

# SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Global Education Office Newsletter

FALL 2018

## What's Happening on the Second Floor of Scotus?

International Student Programs and Study Abroad have taken over the corner office suite (205-205E) on the second floor in Scotus Hall to bring Saint Francis University the **Global Education Office (GEO)**. International Students Programs will continue to bring Saint Francis University students from around the globe. This is no small task indeed; the office staff does everything from recruiting around the globe, assisting with visas, airport transportation, helping students find jobs, getting social security numbers and driver's licenses to coordinating activities during breaks and offering the Intensive English program. The Office for Study Abroad continues to send students out on multitude international programs. This process includes student interviews, recruitment, assisting with passport and visas, application processing and travel arrangements. Each office will continue to work on their areas of expertise yet the SFU community will see collaboration efforts develop over time. Currently the two offices are working on updating all the University's exchange agreements. GEO recently collaborated on programming for International Education Week, which took place November 12-16. All things pertaining to global programming will go through the Global Education office.

## 2018 Summer in Ambialet

*by Tim Perkins*

Ambialet was busy this summer, hosting, among other events, two very important groups.

Our burgeoning high school program filled to the max -- literally not another bed to be had. Thirty-five students, teachers and SFU Admissions personnel spent 8 days exploring medieval French architecture, religious and political history (for credit!). Bishop Guilfoyle High School, Bishop Carroll High School, St. Joseph's Academy, and Bishop McCort High School all sent students and faculty. We are looking to continue to grow this program, likely adding a second session to include Pittsburgh area schools, as well as investigating public school inclusion. An additional scholarship option will be available to students from the summer program who attend SFU and study abroad.

To celebrate the University's 10 years in Ambialet, we hosted an Alumni Tour on June 24 - July 2. It started in Barcelona, where the 44 alumni attended mass in the 14th C Barcelona Cathedral and were overwhelmed by a three-hour lunch, Sagrada Familia (Gaudi's extraordinary architectural masterpiece), dinner and flamenco on Monday, and a visit to the Miro museum on Tuesday. A stop in



Figueres to take in the Dali museum and dinner and overnight in Carcassonne (largest walled medieval city) finished the day. Wednesday, tours of Carcassonne and Toulouse, with the day ending in Ambialet, where the group stayed through Sunday.

July 1 was the grand 10-year celebration. Mass (officiated by F. Malachi and Pere Francisco) was followed by hunting horns, hamburgers (more than 200 were served), a dedication of a plaque marking our ten years, a band, and a grand duck dinner.

The group went to Lourdes on Monday, finishing the night in Toulouse, from where exhausted participants headed for whatever they had planned next. Two members of the Board were part of the group: Jean Rogers and Joe Waterman. F. Malachi, Wayne Powel, Marie Melusky and Eric Horell participated from Loretto.

Finally, from July 20 - August 4 we held the fifth annual Arts in France sessions, which enroll adults, largely from the Pittsburgh area, for one or two week residencies, primarily in painting and photography.

Three wedding receptions, weekly tourist visits, and four post-concert receptions were squeezed in, as well.

## Marine Science in St. Lucia

by Nick Weakland

Since 2011 Saint Francis University has been traveling with students to the island of St. Lucia in the West Indies. The program, originally created by Dr. Sue Shoemaker, now led by IDC Staff Instructor Nick Weakland, and assisted by IDC Staff Instructor Dr. Patricia Fitzgerald, has become extremely successful and popular among both science and non-science majors. Because of this opportunity, students are able to witness first-hand, and develop and appreciation for, the effects (both positive and negative) that commercial tourism can have on the natural resources of our planet.

Students in this year's coral reef ecology course collected data samples and recorded field journal notes specific to the reef systems of popular dive sites around the island and compared those findings against those of years previous. Our Scientific Divers include Morgan Ruis, Brittany Mass, Allyson Taureck, Angellica Blanco, Sam Decker, and Tyler Price.

Congratulations to the following students: Angellica Blanco, Cassy light, Marie Wyland, Emily Dietrick, Rachel Gabergilo, Alyson Rotello, and Angela Bartkovich, for completion of the open water practical portion of the MS 101 course and now possess a lifelong Open Water Diving Certification, Tyler Price who completed his Peak Performance Buoyancy certification, & Dive Master Will Guzik who completed all of the open water practical requirements for for his Professional Level Dive Master certification. Special thanks to Dive Master Sarah Stillman who was able to exercise her previous training in a practical environment by operating as a Dive Master amidst live student training. All of these students have reason to be very proud of what they have accomplished.



The 2019 Marine Science program will be held in Belize! Information regarding the Belize program is available online ([francis.edu/Study-Aboard/](http://francis.edu/Study-Aboard/)), on study abroad displays around campus, or acquired by emailing [studyabroad@francis.edu](mailto:studyabroad@francis.edu).

