

SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY



Meeting Our Brothers and Sisters Around the Globe

OFFICE FOR STUDY ABROAD NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2015

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

Semester in France
ASL Immersion
Diving in St. Lucia
Hugs United
in Jamaica & St. Lucia
Research in Bolivia
Spanish in Costa Rica
Spring Break in London
Springtime in Italy
Cooperative Center for
Study Abroad Offerings

HUGS SPRING BREAK IN JAMAICA

MICRO-LENDING TEAM by *Kilee Bomgardner, HUGS President*: Although this was my third mission trip to Jamaica, it was still just as transformational as the first trip. Throughout the week, the micro-lending team interviewed about 25 entrepreneurs. In the end we chose 6 people to receive loans. The largest loan was about \$500 US dollars, or \$50,000 Jamaican dollars. All except one of the recipients were women.

The new micro-lending team brought so many new ideas and inspiration that will beneficially impact future years. The motivation of the other team members made my trip so much more exciting and transformational. As always, it was extremely rewarding to give the loan recipients their money. They were so thankful and appreciative of our support which made me feel like I was making an impact.



Kilee with the local children

During the afternoons, we had the chance to play with the local children and help them with school work. With this being my third year, I was amazed at how many kids remembered me and how fast they are growing up. One of my favorite parts of this trip is being able to give these children love that they don't necessarily get at home. Most of them simply want to be hugged and given attention – simple gestures like that will make their day. It also completes my week as well because I'm able to build such strong relationships in a short period of time.

THIS YEAR'S MICRO LOAN CONTRACTS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING PURCHASES:

- pumpkins and fertilizer to plant additional crops on borrower's farm
- a refrigerator for borrower's shop
- products to expand borrower's retail
- additional supplies for borrower's shop
- a door and window for borrower's shop
- a sign and additional meat products for borrower's shop

Overall, the entire trip was extremely rewarding. I was able to grow more confident with spirituality and my micro-lending knowledge. I cannot put into words how passionate I am about helping others in need, and this is solely due to the impact that the HUGS trip has had on me.

PT/OT/MEDICAL TEAMS by *Dr. Bill Hanlon*: The medical team in Maggotty Jamaica consisted of providers, Margaret McHugh MD, SFU PA students, alumni Malia Lonergan PA-C, and Noelle Barber. The team saw 90 patients per day in a small rural clinic that serves the poor from the

region. Their primary care team also worked with rehab teams to perform many home visits of homebound patients. The medical team did an excellent job with limited resources compared with the U.S.

PT/OT teams under the direction of Bill Hanlon DPT, OCS and Marie Crogan OT Alumnus of SFU, along with PT and



HUGS group in Jamaica

OT students saw up to 45 patients per day with all types of problems. These patients have zero PT or OT services available in their area of the country. Students had excellent teaching by mentors with a combined 40 years of clinical experience and got to practice clinically under close supervision seeing many different kinds of injuries and illnesses causing functional limitations.

Everyone on the trip bonded very well, having a great team experience and an opportunity for spiritual growth and reflection as well. The pastor congratulated all of our hard work at the end of the week and recognized that our SFU team is a very special group.



The past week, I had the honor of traveling to Jamaica with the HUGS United organization to provide occupational therapy services to those individuals in desperate need. I had the chance to work in an outpatient clinic and provide services to a wide population, as well as work with an interdisciplinary team consisting of physical therapists, physician assistants, doctors, and nurses. Each day, I worked closely with the physical therapy students to provide the best quality of care to each patient. The occupational therapy students focused on the upper extremity while the physical therapy students focused on the lower extremity body parts during treatment. The rehab team took the time to work together to treat each patient with great quality care. We communicated effectively and were able to help each other out with our knowledge that we learned from past experiences. I was touched by the warm welcoming and love that we all received each day and also the blessings from each patient. Even though the rehab team was not able to fully cure each patient's problem, we were able to provide education, love, and support for them individually. By the end of the week, the rehab team was able to grow closer together and create a friendship that will last a lifetime. - Megan Gaydosh

HUGS SPRING BREAK IN ST. LUCIA

A small pilot group traveled to St. Lucia to volunteer at the Archbishop Cardinal Kelvin Felix Pastoral Centre. The group did various activities such as organized fellowship activities for the stranded students from Nepal at the Pastoral Centre, cleaned, sorted, and organized the laundry facilities for the Pastoral Centre, sang for and spent quality time with the residents at the Missionaries of Charity in Castries and helped serve lunch to several hundred schoolchildren at the Missionaries of Charity.

