

# SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY



## Meeting Our Brothers and Sisters Around the Globe

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2011

### STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

Semester in France

Summer in France

Springtime in Italy

May in Mexico

Spring Break in London

Spring Break in Paris  
Hugs United

Cooperative Center for  
Study Abroad Offerings

ASL Immersion Cruise

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

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

## WHY STUDY ABROAD?

*from our most recent travelers...*

*Studying abroad has given me the best opportunity of my life thus far. I have had the privilege to experience a different lifestyle and culture for almost 4 months. Studying abroad broadens your horizons and gives you different perspectives on life. It also shows that the world is such a huge place and there is so much to learn about it.*

- Frances Morello, Semester in France



*Going to the DR was a life changing experience that everyone needs to try once. It helped me grow not only as a person but it gave me the courage to do things that I might believe I can't. It was great seeing that we were a part of a bigger picture and part of my heart will always be in Monte Cristi.*

- Rebekah Rogers, Hugs United Spring Break



*Why study abroad? Asking this question is like asking, why would you settle for a dull classroom in cold, snowy Loretto over having your classroom be out and all over Europe? It's for the same cost so why wouldn't you take advantage of learning beyond the classroom? Expand your horizon, make new friends, enjoy learning out of the classroom, and discover something new about yourself. Go Abroad!*

- Ed Biemer, Semester in France



*There are historical landmarks in every country that helped shape the history of the globe. You can expand your knowledge of the world by actually being there, seeing it, touching it, and experiencing it. Studying and living in a different culture has helped me and can help you see the world from a completely different perspective. It is an amazing experience that will change your life. There are so many amazing things to experience in your lifetime and studying abroad is just one of them!*

-Dustien Garman, Spring Break in London



*I chose to study abroad because I have always wanted to travel to another country. My sister always talked about wanting to study abroad and never got the opportunity. When I learned about the program that Saint Francis had I knew that I was going to do it. Being here, you get to do things that will stay with you your entire life. How many people can say they've been to Rome or Athens? How many people can say they swam in the Tarn River? That is what makes studying abroad so special. It presents you with opportunities you never thought you'd have, and probably never will again.*

- Jennifer Cytar, 2011 Spring Semester in France



*This was my second mission trip to the Dominican Republic with the Hugs United group and, I had an extraordinary experience in the Dominican Republic. The experiences you will have interacting with the local people and the opportunities to serve the underprivileged will change your perspective on how we live here in the United States forever. You will leave with a much greater appreciation of the blessings we have in this country.*

- Jeremy Gorsuch, Hugs United Spring Break

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH  
814-472-3245 / [jhorvath@francis.edu](mailto:jhorvath@francis.edu) / [www.francis.edu/studyabroad.htm](http://www.francis.edu/studyabroad.htm)

# WHY STUDY ABROAD?

from [www.studyabroad101.com](http://www.studyabroad101.com)...

Anyone who has studied abroad knows the many benefits of this international experience. Many credit study abroad as changing their life, and opening their eyes. But how do we measure this? Experts in the field have been trying to quantitatively measure the benefits of study abroad for years.

GLOSSARI (the Georgia Learning Outcomes of Students Studying Abroad Research Initiative) put together a research project on the academic outcomes of study abroad, in which they followed nearly 20,000 students who studied abroad from the 35 institutions in the University System of Georgia. They compared these students with a control group matching similar demographics, but who did not study abroad. They've found that students who study abroad have improved academic performance upon returning to their home campus, higher graduation rates, and improved knowledge of cultural practices and context compared to students in control groups. GLOSSARI measured the change in GPA, and graduation rates. They also put out an "intercultural learnings" survey "From pre- to post-test, study abroad participants surpass non-study abroad participants in measures related to functional knowledge of cultural practices... Study abroad students also grew in their knowledge of cultural context."

These advantages aren't just seen in the top students. Greater increases in GPA were also seen in "at risk" students, contradicting the previous notion that these students should stay home and focus on their studies. Instead, study abroad can be used as a way to engage "at risk" students. Study abroad has struggled with attracting a diverse group of participants. Minorities who did study abroad were found to have a dramatically higher graduation rates than minorities who stayed on their home campus; 31% higher for African-American students and 18% for other non-white students.

