

GLOBAL News & Notes

Summer 2008



New Internship Programs in Mexico and Namibia

Mexico and Namibia semester programs have both offered internship programs for a number of years. Starting this year, however, both will expand their internship offerings. Mexico will offer year-round internship opportunities and Namibia will offer a new summer internship program. These new programs are responding to high interest from both students and internship sites.

The Mexico site offers several options for internships in diverse fields, and students will now be able to complete full-time internships during January-term, summer, semester, or over a full year, as well as conduct part-time ones during the semester and summer programs. Some can be combined with Spanish language study, including courses that can complement the intern experiences, such as Spanish for healthcare professionals, Spanish for ministry, and topics in business Spanish. Academic credit can be offered or not, depending upon the needs of the applicants, and are open to gap year students, recent college graduates, and

graduate students as well as undergraduate students.

In Namibia, a new summer internship program, "Social Change and Development in Southern Africa," will start in 2009. It will provide students with an opportunity to learn about contemporary and historical issues impacting development and social change in Southern Africa and the efforts to address such issues.



A student from Oberlin College interns at Lironga Eparu, the National Association for People Living with HIV/AIDS.

Students will enroll in a course examining social change and development in addition to their attachment with a local organization dealing with education, community development, health, or social change. Both the course and internship are offered for credit. Participants will also be engaged in opportunities for experiential learning and community engagement through in-country orientations, home stays with local families, and travel seminars visiting Namibia's coast, Etosha National Park, and a rural community.

Internships have been a highlight for many past semester participants. Internships provide students opportunities for hands-on learning, personal and professional development, and rich exposure to local cultures and communities. Mexico and Namibia's internship programs offer an opportunity for independent learning and community engagement, while also providing peer support and guidance through classes and advising.



During an internship in Mexico, a student assists with an agricultural project.

A student from Wesleyan University who did an internship in Mexico said, "I'm really appreciative of the information and resources I've had access to through this internship. I feel that that's one way in which this experience stood out from those that the other students this semester seemed to have. I'm doing something that really engages me through its connections to my academic interests and getting the chance to get new perspectives on themes I've been thinking about throughout my time in college."

An Augsburg College student who interned in Namibia with Hope Initiative said, "I enjoyed every minute of my time at Hope Initiatives. The staff has been so flexible and willing to help me in anyway. The amount of knowledge and confidence I have gained here is endless. I now feel that I am a more well-rounded teacher and have had my mind opened to all new experiences."

An ongoing goal is to make sure that internships are reciprocal for the host organizations. In Namibia the Manager at the Friendly Haven Shelter said, "We are definitely interested in hosting another intern. I've found the interns from CGE to be mature and take initiative in their work...With a short-term intern, the students are able to start and finish a project. Our interns have really allowed us to address issues we wouldn't otherwise be able to attend to." The internship supervisor from an environmental non-governmental organization in Mexico stated that "It was a great experience for me. (The intern) helped with many things, really more than I expected him to. Not only am I happy with what he did at the organization but really with his spirit of collaboration. Even when I thought things were fine, (the intern) went beyond my expectations and gave a lot of himself." Please check the website for details on these programs.



A student participates in coffee picking at an agricultural cooperative in Nicaragua.

Service Learning in the Context of Short-term Programs

We recognize a growing interest in service learning programs on college campuses and within faith communities. That interest extends to combining service learning with international travel. The Center for Global Education staff has discovered that it is not always easy to structure meaningful service learning programming into short-term educational programs. In fact, service-learning can focus entirely on the helping relationship and actually impede what participants can learn from the experience.

The Center frequently gets requests to incorporate service learning into an international travel seminar. However, we see our mission as educational rather than service, with more emphasis on ‘community engagement’ and learning. Within our educational philosophy, we believe that participants must take time to learn, analyze, and reflect on what they experienced—a process our staff facilitates. Then they can plan the action they wish to take or “service” they would

like to work with the community to provide. Therefore, there is often not time to fully time to do service learning within the context of a short travel experience, especially in a different cultural context.

Within our objective of community engagement, we have identified ways to satisfy service learning needs and incorporate opportunities that can both be beneficial to the travel group as well as the host community. Goals for the engagement are to:

- serve the communities of both the travel group and the host community so that learning can take place from each other,
- tap into a longer term partnership that the Center has with the community,
- set an educational foundation and context prior to service for the experience to foster deeper learning.

Our highest priority is to plug into ongoing community projects rather than creating a new project for a group. Participants engage in reflection and analysis throughout the experience in order to deepen their learning. When a group engages in an interaction with a community, they become part of the Center's ongoing relationship with that group. It's not just a one-time interaction for the community or CGE staff.

