

CAMPUS MINISTRY

INTERNATIONAL IMMERSION TRIPS

Thank you for your interest in Campus Ministry International Immersion Trips! These international opportunities challenge students to exercise compassion, social analysis and faith reflection in developing world conditions. Participants pursue global issues of faith and justice in a community of fellow students. Each trip requires prior intensive preparation and follow-up, with weekly required meetings on Mondays from 7-8pm. Participants will travel with an understanding of the political, social, environmental and justice concerns of that region. Academic components create community and common concern for social justice around the world through reflection on issues through the lens of our faith.

Selection is competitive and demonstration of readiness is required. There are usually more applicants than spots for Campus Min International trips. In order to strengthen your application, the following is recommended:

- show a clear and consistent commitment to **service and volunteer work** beyond what is required for a course; describe how these experiences have influenced your worldview and your understanding of social justice
- describe how your **faith/spirituality** influences your desire to attend this trip and how you expect to grow in faith through the experience
- give examples of **communities** of which you've been a member & what gifts you have to bring to a team of people

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CAMPUS MINISTRY IMMERSION TRIPS,
Email Jen Tilghman-Havens: tilghman@seattleu.edu or call 206-296- 6079



“Let the nitty gritty details of the world inform your education in the Ignation Tradition” Rev Peter Hans Kolvenbach, SJ

Mexico Mission Trek

Specific Dates: December 13-20, 2008

Duration: 7 days

Cost: \$900 – most raised through team fundraising efforts

Special Features of the Trip: Participants fly to San Diego and drive in rented vans across the border into Tijuana, Mexico, where they reside and work for a week in simple conditions. The program works closely with Esperanza, a non-profit organization which organizes communities and offers construction assistance to families living in substandard housing. During the weekdays, participants join families in the construction of simple concrete homes. The labor-intensive construction activities include the pouring of concrete roofs, assembling brick walls, laying of roof tiles, and other strenuous physical activity. In addition, during the evenings and weekend, participants learn about the people, history, economy, and culture of Mexico through speakers, cultural events, tours, and direct contact with the border and the people of Tijuana. The program will include regular conversations and reflection upon our experiences in light of the Christian faith and Gospel. Conversational Spanish is encouraged but not required.

Quote: *“MMT simultaneously enlivened and sobered my idealism - enlivened it because I have never seen so much cause for hope or evidence of it on people's faces, and sobered because true change happens slowly.”* - MMT 2005 Participant

Ecuador Excursion

Rostro de Cristo (Face of Christ)

Specific Dates: Spring Break 2009

Duration: 10 days

Cost: \$1500 – most raised through team fundraising efforts

Special Features of the Trip: *Rostro de Cristo* (Face of Christ) is the name of a program set up by the St. James Society in Duran, Ecuador. Fr. Jim Ronan began the program in 1988 as a way for people in North America to experience the presence of Christ in the reality of the lives of the people of Latin America. It is a true immersion, as our group will live, eat, work, play and pray with the people of Duran. The goal of the program is a simple one: to BE with the people; to see the Face of Christ in those we meet in Duran. While building relationships with Ecuadorians, we will be invited into people's home and daily life situations. Our generous Ecuadorian brothers and sisters will generously offer their homes, time, attention and open hearts as well as life's struggles. We may build a house or provide some needed assistance, but our greater hope is to get to know the people as they truly are. Through a common mission, Rostro de Cristo and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) have joined together to expand an experience of living in solidarity with the poor both in Ecuador and back in the States in partnership with Seattle University and Campus Ministry.

Quote: *"This trip will be a time for me to deepen my spiritual journey by experiencing Christ in a new way through the heart of the Ecuadorian people"* -Ecuador Participant 2006



Belize International Outreach

Specific Dates: Spring Break, 2009

Duration: 10 days

Cost: \$1500 – most raised through team fundraising efforts

Special Features of the Trip: Belize is the only country in the region to have English as its national language although Creole, Spanish, and other languages are often heard on the street. A country of nearly 274,000 people, Belize is situated with the Caribbean Sea to the East, Mexico to the north, and Guatemala borders it on the West and South. The Belize Outreach began in 1992 and is designed to help students gain an understanding of the beautiful multicultural society in this developing nation. We approach our ten days in Belize with the simple desire to be with Belizean people and to serve by listening and holding a hand. It is a gift to encounter the diversity of Belize through its people and to learn about their lives, hopes, struggles and dreams. We will hear local speakers addressing topics pertinent to the lives of Belizeans, spend time with members of the Jesuit Volunteers International, and meet with high school students at St. John's College, a Jesuit school in Belize city. Students may work in a health clinic for the elderly poor, an elder daytime care center, a school, the YWCA, or a child care center. The outreach trip also includes regular reflections, which provide the opportunity to look upon our experiences in light of our faith.

Quote: *"I had done mission work before... and this was the first time I realized that trips like this can be more about learning about other human beings than about helping "those less privileged." The [Belize] trip reveals common humanity and a common understanding and so both parties benefit and both cultures give equally to one another, good and bad things."* -Belize 2005 Participant