

Southern Miss  
Office of Community Service Learning  
and International Programs  
Present



# SERVICE LEARNING IN: Costa Rica

June 7-22, 2008



Connect with the past.  
Prepare for the future.  
Live in the moment.  
**STUDY ABROAD!**



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI  
International Programs

The University of Southern  
International Programs  
118 College Drive #10047  
Hattiesburg, MS 39406



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI  
International Programs

## THE PROGRAM

Service Route is a program that provides students with the opportunity to learn about others as well as themselves. During these trips, students are immersed in a different environment, providing community service to those in need. As a team, students are making a difference in the lives of others.

## LOCATION

The program will take place in the community of Santa Elena de Monte Verde, Puntarenas Province. Students will live with host families and work on service-learning projects that promote environmental conservation and ecotourism in the region. Most of the activities will take place on the Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve, which is run by the local high school board. Students will work with VIDA, which was founded in 1988 by a group of university and high school students who recognized the need to conduct environmental education, to support protected areas and to assist with community development in Costa Rica.

## ACADEMIC CREDIT

### **Field Biology: Costa Rica— 6 credit hours in 404/404L or 504/504L**

This course will take place during a 5 week 1 session. The first two-weeks of the course will be held on the Hattiesburg campus, followed by two weeks in Costa Rica. The course will wrap up for another week upon returning to Hattiesburg.

Travel to Costa Rica and learn about bio diversity in the tropical cloud forest. This course introduces students to plants and animals of the tropics and the climatic and geographic features that influence them. Students will work on service projects related to real-world issues in a local community trying to balance conservation and economic development.

### **Community Building and Engagement— 4 credit hours in SOC 421/521**

Travel to Costa Rica and learn about the role of non-profits and other non-governmental organizations in community building. This course introduces students to different theories of community engagement. Students will gain practical experience through working with the school board of the Santa Elena Technical Professional High School, which is involved in the revitalization of the local community through its work in the Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve.

## ELIGIBILITY

To qualify, undergraduate students must be in clear academic standing with a minimum GPA of 2.0 on at least 28 semester hours of college/university course work. Graduate students must be in graduate standing.

## COST

The cost of this program is \$2,899 for undergraduate credit and \$3,099 for graduate credit. Cost includes tuition and fees, transportation associated with the academic program, round-trip airfare from New Orleans and accommodation.

## FINANCIAL AID

Students participating on the Costa Rica Service Learning program qualify for financial aid in the form of guaranteed student loans, summer Pell Grants or applicable graduate assistantships. Southern Miss students requiring financial aid should contact France Sudduth at the International Programs Office before requesting summer 2008 Study Abroad Financial Aid Application from the university's Financial Aid Office

## Application Deadline

Complete Applications with \$200 deposit are due by March 26, 2008. Balance of fees, less deposit is due no later than April, 2, 2008. Acceptance for qualified participants is made on a first come, first serve basis. Students are encouraged to apply early.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

The University of Southern Mississippi  
International Programs  
118 College Dr. Box # 10047  
Hattiesburg, MS 39406  
Phone: 266-4344  
Fax: 601-266-5699  
E-mail: [studyabroad@usm.edu](mailto:studyabroad@usm.edu)

