

# SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY



## Meeting Our Brothers and Sisters Around the Globe

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

FALL 2010

### STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

Semester in France

Summer in France

Springtime in Italy

Spanish in Mexico

Spring Break in London

Spring Break in Paris

Hugs United

Cooperative Center for  
Study Abroad Offerings

ASL Immersion Cruise

Detailed information about the  
programs listed above may be found  
at:

[www.francis.edu/StudyAbroad.htm](http://www.francis.edu/StudyAbroad.htm)

*During this spring break and  
summer, approximately 175  
students and 20 faculty  
members will be  
participating in SFU  
international programs.*

### SFU REPRESENTED AT NATIONAL CEREMONY IN PARIS



In Paris, every evening at 6:30, a ceremony is held at the Arc de Triomphe. The Arc, with its Eternal Flame, honors French soldiers, as well as the Unknown Soldier. Retired French military tend the flame and perform the evening ritual. Individuals from allied countries are invited to participate in the ceremony. Last week, Saint Francis students taking part in the University's Semester in France program, were invited to lead the march under the arch, place the wreath at the site, and help rekindle the flame during the ceremony. Included in the group are left to right: Rebecca La Course, Lauren Graboswki, Shane Martin, Gabe Phillips, Edward Biemer, Kerstin Reiss, Melanie Dollar, John Roche (program assistant) and far right, Dr. Gerry Honigsbulm (program academic director). John Roche said, *To represent the U.S. in such a moving ceremony was amazing and such a humbling experience. It is a night I will always remember.*

### SEMESTER IN FRANCE FACULTY

Dr. Stephen Baker is preparing to spend the spring semester in France with 20 SFU students and 2 students from Neumann College. Dr. Baker's daughter, Mollie, will also be joining the group. In addition to the core curriculum taught in France (6 credits of FREN, 3 credits of RLST, and 4 credits of FNAR) Dr. Baker will be offering PSYC 305. Dr. Marian Langer, having already spent a semester in France, will also offer BIOL 206, online, for some of the students in France during the spring semester.

Dr. Larry Rager, Charles Olson and Marie Olson are scheduled to teach during the fall semester in France. Dr. Rager will be adding to the mix PHIL 313, MGMT 206 or ACCT 409, depending on the academic needs of the students. Mr. Olson will be offering additional FNAR credits and Ms. Olson, a native of France and French instructor at IUP, will be teaching the FREN classes.

*If you are a faculty member  
interested in developing a short-  
term study abroad experience,  
handbooks outlining the  
procedure are available at the  
Center for International  
Education, Schwab 213.*

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH  
814-472-3245 / [jhorvath@francis.edu](mailto:jhorvath@francis.edu) / [www.francis.edu/studyabroad.htm](http://www.francis.edu/studyabroad.htm)

## NEW STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES

Gale DeArmin and Karen Walkney-Mrdjenovich have brought to the study abroad table a new and interesting option for our American Sign Language students. This May, students who qualify for the program, will spend 8 days aboard the Oasis of the Seas Cruise Ship which will be escorting deaf passengers. There will be over 450 deaf people on this cruise from five different countries. Students will be exposed to a plethora of signing styles, sign variations, and language differences. The cruise will go to the Bahamas with excursions to Nassau, St. Thomas, St. Maarten and include several sea days. All of the cruise entertainment and events will be interpreted, such as *Hair Spray*, or the event will be visually appealing, such as acrobatics. There will be deaf comedians and deaf excursions with activities that promote interaction.

## A FRESH FACE TO THE MEXICO PROGRAM

For years the Mexico program has been based out of Curnevaca at the Universidad Internacional. Due to the unrest in that region, Dr. Margaret Morales has revised the program to ensure students' safety. The program has moved to the Yucatan Peninsula, the land of the Mayans. The Maya region is rich in Franciscan history. In addition to earning up to 7 credits, students will take a spiritual journey on an excursion of the "Convent Route" outside of Merida in the Yucatan Peninsula. This tour travels to several small towns and cities where the first Franciscans built churches on top of pyramid ruins. Students will also visit Xcaret – one of the largest ecological parks in the Americas. They will swim with dolphins, snorkel in an underground river, and marvel at the beauty and wonders of biodiversity. Other excursions will include a visit to the Mayan ruins of Chichen Itza, which was recently declared one of the seven new wonders of the world; a weekend in Merida – a beautiful colonial city which is a national heritage site; and ride in a glass-bottomed boat to see the spectacular coral reef off the coast of Cozumel. Students will also have the chance to serve the orphans of Hogar de Esperanza (Home of Hope).

