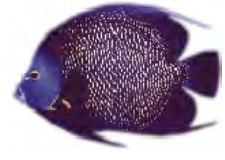




Bio 394 - International Field Trips in Biology



Caribbean Marine Biology Spring 2008

**At the Roatan Institute for Marine Sciences (RIMS)
Roatan Island, Honduras**

Study marine biology while snorkeling or SCUBA diving on the world's second largest barrier reef off the coast of Roatan Island in the crystal blue waters of the Caribbean sea. Learn about coral reefs and their inhabitants. Study dolphins and their behaviors. The Biology Program is once again offering a course and field trip on Coral Reef Biology in the Caribbean during spring semester 2008 for undergraduates and veterinary students.

This Program is designed to provide students with a coral reef biology and aquatic animal and ecosystem health field experience. The Program is composed of two parts: a seminar class and field trip to the Roatan Institute for Marine Sciences.

Bio 394a (1 credit): Students accepted into the program will enroll in a one credit seminar course for Spring semester 2008 where they will receive trip orientation information and academic background including lectures and discussions on topics such as: coral reef biology, vertebrate and invertebrate marine animal diseases, marine invertebrates, marine fish, marine ecosystem health, reef surveying techniques, cetaceans and the culture and history of Roatan.

Bio 394b (1 credit): The field trip (during spring break: **March 15-22, 2008**) will involve on-site lectures by experts dealing with topics such as coral reef ecology, marine invertebrates, fish and dolphins. Students will have extensive opportunities to observe incredible coral reefs and colorful invertebrates and fish while diving or snorkeling in a variety of marine habitats. Participants will be trained in techniques, and take part in coral reef and fish surveys. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to observe and interact with dolphins and perform fish and dolphin health assessment.

Course prerequisites: Students must possess a strong desire to learn about marine environments. Students should have successfully completed at least one year of college-level biology. Students must be very comfortable in an aquatic environment (i.e. extensive marine activities: snorkeling or SCUBA diving (SCUBA diving certification is not a prerequisite)).

Coral Reef Biology Field Trip homepage is located at the following web address:

<http://www.public.iastate.edu/~zoogen/Bio394/Bio394.html>

Check out the website to see photos from past field trips and obtain the latest information.

Instructors:

Dr. Don Sakaguchi, Associate Prof. of Genetics, Development and Cell Biology (GDCB)

Dr. Dusan Palic, Adjunct Assist. Prof. of Veterinary Microbiology and Preventive Medicine (VMPPM)

Students interested in the course and field trip should **send an E-mail immediately to:**

dssakagu@iastate.edu. Your name will be placed on an E-mail list to receive future information. Informational meetings on Oct. 2 at 7 PM in 205 Bessey and Oct. 3 at 6 PM in room 115 Science II.

College of Veterinary Medicine Informational Meeting: 7 PM Tuesday, Oct 9, room TBA Vet Med



The estimated cost of the trip: approximately \$2,810 (approximately \$2,710 for non-SCUBA divers). The price is subject to change, as we are still in the process of negotiating airfares.

Price includes the following:

Airfare: Des Moines to Roatan, round-trip.

Accommodations and 3 meals daily at Anthony's Key Resort (AKR) (Sat. - Sat.)

Roatan Institute for Marine Science (RIMS) marine biology program:

Two dives/snorkels daily, one night dive/snorkel, RIMS lectures on coral reef biology/ecology and dolphins, educational dolphin platform sessions and dolphin snorkel.

Trip insurance.

Tips for baggage handling, housekeeping service, waiters, divemaster and boat.

(price does not include: Study Abroad fee, SCUBA class and materials, SCUBA certification, and rental of SCUBA/snorkeling gear).

Accommodations: RIMS guests are housed in quad occupancy louvered wooden bungalows overlooking the lagoon reefs. Each has ceiling fan, 24-hour electricity, and a bathroom, including hot water shower; three ample meals a day are served (food has been described as excellent by past participants).

Roatan Institute for Marine Sciences (RIMS) Services:

Fully equipped dry and wet laboratories

A large air-conditioned classroom with A/V equipment

Specimen collections and reference library

Tours and use of Roatan Museum that displays the cultural and archaeological history of the region

One all purpose dive boat with guides, use of tanks, weights and belts

Vehicles for transport with guides to terrestrial sites (1 trip)

Recompression chamber and medical clinic (doctor on call 24-hours)

Recreational services and facilities of adjacent AKR

Escorted round-trip transfer from airport to Institute

A passport is required!!!.

SCUBA class for those interested:

Class will begin in January at the Ames High School. It is likely that class will begin the first week of the Spring semester 2008. Additional fees are associated with the scuba class and certification.

Application process:

You must submit a complete application for consideration as a participant in this field trip.

The application will be available as a downloadable pdf file from the trip website at:

<http://www.public.iastate.edu/~zoogen/Bio394/Bio394.html>.

Completed applications must be received in 503 Science II by 5:00 PM, October 31, 2007.

Admission into this Program will be based upon your completed application.

