

SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY OFFICE FOR STUDY ABROAD

meeting our brothers and sisters around the globe

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2017

Travel

by Dr. Arthur Remillard

The English word “travel” likely originates from the Latin verb *trepaliare*, which, curiously enough, means “to torture.” The *trepaliare* was an ancient torture device, comprised of “three stakes” for impaling. Pleasant image, right? Anyway, over time, the word expanded in European languages to imply toil, struggle, suffering, and labor—all common experiences of travel in the Middle Ages. In this time before cars, planes, and comfy hotels, a traveler put life and limb at risk while on the road, all in the hopes of reaching a specified destination.

We still find hints of the Latin roots of “travel” in an English word like “travail,” or the French verb for work, “travailler.” But in our current time, traveling evokes images of relaxing, regrouping, and “getting away from it all.” Still, as I write this in Ambialet nearing the end of a semester in France and Europe, I detect traces of the ancient meaning of this word. The medieval pilgrim, after all, did not travel for the sake of suffering. Instead, this person weighed the risks of travel against the rewards and chose to forge onward in search of spiritual enlightenment, physical healing, and personal discovery.



Apples from Trebas! (From the bottom, left-to-right... Ruth Remillard, Abe Remillard, Art Remillard; Cassy Brungard, Sierra Wees; Hannah Contrino (Curry) Briana Lidwell; Donna Beydoun, Kate Remillard; Kyle Dumouchelle, Michael Holey)

To travel, then, is to privilege hope over hesitancy, to set aside the comforts of the status quo and embrace the challenges of the unknown. It’s the sort of thing that makes for great storytelling. Indeed, from *The Odyssey* to *The Wizard of Oz*, our favorite stories depict heroes who journey into lands marked by strangers and strangeness. Here, they discover new ways of understanding themselves and the world around them, before returning home fundamentally changed by the experience.

I’m not sure that the faculty and students here in Ambialet would compare themselves to Odysseus or Dorothy. But our travels near and far—Albi, Barcelona, Paris and more— have certainly caused us to see life anew. In each experience and setting, we have truly traveled, struggling in gaps created by differing languages and cultures. The simple task of ordering lunch in French generates a swirl of anxiety and uncertainty. But with time, awkward physical gestures, and Google translate, we have stumbled along.

Soon we will all return to the United States as well as to the rhythms of our previous lives there. But if we are mindful of our time here, Ambialet will stay with us in both significant and subtle ways. We might be more willing to allow a dinnertime conversation to continue long after the food is gone. Or perhaps we will discover new artists and museums. Or maybe we will simply live each day knowing that we once accepted a challenge that has prepared us to accept more challenges ahead.

Irrespective of the lessons learned, we have all been travelers in the original sense of the word. Of course, none of this has been “torture.” But it has brought about another t-word—*transformation*. Each class, each field trip, each hike, and each metro stop has given us the space to bring the person who we are closer to the person who we aspire to be. To put it another way, our travel in and around Ambialet has helped each of us to “become that someone.”



Fun in the Fountain in Albi (Emily Courtwright, Mackenna Ray, Taylor Peruso, Olivia Coll)



An Afternoon at Ambialet's Primary School

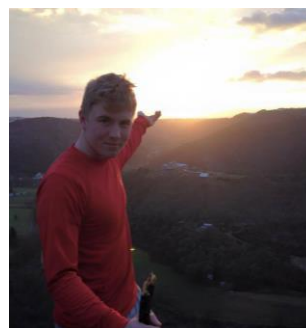
Semester in France Applications for the 2018 Fall Semester are NOW DUE!

Dr. Brennan Thomas will be teaching ENGL 104/247 in France during the 2018 fall semester.

Additional courses to be offered in the fall include: BIOL 205, CORE 407, FREN 112, FREN 201, FREN 202, FNAR 102, and RLST 390 (students may also take online courses if needed).

For an application email: studyabroad@francis.edu or visit: <https://www.francis.edu/semester-in-france/>

Meet the new Study Abroad Graduate Assistant!



Connor McDonnell, a first year MBA student, has been on both the Semester in France and the Spring Break in London programs. He is eager to convince every student that their time at Saint Francis is not

complete until they study abroad.

Successful 2017 Summer Programs

Due to the enthusiasm of our faculty, this past summer proved to be, yet another, fruitful season for SFU's short-term, faculty-led study abroad programs. The University sent 84 students abroad during the summer to programs in Bolivia, Costa Rica, Italy, Nicaragua, Peru, and St. Lucia. Check out what a few of the students had to say about their summer experiences...



During my month in Parma, Italy, I learned so much about my major and myself. Traveling and experiencing a different culture helped me grow as a person. The internship helped me solidify what I want to accomplish during the rest of my years at Saint Francis and my professional phase. Most importantly, I was introduced to some of my best friends on this trip. I will always treasure the memories made while we were in Italy.

