

SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY



Meeting Our Brothers and Sisters Around the Globe

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2011

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

Semester in France
Summer in France
Springtime in Italy
May in Mexico
Spring Break in London
Hugs United
Cooperative Center for
Study Abroad Offerings
ASL Immersion Cruise
Christmas in Germany

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

www.francis.edu/StudyAbroad.htm

International Education Week

(Nov. 14 – 18)

is an initiative of the U.S.
Department of State and
the U.S. Department of
Education to promote
programs that prepare
Americans for global
environment and attract
future leaders from
abroad.

Look for upcoming study
abroad events to take
place during this week.

NEW SUMMER ABROAD PROGRAMS

Two of our newest programs: Engineering in Bolivia, headed by William Strosnider, and The ASL Immersion Cruise to the Bahamas, directed by Gale DeArmin have recently been highlighted in the area news media (see below). Kudos for a job well done!

Taken from Russ O'Reilly's article featured in the Altoona Mirror on July 12, 2011

St. Francis University students visited farming communities in Bolivia, South America, last May to apply their engineering knowledge to help remedy rivers plagued with acid-mine drainage that is considered 10,000 times worse than in Pennsylvania.

Over the course of a week, two students and two faculty members - in the university's first international engineering project - helped to reduce the drainage affecting approximately 8,500 people in Bolivian farming communities.

Limestone channels, a method used in reducing Pennsylvania's river pollution, would effectively treat Rio Jackucha water for 30 years, according to St. Francis engineering professor William Strosnider.

The St. Francis team worked alongside indigenous farmers to move 200,000 metric tons of limestone boulders into a highly turbulent Rio Jackucha stream.

It's a simple method to reduce acidity, but tests needed to be conducted to ensure it would work, according to student Kelsea Palmer.

"We needed to know exactly how much limestone we needed because we were working with a fixed budget," Palmer said, referring to \$95,000 in donations from various Rotary clubs. The limestone was delivered from a quarry about 20 miles from the site and was moved into the stream by hand and wheel barrow.

Palmer realized the project's impact as she helped to move limestone boulders, some as heavy as 150 pounds. "Pennsylvania has acid-mine pollution," she said, "so it hit home to work with people dealing with the same problem."

The St. Francis team is awaiting water samples from Bolivia in order to assess whether the limestone has changed the water's acidity levels. If results are successful, Bolivian government officials may implement limestone channels throughout the nation, Strosnider said.

Deaf Weekly wrote about the cruise to the Bahamas...

SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS EXPLORE FIRST ASL IMMERSION EXPERIENCE

College students routinely travel to exotic destinations around the world to refine their skills in foreign languages. One language and culture that until now university students have not had the opportunity to be fully immersed in is American Sign Language. That changed recently for a lucky group of Saint Francis University students, who signed up for a special ASL course in May and found a place on an eight day/seven night cruise to the Bahamas coordinated by Passages Deaf Travel.