One goal of these experiences is to reflect on the assumptions we as North Americans bring to the situation and consider why we may be quick to want to move to action. Our goal is to analyze the underlying causes of need within the community and also to examine ways of bringing about structural change.

Some of our first experiences of service learning were working with a Habitat for Humanity building project in Mexico. This was an ongoing project that the community requested, so there was a structure for connecting a group with the project for a few days without the project being dependent on our involvement. That meant that it would continue after our group left. Another common service activity in Mexico is for a group to hear about HIV/AIDS work done by a small organization while they help to stuff information packets that will be distributed throughout the city. Because the organization is so small, having this service is very beneficial to them. For more active learners, this can help to deepen their learning while they feel that they are contributing positively to a community effort.

In Nicaragua, to strengthen learning about organic coffee production and fair trade, participants may try coffee picking while visiting an agricultural cooperative, finding out firsthand how difficult this task is! While learning about coffee

growing, they also have an opportunity to learn about the benefits and limitation of fair trade from the experience of the coffee growers in the cooperative.

In the last few years we have been working with more medical studies programs for immersion trips. A good example of a reciprocal relationship was set up between Boston College nursing students and the Jubilee House in Nicaragua. During a one week trip, the nursing students spend the mornings working in a community health clinic sponsored by Jubilee House. Some see patients, some work in the pharmacy, and others file paperwork. During the afternoons, the nursing students learn about the healthcare system in Nicaragua and the realities of poverty and development in the same way as other international travel seminars. Early in the week, the nursing students meet with members of the community to identify issues that the women want to learn about, and then on the last day in Nicaragua the students present a workshop to the women addressing those issues. The workshop is done in popular education format, with graphs, hands-on activities, and active learning. It is a program that deepens the learning for the US nursing students and provides a service that is of benefit to the community.

Service-learning within the context of ongoing engagement with a community can provide a meaningful action step to deeper learning. The long term relationships CGE has built with local communities provides a context for exploring underlying causes of need, ways of bringing about structural change, and the resilience and resources within the community while making a positive contribution to the community. The ultimate goal is shared learning and mutual benefit for both parties.

Staff Changes

Sarah Pressman is leaving as the intern, Central America. She is going to be studying in a master's program foreign language at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee and will work as a teaching assistant for Spanish courses.

Rebekah Menning, will be the new intern, Central America, starting in August. She graduated from St. Olaf College with a BA in Social Work. She participated in the Center's Social Work in a Latin American Context program in Cuernavaca, Mexico. Later, she spent time volunteering in Chiclayo, Peru, studying domestic violence in Puebla, Mexico, and living and working in various cities in Central Mexico. As a licensed social worker she spent two years providing case management services to low-income families in the Twin Cities area—the majority of her caseload being immigrant families from Mexico and Central America.

The International Travel Seminar Team is excited to announce the hiring of **Olee Amata** as the new program assistant. Olee is currently a student at Augsburg College, majoring in business management and management information systems. Before joining the Center, she was working part-time at Augsburg with TRIO/Student Support Services and with URGO (Office of Undergraduate Research & Graduate Opportunities). Olee went on an Augsburg College course to El Salvador this past January, which fueled her interest to work for the Center. Olee is fluent in Laotian, Thai, English, and speaks a little French.

Urbanus Dax has accepted the position of director of the program site in Windhoek, Namibia. He has served as program coordinator and instructor at the center in Namibia since January of 2001 and has also served as interim director on two occasions.

Emerald Okumura was promoted to program associate, international travel seminars and **Dulce Monterubbio** was promoted to program associate, academic programs abroad. **David Hamilton** had a title change to director, international travel seminars. **Fatimah Panemalaythong's** title changed to administrative assistant.

Romanus Shivor has been hired as program coordinator and adjunct professor in Namibia. He has a bachelor's degree in non-formal education and community development from the University of Namibia and a master of arts in curriculum development and educational management from the University of Lucknow in India. He has been a lecturer at the Institute of Open Learning and University of Namibia, and has served as a technical training coordinator facilitating training sessions in History of Namibia, History of Education in Namibia, HIV/AIDS and Education in Namibia for the U.S. Peace Corps in Namibia. We are pleased to welcome him to our staff.

Travel Seminar Opportunities

Please note: The price for all international travel seminars includes all meals and lodging, ground transportation, programming, language translation and interpretation, pre- and post-trip resources, honoraria for local resource people, fees for planned activities, and airfare as indicated. If airfare is included, other departure cities may be available and the price from those cities may vary.

