

OFFICE FOR STUDY ABROAD NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2016

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

Semester in France Semester in Siena ASL Immersion Diving in St. Lucia Research in Bolivia Spanish in Costa Rica Spring Break in London Springtime in Italy

International experiences also available through the SFU Center for Service

and Learning *and* Cooperative Center for Study Abroad

LAUNCHING NEW PROGRAM IN TUSCANY by Rachel Heckman

The Saint Francis University Office for Study Abroad has announced a new semester-long study abroad opportunity in Siena, Italy. Beginning in Spring 2017, all students can spend a semester in Tuscany's historic medieval hill town for the same tuition, room and board costs as a semester in Loretto.

We're excited to add to the rich array of international opportunities for Saint Francis students. Siena is a beautiful city, steeped in history, culture and remarkable architecture. The courses we hope to offer there will add more options for students to fulfill their GenEd requirements in a remarkable setting, and will allow some students to spend a full academic year abroad. - Tim Perkins, Executive Director of International Education

Saint Francis has had much success with its unique Semester in France program, which offers students the opportunity to live at the University's site in Ambialet, located in the Tarn region of southwestern France. Since the program's inception in 2008, over 300 students have stayed in the

castle-like, 11th-century French monastery where they have experienced the first-hand French language, culture and values while studying the rich history and medieval architecture found throughout the hilltop region.

With the popularity of the Semester in France program, Saint Francis is adding a second location where students can gain a semester-long study abroad experience. The new Semester in Siena program is open to Saint Francis students in any major upon completion of their first semester. Students will stay in student apartments throughout the city, where they will also take classes with other University students.

Siena, said to be one of Italy's loveliest medieval cities, is located in central Tuscany. Distinguished by its historical brick buildings, the heart of the city is its central piazza, Il Campo, known worldwide for the famous Palio horse races. The fanshaped Piazza del Campo is also dominated by the Palazzo Pubblico, the Gothic town hall, and Torre del Mangia, a

slender 14th-century tower with sweeping views from the top. The city is known for being the home to the University of Siena and Foreigners University in Siena.

Course offerings include ECON 101, FNAR 102, ART 202, ITAL (various levels) and RLST 390. The Office of Study Abroad is accepting applications for the first-ever Semester in Siena next spring.



SPRING BREAK IN LONDON PROGRAM CELEBRATES TENTH ANNIVERSARY

by Dr. Randy Frye

The Saint Francis University School of Business and Office for Study Abroad sponsored its 10th annual short-term, study abroad trip to London for the period, Friday, February 26th through Saturday, March 5, and involved 20 students, Fr. Malachi Van Tassel, T.O.R., Dr. James Logue, and Dr. Randy Frye. The London short-term, study abroad trip was founded ten years ago by Dr. Randy Frye and was inspired by Mr. Philip Kennedy, an Accounting alumnus, a former School of Business Advisory Board member, and retired Professor of Accounting from Slippery Rock University. Dr. James Logue has participated in nine of the trips and has been instrumental in recruiting students for the trip as well as



Group posed in front of Windsor Castle

playing the role of Cochaperone/Travel Guide. Dr. Frye developed and implemented a special international business management course around the trip for the students who participate. The course is titled MGMT. 315 The Role of Great Britain in the European Union (along with a related cross-listed graduate course bearing the same name) and never has the course title been more germane to the British citizens as they ponder this critical question in a special "Brexit" referendum scheduled for June 23. This year the London travel group had the pleasure of having Fr. Malachi Van Tassel, T.O.R, President of Saint Francis University, participate in the 10th anniversary study abroad trip.

Approximately 210 Saint Francis students have participated in the London-based, short-term international study program since it was started.

The 2016 Springtime Trip to London included, a record high, seven lectures related to the theme of the course and other related international business topics as well as numerous field trips and educational activities. This year's group took a financial district walking tour with a noted local historian and author, Warren Grynberg; visited Windsor Castle and took

an eerie Jack the Ripper walking tour in East London with a noted scholar on the subject, Donald Rumblelow; heard a lecture at the Bank of England and toured the iconic Lloyds of London Insurance Exchange; heard two lectures at St. Mary's University by Professors Philip Booth ("Catholic *Teaching and the European Union- Origins and Outturn ")* and Christopher Hull ("United Kingdom in Europe: Case Study on Employment Law and Social Policy"); visited Paul Malloy, A Fixed Assets Fund Manager at Vanguard in the financial district and a 2006 Saint Francis University alumnus of the Economics and Finance program; and received a behind the scenes tour of the British Parliament from a former employee of a Member of Parliament. The group also attended a soccer match between Fulham v. Middlesbrough at the legendary Craven's Cottage Stadium located at Parson's Green.