## THIRD ANNUAL STUDY ABROAD REUNION

by Tim Crawford

The third annual study abroad reunion (photo below) was held on September 9, 2010 from 5-7 P.M. at the JFK lounge. The reunion brought together over sixty students and directors from each study abroad program and gave them a chance to catch up and reminisce.

The event featured free food, music, and global trivia. For trivia, students were asked to form their own teams. Most students formed groups based on the study abroad program in which they participated. Global trivia featured three rounds of questions with each round becoming progressively harder. The first question asked students, "What year was the SFU Center for International Education founded?" 1995? 2000? 2005? 2010? Maybe the question was a little harder than anticipated. Answer: 2005. The final question asked students, "How long would it take you to walk from London to Paris? Conditions: It's 231 miles from London to Paris. You're constantly walking, NO breaks. Finally, when you get to the English Channel you can take a ferry from one side to another.

Students at the reunion ranged from the most seasoned study abroad alumni to interested students inquiring about various programs. One student, Noelle Barber, traveled to three different places. She studied and traveled to Mexico, Dominican Republic, and Honduras. Where to next Noelle?

The reunion gave interested students the opportunity to talk with students who have already studied abroad. It allowed them to ask any questions they may have about the programs. Where should I study? When is the best time to go? What do I pack? How's the food? etc. The study abroad reunion was perfectly timed this year. Students studying abroad in France this fall semester were able to stop by for some last minute tips before their departure on Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Visit [www.francis.edu/FranceBlogs.htm](http://www.francis.edu/FranceBlogs.htm) to read their blogs or see what students are saying on Facebook at Saint Francis University Study Abroad Programs.

The Center for International Education would like to thank everyone for attending and a big thanks to everyone involved in planning the event. We hope to see even more of you next year! And in case you're burning to know how long it takes to walk from London to Paris, the answer is 2 days and 7 hours!



## PT STUDENTS IN ITALY



Physical therapy students Andrew Sossong (DPT '11), top left, and Rebecca Kossler (DPT '11), bottom left, have recently completed an 8-week clinical education experience with Istituto Prosperius Tiberino in Umbertide, Italy. Istituto Prosperius is one of Italy's leading centers of rehabilitation for individuals with neurological, orthopedic and sports injuries and disorders. This clinical internship, organized by PT faculty members Peg Calvert and Kay Malek in cooperation with former PT Department Chair Michael Arnall, offers SFU PT students an opportunity to apply classroom learning in a treatment environment and to learn to deliver care in a non-English-speaking culture. Andrew and Rebecca's main Clinical Instructors in Italy were Mr. Sauro Valloni and Ms. Giulia Giorni. The Istituto's Dr. Paolo Milia, neurologist and Director of Neurorehabilitation, and Dr. Marco Caserio, physiatrist and Medical Director, took an active part in assuring the success of this inaugural experience at Istituto Prosperius. The Istituto has asked SFU to double the number of student interns next year and has asked Mr. Arnall, currently President of Eduglobal Associates, to arrange for participation by three additional universities in this cross-cultural clinical education experience.



Currently in Italy, physical therapy students Britta Albright (DPT '11), top right, and Bill Hanik (DPT '11), bottom right, have completed the first half of an 8-week clinical education experience at Fondazione F. Turati, one of Italy's oldest and most respected rehabilitation facilities, located in Gavinana, Italy. The Fondazione was established to treat children with developmental disabilities but has expanded to include treatment for

adult patients with orthopedic and neurological conditions. Its skilled nursing division also contains units for comatose patients and individuals with Alzheimer's Disease. Both in Gavinana and Vieste, Italy, the Fondazione provides assisted living services to several hundred individuals. When not busy in their clinical education efforts, guided by Clinical Instructors Elisa Mucci and Linda Bartalesi, Britta and Bill have enjoyed travel to Pisa, Lucca, Florence, Rome, and Venice.