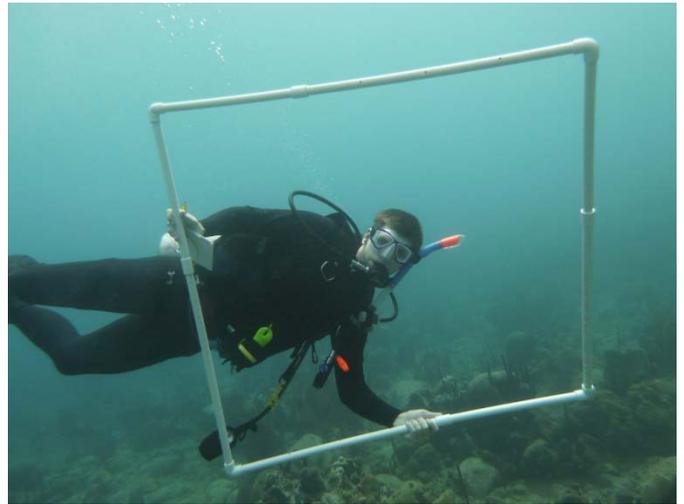
SFU AROUND THE GLOBE THIS SUMMER

MAY IN ST. LUCIA

Dr. Sue Morra

Dr. Sue Morra together with 11 students traveled to St. Lucia in the Caribbean to complete scuba training dives and to take the Research Diver Methods class. Students made a total of 11 dives over 5 days. The diving was beautiful with the students learning to identify many new organisms along with techniques for collecting coral reef data. On top of all of the diving, the students visited the local Catholic Church joining the parish in celebrating Sunday Mass and visited the rain forest, climbing from sea level to over 2000 feet. Every evening was spent learning about Caribbean culture and island life.

Plans are already being made for May 2012 at which time students will be able to complete scuba training dives, coral reef ecology, and participate in a local service project to help the St. Lucian people.



Mark Steinmiller carrying one of the grids used underwater while completing the Research Diver Techniques course in St. Lucia.



Monica King learning to play the steel drums during one evening in St. Lucia.

ENGINEERING STUDENTS IN BOLIVIA

Dr. William Strosnider

When SFU students weren't touring Pre-Incan ruins, sailing Lake Titicaca, hiking in the Bolivian Altiplano, or enjoying Bolivian culture and food, they were performing important engineering service and research during the Environmental Engineering Service-Learning-Research Experience in Bolivia. This year's trip was a collaborative effort between faculty and students from the University of Oklahoma and Rotary International. Our team worked hand in hand with the local community to build an acid mine drainage treatment system to reclaim much-needed irrigation water in a high altitude (>2.5 miles above sea level) Alpine desert. The systems are the first of their kind in Bolivia. The team also studied the source of one of the worst acid mine drainage discharges in the world. Students and faculty presented their findings to the Bolivian government and were excited to find themselves on all three broadcast television stations the following morning. Students are currently preparing their findings for presentation at one international and one national conference.



Reach Higher. Go Far. Go St. Lucia!



Students, Kelsea Palmer and Ashley Neptune reach higher as faculty members Joel Bandstra and Bill Strosnider display the SFU banner in Bolivia.

SFU AROUND THE GLOBE THIS SUMMER

SUMMER IN FRANCE 2011

Charles Olson

Viewing the monastic site and the village of Ambialet (which serves as the center for the University's programs in France) is, as in the words of Stephen O'Shea's description of Carcassone, to dream with your eyes open. To imagine that our university has such a beautiful part of France within its community of students and scholars is truly remarkable. Students and faculty arriving there cannot believe that this historic place will be their home, classroom, and frame for their study abroad experience.

This, the second year of the Ambialet summer program, was experienced by 15 students, 4 professors, and members of their families. This community of students, professors, and families is true to the Franciscan spirit. Professors Ed Zovinka and Rose Clark taught a course in Environmental Chemistry, using the site as a model for soil and water tests to identify toxins within the context of the 4 credit chemistry course. Marie Thomas-Olson taught elementary French and an advanced tutorial class and Chuck Olson taught classes in Drawing, Painting, and Explorations in the Arts. The 4 week course of study saw the students and faculty on field trips to Toulouse, Albi, the picturesque village of Cordes sur Ciel, and the great Romanesque medieval center at Conques. Students also traveled independently to Barcelona, Paris, and Albi. Each day was very active with morning and afternoon classes followed by hiking and swimming in the beautiful Tarn river that surrounds the site. The village of Ambialet also hosted a fabulous Blues Festival complete with a large (150+) community dinner and concerts. Students attended and sang Mass at the historic Romanesque chapel (11th century) located on the monastery grounds.



Dr. Clark with her chemistry students taking water samples from the Tarn.

