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Name of Program: Geographic Information Systems in Belize: A Focus on Communities, Fieldwork and Service

Program Director: Dr. Timothy Hawthorne and Dr. Christy Visaggi

Location of Program: Belize

Dates of Program: May 12-24, 2015

This geographic information systems study abroad program takes place throughout the nation of Belize in Belize City, Belmopan, Dangriga and San Ignacio. Students should be aware of the tropical climate in Belize. During this trip in late spring, Belize will be experiencing its dry season. However, rain showers are still common in the dry season, and humidity will be high, pushing temperatures in the high 80's to 90's in the day, and the 70's in the evening. While students will have air conditioning in their hotel rooms (with exception of one night on an island in Dangriga), they should be prepared for unforeseen circumstances if their utilities are not functioning adequately. Much of the traveling will be done via air-conditioned van, on both paved and unpaved roads. If you are prone to car sickness, the van rides on unpaved, winding roads may affect you. Students will be walking daily through urban, residential locations with uneven surfaces, as well as trails during cave tubing and Mayan ruin excursions. Participants should also be capable of walking up flights of stairs at hotels and Mayan ruin sites. Additionally, students are advised to stay well hydrated through bottled water only. Malaria is common in Belize and you should discuss preventive options as well as other pertinent vaccinations with your doctor.