

The Humanitarian

THE EDUCATION ISSUE

A publication by humanitarian clubs at U.F.

Haiti: One Year Later—Humanity, Hope, and a New Hospital

By: Irene Vailikit
"Bid for Haiti" Auction Co-
Director

As we make our new year's resolutions and look forward to starting fresh this semester, we must keep in mind that the opportunity to start the new year bright-eyed and bushy-tailed does not come easy for those still suffering from the after-effects of the earthquake in Haiti one year ago. It was last January that the catastrophic earthquake struck the island of Haiti, hitting 7.0 points on the Richter scale.

The damage was substantial, leaving thousands of people dead and about a million people injured or without homes, schools, and hospitals. Images shown on the news stations were gut-wrenching and viewers around the world pledged their support



<http://www.apartmenttherapy.com/sf/rebuilding-haiti-two-organizations-that-could-use-our-donations-106946>

Much of the population is now living in tent towns susceptible to storms and other bouts of severe weather.

and donated funds through organizations such as the Red Cross. Further exacerbating the situation was the cholera outbreak in mid-October. Cholera, which had not been

documented in Haiti's past for a century, was the result of a lack of treated drinking water and poor sanitation. "The water safety and sanitation systems in

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Educating Students on International Issues through Model UN

By Barbara Uchdorf
Public Relations Director for
GatorMUN VIII

Model United Nations (MUN) conferences provide students at the high school and collegiate levels with opportunities to expand their knowledge on international issues. By representing the interests of another

country, delegates are many times pushed out of their comfort zones and forced to understand what another state or nation views as important. While working to solve the world's most pressing issues, delegates improve skills ranging from public speaking to critical thinking.

Each spring, the University

of Florida's Model United Nations organization holds an MUN conference for high school students. Over the weekend of February 4-6th, this year's GatorMUN will host 430 students as they participate in sixteen different committees. Some delegates will learn about

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Children Beyond Our Borders Inc.

By Jessica Wu (Office Manager) and Chelsea Weaver (Program Manager)

Quality education can allow children to see beyond the conflict that surrounds them. Vocational education can provide skills to youth that will help them find jobs in their community that are both stable and productive. Which is why education is the foundation to the mission and work of Children Beyond Our Borders (CBOB), a Non Profit Organization that strives to "provide opportunities for children and youth affected by armed conflict and social injustice to achieve peace, prosperity, and well-being through education and empowerment." We began in 2003 at the University of Florida with members of the Colombian Student Association (COLSA), and we currently work in 3 cities in Colombia: Cartagena, Medellin and Cali, and are planning to expand to Peru and Mexico. The organization started out with the desire to improve the quality of life of the poorest and neediest children in Colombia through providing

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New study abroad program offers hands-on experience in Guatemala

By Kasi Martin

Fair trade cooperatives, sustainable and organic agriculture and coffee growing are all topics for discussion in a University of Florida classroom. Take away the classroom and add Guatemala to the mix and you get professor Ed Kellerman's newest study abroad program.

This spring break, UF students have the opportunity to receive three credit hours and an international credit by studying in Guatemala. Kellerman, a senior lecturer in the Dial Center for Written and Oral Communication and communications director of Harvest of Hope, has divided the trip into 20 hours of lectures and 25 hours of experiences, including volunteering.

Dates are tentative, however, students will likely fly out Saturday, March 5 and should begin looking into airfare as soon as possible.

The new economic model of fair trade interested Kellerman after he

worked for migrant farmworkers rights with Harvest of Hope. If fair trade is implemented, the middle man ceases to exist and wages of farmers increase.

Kellerman's first experience with fair trade coffee came after Harvest of Hope began selling products from Sweetwater Organic Coffee, a company based in Gainesville.

Having just returned from a Christmas break planning trip with his wife, Kellerman chose Guatemala based on the country's historical beginnings in family farming.

After rebellions of the 1970s caused tenant farming, a move to established family farms occurred with passing of the Earth Fund. This fund paid off banks and purchased land for family use.

Kellerman is planning hands-on learning on these farms. By the end of the trip, students will be familiar with banana, avocado, macadamia nut and coffee farming after studies in Guatemala. The course has a focus on the coffee trade, and



<http://www.guatelindacenter.com/school-services/recreation.html>

The trip will include visits to coffee farms,

while the season comes to an end in March, Kellerman said students would still get a grasp on the process of farming and production.