## FR. GABE VISITS SFU'S SITE IN FRANCE

by John Roche

On Friday April 8, Fr. Gabriel Zeis, President of Saint Francis University, Dr. Wayne Powel, Provost, and Ms. Erin McCloskey, VP of Admissions, arrived in Ambialet to spend a long weekend learning about Saint Francis' Study Abroad Program in France. Upon their arrival in Ambialet, Mr. Timothy Perkins, Executive Director of Saint Francis University in France, was quick to get our guests moving and lead them on a hike into the village for some great photo ops and a refreshing afternoon snack at Café de la Presqu'île, the local (and only!) café in Ambialet. After making their way back up the steep *chemin de croix* to Le Prieuré, Fr. Gabe, Dr. Powel, and Ms. McCloskey met up with the students for a nice welcome dinner. The students were able to share some favorites of both Ambialet, as well as the program.



Saturday morning brought a warm sun-filled day to Ambialet, and our guests headed out for the city of Albi, which was recently named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After spending their day exploring this gem of a city, as well as getting in a little souvenir shopping, the guests returned to Ambialet for a presentation by the students about the program. The students were able to share their experiences in class, traveling around Europe, and even showing some of their favorite hiking paths in the village. Again, students were able to share ideas and memories at dinner with the administrators, this time over duck.

On Sunday morning, the University community joined together with the wider community of Ambialet for a Mass in the Romanesque (11<sup>th</sup> C.) chapel located next to the SFU site. The Mass, which was con-celebrated by Fr. Gabe, gave the local community the opportunity to meet the administration for the first time. Fr. Gabe, with the translating assistance of Dr. Gerald Honigsblum, Academic Coordinator for SFU in France, was able to convey his deep gratitude to the people of Ambialet and his commitment to building up and supporting the program in France. The community welcomed Fr. Gabe, Dr. Powel and Ms. McCloskey with open arms. After Mass, guests, both from SFU and the community, joined together to break bread (and enjoy spring lamb) in the oldest room of Le Priéure. Between cheese and dessert, Fr. Gabe expressed his appreciation to various members of the community, such as the Mayor of Ambialet, the Deputy Mayor of Albi, the President of the University in Albi, the President of the Association of Mato Grosso, one of our French professors, and Peter and Margaret Barratt, the choir directors and our wonderful neighbors in the village. The afternoon was filled with many well wishes and companionship. Several students commented that they had never had a three hour meal!

To end their brief stay here, our guests traveled on Monday to Notre Dame de La Drèche, a Franciscan-run parish located about 30 minutes from Ambialet. The Franciscans at La Drèche were eager to meet with Fr. Gabe and welcome him, along with Dr. Powel and Ms. McCloskey to France. The afternoon was filled with a lunch on site with members of the Mato Grosso Association, which leases the property in Ambialet to Saint Francis. Our guests were able to explore this beautiful church as well as learn more about the Franciscan relationship to southern France. At dinner Monday night (rabbit), Fr. Gabe was able to express his gratitude to the students and staff in France. He encouraged them to promote the SFU France program when they return to campus in the fall.

## SPRING BREAK IN LONDON

by Tim Crawford

This spring break I joined a group of fellow business students to experience London and Paris. The Saint Francis University School of Business sent 22 students, both graduates and undergraduates, to London for 8 days. Accompanying the group were two School of Business faculty members: Dr. Randy Frye (Dean of the School of Business) and Dr. James Logue (accounting professor).

The week was a whirlwind of excitement. We mixed business with tourism while in London. Our required visits took us on walking tours of downtown London and the financial district. We also sat in on an economics lecture at a local university. In addition, we saw many of the iconic images of London on our first day there including Trafalgar Square, Big Ben, Parliament, Westminster Abbey, “London Eye,” and the changing of the guards at Buckingham Palace. The rest of the week we explored all throughout London. We traveled to Windsor Castle, which is one of the original royal residences. We got a close look at some of the major companies that make London a financial leader. We toured Lloyds of London (largest insurance brokerage in the world), Bloomberg (top provider of financial information in the world), and the Bank of England. We took a high-speed train to Paris for a day and visited the major destinations including the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre Museum. My favorite experience of the trip was attending a football game. Many of the students, including me, were fortunate to see Arsenal vs. Leyton Orient at Emirates Stadium. Arsenal dominated 5-0. We capped off our week with a free day full of exploration. Some of us went shopping, and others went back to their favorite spots. My friends and I ventured to Wimbledon for most of the day. The Spring Break in London trip has left a lasting impression on all of us. It was an amazing opportunity for which we are very fortunate. These experiences taught us a lot about London, the United Kingdom, and us. We can’t wait to go back again!



