



GUIDEBOOK SUPPLEMENTAL INFO

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Creighton Code of Conduct

Encuentro Dominicano students will be expected to live consistently with the Creighton Code of Conduct and the CESI Code of Conduct. All actions while enrolled as a student in the *Encuentro Dominicano* are direct reflections upon the CESI Center, Creighton University, and the United States of America. They are ambassadors of all three realities.

The Creighton University community is based on a Catholic, Jesuit tradition and is committed to supporting the intrinsic value of each human being. This tradition involves striving to create a human community influenced by the laws of justice and love, complete with respect and concern for all persons as children of God. The Creighton University community is dedicated to the promotion of values consistent with personal and academic excellence.

Choosing to join this community, whether as a student, faculty or staff, obligates you to act in a manner that is consistent with these commitments. Joining the Creighton University community evidences your acceptance of these commitments and agreement to strive for their achievement. Commitment to living by these principles means that you will endeavor to:

1. Act with professional, academic, and personal integrity.

Consistent with this principle is conduct in accord with the academic honesty policy of the University, other University policies that foster a human community of justice, respect, and concern, and the code of ethics of your foreseen profession. This principle challenges you to shape a personal code of positive values, to live a healthy, balanced lifestyle, and to discover and embrace the responsibilities of your freedom, intelligence, and intrinsic worth.

Inconsistent with this principle are all forms of dishonesty, excuse-making, failure to take responsibility for your behavior, trust in relationships and violations of the code of ethics of your foreseen profession.

2. Respect and promote the dignity of all persons.

Consistent with this principle is growing in understanding of different cultures and groups, resolving conflicts fairly, appreciating peoples' differences, and seeking truths and values essential to human life and community. This principle challenges you to refrain from actions that threaten or discourage the freedom, personal safety, and respect that all individuals deserve.

Inconsistent with this principle are actions that compromise or demean the intrinsic worth of individuals or groups. All forms of racism, sexism, pornography, lewd behavior, harassment, intimidation, taunting, insult, physical harm, and discrimination are inconsistent with this principle.

3. Respect the policies of the Creighton University community and the rights of its members both on and off campus, as well as the just laws of the civic community and the rights of its members.

Consistent with this principle is the affirmative support for equal rights and opportunities for all members of the Creighton University community, realizing that you are a member of a larger community, understanding societal issues, and being a responsible participant in the civic and Creighton community.

Inconsistent with this principle are actions that are illegal and that violate another's right to move about freely and securely, to live and learn in a community where members are secure in their property and person, to express themselves appropriately, and to enjoy privacy.

4. Support the personal, professional, academic, and vocational development of the members of the Creighton University Community.

Consistent with this principle are actions that are compassionate and considerate of the needs and well-being of others and that encourage the development of our moral, spiritual, intellectual, emotional, personal, and vocational abilities.

Inconsistent with this principle are actions that are insensitive, inhospitable, spiteful, or which unjustly or arbitrarily inhibit another's ability to securely pursue goals in accord with the development of their abilities. All members of the Creighton University community are obligated to promote actions consistent with these principles, and to confront, challenge, and respond to actions that are inconsistent with this code.

Logistics of Living in the Dominican Republic

Finances

If you currently receive federal financial aid, you may continue to receive it while abroad. You may also continue to receive institutional grants since Encuentro Dominicano is a Creighton sponsored program. Pay any outstanding bills you currently have at the Creighton business office prior to your departure. Make arrangements to have all of your Creighton expenses taken care of while you are abroad. It may be a good idea to sign over Power of Attorney to someone in your family who can take care of routine business while you are overseas for an extended period of time.

During the first week of orientation, you will be shown local, safe places to exchange money as well as safety tips for carrying your money around the country. In the past, there have been cases when students have lost their debit cards and are then left without money. If this should happen, let Student Life Director know in order to assist you in having a family member wire transfer money to you. This is a quick and easy process.

Money Gram: Should a student need cash sent to him or her while in the Dominican Republic, a quick and easy wire transfer can be sent from Money Gram (found in most Walmart stores and CVS pharmacies) or Western Union locations (in many supermarkets). A code number will be given to the sender after following procedure at the Money Gram location. The sender should email this code number to the student. Then the student will go to Banco Popular, a bank in Santiago that receives Money Grams or a local Western Union office. The student should show his or her original passport to the bank teller as well as provide the code number, amount of money sent and the name of the sender. Wire transfers usually take less than a few minutes to receive. The sender pays the Money Gram/Western Union fee, which varies upon location.

