

SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY



Meeting Our Brothers and Sisters Around the Globe

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2010

RENOVATIONS TO OUR SITE IN FRANCE

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

Semester in France

Summer in France

Springtime in Italy

Spanish in Mexico

Spring Break in London

Spring Break in Paris

Hugs for Honduras

Cooperative Center for
Study Abroad Offerings

B.R.I.D.G.E.

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

www.francis.edu/StudyAbroad.htm

Renovations to the monastery in Ambialet have continued in a serious way this past year. As of July 20th, all of the ground floor and first floor have been completed. There are now 16 rooms with a capacity of 29 beds, every one of which was in use during spring semester. Several of the newer rooms have their own baths. Ground floor changes are: conversion of the old kitchen into the new dining room; creation of a spacious gallery/entry; and a commercial-caliber kitchen. A new wastewater system was also created to meet new European Union codes. This completes the five-year renovation plan and should allow the Executive Director, Tim Perkins, to finally get a good night's sleep!



2010 FALL SEMESTER IN FRANCE

Drs. Lori Woods and Mark Lynch, along with our newly hired program assistant, John Roche, will be traveling to Ambialet with our fall group of excited students.



CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH
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MAY IN MEXICO 2010

by Dr. Margaret Morales

"Never a dull moment!" That's how Drs. Margaret Morales and Teelyn Mauney describe this year's Mexico program from May 6th to June 5th where they were accompanied by 32 enthusiastic students who would surely agree with them. The two biggest highlights of this year's trip were the orphan fundraiser and the new beach trip.

SFU students partnered with students from the *Universidad Internacional* to host the first Summer Party at *ALIVE*, one of the premier discos in Cuernavaca, Mexico. They raised almost \$1,000 that was used to repair the plumbing at *Al Abrigo de Dios* orphanage. The children were ecstatic that they were going to have working toilets again.

Instead of the annual beach trip to Acapulco, students traveled to Ixtapa/Zihuatanejo and stayed at an all-inclusive resort 130 miles north of Acapulco on the Pacific coast. There they enjoyed a beautiful beach, swimming pools, great food, horseback riding, deep sea fishing, parasailing, body massages, and most of all, the night life.

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE IN

Mexico



No matter how far I was from my home and culture, I found that I was never too far from love. I found so many things that I had in common with the Mexican people and learned to take in new ideas through experiences. - Kristen Schlaffer



My experience in Mexico was awesome. I'm glad I was able to go on the trip. Everyone there was friendly and tried to help you with your Spanish as best they could. Even though we were only there for a short time, it was hard to leave because of the love everyone there shares. - Kingsley McLeod



I went to Mexico not knowing what to expect and came back home with more life lessons and experiences than most people will ever have. I didn't just change Mexico by being there, Mexico changed me. - Gracie Barrow



The experience was something I know I will never forget. It has changed my whole perspective on the Mexican culture. I believe studying abroad is something everyone should do because it opens your eyes to so many different experiences and is a ton of fun. I highly recommend it. - Becca Faherty

EXPLORE OTHER CULTURES

Taken from the July 12, 2010 issue of Newsweek

"Five experiments by Northwestern's Adam Galinsky showed that those who have lived abroad outperform others on creativity tasks. Creativity is also higher on average for first- or second-generation immigrants and bilinguals. The theory is that cross-cultural experiences force people to adapt and be more flexible. Just studying another culture can help. In Galinsky's lab, people were more creative after watching a slide show about China: a 45-minute session increased creativity scores for a week."

Study abroad continues to grow in popularity among our SFU students. This past year, 165 students have taken advantage of our study abroad opportunities.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW GRADUATE ASSISTANT

The Center for International Education and Outreach is pleased to have on staff graduate assistant, Mr. Tim Crawford. Tim was hired this summer after he graduated in May with a degree in Marketing/Accounting. He is currently working on his MBA and doing an internship with Roaring Spring Water. Along with marketing skills, Tim brings with him the experience of spending a semester in France as he was part of the pioneer group in spring, 2008. Tim is also planning on participating in the Spring Break in London program sponsored by the Saint Francis School of Business.

Travel is more than the seeing of sights; it is a change that goes on, deep and permanent, in the ideas of living. - Miriam Beards.

HOPE FOR HAITI

As part of the ongoing campaign for earthquake victims, Hope for Haiti bracelets are still available in the General Education Office (Scotus 213) and the Center for International Education and Outreach (Schwab 214) for a minimum donation of \$3.

SPRINGTIME IN ITALY: PARMA, ITALY 2010

by Charles Olson

The 2010 edition of Saint Francis University's study abroad program in Parma, Italy saw the participation of 29 students, 3 resident assistants, and 6 faculty members. Courses of study included Art History II, Photography, Italian, Explorations in the Arts, Guitar, and Hand Drumming. Most of these courses were conducted within the *Biblioteca Internazionale* on the grounds of the former *Monastero di San Paolo* in the very heart of the historical district of Parma. Students and faculty were housed in the Liberty Residence (also in the *Centro Storico*) a mere 5 minute walk from the international library. Arts students also had passes to the *Galeria Nazionale* and many other important Parma cultural sites. As always, the great food of Parma provided the group with its rich atmosphere.

Students traveled widely to destinations such as Rome, Venice, Florence, the Cinqueterre, Pisa, Lucca, Naples, Milan, and Paris. In addition, they attended via Italian classes the castle at Torrechiara, a professional Parma baseball game, and the famous local Parma vineyards.

