed south to London. I had a chance to learn about and see Michelle's newly refurbished laboratory and instrumentation. Our final outing was to see Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge in Epping Forest.



Dr. Jacobs (center) with UNH professor Dr. Jo Daniel (l.) and her family on tour of The Making of Harry Potter



Many thanks to Jo Daniel and our many UK colleagues for making this a great trip, to CIE for the travel support that helped to motivate the trip, and to all the folks who taught me how to drink a proper cup of tea.

Dr. Jacobs enjoying a proper cup of tea



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