## Cross Cultural Studies in Italy

by Mary Jean Bujdos

Ten students participated in this year's program, in Parma, Italy, for the entire month of June. Students were involved in a wide variety of visits: Tanner Yawitz, Pre-med, visited doctors in pediatrics, infectious diseases, and immigrant processing/ medical center; Grace Cooney, PA, visited an Emergency Room, Pediatrics, and Obstetrics /Gynecology; Samantha Matchock, Pharmacy, visited the hospital pharmacist; Sumer Slebodnik, Health Administration, visited head hospital administrator and Immigrant processing / medical center administrator; Tara Shaffer, PA, visited Pediatrics, Pediatric Oncology, and Adult Oncology; Leonardo De Paula Di Ribeir, served as interpreter for hospital visits and visited Pediatric rehabilitation; Maria del Mar Garcia, Intrepid Scholar, Research project on Immigration in Italy; Marielle Cavallaro, Research Scholarship, female athleticism in Italian culture; Teresa Narduzzi, Communications, worked intensely with musician, Paolo Schianchi, fashion marketing, graphic designers, and started a blog for the Italian Program; Aidan Sweeney, Communications, also worked with Musician Paolo Schianchi on video production, graphic design, music performance, and developed the blog for Italian at SFU. Each cross-cultural visit was individualized, and students also had opportunities to travel to Rome, Florence, Cinque Terre, Venice, Milano, Pisa, and more! The local group excursion this year was a tour of the Parmesan cheese factory, a castle, wine tasting, and a boat ride on the Po river.

The Cross-Cultural Program in Italy will be offered biannually, for upper level students. Look for 2020 summer program information.

*I wish I could go back and do it all over again. The month abroad was full of information, adventures, and delicious food. I would go again in a heartbeat. Everyone that went became a family.*

Sumer Slebodnick, Health Admin.

## Upcoming Spring Break Programs

by Connor McDonnell

The Shields School of Business will once again be returning to London; one the oldest and most popular programs, Drs. Frye and Louge show students the importance and influences of global business. Students will see first-hand one of Europe's most popular city. The students preparing for the program are Kenneth Brumbaugh, Nicolas Cunningham, Alexis Delullo, Joesph Dombrowski, Amber Elliott, Maria Garcia, Krieten Hile, Rebecca Kasun, Anne Marie Larkin, Mingrui Li, Emily Pollack, Taylor Ponchione, Lindsay, Scala, Jillian Scott, Tara Shaffer, Sumer Slebodnick, Renee Surma, Victoria Surma, Jessica Woods, and Aaron Yasulitis.

After a fruitful pilot test, The Bahamas is now a regularly visited site through the HUGS program. The program has many exciting opportunities for Saint Francis University students. From helping those who have been effected by Hurricane Matthew or the under-privileged, students will be captured by the beauty of the island as well as by the generosity of its people. Lisa Georgiana and Fr. Joe Lehman lead this program and the students are Emily Benfer, Madison Blunkosky, Balerie Boles, Kendra Bomgardner, Lindsay Brocious, Isabella Bubbs, Alyssa Burdett, Caitlin Feltenberger, Kayla Heydt, Mary Cather Horne, Ashley Karlhein, Julia Kuehn, Zachary Lahart, Brianna Scott, Arianna Tutino, Makaylea Vicari, and Morgan Williamson.



One of the newer programs offered through HUGS is in Ecuador. This is a medical mission trip lead by Dr. Carrie Beebout. Students will take what they learned in the classroom and help others in a true Franciscan spirit by volunteering in local health clinics, assisting doctors with nutritional advice and conducting home visits in the small fishing town of Anconcito. The students in this program are Jamie Houston, Kenna Kuehn, Corissa McCalister, Patrick McCarley, Lindsey Morris, Karen Richtar, Lauren Scala, Ashlee Stants, Vanessa Wissinger, Elizabeth Wright, and Tanner Yawitz.

## International Student Recruitment

International Student Programs (ISP) completed their most aggressive recruiting campaign this fall. International Admissions representatives attended recruiting events in Brazil, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, South Korea, and Vietnam. In addition to this physical presence, ISP invested heavily in online advertising and recruiting. These recruiting initiatives support ISP's strategic international enrollment management plan. Please attend an Enrollment Management Open Forum for more information on international enrollment initiatives.



