Imagine becoming fully immersed in the daily life of a small rural Jamaican village. Assist students with their reading and math. Lend a hand by helping build a desperately needed new Post Office or playground. See first hand Jamaican industry by visiting a local sugar factory. Experience the extreme economic dichotomy between the tourist industry and that of a rural farm. Visit nearby beautiful beaches and waterfalls. These are just a few of the examples of possible cultural experiences to be had while visiting Jamaica.

Preston College’s second annual international experience to Jamaica is designed to provide a combined group of Preston, Journalism, and/or TRIO students with firsthand knowledge and interactions with a rural Jamaican community through participation in service learning. Students will spend their 2010 Spring Break in a village near Petersfield, Jamaica, in the beautiful Westmoreland Parish. The program will take place in the same village as last year's program, fulfilling a conscious effort to build lasting community ties and international relationships between USC and this particular Jamaican community.

Preston College residents, Journalism students, and TRIO students are eligible to participate in this program. Students will travel with a USC faculty member and program assistant. An on-site director as well as the program leaders will accompany students and be available for assistance throughout the duration of the program.

Courses and Credits
Students will earn 3-credits for JOUR 463A Selected Topics with the title of “Community, Culture, and Communication.” The course will take place in Spring 2010 and will include regular class meetings throughout the semester in addition to the Spring Break service trip in Jamaica. Check with your academic advisor to see if credit earned may be used to fulfill general education, major or minor requirements. The class will run the duration of the semester and conclude with a Preston Presents upon return.
Living Arrangements
Students will be housed in homestays with local Jamaican families, two students to a residence.

Travel Dates
March 5 – 13, 2010 over Spring Break.

Costs
The travel fee for this program is estimated to be $1,750 and includes: round-trip airfare; hotel accommodations for one night; homestay; local transportation to and from the airport; an on-site coordinator; cultural and recreational activities; 3 meals daily provided by host family.

*Subject to change based on enrollment and currency fluctuations. Contact the Study Abroad Office for additional information on the program fee.

Travel Fee Does Not Include
Personal expenses; USC tuition and technology fees*; additional meals; or insurance. In addition, students must register for JOUR 463A Selected Topics with the title of “Community, Culture, and Communication.” USC tuition is not included in the program fee. Students must also obtain an International Student Identity Card ($22), which provides emergency medical and travel insurance.

*USC's regular Spring tuition rates and technology fees will apply.

Applications
To apply for the service learning program in Jamaica, download the application materials from the Preston College website (http://www.preston.sc.edu/sljamaica.html). Complete applications are due to Alexis in the Preston Main Office (Room 101) no later than Monday, November 20, 2009. Students will be notified of their acceptance by e-mail prior to the start of winter break.

For more information or to apply for service learning program in Jamaica, contact:
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Jamaica Service Learning Program Assistant
E-mail: alexis.stratton@gmail.com
Web: www.preston.sc.edu

Dr. Keith Kenney
School of Journalism and Mass Media
kkenney@mailbox.sc.edu

Footnotes
For more information about Jamaica, go to the Jamaican National Tourism website at http://www.visitjamaica.com