Program Dates - This is a 3-week program running from December 29, 2015 - January 17, 2016

Program info session:  Monday, November 10, 2014 at 4:30pm in Trinity 305

Application Deadline – Monday December 1, 2014, at 5:00pm. Note that the application requires your advisor’s signature.

Faculty Director - The program will be led by Professor Jack Harris from the HWS Anthropology and Sociology Department. Professor Harris teaches courses in Sociology of Community and the Sociology of Business and Management. He has extensive experience engaging students in service Learning and community-based research, and has a strong commitment to social entrepreneurship.

Course Title – Social Entrepreneurship Collaboration: Hands-on in Panama

Course Description
This course will be a three-week intensive immersion experience in a rural community in Panama working on social entrepreneurship projects. The ultimate goal of the program is to learn through collaboration. To accomplish this, participants build a team with locals and work together to seek out opportunities within a community, formulate ideas on how to improve quality of life, and test those ideas in the field. The program takes place in urban and rural Panama, as students begin in Panama City with an introduction and orientation and spend the majority of their time in a rural community a few hours away (more information in the Itinerary section below).
Panama provides fertile ground for entrepreneurial projects. While it has the fourth strongest economy in Latin America and one of the 20 fastest growing economies in the world, Panama also has the highest level of income inequality in Central America after Haiti. ThinkImpact’s social innovation curriculum facilitates a deep dive into asset-based community development, where students do not ask what a community needs or lacks, but rather what resources does it have and how can they be leveraged for greater good. By co-creating products and services with a social impact together with local community members, students practice leadership and intercultural communication skills while making a real contribution in the lives of the people with whom they will live and work.

Themes and Focuses of the Course
1) To understand local cultural practices through the lens of “shared austerity”
2) To engage in cross-cultural exchange through collaboration with local community members and cultural events and experiences
3) To explore social innovation and creative problem solving through collaboration with locals and guided activities
4) To develop communication skills, empathy, creativity, powers of observation, inquiry, and writing

Expectations for the course
1) Read and respond to texts on social entrepreneurship and commit to working through the program design
2) Participate actively in a field project interacting deeply and respectfully with your Panamanian partners
3) Immerse yourself in the life and culture of your host family and the rural community
4) Work successfully as a team to realize social entrepreneurship plans

Program Location
The community where the program will take place is located approximately 20 minutes to the northeast of Penonomé, the capital of the Coclé province. Penonomé is about 2 hours southwest Panama City. The community is rural with simple, concrete homes and dirt roads. There is a community center well suited to group meetings, lectures, and other group activities.

Pre-Requisites
Students will be required to have or take at least one semester of college-level Spanish or equivalent before departure. Spanish 101 is only offered in the fall semester at HWS so the course should be taken in fall 2015 or in the summer of 2015 at a college close to your home. Students with high school Spanish are eligible to apply and we will determine if you have reached the equivalent of one semester of college-level Spanish. Spanish beyond the beginner’s level would be very helpful but is not required. It is recommended but not required that students take either Anthropology 110 or Sociology 100 prior to participating in this program. All accepted students will be required to attend a set of mandatory group meetings with the Faculty Director during the spring 2015 semester. Students will read and discuss texts about social entrepreneurship and will be given a basic orientation to Panama.
Eligibility
Qualified first-years, sophomores, and juniors may apply. Seniors graduating in May 2015 will not be eligible but if you are a senior who will not graduate until December 2015 and you will be taking classes on campus during fall 2015, then you are eligible to apply.

GPA Requirement
Students applying for this program should have a minimum of a 2.5 cumulative GPA. In the case of first-year students, we will have to wait until your fall grades are in before we can formally admit you. Provided that there is space on the program, first years with successful applications may be given a conditional offer based on achieving at least a 2.5 GPA in the fall 2014 semester.

