ENCUENTRO DOMINICANO

“Putting Men and Women With and For Others Into Action”

Encuentro Dominicano is an intensive living and learning semester-long program, which combines classroom study with real world experience. Its purpose is to expose students to the realities of life in a developing country through direct cultural interaction. True immersion in the culture requires giving of yourself, stretching your boundaries, speaking the language, and having fun at the same time. This is an amazing opportunity to learn outside of the classroom and to have a different lens to view the world.

Students build relationships with families in rural communities of the Dominican Republic and contribute to the construction of schools, houses, aqueducts, and bridges.

Encuentro is an academic program housed in the College of Arts and Sciences under the academic directorship of Ms. Mary Bean. Ms. Bean is the professor of EDP 361: Social Justice in the Dominican Republic: Sociology, History and Economics in a Caribbean Context. Twice a week students meet with Ms. Bean for two hours in the classroom and twice a week they go to service sites. The course is a combination of lecture, seminar, and service learning. Another of Ms. Bean’s functions is to oversee the service learning projects, which take place at various schools, orphanages, soup kitchens, and other sites in and around the city of Santiago. Apart from her duties relating to the student academic experience, she also has various administrative duties that range from program finances to special development projects at the ILAC center.

Ultimately the program seeks to put students in direct relationship with the poor and marginalized of our world and in so doing foster a community of men and women with and for others.

For more information on the Encuentro Dominicano program contact Mr. Kyle Woolley in the Department of Sociology/Anthropology at 402-280-3460 or Kyle.woolley@creighton.edu

Additionally, students work in the Santiago community in orphanages, hospice care, hospitals, urban schools, soup kitchens, and afterschool homework programs.