

SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY



Meeting Our Brothers and Sisters Around the Globe

OFFICE FOR STUDY ABROAD NEWSLETTER

FALL 2014

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

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ASL Immersion
Diving in St. Lucia
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Galapagos
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Cooperative Center for
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2014 FALL SEMESTER IN FRANCE

by Justin Merry

It is hard to summarize all of what we, the students and faculty of SFU and Curry College who traveled to Ambialet, France, experienced this semester. For many of us, this was our first trip to Europe, and for some it was the first trip outside the United States. The converted monastery in Ambialet, situated along the Tarn river in Southern France, was our home as we traveled around the region. We visited Albi, Toulouse, Rodez, Conques, Cordes Sur Ciel, and other nearby cities and towns. We also traveled further abroad, visiting Carcassonne, Barcelona, and Paris as a group. Small groups of students traveled to England, Ireland, Germany, Italy, Greece, and Switzerland on travel breaks. All the while, students learned French from Lisa Gentile and Marie Olson, art history from Gerry Honigsblum, the history of pilgrimage from Eric Crema, and developed their artistic talents with Chuck Olson. Students interested in health care learned about the diversity of health care systems with Lisa Gentile, nursing with Linda

Tenofsky, and the biology of human health in my course.

Beyond the travel and studies, we formed relationships. We bonded with the small village of Ambialet and its people, joining the community for lunch at the local cafe, conversations in their homes, and celebrations in the local gathering hall. We witnessed disaster as the Tarn River flooded, and helped the community to clean and begin the road to recovery. We bonded with the delegation from Fort Mont Valerian, who remembers the French Resistance to the Nazi occupation during World War II. We bonded with the dogs of Le Prieure: Shaq, Bobo, Jay-Z, and Nemo. We also bonded with one another. Although students came from Saint Francis University in Pennsylvania, and Curry College in Massachusetts, the entire group of students, faculty, and the families of the faculty quickly became one large, extended family. Study abroad in France has become a defining experience in all of our lives, and will continue to affect each of us throughout the years to come.



*Fall group visiting with the
Deputy Mayor of Albi (in back holding the SFU banner).*

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This treasure called Ambialet has been such an incredible experience in so many ways, it is difficult to put into words. We arrived here not knowing what to expect, taking a leap of faith that this unusual study abroad program, housed in a monastery on the top of a hill in the Mid-Pyrènes was a good idea. It certainly was! We all learned to live, study, travel, in a unique environment.

— Linda Tenofsky, Curry Faculty



After hosting a Thanksgiving meal for 65, our group shares with the village the American tradition of the post-meal football game.



Email from Tim Perkins on Dec. 2:

... Ambialet was flooded on Friday -- nearly three feet of water in homes near the river -- and without my even suggesting it, at least a dozen of our students descended to sweep, shovel, and otherwise try to help residents clear the silt out of their houses and driveways on both Saturday and Sunday. Hard to tell you how much that meant to the villagers and how proud I am of our students for stepping up quickly and enthusiastically. It will take several weeks to get things back toward normal, but that is faster than it would have been without our students' unselfish assistance. Red Flash Pride for a good reason.... BRAVO!

2014 SPRINGTIME IN ITALY

by Mary Jean Bujdos

Springtime in Italy this year was bright and sunny almost every day! We all arrived with no setbacks --- 21 students and 3 professors: Director Charles Olson, Dr. Lori Woods, and Mrs. Mary Jean Bujdos. We met up with Tony Kosova, our long-time assistant and RA.

Parma is such an inviting city, and the students were off exploring the very first day. After everyone chose a bicycle from the stash, we saw them flying by us through the streets and full of more and more stories as the first few days passed. Italian history students found their way to ancient churches and theaters, and the photography students were spotted taking



shots in the piazzas and parks and narrow side streets. Students in Medieval history were checking out the outdoor Madonnas and the ancient apothecary just down the street from our beautiful residence. Projects for our Italian classes included interviewing local residents, which provided the class with unique stories.