Understanding how the exchange rate of US dollars to Dominican pesos works is something that becomes clearer the more time you spend in the D.R. An easy way to calculate how much things approximately cost in the D.R. is to think that 100 pesos is equal to about \$2.50. This will not give you an exact price, but it is a close estimate.

Working Abroad

Students participating in Encuentro Dominicano are not permitted to work abroad.

Voting & Tax Season

Will you be away from home or in another country when tax season rolls around? You should make arrangements for someone - a family member, perhaps, to complete your income tax return if it is necessary for you to do so.

Will there be a local, state, or national election while you are away from home? If so, and if you are interested in voting by absentee ballot, contact your local election commissioner to obtain information on how to obtain and submit this ballot. Check out <http://www.fvap.gov/>. You should request your absentee ballot before you leave.

Electricity

Electricity in the D.R. is not consistently reliable. However, it is reliable in the ILAC center because of generators. WiFi is also available in the ILAC center. Electrical outlets are the same in the D.R. as they are in the U.S. so you do not need to purchase a converter.

Photographs

Sharing photos throughout the semester with your family back home is a great way to help them relate to your experience. Remember to be respectful in situations when it may or may not be appropriate to shoot photos. Be careful how you handle your camera and/or smartphone in public places as it can quickly turn you into a desirable target for someone looking to take advantage of you. Cameras and smartphones are also easy to lose or have stolen if you leave them on tables or out of your view.

Journaling

Keeping a personal journal is one of the best ways to reflect on your experience and have something to look back on in the future. The retreats are ideal times to journal, but you will also have free time throughout the semester that you can use as writing time. There are also several online journaling apps.

Mail and Packages

Mail and packages can take weeks and up to months to be received in the D.R. Federal Express is generally the most reliable company with the quickest receiving time. Students can receive mail and packages at the following address:

Mision ILAC

Carretera Duarte Km. 7½
Licey al Medio, Santiago de los Caballeros
Republica Dominicana
*Zip codes are not used in the D.R..

Students will be shown the location of the post office should they want to send letters and post cards home. The postal service is relatively slow, but mail generally gets to where it needs to within reasonable time.

Visitors at ILAC

Friends and family are encouraged to visit during and after the semester, except for during campo immersions. Students should make potential visitors aware of the immersion dates so that plans are not made during those times. Once plans are set, visitors should submit a **Lodging Request Form** to ILAC as soon as possible. **This form can be found in the Student Handbook, *guía*.**

Visitors of the opposite sex must make appropriate arrangements when staying at the ILAC center. Visitors are expected to follow ILAC's house rules and cohabitation is not allowed.

Students and visitors should consult the Visitor's Guidebook provided by the Student Life Director for further information.

Living in ILAC and Santiago***Details and Layout of ILAC Facilities***

The ILAC Center is located on 4.2 acres of land on the outskirts of the city of Santiago, near "Licey." It consists of eight connected buildings, two outdoor kiosks (one screened) and eleven small guest houses or "casitas" (including the Student Life Director's casita) containing a total of over 25,000 square feet.

Prominently situated on the campus is St. Omer's Chapel and the attached Bell Tower which functions as a chapel of the Parish of Licey (Sagrado Corazon), under the authority of the Archbishop of Santiago. The Chapel can accommodate 200 worshippers.

The Academic building contains five student dorms, a library, the Academic Director's office, a computer room and student lounge.

The Zumpano building houses two classrooms and is used by both International and Dominican Educational Programs, including Encuentro Dominicano.

The Garrido building houses the ILAC Center administrative offices, offices of the Department of Health, Education, and Agriculture, guest rooms, and a commons area.

The Shady building is a covered, but open-air refectory capable of seating 150 individuals. It is primarily used as a dining room and large meeting room. It is located adjacent to the kitchen and service area.

The Service building includes the kitchen supplying the refectory, three large dormitories with a capacity of housing over 100 individuals, the laundry room, and two staff housing areas.

The Workshop and Garage building contain space for ILAC Center vehicles and a maintenance area.

Green Space includes grounds for an extensive garden where vegetables, bananas and plantains are grown and supplied to the center. Also, this area contains a full size basketball/volleyball court and exercise area, and a figure eight running track (3 laps/mile).

The buildings surround a central, paved courtyard with a fountain and flowers. The complex also includes a large auxiliary electrical generator to compensate for the frequent power outages of the public electrical system.

Community Living

Creating and maintaining a learning community is a vital aspect of the Encuentro Dominicano program. Since student residences are in the ILAC center, the group will have the ability to live and study in a dynamic environment with a support network throughout their experience.

Upon arrival students will be asked to discuss and devise the framework and norms for their community. This unique experience will allow the students the opportunity to create an environment in which their own cultural values will be blended with that of the Dominican Republic. Students will be asked to create the norms by which they will live and challenged to incorporate norms such as a commitment to speak the Spanish language, participating in community reflections, developing community and faith based activities, striving toward the understanding of what it means to live simply, and more.

