

SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY



Meeting Our Brothers and Sisters Around the Globe

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

FALL 2011

A FRENCH THANKSGIVING IN AMBIALET, FRANCE

by Charles Olson

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

Semester in France

Summer in France

Springtime in Italy

May in Mexico

Diving or Ecology in St. Lucia

Spring Break in London

Am. Sign Lang. in Jamaica

Research & Service in Bolivia

Hugs United

Cooperative Center for
Study Abroad Offerings

Detailed information about the
programs listed above may be found at:
www.francis.edu/StudyAbroad.htm

There is something about being far from home for the holidays that gives one the energy to recreate “home” and engage in a community activity that is formed from everyone’s collective memories and traditions. So it was with the students, faculty, and administration of Saint Francis University’s center in Ambialet, France this Thanksgiving Day.

All of the dynamics were there to make for a most perfect holiday celebration. The myth of a coming together of Pilgrims and Native Americans worked nicely into the director’s (Tim Perkins) initiative to invite 15 French students and faculty from the BCS program in Gaillac to share a most traditional Thanksgiving feast as well as close friends of the program from the village of Ambialet. We needed to impress them and ourselves with what we could do to match the best of our Thanksgiving memories of family, friends, and feasting. The challenge was taken up by virtually everyone in designing the perfect day. Let’s start with the food...

Tim, a well of resource and ideas, found 4 turkeys (not easy to do in largely turkeyless France) and driven by a family recipe for mashed potatoes sought out the 22 pounds that were needed to feed 40 people. The green beans would come from our gardens here at the monastery where, even in late November, the stalks are still producing. No problem.

Desserts? Marie Olson directed the students in baking both pumpkin and apple pies in the tradition of her French mother. Everyone participated in the harvesting, cutting, slicing, and mixing. The energy and anticipation rose. Bernard, the center’s stalwart chef of chefs insisted on making hundreds of handmade appetizers. More mixing and cutting brought to life a great range of petit treats to be served with the wine tasting that was to be the gift of the French students from the BCS school. Tim remembered bouquets of flowers, tablecloths, and the idea of cranberry sauce. But where to get cranberry sauce in a Thanksgivingless country? Tim mused and reminded us that Hillary Boher had an uncle in the military based in Germany where the PX might well have the “sauce.” Indeed. A quick e-mail and a quick military response brought 4 cans to the abbey. Canned corn was found (culturally food for animals in France) and the most amazing stuffing was composed from French bread and inspired ingredients. To this was added the necessary French touches of great wines and cheeses. Together we had designed and produced an epic meal.

There was more “thanksgiving” to design. A show of student painting, drawing, and photography was staged and decorations cut from napkins sent by the Harmon’s (of Laura Harmon) helped to animate the 11th century vaulted room where all of this would play out.



A FRENCH THANKSGIVING continued...

Then, someone mentioned football. We found a football and we “borrowed” a parcel of land from Peter and Margaret in the village that would serve as the playing field. Teams were organized into the White vs. the Black with team members donning the appropriate color. The Blacks went all out. Face paint, customized cheers, motivated huddling, and a major attitude. The White team practiced instead with quiet cool. It got intense with 8 on 8 for 75 minutes of never before seen football in Ambialet. Even Chef Bernard commented that “It’s getting hot in the trenches!” The White team won the toss, received and drove in for a score with Sophie LeQuere (administrative assistant) running a sweep for a score. The Blacks answered with a deep pass to Laura Harmon to tie it up. The Whites defense controlled, then Monica King (tight end) got loose in the end zone for a 15 yard pass for a score. Again the White defense held and quarterback Chuck Olson ran a keeper round the left to make it 21-7. Celebrations and photos closed the match.



The wine tasting, dining and mingling with the French guests lasted for 5 hours. Students exchanged facebook addresses and e-mails. The parade of desserts was highlighted by a very happy birthday chorus for Rob Callis-Keiser who had the great fortune to have a birthday on the 24th of November 2011.