The long weekends were always trips to amazing places, with Cinque Terre as a favorite. A few students were in Rome to see the Pope during the first week, and more went together a few weeks later. During the 3rd and 4th weeks, we all took a ride to one of Parma's 23 castles in the foothills of the Alps.

Montechiarugolo is still occupied by a family today, and we had a private tour with a guide who knew every detail about its history, former occupants, and its resident ghost, Bema. Her body is wrapped in a decayed shroud in the final room we visited! Our second field trip was to a newly unveiled wine museum in a medieval wing of another castle, and from there we headed to a vineyard for wine-tasting and a tour. Almost forgot to mention the tour of the Parmesan cheese factory, complete with that pungent aroma of fermenting cheese and a robot that continuously cleans each of the 20,000 giant wheels of Parmesan cheese stacked to the ceiling.

As always, students moved independently through the bicycle and pedestrian-friendly city with ease after just a few days, and found their own private haunts for coffee, pizza, and night life. During the second week, the *Giro d'Italia* (the Italian Tour de France) passed right through the main square, and two of our students were interviewed by the local television station! We were also treated to a presentation of photos by the photography class which was attended by many locals, followed by a musical performance by Chuck Olson and our guitar instructor Rob James.

Everyone agrees that Parma is magical: smiling nuns, elderly men and women on bicycles, a million store windows to check out, outdoor tables everywhere, breathtaking churches, cobblestone walking streets, gelato, pizza, espresso, practicing Italian, open markets, prosciutto and Parmesan cheese and best of all, Italians!

SCUBA IN ST. LUCIA

by Nick Weakland

Last May, a group of Saint Francis University students and faculty traveled to the island of St. Lucia in the West Indies. While engaging in the practical application of Marine Sciences was the main objective of the trip, students also honed their diving skills, experienced the specifics of island culture, learned island history, and enjoyed the exotic beauty of a foreign place.

Students spent 6 days on a charter boat, diving in multiple locations along the west coast of the island. The objectives varied among the students depending on skill level. Some students were collecting data to support research on corals and algae. Others were conducting open water training dives for multiple certification courses.



Sundays on the islands are reserved for gathering to worship, spending time with family, and reflecting. As such, students gathered for, and participated in, a local Catholic Mass. After which they participated in a guided tour of Pigeon Island and Fort Rodney, where they learned a great deal about how the islands were used as strategic hot-spots in many battles throughout history.

SPANISH IN COSTA RICA

by Brent Ottaway

The Spanish in Costa Rica program, a great success in 2014, has been enhanced for 2015. Here is a quick look at some of the program's features:

- Students will earn 6 SFU credits during the trip, which runs from May 7 to May 30.
- All classes take place on the lovely campuses of Centro Panamericano de Idiomas (CPI), which provides Spanish instruction in tiny classes (typically three students) tailored to the students' capabilities.
- Even students with no background in Spanish can have a successful learning experience while meeting SFU's foreign-language requirement.
- SFU full-time faculty will be on the trip, offering other SFU class options. Program Director Brent Ottaway will teach Photography, while Associate Director Dr. Gail Drus will teach a Biology course focused on the incredibly diverse plant and animal life of Costa Rica. (All students must take 6 total credits—either 6 credits of Spanish, or 3 of Spanish and 3 of Photography or Biology. The cost of these credits is at SFU's reduced Summer rate.)
- It is an immersion program, as students live with host families who will provide insight into the life of Ticos (as the Costa Rican people like to be called), not to mention additional practice with the Spanish language.
- Costa Rica is one of the world's most



beautiful countries, and students will spend a week or more in three distinctly different settings: the small city of Heredia in the Central Highlands, the cloud forest of Monteverde, and the oceanside of Playa Flamingo.

