San Salvador Island

San Salvador Island is one of the outermost of a chain of some 700 islands sprinkled throughout more than 5,000 square miles of the most beautiful waters of the world. Although San Salvador is similar to the other islands of this archipelago, it is unique for its history, ecology, inland lakes, and potential for future development.

In 1492 Christopher Columbus made his first landfall in the New World at San Salvador. At that time the island was populated by the Lucayans, an Indian population which lived by fishing and agriculture. After befriending these people, the admiral explored the island, going north from Long Bay where his fleet was anchored and rowing some twenty miles in search of an entrance through the barrier reef. One such boat canal was found with seven feet of water leading to a deep harbor which Columbus reported "would hold all the ships of Christendom." It is now known as Grahams Harbor.

The harbor remains as it was except for the Gerace Research Station (GRC), which is located on the berm of a beach composed of calcareous sands.

Much of the interior of San Salvador is made up of lakes which were utilized in days past for transportation. This unique inner island passage promoted the development of several communities on the perimeter of these interconnected lakes. After trampling in the dense bush which covers the island, one can appreciate why this method of transport was used.

Today the island's paved perimeter road traverses through several small settlements which reflect the unspoiled Bahamian natural charm. The largest community, Cockburn Town, is the center of all activities on the island, having the Commissioner’s office, Post Office, telecommunication station, and electricity generators.

Most descriptions of the Bahamas picture islands basked continually with a warm breeze, blue skies, and long sunny days. This is for the most part true. However, it is not uncommon during winter, when a northwestern front arrives, to have as much as a week of rainy, cool weather. These are days when it becomes too cool to swim and sweaters feel most comfortable in the evenings. The rainy season during the later summer permits the propagation of insects on San Salvador to the extent that the nuisance level becomes almost intolerable during September and October. This, along when the potential for hurricane activity, is the predominant reason for not having field projects during those months of the year. The nuisance level of insects is reduced during the winter and spring dry season.

The waters of the Bahamas are warm, blue, and have tropical reefs which can only be described for their beauty and abundance. Different from northern waters, diving in the sea produces very little comparative air temperature shock. However, many persons require wet suit vests when diving for long periods of time, even in May and June.

The Purpose of the Gerace Research Center

The GRC, as part of the College of the Bahamas, has a continuing agreement with the Bahamas government to undertake a wide range of environmental research projects in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities. San Salvador offers a natural field laboratory for such studies.

Four purposes guide our activities at the GRC:

1. to inquire into the meaning of environmental relationships.
2. to develop an understanding of another culture.
3. to instruct students in research methods and techniques.
4. to conduct initial surveys and advanced field studies of the island.
The Cross Cultural Experience

San Salvador and the GRC with their cultural setting and geographic location are not for everyone. Faculty and students will not live in a manner and style to which they have become accustomed at vacation resorts. San Salvador lies well off the coast of Florida, a distance which can be measured in cultural difference as well as miles. The language is English and the people are generally very receptive, but linguistic affinity and friendliness can easily be misinterpreted for cultural similarity. In fact, this island is inhabited by a largely agrarian people who are very religious, who have a value system and world view quite unlike our own. One of the attractions of the GRC for all visitors is the cultural difference one finds on the island, but visitors have not always been sensitive to, or respectful of this difference. It is with good reason that we include "dress clothing" on the equipment list and insist that participants refrain from forms of personal behavior which might jeopardize the research center. We want to continue to be deserving of the welcome that San Salvador and the Bahamas Government have extended to us, and feel that a posture of deference to another people's cultural values is the best one to adopt.

Faculty Housing

Facilities at the GRC were built over forty years ago by the United States Sea Bees. Faculty rooms are all on the ground floor and designed to house two or more people. Each room has a sink and mirror, 2 beds or more, a dresser and desk. Most of the rooms have private bathrooms. However, in some cases, two adjoining rooms share a toilet and shower. Each room has a ceiling fan, and a number of the rooms can be air-conditioned with window units for an additional fee.

