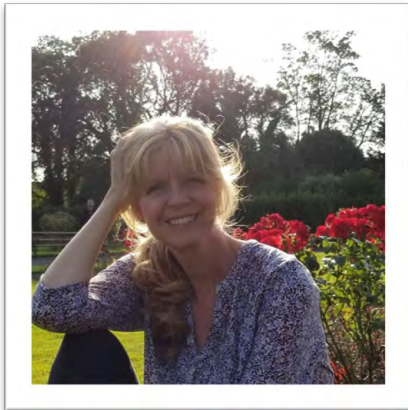


### A Word From Our Managing Director, Loni Dishong



I hope that all of you are staying healthy and are looking forward to some restful and restorative time during this holiday season to connect with those you love, either in the same space or online. Welcome to the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the IU Honors Program in Foreign Languages (IUHPFL) Polyglot Press!

In 2009, my predecessor, Stephanie Goetz, coordinated and released the first edition of this annual newsletter to our alums, high school teachers, and other supporters and collaborators. Its purpose these past twelve years has been to provide important updates pertaining to the program's development, overviews of the previous summer's activities at each site around the world, and statistical data, such as student demographics, participation by regions around the state, and figures relating to scholarship donations and awards.

This issue, however, is unlike any that we have created before, as a result of the cancellation of our summer 2020 programs due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). At present in the United States alone, there have been over 17 million cases of the illness, and more than 300 thousand lives have been tragically lost. As the number of cases continues to rise around the world, we find ourselves in the midst of a jolting and deeply impactful time in history. Collectively and individually, we are reshaping our daily lives in ways we never imagined would be necessary and we are looking toward the future with a mix of emotions ranging from fearfulness to anticipation. With vaccines now in development and distribution, we see a glimmer of hope at the end of what has been and is yet to be a long journey, and although we still have many unanswered questions and we don't clearly see the road ahead, we do see the ways in which this experience is changing our values and our priorities.

At this time of year, when we find ourselves reflecting on our own stories and feeling especially inclined to connect with those we love and cherish, I hope you will enjoy the following greetings, updates and photos from our onsite coordinators around the world. In the absence of programming, we thought it would be a unique opportunity to welcome in the voices of these amazing individuals, who are solely responsible for the selection, training, and supervision of our dedicated host families. Our onsite coordinators don't often receive the recognition and praise they deserve, so therefore I wish to emphasize that IUHPFL could not exist nor would it be as successful if not for their kindness, hard work, and generosity. I am sure that you happily join me in saying THANK YOU, XIÈXIÈ, MERCI, DANKE, ARIGATŌ, and GRACIAS to each and every one of them!

*Continued on page 17*

**Please consider making a donation to the IUHPFL Scholarship Fund!**



(Click to access the link)

# Greetings and Updates from Our Onsite Coordinators

## Brest, France

### Marie-Jo & Jean-Paul Berthevas



Here we are with our children and our little granddaughter, Ivy!

Salutations à vous tous, nos amis de l'IUHPFL à travers le monde!

Les activités sont restées très limitées en raison du COVID et de la quarantaine, mais nous restons optimistes pour 2021.

Nos familles d'accueil se portent bien et ont hâte d'accueillir à nouveau des étudiants!

Nous avons bon espoir que cette nouvelle année sera meilleure et que le vaccin sauvera de nombreuses vies.

Prenez soin de vous et de vos proches. Nous vous souhaitons de joyeuses fêtes!



Our beaches, under a beautiful sun this summer

Greetings to all of you, our IUHPFL friends around the world!

Activities have continued to be very limited due to COVID and quarantine, but we remain optimistic for 2021.

Our host families are doing well and are looking forward to hosting students once again!

We remain hopeful that this new year will be better and that the vaccine will save many lives.

Take care of yourselves and your loved ones. We wish you Happy Holidays!



Jean-Paul and a fellow dancer in late 19th century Breton costume



Lighthouse and St. Matthew Monastery

# Ciudad Real, Spain

## Isabel Raez

¡Saludos desde Ciudad Real, España!