Walking Tour of the Financial District of London with Warren Grynberg, a noted local historian and author on Square Mile City of London. Warren is in the middle of the photograph facing the group.

This year's travel course participants included Dylan Bear, Sara Fiore -Gunnett, and Eric Horell (MBA students); Cole Bush, Traci Glass, Steve Jones, Hannah Krause, Matt Loughnane, Kyle Penney, Taylor Peruso, Dominick Ramirez,

Grace Smith, Jake Spryn, Chukwuebuka Ude, Connor Wharton, and Max Wilcox (School of Business undergraduate students, including those with business-related concentrations or minors); Lindsay Wilde and Maria Figliola (School of Health Science students); and Ali Evans and Tim Shoff (School of Science). The travel arrangements for the trip were coordinated by Ms. Jessica Burgmeier, Administrative Assistant for the School of Business. In addition to students paying a separate travel fee for the trip, they also received generous funding from the Dr. Albert Zanzuccki Endowed



Dr. Randy Frye, Dean of the School of Business, and Frankie are looking to acquire some of the gold bars from the Bank of England Vault to add to the University's endowment...just kidding!

Chair in Business Administration Global Assistance Scholarship program in order to offset a portion of the related travel expenses associated with the program.



Fr. Malachi Van Tassell, T.O.R. and one of the two groups of students who visited the iconic Lloyds of London, pose in front of the famous "Inside-Out" Lloyds of London Insurance Exchange Building.

CENTER FOR SERVICE AND LEARNING'S SPRING BREAK HUGS PROGRAM by Lisa Georgiana

Over spring break, twenty-one students, one professor (Dr. Deb Budash), two alumni (Nate Barr and Meghan Carroll), two staff (Lisa Georgiana and Fr. Joe Lehman) and one parent (Denise Carroll) participated in a weeklong trip to Jamaica. Of the twenty-one students, four students were from the School of Business (David Budash, Kilee Bomgardner, John Hazenstab and Brooklyn Summers) and the remaining 17 students were from the School of Health Sciences: three

physician assistant majors (Hayley Koch, Kasey Nolan and Erin Sager), six physical therapy majors (Marissa Conti, Anne Kisak, Danielle MacMurtrie, Christeen Reigh, Anna Theis and Hillary Wertz), and eight occupational therapy majors (Rhya Bianchi, Jacqueline Bryson, Chelsea Esken, Tessa Gacovsky, Jenna Kutchman, Beth Maggio, Abby Menett and Allyssa Phillips).

Over the course of the week, the four business majors interviewed nearly 100 Jamaicans microloan candidates - 37 in Lionel Town and nearly 60 in Maggotty. By the end of the week, 18 microloans were granted totaling \$780,000 Jamaican dollars (\$6,600 USD). The largest loan was \$80,000 Jamaican (\$675 USD) and the smallest was \$10,000 Jamaican (\$85 USD).



Dr. Deborah Budash checks up on a resident at the Missionaries of Charity nursing home in Balaclava. Budash led the OT team which treated residents at the home, providing custom-made hand splints as well as exercises.



For four days, the three PA students served hundreds of patients under the supervision of the doctor at the clinic in Maggotty. Meanwhile, the PT and OT students were divided into two rehab teams to serve patients daily in Maggotty and Balaclava under the supervision of four licensed PTs and OTs. On the fifth day, twelve healthcare students made home visits while the remainder served in Balaclava.



After they sang a song, PT student Christeen Reigh shares a laugh with a blind woman who is a resident at the Missionaries of Charity nursing home near Maggotty.

While the business students were interviewing loan candidates, the health science majors were caring for the sick in two locations – Holy Spirit Health Clinic in Maggotty and a nursing home run by the



David Budash, Abby Mennett and Jacqueline Bryson share smiles with students at the afterschool program at Holy Spirit Church.