Credits
This course will be worth one HWS course credit and has been approved by the following departments to receive major/minor credit: Sociology, Anthropology (as a sociology elective credit). The course also will count towards a Social Justice minor, and a Hispanic Studies major or minor IF the student takes Spanish language 122 or higher before the J-Term course. International Relations may be approved for credit but we are waiting for confirmation. Advisors in other departments may allow you to satisfy Goal 7 (Multiplicity of world cultures) and/or Goal 8 (Ethical Judgment and Action).

Itinerary
Students begin in Panama City with an orientation to social innovation, social entrepreneurship, and Panamanian culture, including site visits in and around the city. After orientation, students will relocate to a rural community in the Coclé region where they will meet their host families and be introduced to the community with a special Welcome Ceremony. During the first days in the community, students explore the area, map out their surroundings, and begin to get a sense of local resources and context by engaging in activities, such as shadowing community members, writing character profiles, asset mapping, and team reflections and discussions.

On the second week of the program, students select a local business or organization to collaborate with throughout the innovation process. Guided by ThinkImpact's curriculum, students and their local team members will focus on creating a new product or service for the local business that will add a social benefit to the community. Together the students and their team members will brainstorm and assess challenges and opportunities. Teams
will pick an idea to prototype and will test it in the local market. They wrap up by drafting a Community Action Plan designed to help local team members move forward with their idea after students leave.

Toward the end of the program, students say goodbye to their teams and their homestay families. They return to Panama City for final reflections, a farewell dinner, and ThinkImpact Graduation. Students will return to the U.S. from Panama City.

Tentative itinerary

**December 29** – Arrive in Panama. Students will be greeted and get settled.
**December 30** – Introduction to ThinkImpact and social innovation, orientation
**December 31** – Safety and rules briefing, community prep
**January 1** – Tour and cultural activities around Panama City
**January 2** – Transfer to community and Welcome Ceremony
**January 3** – Shared cultural experiences
**January 4** – Shadow a community partner
**January 5** – Asset mapping workshop / reflection
**January 6** – Build context for action
**January 7** – Mind mapping
**January 8** – Positive deviants / reflection
**January 9** – Putting ideas into action
**January 10** – Free day / rest
**January 11** – Pick the Opportunity
**January 12** – Focus within the Opportunity
**January 13** – Opportunity Workshop
**January 14** – Community action plan
**January 15** – Shift activities / final reflections
**January 16** – Leave community. Farewell dinner in Panama City
**January 17** – Depart Panama City. Arrive home the same day

A typical day on the program

While in the community, students typically spend some time in the morning with their homestay family, sharing meals and household duties. Toward the beginning of the program, they spend their afternoons shadowing community members or gathering for group reflection. Toward the end, the afternoon is for meeting with the design team to discuss opportunities or to work on their social innovation project. Dinner and evenings are spent with the homestay family. Students typically rate the homestay experience as one of their favorite parts of the program.

**Housing and Meals**

During their time in Panama City, students will be housed two to a room in hostel-type accommodations. In the community, students will be placed in pairs with vetted homestay families, where they will share a private room in a home. All homestays will have electricity, running water, and reliable cell phone service. All meals during the program, other than dinner on
arrival day and breakfast on departure day, are included. Special arrangements can be made for students with dietary restrictions. Bottled water and snacks are also provided in the community.

**Opportunities for Follow-Up Study**
Upon returning, interested students will be encouraged to continue their studies by enrolling in courses offered in the departments of Anthropology and Sociology, International Relations, Social Justice Studies, Peace Studies, and Religious Studies.

**Medical Insurance**
Students will be required to have medical insurance while abroad, including evacuation and repatriation coverage*. You may have coverage abroad through your parents’ policy but you will need to check to see if this is the case and if their policy provides sufficient coverage. Sometimes these policies are for emergencies only or reimburse you at an out of network rate. You will also need to check to see if their policy includes evacuation and repatriation coverage.

If you plan to purchase the year-long 2015-16 HWS policy through Gallagher Student Health, this will cover you abroad but be aware that while the year-long policy is fine if you will be in the U.S., we strongly recommend that you purchase another policy for your time abroad. The reason for this is that with the year-long policy, providers abroad are considered “out of network” and the policy only covers 70% of the charges for out of network providers. If you need any kind of extended hospital care abroad, the cost could be prohibitive if you have to pay 30% of the costs.