Sometimes, many times, I forget to say thank you for all of my blessings, the real blessings, the ones that cannot be seen, or bought, or sold. The HUGS outreach trip to St. Lucia was a tremendous blessing where I learned more about the people of St. Lucia, about other visitors from Nepal, about our team, and about myself. This trip will always hold a special place in my heart and mind because it was the inaugural HUGS Mission/Outreach trip to St. Lucia. I felt the spirit of St. Francis in the people, nature, animals, and in the actions of our Team. Feeling blessed and grateful for this opportunity. - Dr. Pat Fitzgerald



Serving in St. Lucia was an experience I will never forget. I think too many people see mission trips as "helping the less fortunate" but honestly it never felt like we were helping. We showed them Christ in our service, but then they showed Him to us in their appreciation and hospitality. It was never about helping, it was about sharing. I never thought of them as less fortunate - I thought of them as friends. - Nick Astle



A NEW HOME FOR HUGS by Lisa Georgiana

In 2006, Dr. Bill Hanlon participated in his first international service mission trip and fell in love with the experience. Since then, he has led dozens of mission trips and has served as advisor to the HUGS (Helping the Underprivileged by Giving our Service) program at Saint Francis University.

"The HUGS alternative spring break mission trips have become quite popular among our students," said Hanlon. "Over the past 10 years, hundreds of students, staff and faculty have traveled to Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, St Lucia and Honduras, to serve their brothers and sisters in Christ. Many students have described these trips as 'amazing' and 'life changing.'"

“As a faculty member in the Physical Therapy Department, I have been blessed to be able to advise this student-led club. At this point in time, I believe that HUGS deserves a permanent home for continuity from year to year. The Campus Ministry Department is a most appropriate place for HUGS, given the intensive community service element to the program, as well as opportunities for spiritual growth.”

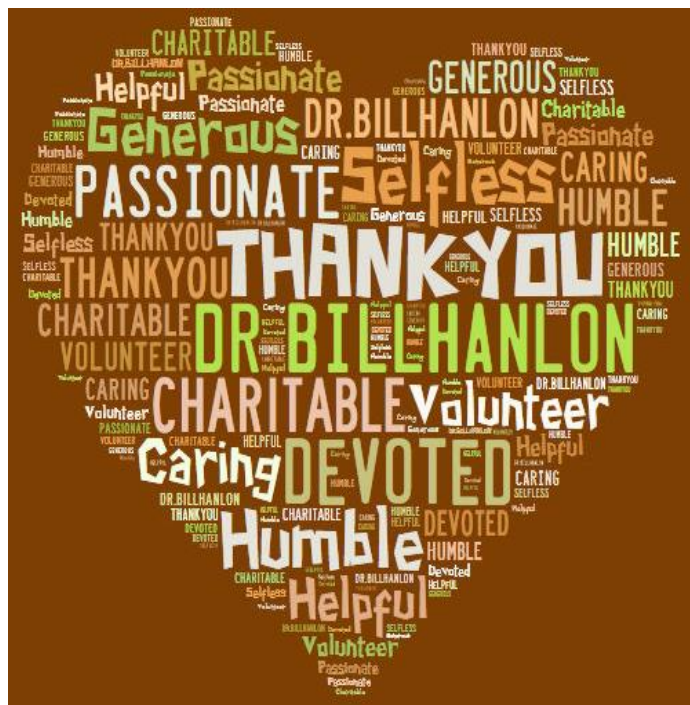
Lisa Georgiana, Campus Minister, will be the new advisor to the HUGS program. An e-board comprised of students and staff will continue to take leadership roles in planning and organizing the trips.

The international trips will continue to go through the Office for Study Abroad for the travel processes including applications, flights, travel forms and insurance coverage.

