Biology 394a HN: Caribbean Marine Biology Seminar Class
February 15, 2006, 6:00 PM: Class 6
Topics to be discussed:

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Sponge Biology: Dennis Lavrov (EEOB)
Reef fish biology 1: Don Sakaguchi (GDCB)
Discussion of your research projects at RIMS: Project proposal’s are due.
Snorkeling/skin diving lessons

Handouts
Bio 394 Packing List – recommendations on what to pack for the field trip to RIMS
Bio 394 Trip Policy – requires your signature and date
Sample schedule - Iowa State University at RIMS
List of common coral reef fish/creatures –
we will perform fish surveys during the next few classes

Appoint with travel nurse/doctor for immunizations.
If you haven’t done so make the arrangements!

PASSENGERS:
Please make at least 3 photocopies of your passport (the pages with your photo and vital information). Why 3 copies you ask? 2 copies for the trip leaders (Ed and I will each have a copy of your passport for safe keeping), the other copy/s is for you to keep in a safe place while we are in Roatan. Perhaps in your suitcase and/or book bag, not in the same place as your passport.

Class/field trip notebook/journal/diary
You should already have one and you should be using it for the class
Log everything
You will be required to turn in your journal/logbook at the end of the field trip. Your journal/logbook will be returned to you.

YOUR RESEARCH ASSIGNMENTS:
1) You have already selected partners/buddy for your project.
2) You have already selected a research project – all research project outlines were approved by Don and Ed during our last class on Feb. 8.

3) Prepare your detailed project proposal. Use the "Project Methodology" outline that you received as a guide in preparing your detailed proposal.
4) This project proposal is due in class today (Wednesday, February 15, 2006).

Health insurance and International Student Identity Card:
You must have health insurance! If you do not have health insurance that will cover you while abroad, you need to obtain short term health insurance (Study Abroad has information). The Study Abroad Center has information on insurance policies designed for students participating in international programs. The International Student Identity Card (ISIC) provides supplemental
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coverage as well as repatriation expenses up to $7,500 and emergency evacuation up to $25,000. The ISIC policy is not a substitute for basic medical insurance. All ISU students studying abroad are required to purchase an International Student Identity Card (ISIC) for the duration of the program. An ISIC may be purchased at the Study Abroad Resource Center ($25.50) or at STA Travel.

Webpage for assignments and discussion:
Also, there is a new link at the bottom of the Bio 394 website (http://www.public.iastate.edu/~zoogen/Bio394/Bio394.html): "Informational page for students enrolled in Bio 394 (sect HN)." If you click on the "informational page" it will take you on an exciting journey to information specifically relevant to our class (Assignments, schedules etc).

Snorkeling/skin diving
Everyone should get in the water and practice snorkeling/skin diving/freediving before we go.

Snorkeling lessons/class on Thursday's (Feb. 16 and 23, if necessary we may be able to add additional sessions).
You will need snorkeling gear (mask, snorkel, fins, dive boots, bathing suit, towel). If you have questions about getting gear please contact Don.
Class will begin at approximately 8:00 PM at the Ames High School pool (as you enter the pool, if anyone at the front counter asks, just tell them you are with the scuba class and they should let you in).

Those of you that already know how to snorkel/scuba may wish to brush up on your skills and you are also welcome to participate.

SCUBA class
Don’t forget to read the next module, complete the Knowledge Review and study for the test.

Topics for next week's class:
Feb. 22
Scallop Biology and Honduran scallop fauna: Jeanne Serb, EEOB
Reef fish biology 2
Informational session on Honduras and the Bay Islands.
Discussion of your research projects at RIMS.