

## **Belize Summer Service Program**

The program, "Community Development in a Global Context: An International Service Learning Program," is sponsored by the UA Honors College. Faculty sponsors include Dr. Jennie Popp, AEAB, and Dr. Nilda Burgos, CSES.

One component of the program will be a farm to be operated by an elementary school in Belize. Students from any major are welcome to participate. The farm project will require students with knowledge and skills related to producing plants and animals, agribusiness, communication, human and community development, agricultural engineering, food processing, human nutrition and other areas.

The school farm will involve students at a rural school where land is available for a small farm. Many students in the school are currently malnourished. They come to school hungry and the school has to determine who they can feed each day as there is not a steady stream of food available daily to feed all who are in need. Peaceworks and school officials have talked about the development of a farm at the school on which food can be grown for the school. Any extras could be sold to residents of the village.

Students who participate in year one will be expected to help design the farm, taking into account local constraints related to land, labor, inputs, markets, culture, etc. The actual farm would be phased in beginning in year two. It is hoped that this farm could serve as a model for other schools in the region hoping to meet the nutritional needs of their students.

UA faculty from a broad spectrum of disciplines will supervise student teams in the community of Dangriga, a city of about 10,000 on the Caribbean coast. Culturally and linguistically, the city is a fascinating mixture of Creoles, Mestizos, and Mayans, though it is dominated by the Garifunas, a Caribbean people descended from African slaves and indigenous groups. English is the official language of Belize.