Several Health Science students were able to fulfill requirements for their major while in Maggotty. Fourth-year OT students can use the Jamaica HUGS trip as their Level I fieldwork experience. Third-year OTs can use the trip to fulfill their 30 hours of community service.

Didactic-year PA students are able to use the Jamaica HUGS trip to complete the required 8 hours of service in a clinical setting over their spring break. They can also use the trip to count toward the 25 hours of community service that they need in their didactic year. Undergraduate PA students must spend 100 hours in a clinical setting by the end of their junior year. The HUGS trip can count for the hours that the undergraduates spent in the medical clinic in Jamaica.

Each day began with morning Eucharistic liturgy and ended

with a guided reflection by Fr. Joe or Fr. Marek Bzinkowski, pastor of Holy Spirit parish in Maggotty. Each weekday afternoon also included an afterschool program for local children. Finally, the week also included a trip to Y.S. Fall s (a natural attraction), a rum factory near Balaclava, and a beach in Montego Bay. Maggotty,

There are many local connections between Cambria County & the Maggotty area. Maggotty, Balaclava, and Lionel Town are all located within the Catholic diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica which is twinned with the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. In addition, the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus who run the medical clinic in Maggotty, have their mother house in Cresson and are affiliated with John Paul II Manor.

A complete menu of HUGS trips will be announced for 2017 in early April. Watch your email for the date and location of an information session. Questions related to HUGS trips can be directed to Lisa Georgiana, Director, Center for Service & Learning, Francis Hall 133.



Fr. Joe Lehman celebrates morning Mass at the Holy Spirit Church. The wooden structure (behind the alter) that houses the tabernacle was shipped to Jamaica in the late 90s from Saint Patrick's Church, Gallitzin, PA.



Lisa Georgiana, Director of the Center for Service & Learning, was one of the trip leaders.

Saint Francis University volunteers with Fr. Marek, and Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, as well as Spike, a stray dog who followed the students back to the campus one afternoon.

JAMAICAN INTERNATIONAL MICROLOAN INITIATIVE

by Kilee Bomgardner, co-founder of SFU's Jamaican International Microloan Initiative

Saint Francis University School of Business students recently traveled to the impoverished villages of Lionel Town and Maggotty, Jamaica for a mission trip over spring break. Kilee Bomgardner of Hershey, John Hazenstab of Altoona, David Budash of Indiana, and Brooklynne Summers of Roaring Spring met with aspiring entrepreneurs about economic development and provided business assistance and microloans to interested people in the town. This program is known as the Jamaican International Microloan Initiative (JIMI).

While in Jamaica, during the first week of March, the students met with nearly 100 applicants. The JIMI group was able to give 18 entrepreneurs loans ranging from \$10,000-\$80,000 Jamaican dollars which is equal to about only \$85-\$675

USD. The loan recipients were not charged interest and have 6-12 months to repay the loan. This is the fourth year that

JIMI has been in existence, and over \$18,600 USD (\$2.1 million Jamaican Dollars) has been lent to the entrepreneurs of Jamaica. Since 2013, the loan repayment rate is calculated at 92%. A total of 74 entrepreneurs have been directly and indirectly impacted from JIMI.

This year, the largest loan of \$675 USD was given to a woman named Kerry-Ann. She is a previous loan recipient. Kerry-Ann used the first loan to purchase a freezer to begin selling frozen foods in her grocery and liquor shop. Since Kerry-Ann saw great success from her first loan, she applied for a loan again this year. Kerry-Ann is looking to purchase animal feed, fertilizer, and similar items to add more variety to the product offerings in her store.

The Jamaican International Microloan Initiative is a joint effort between the University's Enactus team and Hugs United mission trip organization. Students will be fundraising this year so they are able to offer more loans to the people of Jamaica during next year's spring break mission trip. If you are interested in donating to JIMI or have any questions, please contact: Kilee Bomgardner at: kab103@francis.edu or 717-580-4556, or Lisa Georgiana at Igeorgiana@francis.edu.