It all reminded us of home, loved ones, and traditions. It was also a very “Thanksgiving” that made us all realize that home is where we are and how we make or design our lives to create well being (not to mention the importance of sharing).

Check out the French TV clip about our group in France at:
<http://www.pluzz.fr/jt-local-19-20---tarn-2011-11-24-19h15.html>

SPRING BREAK TRIPS

Drs. Randy Frye and James Logue are preparing for another spring break in London with a group of 20 students. The trip is part of the hybrid course, *Great Britain and the European Union in the Global Economy*.

Hugs United is gearing up for their spring break mission trips. A group of 60 will be traveling to the Dominican Republic to work in clinics and schools. Another group of 10 will be going to Nicaragua. Both groups will be offering service through Outreach 360 organization.

STUDY ABROAD REUNION



Students gathered to share stories about their international adventures during the Study Abroad Reunion held on September 23rd.

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS TOUR: SOUTHWESTERN FRANCE

May 19 – 27, 2012 ✿ \$2,999 all inclusive

Join alumni and friends of Saint Francis University on this once-in-a-lifetime tour of southwestern France. From your base in the monastery of Ambialet, where the University operates its study abroad program, you will have an opportunity to see, taste, feel and marvel at the wonders of the region – castles, chateaux, ruins, quaint medieval hilltop villages, stunning views, and awe-inspiring cathedrals. Did we mention they also have wine here? And cheese? And food such as you've never tasted?

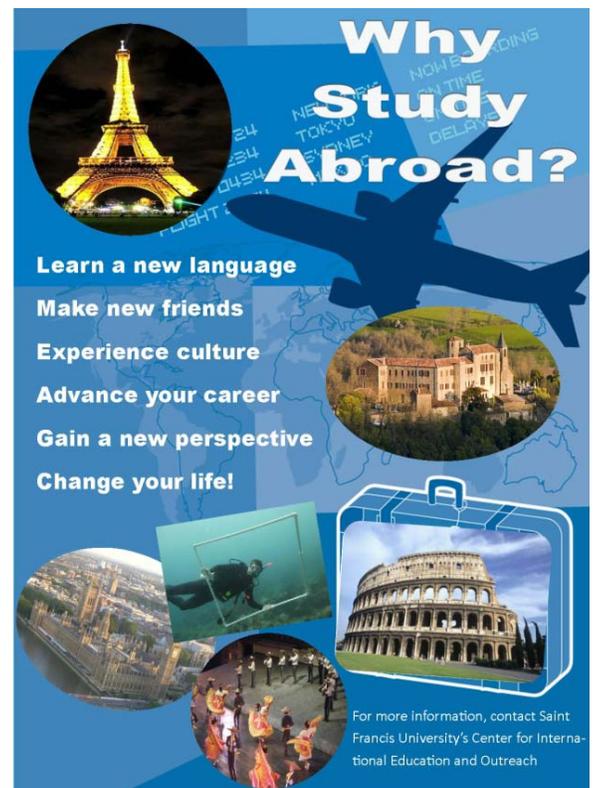
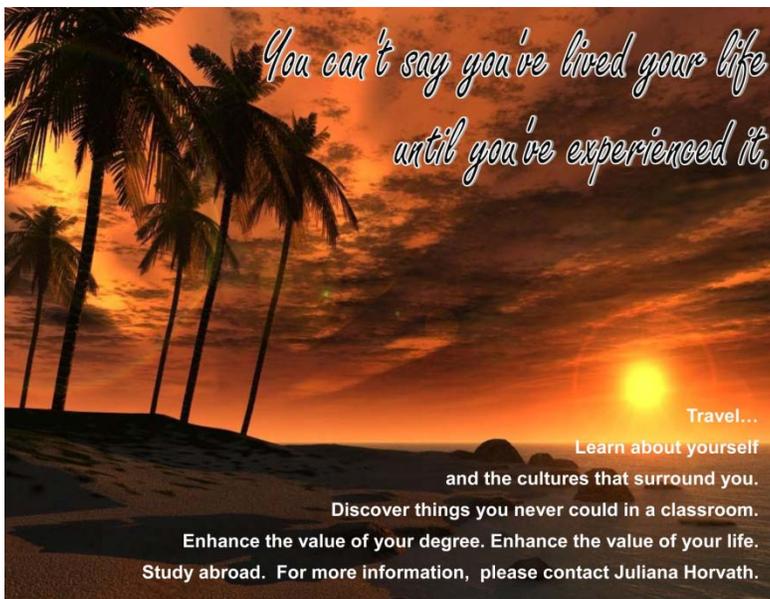
The program will be led by the Executive Director of International Programs at Saint Francis – Tim Perkins – who has overseen both the restoration of the monastery at Ambialet and the development of Saint Francis's first semester-long study abroad program. He will be joined by local experts who teach in the program. The itinerary will guide you through a wide variety of sites in the region, balancing the schedule to maximize your time without feeling like you're in boot camp. The emphasis will be on FUN -- fun exploring, fun eating, and fun bantering with new friends.