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE IN

Italy



Italy has changed my life... TWICE. It was always my dream to travel there and that I got the opportunity to visit there twice has been such a blessing in my life. The places I've visited, the people I've gotten to know and become friends with, and the life experiences I've had are irreplaceable and unforgettable. Parma has become part of my life and is now a little part of who I am today. - Stephanie Griffin



Best experience of my life with some great people and friends! - Maria Cacciotti



Being in another country for a month is an amazing experience! I learned so much, not only about the Italian culture and the classes I was taking, but about myself. This adventure has truly broadened my view of the world and changed my outlook on life. - Jessica Ulishney



The Springtime in Italy program was one of the greatest experiences of my life thus far. It opened my eyes to an entirely different culture and helped me to learn so many things about myself in the process. I wouldn't trade this experience for anything. - Kathryn Truesdale

The mission of the Springtime in Italy program has always focused on cultural exchange, and the 2010 version brought a variety of music and art events in which students and faculty reached out to the people of Parma via concerts and exhibition. Here is a list:

21 May: at *Giovani Italia*: Jim Donovan, Paolo Schianchi, and Bill Burke. A 2 hour concert for over 200 involving a number of Italian musicians.

22 May: at *Il Mulino di Torrechiara* Jim Donovan, Bill Burke, Chuck Olson, and Paolo Schianchi. A concert in a beautiful country restaurant at the foot of one of Italy's most famous castles. Over 100 in attendance.

27 May: at *Materi'Off* in Parma. One of the coolest and smallest places for live music in Parma featured Jim, Paolo, and Bill with a cameo appearance by Bernardo Lanzetti, a famous Italian rock and roll singer since 1970. A full house!

29 May: at *Castagnoli Piu* in Parma. An outdoor event attended by more than 200 which features Jim Donovan, Bill, Burke, Paolo Schianchi, Emile Rivera, and Chuck Olson. The concert was "opened" by the Saint Francis University students enrolled in Mr. Donovan's drumming program.

1 June: Chuck Olson Art Exhibition: "30 x 30" opened with 40 new works installed at the *Palazzo della Rosa Prati* adjacent to the *duomo* and *battistero* of Parma. Paolo and Chuck performed as well that night in an opening that was covered by the local media with over 225 in attendance.

10 June : "Culture/Crossroads: Presentations of Music and Photography with the Artists from Saint Francis University." An evening of a lecture by Mr. Olson on his painting followed by a presentation by Scott Miller of the best work by his photography students on the theme of "Parma", a reading of diverse poetry by students enrolled in the Erasmus program at the *Universita di Parma*, and musical performance by Paolo Schianchi and Chuck Olson.

An open artists' studio was also created that featured working artists Charlie Vaughan (Amarillo, Texas) and Brooke Hitch (Oklahoma)



The Tour de France went right through Ambialet - a big deal for a small village. Ambialet got excellent news coverage, including helicopter shots and direct mention of Saint Francis University.

2010 SUMMER IN FRANCE

by Charles Olson

The University's first summer program at the Ambialet site focused on all of the site's local and regional benefits. From providing challenging hills to run and bike to a comprehensive internship at the local *Hotel du Pont*, Ambialet in summer is a beautiful jewel of opportunity, exchange, and atmosphere. Classes in Modern Art, Explorations in the Arts, French, and Hand Drumming were offered five days a week mixed with excursions to Albi, Toulouse, the great medieval center at Conques, the Les Abattoirs Center for Modern Art, the famous village at Cordes sur Ciel, Paris, and Barcelona.

The "daily routine" was framed by the picturesque view from the monastery at Ambialet where classes, meals, and evening activities were united within the beauty of Southwestern France. In particular, the fabulous meals prepared daily by Chef Bernard were acknowledged by the evening applause of the students and staff. Many agreed that the food alone was worth the trip. Students in the French course researched recipes and prepared a French meal for Bernard in appreciative recognition. Tim Perkins, the executive director, made great, significant improvements to the site in the form of a beautiful new kitchen and dining room, a gallery space, and the addition of a site director's apartment. Having initially visited the site in 2006 and again in 2009, Mr. Olson was most impressed with the way the monastery has become a bonafide facility to serve Saint Francis University, the Franciscan community, and the region of Ambialet.

Students gathered in the evenings at Nadine's Café (*Café de la Presq'île*) where Mr. Olson and Mr. Donovan played music with the locals. The small village of 40 souls does not lack in constant summer activity. Festivals and sports abound. The entire group profited from this experience. Mr. Olson staged an exhibition of his work which was well attended by the art aficionados of the region.

Student blogs were posted (<http://www.francis.edu/FranceBlogs.htm>) as part of the French class which required a true immersion into various aspects of French culture. Classes ran from 10-1 p.m. followed by lunch. French class often ran from 2 until 5 p.m. every day. Jim Donovan arrived with his independent group of adult drummers, who integrated beautifully with the students and the programs. The 4 week sessions provided clear evidence of the potential of high quality summer programming in Ambialet, hopefully to be expanded in 2011.



I love the food, the culture, and the people. I feel like I have experienced so much in such a short amount of time, which makes me wonder how crazy it would be to spend an entire semester here. There is so much I will miss here in Ambialet
– Zack Burns

I have come to love the lifestyle I have experienced here in France. It's such a refreshing way of life.
– Tiara Youmans

I have not only learned a lot, but also met people along the way that have made a positive impact on my life.
– Brian Kealy

AMBIALET IN THE SUMMER

In addition to our Summer in France program, our site in Ambialet hosted The Alumni and Friends Tour, The Retreat for the Soul (Jim Donovan's drumming retreat), and a Piano Summer School. With programs year-round, the halls of the monastery are no longer lonely!

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I -- I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference. –Robert Frost