It is very humbling to see how appreciative, trusting, and joyful the people of Jamaica are. Even though this was my fourth year being a part of JIMI, I learn more and more about myself each year. I realized that it is possible to make a positive impact on someone's life. This experience is truly lifechanging, - Kilee Bomgardner (pictured above with microloan applicant)

SPRING BREAK IN BRAZIL by Br. James Puglis

From Friday February 26th to Saturday March 5th I had the honor of traveling with 14 students and three Benedictines from St. Vincent College to Jundiai, Brazil. This spring break trip was dedicated to service in collaboration with the Sisters from the Congregation of the Missionaries of Christ. In helping these Sisters, we spent most of our time with the young students in two of their schools. When not with these energetic and incredible youth we visited two rehabilitation communities for those struggling with addictions to drugs and alcohol. While these visits took most of our time it was a Sunday morning visit to a Soup Kitchen in a man's house that put this trip in perspective. Seeing the work being done in Jundiai revealed that we do not need to travel across the world to bring Christ or help to others, rather we travel across this world to discover what he has already begun in their hearts. Having the opportunity to visit with the Bishop of the Jundiai Diocese, and the Benedictines of Sao Paulo and Vinhedo further emphasized this reality. With the



Br. James Puglis (center) with Saint Vincent College students in Brazil.

experience of praying at Mass in the morning and seeing the witness of the Sisters, Benedictines, and students, this trip gave evidence enough that we cannot run from the love of God found in others no matter where our travels take us.

ASL IMMERSION by Gale DeArmin

Ms. Gale DeArmin, Clinical Assistant Professor of ASL and Ms. Debra Hast, Adjunct ASL Assistant Professor escorted 14 students, minoring in ASL, on a sign language immersion trip (ASL 450) in Jamaica. From February 28 - March 5, 2016, students immersed themselves in Jamaican Deaf Culture at the Jamaican Christian School for the Deaf (JCSD) in

Montego Bay. The SFU students taught classes, assisted teachers, played games, and attended "Jamaica Day" that were all conducted in sign language.



Left photo: ASL students, Brianna Guy and Katie Mihelcic hanging out with Jamaican students. Center photo: Kale Dively helping a student with a lesson. Right photo: Amber Radel and her new friend playing games.

REPRESENTING SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY IN TRAIL RACE, ALBAN, FRANCE

On Sunday, March 6, 2016, twenty study abroad students and staff participated in a trail race in Alban, France, about 20 minutes away from Ambialet. Fifteen students took part in a 5.5 mile hike. Students Brenna Erzen and Rosemary Smith and staff members Vanessa Hausmann, Krzysztof Blaszkiewicz, and Dr. Pedro Muíño participated in a 7.5 mile trail run. This was the first year this race took place and it was attended by approximately 400 people. Mayors and officials from the local communities were in attendance to greet the participants. The very muddy and wet race included a portion of running in the river bed. It was followed by a community lunch with the other participants in town. The Saint Francis University delegation took home lots of fun memories as well as two trophies! Brenna Erzen earned first place for her time in the under-22 category, and Dr. Muíño finished fourth place overall and received a trophy for his first place Masters time. He was congratulated on stage, French style, by Jean-Pierre Lefloch, mayor of Ambialet. Both winners also received a bottle of local Cunac wine for their efforts - typical French hospitality!



Trophy winners Brennan Erzen and Dr. Muíño



TEACHING IN FRANCE

Beth Wheeler, a 2011 Semester in France alum, graduated from SFU with a BS in Middle Education in 2013. As a Semester in France student who fell in love with the country, she moved back overseas in October 2014 to become an English language assistant through the Teaching Assistantship Program in France (TAPIF), which recruits young people from around the world to spend one or two years teaching their native language in France's public schools. Beth lives in the small southwestern city of Auch, population about 22,000, where she teaches English classes in three elementary schools, working with children between the ages of six and eleven. Her job as a

native speaker is to introduce the students to the language, with an emphasis on oral activities (songs, games, stories, etc). Beth's older classes recently held a market, using their play American money and newly-learned vocabulary to "buy" food-item flashcards. Beth says, "The most rewarding part of the job is seeing the children gain confidence in their ability to manipulate the language, using it to successfully communicate what they are thinking even when their attempts aren't one hundred percent accurate. And when I'm not working, I enjoy spending time with the other assistants in the area (who hail from everywhere from New Jersey to Wales to Mexico), hiking the scenic countryside, painting, shopping in the weekly markets, taking a French creative writing class, and traveling the area—including an occasional visit to Ambialet!" After she finishes her second term in Auch this spring, Beth plans to return to Pennsylvania (Johnstown or Pittsburgh) for a bit.