La verdad es que este verano fue raro y muy distinto para todos en general, pero en especial a las familias de Ciudad Real nos ha faltado la alegría, la inocencia y la frescura que nos aportan nuestros estudiantes de IUHPFL. Nuestro mayor deseo es que todo vuelva a la normalidad pronto y que este próximo verano podamos disfrutar de vosotros, los alumnos, y vosotros de nosotros para que podáis aprender lo máximo posible de nuestro idioma, cultura, costumbres, tradiciones gastronómicas y todo ello junto a nuestras familias ciudadrealeñas que son las que hacen sentir al estudiante como uno más de la familia .



Ciudad Real es una ciudad muy pequeña, cómoda y tranquila, pero que guarda muchísimas riquezas como La Puerta de Toledo de estilo mudéjar, la iglesia gótica de San Pedro que se caracteriza por sus decoraciones moriscas, mientras la catedral de Santa María del Prado del siglo XIII tiene una gran nave y un retablo barroco muy ornamentado .

¿Y que puedo decir de sus pueblos y de sus gentes? Simplemente que son todo corazón y que enamoran . ¡Estoy encantada y emocionada por el futuro de IUHPFL!

Greetings from Ciudad Real, Spain!

The truth is that this summer was strange and very different for everyone in general, but in particular the families of Ciudad Real have lacked the joy, innocence and vitality that our IUHPFL students bring us. Our greatest wish is that everything returns to normal soon and that this next summer we can enjoy hosting you students and you can learn as much as possible about our language, culture, customs, gastronomic traditions and everything else, together with our families from Ciudad Real, who are the ones that make each student feel like a member of the family.



Ciudad Real is a very small, comfortable and quiet city, but it holds many treasures such as La Puerta de Toledo in the Mudejar style, the Gothic church of San Pedro that is characterized by its Moorish decorations, while the cathedral of Santa María del Prado from the 8th century has a large nave and a highly detailed Baroque altarpiece.

And what can I say about the surrounding towns and the people of this region? Simply that they are all heart and that they love and welcome others. I am delighted and excited for the future of IUHPFL!

## SOMMER 2020 IN GRAZ

Dieser Sommer war ein ganz besonderer für alle Menschen in Graz und natürlich auch für mich und meine Familie. Nachdem das ganze Land im Frühling mehrere Wochen im Corona Lockdown verbracht hatte, freuten wir uns nun schon alle auf warmes Wetter, unsere Freunde und unsere Familien.

Graz hat im Sommer normalerweise unendlich viel an kulturellen und Freizeitaktivitäten zu bieten. Die historische Altstadt mit ihren kleinen, fast schon mediterranen Innenhöfen ist zu dieser Jahreszeit der ideale Ort für Konzerte, Straßen- und Kunstfestivals. Der Grazer Jazzsommer, das Straßenkunstfestival La Strada sowie das traditionelle Folklorefest „Aufsteirern“ sind mittlerweile zu Fixpunkten im Grazer Sommer geworden.



Alpen und an einem der wunderschönen Kärntner Seen verbracht.

Ich glaube die Menschen hier haben den Sommer dazu genutzt um für den herausfordernden Herbst und Winter mit der Pandemie emotional gewappnet zu sein. Und auch ohne Events und Veranstaltungen war der Sommer in Graz wunderschön!

## SUMMER 2020 IN GRAZ

This summer was a very unusual one for all people in Graz and of course for me and my family as well. After the whole country had spent several weeks in Corona lockdown in spring, we were all looking forward to warm weather and to meeting with our friends and our families.

Graz usually has an infinite number of cultural and leisure activities to offer in the summer. The historic old town with its small, almost Mediterranean courtyards is the ideal place for concerts, street and art festivals at this time of year. The Graz Jazz Summer, the street art festival "La Strada" as well as the traditional folklore festival "Aufsteirern" have become fixed points in the Graz summer.

This year we unfortunately had to do without many of them due to Corona, but we still enjoyed the personal freedom and the opportunity to finally meet with friends and family again. While my family and I usually always go to Italy or Croatia to the sea in the summer, we enjoyed the summer in Austria this year all the more. We spent some days in the Austrian Alps and at one of the beautiful Carinthian Lakes.

I think people here used the summer to prepare emotionally for the challenging autumn and winter with the pandemic. And even without events and activities the summer in Graz was wonderful!

