

2010 International Health experience opportunities for Level 4 FSMFN students

Submitted by Kathryn Schrag CNM, FNP, faculty

International Health opportunities for 2010: The sites will provide learning opportunities for students in the FNP, WHCNP, or CNM program of study; two students will be selected for each trip.

Information about sites:

- **Guatemala**
 - **Sites: Vamos Adelante** (www.vamosadelante.org) is an independent small non-profit organization located in a village outside of Antigua. Their offices site includes a humble building which houses a weekly general medical clinic with a visiting physician from the city, and health promoters who serve remote villages in the area (accessed by vehicles or walking several hours). We will spend one week with them. **Hospitalito Atitlan** (www.hospitalitoatitlan.org) is a small non-profit hospital located in Santiago Atitlan, near beautiful Lake Atitlan. They have a six bed hospital with labor and delivery, a small operating room, and an emergency room and a busy clinic system. We will spend 3 weeks there
 - **Dates:** The first trip will be May 1-29th, and again in late October/November. Experiences will range between 1 and 4 weeks
- **Haiti:**
 - **Sites: Midwives for Haiti** (www.midwivesforhaiti.org) is a private nonprofit organization started by US midwives, and now expanded to include primary care providers who volunteer in Haiti. Services include direct patient care in a hospital in Hinche, mobile clinics in villages, and education of local midwives. This spring be our first trip to Haiti, so we know less about the details than the Guatemala trips.
 - **Dates:** The first trip is scheduled for March 13-27, 2010; we hope to do a second trip in August or September This will be a 2 week experience

2010 Calendar

- ✦ **January:** Applications for Guatemala May trip
- ✦ **February:** Selection of Guatemala trip students
- ✦ **March 13-27:** Haiti trip; Aggie Hoeger faculty; (candidates already selected)
- ✦ **April:** Applications for fall trips
- ✦ **May:** Selection of students for Haiti and Guatemala fall trips
- ✦ **May 1-29:** Guatemala trip; Susan Yount faculty
- ✦ **Fall trips:**
 - Haiti: Dates TBA; Amy Marowitz faculty
 - Guatemala: October 24-November 20; Kathryn Schrag faculty

Requirements and considerations for students:

- **Personal character:** We are looking for students who are flexible, resourceful, respectful of another culture, and interested in partnering with Frontier and the agencies in this new endeavor. Frontier is entering this arrangement in the spirit of a mutual exchange: what can we learn from them, and how can we help in their mission. If selected, are you willing and able to serve as an ambassador for our school, for our county, for our profession?
- **Program of Study:** Students need to be in **Level 4** of FSMSN, having completed Clinical Bound, and current in academic courses.
- **Language**
 - For Guatemala, students must **speak intermediate level Spanish** for Guatemala.
 - For Haiti, the student will pay for an interpreter unless she/he speaks Creole.
- **Faculty support:** You will work directly with the site staff with supervision by Frontier faculty (nurses, community health workers, physicians).
- **Living conditions** are primitive at Vamos Adelante (cold showers, simple food, traveling to villages by foot or on public buses; the director said emphatically: “no whining allowed”; and no smoking/drinking in public), and simple at Hospitalito. We will know more about Haiti before we leave, but assume humble accommodations and food.
- **Anticipated costs** for the 2-4 week experience are approximately \$1500-2000 (air and ground travel, room, board). The school will provide a \$500 scholarship (shared if students split the Guatemala trip); the balance will be paid for by the student.
- Students will receive **credit** toward their Level 4 requirements (32 hours per week of clinical hours, and some direct patient care visits)
- Students will write a **short paper** on Guatemala or Haiti prior to traveling, submit at least 2 blog posts during the trip, and complete a critique and feedback report to guide the school in the development of the international health experience option for future students
- **Planning:** Prior to the trip, phone planning conferences by telephone will be held with faculty.

Applications: If you are interested in one of these trips and meet the requirements, send an email or attachment to the trip faculty. In the letter identify the trip you wish to take, how you meet the above qualifications, address why you wish to be selected and what you hope to obtain from the experience. Also please attach a current resume.