

# SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Global Education Office Newsletter

SPRING 2019

## 2019 Lunar New Year Celebrations at SFU

by Merlin Witt, GA for International Student Programs

Saint Francis University has carried on its annual tradition to join with the rich East Asian history of Lunar New Year celebrations. On February 15<sup>th</sup>, the International Student Programs Office hosted an event at Schwab Hall to ring in the Year of the Pig with students and staff from SFU, popular Asian snacks, colorful decoration, and a campus visit of international Junior and Senior High School students from Bishop McCort.

While Lunar New Year is one of the most important social and economic holidays for billions of people in countries such as China, Korea, and Vietnam, it has also turned into a special annual event for our student community here at Saint Francis. Honoring the Spring Festival or Chinese New Year, as the 15 day festivities are commonly referred to, creates a short but meaningful sense of being home away from home, primarily for our Chinese students here on campus. At the same time, the event provides a valuable opportunity to bring students together, and to highlight and share the rich cultural traditions of the East Asian region.

Ten days after 2019's Lunar New Year had kicked off on February 5<sup>th</sup>, we joined the festivities here at Saint Francis with traditional foods, drinks, and lots of red - a symbol of good fortune for many

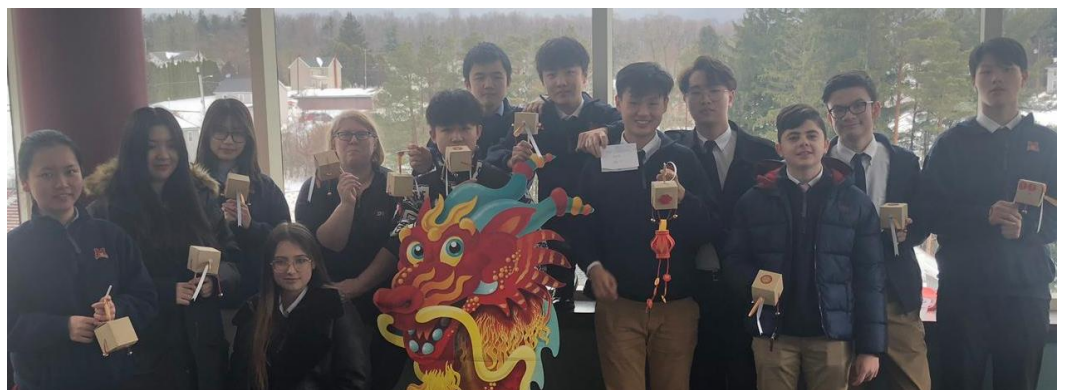
Asian cultures. Our Chinese students prepared and served dumplings as well as different teas, such as Jasmine and Chinese Red Tea. A variety of typical snacks including rice crackers, peach puff pastry, sunflower seeds, and Wang Zai milk complemented the culinary selection. The event further offered games including a Chopstick Challenge and different activity pages. Our guest students from Bishop McCort High School got involved by creating Chinese hand drums, and received a campus tour followed by a lunch break at Frankie's including typical Asian meals.

Overall, the 2019 Lunar New Year event here at Saint Francis has again been a wonderful time to celebrate the beginning of the new lunar year, bring students from different cultures together on campus, and advertise our school as one, which genuinely cares about its international students as well as their cultural identity and traditions.

### Pig 2019 亥



A pig represents luck, overall good fortune, wealth, honesty, general prosperity, symbolizing a hard-working, a peace-loving person, a truthful, generous, indulgent, patient, reliable, trusting, sincere, giving, sociable person with a large sense of humour and understanding. if you were born in 2007, 1995, 1983, 1971, 1959, 1947, 1935, 1923, 1911... 2019 is your year!



Kelly Mack, Coordinator of International Admissions & Student Services, together with international students from Bishop McCort High School for the Lunar New Year celebrations.



Left to right: SFU students Kewei Zhang, Hai Wang, Kunyi Wang, Soyoung Burke (Coordinator, Intensive English Program), and Zhoyui Miao preparing dumplings, which is a common food on New Year's Eve in Chinese homes.