All meals will be provided. Housing will be in the monastery – in rooms that are newly redone. The monastery is not a hotel (there is no concierge or bellman), but there is internet access in every room, hot water in the showers, and the building is a peaceful oasis with spectacular views and total calm.

To reserve your spot on the tour contact the Center for International Education at x3245 or jhorvath@francis.edu.

POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

As part of International Education Week, a poster contest was held. Entries were to address the questions, *Why study abroad?* The award of a \$250 study abroad scholarship was divided between two recipients – Amanda Williamson (poster below) and Kayla Esterline (poster on the right). Congratulations!



According to the Opendoors 2011 Report, 9.5% of U.S. undergraduate students studied abroad last year. Saint Francis University students are apparently grasping the importance of a study abroad experience in today's society – last year 13.6% of our SFU undergraduate population studied abroad!

STUDY ABROAD FAIR

A Study Abroad Fair was hosted during International Education Week on November 16th. The event was a one-stop shopping experience for students exploring the various opportunities. The Financial Aid Office was available to offer advice for students seeking support for their international experience. The Print Shop was also on the scene to take passport photos. Programs were represented by student alums and program coordinators. The fair was attended by 60+ potential study abroad students.

- taken from a student's reflection of her Summer in France experience

... the growth you get from this trip may not be just from outside influences--the food, the language, the traditions--but from an inner journey and a subsequent change inside of you. While you climb physical peaks and conquer treacherous terrain, sometimes you are fighting a parallel battle in your soul, an uphill climb to let go of preconceived notions and change your way of thinking. Life is an adventure. You have truly reached higher, and gone farther.

Expand your view this summer...



... in **Bolivia, France, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, Scotland or St. Lucia**

Stop by the **Center for International Education (Schwab 214)** to schedule your summer study abroad experience.

SPRING SEMESTER IN FRANCE

Dr. Larry Rager, retired SFU business professor, will be spending the spring semester in France with our group of 16 students. In addition to the core classes taught in France, Dr. Rager will be adding MGMT 206 and PHIL 313 to the mix.

The classes will take advantage of the international setting and will include excursions to large international companies including **Airbus** (EADS) facility in Toulouse where the A380, the largest commercial plane, is assembled; a **Tyco** subsidiary near Albi which started in northern Pennsylvania; and some of the world's largest Fortune 500 corporations of which 39 are headquartered in Paris (more than any other city).

Students will examine international trade, management, ethics all while experiencing first-hand the many issues that affect international transactions.

Top five leading destinations of U.S. study abroad students, according to the Opendoors 2011 Report, are: United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, France and China.

Semester in France Travel Blogs



Check out the students' blogs on their adventures in France at: www.francis.edu/franceblogs.htm