

Spring Break Service  
**HACIENDA VERDE**

(Green estate/property)

Utuaado, Puerto Rico

**Dates:** Late March 27<sup>th</sup> – Early April 5<sup>th</sup> 2010

**Group size:** Alex + 10 students

**Lodging:** Double beds in a hotel, possibly a church basement, mostly dormitory style bunk beds. You will need a light sleeping bag/sheet, makeshift pillow and a towel.

**Transportation/Itinerary:** We will be flying out of Orlando into Ponce, PR arriving at 2 AM on March 28<sup>th</sup>. We will travel by private van to Utuaado and also back to Ponce. After another evening and day in Ponce we will fly back to Orlando at 3:30AM April 5<sup>th</sup>. Please keep in mind our flight times, as they are not necessarily the most comfortable.

**Cost:** \$400 – includes plane ticket, 3 meals a day, lodging, other transportation

**Contact:** Alex Caterino – [cateria@eckerd.edu](mailto:cateria@eckerd.edu), Omega 106B, 203-695-1355 ☺

### What?

We will be staying and working at Hacienda Verde for the majority of our trip ([www.haciendaverde.org](http://www.haciendaverde.org) – read up!). Hacienda Verde is a 375 acre ecological reserve located on a mountain in Puerto Rico's central mountain range. There is a shade coffee plantation on the property and there are places for yoga and meditation as well. The focus is a holistic integration of mind, body, and spirit applied to their conservation and sustainable agricultural endeavors. In exchange for use of their facilities, we will be assisting the members of the community with basically any and every project they are working on. These may include but are not limited to: measuring the height/diameter of shade trees, designing/building an organic garden, clearing hiking trails, taking photographs, researching tropical ecology projects/schools, networking, cleaning, etc. Our projects will really depend on the skills of the group, so if you have any expertise in Spanish/environmental sustainability/trail maintenance/tree measuring/organic tropical agriculture or others, I encourage you to apply. If you have no experience but are ready and willing to learn, that's wonderful too. Please be prepared to participate fully in all

projects; we want to function as an efficient and productive group. If time permits, we will be exploring the local attractions of Utuaado such as the nearby Indigenous Community Center. We will also have a free day in Ponce, which is on the southern coast of Puerto Rico.

### Why?

We are going to Puerto Rico to offer our skills, energy, and dedication, not just to explore a beautiful area. The concepts of holistic integration and application – mind, body, and spirit – will permeate our entire trip. Giving our talents and ourselves to help others is the main goal of our experience, along with learning about and facilitating a revolutionary project. Care of Earth goes hand in hand with care of humanity, so it follows that sustainable agriculture and preservation of precious tropical ecosystems are worthy and fulfilling ventures. We are also traveling together as a symbiotic community, to learn about group dynamics, cooperation, and harmony throughout our trip. If you like getting your hands dirty, work well with others, and your glass is half full, this is a wonderful opportunity.

**Important Dates:** Registration with a non-refundable deposit of \$225 is due by Noon on Thursday, \*\*\*February 18<sup>th</sup>\*\*\*

### 3 Required Pre-Trip Meetings!

February 24<sup>th</sup>, March 10<sup>th</sup> and March 17<sup>th</sup> (all Wednesdays) in Omega 106 from 5:00-5:45pm

### The \$400 will NOT cover...

Free time funds in Ponce/Utuaado, snacks, souvenirs, misc. extra supplies/goodies