The GRC furnishes bed linens and towels for each room, but does not provide daily laundry service. Each participant must launder his/her own towels and bed linens. Maids clean each room and lavatory daily.

Student Housing

Undergraduate students are housed in dormitories located in the barracks which housed the Navy personnel during their stay on the island. They consist of a number of separate rooms housing a maximum of five students each, in either single or bunk beds. Men's and women's dorms are separate.

While these barracks were one of the finest built for military, they in no way compare with dormitories on your home campus. For a field station, however, living conditions are more than adequate for persons who are disciplined in keeping their quarters neat and who can function comfortably with minor inconveniences.

Graduate students are housed in ground floor rooms that can accommodate two to five students. Each room has at least one dresser and a desk. Most of the rooms have private bathrooms. In one case two rooms (housing two students each) share one bathroom.

While the GRC furnishes workers to clean the floors and lavatories of the student dorms and rooms, each student is responsible for keeping his personal living area neat and clean. Undergraduate students are also responsible for supplying their own sheets, pillowcases, and towels.

Laboratory Facilities

The GRC has available 10 modest but adequate laboratory classrooms, several of which are air-conditioned. A limited number of compound and dissecting microscopes, as well as assorted laboratory glassware, are available for student and faculty use. There are two large air-conditioned lecture rooms with overhead and slide projectors and VCRs, a wet lab containing aquariums with circulating sea water, a library, and a specimen repository. Each faculty member submits, prior to his project, a list of those items of equipment and library references required to complete his/her research or individual course. In this way each
project has equipment tailored to the specific research being undertaken.

Dining Facilities

The GRC has complete dining facilities for ninety people. The bulk of the food utilized on campus is shipped from Nassau by marine transport or from the United States by air freight.

Fresh vegetables and fruits can be limited since we are dependent not only on availability of supplies from Nassau but also on the supply boat being able to sail from Nassau to deliver produce. With the aforementioned problems in logistics, our menu is sometimes limited, however, the kitchen staff will provide well balanced meals and can normally serve a vegetarian alternative. Other special dietary needs may be difficult to accommodate, and should be discussed with the GRC Director prior to booking.

Recreation and Entertainment

Sports equipment is provided for basketball and volleyball. Students should bring their own small games, such as cards, chess, etc. Paperback literature is available in our library for free time reading. Sodas, candy, snacks, postcards, stamps, and souvenirs are available for purchase at the Reef Club Snack Bar located on campus.

Three different night spots are located within walking distance of the GRC.

Dress Code

The Bahamian dress code is more formal than the current one in the U.S. For instance, islanders feel insulted if visitors attend church in working clothes (i.e., jeans). In respect for the Bahamian sensitivity regarding dress, it is necessary to require that shoes, shirts, and bathing suit cover-ups are worn in all public and semi-public places, and also in the Research Center cafeteria.

Insects

Like most tropical places, San Salvador has insects. The island has palmetto bugs, flies, and roaches which are not usually considered a nuisance to our participants. However, of the several hundred species of mosquitoes, San Salvador can boast of twelve. During the rainy season, the nuisance level builds to intolerable levels. However, relief can be obtained in screened quarters, especially during the twilight hours. Throughout the year most participants should not experience mosquito bites during the heat of the day in unshaded cleared areas.

The biggest offender of the insect world on San Salvador is the "no-see-um." You may know them by the name of sand fly, punky, gnat, or nit. They can get through standard mosquito mesh and can sometimes crawl under covers to deliver a painful bite. Some people are more tormented by these insects than others. Two people sleeping next to each other may find one bothered by bites while the other experiences no discomfort at all. After the first two weeks on the island people either get used to the nuisance or develop an immunity to bites. Insect sprays are useful in the control of these tropical nuisances, and anti-itch creams bring relief from bite irritation. Occasional spraying for insects has begun around most settlements on the island, including the GRC. This has helped to keep the nuisance level of both mosquitoes and no-see-ums down as compared to previous years.

