

SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY



Meeting Our Brothers and Sisters Around the Globe

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

FALL 2013

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

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

SUMMER STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS A SUCCESS!

This past summer over 100 students and faculty participated in study abroad programs in Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, France, Galapagos, Italy, St. Lucia and Spain. While the interest in study abroad among our students continues to grow, the interest of our adventurous faculty increases as well.

When I give presentations during CLASS Days or in freshmen classes, it's clear that many students come to SFU knowing they will be studying abroad. It's no longer a question of "Will I study abroad?" but "Where will I study abroad?" and "How many programs will I be able to fit in before graduation?" I believe this way of thinking comes straight to us from the desire to understand and appreciate our global community. Yes, of course these international experiences provide skills making one more marketable in the work force. However, students understand that they also build relationships, making the citizens of the world their family. One of our students pointed out that getting to know the culture in a

foreign country helps to make one more understanding and less judgmental of others.

There are many opportunities here at SFU for students to travel and gain global skills that will undoubtedly boost their college experiences. Students continually say that the study abroad opportunities at SFU have influenced their decision to come here. Below are just a few comments:

I am looking forward to meeting new people, learning a new culture, seeing a place I would probably never be able to see if I did not attend Saint Francis University. - Alix Hochard

The day I learned of the study abroad opportunities that Saint Francis University offered I was blown away by what kind of future stood before me. - Katrina McCombie

Since I first started applying to colleges across the US, I was very interested in the study abroad programs offered at Saint Francis University. - Blaken Geisel

The variety of our study abroad programs offers our students unbelievable options. With great appreciation to our faculty who lead these programs, you are making such a wonderful impact on our students.

submitted by Juliana Horvath

Upcoming Study Abroad Programs

Spring Semester in France
Jan. 10 - Apr. 25, 2014
Courses: FREN 112, RLST 390, FNAR 102, BIOL 206 with lab via SKYPE plus Chemistry courses (online courses optional) / Visiting Faculty: Dr. Rose Clark
Cost: same tuition, room & board (fin. aid applies)

Field Biology in Australia
Dec. 26, 2013 - Jan. 9, 2014
Course: Field Biology - Natural History of Australia
Offered through the Cooperative Center for Study Abroad with SFU's Dr. Sue Morra / Cost: \$5,695

Hugs United in the DR
Mar 1 - 8, 2014
Volunteer service in a clinic and school / Offered through Outreach 360 / Cost: approximately \$1,300

Hugs United in Jamaica
Mar 1 - 8, 2014
Volunteer service in a clinic and a microloan project
Hosted by Holy Spirit Church / Cost: approx. \$1,300

Hugs United in Nicaragua
Mar 1 - 8, 2014
Volunteer service in a school / Offered through Outreach 360 / Cost: approximately \$1,300

Spring Break in London
Mar 1 - 8, 2014
Course: Great Britain and the European Union in the Global Economy / Led by Drs. Randy Frye and Jim Logue / Cost: approximately \$2,100 plus tuition

Scuba Diving in St. Lucia
May, 2014
Courses: a variety of Marine Science credits
Led by Mr. Nick Weakland and Dr. Sue Morra
Cost: approx. \$2,500 plus tuition and course materials

Writing in Ireland
May, 2014
Course: International News Writing and Reporting
Offered through the Cooperative Center for Study Abroad with SFU's Dr. Patrick Farabaugh / Cost: approx. \$4,000

Spanish in Costa Rica
May 11 - Jun 8, 2014
Courses: Spanish, FNAR 101, RLST 450, SOC 295
Led by Drs. Margaret Morales and Thomas Masullo
Cost: approximately \$3,275 plus tuition

Springtime in Italy
May 16 - June 15, 2014
Courses: Italian and a variety of Fine Arts courses / Led by Mr. Chuck Olson / Cost: approx. \$3,600 plus tuition

Summer in France
May 20 - Jun 20, 2014
Course: French Language and MUS 202 (designed for band members) with Band Dir., Dan Atwood
Cost: approximately \$2,570 plus tuition

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FALL SEMESTER IN FRANCE

Mr. Bob Low and his wife, Darlene are currently in France with our 13 students (or as Bob refers to them – the Baker’s Dozen of European Explorers). Bob routinely emails entertaining updates of their adventures. If you have not yet read any of these enjoyable updates you will find them on SFU’s website listed under Latest News.