THIRD TIME'S A CHARM

Aaron Vizzini graduated from SFU with a BS in Computer Science. He is also a two-time Semester in France Alum (2011fall and 2013 spring). After graduation, Aaron worked for a year as a software engineer at Global Tel*Link in Altoona. His employment ended last August when he boarded a plane to France, yet again. He settled in Rouen, a city about an hour north of Paris. He has been working on his master's degree in Information Systems at ESIGELEC, an engineering school just outside of Rouen. Aaron will finish his classwork phase at the end of June and will begin an internship with Airbus in Toulouse assisting in the development of the company's mobile applications. Aaron will complete the program in February and receive his diploma March, 2017.



During his time in Rouen, Aaron has managed to swing by his old stomping grounds in Ambialet for a couple of visits. During one of his visits, he met up with another Semester in France alum living in France - Beth Wheeler. Aaron's looking forward to moving to Toulouse where he hopes to see SFU students from our France program on a

AMBIALET

Des étudiants au Sénat

ARTICLE IN THE LOCAL FRENCH NEWSPAPERS



Les étudiants américains du prieuré d'Ambialet viennent de séjourner huit jours à Paris dans le cadre de leurs études universitaires en France pour visiter des musées, monuments, concerts, galeries et marchés d'art. Issus principalement des filières de santé à l'université Saint Francis en Pennsylvanie, ils ont pu échanger pour la première fois avec des homologues à l'IFSI de l'Hôpital Franco-Britannique à la Défense, puis ont participé comme leurs prédécesseurs à une journée entière de commémoration: sortie à Suresnes au cimetière américain et au Mont Valérien et cérémonie du ravivage de la flamme de la tombe du soldat inconnu sous l'Arc de triomphe. La lecture de Liberté de Paul Eluard et le chant collectif de La Marseillaise et du Chant des partisans par les étudiants ont couronné cette journée exceptionnelle. Pour compléter leur séjour dans la capitale, ces jeunes américains, accompagnés par le maire d'Ambialet Jean-Pierre Lefloch ont été reçus par le sénateur Thierry Carcenac (notre photo), pour une visite du Sénat et pour s'instruire sur l'histoire du Palais du Luxembourg et le fonctionnement actuel des institutions politiques françaises.

Google translation of the article...

American students of the Priory of Ambialet just stay a week in Paris as part of their university studies in France to visit museums, monuments, concerts, galleries and art markets. Mainly from health courses at the University Saint Francis in Pennsylvania, they exchanged for the first time with counterparts at the IFSI of the Franco-British Hospital of Defense and participated like their predecessors in a day full of commemoration: output in Suresnes American cemetery and at the Mont Valerien and ceremony of flame brightening of the tomb of the unknown soldier under the Arc de Triomphe. Freedom reading Paul Eluard and the collective singing of the Marseillaise and the Chant des Partisans by students crowned this special day. To complete their stay in the capital, these young Americans, accompanied by the mayor of Ambialet Jean-Pierre Lefloch were received by Senator Thierry Carcenac (pictured), for a visit of the Senate and to learn about the history the Luxembourg Palace and the current functioning of French political institutions.

2016 SPRING SEMESTER IN FRANCE by PedroMuíño and Vanessa Hausmann

Plenty of adventure, education and fun is taking place once again in Ambialet this semester! The Spring cohort arrived in France in January for their three and a half month stay abroad. Even though there are only a few weeks left, they still have a packed schedule with many activities and outings. An integral component of their experience in France are the courses offered in Ambialet and this semester has continued the tradition of blending classroom learning with exciting visits around Southwestern France. French historian and Religious Studies professor Eric Créma has again taken us on a whirlwind tour of medieval Languedoc. Under his guidance we delved deep into history and saw the original Roman foundations of the city of Toulouse and the statues left behind by that civilization. We also visited the first Dominican convent, built in order to combat the Cathar heresy, as well as various other churches in the region. As we write this we are looking forward to our upcoming trip to Montségur and Carcassonne, a fortified city that has its origins in the 6th century BC and has resisted numerous attempts to be conquered. Eric certainly has a flair for exciting the imaginations of our students!