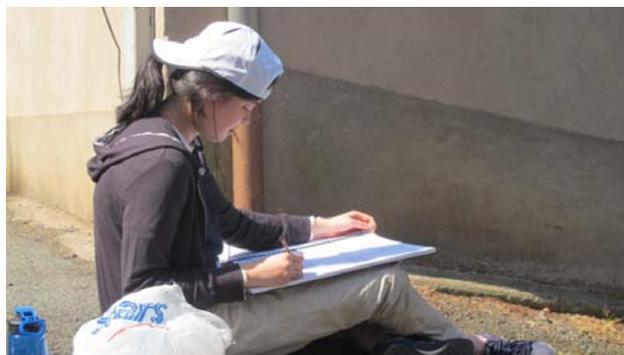
One cannot fail to cite the importance of the Ambialet team which includes director Timothy Perkins, assistant Sophie LeQuere, and Bernard (Ambialet's most important chef!). The food here is a major part of the experience. Via Bernard's capable hands, one is served duck, rabbit, steak, salmon, beef and pork not to mention a great range of vegetables (including specially prepared meals for those vegetarians among us). A memorable enormous *paella* was cooked for 30 people and served, as most meals are there, outside taking advantage of the spectacular vista of the Tarn valley. Sophie's garden project is also underway there as she capably reorganizes the once neglected gardens of the old monastery. Future students will be involved in designing and planting unique sections of the garden so that the garden project will act as a natural metaphor for the connection and exchange between the students and the monastery. The intellectual exchange between students and professors was constant with this group and included an ever present level of wonderful humor.

An exhibition of the portrait paintings by Liza Catania and photographs by Leona Horner was also installed in the closing days of the program. Mr. Olson also set up a working studio for his own painting.

The Ambialet center beautifully responds to the diverse needs of our university community. Plans are being made for 2012 summer!



Learning to cook French cuisine



Drawing student, Qin Tao, capturing the French countryside in her art

SFU AROUND THE GLOBE THIS SUMMER

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE IMMERSION CRUISE

Gale DeArmin

What do you get when you take 15 students without their voices to the Caribbean with 500 Deaf passengers?...An immersion experience like no other. In May, Saint Francis students embarked on the first American Sign Language (ASL) Immersion Cruise. The six week course included one week aboard Royal Caribbean's Oasis of the Seas. Students were only allowed to use Sign Language or pen and paper as their mode of communication. They attended dinner each evening with different groups of Deaf passengers, attended shows expressed in ASL, participated in contests, and all Deaf excursions when at port. Skills improved beyond anyone's expectations and knowledge of Deaf Culture was learned firsthand.



American Sign Language students sporting their SFU ASL tees while reaching higher and signing, I love you.

SPRINGTIME IN ITALY 2011

Charles Olson

The Springtime in Italy (7th edition) was true to the program's mission statement in providing yet again a unique, new experience for its 33 students and 5 faculty. Every May the program embarks on its cultural journey of exchange in the arts, culture, and knowledge. The city of Parma has grown to know us and to anticipate our arrival. We are greeted with an enthusiasm filled with possibility.

There were many new experiences with the 2011 program. All classes were held within the 17th century Orseline Convent, a landmark structure within the Parma architectural landscape. The large classroom was filled with works of art dating back to the 1600s as well as the beautiful chapel just across from our classroom. The welcome afforded to us by the nuns charmed our entire group and Orseline will now be our new academic home for future programs. Courses in Art History II, Photography, Explorations in the Arts, and Italian were comfortably conducted in this magnificent space. In addition the students traveled with the Italian class to the great castle at Torrechiarra, experienced cooking lessons, the Galeria Nazionale, and visited a cheese factory. Free to travel on the weekends with their train passes in hand, students and faculty visited Venice, Rome, Florence, Pisa, Milan, Verona, Assisi and the ever popular Cinqueterre, famous for its rugged Mediterranean coastline hikes.

Jim Donovan conducted his one week hand drumming course which included its traditional "graduation ceremony" of a public performance at the popular *Giovane Italia Club* in Parma. Other musicians arrived with Professor Donovan (Greg Joseph of the popular Pittsburgh-based band *The Clarks*; Dave Antolik and Dan Murphy of *Remaining Green*; and Kent Tonkin from the Cermusa program) and together with program director Chuck Olson performed 4 concerts within the city and the region. This idea of bringing art and music performance to Italy has been the tradition of this program and something that the Parmenese have come to expect from us. Mr. Joseph, Mr. Murphy, and Mr. Antolik all



Reach Higher. Go Far. Go Cinqueterre!

