

GOOD NEWS BITE

Ridgetown Campus Students Prepare to Leave on International Study Tour of Belize, Central America

November 23, 2009 –

With a focus on industry and international development, eight students and two chaperones are preparing for a one week study trip to Belize, Central America where they will learn about agriculture, horticulture and international development.

“This is the first time a group of Ridgetown Campus students will have the opportunity to study abroad and earn an academic course credit. The trip will expose campus youth to Belize culture, industry, government, and development. It’s a great chance for students to broaden their understanding of the world. Many students are looking for this kind of learning experience when considering their post-secondary institution,” noted Liz Meidlinger, Manager, Communications.

The Ridgetown students will be guided by Les Frayne, a semi-retired farmer, who has previously taken University of Guelph, Guelph Campus students to Belize on study tours. Les is also a committed, long-time volunteer with the SHARE Ag Foundation which has projects in Belize. The SHARE Agriculture Foundation provides funding, guidance, and expertise to community-based agricultural projects in developing countries around the world but with a particular focus on Central and South America.

Ridgetown students will see three SHARE development projects as well as citrus, banana and sugarcane production while travelling the small country. Katie Savage, Ridgetown’s Recruitment Co-ordinator, has previously made the trip during her undergraduate studies at Guelph, and later as a SHARE volunteer. She is co-ordinating the academic course with Les.

Belize is an attractive destination for study as English is the official language and travel throughout the country is very safe. Students will be leaving as soon as first semester exams are completed in mid-December and returning home a few days before Christmas.

-30-

Photo Caption: Students travelling to Belize have been researching the country and making oral presentations as part of pre-trip requirements. Students depart on December 12, 2009.

See group image attached.

For more information contact:

Liz Meidlinger

Manager, Communications
Ridgetown Campus
519-674-1587

lmeidlin@ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca

Dr. Art Schaafsma

Director
Ridgetown Campus
519-674-1506

aschaafs@ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca

