

# San Jose Brigade Trip: Fall 2012

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# Basics of the Brigade

- 1 attending doctor, 1 nurse practitioner, 9 residents, 1 social worker
- Collaboration between the University of Rochester and the First Unitarian Church
- Duration: 2 weeks
- Location: San Jose, San Marcos de la Sierra, Honduras
- Projects: latrine and cookstove construction, microfinance loans, fish farm building, clinic access, pharmaceutical distribution, improved access to clean water, *middle school scholarships, curriculum development and instruction, tutoring program, English teaching*

# So, Where is San Jose, Honduras?



# A Bit of Background Information...

- Rural community; houses mostly accessible by foot
- 3000 people living in the 7 communities of San Jose
- Individuals live on approximately \$1/day
- Subsistence farmers
- Lenca Indian
- High illiteracy rate
- Generally quiet demeanor
- Hard-working men and women
- 2 seasons each year: wet and dry
- VERY hilly!



# How Did Kirsten Occupy Her Time? (During *this* Brigade!)



# School Curriculum Teaching Sessions: Cuentos de Creación

- Completed in 5 elementary schools:
  - San Jose Centro
  - Portillon
  - Guanacaste
  - Potreros
  - El Horno
- With ~130 students in the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grades





- Mayan Cuento de Creación (creation tale) read aloud and masks developed based on characters
- Students utilized various supplies (paper plates, crayons, feathers, yarn, googly eyes, etc.) to create unique “mascaras”
- Some masks were collected and brought back to Rochester



Creativity!





These 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys worked so seriously and diligently on their projects... (future scholarship recipients?)

# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Scholarship Applications

- Meeting for 6<sup>th</sup> grade scholarship applicants
- 30 students attended
- Representation from all 5 elementary school





- Topics of meeting:
  - How scholarship recipients are chosen
  - Where funds come from
  - What funds are used for
  - When/how selected students will be announced

- Necessary paperwork:
  - Student applications
  - Parent financial information forms
  - Grades/recommendations from teachers





Three of the community's 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers voluntarily attended the scholarship meeting, which was a first!

← Miguel, 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher from Guanacaste

# Scholarships for Colegio

- Meeting held for 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade scholarship recipients
- Paperwork collected and questions answered
- 13 students and respective parents attended



# Later in the Day/Week, Kirsten...

- Talked with current 9<sup>th</sup> grade students about plans and budget proposals for next year
- Received educational plans and budget proposals for three of the four 9<sup>th</sup> grade students



← Maria Gloria, current  
9<sup>th</sup> grade scholarship  
recipient



7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>  
and 10<sup>th</sup>  
grade  
scholarship  
recipients



# Tutoring Program for Scholarship Recipients

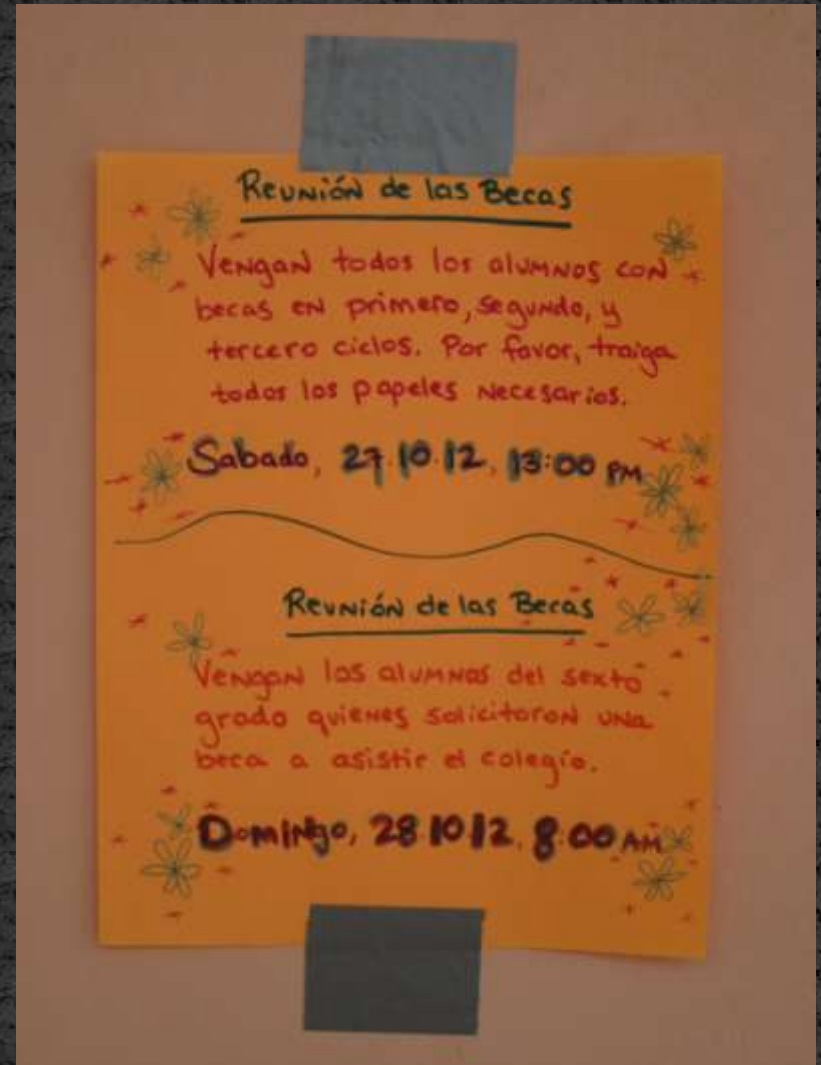
- Meeting with Santa Froglan (tutor for scholarship recipients)
  - Educational progress of students
  - Location of sessions
  - Attendance sheets
  - Sessions run from 8 am to 1 pm on Saturdays
- School materials provided for future tutoring sessions

# English Teaching Session with Guanacaste School Teachers

- Held with three teachers from the Guanacaste elementary school
- Kirsten and Jen taught for 1.5 hours
- Worked on vocabulary, pronunciation, and sentence structure
- English vocabulary focused on family words and household items

# What Else Did Kirsten Do to Occupy Her Time?

- Put up signs to announce scholarship meetings





- Hung out and conversed with Don Jose (who's pushing 80 years old)



← Jen teaching the kids “Uno”

• Spent time with some awesome kids!

Me and Louisa →





•And hiked...



and hiked  
some more...



...and some  
more!!





Until next time, San Jose...

# For More Information...

- Please visit:
  - <http://www.rochesterunitarian.org/Honduras.html>
  - <http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/family-medicine/global-health/>