# Graz, Austria

## Katharina Kamitz



# Hangzhou, China

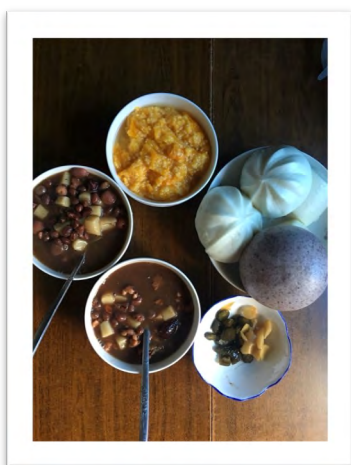
## Nova Shao— CET Academic Programs

Greetings from Shanghai! My name is Nova Shao, a local Shanghainese who lives in Pudong New District of Shanghai, China, about an hour from Hangzhou, where our IUHPFL program is. China started to fight COVID-19 in late January, when the city of Wuhan locked down after the first cases were found there. Shanghai, 513 miles away from Wuhan, took immediate action too. The community I live in used to have five entry points, but in order to control movement, all but one were shut down. Residents were given a pass to enter and exit the community and temperature checks were implemented. It did make life inconvenient, but most people were willing to compromise and cooperate. For Chinese New Year (January 24-31), the biggest festival for visiting relatives in a year, my family stayed home the whole time.



Nova with her parents, celebrating her mom's birthday in October 2020

我叫Nova，来自中国上海，居住在浦东新区。中国从1月底就开始了与新冠病毒的斗争。疫情爆发地武汉从1月23日开始实行封城。五百英里外的上海也马上制定了应对措施。我所居住的小区原本有五个出入口，疫情传播最不确定的几个月里，只有一个出入口开放。虽然日常生活因此不方便，居民也都尽量理解和配合。1月24日到31日是中国的农历新年假期，原本一年中最重要的走亲访友的节日。我和很多人一样，没有出门走亲戚，每天都和我的父母在家吃饭。



From February to March, the tension of fighting COVID-19 was high. Chinese people were mobilized to deal with it as if they were fighting a war. I watched news on TV and got information online, tracking the progress every day. Rumors also spread quickly online and I tried to put my parents at ease by not keeping too much food at home, which I thought would stress them out. People were rarely found in the commercial and tourist sites and many small businesses had to close. More and more people chose to shop online in order to avoid unnecessary commuting. Wearing face masks and washing and disinfecting hands frequently became daily routine. However, for people like me, who enjoy shopping in a real store, it was nice to still find abundant fresh food in local stores every day.

在疫情传播比较快的2月和3月，大家的神经基本保持紧张。对待疫情就应该像对待战争一样，要有必胜的决心。每天我从电视新闻和网络上获得信息，判断形势。这个时候一些谣言和传闻在网络上散播地特别快。当出现号召大家去囤积食物的信息出现时，我试图让父母冷静，没有必要去哄抢物资，加入恐慌的人群。这段时间，原本热闹的商店、餐馆等商业场所都人流锐减。很多小生意经营不下去，不得不关门。越来越多的人选择网上购物，尽量减少出门。即便需要出门，肯定是戴好口罩，回家第一时间洗手。但我更喜欢线下采购生活用品，还是每天在附近的小超市购买新鲜食物。

## Hangzhou, China continued

In March, as things were still locked down, we all found ways to entertain ourselves at home. I signed up for an online writing class, which focused specifically on food. I enjoyed reading a lot of reflections on the relationship between food and environment, family life, social development. Some of my friends decided to become vegetarians in response to pandemic, hoping to live a life more friendly to animals and the environment.

我在三月参加了一个线上的写作营，写我们和食物有关的故事。在参与者的写作中，有很多对食物和环境、家庭生活、社会发展之间关系的反思。我身边也有朋友因为疫情做出了饮食上的改变，决定成为素食主义者，希望过对动物和环境更友好的生活。

Because of the lockdown of Wuhan city and government intervention from all levels, the pandemic was controlled in a relatively short time in China. On January 24, Shanghai activated its highest level of public health emergency response to contain the epidemic. The alert was downgraded to the second level on March 24, and again downgraded to the third level on May 9. Since then, our social lives and economic activity have been back to normal for the most part. One entry point became two in my community (although it was turned into one again a month ago to cope with the confirmed local COVID-19 cases in the same district). People are actually pretty confident in the government's ability to control the spread of the virus and thus are enjoying living the normal life.