BOLIVIA

Working for the Common Good: Education and Development in Bolivia November 8-19, 2008

The Aymara concept of *ayni* is the idea of mutual responsibility, sharing and protecting resources, and working for the common good. This trip will examine *ayni* in the larger context of education and development in Bolivia and in a specific institution that uses it as a motivating principle: The Unidad Académica Campesina-Carmen Pampa. UAC-CP is dedicated to making higher education available to young Bolivians with talent and ambition but with few economic resources. Visit the ancient Inca site of Machu Picchu (Peru) on your way home! Sponsored by Carmen Pampa Fund. Price: \$3,200. Price includes international airfare from Minneapolis/St. Paul. Price may vary if traveling from other locations or as airfare changes. Application deadline is September 1, 2008.

NICARAGUA

Democracy in the Age of Globalization November 15-22, 2008

Are you interested in Latin American politics and global economics? Join Colorado Mountain College in learning about the impact of globalization on the politics and economy of Nicaragua and the effect it has on Nicaraguan families, 80% of whom live on less than \$2 a day. This journey seeks to explore the relationships between the international economy and the political life of the Nicaraguan people, and assess the prospects for deepening democracy in a country riding the currents of globalization and living in the shadow of the United States. Sponsored by Colorado Mountain College. Price: \$1,270 without airfare. Application deadline is September 8, 2008.

NICARAGUA

Coffee with a Conscience—the LWR Coffee Project January 5-12, 2009

Though coffee is the second most highly traded commodity in the world, most of the people who grow coffee are without access to basic nutrition, education, health care and sanitation. Why? Come to listen and learn about the social justice issues involved in the coffee trade. Return to your campus or faith community changed, and equipped to advocate for justice and peace through prayer, reflection on the root causes of poverty, sharing resources, storytelling, and consumer and citizen action. Sponsored by Lutheran World Relief. Price: \$1,325 without airfare. Application deadline is October 6, 2008.

GUATEMALA

Guatemala Adventure: Maya People and Culture Today January 6-18, 2009

We welcome you to join us this January to experience the culture, society, and history of the indigenous peoples of Guatemala. This seminar will immerse you in the daily

lives of Mayan women and men and introduce you to a world that existed long before the Spanish conquest. During the seminar, you will learn about the Mayan worldview: mythology, spirituality, and the Mayan conception of an afterlife. In addition to visiting archaeological sites such as Tikal, the seminar will educate participants about contemporary efforts to promote indigenous rights and secure a life of dignity for Mayan peoples. As part of this experience, participants will learn about effective communication across cultural boundaries in the Guatemalan context. Sponsored by Dana College. Price: \$2115 without international airfare, but it does include internal airfare to and from Tikal. Application deadline is September 16, 2008.

EL SALVADOR

Trends & Tensions: Election Observations in El Salvador

March 10-17, 2009

Will El Salvador join the recent Latin American trend of turning to the Left? Or will it continue its current path to the Right? Join us in seeing the process for yourself! March 2009 marks the fourth time that Salvadoran citizens will be going to the polls to elect their executive since the 1992 Peace Accords ended a 12-year war in El Salvador and the FMLN Left-leaning guerillas put down their arms and became a political party. The FMLN candidate is a journalist and a well-known news show host named Mauricio Funes. Right-leaning ARENA's candidate is Rodrigo Ávila, former Director of the National Civil Police. You will get a chance to look at election issues, learn about voting mechanisms, and explore the broader socio-political world that frames them all.

Price: \$1230 without airfare. Application deadline is November 3, 2008.

NICARAGUA

Environmental Justice and Sustainable Development:

Views from Latin America

May 25 -June 8, 2009

What does it mean to prioritize land conservation in a region with millions of unemployed agricultural workers? Is it possible to simultaneously participate in the current international economic order and pursue national policies of sustainable development? Explore these and other questions through the lens of contemporary Nicaraguan political society and U.S. foreign policy. Meet with individuals and organizations from a broad spectrum of political beliefs and social identities and compare their approaches to environmental justice and social change. See firsthand the environmental issues and development struggles shaping the lives of the Nicaraguan people. Travel to rural communities and ecological reserves in different parts of the country to analyze the causes of—and solutions to—poverty, injustice, and environmental degradation.

Price: \$1,765 without airfare. Application deadline is February 13, 2009. (Preference will be given to University of Montana students through January 31, 2009.)

UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Education for Global Citizenship

June 20 – 28, 2009

Nicaragua

Go to www.CenterForGlobalEducation.org for details.



If you have any questions about the Center for Global Education, please contact us at 1-800-299-8889, www.CenterForGlobalEducation.org, or e-mail gloaled@augsborg.edu.

This newsletter is printed on paper that is Green Seal® certified and contains 30% recycled post-consumer fiber.



Augsburg College
2211 Riverside Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55454

Address Service Requested

NON PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 2031 Minneapolis, MN