The ILAC Center will serve as the temporary “home” of the Encuentro Dominicano students for the next several months. However, students must understand that at all times they should consider themselves guests in the center, city, country and culture. The center also is home for various other non-Creighton programs and acts as a retreat and conference center as well. Generally, these groups offer students affiliated with Creighton a chance to get to know a good number of Dominicans from various walks of life. When these other groups are using the center, students should be respectful of the fact that they are not the only ones using the space at the center. Because the space is used at different times for retreats, conferences, religious activities, community events and a variety of other functions, a great deal of respect is necessary for the space provided by the center and the rules established to maintain the functioning of the space for everyone. Rules established by the center may include times when the center must remain quiet, restrictions on using certain spaces at certain times, meal time regulations, and others.

Students are expected to show courtesy and timeliness with all program sponsored activities. Your ability to be on time and ready for all travel and activities at the center is at times necessary for things to function well. Dominican time is a wonderful cultural difference, but should not be an excuse.

Transportation & Travel

Students will have the opportunity to travel during the semester. However, they *are not* permitted to travel into Santiago or to other parts of the Dominican Republic alone. Students must travel in pairs or in groups and must always have one of the program-provided cell phones when outside the ILAC center. Students must inform the Student Life Director of any travel plans prior to leaving Santiago. Students must know where they are going, what hotel/hostel they are staying at (if they are traveling overnight), and when/how they plan to return BEFORE leaving Santiago. Making travel plans on the fly or “winging it” is not a good plan. These are important safety precautions and significant policies that are meant to help in the event of an emergency.

The country has an extensive public transport system. You will learn about where the stops and stations are located, what hours they run, the appropriate fare, and safety issues regarding travel. *Students are NOT permitted to drive any vehicles or ride motorcycles at any point during the program, not even on vacation. Breaking this rule will result in removal from the program.*

Safety & Security

Your Student Life Director will inform you about safety and security issues in the D.R. during orientation as well as be your reference point throughout the semester. Students can expect to receive various safety tips and precautions, but students need to understand that good decision-making on their part is key to their own safety. The cautionary measures provided do not ensure the safety of the students, but rather serve as best practices designed with maintaining a safe environment. The affiliates of Creighton University maintain the rights granted to them through the nature of their job responsibilities to sanction students in both academic and disciplinary matters should it be found in violation of Creighton University policy.

The ILAC center has security guards that work 24 hours, 7 days a week. However, students still need to take precautions such as locking doors and being aware of any unfamiliar visitors.

Students should pass along the Student Life Director's contact information to their parents in case of an emergency. Parents or students should not hesitate to contact the Student Life Director with any questions, concerns, issues or emergencies.

Student Health in the DR

It is important that students keep the Student Life Director informed of any health-related issues or concerns throughout the semester.

Remember that the excitement of the new experience will stress your mind and body. Take your vitamins, eat well, and try to get sufficient rest. Your body will need some time to adjust to eating unfamiliar foods and starting a different routine. At some point along your trip, and most likely in the campo immersions, you will experience diarrhea and/or constipation as well as dehydration. Students should drink plenty of water as soon as the day starts as it is the best form of avoiding dehydration and try to get as much fiber into their diet as possible. Food at the ILAC center and in the campos is clean and safe. Eating street food is one of the most common ways people get sick and is not recommended. Tap water is unsafe to drink and should be avoided. Students will be informed of the reliable water sources which are available at the ILAC Center. Bottled water and bottled beverages such as soda are safe. Processed ice is also safe. Generally, if it appears uniformly cubed or tube like as in most restaurants it is made with filtered water.

While on Encuentro, you will have access to local hospitals. The main two hospitals that will provide health care to students are Corominas Hospital and Hospital Metropolitano de Santiago (HOMS). You can visit the HOMS hospital website at <http://homshospital.com/>. If you request to visit a hospital, if the Student Life Director decides a hospital visit is necessary, and/or there is an emergency, you will be accompanied by the Student Life Director for assistance. You will not be in the hospital or at clinics alone. In the DR, health care is not always at "First World" standards, and students may be evacuated in case of emergencies.

The ILAC center takes additional precautions to ensure that the facilities in Santiago are sprayed frequently for mosquitoes. However, there are times throughout the semester when mosquitoes are unavoidably present. Especially in the showers, make sure you wipe away excess standing water. Standing water equals mosquito larvae!