## New Fall Semester in France Format

In an effort to lower the cost and remove barriers for participation in studying abroad, some exciting changes to the Fall Semester in France program have been made. The duration of the fall semester program has been shortened to 89 days to eliminate the need for a student visa. A visa is required for stays in Europe of 90 days or more. This move will save the student almost \$500 in the visa processing costs. With the shortened semester comes a shorter fall break which greatly reduces the out-of-pocket costs associated with personal travel during a longer break. To provide students with travel experiences missed as the result of a shorter break, Amsterdam has been included to the existing long-stay, all-inclusive excursion schedule. As a group, the fall semester students will visit Barcelona, Paris, and Amsterdam (for those enrolled in CORE 407). Students will see three of Europe's greatest cities and discover a spectacular region of France for the same price as a semester on campus in Loretto. They will meet both young and old in every location visited, as well as in Ambialet, our home village. Students will explore castles, museums, hike, enjoy host family weekends, local festivals and events, wonderful food, wine and cheese tastings, and great fall weather during this transformational experience. These revisions of the fall semester program allow students of any financial status to spend the semester abroad for the standard tuition, room & board costs. The student's financial aid will apply to tuition, plus there are potential grant monies available to cover airfare and incidentals.

## 2019 Fall Semester in France Applications Still Being Accepted

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 112, FNAR 102, RLST 390, BIOL 205, CORE 407 and PHYS 104 (fulfills GenEd requirement, taught by visiting faculty member, Dr. 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).



Dr. Stephen LoRusso is teaching in France this semester. Students currently in France include: Kelly Brown, Victoria Bruno, Mia Capuzzi, Gabrielle Caruso, Elizabeth Catalano, William Cowardin, Taylor Eckenrode, Moira Fiebig, Emily Fox, Baylee Frazier, Alexandria Galluzzi, Margaret Gardner, Julia Hoggay, Melinda Holena, Kierstin Jay, Elise La, Kaitlyn Long, Theresa Renninger, Breann Rohrer, Naomi Rouse, Olivia Rovnak, Damian Runk, Adam Slovickovski, Caralyn Wilcox, and Megan Williams.



*My favorite aspect of the program has to be the freedom we have here. Everything here is our responsibility and unlike back home, we don't have our family right there to help us so it's up to us to figure it out. Eric's class and the day trips are always interesting! Kierstin and I are heading to Prague and Italy for spring break and we are very excited! We're all having so much fun here!*  
- Breann Rohrer, Nursing

*France is treating me great! I actually still cannot believe I am here. The best aspect of the program, hands down, is being able to learn and experience a new culture that is different than the one I am accustomed to. I've learned to appreciate things that we have that they don't and to appreciate the things in their culture that we don't have or that are different than ours. It makes you realize that there is a world outside of the United States. If anyone is thinking about studying in this program, they need to. It will be one of the best experiences of their lives.* – Kiersten Jay, Healthcare



## Faculty in France

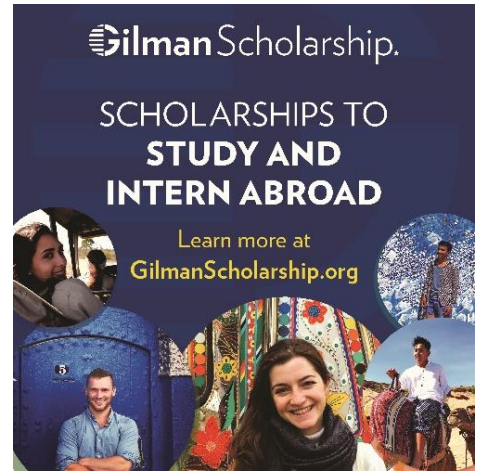
by Dr. Stephen LoRusso

So why should faculty participate in the Semester in France program? So let's see, France, Paris, Barcelona, spring break to travel. Oh, and yes, there is teaching. Any course you teach here allows you to have a closer connection with your students. Opportunities to interact and teach in more open and relaxed surroundings. Teaching is different here. You see students more often, get to listen to questions, and have discussions about class material, as well as many other topics of interest. It is a community that permits discussion. It can happen! From an overheard conversation at lunch or dinner to an open discussion with as many students of different majors, schools, and backgrounds as want to participate.