The HUGS trips are transformational service opportunities. Our plan is to build upon the HUGS program and offer more service immersion trips for our students to choose from -- not just alternative spring break trips, but year-around opportunities to travel and serve.

HUGS SPRING BREAK 2016

Trips are being planned to Maggoty, Jamaica; Kingston, Jamaica; St. Lucia and the Dominican Republic. All students, faculty and staff are invited to attend an informational dinner on alternative spring break trips on **Wed., April 8 @ 5 p.m. in DiSepio 213.**



NINTH ANNUAL SPRING BREAK IN LONDON

by Dr. Randy Frye

The School of Business, in conjunction with the *Dr. Albert A. Zanzuccki Endowed Chair in Business Program*, completed its Ninth Annual Springtime in London program from Friday, February 27th through Saturday, March 7th. The annual trip is the cornerstone of Mgmt. 307 The Role of Great Britain in the European Union course. Doctors Randy Frye and James Logue led 19 students (including seven graduate students and 12 undergraduate students) on the trip to London. Dr. Peter Skoner, Senior Associate Provost, and his wife, Diane, also participated in this year's program. Program highlights included a guided walking tour of the financial district of London, special commerce visits to Lloyds of London and Bloomberg London, a lecture on the current state of and challenges facing the European Union by a noted economist and



hedge fund manager, a trip to Windsor Castle, a Jack the Ripper Walking Tour, and day trip to Paris. During the past nine years approximately 200 students have participated in the program.

Many of the students who have traveled to London are experiencing their first time overseas or even, in more limited cases, flying on an airplane for the first time. They marvel at what

they see, do, and experience in London and often want to return again. London is an amazing global city to experience and has so much to offer – by way of a rich history, British culture, the monarchy and mystique around it, theatre, shopping, and of course its role as a major financial center.

Featured

STUDY ABROAD STUDENT

Sarah Yeager

Environmental Engineering, Class of 2015

In which SFU study abroad program have you participated?
I have participated in the Semester in France, Engineering in Bolivia program and the CCSA Winter in London program.

During the programs, did you have time for personal travel?
While in France we had two “travel weekends” as well as spring break to travel on our own. For the travel weekends I went with a few other students to Geneva, Switzerland, and Biarritz, France (a beach along the coast known for being the first place to introduce surfing to Europe). During our two-week spring break, our group traveled to Amsterdam, Holland; London, England; Dublin, Ireland; and Edinburgh, Scotland. In Bolivia, we stayed together as a group. However, we did have some free time apart from the planned, group activities to explore the cities in which we stayed. On the CCSA trip, we often had class or tours in the morning; the afternoons were free to explore London. We also had one “free day” during which I traveled to Cardiff, Wales.

Did the experience influence your attitude towards your coursework?
The trip to Bolivia reconfirmed that I truly love my major of environmental engineering. Having the opportunity to apply what I have been learning in school in order to give impoverished communities better access to clean water was a wonderful experience.

Compare the study abroad experiences with those of a traditional classroom.
While I love Saint Francis University, being in Loretto cannot compare to the amazing experiences that you gain from studying abroad. Studying abroad opens you up to people, places and things that you could never experience in a traditional classroom. The lessons you learn while traveling also far exceed those taught in a classroom, because you are experiencing history and culture rather than just reading about them. I think you also learn to be more independent and self-reliant.

What cultural experience was most interesting to you?
Throughout all of my travel in Europe, one thing that I noticed was the cultural focus on family life. All stores closed for at least an hour at lunch so that employees had the chance to have a long, relaxed break. Similarly, most places closed by 5:00 or 6:00 pm and were not open on Sundays in order to allow their employees time to be with their families. In general, I think the US is culturally more fast-paced. In Europe they seem to be more focused on quality time with friends and family than on working 24 hours a day.

Do you feel the duration of these program were adequate?
I have never been “ready” to come home at the end of a Study Abroad program however I think they offer a timeline that is easily adaptable to any student’s schedule.

What language skill did you have going into these programs?
Going into the semester in France I had no previous knowledge of the French language. While there, I took a French class and also had many opportunities to practice the language with many local people. Having the chance to practice with native French speakers and at times being forced to speak or understand French definitely helped improve my understanding and comfort with the language.

