

SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY



Meeting Our Brothers and Sisters Around the Globe

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2014

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

Semester in France
ASL Immersion
Diving in St. Lucia
Field Study in the Galapagos
Hugs United in the DR & Jamaica
Research in Bolivia
Spanish in Costa Rica
Spring Break in London
Springtime in Italy
Cooperative Center for Study Abroad Offerings

FULL HOUSE FOR OUR FALL SEMESTER IN FRANCE

The students on the waiting list are eagerly waiting for someone to withdraw from the fall semester program in France. Most on the list are now preparing for the spring semester as the fall semester students pick up momentum in their preparation for their European adventure. This fall, nineteen Saint Francis University students will be joined by ten students from Curry College in Milton, MA. In addition to the new consortium between SFU and Curry, new courses have been added to the program's curriculum. A Public Health Elective - Comparative Health Systems, a Humanities course on World War I and an online Anatomy and Physiology I with lab (designed by Shelley Kirkpatrick) have been added to the already existing schedule of French Language, Early & Medieval Church History & Architecture, and Cultures and Values. The addition of the Public Health and Biology course has opened the doors for many more students in the Health Science Field. Saint Francis University is on a short list of colleges who offer a semester-long study abroad opportunity for students in Health Sciences. This is clearly a unique opportunity for these students and, for many, it is one of the reasons they've chosen to come to Saint Francis University.

Dr. Justin Merry, Mr. Chuck Olson and Ms. Marie Olson will be joining the students this fall offering credits in their specific curricular areas. Dr. Merry will be teaching a special topics course in Biology of Human Health in addition to helping usher in the newly designed BIOL 205. Mr. Olson will be busy with everything ART. Students have the opportunity to take Drawing, Painting, and/or Photography at various levels. The newly renovated art studio in the monastery will be ready for programming this summer and our semester-long program will first reap the benefits of the new studio this fall. Ms. Olson will be busy teaching various levels of French language and helping the students put their language skills to good use throughout the semester. Joining SFU faculty will be Linda Tenofsky, a nursing instructor from Curry College who will be offering a nursing course. We whole-heartedly welcome Dr. Tenofsky and the students from Curry College and look forward to a long-term affiliation.

REFLECTION OF A FACULTY MEMBER IN AMBIALET

by Dr. Rose Clark, teaching this spring semester in France

Ambialet, how do you describe a place that is beyond imagination until you see it? All of the gorgeous pictures around campus do not capture the calming beauty of the monastery and surrounding village. I have ventured to Ambialet three times now. The first trip was a friends and family tour with all four of us traveling (Rose, Ed, Eddie, and Shane). The second trip was for a one month summer class and again all 4 of us had the pleasure to experience Ambialet. This spring my oldest son, Eddie (15) and I have made our way back to learn more about French culture and to further improve our French language skills. As with previous trips, we have had so much fun, hiking the mountain paths, exploring the cave dwellings of miners and castle ruins, biking by the river, playing badminton and cricket, getting our feet wet in the Tarn river (the students all jumped into the 50 °F water but we passed). With all of that exercising we definitely needed great places to eat. One of the best places to get awesome food is the priory since Tim Perkins

BUSY SUMMER IN AMBIALET

Due to various programs and events, our site in Ambialet will be buzzing with activity this summer. Twenty-five Russian students will be studying during two weeks in May; three faculty and eleven students from Bishop Guilfoyle High School will be exploring the region while earning three credits in our first-time high school program for 10 days in June; fifty alum and friends of the University will be on tour for a week in June; thirteen artists from Dickinson will be creating for two weeks in July; a yoga program of ten will take place for a week in July; the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts will be hosting a program for ten days in July for twenty-two artists; SFU's Basketball team will be visiting for a couple of days in August; and the summer will wrap up with a destination wedding from Aug 29 – Sept 2. The full schedule will wrap up just in time for the arrival of fall Semester in France group on Sept 5th.

(director) makes sure we are taken care of with local French food. The small village also has Nadine's Cafe for a quick croque monsieur and salad, or the hotel restaurant for a fancy dinner. Ambialet is also the perfect home base for travels to wonderful villages and cities all over Southern France, Spain, and so many other countries. It is an amazing experience. As we finish up a semester in one of the most beautiful locations in France - many of us are planning how to get back to Ambialet.