Other insects which at times can give a great deal of concern are wasps and bees. On San Salvador there are bees which can give painful stings. To date there have been no ill effects experienced even by those normally allergic to bee stings.

Bahamas Immigration and Customs

A visa is not required for U.S. citizens to visit the Bahamas. However, proof of citizenship is required in the form of a birth certificate (must be original or notarized copy) or passport. A driver’s license alone is not acceptable, although some
identification with a recent photo should also be brought with you.

Bahamian customs officials are subjecting incoming people and their luggage to rigorous search. It is illegal to bring into the Bahamas any illicit drugs, spear guns, or obscene literature (this includes "Playboy" and similar publications). Note that prescription and non-prescription medications are allowed. It can be expected that the Bahamas government will prosecute any person found to possess illegal drugs or marijuana according to Bahamian law, which is more stringent than U.S. law, regarding the possession, use, or sale of drugs and marijuana.

Things to Bring

On charter air transportation, personal luggage will be limited to 40 pounds, including carry on baggage. This will be strictly enforced on both inbound and outbound charter flights. Any additional luggage will be left behind. Anyone who insists on exceeding this limit may be charged as much as the cost of another round-trip airfare or more. It is essential that GRC visitors include the following in their luggage:

a. sun screen, sun tan lotion, & sun hat
b. insect repellent and anti-itch cream for bites*
c. sun glasses, spare glasses, contact lenses (if applicable)
d. band aids and antiseptic, other necessary sundries such as aspirin, feminine hygiene products, etc.*
e. flash light and extra batteries*
f. plastic drinking glass
g. spiral note book, pencils, pens.*
h. light washable clothing to include at least the following: rain jacket, sweater and/or sweatshirt (winter months), one set of dress clothing (if you plan to attend church), long sleeve shirt, jeans, shorts, T-shirts, etc.
i. sturdy walking shoes and old sneakers, dive boots, or water shoes to wear in the water
j. swim suits, plus snorkel, mask & fins
k. cosmetic items and laundry detergent*
l. proof of citizenship (birth certificate or passport) and a photo identification (college ID or driver's license)
m. Undergraduate students should bring 2 sheets, 1 pillowcase, 1 blanket, and 2 towels.
n. Watch and/or travel alarm clock (if you have trouble waking up in the mornings).
o. Water bottle.
(* - Usually available on the island, but expensive and in limited supply)

In order to keep your limit to 40 pounds and also bring the aforementioned items, we suggest you wear your dress clothing to the island and bring two changes of field clothing and bathing suits. Avoid bringing heavy boots, shoes and winter coats, and pack in light duffels or small cloth suitcases.

Swimming and SCUBA Diving

SCUBA diving to a depth of 25 feet for research purposes is possible through the Gerace Research Center. Students must be accompanied by the professor in charge when diving. Deeper diving can be arranged with the local dive shop on the island. All SCUBA divers must bring with them proof of certification (C-card) and their log book. They should also bring their own regulators, BC's, and weight belts (minus weights). Weights and tanks can be rented at the GRC.

Personal Funds

Personal funds must be brought for sodas, snacks, drinks, post cards, stamps, snorkeling or SCUBA equipment rentals, and souvenirs. There are no banks for wire transfers, or ATMs, on San Salvador. Credit cards are not accepted at the GRC or most other locations on the island. The only exception to this is the Riding Rock dive resort which will take major credit cards. The Bahamian dollar is equivalent to the US dollar and they are used interchangeably on the island. Personal spending money must be in cash in small denominations. Travelers checks will be accepted...
but with a 3% surcharge to cover administration. A safe is available on campus for safe keeping of funds, passports and airline tickets. Previous experience indicates that GRC visitors spend as much as $20 to $100 in a week on the above mentioned incidentals.

**Medical Care**

Persons who choose to participate in activities at the GRC must be aware that medical facilities and personnel on San Salvador are very limited and can in no way be compared with standards found in most parts of the USA. Thus, one must assume a certain amount of risk in the event of serious or emergency medical situations. It is for this reason that the Research Center requires individuals to procure our accident and sickness insurance policy which, in the case of an emergency, will cover the costs of a flying ambulance for evacuation to hospital facilities. Minor medical care on San Salvador is provided by a resident doctor and nurse in a modest government clinic. By Bahamian standards, San Salvador is considered to be one of the most fortunate Out Islands in having even this level of medical service for its population of around 1000. A modest fee, usually $75 or less, is charged for medicines and treatment at the clinic. Participants should be prepared to pay such fees if they require medical treatment.

Special inoculations are not required, although a tetanus shot is strongly recommended.

**Insurance Coverage**

A student must purchase health insurance coverage for a fee of $1.00 per person, per day, which is included in the cost of the class.

**Laundry**

Coin operated washers are provided on the campus for personal laundry. Laundry detergent can be purchased on the island, however, as with other imported products you will find it more expensive than in the USA.

**Electricity**

Electricity on San Salvador is provided by diesel powered generators operated by the Bahamas Electricity Corporation. As in the USA the electricity is 110 volts, 60 cycle.

**Time**

The time zone for San Salvador is the same as the Eastern Time Zone in the USA, including both standard and daylight savings time.

**Churches**

Catholic, Baptist, Anglican, and Seventh Day Adventist worship services are available on San Salvador. They welcome anyone who would like to attend their Sunday services. It is important that visitors follow custom and wear dress clothing, e.g. dress shirt and slacks for men and dress or skirt and blouse for women.

**Transportation to, and on the Island**

Transport to San Salvador will be via small eight or nine seat charter aircraft (when available) which leave from Ft. Lauderdale (see Air Charter Information).

Travel may also be personally arranged through Bahamasair, which generally has one flight daily from Nassau to the island. It may be possible to travel from your home institution to San Salvador in one day by utilizing Bahamas Air.

The Bahamasair schedule does vary considerable depending on the time of year and you should contact their group department to make inquiries on time tabling at Tel: 305-593-8841 or Fax: 305-593-6246. The Bahamasair group department is also able to give cut price fares.

Transportation for daily classes and church is provided by the GRC. A faculty member from
the group will be responsible for driving. The cost of repair of any damage done to a vehicle as a result of negligence and/or misuse will be paid by the faculty who was driving at the time.

There is no regular bus or taxi service available on the island.

Most visitors find it enjoyable to walk to the several night spots located within one to two miles of the campus after classes in the evening.

## Telephone Service

The GRC’s telephone number on San Salvador is (242)-331-2520/2521, and Fax (242)-331-2524. These are business numbers and should be utilized for business/emergency calls only. For personal calls, visitors may use a phone on campus which can be used to make collect calls or with AT&T, MCI, and Sprint calling cards.

In an emergency an individual attempting to telephone a student or faculty member should call the GRC’s number between 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM, and the participant will return the call. Messages may also be passed on through the Bahamian Telephone Company (BATELCO) at 242-331-2388.

## Internet Service

High Speed Internet service is available for use by students and faculty in the library during normal library hours. There is a small fee associated with this service.

## Mail

Packages of any kind should not be sent to students or faculty. All packages are fully inspected and a rather high import duty is placed on most items, besides the fact that they will in all likelihood arrive after the participant leaves San Salvador. Mail sent through the Bahamian postal service can take up to four weeks to reach the island from the US, and vice versa.

All mail from the Bahamas must have Bahamian postage. U.S. postage stamps cannot be used. Post cards and Bahamian stamps are available for purchase at the Research Center.

## Property Damage Bond

Personal conduct on San Salvador must not jeopardize the GRC or cause undue property damage. Therefore, each student will be asked to post a $10.00 property damage bond upon arrival on San Salvador. This fee will be refunded in full before departure from the island if no damage is incurred by the student or the students' group.