If you bring your family to France, there is an expanded cultural experience as your children can go to the local school. They learn French! They learn, and you learn that most people here speak 2 to 3 different languages. And they do so very well. You learn that perhaps we are a bit behind when it comes to cultural exposure and the value of multilingualism. You also discover that the French go to school all year round - six weeks on, two weeks off. A system I like. We could teach so much more than we do! Or, if you come alone you could get caught up with your writing or reading - plenty of time to do it all! Take the leap!

### New Semester Design for Faculty Teaching in France

There's a new set-up for faculty teaching in France - half semesters. The new design will open the doors to the faculty who have expressed a desire to teach in France yet could not commit to an entire semester. Each semester will have two visiting faculty members - one for the first half and the second for the last half. This option allows faculty to spend time in France, teach on campus in Loretto, and ease up on the commitment of a full semester. The new arrangement will also give students in France more course options. If you're interested in teaching in France, please contact the Office of Study Abroad ([studyabroad@francis.edu](mailto:studyabroad@francis.edu)) for an application.



### Upcoming Summer Study Abroad Programs

Spanish in Costa Rica (still accepting applications),  
 Marine Science in Belize (full), and Social Work in Taiwan (still accepting applications).  
 Contact the Office of Study Abroad for details ([studyabroad@francis.edu](mailto:studyabroad@francis.edu)).



### HUGS Alternative Spring Break

Twenty-three volunteers (2 administrators, 2 faculty members, 2 alumni and 17 students) traveled to The Bahamas to work with community partners, including the Adventure Learning Science Centre and Camp, the Stapledon School, the Bahamas Association for the Physically Disabled, and the Bahamas Children's Emergency Youth Hostel. Thirteen volunteers (1 faculty and 12 students) traveled to Anconcito, Ecuador, a little fishing village, to work with the Foundation for the International Medical Relief of Children. More than \$4,000 in monetary donations were collected to buy supplies.



2019 HUGS Mission Group in The Bahamas

*Witnessing our students and alumni collaborate with our community partners in the Bahamas was inspirational. Students were moved to tears on many occasions during the trip. Their hearts for service and their love for our brothers and sisters in Christ was evident. - Lisa Georgiana, Director, Center for Service & Learning*

*This was truly a trip of so many "firsts" for the students, to include the first time crossing the equator, for most. For many of the students, this was their first time seeing how happy people can be, even though they have so little. It was also their first opportunity to see different disease processes first hand. I feel honored to have had this opportunity to guide these amazing students through this week of firsts.*

– Carrie Beebout, Associate Professor/MPAS Program Director



2019 HUGS Mission Group in Ecuador

## The Shields School of Business Completes its 13<sup>th</sup> Annual School of Business Spring Break Trip to London

by Dr. Randy Frye

Doctors Randy Frye and James Logue and the Shields School of Business hosted 21 students for the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Short-term London Study Abroad trip for the period February 28<sup>th</sup> through March 9<sup>th</sup>. Students participating on the trip included Kenneth Brumbaugh, Joseph Dombrowski, Amber Elliot, Randall Frye, Maria Del Mar Garcia, Kristen Hile, Rebecca Kasun, Anne Marie Larkin, Mingrui Li, Marcus Mihelcic, Emily Pollack, Taylor Ponchione, Lindsay Scala, Tabor Schilling, Jillian Scott, Tara Shaffer, Sumer Slebodnick, Renee Surma, Victoria Surma, Jessica Woods, and Aaron Yasulitis. The trip is part of an international themed course, entitled MGMT 307 Great Britain and the European Union in the Global Economy. Students visited Lloyds of London, the Bank of England, Windsor Castle, St. Pauls Cathedral, Harrods, the Wimbledon Tennis Club, and Millwall Football Club ("The Den"). They also took a guided walking tour of the Financial District in London with a noted London author and guide, and a day later followed the bloody path of Jack the Ripper. Additionally, the group toured St. Mary's University, located in Twickenham, England, and heard a lecture by Dr. Peter Hill, a professor of public policy and political science, entitled *The Implications of Brexit in 2019*. The group also attended a lecture at the Bank of England on British monetary policy. The London program examines international economics and global finance, as well as British politics, industry, and culture.