If you need to purchase insurance or want to supplement the insurance you have, we recommend HTH Worldwide. The **Travel Gap Voyager** program from HTH Worldwide is a good option: [http://www.hthtravelinsurance.com/1_benefits_vaca.cfm](http://www.hthtravelinsurance.com/1_benefits_vaca.cfm) The plan costs between $20 - $30 for a 3-week trip, depending on the plan you choose. This is a good all-around plan and it includes coverage for emergency evacuation and repatriation. If you find a suitable plan through another company, that’s fine, too.

*If your policy does not cover evacuation and repatriation, you can purchase the International Student I.D. card (ISIC) card for $25 that includes this coverage. You can purchase this online at [www.myisic.com](http://www.myisic.com).

**Immunizations**
The CDC recommends that all travelers to Panama get Hepatitis A and typhoid immunizations. Hepatitis B is also recommended, although many students will have had this when they came to college but you should check on this. Hepatitis B can be contracted through medical procedures so it is recommended that you get this immunization if you have not already had it. In addition, students may wish to get immunized for rabies, since the group will be in the countryside where you could come into contact with animals.

The area west of the canal zone in Panama (where the group will be) is not a risk area for Yellow Fever, so this vaccine is not recommended by the CDC. The risk of malaria in Panama is low and malaria medications are only recommended for those east of the canal zone. The CDC only recommends wearing mosquito repellent in the western zones where the group will be. Please check the CDC website [https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/panama](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/panama) to read more about the recommendations. You may be able to get immunizations with your home doctor. Alternatively, you can get immunizations a local medical clinic near your home (use this link to find travel medicine clinics: [http://www.cdc.gov/travel/contentTravelClinics.aspx](http://www.cdc.gov/travel/contentTravelClinics.aspx)), or you can contact one of the Passport Health offices in Canandaigua, Rochester or Syracuse who provide travel immunizations. Their contact number is: (585) 275-8884.
 Costs
Program fees will be approximately $2800 - $3150* for the 3-week program, which will cover tuition, accommodation, 3 meals a day for the duration of the trip (except for dinner on arrival day and breakfast on departure day), orientation and a tour of Panama City, all program-related transport within Panama including airport transfers, and cell phone rental. Students will need to budget an extra $50 (2 meals at approximately $10 per meal plus an additional $30 for incidentals) above and beyond the program costs. Students will also need to budget for roundtrip airfare at approximately $600 - $800 from JFK plus any internal flight from your originating city, books at $12, medical insurance at approximately $30 (see section about medical insurance above) if you don’t already have it, optional immunizations at approximately $150 (see section on immunizations above) and a non-refundable administrative fee of $100 charged for all faculty-led short-term programs. Total trip costs including airfare + optional items above = approximately $3900 - $4250.
*Final program fees will be determined based on the number of students confirmed on the trip.

 Flights
Group flights will be arranged by the CGE and accepted students will be notified of the cost and booking info for the flight once it’s available.

 Passports and Visas
All students will need a passport valid until at least June 18th, 2016 to participate in this program. Visas are not required for U.S. citizens. If you are a non-U.S. citizen, please check with Sharon Walsh in the CGE at walsh@hws.edu to see if you will require a visa.

 Funding
In an effort to assist students in financial hardship wishing to participate in a short-term program, there is a limited pool of HWS funding available. If you are accepted to this program, we will invite you to submit a funding application. Funding will be allocated on a need basis and we will contact the financial aid office to verify your need status. We will also contact the Student Affairs office and the Dean’s office to access your social/disciplinary records as part of determining your eligibility for funding. We will let you know whether you have been awarded funding before the deadline by which you are required to put down a deposit for your place on the program.

 Questions? - If you have questions about this program, please contact Sharon Walsh in the Center for Global Education at 315 781-3663 or walsh@hws.edu.