The administrators for the Encuentro Program including the ILAC Center have the right to adapt procedures related to health and wellness given circumstances that might arise with students in the

Dominican Republic. This is consistent with the standards of conduct in the risk and responsibilities form signed by all participating students. Failure to comply with these procedures may preclude involvement in program-sponsored activities, immersions and trips.

Protecting Yourself

Below is some general information about preventing certain infections and diseases that exist in the Dominican Republic, but students should speak with their health provider for further information.

Diarrhea: The illness you are most likely to get while in the Dominican Republic is diarrhea, which can be caused by a change in food, exercise or living situation. Even harmless bacteria in a new country can cause diarrhea because your body is not used to them. The most effective treatment for mild, common diarrhea (lasting a few days, not accompanied by fever) is Pepto Bismol (no side effects, but cannot be used if you are allergic to aspirin). Lomotil and Imodium are commonly prescribed drugs for mild diarrhea, but these will not stop the infection from spreading and can mask a serious case of diarrhea so they should be used with caution.

A serious case of diarrhea is one which lasts more than several days, never lets up, causes a high fever, or is accompanied by blood or pus in the stool. This kind of diarrhea requires attention and is usually treated with antibiotics. Remember, it is important to drink plenty of liquids with any form of diarrhea. It is easy to become dehydrated, especially in the heat of the Caribbean. Tell your Student Life Director about any diarrhea lasting longer than 48 hours.

Although traveler's diarrhea is almost unavoidable, there are things you can do to reduce the chances of getting sick and lessen the severity of an illness. Remember to follow basic sanitation precautions—avoid letting cuts or blisters get dirty or infected, wash your hands before eating, eat only well-cooked food, wash fruits and vegetables with clean water and/or peel them before eating, drink only purified or boiled water. Water in the Dominican Republic should be considered unsafe to drink unless you are in a restaurant in the city where the water and ice are usually purified. Bottled water is supplied for your use at the ILAC Center and in the *campos*.

Infectious Hepatitis: There is no way to prevent infectious hepatitis, but you can greatly reduce the chance of contracting it by receiving a Havrix shot before you leave.

Tetanus (Lockjaw): If you have not had a booster in the past five years, you should receive one.

Typhoid: Typhoid is an infectious bacterial fever which attacks the intestines and is contracted through eating or drinking contaminated food or water. Your chances of getting Typhoid are reduced with a preventive injection or oral medication.

Dengue Fever: Dengue fever is a viral infection caused by the bite of female *Aedes* mosquitoes. It occurs more frequently during warm, humid seasons, and transmission is more intense in urban areas, including downtown business areas. Mosquitoes that transmit dengue (*Aedes* mosquitoes) are day biters. Be especially vigilant applying repellent during daytime hours when in areas of high dengue risk. Repellent with at least 30% Deet is recommended as it provides strong protection for 6 hours. Peak biting times are usually during the early morning hours and again from late afternoon to dusk. The risk is higher for those staying in places with nearby stagnant water reservoirs and no mosquito protection, but transmission can occur in any urban setting.

Symptoms include a sudden onset of high fever, headache, generalized weakness, and intense muscle, joint, and low back pain (hence the term, "break bone fever") within 3 to 14 days (on average 4 to 7 days). A subtle rash appears in up to half the people affected, although some have a bright red rash with scattered clear spots. Treatment is purely supportive. Those with persistent high fever should seek medical attention as soon as possible. *Dengue hemorrhagic fever* (DHF) and *dengue shock syndrome* (DSS) are rare but may occur in people who previously have been infected with one strain of dengue virus and are later infected by a different strain (there are 4 strains). DHF and DSS begin like classic dengue but progress to abdominal pain and vomiting.

Malaria: Malaria is an acute and sometime chronic infectious disease due to the presence of protozoan parasites within the red blood cells. It is transmitted to the human by the bite of the infected *Anopheles* mosquito. The blood of a human infected with malaria infects the mosquito and the cycle continues. Four different species of the causative organism Plasmodium, can cause different degrees of illness.

Periodic outbreaks of malaria have occurred in some tourist locations, such as Punta Cana, La Romana or the Haitian border areas. Thus, if traveling in a high-risk area, apply repellent from dusk to dawn. The risk also increases during wet seasons when accumulated water causes mosquitoes to breed.

Symptoms include nighttime fevers, chills, body aches, headaches, nausea, and vomiting and/or general malaise can range from mild to severe. Incubation, or the time before symptoms appear varies from 7 to 30 days.

There are medicinal regimens that may help you avoid Malaria (in addition to taking measures to repel mosquitos); however, there is no one method that can protect completely against the risks of contracting malaria. Chloroquine (taken weekly) is the recommended prophylaxis in the DR. This treatment should be started one week prior to possible exposure. Prophylaxis is recommended for people traveling to remote areas of the country, high outbreak areas and especially along the Haitian border.