### What Students are Saying About Their International Spring Break Experiences



*I had the great privilege of spending my **Spring Break with the HUGS Trip to the Bahamas**, where I was able to put my Occupational Therapy knowledge to work in a clinical setting. We worked with the Bahamas Association for the Physically Disabled (BAPD) and the Stapledon School, addressing the various needs that they identified. We had the privilege of working directly with clients in both settings under the direction of two amazing Fieldwork Educators. We educated various caretakers about the role of Occupational Therapy, on back safety, on proper positioning for feeding and eating, and even provided them with a home exercise program to address lower back pain associated with the job demands. I loved being able to interact with the kids in each of the facility's sensory rooms and to show the employees how beneficial these rooms can be. My favorite part of this trip was seeing how adaptable and eager my classmates were to put their skills to practice and bring about positive change. I am so grateful for this experience and would recommend it to anyone who has the desire to put his/her education to action and take a leap outside of their comfort zone!*

- Julia Kuehn, Occupational Therapy

*Studying abroad in London through the Saint Francis Business School promotes a mobile global education and intercultural awareness that can't be found in the confines of four walls in Loretto, PA. In accordance with the Liberal arts tradition, study abroad opportunities such as this provide passionate and engaged students with an inter-disciplinary educational experience in an immersive environment. The story of London is ever so long and dramatic. So much of our culture has been inspired from the UK, but this lack of recognition doesn't have to be a perpetual state of existence. Whether it's terrifying ourselves with the gruesome past of the London dungeons or basking in the splendor of royalty, this study abroad experience has opened doors to greater understanding, future studies and even career possibilities. I simply cannot express my gratitude for the business alumni who make such generous contributions to allow students to make these wonderful memories; and to the professors who give their time so generously to make this trip a possibility. - Marcus Mihelcic, MBA*





**My trip to Ecuador, with HUGS, was one of the most clinically involved, hands-on trips that I have ever experienced. It was different from the more common study abroad trips in that we had the opportunity to work in a clinical setting and practice Spanish conversation with real patients. I was pleasantly surprised with how easy it was to communicate with the people of Ecuador despite the language barrier. I also found that the people we had the opportunity to work with and help were so gracious of our time and efforts, which was very rewarding for me. We were also involved with various health fairs that served to educate all age groups on the risk factors of certain health topics such as dental hygiene, HIV, skin cancer, hydration, nutrition, hypertension, and diabetes. Not everyone had the opportunity to educate themselves about these topics, and I think that it was very beneficial for the community that we were able to deliver the information in an engaging and fun, but also educational way. I am very glad that I took this leap of faith to travel to this country and help others in not only delivering healthcare, but also providing information on promotion of individual health.** – Ashlee Stants, Physician Assistant

**The HUGS Bahamas trip was something that is difficult to put into words. I theorized that I knew much about myself and humanity, but after my brief immersion in the suburbs of Nassau, I realized that I was wrong. I grew incredibly stronger in my faith and was touched by the amazing efforts being done to educate and aid the underprivileged children of the Bahamas. The Adventure Learning Centre is one of a kind, and the staff at the Centre are people that you'll never forget. I'm beyond grateful for the opportunity to attend the trip and strongly encourage other students, who wish to discover more about themselves and humanity, to enroll in this trip.**

– Zachary Lahart, Education/Biology



**I was able to learn about the financial and economic market of London and most importantly about current issues that may affect the city such as the Brexit during the Spring Break in London program. The faculty leading this trip were exceptional.**

**They gave us a clear schedule of everything we were going to do but also gave us some free time to explore the city.**

–International Student, Maria Del Mar



**London still attracts students and tourists from all over the world thanks to its welcoming and charming environment: a combination of modern and ancient culture. We tasted the traditional British food. This trip has expanded deeply my perception of the world.**

– International Student, Mingrui Li, Management Information Systems

The spring Semester in France students recently finished their studies in Paris and have dispersed for their spring break travels throughout Europe.