CHRISTMAS BREAK IN AUSTRALIA



Haley Crncic: *Australia was one of the best experiences of my life. I saw wild animals and ecosystems I always dreamed of seeing, especially the Great Barrier Reef. I met friends I will never forget, and memories to last a lifetime.*

Through SFU's consortium agreement with the Cooperative Center for Study Abroad, Dr. Sue Morra and five of our students: Haley Crncic, Andrew Heise, Matthew Herbert, Melissa Martin and Derek Waksmunski joined Dr. Ruth Beattie from the University of Kentucky and other students within the consortium for field biology in Australia during this past Christmas break. They studied the unique characteristics of both terrestrial and aquatic organisms; learned the basics of field biology using the Australian ecosystems. They explored the rainforest and botanical gardens learning why Australian plants have diversified to meet ecological conditions. The group visited zoological parks to examine animal diversity and snorkeled/dove the Great Barrier Reef to the study the world's largest barrier reef ecology.

2014 SPRING BREAK IN LONDON

by Center for International Education Graduate Assistant, Michael Vaughn

Through the School of Business over 20 students went to London to learn about Britain's economy within the European Union, as well as the rest of the global economy. Though students received course credit through assignments and term papers, we all had free time to see what London had to offer. In a matter of 1 week, we were able to see the London Eye, Big Ben, Parliament, Westminster Abbey—where Kate and William were recently married; Tower of London, Tower Bridge, London Bridge, Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace, Lloyds Tower, and the financial HQ for Bloomberg. We also had optional opportunities to see a Broadway show of our choice, go on a 'Jack the Ripper' walking tour to see all the locations of where the incidents occurred, and the usual tradition of attending a soccer (football) game. Fortunately, I was blessed to go on all 3 optional events. Lucky for the group, US National Team player Clint Dempsey was playing for the home team (*Fulham*) that day!



Another first time opportunity that I was presented with, was to meet up with four students who are currently studying abroad for the semester in France program in Ambialet in downtown London: Jocelyn Dominick, Katie Studeny, Rachel Gates, and Ben Jones. We planned to meet at a local pub and restaurant to grab dinner, but ended up going to an Italian restaurant instead. Three hours later, we were still there past closing hours, laughing and having a good time talking about our experiences so far while studying abroad. We had mutual feelings towards our experiences with London, but ended up with me feeling jealous of their France experiences! It is one thing to keep in contact with friends over Facebook or SKYPE, but it's a totally different experience meeting in a different country!

At the end, our London group was able to bond with each other while making new friends in the process, and also enjoy the financial tourist city that had a lot to offer to us as students and as tourists. I'm glad that I took that step three years ago to start studying abroad because now I don't want to stop! This program is the perfect mix between the perfect spring break getaway and the hands on learning experience of a lifetime!

HUGS: SPRING BREAK IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC & JAMAICA

by Center for International Education Graduate Assistant, Michael Vaughn

Dominican Republic: Saint Francis University's student group, HUGS, sent over 60 individuals from the campus community to volunteer, partnering with the international service program of Outreach 360. These students, faculty, and staff members gave up internet, cell phones, and television to spend their spring break offering service to the underprivileged in the Dominican Republic. During their stay, the group had an opportunity to serve in multiple ways. Students and faculty were divided into teams.

The medical team created a one week makeshift free clinic as physician assistants and nursing students saw over 500 patients who do not have regular access to care. Occupational therapists, physical therapists and PT/OT students staffed two different rehab clinics where they helped the people of the community based on their individual health needs.

The education team taught second, third, fifth, and sixth graders how to speak English through repetition and hands on learning activities. Just like in the states, students had to prepare thorough lesson plans and be able to adapt to change based on the students' learning skills. The education students reported that things didn't always go according to plan in the classroom and, as a teacher, you must be able to adjust to the pace of the students, not your lesson plans.

Within the different teams, we had students with Spanish speaking backgrounds who served as translators. Even though some may have been medical or education majors, it worked out perfectly! With the individual teams working together, the overall Saint Francis University/Outreach 360 group functioned as one cohesive team with one ultimate goal of helping others.