## Personal Conduct

The GRC and its guests are present on San Salvador under the courtesy of the people and government of the Bahamas. As such, you will be expected to conduct yourselves in a manner that is respectful of local sensitivities, customs, and laws. Any violations of Bahamian law will be prosecuted in the Bahamas with no recourse to U.S. laws and attorneys. Any conduct that reflects negatively on the Research Center will be grounds for immediate deportation at the expense of those involved.

## Payment

Payment for is requested at least two weeks in advance of your stay. Please contact us if this is a problem as we can usually work around this.

## Cancellation Policy

Reservations cancelled up to 4 days in advance will receive a full refund. A fee equivalent to one night's stay will be charged on cancellations after this time. Charter aircraft seats cancelled up to 31 days in advance will receive full refunds. Due to advance payment requirements by the air charter companies, no refund will be given on seat cancellations after this time.
There are no provisions made for any refunds if a student has to leave San Salvador due to medical or personal reasons.

Summary

Now that you have read the preceding description of the Gerace Research Center and environment, it becomes your decision whether you can adapt yourself to this field situation. We recommend our facility for those who truly enjoy working and living with people from different places, who are especially sensitive to a people and culture that are different from their own, and who view scholarly field work as being especially appropriate to their personal goals. For those who have unique medical requirements, require special diets, have problems in adjusting to a completely new situation and different culture, or have difficulty in living with and meeting a variety of people, we strongly recommend that you consider this program with reservation. To those who feel they can adapt, the San Salvador experience may well be one of the highlights of your life.
AIR CHARTER INFORMATION
2003-04

Costs

The cost of each charter is divided equally among the passengers utilizing the aircraft. The Gerace Research Center assists participating schools to reduce their costs by both coordinating several small groups using one aircraft, and by arranging dates for participants so groups arriving and departing utilize the same aircraft whenever possible (called a back-to-back). If back-to-backs can be arranged, the per person cost round trip is $385.00 per person. If no back to back can be arranged, the cost is dependent on the number of people in the group as the charter cost is the same whether full or empty. Please contact the GRC for further information. Please note that no refund on seat cost will be given for cancellation made less than 31 days of your arrival.

Luggage and Excess Baggage

There are luggage weight restrictions on the charter aircraft., and the weight allowance is limited to 40 lb. per person. If space allows one faculty member from each student group is allowed to carry an extra 60lbs. This should be verified with us prior to your arrival at the charter service. Please be firm with your group about staying within the 40 lb weight limit. This will make everything run more smoothly on flight days. Excess baggage will be allowed only if space is available, and at a rate of $0.80 per pound each direction (i.e., $1.60 per pound round trip). If you know you need to bring extra weight, please notify us well ahead of time. We will try to make arrangements to deal with it. One alternative is for you to purchase extra seats ahead of time at the regular rate, which will allow approximately 150–180 lbs. of additional baggage per seat purchased (depending on the group weight). This method only works if extra seats are available and the total weight allows for this. Another way to deal with excess weight, if using the charter for your flights to San Salvador, is to send it to Twin Air one month or more prior to your arrival. Then we may be able to fit it on a plane when space is available and have it at the Research Center when you arrive, sometimes at no extra cost to you. If you are not using the charter service for your arrival on San Salvador, you will be charged a rate of $0.80/lb for sending excess baggage this way.

Excess baggage that cannot fit on the plane with you when you leave San Salvador will be sent off later when space is available on a plane, and shipped to you via UPS at your expense. This process may take some time as we have to wait for a GRC visitor who is willing to carry your boxes through customs, this is now necessary as unaccompanied baggage can spend months in US customs before it will be released.

Scientists should keep in mind that the same luggage requirements must be met when leaving San Salvador, so allowances should be made for samples collected on the island and being returned to the USA.