Chikungunya: "Chikungunya is an illness caused by a virus that spreads through mosquito bites. The most common symptoms of chikungunya are fever and joint pain. Other symptoms may include headache, muscle pain, joint swelling, or rash. Chikungunya disease rarely results in death, but the symptoms can be severe and disabling. Most people who get sick feel better within a week. In some people, the joint pain may last for months or years. There is currently no vaccine or medicine to prevent chikungunya. The only way to prevent chikungunya is to prevent mosquito bites. The mosquito that carries chikungunya virus can bite during the day and night, both indoors and outdoors, and often lives around buildings in urban areas." (<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/watch/chikungunya-caribbean>)

Zika: The Global Engagement Office recommends that travelers follow the [health advisory](#) and [travel advisory](#) released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) about the Zika virus and its potential impact on pregnant women and their fetuses. Travel to regions with ongoing Zika virus outbreaks is not recommended for women who are pregnant or women who are considering pregnancy. Specific areas where Zika virus transmission is ongoing are difficult to determine and likely to change over time, so it is critical that travelers consult the CDC updates frequently before and during travel. Currently, there is not vaccine to prevent or medicine to treat Zika, and travelers are highly encouraged to discuss the risks and means for

reducing the risk of mosquito bites with their health provider in preparation for international travel.

General Preventative Measures against Mosquitos

Students are provided with a mosquito net for their beds by the ILAC center. Wearing pants and light-colored clothes along with mosquito spray are the most practical ways to not attract mosquitoes.

Students should use a repellent containing the insecticide DEET (concentration 30 to 35%) or picaridin (concentration 20% or greater). Picaridin has a pleasant smell, an advantage over DEET. The repellent should be applied to all exposed non-sensitive areas of the body. Frequent application ensures continuous protection. The time of day and type of insects to be avoided determine when the repellent should be applied. Mosquitoes that transmit malaria (*Anopheles* mosquitoes) are night biters. Thus, if traveling in an area affected by Malaria (the Haitian border), be especially vigilant in applying repellent from dusk to dawn. Mosquitoes that transmit dengue (*Aedes* mosquitoes) are day biters, and students need to be especially vigilant applying repellent during daytime hours during high risk season. Peak biting times are usually during the early morning hours and again from late afternoon to dusk. The Student Life Director will keep students informed on high risk Dengue seasons.

Emergency Procedures

The Student Life Director will have access to student emergency contact information. Also, students are provided a contact list with important phone numbers and addresses. Additional emergency procedures will be discussed during orientation in the Dominican Republic.

CISI Emergency Medical and Travel Insurance

As a part of the Creighton Global Travel Security Program, all study abroad students are enrolled in Creighton's travel insurance for international activity through Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI). Minimum international health insurance offered through this card covers medical evacuation, family airfare expense, and repatriation of remains. **This policy does not replace Creighton's student insurance; it supplements needs you might have when away from campus.** Review the [CISI travel and medical insurance policy](#) before departing.

All medical treatment in the DR will require payment upfront for services, and then you will submit receipts and documents for reimbursement through CISI. Make sure and keep all your documents for reimbursement.

Emergency Contact Numbers in the Dominican Republic

Emergency Duty Phone (ILAC Staff rotation): 829-947-0454

Margarita Dubocq (Academic Director): 829-333-6164

Jacque Marte (Program Coordinator): 809-490-7994

Jenna Breiner (Program Coordinator): 829-290-4782

Historical Overview

The Dominican Republic

Students will learn the sociological, economic and political history of the country through their class work, experiential learning and extra-curricular activities. It is helpful to be familiar with these themes before the start of the program by referencing the websites provided Blueline site and the reading list in the Resource section of this guide.

Introduction to the City of Santiago

Santiago is the second largest city in the country. Formally known as Santiago de Los Caballeros, it has a population of over 800,000 inhabitants. Santiago has restaurants, theatres, museums, libraries, parks, shopping districts and markets to spend free time. It is definitely a city for foodies. Some cultural events can be found at the Gran Teatro del Cibao near the famous “Monumento de los Heroes” and the Centro de Cultura, located in the Parque Central. These include classical and folk concerts, dance events, theatrical productions and art exhibits of local Dominican artists.

The Tobacco Museum is dedicated to that which brought Santiago and the Cibao Valley much of its fame – tobacco. A favorite pastime for Dominicans is “hanging out” near the “Monumento de los Heroes” and at the restaurants surrounding the site. The Heroes Monument has become a popular nightspot among the younger crowd in Santiago. There are park benches and grassy areas to relax as well as a charming view of the city.