## HUGS UNITED IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

by Noelle Barber

As the president of Hugs United this year, I could not be more pleased with the trip. I think that every volunteer on the trip was impacted in a very strong way. You could see it in the expressions on the group members’ faces and in their actions and words throughout the week. There was a definite love that oozed from each individual while we were in the Dominican Republic and this love continues to be quite apparent in each participant. It is always a very exciting thing for me to witness how powerful this trip is for both old and new group members. Even though this is my third international trip with Hugs, I continue to be strongly impacted and sculpted into a better person with each successive trip. There is something really powerful and special about being able to give to the communities that we visit, see the smiles that we put on people’s faces, and receive such heart-felt hugs of appreciation and love. I cannot imagine my life and college career without Hugs. Each trip has played a major role in helping me find myself and grow in my faith, as I further accept my calling to do this sort of mission work. The trip this year was especially rewarding as we impacted literally hundreds of people within such a short amount of time.

With a record-breaking 56 team members on this year’s trip, our group’s experience was especially incredible. This large group size is a true testimony to the way that this trip impacts volunteers and the way that it attracts the campus community to a greater involvement in our mission. With such a large group, we were able to achieve so much more than

we could in the past. For instance, I was on the medical team where I served as a translator and worked with five physician assistants and doctors, (among numerous other volunteers), who provided care in the local bateyes (company towns where sugar workers live) Monday through Thursday. Together, we were able to see an impressive 631 patients during those four days. One cannot help but be struck by the realization of how many people we were able to touch that week. This number is proof of how people with big hearts and loving, helping hands can make a large difference in many people's lives. It is a beautiful thing to witness and be part of the service that Hugs United provides in the Dominican Republic through Orphanage Outreach.

*Noelle Barber is the recipient of our 2011 International Service Award.*

***Congratulations, Noelle!***

## Welcome Home 2011 Spring Semester in France Students!

*It's a funny thing, coming home.*

*Nothing changes.*

*Everything looks the same*

*feels the same,*

*even smells the same.*

*You realize what's changed is you.*

*-Taylor Golden,*

*2011 Spring Semester in France*



### SEMESTER IN FRANCE

by Henry Chuang

This January, I was fortunate enough to be sent on a 6 week trip to Ambialet to be a program assistant for the Semester in France program. Having spent 2 semesters abroad in Germany when I myself was an undergraduate, I had very high expectations. I had experienced Europe, and I hoped to relive past memories as well as to create exciting new ones. I was not disappointed. The monastery in the mountains (or the "castle" as the students liked to call it) provided an amazing view of the town, the Tarn River, and the entire valley. Add 21 excited students and a fun-loving dog to the picture, and you have enough energy that will power you through weeks of study and exploration. Authentic cuisine for every lunch and dinner freshly prepared by Chef Bernard satisfied our taste buds. French classes taught exclusively in French helped the students become better learners. Wine tasting with and instructed by French students deepened our sense of culture. Reliving history through visiting and learning from churches and cities where the events took place added a new dimension to learning. A trip to Barcelona became a highlight for all the students, as it was their first opportunity to explore a major European city on their own. Beyond the traditional canon of Gaudi, Picasso and Miro, Catalan cuisine and the rich night life created fond memories for all the students, all of which was documented by the thousands of pictures that were taken. But I think the most memorable will be the relationships that were forged between the students. Living in close quarters, sharing every meal together, traveling together -- they became a real family. I heard students talking about how they definitely had to hang out together when they returned, or how weird it will be when they get back. I think that speaks a lot of the program, and how well it was planned and organized. For me, leaving the "castle" was difficult, but I have a lot of fond memories to remember it by, and I already look forward to the reunions that will take place!

## Wishing our summer travelers a safe and wonderful experience!

**Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico** 5/6 – 6/5

32 students under the direction of Dr. Morales

**St. Lucia** 5/13 – 20

10 students under the direction of Dr. Morra

**Parma, Italy** 5/13 – 6/12

34 students under the direction of Mr. Olson

**Potosi, Bolivia** 5/14 – 29

2 students under the direction of  
Dr. Strosnider

**Deaf Cruise to Bahamas** 5/21 – 28

15 students under the direction of Ms. DeArmin

**Ambialet France** 6/21 – 29

9 Alum under the direction of Mr. Perkins

**Ambialet France** 6/19 – 7/18

15 students under the direction of Mr. Perkins

**London** 7/7 -8/8

1 student with CCSA

**Ireland** 7/11-26

1 student with CCSA