Where was your favorite place to travel and why?
I loved every place that I have visited, but if I had to choose, I would say that Bolivia and Geneva, Switzerland were two of my favorite places. Geneva is unique in that it is bordered by a large lake on one side and the Swiss Alps on the other. The mix of city life and stunning landscapes makes Geneva one of the most beautiful cities I have visited. Also it was interesting to see how the city is clearly divided into two sections; the “Old” city and the newer, more developed, urban section. Unlike other cities, the old and new are not intermixed throughout the entire city, but rather they are clearly separated as if they were two different cities.

I also loved traveling to Bolivia due to the interesting contrast between the United States and Bolivia. While Europe and the US have many differences, they are far more similar than the US and Bolivia. Since it was the first time that I traveled to South America, I was greeted with many new experiences and interesting cultural differences when I arrived in Bolivia. Bolivia is the poorest country in South America, yet the people are extremely kind and welcoming. Traveling through Bolivia also provided a vast array of landscapes. From the mountains in the north to the salt flats and rain forests in the south, Bolivia is a beautiful country.

Do you have any future international travel plans?
I will again be participating in the Engineering in Bolivia program this coming May. I also plan to eventually work and live abroad for at least a short period of time.

Would you or do you recommend study abroad?
I would definitely recommend study abroad to everyone! Whether it’s a week or an entire semester I think that all students should experience another country for at least a short time, and there is no better way to do so than through the study abroad. Completing a study abroad through Saint Francis is definitely easier than traveling on your own. In most cases, the school takes care of all major details such as flights and housing accommodations while still leaving the student with enough freedom to truly create their own trip and have a unique experience.



Sarah in Bolivia

Featured

STUDY ABROAD FACULTY

Dr. Devonna Sue Shoemaker (1994)

Professor of Biology

What study abroad courses have you taught? Coral Reef Ecology (St. Lucia), Research Diver Methods (St. Lucia), Natural History of Australia, Natural History of the Galapagos Islands, Natural History of Belize, Natural History of Southern France, plus Coral Reef Ecology in Bonaire, Roatan, and Honduras.

Do the experiences of teaching abroad influence how you teach in the classroom? I teach experientially in the classroom, also. However, teaching internationally does give a wider range of life-lessons than can be taught in the classroom. Study abroad influences students' lives. This is why I continue to travel with students; so that they can learn as I did when I was younger.

What is your most memorable cultural experience?

All my cultural experiences are memorable. Probably the most was living in the Philippines for 1 1/2 years...or maybe Germany for 5 years.

What do you feel is the most exciting part about traveling?

I love meeting people and learning about variations in plants and animals between the continents.

What are your thoughts on the various lengths of the study abroad programs?

That all depends on what one is trying to teach. Students learn more in a semester immersion program. However, many students can't give a whole semester and I know that they still learn loads during 1-3 week programs.

Did you experience any language barrier?

I have had students struggle with it on occasion which is good for them. They need to understand that the world doesn't "function" on English and that all peoples have a right to use their own languages; that we can't expect them to speak English.



Dr. Shoemaker with her students in St. Lucia taking a break for a refreshing drink of coconut water.

Where was your favorite place to travel and why?

I don't have a favorite except for reefs. I like Bonaire if I'm staying closer to home for diving.

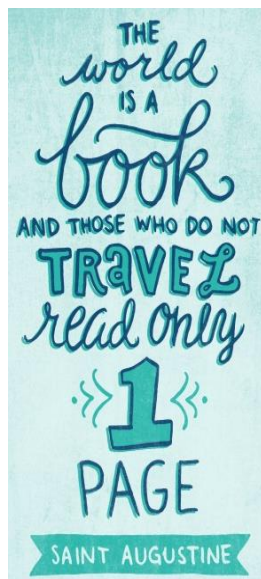
Do you have any future international travel plans?

I travel every summer somewhere around the world (ie, Philippines, Caribbean Islands, etc). I will travel all of my life. I would like to take students to Alaska (not international but we would go across Canada). I will travel at some point to Indonesia, India and to Antarctica. I also want to go back to Germany.

Would you or do you recommend study abroad?