Santiago’s “Calle del Sol” is the principal and busiest street in Santiago. You can find whatever you need in one of the many shops or street vendors along Calle del Sol.

For the sports enthusiast, you may take in the traditional cockfight on the weekend at the local “gallero”, attend a baseball game at the Estadio Cibao or go for a run at the local university, Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM).

ILAC History and Philosophy

Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC)

As part of Encuentro Dominicano you represent Creighton University and ILAC. ILAC has a unique history and well-respected presence in Santiago and the surrounding rural communities. Below is information on ILAC’s background and development.

The Beginnings: 1972-1976

The Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC) began at Regis College, Toronto in 1972. Originally, the program was for North American priests, seminarians, members of religious communities and theology students to experience the people and problems of a developing nation. Its success each year depends on the dedication of many hardworking individuals, the willingness to evolve--to respond to new challenges and to let Creighton students grow in an awareness of God's presence among the materially poor.

The original experience involved fewer people and a less heterogeneous group than today. From 1972 to 1976, most participants were Jesuit seminarians, as well as various priests and religious women, all seeking an experience of "conscientization" or heightened sensitivity to the world reality and the individual's responsibility to this reality. Several Cuban Jesuits recognized the opportunity to introduce North Americans to a developing nation in a way that would help them reflect on their role as members of a global community and view the connection between North American affluence and developing national poverty. The initial program included immersion into daily Dominican life. The first participants had no special skills and little Spanish background. Most lived with low income urban families or families who lived not far outside Santiago.

A New Level of Commitment: 1976-1984

Fr. Ernesto Travieso, SJ, moved to Creighton University in 1975 when he became Chaplain to the medical school, and ILAC moved with him. ILAC began to take advantage of the University's resources. The first Creighton participants raised their airfare and spent two months in the summer learning Spanish and living with families in the city and its neighboring *campos*, like former religious participants

Soon, ILAC's identity was again evolving. The relationship between Creighton and the people of the Dominican Republic demanded more than the annual hospitality and generosity of the Dominicans. Justice required some response to the new awareness that developed as a result of previous encounters. The relationship had taken on a permanent character and with permanence came a sense of responsibility. Quite naturally, Fr. Travieso turned again to the resources of Creighton, namely the health science students and professionals with whom he had developed a close relationship.

This evolution, however, was not simple and clear. The very character of ILAC had to change in order to accommodate the new level of involvement. Instead of being merely an opportunity to challenge North American awareness of a developing nation, ILAC was now attempting to address directly developing nation problems. The danger of over-involvement was all too obvious; Creighton had no means to substantially affect the quality of health in the Dominican Republic. Lest the program seek to make a dry spot in an ocean, the focus settled on the opportunity to bring, with dignity and personal concern, a modicum of health care to the *campesinos*--for whom few others had shown such concern. As the 1978 participants expressed it: "Our health care teams certainly relieved much immediate pain and suffering, but it would be foolish to think we have changed the general health conditions of the country. That was not our goal." Instead, "We have done the best with what we have and have developed ourselves as persons." The deeper awareness of self and others—conscientization—grew out of the frustrations and limitations of trying to deliver health care on a personal, intimate level, using the terms of *campesinos* themselves rather than those of the North American system. The intent was to enhance the quality of life for as many people as possible through basic care. It took little to improve the lives of many, for at least a short while.

To provide adequate and responsible health care and student supervision, the program accepted health care professionals, especially instructors, from Creighton's faculties. The professionals took on a distinct identity in the program since they only participated in the Dominican Republic for part of the time and only to fulfill an explicit support role. Nevertheless, the encounter with the people and the clinics gave these professionals much of the experience shared by the students. Former student participants often returned as team coordinators or professionals to share again in the experience.

A Vision for the Future: 1985-Present

By 1982, concrete, long-term plans were being developed for both a permanent health care facility in the Dominican Republic, and a year-round health care center in addition to the summer program. "Health Promoters" or "*Cooperadores de Salud*" were selected by their own communities to receive six weeks of ongoing health care training at the ILAC Center, and returned to serve as resource people in their home communities. These Health Promoters also worked with team members in presenting educational topics based on the input of community members.

ILAC has grown dramatically over the past years and remains strong. The reality of poverty, even one's own personal poverty and limitation, is not lost on most participants, and the experience seems to have retained much of the character it possessed from its beginning. The health care involvement of ILAC has served as a positive means to further involvement with the people of the *campos*. Providing health care allows for moments of intense interaction with Dominicans and North Americans that forge friendships and challenge awareness. Many more people have had the opportunity to participate in ILAC because of its health care aspect. A real service has been provided and a relationship between the Creighton community and the Dominican people has been rich—giving way to a real sense of commitment.

It remains clear that ILAC, having committed itself to health care in the Dominican Republic, must continue finding ways to develop its care in a compassionate, responsible way, enhancing the dignity and freedom of the people of the Dominican Republic. The latest change in the ILAC program responds to this need by dividing the program and emphasizing a variety of enterprises under the umbrella of *Centro de Educacion para la Salud Integral* (CESI). The presence of a large facility devoted to ILAC in the Dominican Republic allows for many new program possibilities. It also allows the freedom to restructure the existing program to fit ILAC's dual purpose: to provide students and health professionals the opportunity for conscientization and provide health care education and service to people in remote areas of the Dominican Republic.

The ILAC Center in the Dominican Republic (*Centro de Educacion para la Salud Integral*), provides space for a sophisticated program of *campesino* education, the "Health Promoters" Program, and the opportunity for a year-round program of students (i.e., Encuentro Dominicano) and professionals (i.e., VIDAS, Volunteers for Action and Service) to travel periodically to permanent clinic sites and maintain long-term health care. The Center also provides training in cooking and nutrition, agriculture and small business opportunities, an undergraduate campus for students from Creighton University, and many other programs.

In January 1992, the College of Arts and Sciences and ILAC began a Semester Abroad Program, allowing students an experience of immersion through living and studying at the Center during the Spring semester. The College of Business Administration also began a Semester Abroad Program in the Fall 1994 semester. The Semester Abroad Program in the Dominican Republic was transitioned to the International Programs Office at Creighton University during the Fall of 2001. The ILAC office and International Programs work together to further enhance the students' academic experience while maintaining the ILAC mission. In 2005, the Semester Abroad Program evolved into the Encuentro Dominicano Program, open to students from the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, and Nursing. Since 2005, more than 85 undergraduate students have participated in the Encuentro program including students from Saint Louis University and Regis University in Denver.

ILAC, in conjunction with the Department of Occupational Therapy Program, began providing students and professionals the opportunity to address therapy needs in the city of Santiago in the summer of 1993.

In 1994, two VIDAS teams of physicians began staffing ILAC's permanent campo clinics for one year of volunteer service. In January, 1996, ILAC provided the first Service Retreat in the Dominican Republic for Creighton faculty and staff. In April, 1996, over 15 Physical Therapy students and professionals began offering PT services to Santiago sites with little or no access to this type of care. The Law School at Creighton University sponsors a retreat each spring, which began as a pilot program in 2002.

At any one time, projects such as health care, community development, semester abroad programs, and high school and other university service-learning programs may be active at the Center. The original conscientization experience may be promoted through retreats or extended stays, much like the original ILAC Program. ILAC will continue to strive to structure programs within the context of a caring encounter challenging the awareness and concern of all involved.

Program Inspiration for Encuentro Dominicano

Since the 32nd General Congregation of the Society of Jesus (1975), the Society has focused its mission on "the service of faith and the promotion of justice" (Kolvenbach, Santa Clara address, sec. I). In a talk given at Santa Clara University in 2000, the Superior General of the Jesuits, Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J., proposed that these two deliberately open phrases may be interpreted as meaning respectively, "the service of faith . . . [by bringing] the counter-cultural gift of Christ to the world," and the "justice of the Gospel which embodies God's love and saving mercy" (Santa Clara address, secs. IA & IB). Kolvenbach in his interpretation of this widely used phrase emphasizes Ignatius' desire to combine words with deeds. Social action in the name of the justice of the Gospel must be combined, he proposes, with much analysis and reflection (Santa Clara address, sec. IB). In 2003, Kolvenbach added the gloss that the promotion of justice needs to combine academic rigor with social activism (Ignatian Charism, pars. 19-22).

In applying these principles to contemporary higher education in Jesuit universities, Kolvenbach proposes that students be educated in "solidarity for the real world," and "solidarity is learned through contact rather than through concepts [only]" (Santa Clara address, sec. IIIA). "When the heart is touched by direct experience, the mind may be challenged to change. Personal involvement with innocent suffering, with the injustice others suffer, is the catalyst for solidarity which then gives rise to intellectual inquiry and moral reflection" (Santa Clara address, sec. IIIA). Kolvenbach adds that "students, in the course of their formation, must let the gritty reality of the world into their lives, so they can learn to feel it, think about it critically, respond to its suffering and engage it constructively" (Santa Clara address, sec. IIIA). Finally, he proposes that "insertion programs," "off-campus contacts" and "hands-on courses" at Jesuit universities should not be "too optional and peripheral, but at the core of every Jesuit university's program of studies" (Santa Clara address, sec. IIIA).