The Hotel Modelo in Xela will house students for the majority of their stay. "I'm not saying we

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FINIP Scholarship Application now available

Interested in interning or traveling to SE Asia? The Freeman Indonesia Nonprofit Internship Program (FINIP) is a fully funded 9-week summer experience in Indonesia. Internship fields include economic development, public health, art, education and environmental protection. Participants will intern with Indonesian NGOs within their specified field, while taking language and culture classes at the university.

Interested American and Indonesian sophomores and juniors enrolled in U.S.

institutions are encouraged to apply, using the online application at <http://www.iie.org/programs/finip>. The deadline for submission of completed student applications and adviser nominations is March 1, 2011.

There will be an INFO SESSION Monday, February 14th, at the UFIC Large Conference Room, 170 Hub from 4:30-6pm. Program specifics and the application process will be discussed.

Model UN, Cont'd.

international law through the International Court of Justice. Others, participating in the African Union simulation, will debate the involvement of women in African politics. Some delegates will even get the chance to represent leaders in the Ministry of Magic (à la Harry Potter) as they tackle problems ranging from the rise of Lord Voldemort to improving "Muggle" relations.

The GatorMUN conference is unique in that it emphasizes MUN as primarily a learning experience. Delegates are helped along the path of learning parliamentary procedure, writing resolutions,

and debating so that by the end of the conference they have a good foundation to build on. For this reason, committee sizes are kept small, allowing for each delegate to receive individual attention from the staff. Surely there is competition, but what is most important is that each student leaves the conference with a better understanding of how the international system works and why it is so important to understand other perspectives.

To get involved in GatorMUN in the future, please email gatormun@gmail.com! Also, check us out at www.gatormun.org!

Children Beyond Our Borders Inc., Cont'd

them with educational tools. A significant reason is because it is tied with Sudan for the highest population of IDPs in the world, largely due to violence, inequality, and drugs. There is an estimated 2 million displaced children of whom 7 out of 10 do not continue their education after becoming displaced. (UNICEF, Save the Children, and CODHES) Therefore displacement has more effects on these children and youth than just homelessness. It affects their education and future success. Because adolescents are out of school and often lack equal educational opportunities, they face issues of instability, conflict, low self-esteem, poor academic achievement, joblessness, and deviant social behaviors.

There is often a choice that aid organizations and governments make that involves allocating funding toward either primary education or vocational education, and significantly more funding goes towards primary-age children. So what happens when those children reach adolescence and they



<http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=399823618610&set=a.399822248610.176063.78554248610>

CBOB working with students during the 2010 Crossing Borders trip to Cartagena .

do not have access to quality higher-level education and/or training? (Research from Education in Emergencies and Post-Conflict Situations, 28).

In order to understand the significance of providing education to youth in post-conflict and developing

countries, consider that there are 1.1 billion people between the ages of 15- 24 in the world. The unemployment rate for this population is 14.4 percent as compared to 6.2 percent globally (YEN, 2004, Education in Emergencies and Post-Conflict Situations 30)

There is a grand quantity of research that supports educational activities that encourage youth to use their skills in ways that benefit their community. But there is a lack of funding for infrastructure and educational systems and

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Haiti: One Year Later—Humanity, Hope, and a New Hospital, Cont'd

Haiti were weak before the earthquake and made weaker by the earthquake, so conditions are ripe for the further spread of cholera," an epidemiologist shared with a CNN reporter after the cholera death toll rose to 1,100.

As the Haitian people continue to live day by day on the seemingly always scant resources provided by NGOs and IGOs, it is apparent that they are a resilient people and that nothing can break their spirit. UF's Gators United

for Haiti (GU4H) President, Sky Georges visited Haiti this past September with Gainesville's First Assembly of God Church and recounted his moving experience: "We handed out food to people living in tents, sang with them, shared jokes and Haitian folk tales. The kids around us were playing and laughing, but it was still extremely evident to me that the country is in dire need." Eddie Venson, a young man living in one of the makeshift tents told Sky that he hoped to soon resume going to

school. He had been taking English courses when the earthquake hit and his desire to further his education manifested itself in his lively conversation and his animated features.

Even though much of the population is now living in tent towns susceptible to storms and other bouts of severe weather, women gather together under them to create paper-mâché animals and decorations. Girls are starting to emerge in pink school uniforms ready for their daily lessons.

Life continues but help is still needed.

