

# SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY



## Meeting Our Brothers and Sisters Around the Globe

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2012

### 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

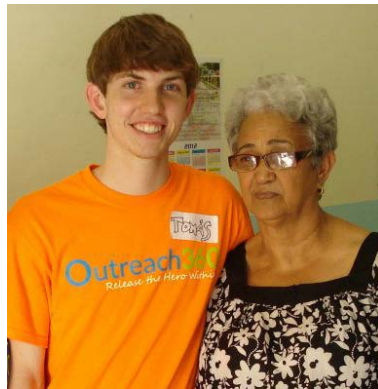
Am. Sign Lang. in Jamaica

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



Thomas Jonson with an OT patient  
in the Dominican Republic.

poorest in this hemisphere and our organization provides, under Tom's leadership, multiple avenues of service including education, medical and rehab care. (submitted by Hugs United Advisor, Dr. Bill Hanlon).

### OUTSTANDING INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AWARD

This year the Outstanding International Service Award was given to Thomas Johnson. Tom has demonstrated Franciscan values both as a member of the Hugs United club and as president of the organization. Tom has generously given of his time for the last two years, persevering despite poor turnout to meetings and difficulties motivating students to attend and participate in fundraisers. Service to the poor and needy is one of the Franciscan values that both the Hugs United club and Tom demonstrate. The people we serve are among the

### AMBIALET FAMILY REUNION

One of the most amazing and wonderful aspects of the Semester in France program is the way in which four months in a monastery bonds people together, turning strangers into lifelong friends. After three months back in the States, the alumni of the Fall 2011 Semester in France program gathered in March for a joyful "Ambialet Family Reunion" at Cook Forest State Park. Nine of the ten students joined professors Chuck and Marie Olson for a weekend of catching up and spending time together. The group enjoyed a day of hiking and exploring the forest - marveling at the ancient trees, clambering around the incredible rock formations, and picnicking French-style. In the



2011 Fall Semester in France Family

evenings, everyone gathered in the living room to relax with popcorn and French films. Other activities included cooking, playing games, having a bonfire, making s'mores, and sitting around the dinner table laughing uncontrollably. Old memories were shared and new memories made, and the group parted with the hope that the camaraderie built in Ambialet will continue to thrive for many years to come. (submitted by Beth Wheeler, 2011 Fall Semester in France Alum)

### ALUMNI & FRIENDS TOUR: FRANCE

From May 19<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> ten very fortunate individuals will be participating in the Alumni & Friends Tour in France. From their base in the monastery at Ambialet, where the University operates its study abroad program, they will experience the wonders of the region - castles, chateaux, ruins, quaint medieval hilltop villages, stunning views, and awe-inspiring cathedrals. The emphasis will be on FUN -- fun exploring, fun eating, fun bantering with new friends.

## SEMESTER IN FRANCE STUDENTS TAKE EUROPE

The students studying abroad in Ambialet, France took full advantage of exploring new places. Below are some awesome photos taken by some of our 2012 spring semester in France students during excursions and personal travels - adventures that will last a lifetime!



*Studying abroad in France gave me the opportunity to complete an entire semester worth of credits, while at the same time providing me with the tools necessary to travel to cities and countries I had previously only dreamed of visiting. My personal recommendation, DO NOT let this opportunity pass you by!*

*-Kellie Himes,  
2012 Spring Semester in France*

*Welcome back to the USA, 2012 Spring Semester in France students!*

## SPRING BREAK IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Our Hugs United group sponsored two international trips this spring break – one to the Dominican Republic and another to Nicaragua.

The group that traveled to the Dominican Republic was divided into three main teams: medical, rehabilitation, and education. The medical team consisted of Physician Assistants (PAs) and physicians as well nursing students, and they traveled to the poorest areas of Monte Crist providing free medical care, and medication.

There were two rehabilitation teams: one stayed in Monte Crist, while the other traveled an hour and a half each day to a clinic in the town of Mao. Both teams provided rehabilitation to patients at the clinics and educated the Dominican therapists. The medical and rehabilitation teams also had a few student translators to make the care-giving easier. Last but not least, our education team taught English to students in a local community center in Monte Cristi. No matter what team a student was on, it was incredibly obvious by the end of the week the impact that they had made. Every person that was cared for and each student that was taught was deeply grateful for our work, and I think I speak for the group when I say that we were all changed and impacted in ways difficult to explain. Overall, the trip was an incredible experience. *(submitted by Tom Johnson, Hugs United President)*



