SMC’s Latin American Education Program is back. As part of a College-wide initiative to encourage students to develop a broader and more global perspective, we would like to introduce students to the rich history and cultural diversity of Latin America. Featuring a multidisciplinary approach, this program strives to provide an intensive experience for students, encouraging them to better understand the people and cultures of Central America.

The college seeks proposals for the Study Abroad: Latin America Belize and Guatemala program. The program will be six weeks during the Summer 2015 session and consist of three weeks at SMC and three weeks abroad. The Study Abroad Program will draw upon the faculty members’ expertise and offer students a rewarding experience.

Proposals will be for one faculty member, to co-lead the program with Dr. Brandon Lewis, SMC Anthropology Professor. Dr. Lewis will be teaching Anthropology 3. Here is Brandon’s bio for more information:

Recipient of the Alpha Gamma Sigma “Most Outstanding Educator Award” at Santa Monica College, Dr. Brandon Lewis has directed archaeological investigations throughout the Americas for the past two decades. As one of the nation’s foremost Maya archaeologists, Dr. Lewis has distinguished himself through numerous publications, professional presentations, and his long-standing research. He is currently the Co-Director, in collaboration with the University of Texas and University of Massachusetts, for the “Three Rivers Archaeological Project” in Belize. As a lead institution for these projects, Santa Monica College has received international acclaim and is, arguably, the most recognized community college in the field of Latin American archaeology. As Director of SMC’s Archaeology Program and creator of the Latin American Education Program, Dr. Lewis has provided first-hand international research experience and global citizenship opportunities to hundreds of SMC students over the years.

In developing proposals, keep in mind the following guidelines:

Study Abroad Programs are an important part of the college’s efforts to encourage students to become global citizens. These programs are also important for professional development, to encourage faculty to remain current with their disciplines and to become more aware of different cultures throughout the world. The program is structured around these principles:

- **Intensity of experience** - Instead of going on a bus tour that skims the surface of many places, students gain a deep understanding of the environment, the people, and the culture of one area or region.
- **Affordability** - To encourage broad participation, the costs will be kept as low as possible, and the program will attract scholarships and other financial aid.
- **Safety** - The program will be structured to keep risk to an acceptable level.
- **Unifying theme** - To provide students with a sense of the program’s purpose and over-arching questions.

The program will offer academic credit and meet the course outline of record for each course included in the program. Three weeks of the summer session will take place at SMC, and three weeks will take place abroad. The proposed courses must be general education transferrable credit courses, IGETC preferred, with appeal to a broad spectrum of students.
Faculty members are encouraged to select courses that are particularly suited to being offered in a foreign setting. A team of two faculty members will lead the program – Brandon Lewis will be one of the faculty leaders, and one additional faculty member will be selected to be co-leader. Please note: All faculty members who are applying must have at least one year teaching experience at Santa Monica College. It is strongly encouraged that faculty members have prior experience leading student groups within the U.S. and/or abroad.

SMC will provide selected faculty round-trip international airfare (economy traveling with group), single room accommodation, international health and accident insurance, visa, phone for in-country use abroad for emergencies, and most meals. Inoculations not required for entry (consult www.cdc.gov for recommended inoculations for your chosen travel destination), passport, laundry, books and supplies for the instructional program, personal and incidental expenses including meals, activities, and local transportation not outlined in the itinerary are not covered for faculty. Faculty leaders will be required to have first-aid training.

Partner Vendor – The partner vendors including Program for Belize & Cahal Pech will provide SMC classroom space, coordinate accommodation and most meals, organize excursions and in-country guides, and assign a point person at their institution to serve as liaison and resource for the SMC group in case of emergency.

Faculty Responsibilities—Faculty members will oversee the logistical support for the program and provide overall leadership and responsibility for insuring the program’s success. For the study abroad program, at least 18 students (each of whom is enrolled in two classes) will receive six units of credit. Faculty members are expected to deliver all instruction during their course, provide supplemental lectures, issue grades, and handle course coordination. Additionally, both faculty members will act as chaperones for the entire time abroad, making sure that students abide by all SMC and partner vendor guidelines and requirements and enforce institutional policies. Both faculty members must travel round trip with the group from Santa Monica College to the program location. The faculty members will serve as the college’s representative and assist with liaising between the partner vendor and administrators at SMC while they are in country.

Requirements for Number of Students—The program needs a minimum of 18 students who must enroll in both of the two courses offered. Due to space limitation at the partner vendor sites, the maximum number of participants is 25. Minimum age of participants is 18 years old. Please note that no dependents, relatives, or friends may accompany faculty on the programs unless they participate in the academic program, excursions, and meet the minimum age requirement at the time of the trip.
General Process
To apply to co-lead the program, please follow the steps outlined below.

**Note the deadline for proposals is Monday, March 2, 2015.**

1. This program is to Latin America (Belize and Guatemala) for the Summer 2015 session.
2. Please complete your proposal and signature page, scan, and e-mail it to studyabroad@smc.edu
3. Faculty members who are applying must have at least one year teaching experience at Santa Monica College.
4. The application will be reviewed by the Global Council then forwarded to The Office of Academic Affairs and International Education for final approval. All applicants will be notified of their application status by mid-March 2015.
5. Upon acceptance, faculty for the program will work with the study abroad staff to further discuss program details.

General Information

A. Name, department, FT/PT, e-mail, and telephone number(s) of faculty member initiating this proposal.
   What is the faculty member’s experience with the proposed program location?

B. Based on the outline itinerary (see page 5) and your proposed course offering(s) please give a brief description (no more than 2 paragraphs) of the program, emphasizing the educational benefits for students. This summary information may be used for marketing purposes. Please note this is currently a preliminary itinerary.