因为武汉的封锁和各地对疫情的有效防控，疫情在中国其他城市的传播得到较快控制。1月24日上海把公共卫生事件应急响应等级调整到最高程度，3月24日下调一级，5月9日继续下调一级。很多商业场所开始逐渐恢复人气。几个月没有见到的朋友也开始陆续走动。我们家的小区从一个出入口变成了前后两个。一个月前，又因为出现本土疫情而调整成一个。现在即便本土疫情还是会出现，大家对政府的防控能力还是比较有信心，不会担心疫情大范围扩散而太过影响正常生活。



Shanghai Metro Line 2—February 2020

# León, Spain

Sira Quindos

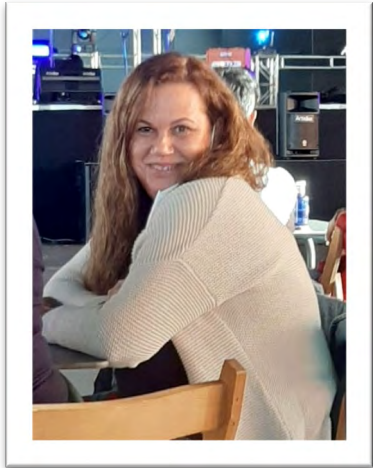
¡Saludos, desde un frío León, España, a todos los amigos y compañeros de IUHPFL!

Este año está siendo extraño con el COVID y hay que habituarse a las nuevas normas, sobre todo al distanciamiento social, cosa que los españoles lo llevamos mal. Pero yo soy positiva y confío en que pronto podremos todos vacunarnos.

Las familias y yo hemos echado mucho de menos el programa este año ... ya es un clásico y un momento alegre en nuestras vidas !!!

Aprovecho la ocasión para desearos unas felices fiestas y lo mejor para el 2021 de parte de todos.

¡Espero poder abrazarnos pronto!



Botines Palace, designed by Antoni Gaudí

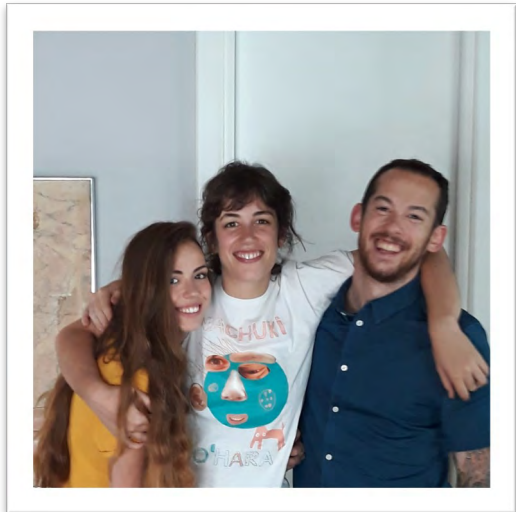
Greetings, from a cold Leon, Spain, to all of my IUHPFL friends and colleagues!

This year has been strange with COVID and having to acclimate to new norms, above all social distancing, something that doesn't go over well for us Spaniards. But I'm a positive person and I trust that before long we will have access to a vaccine.

The host families and I have greatly missed the program this year ... it's essential for us and a time of joy in our lives!!!

So I'd like to take advantage of this moment to wish you all Happy Holidays and all the best for 2021 on behalf of all of us here.

I hope that we will be able to embrace one another soon!