Heather McHenry, a PA Alumnus who participated in the Dominican Republic program put together an awesome youtube video to commemorate the trip <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kmU8xbUECSE>

Jamaica: HUGS also sent 20 from Saint Francis University during spring break to volunteer in Jamaica. Just as the volunteers in the Dominican Republic, the group had several teams in place to serve the multiple needs requested. The Rehab Team consisted of three occupational therapists and seven physical therapists/students. This team of ten helped many people, including survivors of strokes and those suffering from carpal tunnel syndrome; they were also able to do house calls, aiding people to get back on their feet. It is a perfect opportunity for these two majors, specifically, to apply their knowledge from class to this real-world opportunity while serving people who are so in need of the help. This was the first time Occupational Therapy was ever available to local residents; led by Dr. Maria, Colmer OT faculty.

Team Camp Peacemaker was a team partnership of HUGS and Campus Ministry, responsible for running the first Vacation Bible School at Holy Spirit parish in Jamaica. This team, led by Lisa Georgiana, was responsible for teaching children about the Church and certain people within it, such as Pope Francis, Mother Theresa, Pope John Paul II, and St. Francis himself! The members of this team consisted of all majors who also saw the need to offer education of this sort to the children of the parish.

The business students worked on a Micro-Lending Initiative project. According to marketing major and HUGS president, Leah Kessler, "Through donations, fundraisers, and on-campus events, this year we were able to give nine loans to two different parishes!" The micro-loan program has grown significantly within the past year and it's through this program that we can help those who lost everything in life.

Photos from the program in Jamaica:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/117477422@N02>



Patrick Major: *I was unsure about the trip at first, but when it was all said and done, it turned out to be one of the greatest experiences of my life.*

CAMP PEACEMAKER IN JAMAICA

by Lisa Georgiana

A team of four students, Nick Astle, Annette Gingerich, Bryanna Evens and Danielle VanDevere, along with Campus Minister, Lisa Georgiana, championed the first Vacation Bible School element to the Maggoty, Jamaican trip at Holy Spirit parish. Each day around 25 children, ages 5- 12, walked to the Holy Spirit campus from their elementary school and participated in the program we created - Camp Peacemaker. Before arriving in Jamaica, we organized many different games, crafts, and stories to share with the children. As soon as the children arrived on the first day though, we realized our activities were not going to go as planned. We quickly realized the children were filled with energy and just wanted

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to be loved and noticed by all of us. Therefore, we had to make up many more games with them, throwing in little bits of information pertaining to Jesus and peace any chance we could get. We did get a chance to teach them about peacemakers such as Pope Francis, Mother Teresa, Pope John Paul II, and of course Saint Francis himself! In addition to some crafts and games, we taught the children some songs such as "I'm trading my sorrows" and the "Prayer of St. Francis." On Thursday, we hosted a birthday party for 100 children and adults, complete with cakes that we made and chicken foot soup that some of the kind ladies prepared.

At first it was a little disheartening that our plans weren't going as we originally thought they would. We all quickly realized that we needed to hand it all over to God though and that he will take care of it all. By the end of the week, we realized the children just needed love and attention more than anything. After having a game of Bible Jeopardy, we realized that they knew so much about Jesus and peace! More than we could have ever taught them. By playing with them, coloring pictures with them, and just giving them attention for a couple hours a day was exactly what they needed.

Besides teaching the Vacation Bible School, we were all able to help at the medical clinic. Annette, Bryanna, and Danielle took vital signs, organized paperwork, and did other small tasks such as helping clean and bandage wounds. We also stained wooden benches at the clinic and basically chipped in wherever help was needed. Wednesday, Annette, Bryanna, and Danielle were able to travel with the medical team to different homes of people in need. They witnessed countless medical techniques and procedures that pertained to their field of study. On Friday, Lisa and Danielle were also able to attend a nursing home and witness many amazing events, such as a man walking for the first time in seven years.

The whole experience was just life-changing. We all learned to fully depend on God and just give every situation over to Him, because He knew what really needed to be done. We all went into the trip expecting to help the children so much and change their lives. In reality though, they were the ones who changed our lives. They not only taught us about the Jamaican culture, but also showed us how simple and beautiful life really is.



Alyssa Phillips: *One student [in the DR] told me that he wanted to become a teacher after spending four days in our class.*



EDUCATION TEAM IN THE DR

Megan Scott: *I will never forget the greeting that we received when we stepped into the school yard. All the students were screaming "Americanos, Americanos!" A mob of students just ran over to us and hugged us. I think we all sat back and thought what did we do to deserve this? We literally just walked in and were surrounded by so much love. I can speak for everyone when I say that it will be an image and feeling that I will never forget.*

toothpaste, toothbrushes, some ibuprofen, and a pair of used eyeglasses. Again, it made me realize how much I take for granted here in the US.