Place of Departure

All aircraft will leave from Twin Air or Air Sunshine at the Fort Lauderdale International Airport. Twin Air is located on Lee Wagener Blvd., not at the main terminal (see enclosed map). Air Sunshine is located at the main terminal but can be boarded either there or at their hanger near the Jet Center. You will be notified ahead of time which charter service you will be using.

Time of Departure
Because back-to-back flights are arranged whenever possible, all flights will depart from Ft. Lauderdale at either 7:00 or 7:30 AM, unless other arrangements have been made. All persons must be at the air charter terminal no later than one hour prior to flight time to weigh luggage and board the aircraft.

**Departure Taxes**

Departure taxes, both US and Bahamas will be included within the cost of the air charter tickets. If you plan to travel via Bahamas Air you will pay a $15.00 per person departure tax on leaving the Bahamas.

**Automobile Parking**

If your group is driving, parking is available free of charge near the air charter terminal from which you will be departing. Ask the people at Twin Air or Air Sunshine for details when you arrive.

**Return Flights**

Be advised that back-to-back flights out of San Salvador may arrive late due to poor weather conditions. Therefore we recommend that you stay overnight in Fort Lauderdale. If you must fly from Ft. Lauderdale on the same day you return from the island, please schedule your connecting flight after 6:00 PM. For those with connecting flights the same day, we will make every effort to get you on the first flight out of San Salvador if space is available. Upon returning to Fort Lauderdale you will have to clear US Customs. After you clear customs you will be able to call a taxi for transport to the main terminal to catch flights, call your hotel for their shuttle service, or to get your car from the nearby parking lot.

**Disclaimers**

Since the deregulation of the airlines there has been a reduction in commercial airfares on the one hand and a stricter policy of passenger responsibility on the other. If a passenger cannot meet his flight (especially when holding super saver or restricted tickets) he can stand by for a later flight without penalty. However, on days of heavy air travel, which is especially true between the north and Florida in the winter months, a stand-by seat may not be readily available. Thus a passenger may have to pay a penalty for a new ticket which can often amount to something greater than the total original round trip super saver ticket.

While the commercial airlines have passed on a great responsibility to the passenger, they have reduced their responsibility if they are at fault for a delay. If a commercial flight is late and you miss a connecting flight they do not reimburse you for the penalty a possible connecting flight might cost you, unless it is on their airline. If their aircraft does not arrive at all, then you may get your money back for that flight, which may be only half of a super saver ticket. If you are delayed overnight they do not pay for your meals and lodging, nor do they pay for any penalty accrued on flying on another airline’s connecting flights.

In the past there have been delays on the air charters between Fort Lauderdale and San Salvador due to weather or mechanical breakdowns. Although this has happened only a few times, the Gerace Research Center has housed and fed people left on San Salvador an extra night and reimbursed the daily fee for anyone detained in Fort Lauderdale over night. Also, in the past the air charter company has paid the penalty fees involved when passengers were late for their commercial flights out of Fort Lauderdale when returning from San Salvador.
The Research Center and the air charter companies flying for the GRC will continue to make every effort to be on time so that passengers meet their commercial flights out of Fort Lauderdale. However, it must be understood that San Salvador is an exotic, out of the way island, with no airplane repair facilities. Also, the GRC must, by law, only charter aircraft from those companies that carry an air taxi certificate. This means that the maintenance of the aircraft and insurance on the aircraft are the same as those of commercial carriers. In real terms to us, this means there are very few aircraft in South Florida that have this certification and are available for charter.

Because the commercial carriers have become so rigid and notoriously late in meeting their schedules and charter companies feel that they cannot continue to support policies which commercial carriers no longer honor, we must give the following disclaimers:

1) If an air charter flight is delayed overnight due to mechanical failure or weather, the Gerace Research Center will charge one half the daily room and board to those students and faculty remaining on San Salvador. Likewise, the Research Center will reimburse one half of the room and board at a participating hotel to those who were scheduled to come to San Salvador but were forced to remain in Fort Lauderdale as the result of such a delay.