Our spring Semester in France students have recently left Paris and dispersed around Europe for their spring break travel.

### Have you applied for Saint Francis University's International Scholars Endowment Scholarship?

The International Scholars Endowment recognizes outstanding students who wish to pursue advanced foreign language studies in a study abroad program sponsored by an accredited institution of higher education. The scholarship will be awarded to a sophomore, junior, or first-semester senior who wishes to enhance his/her undergraduate education with a study abroad experience. First preference will be given to a student enrolled in an advanced language course. The amount of the stipend will vary each year pending on the endowment policy. To be considered for this scholarship, students must complete the application and submit, along with a copy of a current transcript, to the Office for Study Abroad, Scotus 205, by April 8, 2019. To request an application contact [studyabroad@francis.edu](mailto:studyabroad@francis.edu)

## Thoughts on Study Abroad

by Connor McDonnell, Study Abroad GA, MBA graduate, spring 2019

Over my past six years at Saint Francis University, I have made lifelong friends and memories. I would like to take this moment of my last semester here at SFU to reflect on those memories. Through all this time there are some occasions that resonate a little longer and stronger, one of them being my study abroad experiences. My first trip was spring '15 for the Semester in France program. This program has changed me for the better. The surprises that awaited my group once we got off the plane will stay with us for a life time. It has been said multiple times but you truly *find yourself* while in the calm, quiet Midi-Pyrénées Mountains. The only thing I have to warn you about is once you leave the U.S., you never want to come back and the desire to see the world begins.

Besides France, I also went on two Spring Break trips. One was with the School of Business to London and the other was a HUGS trip to The Bahamas. When I say you'll get a small dose of wanderlust when you study abroad, I mean it. Traveling to the bustling metropolis of London was an experience like no other. Many European cities have the past, future and present living all in one place; there is an endless amount to explore in London. While taking classes you learn about the United Kingdom's financial footprint as well as the European financial system.

A change up from the usual cold weather in Loretto, The Bahamas's warmth was a pleasant break. Being on a HUGS trip, service to those in need was the mission. Of all trips I have taken, this was the most humbling and brought me closer to my faith. The people of The Bahamas showed us nothing but kindness, sometimes it felt like they were helping us more than we were helping them.



Also, I have the pleasure to be the GA for the Office for Study Abroad (OSA). While working at the OSA, I had the privilege to help students take the opportunity to experience another part of the world. There really is nothing like preparing a group of students who are about to embark on a program like the Semester in France Program. The look of excitement and uncertainty on what lies ahead makes the position worthwhile. Helping others to make memories, to improve, and to better prepare them for post-graduation is a rewarding feeling.

Finding oneself, leaning and service through faith, all seems like the message that St. Francis himself as well as the university is trying to get across. I encourage anyone who as the faintest thought of studying abroad to act on it. In all my time here, I have not met a single person who regretted studying abroad.

For those considering the possibility of studying abroad, I would like to leave you with this: **"All you need to know is that it's possible."** – Warren Wolf



### Saint Francis University Students Appreciate the Benefits of Study Abroad

According to the 2018 Open Doors report, 16% of U.S. bachelor's students studied abroad before they graduated. Here at Saint Francis University, this past year, 26.97% of our graduates have studied abroad.

92% of employers are looking for transversal skills such as curiosity, problem-solving skills, tolerance and confidence,

64% of employers think international experience is important for recruitment

64% of employers say graduates with international background are given greater professional responsibility

We need diversity of thought in the world to face the new challenges.  
Tim Berners-Lee



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