Two other courses in Ambialet add a unique flavor to the experience. Dr Lisa Gentile's course in comparative public health systems has incorporated a variety of visits to a local nursing home, exchanges with young French students of

information technology for the health sector, and a visit to a nursing teaching hospital in Paris. The exchange with the IT students also gives us a unique chance to befriend French youth with similar interests. Dr Pedro Muíño, our visiting faculty member from Loretto, is teaching a seminar on seminal moments in the development of the European identity. Students conduct their own independent research and then they engage in lively debate and presentations. As part of this

course, we visited the Pech Merle caves in south-central France, where we witnessed, first-hand, some of the oldest works of prehistoric art produced by humankind, dating from over 30,000 years ago.

Alongside these many outings, students also traveled to Barcelona and Paris in conjunction with their fine arts course, which for the first time was co-taught by Tracey Warr and Dr. Gerald Honigsblum. Tracey is a new member of our team. She is an established art historian professor in the UK as well as an author of several historical novels, including one set in our dear home Ambialet! Our trip to Northern Spain, which took place in February, was largely led by Tim Perkins, our esteemed leader. Barcelona, a truly cosmopolitan city, provided our students the opportunity to be independent. It also allowed them to experience visits in first class museums, such as the Picasso Museum, the Miró Foundation and the Dalí Museum in Figueres and to take tours of world class architecture, including the Gothic Catedral de Santa Eulalia or the unclassifiable Gaudí masterpiece La Sagrada Familia.

As a capstone to Dr Honingsblum's class, the student participated in a variety of activities during their 8 day stay in Paris. There is the unmissable, classical Louvre Museum, the modern Orsay Museum, as well as exploration of contemporary art at the Mona Lisa Gallery



The whole 2016 spring semester in France group in front of the Sacré Cœur Basilica in Montmartre

and the Montparnasse Art Market, where students could engage in person with current day artists and their works. In addition to their art history work, the Paris experience was enriched by Gerry's interest in the commemoration of recent



Steven Hessmann, a 1982 SFU graduate who works in the Advancement Office, was recently visiting Ireland with his wife, Terri. During one of their excursions, Terri wore an SFU sweatshirt. The couple was stopped by four SFU students from Ambialet who were traveling through Ireland during their spring break. Everyone was surprised to meet fellow SFU family so far away from home. Pictured above at the Cliffs of Moher are: (left to right) Kevin Charney, Stephanie Pistner, Natalie Albright, Brittany Dieffenback, & Terri Hessmann.

French history. From his high ranking position with the Association Mont Valérien, Gerry was able to put together a day of commemoration, when the students visited the American Cemetery in Suresnes, the fortress at Mont Valérien and the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. The

students actively participated in various meaningful ceremonies. At the American Cemetery students laid a wreath of flowers at the altar in recognition of the sacrifices made by American soldiers in both world wars and participated in the lowering of the American and French flags. The visit to the fortress where the Gestapo executed the French freedom fighters was an emotional one. Students saw first-hand testimonies of those about to be killed and participated in a ceremony where five white roses were laid at the site of the execution posts. They read the poem Liberté by Paul Eluard, written during the Nazi occupation, sang the anthem of the Résistence, and finished by singing the French national anthem, La Marseillaise. The day concluded with the rekindling of the flame at the tomb of the unknown soldier at the Arc de Triomphe. Our group received congratulatory remarks by the officials of both French sites for the student's awareness of the country's culture and history.

After our visit to Paris, the students departed for 7 days of independent travel throughout Europe. They came back to Ambialet from this experience both exhilarated and

exhausted. Upon their return they were very happy to receive the special visit of Fr Malachi, who was with us for Easter weekend. While the Americans, once again, failed to take home the Ambialet Cricket Cup against the European team, reinforced by Dr Muíño representing Spain, all had a fine afternoon with our local British neighbors, who afterwards joined us for Eastern dinner.



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It has been a great and engaging semester. We look forward to three more weeks in sunny Ambialet as the wisteria begins to bloom.