My children,  
my treasure



Famous  
Cathedral of  
León, beautiful  
example of  
Gothic  
architecture

# Mérida, Mexico

**Diana Arízaga— Institute for Study Abroad (IFSA)**

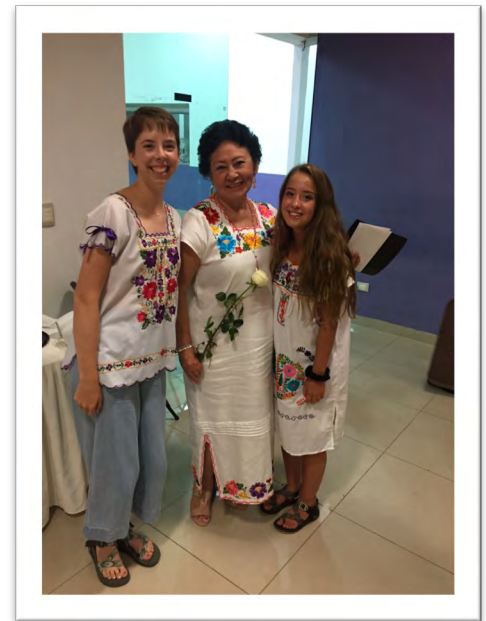
**And the host mothers of Mérida**

¡Hola queridos estudiantes y amigos!

Queremos darles nuestros mejores deseos para este nuevo año. Deben saber que les extrañamos mucho este 2020 y que no podemos esperar a poder verles de nuevo, reírnos y disfrutar el tiempo con ustedes.

Esperamos que durante estas fiestas tengan momentos alegres, llenos de cariño con sus familias y demás seres queridos.

¡Felices Fiestas de parte de sus mamás mexicanas!



Hello, dear students and friends!

We wish to pass along our best wishes for this new year. You should know that we missed you a great deal in summer 2020 and we can't wait to see you again, to laugh, and to enjoy time with you.

We hope that during this holiday season you have happy moments, full of love with your families and loved ones.

Happy Holidays from your Mexican moms!





2020年12月

## Masatomo Yonezu—CET Academic Programs

大阪からこんにちは！他の国に住む皆さんも経験しているように、感染症の世界的な影響は、日本社会にも変化をもたらしました。例えば、IUHPFLのホスト高校だった大阪高校では在宅学習が2か月続きました。その後、新型コロナウイルスの感染者の数が落ち着いた6月頃、学生の数を限定して授業が再開されました。大阪高校の学生は、ソーシャルディスタンスとマスクの着用など、新しい生活様式に慣れたところです。

日本政府は、“5つのK”というガイドラインを作りました（少人数を、窓を開けて換気するなど）。それ以外は、ビジネスも学校もある程度日常に戻ったようです。政府が“Go Toトラベル”という、ホテル代や交通費などの旅行代金を割引したり、ローカルなお店やレストランで使えるクーポンを配布するキャンペーンを始めたので、国内旅行が流行りました。これにより、外国からの観光客に頼っていた地域経済は活気づくことができました。



Masatomo Yonezu—Pictured 3rd from the left

最近になって感染者が増加しているため、旅行のキャンペーンの効果は薄まって来ています。それでも、日本ではほとんどの人が用心深くマスクを着けたり、手の消毒をしたりしています。私の好きな変化は、お店、駅や歩道に、6フィートの間隔をあけるよう思い出させる小さな足跡のマークがどこでも見られることです。

2017年から2019年にIUHPFLの学生を受け入れてくれたホストファミリーとも連絡を取っています。皆さん元気にしていて、IUHPFLの学生が日本に来てくれることを心待ちにしています。私たちも同じ気持ちです！