Yes, definitely. I wish it could be a requirement for every student to make at least one trip abroad.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



2015 SPRING SEMESTER IN FRANCE JOURNAL

by Dan Wetklow / Photos by Melissa Javier Wetklow

Week 1: We safely arrived in Ambialet Saturday evening (Jan. 10). Sunday started off with Mass at the Priory's chapel, which dates back to the 11th century and was followed by a scavenger hunt for sites in Ambialet. The students broke into teams and every team visited the same site last: the home of Peter and Margarit Barrett, an English couple who retired to Ambialet. This resulted in Peter and Margarit having 33 residents of the Priory in their home at one time, but they were good sports and provided cookies and soft drinks and/or tea to all.



Scavenger hunt in Ambialet

Classes began on Monday. The students went on their first excursion on Wednesday to the town of Albi, less than 30 minutes away. Official stops were Marché Couvert, a covered food court; the L'église Saint-Salvi, a small, peaceful, hidden cloister dating back to the 13th century attached to the oldest church in the city; the La Cathédrale Sainte-Cécile, a 13th century cathedral whose exterior is not unlike a very imposing fortress; a tour of Musée Pour Tous Raphael Cordoba, an interesting little art museum; which was followed by a reception at the Town Hall (le Mairie) by Claude Lacomte, the Deputy Mayor of Albi and, finally, dinner at l' Escabar followed by Galette du rois (Epiphany Cake) at the residence of Gerry and Olga Honigsblum.



At the Town Hall in Albi with the Deputy Mayor, Claude Lacomte

stop at a patisserie for pastries. The first of a series on wine-tasting lectures, along with the actual wine-tasting, focused on champagne and sparkling wines.

Week 3: The highlight of the week was the excursion to Toulouse, the capital of the Midi-Pyrénées region and a city with a population of over 400,000 on Thursday. In the morning we visited the 12th century Basilica of St. Sernin, since it is an illustration of a pilgrimage church and an excellent example of Romanesque architecture (common in the 9th -12th centuries). The Basilica is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Right across the street from St. Sernin was Musée Saint-Raymond where our visit was focused on Roman artifacts with a particular emphasis on the Roman sarcophagae that were found underneath the city.

In the afternoon we visited a museum on the history of medicine in Toulouse and were intrigued, and horrified, by the medical instruments and techniques of the past and returned to our bus by walking over Pont Neuf, the 16th -17th century bridge.

Crêpes made two appearances on the menu this week since the holiday of Candlemas (Feb 2nd), known in France as "la Chandeleur Fête de la Lumière," was this week. Candlemas is traditionally celebrated in France by eating crepes and drinking cider.



Bridge Saint-Pierre over the Garonne River

A second scavenger hunt around Ambialet was held on Thursday and a few showed up for choir practice at the home of Peter and Margaret Barrett – who again treated their guests to tea and cookies.

On Saturday a small contingent from the Priory attended the Mayor of Ambialet's New Year's greetings to the local residents. Many local officials gave short speeches and a recently retired councilwoman was honored for her 25 years of service.

Week 2: Tuesday movie night featured a showing of "Chocolat". On Wednesday morning a group of students, along with some faculty, went for a hike in the hills around Trébas, about 9 miles upriver from Ambialet which was followed by a



Thomas Brun and Sharelle Govignon-Sweet, members of the local chapter of the Cafe Citoyen, were invited to our campus in Ambialet to moderate a discussion among the students on the subject of Public Health. The purpose of Cafe Citoyen is to promote and practice democracy by hosting discussion/debate on topics in a respectful and polite manner where all are free to speak without being verbally attacked or shouted down.

This week's French movie was *Le Dîner des Cons*, a comedy from 1998.

Week 4: The first site of our week 4 excursion was to the medieval village of Conques, (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) which was named one of the most beautiful villages in France. Conques lies on one of the

main French branches of the Camino de Santiago (The Way of St. James) pilgrimage route and is best-known as the home of the abbey-church of St. Foy and its reliquary. The church was built during the 11th & 12th centuries.

The second part of our week 4 excursion was to Rodez, the capital of the Aveyron department of France. The primary reason for our visit was the Soulages Museum which houses many of the works of Pierre Soulages, the most renowned French artist today. Soulages work is defined by his exploration of the color black. The museum itself was designed and built specifically to showcase the works of Pierre Soulages.