## SPRING BREAK IN NICARAGUA



The spring break trip to Nicaragua was an experience unlike any other. We had the privilege to be one of the first groups to work in this country and were the first group from Saint Francis to travel there. While we only had a small group our impact was amazing. Our group of nine was able to bring

700 pounds of donations including clothing, food and school supplies to Jinotega, a small town in Northern Nicaragua. This group of students didn't stop there. They also worked tirelessly all week in an elementary school and at an after school program. They were given the task to help teach the Nicaraguan students English. This would help them to gain skills which will give them the advantage in the future job market and lift themselves out of poverty. These Saint Francis Students also took the opportunity to show the children of these schools Christ's love in a very real way. The trip was also a family experience in that this group of seven students and two administrators were able to bond together and establish relationships that will last a lifetime. The trip was a breathtaking venture for all involved and it was truly one of a kind. *(submitted by Shawn Lehman)*

### YELLOW FEVER CERTIFICATION

The Student Health Center was recently granted Yellow Fever Vaccine Certification. This certification allows the Student Health Center to administer yellow fever vaccinations that are required for entry into some international destinations. According to International Health Regulations, yellow fever vaccine must be administered at certified yellow fever vaccination centers. Health-care providers are authorized to administer the vaccine by state health departments and the states then report certified providers to CDC to list on the yellow fever vaccine provider registry.

Prior to the Student Health Center obtaining this certification, students, faculty, or staff that needed the vaccination had to travel to Pittsburgh to receive the vaccination. The vaccine is available to students, faculty and staff, traveling on both university sponsored trips and personal travel. The vaccine cost is \$125 and can be scheduled by calling 472- 3008. *(submitted by Cara Fox).*

## SPRING BREAK IN LONDON



Drs. Randy Frye and James Logue, along with a group of 20 students, spent their spring break in London. This year marked the sixth anniversary for the trip. The nine-day trip is part of the hybrid course, *Great Britain and the European Union in the Global Economy*. The course focuses on the role of Great Britain in the European Union and includes a variety of interactive educational programs in London which included a visit to Windsor Castle, a guided walking tour of the financial district of London, a guided tour of London Bloomberg, a lecture and a featured film at the Bank of England, a guided behind the scenes tour of the Fulham (a professional soccer club in the

Premier League), and an academic lecture at the University of London regarding the economic challenges facing the European Union by Dr. James Stewart, a noted economist and director of economic research for a prominent London financial services firm.

## SUMMER STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

The summer is already here! In a few days students from SFU will be taking the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico by storm in a one month program led by Dr. Morales. Nineteen students will undertake this language intensive program, and some students will also be taking a Religious Studies course. They will be able to show off their language skills while spending part of their time with a Mexican host family. Excursions will take them through the “Convent Route” outside of Merida in the Yucatan Peninsula, small towns where the first Franciscans built churches on top of pyramid ruins, Mayan ruins, and an ecological park where they will snorkel and swim with dolphins!

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, Chuck Olson will be taking his group of 17 students to Parma, Italy. They will spend their time learning the romantic language of Italian, as well as many fine arts courses including photography and hand drumming. The students will be given train passes which will allow them to spend 6 full days traveling throughout Italy, where they can explore historic cities such as Venice, Rome, and Florence. An exciting part of the experience will be the interaction with the locals, at street cafés, *gelaterias*, informal music sessions, festivals and other social events as they tour through the city on their bikes.

Ten sign language students will be led by Gale D’Armin and Dr. Chose on a service trip to Jamaica on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May. There they will be working at the Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf, providing daily service at the gated community of Knockpatrick, which has fifty deaf students. They will help with games, crafts, Bible studies, and other afterschool activities. They will also assist with daily chapel service at the Deaf Village by sharing Bible stories and songs in sign language. This exciting experience will be a hands-on approach leading up to full immersion in sign language.

The monastery in Ambialet, France will be home to nine students this June. The students will be immersed in French culture, music, history and the beautiful French language. Excursions will take them to historic castles, cathedrals and museums, and they will also have a free weekend to travel on their own. The Tarn River in Ambialet will allow the students to go swimming, kayaking, and allow for cook-outs as they enjoy the great weather of southern France.

The island of St. Lucia will be home to 8 students in May under the guidance of Dr. Morra and Nick Weakland. Students will take part in a diving course, and receive certification for open water diving. Students will participate in a Coral Reef Ecology Course, and learn how to identify vertebrates and invertebrates present on the reef, learn to relate the dynamic interactions between the species, as well as learn new biological research techniques and assessments. (*submitted by Henry Chuang*)