What have our students in France been up to?

Week 1:

- ◆ Arrived in Ambialet September 15th
- ◆ Meet and greet with local residents
- ◆ Toured the village of Corde sur Cie
- ◆ Visited Notre Dame de Decher
- ◆ Explored the city of Albi
- ◆ Various trips hiking, biking and kayaking

Week 2:

- ◆ Visited the city of Toulouse and its Basilica
- ◆ Weekend trip to Montpellier
- ◆ Visited the small village of Conques in France
- ◆ Hosted a celebration for the feast of Saint Francis

Week 3/4:

- ◆ Toured a great walled city named Carcassone
- ◆ Walked La Rambla numerous times
- ◆ Visited a great beautiful Basilica

- ◆ Explored the funky Gaudi house
- ◆ Visited the studio of the working artist named Mercedes
- ◆ Rode in a gondola over Barcelona
- ◆ Visited the Miro museum
- ◆ Explored the Picasso museum
- ◆ Visited the Parc Guel
- ◆ Toured the Dali Museum
- ◆ Had lunch with an Australian wine maker
- ◆ Saw street musicians of all kinds in Barcelona
- ◆ Experienced Flamenco dancers

Week 5:

- ◆ Presentations on the trip to Barcelona
- ◆ Meal with guests visiting from SFU
- ◆ Visited church in Toulouse
- ◆ Wine tasting class: 5-s method of Tasting: See, swirl, smell, sip,



Throughout the first 5 weeks of their adventure, the ‘Baker’s Dozen of European Explorers’ have been very busy. Between all of their excursions and adventures throughout France and Spain to date, the students have had to tend to their academic affairs. Class work and preparation for excursions have kept them very busy, which will continue throughout the duration of their study abroad experience. Next up... PARIS!!



Our Semester in France students having fun on the roof of Casa Batlló, one of Gaudi’s masterpieces in Barcelona



the benefit: Please join us for an evening of the arts to support the creative possibilities between Pittsburgh arts organizations and Saint Francis University’s location in Ambialet, France.

the evening: Cocktails & Hors d’oeuvres: 6 pm ■ Entertainment: 7 pm ■ Dessert: 9 pm

Thursday, November 21, 2013 ■ 6 – 10 pm ■ Business/Cocktail Attire
The Frick Art Museum ■ 7227 Reynolds Street ■ Pittsburgh, PA 15208



The SIX: with Rob James & Greg Joseph of The Clarks, Jim Donovan of Rusted Root, Dave Antolk & Dan Murphy of Remaining Green and artist Chuck Olson

Italian actress Clelia Cicero with guitarist Neter Calafati performing the powerful songs of the incomparable Edith Piaf

A dramatic dance performance by Pittsburgh’s own **Attack Theatre**, with a worldwide reputation that consistently breaks new artistic boundaries

Vanessa German, a multi-disciplinary Pittsburgh-based artist will present a poem designed for the evening’s theme in her own inimitable style

HOST COMMITTEE:
Dave & Liz Antolk
Doug & Shelley Campbell
Mike & Terri Clark
Frederick Connolly & Maria Thissen
Marty & Ann Davis
Laura Domencic
Congressman Mike Doyle
Patrick Doyle & Karen Okeyer
Kevin & Laura Horner
Charles Humphrey
Tina Labrie
John & Tara Lewis
Chuck & Maria Olson
Bill & Bernadette West
Saint Francis University

Partners in a creative endeavor to provide a home for Pittsburgh-based arts programs in southwest France

www.francis.edu/study/abroad/

A benefit is being held at the Frick Art Museum on November 21st to support partnerships with Pittsburgh Arts organizations and SFU’s program in Ambialet. Exciting happenings to include the Pittsburgh Center of the Arts, Pittsburgh Film Makers, Pittsburgh Attack Theater and other art groups at our site in France are being planned. Proceeds from this benefit will support the remodeling of a section of our Ambialet site to include studio space not only for our fine arts students but for our partners in the arts.

RESEARCH IN BOLIVIA

In May 2013, nine Saint Francis students had the opportunity to travel with three SFU professors to the South American country of Bolivia. The group was a mix of students studying environmental engineering or exercise physiology. Whatever their major, all of the students had the opportunity to truly experience the native culture and traditions of the Bolivian people.