2) The air charter company will always try to meet people’s schedules, even if this means sub-chartering from another company if there is a last minute mechanical problem. However, they will not be held responsible for payment of overnight accommodations nor airline penalty charges if passengers are delayed in meeting connecting flights out of Fort Lauderdale because of mechanical or weather problems.
1-All students who wish to use SCUBA gear during their course of study on San Salvador must be certified, card carrying members of either PADI, NAUI, CMAS, BSAC, YMCA, SSI or any other internationally recognized SCUBA certification organization.

2-Prior to any diving on San Salvador, each diver will complete a diving application which includes certification type and number, dive history, and a signed statement showing recognition of hazards and a hold harmless agreement. At this same time we will photocopy your certification card for our files.

3-Supervision of any SCUBA diving will be conducted by a faculty member who is himself a trained diver, and emphasis should be on their obtaining dive-master. The depth limit for any dive will be 25 feet, and there will be no recreational diving unless the faculty member holds master diver status.

4-Persons involved in SCUBA diving should bring their own equipment since the GRC has only a few items for rental with the exception of weights and tanks. The rental prices for equipment are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full tank</td>
<td>$10.00 per dive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light, with batteries</td>
<td>$3.00 per dive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light, without batteries</td>
<td>$1.00 per dive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mask, Fins, Snorkel</td>
<td>$1.00 per day (each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snorkel Vest</td>
<td>$3.00 per day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5-Use of the GRC boats is limited to Grahams Harbour, Fernandez Bay, and the inland lakes. Any SCUBA or snorkeling in other areas must be from shore.
The Gerace Research Center (GRC) has arranged for an accident and sickness insurance policy with CIGNA Worldwide Insurance Company, with the following benefits:

- **Accidental Death & Dismemberment**: $25,000 per person
- **Accident & Sickness Medical Expense**: $10,000 per occurrence with Deductible: $25,000 per person
- **Medical Evacuation & Repatriation**: $5,000 Deductible: $25

This insurance will cost $1.00 per day, per person. It is mandatory that all students have this coverage while they are in residence at the GRC and for those days flying between Fort Lauderdale and San Salvador. However, if a student desires insurance while in transit to and from Fort Lauderdale they can also pay for this additional coverage at $1.00 per day. For example, if a student stays at the GRC for 7 nights, the cost would be $8.00 (includes days flying between Fort Lauderdale and San Salvador); but if he also wants coverage for two days traveling to Fort Lauderdale and two days traveling back home, the cost would be $12.00.

To initiate this insurance policy each faculty must complete and send to the above address the enclosed insurance information form which consists of a list of names of all persons insured and the number of days of coverage desired. **It is imperative we receive the list of names at least four weeks prior to your travel to San Salvador** so the policy can be instituted. Payment is not required prior to your arrival on San Salvador.

The GRC will waive this policy for all those who have comparable insurance which covers accident and sickness and medical evacuation costs up to $5,000. A word of caution, though, many medical insurance policies do not cover air ambulance and repatriation costs, furthermore, many accident policies do not cover sickness.

We will also waive this mandatory insurance if the head of your school’s business office signs a letter stating that the school will cover all expenses accrued by your students due to sickness and/or accident, including air ambulance service.

Please be informed that this insurance carries a $25 deductible and that any medical expenses must first be borne by the student and then a claim must be submitted for reimbursement. A visit to the medical clinic here on the island starts at $30 for nonresidents, therefore students should keep at least this much cash in reserve for medical services while at the GRC.
I agree to the following statements and assume the following responsibilities:

1. To read the General Information and to complete the Health Status Form and the student Contract Form.

2. To avoid forms of personal conduct that may jeopardize the Gerace Research Center (GRC), fully understanding that if the Executive Director believes my conduct has jeopardized the GRC I will be expelled from the island at my own expense and will forfeit all fees paid.

3. To post a $10.00 property damage bond upon arrival on San Salvador. This fee will be refunded in full before departure from the island if no damage by my group is incurred.