C. Identify the SMC course that you could teach (must be transferrable general education courses) abroad. (Brandon Lewis will be teaching Anthropology 3.) Department chair approval and signature is required for all proposals. Please also identify one or two alternate courses that you have previously taught at SMC that are appropriate for this program. Include IGETC information (as applicable) for each course.

D. Write a brief description (please limit this to one page) for the course proposed. Describe how you will incorporate the foreign locale in your instruction. Provide examples of how the course will complement the proposed excursions or activities listed. The list of suggested activities and excursions on the itinerary (page 5) are based on sites of historical and cultural significance to engage students in the local community and complement the overall study abroad experience and SMC courses. This aspect of the application is one of the most important as the Global Council would like applicants to demonstrate their understanding of the potential for cultural enrichment of the curriculum.

E. Contact Hours and Connecting SMC Lectures to Program Excursions: The total number of contact hours awarded per course must meet the minimum number of hours of the course of record (1 credit typically requires at least 18 hours of classroom or other supervised instruction). Contact hours cannot be awarded for a “visit” or a “tour” unless those activities include a lecture, discussion, or other instructional activity. Contact hours have been “front-loaded” during the weeks spent on campus to allow for more flexibility with excursions during the study abroad program while following the course of record. How does your proposed course complement the attached itinerary? (See page 5) Please include the name of the excursions listed in the itinerary and planned instructional activities.
F. List name of the SMC Department Chair who has reviewed the proposed program and has recommended it for approval by Santa Monica College. Please have your Department Chair sign the proposal.

G. What individual or group travel experiences have you had? What special qualifications do you have that make you well suited to lead a study abroad program?

H. SMC faculty members conducting study abroad are required to participate in a Red Cross First Aid CPR training certification and other training deemed necessary prior to program departure. If you are selected for the program, you must provide proof of certification at least one month prior to program departure. CPR training costs will be covered by Santa Monica College. Faculty will also need to complete a Medical Release Form.

Please submit the completed proposal, course description pages, and signature page electronically to studyabroad@smc.edu

______________________________________________  ______________________
Faculty Signature                                      Date

______________________________________________  ______________________
Department Chair Signature                              Date
Programme for Belize Rainforest (5 days)

- Visit the Maya site of La Milpa
  - La Milpa is the 3rd Largest Maya site in the country of Belize. Students will visit on-going excavations, participate in the investigation, and see the oldest elite residential structure at La Milpa (nearly 2,000 years old).

- Visit the Maya site of Lamanai via jungle river
  - Journey to Lamanai (“Submerged Crocodile) via a speed boat and experience Belize’s second largest Maya site. You will be able to climb the High Temple (103’ feet tall) and experience the greatest view at La Milpa.

- Tour jungle trails with lessons on local flora and fauna
  - You will experience 3 short hikes throughout the Programme lands and be introduced to the amazing diversity of jungle life (trees, plants, and animals).

- Visit traditional Maya shaman and dancers
  - Visit one of the few remaining Maya shamans trained in the indigenous field of medicinal healing. You will learn how the Maya used native plants to address illnesses ranging from headache to infertility. In addition, you will see a traditional dance performance conducted by young Maya women at the community of Augustin Pine Ridge.

- Service learning: volunteering for a Maya community
  - Students will visit a local Maya school

Belize River Valley (8 days)

- Tour San Ignacio Market
  - The market is the heartbeat of both ancient and modern Latin America. Visit the local market and observe how goods are bartered and exchanged.

- Visit Maya site of Xunantunich
  - A short ferry ride gets you to the site of Xunantunich and the spectacular “El Castillo” structure. Climbing El Castillo will give you one of the most beautiful views in the country.

- Visit Maya site of Cahal Pech
  - This well-known Maya site is almost entirely reconstructed and is only a 5-minute walk from our hotel. You will see excellent examples of stone-cut residential and temple architecture.

- Actun Tunichil Mucnal Cave (ATM Cave)
  - Visit the most amazing Maya cave site in the country of Belize. In fact, this tour has been voted “The Most Outstanding Cultural Destination in Central America” for the past three years. You will navigate the tight confines of the cave for three hours and come face-to-face with sacred offerings and sacrificial victims.
LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM: SUMMER 2015 ITINERARY

Belize River Valley (8 days)
- Volunteering at Octavia Waight Elderly Clinic
  - Santa Monica College has been assisting at this elderly care facility for nearly a decade. You will have the privilege of meeting these wonderful individuals, sharing stories, playing bingo, and assisting in dinner.

- Mountain Pine Ridge Eco-tour
  - This day-long excursion takes you into the heart of the southern Maya Mountains. You will visit some of the country’s most amazing natural locations, including the Rio Frio Cave, 1,000 Foot Falls, and the Rio Hon Pools.

- Dinner in traditional Maya community
  - The group will visit the Maya community of San Antonio and be served a traditional Maya dinner.

Flores, Guatemala (4 days)
- Visit Maya site of Tikal
  - Locked in the jungles of the Peten is the largest and most famous Maya site of all. You will spend an entire day exploring Tikal’s massive ruins and visiting the local museum. The day culminates with the climbing of the tallest standing Pre-columbian structure in the Americas: The great temple of the “Warrior King.”

- Sunset lake tour

Ambergris Caye/San Pedro Island (4 days)
- Snorkel the Great Barrier Reef of Belize
  - This amazing all-day adventure takes you, via a Catamaran sailboat, to the second largest barrier reef in the world. You will spend an entire day exploring and snorkeling at the reef. You will then sail to the neighboring island of Caye Caulker for lunch.

- Volunteering at local school
  - You will visit the local middle school on the island and provide tutoring assistance to the children.