**Marine Wildlife Ecology**

This Quarter Course (Q4) will use SLN online active learning modules to build your background in the behavioral ecology and community structure/dynamics of marine life [e.g. dolphins, turtles, rays, reef fish, mangrove communities] surrounding the Bay Islands of Honduras. We will use a hands-on study of dolphins and their behavior to examine the historical role of mega fauna in ecotourism and conservation. In addition, you will have the opportunity to observe first hand the biodiversity parallels between tropical wet forests and coral reefs that you’ve read about in textbooks. While in Honduras your classroom will include mangrove forests, aquamarine lagoons, the Mayan reef system, island keys and a forest wildlife refuge on the mainland. The landscape of eastern Honduras blends almost seamlessly with the Caribbean Sea. Mountainous rain forest descent to lowland tropical forests and savannahs, giving way to the ocean incrementally, with submerged coral reefs stretching far out into the sea.

**Tentative Itinerary**

**Saturday, June 12:** Afternoon arrival on Roatan. Transfer to Anthony’s Key Resort (AKR).

**Sunday, June 13:** Orientation to Roatan Institute of Marine Sciences (RIMS). Reef dive/snorkel. Dolphin lecture. Introduction to conducting behavioral research.

**Monday, June 14:** Sea turtle lecture. Dive/snorkel to observe and discuss reef habitats and wildlife. Picnic lunch at Osgood Key Beach. Fish Survey Techniques lecture. Dive/snorkel to conduct fish survey. Dinner discussion of reef fish community structure.

**Tuesday, June 15:** Dolphin Lecture on intelligence, cognition and communication, social dynamics and conservation. Dolphin training session. Snorkel at Bailey’s Key. Dolphin behavior study. Dolphin demonstration. Bus trip to West End to explore town and shopping.

**Wednesday, June 16:** Bay Islands - cultural history lecture. Dive/snorkel (fish surveys). Dolphin swim. Dolphin behavior study. BBQ Fiesta on the Key.

**Thursday, June 17:** Mangrove lecture. Mon-o-War Key Mangrove root snorkel. Packed lunch in the field. Sea grass and patch reef snorkel. Lecture on coral reef threats and RIMS long term reef monitoring project. Night dive lecture. Night dive/snorkel.

**Friday, June 18:** Depart for ferry to mainland Cuero y Salada Wildlife Refuge excursion. Highlights - coconut train ride to La Union to refuge, reserve exploration via canoe for viewing habitat and wildlife.

**Saturday, June 19:** Depart for airport. Return to US.
Housing and Meals
Students will be housed at the Anthony’s Key Resort (AKR). All meals are at AKR unless otherwise specified.

Program Costs
The cost information below lists all costs included in the program fee, and estimates for additional expenses. There is no additional tuition charge for this program for SUNY Oswego students.

Program Fee: $2195.00

The program fee includes the following:

• International flight to Roatan;
• All meals;
• Repatriation insurance coverage; and
• Accommodation.

The following are not included in the program fee:

• Connecting flight (varies);
• Passport cost - $100.00; and
• Spending money - $150.00.

The above are estimates and vary per individual spending habits.

Course Enrollment & Requirements
The study visit is a required component of the 3 credit “BIO 301: Marine Wildlife Ecology” course. The coursework for this course is done online during Q4, and a course syllabus will be provided with course requirements.

Qualifications
Interested students will be registered for Q4 course “BIO 301: Marine Wildlife Ecology” during course registration by the Office of International Education and Programs.

Payment Dates
December 1, 2009 $250 deposit due
January 15, 2010 Program Balance due

Applications
Submit completed application with $250 deposit by December 1st to the Office of International Education and Programs. Earlier applications strongly encouraged. Refer to http://www.oswego.edu/intled for application and registration instructions.

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