だんだん寒くなるにつれて、もう春と桜のことを考えてしまいます。みなさん、よい年をお迎えください。

*(English version on next page)*



# Osaka, Japan continued

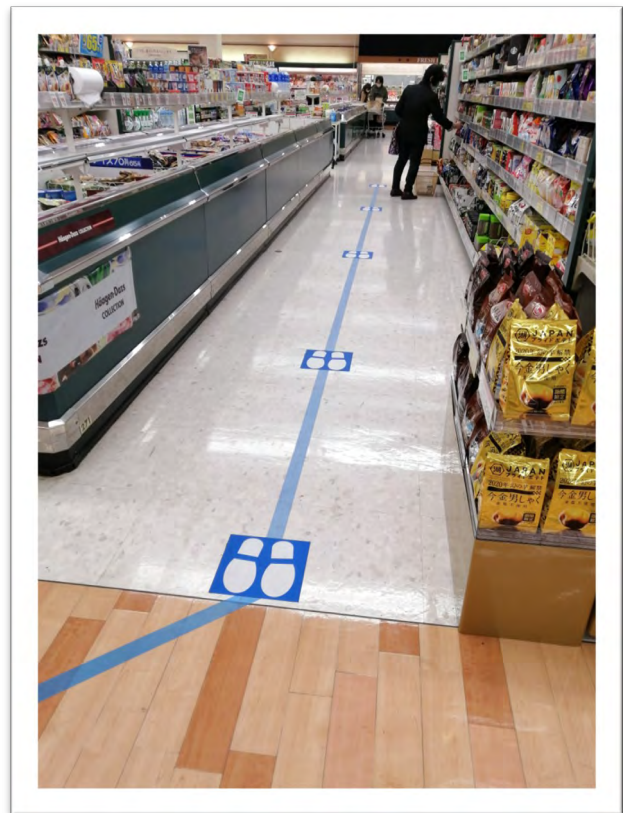
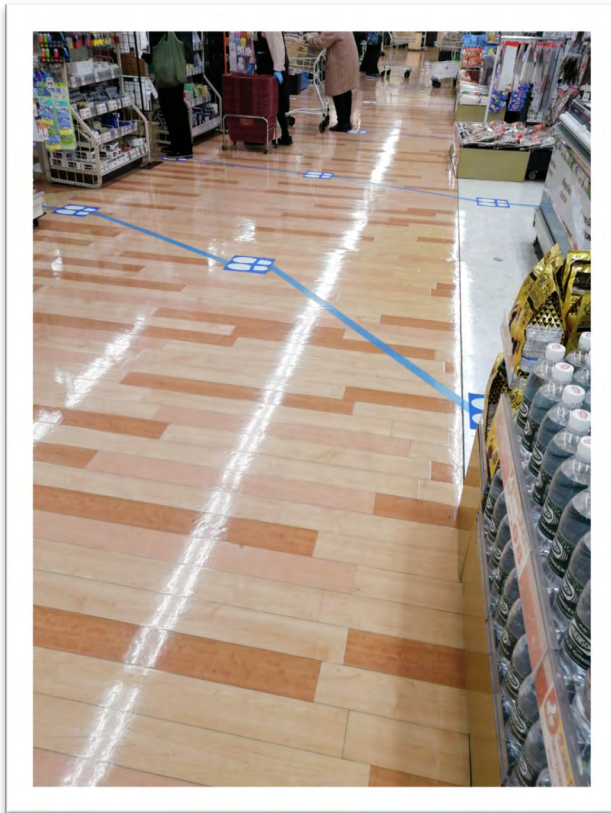
December 2020

Greetings from Osaka! Like our friends and colleagues around the world, residents of Japan have witnessed a few changes due to the global pandemic. For example, our host school, Osaka High School, experienced two months of distance learning before resuming in-person classes with reduced class size in June, after COVID infections remained relatively low. OHS students have adjusted to the new normal with social distancing and wearing masks.

The Japanese government issues regular guidelines like “The Five Keeps” (keep groups small, keep windows open, etc.), but businesses and schools have otherwise resumed business as sort-of-usual. There has even been a small domestic travel boom – the Japanese government introduced a travel incentive program called “Go To Travel,” providing subsidies for folks using public transit, staying at hotels, and visiting local shops and restaurants. This was a huge boost to local economies that are largely dependent on foreign tourism.

With a recent spike in cases, those travel incentives are beginning to fade, but most Japanese people remain vigilant about wearing masks and using hand sanitizer. My favorite change is the little footprints now omnipresent at grocery stores, train stations, and sidewalks to remind us to stay six feet apart.

We like to keep in touch with our homestay families who have hosted IUHPFL students in 2017, 2018, and 2019. They are doing well, and hope to be welcoming IUHPFL students to Japan again soon. We hope so, too!



# Oviedo, Spain

## Mariví Díez

Lamentablemente, este verano no se ha podido realizar nuestro fantástico programa en Oviedo, por motivo de la pandemia. Todas las familias y las empresas locales que colaboran con el programa, envían un cariñoso saludo a todos vosotros!