- submitted by Michael Arnall

## IN APPRECIATION TO SFU STUDY ABROAD INNOVATORS

Dr. Kirk Weixel helped usher in study abroad to Saint Francis University by introducing the consortium agreement with the Cooperative Center for Study Abroad (CCSA) to SFU in the late 90's. CCSA has giving our students the opportunity to study abroad through programming in a variety of English speaking countries. Dr. Weixel and his wife, Mary



# Thank YOU!

experience.

Jeanne, have not only spent time traveling to the various CCSA board meetings and orientations; they have also participated, as program director, assistant director and/or faculty, in CCSA's Ireland program nine times and the London program once. After years of being SFU's CCSA representative, Dr. Weixel has passed the torch on to the Center for Int'l Education. THANK YOU, Kirk and Mary Jeanne, for your years of dedication to bringing wonderful study abroad experiences to our students.

Martha O'Brian introduced the student organization, B.R.I.D.G.E. (Building Relations in Diversity and Global Experience) to SFU back in 1998. Throughout the years, B.R.I.D.G.E. has been dedicated to helping schools and families in Haiti. The group raised funds and, when possible, traveled to Haiti. Because of safety issues, the University no longer sponsors travel to Haiti therefore the group has decided to dissolve. The students are exploring other international service options either through Hugs United and/or new programming. THANK YOU, Martha, for your many years of loyalty in helping our students with this wonderful cultural exchange



## WHY IS STUDY ABROAD IMPORTANT FOR OUR COUNTRY?

*Taken from NAFSA website.*

Today's global challenges demand international competence. Americans who study abroad in quality programs for academic credit; engage in service and experiential learning, internships, and research; and study foreign areas and languages are far better prepared for the demands of the twenty-first century.

**Foreign Policy** With the image of the United States suffering around the world, communicating our foreign policies and building relationships with other nations has become increasingly difficult. Diplomatic efforts continue to be frustrated by the deficiency in global positive attitudes toward America, which average about 40% around the world, according to a February 2009 BBC world public opinion poll.<sup>1</sup> A 2009 GAO report also listed the improvement of the U.S. image abroad as a top priority of issues requiring the urgent attention of President Obama and the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.

International exchanges have often been cited as one of our strongest and most effective public diplomacy tools. International experiences not only enhance understanding and cross-cultural sensitivity, but also give one a new perspective on one's own country. Those who have spent time studying and living abroad, who have developed an interest in a foreign country or region, who have friends there, and who speak their language, can and will be.

We need to ensure that our graduates step into the world with knowledge about and sensitivity to the rest of world. Studying abroad should be the rule rather than the exception in U.S. higher education. As we become a nation whose citizens are globally educated, we will become a nation whose root of knowledge and understanding enhances our contribution on the global stage.

**National Security** Our leaders have stated time and time again the lack of language and cultural skills among our citizens to effectively serve our national interests, and that desperate search continues today. According to an August 2007 U.S. GAO Report, almost a third of all State Department officers in language-designated positions overseas do not meet the necessary foreign language requirements.

Study abroad starts the learning process in a way that allows one to really see the world, hear the world, communicate with the world, and understand the world. These experiences afford students the cultural and linguistic education beyond what is available in U.S. classrooms. The most effective thing we can do, as a nation, to ensure that when tomorrow's crises arise we have the cultural and communication skills vital to our national security, is to have more American students living in and learning in the rest of the world.

**Economic Security** Currently, one in five U.S. jobs is linked to international trade<sup>2</sup>, yet U.S. companies lose an estimated \$2 billion a year to insufficient cross-cultural guidance for their employees in multicultural positions.<sup>3</sup> The truth is, we don't have the global know-how we need to advance in the world economy to our full potential. Today's workforce requires a depth of international expertise and language skills lacking in most U.S. graduates. Students living and learning in countries and cultures other than their own learn important skills enabling them to acclimate in today's global workplace of constant change. Opportunities for study abroad facilitate a net gain of insightful cultural awareness, an affinity for the people and cultures in countries around the world, and the ability to hone essential foreign language skills through cultural immersion unavailable at home.

<sup>1</sup> BBC World Service Poll [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

<sup>2</sup> Business Roundtable "Trade and American Jobs" February 2007 [www.businessroundtable.org](http://www.businessroundtable.org)

<sup>3</sup> Committee for Economic Development "Education for Global Leadership" Feb. 2006.

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in the picture**

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*I met a lot of people while  
studying abroad. I even  
encountered myself.*

- James Baldwin