- The cost of the trip covers just about everything, from travel to meals to excursions. And those side adventures include tours of a coffee plantation and the capitol city of San Jose, a hike through the cloud forest near the Mt. Arenal volcano (including a stay at a nearby resort), tubing down a river, zip-lining through the tree canopy, and watching the sun set over the Pacific from a catamaran.



After many years of dedicated service to the International Spanish program, Marge Morales has passed the torch on to Brent Ottaway who is now the coordinator of the Spanish in Costa Rica program. Thank you, Dr. Morales, for your many years of service to study abroad!

For more information on the Costa Rica program visit Gabbi Townsend's webpage: <http://gabbingabbi.wix.com/costarica>

ASL IMMERSION CRUISE

by Gale DeArmin

Students embraced this cultural experience of the second Deaf Freedom Cruise. Saint Francis University students minoring in ASL turned their voices off and got their hands up with co-directors Ms. Gale DeArmin and Ms. Jacquelyn Friday! There were 2,204 guests from 25 different countries!



- Students whole-heartedly joined in each event and activity.
- Alison Adamrovich was part of the winning team during the beach games in Aruba (above).
- Students participated in a workshop about Pro-Tactile presented by Kim Powers (right).
- Students joined in all of the events with their voices off and their hands up!

HUGS NOTE CARDS

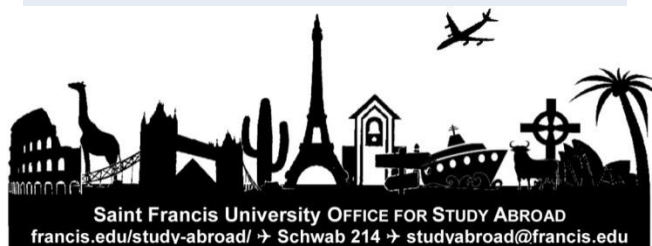
Note cards highlighting the Saint Francis Peace Prayer and photos of the students actively carrying out the mission of our beloved patron saint are available for purchase at the Office for Study Abroad. Cost is \$10 per pack. Proceeds go to the mission efforts of the student group HUGS (Helping the Underprivileged by Giving our Services).





Upcoming Study Abroad Programs

<p>Spring Semester in France Jan. 10 – Apr. 24, 2015 Courses: FREN 112, RLST 390, FNAR 102, FREN 201 BIOL 206, PUBH 320 and CPSC 101 Visiting Faculty: Dr. Daniel Wetklow Cost: same tuition, room & board</p>	<p>Scuba Diving in St. Lucia May, 2015 Courses: a variety of Marine Science credits Led by Mr. Nick Weakland and Dr. Sue Shoemaker Cost: approx. \$2,600 plus tuition and course materials</p>
<p>Spring Break in London Feb 26 – Mar 7, 2015 Course: Great Britain and the European Union in the Global Economy / Led by Drs. Randy Frye and Jim Logue / Cost: approximately \$2,000 plus tuition</p>	<p>Spanish in Costa Rica May 9 – May 30, 2015 Courses: Spanish, Photography and Biology Led by Mr. Brent Ottaway Cost: approximately \$3,275 plus tuition</p>
<p>Hugs United in St. Lucia Feb 28 – Mar 7, 2015 Volunteer service at a Pastoral Center Supervised by Dr. Pat Fitzgerald / Cost: \$1,400</p>	<p>Bolivia Research & Service May 6 – 12, 2015 Course: CHEM 499, CHEM 410, CORE 406, ENGR 497, ENVE 321, 322, 415, 497, 498, or FNAR 101 Supervised by Dr. William Strosnider Cost: \$1480 plus tuition</p>
<p>Hugs United in Jamaica Mar 1 – 7, 2015 Volunteer service in a clinic and a microloan project Supervised by Dr. Bill Hanlon / Cost: \$1,400</p>	<p>Springtime in Italy May 29 – June 28, 2015 Courses: Italian and a variety of Fine Arts courses / Led by Mr. Chuck Olson / Cost: approx. \$3,600 plus tuition</p>



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