I appreciate the experience to be involved with HUGs, and was especially impressed with the students of SFU and how they stepped up to the opportunity to serve others.

FIRST MISSION TRIP

by Curt Kindel

This was my first time to experience a mission trip, and it was certainly a wonderful experience. By living in conditions I was not used to (cold water, rice for every meal, mosquito nets, etc.) it caused me to grow in ways I couldn't imagine. I certainly appreciate more my living conditions here in the US. I also grew in friendships with those around me, because I wasn't plugged in to my phone or a TV. Besides that, we were all there for a common purpose, and it brought us together.

I thoroughly enjoyed using my therapy services in the clinic. The language barrier was difficult, but utilizing our translators incorporated us into a "team" feeling. But for me, the best day was when I joined the PA medical team in Jaibon. It was simple and basic. We used a folding plastic table to lay patients on. To see their response and reaction to our willingness to help was tremendous. They were so happy just to get

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN JAMAICA

by Rebecca Stull

I am a senior Occupational Therapy student at SFU and was encouraged by my department to take advantage of going on the mission trip through HUGS. While I was nervous to go on the trip at first, since I did not know many of the other people, all 20 of us quickly turned into a family the moment we arrived in Jamaica. The rehab team had 10 people, 3 OT and 7 PT, all of us worked together almost seamlessly in the clinic even though most of us had never worked together before. Personally, I never had hands on experience in a clinic, only observation and what I have learned in the classroom.

At the clinic everyone was so extremely grateful for the services we were able to offer in such a short time and I feel like I gained more from the experience than what I offered to those whom I treated. In the clinic we splinted people who had strokes and carpal tunnel, provided countless strengthening programs and gave out new shoes and adaptive equipment to help people have a better life. Along with the clinic we also went on multiple home visits to help those who could not make it to the clinic, but needed our services most. We also went to a nursing home where we were able to teach individuals to independently shower and dress themselves which resulted in some of the biggest smiles I have ever seen.

Lauren Wingard: The Dominican Republic was truly one of the most eye-opening and rewarding experiences of my life. In the clinic we saw multiple injuries that were disheartening because the condition of the patients could have been prevented if they had received the proper treatment in a timely fashion. However, even though the condition of some of these patients was absolutely disheartening, the gratitude they expressed was overwhelming. Many of the patients hugged us and repeatedly thanked us for our help. Their gratefulness was truly uplifting and really helped me to reflect on how blessed I am in my own life. At the end of the day, I truly believe they taught me more than I ever could teach them.

With the OT and PT teams working together we were able to help some people walk for the first time in years, that is a feeling that could never be put into words, and can only be felt by experiencing it. I gained so much knowledge, experience, friends and appreciation for what I have in America from this trip. It really changed my life and I cannot wait to go back and help more of the gracious people in Jamaica at the next chance I get. HUGS is truly enabling therapists to change lives in other countries, and I am forever grateful for being a part of that team.

JAMAICA MICROLENDING INITIATIVE YIELDS POSITIVE RESULTS FOR BOTH STUDENTS AND LOAN RECIPIENTS

by Ed Huttenhower

Robert Wortman: The HUGS United Micro-Lending initiative in Jamaica was a great experience. It was interesting to speak with many different people about their daily lives and what types of businesses they ran. Many of these people's lives were greatly improved by these small loans. It was a very humbling experience to see people paying back last year's loans. A lot of people in America will spend the same amount of money that these people are receiving on headphones or a new cell phone and would not think twice about it. It just goes to show that a little help can go a long way in making a difference in someone's life.

Four business students spent their spring break in Jamaica working with small businesses to increase their chances of success. Kilee Bomgardner, Leah Kessler, Erin Maher and Rob Wortman accompanied Ed Huttenhower, Director of the Small Business Development Center, to Maggotty Jamaica as part of a twenty person team at Holy Spirit Church. This was the second year for the business team to provide microloans to selected individuals in rural Jamaica. As follow up to the first year microloan recipients, almost 95% of the funds lent in 2013 were repaid.