One of the factors deeply affecting the Dominican economy and Dominican lives is globalization. Kolvenbach observes that "Ignatius would have been fascinated by the phenomenon of globalization" (Ignatian Charism, par. 29). Universities, he notes, have "an indispensable role in the critical analysis of globalization, with its positive and negative connotations . . . It is a matter of an authentic process of discernment, in order to discover what is coming from the good spirit and what is coming from the bad" (Ignatian Charism, par. 29). Universities have an obligation to examine the ethical implications of this globalization – on economies, on community, on the gap between the rich and the poor, on human rights, and on the environment (par. 30). And after listing a number of ills exacerbated by globalization, Kolvenbach states that "it is not enough to denounce; it is necessary to also pronounce and propose" (par. 31).

Transitioning Back Home

Reorientation Before Leaving the Dominican Republic

Students will spend a reorientation week before leaving the D.R. with their Academic and Student Life Directors. A variety of topics will be covered from saying goodbye to the D.R. to the readjustment process. Several activities will be planned during this week as well as making a visit to each campo.

When your D.R. experience is nearing its end, you may or may not want to come home. Remember that "it's a small world," that you can keep in touch with new friends via mail, phone, and e-mail; and that you will probably be able to travel again sometime. If you are considering graduate school, returning as a volunteer or to work on a special project, or hoping to visit, think about contacts in the D.R. and at ILAC that can be used as future reference. Get names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of contacts at ILAC, friends, and host families.

Before you pack, remember that you will have to go through U.S. Customs when you arrive back in the States. All articles purchased abroad and in your possession when you return must be declared, as well as gifts given to you or purchased for another person. Customs declaration forms will be distributed on the plane and must be filled out before leaving the plane. If you purchase anything of value, it might be a good idea to save the receipts for the customs inspectors; requirements may vary from one inspector to another - one may ask you a few questions, another may have you unpack your bags entirely. More information will be given to you during reorientation.

Back Home in the U.S.

When you return, expect to experience reverse culture shock upon re-entry into U.S. society. It is difficult to realize how you will have changed during your time abroad, and how many things about home will have changed. It's common to feel you do not fit in, to miss the D.R., and perhaps to be shocked or unhappy by some aspects of U.S. culture that you now begin to notice because of the contrast.

What is unique about the program is that you will return to Creighton with this community and will also can meet with other students that have also participated in the program. Many groups continue meeting on a regular basis and even plan projects to continue giving back to the D.R. A follow-up retreat will be guided by the Campus Coordinator and you will quickly see that your D.R. experience will influence your decision to join different campus or off-campus organizations. Even when you leave the D.R., your Academic and Student Life Directors will always be willing to discuss your experience and readjusting back home.

Suggested Reading

Alvarez, Julia. In the Time of the Butterflies. (New York: Penguin, 1994). Work of fiction based on historical facts recounting the story of the Mirabal Sisters and Trujillo's 31-year despotism.

Atkins, G. Pope and Wilson, Larman C. The United States and the Trujillo Regime. (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1972). A thorough, scholarly study.

Black, Jan Knippers. The Dominican Republic. (Winchester, MA: Allen and Unwin, Inc., 1986).

Bosch, Juan. The Unfinished Experiment: Democracy in the Dominican Republic. (New York: Praeger, 1964). An account by a former President.

Crassweller, Robert D. Trujillo: The Life and Times of a Caribbean Dictator. (New York: MacMillan, 1966). An excellent biography.

Danticat, Eldridge. The Farming of Bones. (Penguin Books, 1998). A historical novel about the Haitians in the DR in 1937.

Ferguson, James. Dominican Republic: Beyond the Lighthouse. (Latin American Bureau, 1992).

Kidder, Tracy. Mountains Beyond Mountains. (Random House, 2003). The biography of Dr. Paul Farmer and his current involvement in Haiti with Partners in Health.

Llosa, Mario Vargas. The Feast of the Goat. (2001). A wonderful historical novel about the people, times and the death of Trujillo.

Martin, John Bartlow. Overtaken by Events: the Dominican Crisis - From the Fall of Trujillo to the Civil War. (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1966). Long, fascinating account by a well-meaning U.S. Ambassador.

Sharpe, Kenneth Evan. Peasant Politics: Struggle in a Dominican Village. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1977). Good, interesting.

Slater, Jerome. Intervention and Negotiation: The United States and the Dominican Revolution. (New York: Harper and Row, 1970). The best account of these events.

Wucker, Michele. Why the Cocks Fight: Dominican, Haitians, and the Struggle for Hispaniola. (Hill and Wang, 1999).