Asturias tiene nostalgia de los estudiantes de Indiana que, cada año entre los meses de junio y julio, pasean por sus calles y plazas, se bañan en sus ríos y playas, disfrutan de la rica y variada gastronomía, aprenden sobre la cultura y el idioma español y habitan las casas de sus familias, llenándolas del espíritu de la juventud y de la cultura norteamericana.

Las familias están bien y gozan de salud, hasta este momento. Han pasado un verano y otoño, con paciencia y esperanza, deseando que llegue pronto la vacuna y que esta pesadilla de la COVID, se vaya terminando. He seguido manteniendo el contacto y me consta que afrontan esta situación con entereza. Me dan recuerdos cariñosos para todos.

La situación de la pandemia en Asturias, hemos tenido un verano tranquilo en el que cada uno ha disfrutado lo que ha podido y con una incidencia baja de casos. En el otoño, como en el resto del mundo, la incidencia ha subido pero como estábamos mejor preparados, pues aunque estamos con restricciones y normas lógicamente, la situación está controlada de momento.

Por mi parte, he pasado un verano familiar en la costa y un otoño de excursiones, conociendo más lugares de Asturias. En octubre, también he reanudado mi trabajo de profesora, en Oviedo.

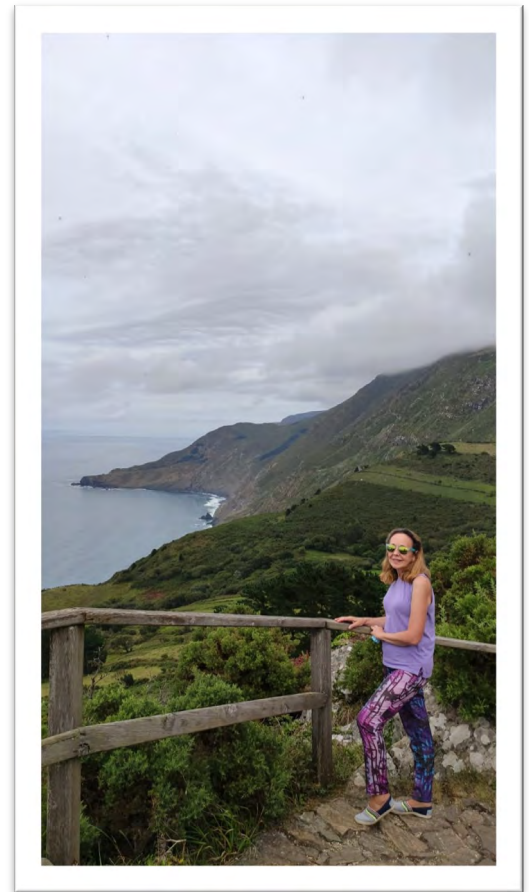
Me gustaría que el 2021, fuera un año en que pudiéramos normalizar nuestra vida. Espero y deseo

que, de esta terrible situación que nos ha tocado vivir, hayamos aprendido valores importantes. Que hayamos aprendido a respetar la Naturaleza y el Medio Ambiente, que realmente son los que sustentan nuestro dañado Planeta. También, espero y deseo que nuestras relaciones afectivas y sociales, se hayan reforzado y les demos la prioridad que se merecen.

Para finalizar, mis mejores deseos para el IUHPFL y para la IU, en este Nuevo Año que empezaremos dentro de unos días.

Un cariñoso abrazo para todos y cada uno de los que forman parte del programa, ya que con su esfuerzo y buen trabajo, los coordinadores podemos ofrecer esta oportunidad en cada uno de nuestras ciudades.

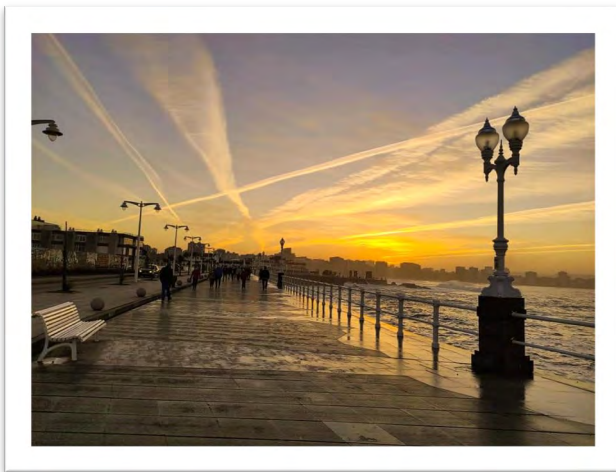
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## Oviedo, Spain continued

Unfortunately, this summer we could not carry out our fantastic program in Oviedo, due to the pandemic. The families and the local companies that collaborate with the program send a warm greeting to all of you!