In addition to the museum, a number of our company visited the Rodez Cathedral which was built in the early 16th century. The cathedral played a role in the definition of the meter since it was used as a central point in the attempt to calculate the circumference of the earth in the 1790s.



Walking through the medieval village of Conques

Week 5: The Rotary Club of Albi met at the Priory on Monday, February 9th. On Tuesday the students saw a movie on Jackson Pollock since it tied in with the students' art course. On Wednesday evening the students were treated to some Occitan songs (Occitan is a language that at one time was the primary language in southern France as well as parts of Italy and Spain).

On Thursday we had our second excursion to Toulouse where we visited the 13th century Church of les Jacobins, which had been the mother church of the Dominican Order. This church contains the tomb of St. Thomas Aquinas. In the afternoon we visited the Departmental Museum of the Resistance and Deportation, which was about the French Resistance (as well as the lack thereof in various quarters).



Students visiting the fortified city of Carcassonne

On Sunday we visited Albi since they are in the process of a three week carnival and Sunday was the day of their parade. On Ash Wednesday we will depart for Carcassonne and Barcelona.

Week 6: We visited Carcassonne, a fortified city with a spectacular medieval castle in the south of France on our way to Barcelona. It is difficult to visit Carcassonne and not imagine how one would attack it or defend it back in its heyday.

We visited the Sagrada Familia, perhaps the most popular site in Barcelona. The Sagrada Familia is a basilica in Barcelona that is being built according to the designs of the famed artist Antoni Gaudi. It is also a UNESCO World Heritage site. Gaudi started on the project in 1883 and worked on it for the next 43 years until his death. The Sagrada Familia is still a work in progress and it not expected to be completed until 2026, at the earliest. It is safe to say that none of us had ever seen anything like the Sagrada Familia. It is unique and is probably the leading attraction in Barcelona for tourists.

Another work by the famed Catalan architect Antoni Gaudi that we visited was the Casa Batllo - a house in Barcelona that was remodeled and renovated according to the designs of Gaudi. While designing this house, Gaudi concerned himself down to the smallest detail of what it would be like to live in this house; it was interesting to try to imagine what it would be like to live here.

Park Guell, a park designed by Antoni Gaudi (who also was the architect for the Sagrada Familia and Casa Batllo) is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Park also contains a house that was designed, and lived in, by Gaudi. This house is now a museum.



Gothic Quarter of Barcelona

We visited Fundacio Joan Miro museum which was built primarily for the works of the surrealist Catalan painter Joan Miro.

Another art museum that was visited on this five day excursion was the Picasso Museum in Barcelona. The most interesting thing about this museum is that the works of Picasso are arranged chronologically and so one can easily see the different periods of his career as an artist.



On the way back from Barcelona we stopped in the Spanish town of Figueres in order to see the fascinating Teatre Museu Dali (Dali Theater-Museum).

While in Barcelona the students attended an art workshop, and participated in a session, at the studio of Mercedes Rogla.

We visited the neighborhood called the Gothic Quarter in Barcelona with its narrow, winding streets. It is one of the oldest parts of Barcelona. While there we visited a museum with Roman ruins as well as the impressive Gothic Cathedral (which looked very different than the Gothic architecture we have seen so far in France).

We walked down the popular Las Ramblas (a street) and visited the La Boqueria Food Market where all manners of fruit, vegetables, fish, and meat are sold.

Week 7: We attended a rugby game in Albi. Everyone enjoyed the game even though everyone was not familiar with all the rules (I know that not everyone was familiar with all the rules because I was there and I am not familiar with all the rules).

The second Cafe Citoyen was held: this time the topic was "memory as agenda". There were two hikes with a local hiking club and students visited an open market in Saint Juery (on the way to Albi) and the students found out what it is like to be rained on in Saint Juery.

More adventures to come including the studies in Paris, spring break adventures and a visit from Fr. Malachi who will be celebrating Easter with our students in Ambialet!

Follow Semester in France student, Josh Luciew, on his blog, **The Adventure Enthusiast** at: jluciew.tumblr.com



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