So far, with the help of the Gainesville community and UF students, GU4H has raised \$41,000 to donate to the earthquake victims. GU4H has partnered with the non-profit organization Partners in Health to fund the building of a teaching hospital in Mirebalais, Haiti. The entirety of the funds raised by GU4H will go toward the hospital. The hospital's doors are

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Study Abroad in Guatemala

have to live like paupers while in Guatemala, we can even go to a bar to see a popular local artist,” Kellerman said. While he emphasized the service aspect of the trip, Kellerman said accommodations and safety were priorities in planning.

Unfortunately, students won't have the opportunity to visit the capital, Guatemala City, as it is poses the threat of gang encounters.

Kellerman has a full itinerary for the seven days that will typically begin with volunteer work and include guest lectures ranging from indigenous cultures to business. A side trip to Finca La Florida and a visit to the Sunday market at Chichicastenango are both on the agenda.

“Get your sleep before the trip,” Kellerman said in reference to his habit of waking up with the sun while traveling.

When he traveled to Guatemala over Christmas, a highlight of the trip was watching a simple soccer game. He hopes that students will enjoy working with children

and volunteering for additional activities.

The major volunteer focus will be at a school in Nueva Alianza, a plantation south of Xela. There, students will exchange structural work on the school for a reduced fee for their overnight stay.

Tyler Gordon, a UF senior and president of Recurso, is particularly enthusiastic about the volunteer aspect that the trip offers. Recurso, an organization that works toward global development and human rights, hosted Kellerman for an information session Tuesday. Gordon met Kellerman at Recurso's Fair Trade Fair, where they exchanged ideas about the study abroad trip.

Amanda Monaco, Recurso's vice president of external affairs, is excited that Recurso is playing a roll in bringing the new study abroad opportunity to UF. Monaco is familiar with service trips. She worked for Habitat for Humanity last year and traveled to Nicaragua with Recurso last summer after studying there the summer before.

Monaco is a fan of the combined

study and service aspect of Kellerman's trip.

“They're both equal because service gives you a look into working with an NGO on a daily basis, but school gives you the bigger picture of the NGO and its impact on the country as a whole,” Monaco said.

Because she is headed to Columbia this summer, Monaco won't be able to experience

this particular opportunity, however, Kellerman is committed to keeping the cost under \$1,000, excluding airfare.

Requirements for the course are based mainly on participation in lecture. A running journal and response paper will be submitted upon return.

According to Kellerman, only 5 percent of the coffee business

is in fair trade. He hopes this can change in five years and this course in Guatemala, Special Topics in Intercultural Communication, is his contribution to achieving this goal.

Questions about the trip should be directed at Professor Kellerman. His email is ekellerman@ufl.edu and more information can be found at <http://www.abroad.ufc.ufl.edu/>.



CBOB Spring Break Trips

If you want a spring break trip that will change your life forever apply for one of our trips to Cartagena or Medellin. The trips are March 5th-12th. We are also excited to announce we'll be adding the city of Cali to our summer trips. That trip

will be July 10th-24th. If you'd like to learn more about the trips and aspects like pricing visit our website. www.chbob.org (if you're in a classroom, write it on the board!) Applications for the trips are on the website as well!

Haiti Hospital, Cont'd

scheduled to open at the end of this year and it will be the largest public hospital outside of the capital city.

In order to reach its goal of \$50,000, GU4H is hosting "Gators United for Haiti Week: A Year

Later" from Jan. 11- 15. During the last two days, "Bid for Haiti" and "Chomp the Quake," an auction and 5K, respectively, will be held. As you start the

new year with new hopes and resolutions, give the opportunity for the Haitian people to do so as well and join the GU4H's efforts. If you would like to make a donation or get involved please visit the website gatorsunitedforhaiti.org. For more information about the Mirebalais Hospital please visit the Partners in Health website, pih.org.

Upcoming events

2/2: 9 p.m., Heal the World Hip-Hop Concert at Fat Tuesday with Invisible Children

2/27: 1-4 p.m., Gainesville Duck Derby at Westside Park
The event will feature a rubber duck race with around 3,000 ducks.