Caitlin Feltenberger, 2017 Internship in Italy program

I spent a week in the Caribbean at the island of Saint Lucia as a part of the Research Diver Techniques class. I learned a lot about the surrounding environment, including the coral reefs and the many organisms that live there. I practiced and utilized actual underwater research techniques to collect data along different dive sites. I not only had the opportunity to dive many times during this program, I also experienced the culture and customs of a different place.

Colleen Naeger, 2017 Scuba in St. Lucia program



My experience in Costa Rica was incredible! It was a full immersion experience into the Spanish culture. It was eye-opening to live with a Costa Rican family and see what their daily lives entailed. Not only did I learn a lot about their culture and language, I also visited many beautiful sites throughout the country. Out of the three locations visited during the trip, the beach campus was my favorite! I will never forget this once in a life time experience and the new friends I made while on the trip!

Nicole Taylor, 2017 Spanish in Costa Rica program

I had the opportunity to study abroad and participate in the High Andes Research & Service program as an Environmental Engineering student. In two weeks, I traveled in and out of Peru and Bolivia, sightseeing several different ancient Inca artifacts and working with my fellow environmental engineering classmates on projects dealing with acid mine drainage and water catchment systems. As a group, we collected water samples and parameters at several mining sites throughout Bolivia. We also traveled to the town of Yulo, Bolivia and assisted the community with designing a new water catchment system for drinking water. There were plenty of amazing excursions such as visits to Moray, Machu Picchu, and Death Road. While visiting Machu Picchu, I hiked throughout a mountain of terraces and experienced one of the most sacred places on earth. My trip was finished off with a downhill mountain bike ride on one of the most dangerous routes known as "death road". I rode along 600 meter cliffs and descended down windy, mountainous terrain that went from 4,650 meters to 1,200 meters in elevation. Overall, my trip was full of great experiences, and I was able to make a difference by helping communities in Bolivia obtain a better source of clean water along with sightseeing some of the most beautiful places on earth.



Logan Madison, 2017 Engineering in High Andes program

SFU Students Recognize the Value

Studying abroad is clearly rising to the top of students' to-do lists. The positive impact of study abroad experiences are genuine and students do not want to miss out. To explore the long-term impact of study abroad, the Institute for International Education of Students (IES) recently conducted a survey revealing the following benefits of students who have studied abroad. Students who have studied abroad have a better understanding of their own cultural values and biases (98%).

Study abroad students indicated the experience was a catalyst for increased maturity (97%) and increased their self-confidence (96%). Students also indicated the experience had a lasting impact on their worldview (95%) and they acquired skill sets that influenced their career path (75%). Furthermore, 64% of employers surveyed think an international experience is important.

SFU students recognize these benefits and lead the pack in study abroad. The Open Doors Report includes the national percentage of college students who study abroad before graduating is 10%. The percentage of SFU students who have studied abroad before graduating is 31.6%!



Check out the new study abroad photo display in the Library, "Oh the Places You'll Go."

Upcoming Study Abroad Opportunities

Business in London March 1 - 10
 directors: Drs. Randy Frye and James Logue
 program courses: MHRM 544 or MBA 513

Drum & Dance, Guinea .. **NEW!** March 2 – 11
 director: Dr. Lauri Chose
 program courses: MUS 202 or ENGL 450

Biology in the Galapagos .. **NEW!** March 2 – 10
 directors: Drs. Gail Drus and Melissa Meadows
 program course: BIOL 322

HUGS Service in Jamaica March 3 – 11
 director: Ms. Lisa Georgiana

HUGS Service in Costa Rica March 3 – 10
 director: Dr. Carrie Beebout

HUGS Service in Bahamas .. **NEW!** .. March 3 - 10
 director: Dr. Laurie Grosik

Sign Language in Jamaica March 1 - 7
 director: Ms. Gale DeArmin
 program course: ASL 450

Business in China .. **NEW!** May 14 – 22
 director: Dr. Randy Frye
 program courses: MHRM 544 or MBA 513

Deaf Freedom Caribbean ... **NEW!** . June 14 – 21
 director: Ms. Gale DeArmin
 program course: ASL 401

Internships in Italy June 1 – July 1
 director: Ms. Mary Jean Bujdos
 program course: HUM 398/399

Scuba Diving in St. Lucia May, TBA
 director: Mr. Nick Weakland
 program courses: MS 101, MS 102, or MS 491

Social Work in Taiwan **NEW!** May, TBA
 director: Dr. Mark Lynch
 program courses: SCWK 452 and FNAR 102

Spanish in Costa Rica June 7 – July 1
 director: Mr. Brent Ottaway
 program courses: SPAN and ART 115