The Center for Global Health is sponsoring a nine-day trip to the Dominican Republic for the purpose of expanding global public health understanding and providing community service. The travel dates are Saturday, March 11 – Sunday, March 19, 2017. The trip is being organized in conjunction with Community Service Alliance, a not-for-profit Dominican organization founded and run by a SPH alumnus/DOH Axelrod Scholar. This will be the fifth service-learning trip to the Dominican Republic organized by the Center for Global Health.

This trip, like the previous ones, combines learning about the health care delivery system in the Dominican Republic (“the DR”) with the opportunity to serve those who are less fortunate. Everyone who has gone on one of these trips returns with a sense of having contributed in a meaningful way to the improvement in someone’s health and well-being.

The trip will include two or three days in the capital, Santo Domingo, to get an overview of the Dominican health system with representatives from the Ministry of Health and an orientation to the culture. The next four to five days will be spent on a work project in the rural communities near the city of El Seibo in the interior of the country. This is an area of sugar plantations and of the small communities, or “bateyes,” where the workers, primarily those from Haiti and descendants of Haitians, live. The project will focus on basic needs such as water, sanitation, nutrition, and youth empowerment. Previous projects have included installation and training on use of biosand water filtration systems, planting of community gardens and health education on improved nutrition, and building of latrines in low-income communities. The final day will be a day of relaxation on one of the country’s beautiful beaches.

There is no language requirement to participate. Space will be available on a first come, first serve basis. Costs are based on the number of participants. For planning purposes we project the per participant cost for the trip itself (i.e. program, local ground transportation, lodging, meals, etc.) will be approximately $1,320. Please note that this figure does not include costs associated with international air travel, UAlbany health insurance coverage and a trip participation fee. International travel costs (airfare and ground transportation to/from airports) between New York and Santo Domingo typically run around $700 - $850.

Please go to the Center for Global Health’s website to view three short videos taken during a recent service learning trips to the DR via this link (http://www.albany.edu/globalhealth/service-learning.php#DR).

Expand your horizons and your public health knowledge. Provide a needed service. Work on your language skills. Meet new people. Have some fun! Please contact John Justino (jjustino@albany.edu) or Carol Whittaker (cwhittaker@albany.edu) if you are interested. Thank you.