2/28: 8 pm., Heal the World Leadership Board Q&A session for more information on applying for a leadership position

3/16: 6:30 p.m., Campus CodePINK for Peace Meeting, Reitz 364

For more details about a specific event, visit our online calendar at <http://humanitarianuf.yolasite.com/events-calendar.php> and click on the event title. Contact HIC at humanitarianuf@gmail.com

CBOB and Education, Cont'd

quality teachers. (Schaes, 2005, *Education in Emergencies and Post-Conflict Situations*, 31)

Lack of education has a major impact upon the youth in Colombia; it hinders their futures and allows them to fall into the cycles of drugs and the armed conflict within their country. In place of attending school and learning academic and vocational skills, many youth have to resort to selling drugs, prostitution, or joining a gang for security and because it provides immediate earnings, an occupation, and recognition in the community. None of these activities are beneficial to the youth's future, the earnings allow them more drugs, their occupation is based on fear and negativity, and the recognition

in the community does not come with appreciation or love.

One of the ways we empower children is through our Crossing Borders service trips where we do workshops with youth that focus on areas like self-esteem and civic engagement. Another way is through our vocational education and mentoring program New Horizons, where students receive training that goes beyond traditional education and provides them with skills necessary to enhance the student's employability. It couples technical knowledge with professional and entrepreneurial skills, and the students also design and implement their own business ventures. We present the

material in a fun and hands-on way to keep the class engaged, and the students gain greater communication, presentation, and team-building skills. We also help them secure internships and jobs in their chosen career field upon completion of the program.

We believe that quality education involves quality mentors and teachers, which is why our mentorship program guides our students along their academic and professional development, as well as increases the students' self esteem.

One of our students, José Martínez, tells us why he chose to participate in our New Horizons program: "Porque creo que es una puerta abierta

a un mejor futuro, a un mayor aprendizaje y a una nueva experiencia que es vital para la vida." "Because I think that it is an open door to a better future, a better learning and a new experience that is vital for life." We are providing Jose with a scholarship to attend college, and in return Jose will act as a community service advocate, passing on the knowledge and skills he has learned, empowering local youth to solve problems in their own communities.

We believe that education equals empowerment. Once empowered, children can go beyond their borders and into a world without conflict and fear.

Club Meeting Times

Recurso: Every other Tuesday starting Aug 31st at 6:30pm in Matherly 103.

Campus CodePINK for Peace: February 16th - General Body Meeting - Reitz 364- 5:30pm

Children Beyond Our Borders: Every third Tuesday starting from 1/25 at 7:30 PM in LIT 219

Invisible Children: Every Thursday 7pm McCarty A G186.

UF Amnesty International: Monday, 7:20 pm, starting Sept. 13 and continuing every other week, in NPB 1011.

Students for Justice in Palestine: Wednesdays, 6:00 in Pugh Hall.

ONE: Biweekly Thursdays at 6pm in 110 Frasier-Rogers Hall, starting Sept. 9th.

International Justice Misson: Wednesdays @ 6pm, starting Sept 17th, location TBA via Facebook.

Gators for UNICEF: Every other Tuesday at 6:15pm, more info TBA

The Campus Kitchen at UF: Every other Monday starting Aug 30th at 6:30pm in FLG 245.

HumanI.T.Y.: Dec 8th at 6:30pm in Matherly 107.

Bridges Across Borders Student Coalition: Every Monday outside of the Library West Entrance

Model UN: NPB 1002 at 8:20pm on Tuesdays, e-mail ufmuneboard@gmail.com for more info.

Join an International Non-Profit Organization Today!

Children Beyond Our Borders (CBOB) is looking for passionate and ambitious interns for the summer and fall semester. CBOB is a non-profit organization that works to improve the lives of internally displaced and at risk children and youth in Latin America and in the world. Our programs provide children with important life skills they need to succeed while building lasting relationships. We're a family that works together to help each member go beyond what they thought possible. CBOB is here for the children, and also for you!

Our Volunteer Intern Program can help you gain 1) hands on experience by learning the inner workings of an international non-profit organization, 2) help to change the life of a child and 3) be able

to connect with hundreds of volunteers and former interns who are currently working in governmental and non-governmental organizations all over the world. Our work environment fosters creative and independent thinking. We treat interns as employees, encouraging independence and originality.

If you are interested in gaining practical experience and applying your academic skills to a real-world job in the non-profit field, apply to join Children Beyond Our Borders.

The application deadline is March 7th (flexible). Application and details can be found at chbob.org under the tab labeled "Get Involved" and then to the tab labeled "VIP". If you have any additional questions please contact jessicaw@chbob.org.