

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE OF ISSUE: THURSDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2010

STUDENTS RETURN FROM THIRTEENTH ANNUAL BIOLOGY TRIP

A group of A Level Biology students from Yeovil College and Strode College have just returned from an adventure-packed trip to the South American country of Belize.

The trip is the thirteenth in a string of joint annual visits to countries with diverse and exotic habitats which aim to give students first hand experience of different environments, animals and plants outside of the classroom. Previous destinations have included South Africa, Vietnam, Costa Rica, Sri Lanka and Australia and New Zealand.



This year's trip encompassed trekking through primary and secondary rainforest, canoeing through the magnificent Barton Creek Caves, visiting Belize Zoo, exploring the Lamanai Maya Temple complex, visiting Cockscomb Basin



Wildlife Sanctuary, the world's first jaguar reserve, and investigating coral reef and marine ecology at Ho Chan Marine Reserve and Turneffe Atoll. The students also had the opportunity to spend time with a Mennonite community, a group who follow a traditional lifestyle similar to that of the American Amish, toured a chilli sauce factory and visited Dangriga, where they shopped at a street market, saw drums being made and saw traditional dancing.

Yesterday, the students gave a fascinating presentation on their experiences to an audience of friends, family and senior representatives of Yeovil and Strode Colleges at the Strode Theatre.

Hannah Chorley (17) of Yeovil said "*The annual Biology trip was one of the major reasons why I chose to come to Yeovil College. The highlight for me was definitely the scuba diving at the Holcham Marine Reserve. It was absolutely amazing. We saw all sorts of fish, turtles and a sting ray. I'd never tried scuba diving before, but now I have I want to do a PADI diving qualification next summer before I go to university.*"

John Pain (17) of Yeovil said "*The experience was astonishing, something I will always remember and cherish for the rest of my life. The views from the tallest Mayan temples were among the best things I have ever seen.*"



Zoë Kibby (17) of Yeovil said *"I particularly enjoyed climbing the Mayan temples. The views at the top were out of this world and it was fascinating learn how they were built. I'm really interested in history and am doing History A Level, so to be able to get so close to an ancient monument really made the trip stand out. After having something new and interesting to do every day, it's been a bit boring being back!"*



Fiona Deacon, Biology Lecturer at Strode College said *"Belize exceeded our expectations. The variety and quality of experiences and the rich natural and cultural environments made this a trip of a life time and a wonderful learning experience for all the students. Our expert guides were so knowledgeable about their country and made sure we got the most out of every activity and visit. On the last day we enjoyed a sailing cruise a dusk accompanied by dolphins was the perfect end to a fantastic adventure."*

Yeovil College Biology lecturer Alan Morris said *"I was amazed by how all the students managed to pick up all the activities, but still remain focussed on the biology and environmental science all around them. More than in previous years, this year's trip integrated both Biology and Anthropological and cultural elements, giving the students a dual opportunity to learn about both. They showed great enthusiasm and interest throughout the trip and I'm sure that they have gained much from the experience which will help them in their studies and future life. We believe opportunities such as this trip are very important as a mechanism to support the maturation and development of all students. We're delighted we can offer it to Yeovil College students and we're already planning next year's trip to Uganda."*

... ENDS

Notes to Editors

All press enquiries to Eileen Furze, Marketing Officer t: (01935) 845322 e: eileen.furze@yeovil.ac.uk
www.yeovil.ac.uk