

From: Brika Eklund
Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2009 7:18 PM
To: Suzanne Rucker; Suzanne; jp61105@appstate.edu; Tessa Davis; Meghan Barrett; John Womack; Patrick Eakes; michelle levin
Subject: Hola de Costa Rica!

Holas mis personas favoritas! I am here safely, and I arrived practically on time! Sorry it took a while to write, I was fed chicken and mashed potatoes upon my arrival and was so hungry. The trip out of RDU took a while, but we departed Charlotte on time (despite the swarms of spring break travelers... how did I choose this day to leave?!). One point of interest was that the flight attendant walked the aisles asking people if they lost a Davidson College sweatshirt, and two or three people said that it wasn't theirs-. Yes, I was leaving Charlotte, but still felt like a small world!

I was fortunate to have a window seat, and we flew over the Florida Keys, straight over Cuba (what a rural, seemingly desolate country), and into Costa Rica. The mountains rising around the city are incredible. I sat next to probably one of five Ticos on the flight. Everyone else was American tourists, students or mission trip people. Fascinating. The tico next to me lives in Lincolnton (which he calls Lincolntico because of all the Costa Ricans there), works for Duke Power, and is visiting his family in town for one month. He seemed excited to be back in su tierra (his land, corrected me when I called CR his country).

Things are great here so far, so different from Samoa with tons of Americans everywhere. But, I am in central Santa Ana in a very Costa Rican neighborhood. My host family is big and talkative. People of all ages - grandmother to 3 year old grandson. They are sort of ignoring me and going on with their daily lives, which I like. Mama Maricruz is beautiful and great single mother of one from what I can tell. They always speak in Spanish, so I am already picking up on some things. One other guy showed up at the airport, from Chicago, so I already know one other student. Name is Sean, seems nice, hope that we get along alright since class is small. Sounds like there are only 7 students right now because this is the down season, but it will grow. I hope to meet more of them soon.

Not sure what is on the plans for tomorrow, so I'll have to play it by ear. Weather is right up my alley 82 degrees and sunny with some humidity. Glad I brought the jeans though, very in style here. Also, the reason I can write so much is that I have internet at the house, which I will try and use sparingly because I don't know if it costs money. Cool to have though

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Ok, I should go. Sun is setting here. Hope that you all are doing well, and that UNC won basketball.

LOVE YOU ALL
brika