*Soyoung Burke, Coordinator, Intensive English Program and Assistant professor, International Student Programs, went on a recruiting trip to Ho Chi Minh, Danang, Haiphong in Vietnam and Seoul, South Korea from September 28 to October 8. She met gifted high school students and prospective college students and parents in US education*



*Kelly Mack, Coordinator of International Admissions, recently traveled to Latin America to visit some former SFU students and recruit new students for the University. From 2014-2016, SFU hosted over 50 students from Brazil who participated in the Brazil Scientific Mobility Program. Kelly met with a few who acted as translators for her while she was in Brazil.*



*Brother Shamus J. McGrenra, Program Specialist, International Student Programs recently did a 10-day tour of China (November 6 to 15). Six cities were visited: Chengdu, Chongqing, Suzhou, Guangzhou, Zhengzhou and Lanzhou. The 10-day schedule included 13 High School visits, four Agency meetings, one Counselors reception and luncheon and one College Fair.*



*Mr. Ryan Geiger, Assistant Director, International Student Program, traveled to Peru and Ecuador from September 13 to 20 for recruitment.*

**CURRENTLY, THROUGH INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM OFFICE, THERE ARE 59 INTERNATIONAL SFU STUDENTS FROM 27 COUNTRIES**

## New Traditions Abroad: Thanksgiving Weekends in Ambialet

by Lauri Chose

This year's Thanksgiving celebration for me was a little different: not only are 70+ dinner guests a little outside of my norm, but I have never had Thanksgiving in a centuries-old monastery in France. The evening was a little different for many of our other guests, too, when families from around the Tarn region were introduced to an American Thanksgiving for the first time. For many of the families, this unique cultural exchange began at Thanksgiving dinner, but lasted until the following Sunday afternoon when American students went home with the French families for a long weekend visit.



Over the weekend, each American student spent three nights with a French family while doing things like cooking, bowling, gaming, dancing, shopping, and dining out. The visits were meant to offer both the students and host families true language and cultural exchanges. Cassie Light, a sophomore Aquarium and Zoo Science/ Marine Biology major, had a great time because she visited a family who not only live in the beautiful medieval village of Cordes, but who spoke French, Spanish, German, and English. John McCrystal, a junior IT major from Mount Aloysius felt really at home with his host family, and he learned that American and French families are not necessarily that different from one other. Axel, the teenager in the family John stayed with, loved video games and dining out – activities that are also on John's lists of favorite things to do.

Our students also had the chance to teach the French families a little about American customs and popular culture: Madeline Minor, a sophomore Education major at Curry College taught her family how to make American-style breakfast pancakes that everyone enjoyed so much, they ended up making them twice during the weekend. LeAndra Feight, a Physical Therapy major, introduced her family to Spotify, and Alejandra Roa, an Occupational Therapy major, showed her family how they can use closed captioning on their television to help them learn the English language.

PA major, Emily Bare, and OT major, Lauren Hutt, agreed that a common way they bridged language barriers with their families was through music. The teenager in Emily's host family loved *The Greatest Showman* and *High School Musical*. Emily knew that as soon as they got into the car and the music came on, everything was going to be just fine. Lauren's host family loved the music of *Queen*, so they spent a lot of time listening to music. Lauren then taught her family the "Cha Cha Slide" and "Cotton-Eyed Joe" line dances.

In the end, most of the Saint Francis students agreed that the takeaways for them were new relationships, introductions to delicious French foods like aligot and tartiflette, and a better feel for French language. All of the students came to French class armed with loads of new vocabulary words and phrases.

Although many of the American students were initially nervous about this experience, in the end, most agreed that they are thankful for the opportunity. Lauren Hutt, a sophomore OT major said the experience "was a fun, inviting, and unique way of learning. Not only about language and culture, but learning all the great qualities your host family has to offer." And, really, isn't that what a semester abroad is all about?



Photos from left to right: LeAndra Feight and her host family; Alejandra Roa and her host sister, Camille; Lauren Hutt and her host sister; Adeline, connecting through music. Cassi Light with her host family in Cordes.

### SPRING SEMESTER IN FRANCE

As the fall semester is ending, no one is more excited than the spring '19 France group. They will embark on a trip they will remember for years to come! Dr. Stephen LoRusso will accompany the group. The students are: Kelly Brown, Victoria Bruno, Mia Capuzzi, Gabrielle Caruso, Elizabeth Catalano, William Cowardin, Lucy Craig, Taylor Eckenrode, Moira Flebig, Emily Fox, Baylee Frazier, Margaret Gardner, Alexandria Galluzzi, Julia Hoggay, Melinda Holena, Kierstin Jay, Elise La, Kaitlyn Long, Theresa Renninger, Breann Rohrer, Naomi Rouse, Olivia Rovnak, Damian Runk, Adam Slovikovski, Caralyn Wilcox, and Megan Williams.

### 2019 FALL SEMESTER IN FRANCE APPLICATIONS DUE

Students who choose the fall semester will enjoy Ambialet's extended fall weather well into November, which makes it the perfect place to escape the early snowfall in Loretto. Students are not required a visa for the fall semester - saving time and money! Classes offered in the fall, are FREN, FNAR 102, RLST 390, BIOL 205, CORE 407 and PHYS 104 (fulfills GenEd Science requirement, taught by visiting faculty member, Rachel Wagner). Semester in France Applications may be found at: <https://www.francis.edu/semester-in-france/> or email [studyabroad@francis.edu](mailto:studyabroad@francis.edu)