The main purpose of the journey to Bolivia was for students to conduct various scientific studies. Dr. Fitzgerald led the exercise physiology students in conducting research on the effects of high altitude on a person's body and oxygen saturation levels. During the trip, the participants were consistently at 14,000 to 16,000 feet of elevation. At Saint Francis, the elevation is about 2,000 ft. Therefore, the oxygen levels in the air were much lower in Bolivia than what students were accustomed to at home. Testing was done on the participants prior to, during, and immediately following the trip to Bolivia. These tests showed the effects of living and working at high altitude as well as how the body and oxygen saturation levels change upon returning to a lower elevation after becoming accustomed to the high elevation.

The engineering students, under the guidance of Dr. Strosnider, and Dr. Muino, conducted research on the effectiveness of a recently built acid mine drainage (AMD) treatment system. Acid mine drainage occurs as water runs through open or abandoned mines. The water becomes laden with harmful contaminants such as iron, sulfate, and other metals. The increased metal content also causes the water to have dangerously low pH levels. In Bolivia, mining is one of the most important industries, therefore, causing some of the most extreme cases of AMD in the world. As citizens of the poorest country in South America, Bolivians have few options to avoid exposure to the contaminated water. Bolivia has a desert-like climate, leaving the Bolivian people in great need of usable water. While talking to locals in Bolivia, we learned that when people have a wart or growth on their skin, they often travel to the AMD ponds in order to 'burn off' the lesion. This water used to treat warts is the same water that is used to irrigate crops and wash clothes. In some cases, this water is also the only water available to drink. Saint Francis students and faculty are working with Rotary International and Engineers in Action to help provide clean water to the people in remote villages of Bolivia.

Although the main purpose of the trip was to complete research, it was much more than just work. The Rotary club of Potosi welcomed us to their meetings and helped us enjoy all that Bolivia had to offer. We had the opportunity to tour an active mine and get a feel for what it means to be a miner in Bolivia. Many miners took time to stop and talk to us, explaining more about the Bolivian mines, the risks of being a miner, and the average lifestyle of the Bolivian people.

While in Bolivia, students also had the opportunity to experience and even participate in one of the grandest celebrations of the Bolivian year, Día de la Madre – Mother's Day. When trying to describe Día de la Madre, the best explanation would be the equivalent to Mardi Gras, Fourth of July, and New Year's all rolled into one wildly fantastic celebration. During this celebration, the streets of La Paz, Bolivia's capitol, were jam-packed with colorful parades and thousands of spectators. As we pushed our way to and from our hostel, we found ourselves engulfed by the festivities. The parade highlighted many traditions of Bolivia, such as bright, traditional costumes and traditional music and dancing. Some students were even able to meet and interact with some of the parade performers.

One of the greatest things about the Bolivian people is that, despite the poor conditions and difficult circumstances they face, there is always a reason to celebrate. Whether it is thanking God for everything they have received or asking Pachamama (Mother Earth) for safety in the mines, the Bolivian people treat every day as a celebration. Even when the Bolivians were protesting, which they did frequently, to outsiders it looked like an entertaining event. Overall, our time in Bolivia was a great opportunity to experience a culture very different from our own and to build new friendships while pursuing our academic studies.



Dr. Strosnider and Josh Schall working hard to sample some of the most contaminated water on Earth.

- submitted by Bill Strosnider

Bertinelli agriturismo in Medesano,” says Olson, one of the guitarists himself, as well as an accomplished artist. “Parmesan” guitarists Paolo Schianchi and Neter Calafati both teach guitar to the students of Saint Francis, along with the singer-actress Clelia Cicero, and graphic designer Flavio Compagno, who worked for U2 and Ridley Scott. A collaboration was also established with the Alphacentauri Gallery in the Giacomo district, and with the Toschi High School, where the students took classes in drawing. The former Counselor Lorenzo Lasagna will also be meeting with the SFU students to discuss his book, “Philly—The City of Brotherly Love.” In Via Petrarca a space has been leased to display the students’ paintings, while their photographs were on display at the Alpi Library. This is also where on 11th of June, in the spirit of the “Cultural Crossroads,” the American students present a concert, and Jim Donovan, singer-songwriter Greg Josephs, and musicians Dan Murphy and Dave Antolik will perform.