SFU AROUND THE GLOBE THIS SUMMER

SPRINGTIME IN ITALY 2011 (CONT.)

lectured to the students in the Explorations course on the subjects of creative process, the discipline of maintaining creative work in one's life, and insights on how to be an artist/musician and maintain a "traditional" job as they have done as bankers and teachers.

Mr. Olson, Mr. Donovan, and Mr. Tonkin met with doctors from Parma's clinic for autistic children to present Mr. Donovan's ground breaking program in expanding the attention span of autistic children through percussion. The program was so well received that a video conference call will be set up for the fall between the university and *Autism Europe*.

In addition, we were again the featured participants in "Crossroads 2011" at the Biblioteca Internazionale- an evening of cultural exchange held at the international library of Parma. The program included lectures by professors Olson and Madigan on their painting; a presentation of student photography from professor Miller's Introduction to Photography class; and a concert of music featuring professors Madigan and Olson with student Caleb Brown on drums and two Italian guitar standouts, students of the renowned Dr. Paolo Schianchi.

Dr. Schianchi (www.paoloschianchi.com) will be coming to Loretto for the spring term 2012 as our first artist in residence--a direct result of this spirit of cultural exchange. He performed for us in a magnificent 18th century salon on the evening before our departure, thus providing a memorable conclusion to an incredible 4 weeks.



Students in Parma returning their bikes for the next summer's group.

SFU's 2012 spring semester first artist in residence, Dr. Paolo Schianchi



National Critics Association says Dr. Paolo Schianchi is among the greatest guitarists. SFU is privileged indeed to have Dr. Schianchi on the schedule as first artist in residence for the 2012 spring semester.

SFU AROUND THE GLOBE THIS SUMMER

MAY IN MEXICO PROGRAM 2011

Devon Courtney



In the breath-taking city of Playa del Carmen, located on the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico, students enjoyed the luxurious Caribbean beaches and fabulous sites throughout the month of May. In the morning, students departed from their dorm or host family's house to attend classes at the International House, Riviera Maya School. By taking Spanish, religious studies, and fine arts classes, students were able to obtain up to seven credits, all while on vacation! After school, students were able to sunbathe, swim, jet-ski, and parasail at the pristine beach only two blocks away. Students also explored the thrilling night life, learning various cultural dances and songs as well as meeting people from all over the world.

On the weekends, Saint Francis students had once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to visit some of the most renowned places in the world. Students climbed pyramids, visited historical cities such as Mérida, frequented local markets, explored natural sinkholes, learned about ancient Mayan culture at the Museum of Anthropology, and observed beautiful cathedrals. Saint Francis students toured the pyramids of Chichen Itza and enjoyed many days of fun, cliff diving, zip-lining, snorkeling, rope climbing, and swimming with dolphins in the eco-friendly parks of Xel-ha and Xcaret. They were also swept off their feet by an amazing folkloric ballet spectacular at Xcaret, depicting the history of the Mayans and present day Mexico. Another unique opportunity was a tour to Ciudad de la Alegria (City of Joy), a huge complex run by Catholic charities, where students had the chance to visit the elderly at a senior retirement community, visit the sick at a Hospice, and visit young mothers with their young children at a women's shelter. All of these excursions enriched the students' lives, enhancing their overall experience and granting them a lifetime of remarkable memories.



Jordan Over posing with a man dressed as a Mayan warrior.



Reach Higher. Go Far. Go Yucatan

The Center for International Education is currently accepting applications for the 2012 spring and fall semesters in France. Courses offered each semester in France are: FREN 112, RLST 400, FNAR 101 and FNAR 102. The spring semester also offers BIOL 206 online. Dr. Dennis McIlnay is scheduled to teach during the 2012 fall semester offering an additional three credits in a business course. Faculty and advisors, please encourage your students to apply to the program early. Students, get your passports now, and stop by 214 Schwab to arrange your study abroad experience.