4. To discuss with my professor health and accident insurance for my stay on San Salvador, and agree to purchase a policy through the GRC for a fee of $1.00 per day.

5. I agree to the following Hold Harmless Clause:

I fully understand that the GRC, along with its administrators, faculty and staff will not be held responsible, financially or otherwise, for any injury, accident, or sickness, including those resulting from any in the water activities. By signing this release I certify that I am cognizant of the basic risks and dangers in swimming and snorkeling in a marine environment.

In the event of my physical or mental incapacitation for any reason, I hereby authorize the GRC to take such actions and engage such services on my behalf as they deem necessary for my health, and I agree to promptly reimburse them for all costs incurred on my behalf including medical assistance and transportation to medical facilities.

Signed

Date

College
HEALTH STATUS FORM
2003-2004

Name ____________________________ Age ___________ Sex ________

Campus Address ____________________ Telephone ____________________

Parent or Guardian ____________________

Home Address ____________________ Telephone ____________________

Height ____________________ Weight ____________________

Do you participate regularly in active sports? Yes______ No ______. If so specify what sports. If not, indicate what exercise you normally obtain:

Have you ever been rejected from military service or employment for medical reasons? Yes______ No ______. If yes, please explain.

When was your last physical examination? Month_____ Year_____ Where ____________.

When was your last chest X-ray? Month_____ Year_____ Where ________________.

Reason for and results of chest X-ray:

Have you ever had an electrocardiogram? Yes______ No ______; have you ever had an electroencephalogram? Yes______ No ______; if yes to either, give reason for test and the results:

Check the blank if you have, or ever have had, any of the following. Explain, giving dates and other pertinent information.

- Frequent colds or sore throat______
- Hay fever or sinus trouble ______
- Trouble breathing through nose, other than during colds ______
- Painful or running ear, mastoid trouble, broken eardrum______
- Asthma or shortness of breath after moderate exercise ______
- Chest pain or persistent cough______
- Spells of fast irregular, or pounding heart ______
- High or low blood pressure______
- Any kind of "heart trouble"______
- Frequent upset stomach, heartburn, indigestion, peptic ulcer ______
- Frequent diarrhea or blood in stool______
Belly or backache lasting more than a day or two
Kidney or bladder disease; blood, sugar, or albumin in urine
Syphilis or gonorrhea
Broken bone, serious sprain or strain, dislocated joint
Rheumatism, arthritis, or other joint trouble
Severe or frequent headaches
Head injury causing unconsciousness
Dizzy spells, fainting spells or fits
Trouble sleeping, frequent nightmares, sleep walking
Nervous breakdown or periods of marked depression
Dislike for closed-in spaces, large open places or high places
Any neurological condition
Train, sea, air sickness
Alcoholism, or any drug or narcotic habit (including regular use of sleeping pills, Benzedrine, etc.)
Recent gain or loss of weight or appetite
Jaundice or hepatitis
Tuberculosis
Diabetes
Rheumatic fever
Any serious accident, injury or illness not mentioned above (describe under "remarks" giving dates).
List any prescribed medications you are currently taking (for example, insulin)

Do you have any allergies (food, drug, environmental)?

Are you or have you ever been on a special diet?

Are you under professional care other than for periodic checkups?

Have you received professional help regarding any mental or emotional disorder?

Date of last tetanus shot _____________________.

Remarks:

Signature ____________________________.

Date ________________________________.
Please call the numbers below; unless indicated, you cannot get these special rates if you call their 800 numbers or through your travel agent. Guest must identify as being with the Gerace Research Center (formerly the Bahamian Field Station) when making reservations.

**Fort Lauderdale Hotels**

AIRPORT INN  
2440 State Rd 84  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL  33312  
PHONE: (954) 792-8181

RATES:  Year-round  $38.95 + Tax

NOTES:  -- Complimentary transportation to and from Ft. Lauderdale Airport upon request.