Eugene Peters, a lover of jazz and a member of the “Washington Jazz Art Institute” is aspiring to even greater heights: “To bring young American jazz musicians to Parma to interact with their Italian counterparts.” In the meantime, the 22 Saint Francis students are enjoying the “peak-time” of their experience in Parma, which comes to an end on June 23. Chuck can already foresee the ending: “In their final days the students start referring to Parma as ‘home’ and when the time comes to pack their bags, there will be lots of tears.” So many of them ask to bring their bicycles back to the US, as a souvenir, even though they know it’s not possible...so they leave behind little messages on them, like, “I love Parma.”

SUMMER IN FRANCE

This past summer I had the opportunity to realize a dream—living and teaching at our wonderful facility in Ambialet. I had visited the Prieuré twice before, just passing through, and those brief encounters were enough to whet my appetite for a more extended stay. So it was with great anticipation that I signed on to teach French to the small group of SFU students registered for the May program. And when I learned that, for the first two weeks of our stay, there would be some twenty students and faculty from Russia, I was even more anxious to experience a rich intercultural exchange. And I was not disappointed!

From the beginning, our students and the Russian students hit it off despite some language barriers. Sometimes the Ambialet dining room resembled a very cheerful Tower of Babel with conversations in Russian, English and French and various combinations thereof punctuated with much laughter and good cheer.

We had the good fortune to be able to travel to several cultural sites with the Russians, as well: Carcassonne, Cordes-sur-Ciel, and Gaillac, most notably. Other cultural outings included Albi and Toulouse, where the students in the Religious Studies class learned about the power struggles in the Medieval period involving Cathars, the Church, and the nobility; all the while delighting in the magnificence and charm of centuries-old architecture.

One of my most cherished memories comes from the day that I attended a choir practice in the village in preparation for the Pentecost Mass. Since there was to be a procession up the hill to the chapel that day, the choir rehearsed a piece that had been written by a relative of one of the choir members, a song about peasants coming from all of the surrounding villages to adore “Notre Dame de l’Auder” in the chapel at the Prieuré. The lyrics were in Occitan, one of the regional languages of France still spoken and protected by many people in the area, and the choir members sang with great pride about people thronging to *their* village from other villages whose names had already become familiar to me from my brief stay in Ambialet. What a rich experience for me, since I am interested in language, and music, and folk culture!

Although the month of May was unseasonably cold and rainy, my students and I were able to find a couple of sunny days to hike in the beautiful hills surrounding Ambialet, another dream realized for me!

I would be remiss if I did not mention that the group of students who participated in the May 2013 session in Ambialet were delightful young people (pictured right) —open to new experiences, game for just about anything, intelligent, and good-humored. I couldn’t have asked for more pleasant students.

- submitted by Martha O’Brien



SERVICE THROUGH HUGS

Once again SFU's student group HUGS United, under the leadership of Leah Kessler and guidance of Bill Hanlon, are gearing up for yet another service-filled adventure during spring break. Students will be divided into teams; medical and rehab teams will serve patients in the Dominican Republic and Jamaica; education teams are preparing to teach English in schools in the DR and Jamaica; a Bible school team is organizing for Jamaica; a construction team will be volunteering in the DR; and a business team will oversee a micro lending project in Jamaica. This trip is an out-of-pocket expense for all the participating students. They have been working hard to raise money to help cover their costs. The fundraisers include a 5K, jewelry sale, candles and discount card sale. Please consider supporting our students in their efforts to serve others!

CONGRATULATIONS

ROBERT WORTMAN AND ERIN MAHER

for receiving scholarships to represent the School of Business on the annual micro-lending project in Jamaica! Robert and Erin will be joining last year's scholarship recipients, Leah Kessler and Kilee Bomgardner on this trip. For more information on this project visit:

<http://francis.edu/international-micro-loan-initiative-2013/>

Photo Gallery



HUGS president, Leah Kessler, walking with children during last year's trip to Jamaica.



Malia Lonergan (front) and Marla Beck (back) volunteering during the week-long ASL Immersion trip to the DR this past May.



Kaitlin Meck & her tortoise buddy in the Galapagos during the 10-day field biology trip this past May.



Emily Wolpiuk, Taylor Kyle and Alix Hochard in Albi, France.



Paolo Schianchi gives guitar lessons to SFU student, Michael Kennedy, Parma Italy.



Jeffrey Wasilewski outside the Horse Guards Gate during the Spring Break in London trip.



Kim Gronski, reaching higher in el Castillo de Xativa near Valencia, Spain



Katrina Wilhite scuba diving in St. Lucia.

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