In addition to the work in the Maggotty area, the microlending team also had the opportunity to expand their work to Lionel Town Jamaica under the auspices of St. Margaret Mary Church. St. Margaret Mary is a sister church to St. Michael's Church in Hollidaysburg. Fr. Clement and the parishioners there were generous in their support of the microlending project. Additionally, the group raised funds from a variety of other sources throughout the region.

Fr. Marek Bzinkowski of Holy Spirit was a wealth of information to the team and his insights were invaluable in assisting to make the final loan decisions. Prior to coming to Jamaica he had served a parish in Ukraine and this enabled some interesting discussions in light of the current political climate there. Fr. Paul Bugembe of St. Margaret Mary was a gracious host to the team during our day there. A native of Uganda, Fr. Paul provided the group with perspectives on the Lionel Town region as well as the situation in Uganda.

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During the week, the team interviewed sixty-seven people about their business ideas. From these interviews, five people were awarded microloans at St. Margaret Mary Church and four were awarded microloans at Holy Spirit Church. The loans ranged from \$150 to \$700 US and were for a diverse range of businesses. These included expanding pepper farming, increasing inventory of a small cook shop, expanding small chicken and pig operations as well as expanding a welding business. The group also put together a proposal for an individual to acquire a newer van to transport children and others in the Maggotty area. Once this loan is finalized, it will be in excess of \$5000. The individual will contribute at least that much more to the overall project.

Mr. Huttenhower was impressed with the work done by the students saying, "All of the students were outstanding in their work with all the people we talked with during the week. To see them take the lead and make tough decisions about the various loan possibilities showed a lot about both their business acumen and their compassion."

Kilee and Leah have participated in both microlending missions while Erin and Rob were on their first trip. The students are already looking forward to next year's trip.



JAMAICA MICROLENDING TEAM WITH LOAN RECIPIENT

Leah Kessler: *Going to Jamaica is an amazing experience that I was privileged enough to do twice! This year we were able to give nine loans to two different parishes! The micro-loan program has grown and expended greatly over the past year. We raised this year's money through donations, fundraisers and on campus events. The people of Maggotty and Lionel Town, Jamaica were so humble and grateful for our help. Also, the group of students and faculty I traveled with made the experience that much better. A beautiful quote was stated when we were there, "when you are stripped of everything which you believe defines you, such as your friends, family and culture, it is then that others are able to see who you truly are and who God has created you to be." I can only hope as HUGS United's president that the club increases its membership and expands into more countries to help more people in the future.*

SFU STUDENTS CONTINUING THEIR STUDIES THIS SUMMER INTERNATIONALLY

Mr. Chuck Olson, Director of the **Springtime in Italy** program, will once again be taking students to Parma, Italy this summer from May 16 to June 15. The twenty-four students will be joined by Dr. Lori Woods and Ms. Mary Jean Bujdos. The program will offer students the opportunity to take credits in Italian, Art, Music and History while leaving time to explore Parma on bikes. During the weekends students will create their own completely unique Italian experience by visited any number of famous places such as Venice, Cinque Terre, and Rome.

Dr. Marge Morales, Director of the **Spanish in Costa Rica** program, and Mr. Brent Ottaway will be taking nine students to Costa Rica this summer from May 11 to June 8. The students will earn credits in Spanish, Religious Studies, and Photography. The first part of the program will be located in a small city in the lush green mountains of the central highlands. The second half will be located on the Pacific coast at a beautiful campus on Flamingo beach. Students will live with host families giving them the opportunity to have open conversation and participation in Costa Rican family life.

While in China, First Lady Michelle Obama spoke at Peking University to students and highlighted the tremendous value that studying abroad could offer:

Studying abroad isn't just a fun way to spend a semester; it is quickly becoming the key to success in our global economy. Because getting ahead in today's workplaces isn't just about getting good grades or test scores in school, which are important. It's also about having real experience with the world beyond your borders -- experience with languages, cultures and societies very different from your own.

Dr. Sue Morra, Mr. Nick Weakland and ten students will departing May 14 for the **Scuba Diving in St. Lucia** program. Students in Marine Science courses (Diving, Underwater Digital Photo Dive, Underwater Naturalist, Fish Identification, Boat Diver, or Coral Reef Ecology) will complete their coursework in the underwater "classroom" of the warm tropic waters of St. Lucia.

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