In Asturias, we are nostalgic for our Indiana students who, every year between the months of June and July, stroll through its streets and squares, bathe in its rivers and beaches, enjoy the rich and varied cuisine, learn about Spanish culture and language, and inhabit the homes of their families, filling them with the spirit of youth and North American culture.



The families are doing well and are staying healthy so far. They have spent a summer and an autumn, with patience and hope, wishing for the vaccine to arrive soon and that this nightmare of COVID will finally end. I have continued to maintain contact with them and I know that they face this situation with integrity. They send their fondest regards to you all!

As for the situation of the pandemic in Asturias, we have had a quiet summer in which everyone has enjoyed life to the best of their ability in the midst of a low incidence of cases. In the fall, as for the rest of the world, the number of incidents has risen, but as we were better prepared than many places and are logically following the restrictions and rules, the

situation is under control for the moment.

For my part, I have spent the summer with my family on the coast and an autumn hiking and getting to know more places in Asturias. In October, I also resumed my work as a professor in Oviedo.

I would like 2021 to be a year in which we can normalize our lives. I hope and wish that, from this terrible situation that we have lived through, we have learned some important values. I hope we have learned to respect Nature and the Environment, which really are what sustain us on our damaged planet. Also, I hope and wish that our personal and social relationships have been strengthened and that we are able to give them the priority they deserve.

In closing, my best wishes to everyone in IUHPFL and to Indiana University, in this New Year that we will start in a few days. A warm hug for each and every one of those who are part of the program, because, due to your efforts and good work, we coordinators can offer this opportunity in each of our cities.



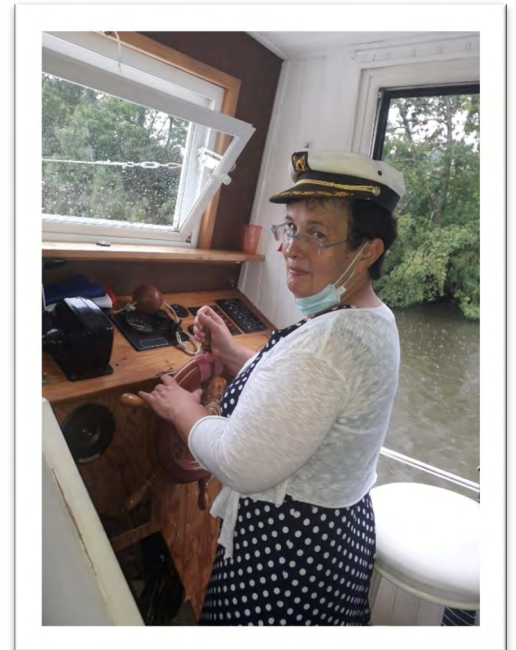
Salutations de Saumur!

Malgré ce vilain virus, j'espère que vous êtes tous en parfaite santé ainsi que les vôtres. Quelle déception de ne pas avoir reçu les stagiaires pour les familles et moi-même (ce qui devait être la 1ère fois pour moi comme coordinatrice). À Saumur et partout en France nous devons porter le masque et sortir avec une attestation qui doit indiquer l'heure et pourquoi nous nous déplaçons (ci-joint deux photos).



## Saumur, France

### Marie-Odile Bartess



Donc la vie s'est un peu arrêtée à Saumur (restaurants et commerçants, juste les commerces de première nécessité!). En ce qui me concerne je pratique le jardinage, la cuisine, la marche (20km par semaine) et je m'occupe de mes parents et des personnes les plus fragiles dans le voisinage! Pendant le premier confinement, il y a eu des promenades autour du château de Saumur et le 60ème anniversaire de mariage de mes parents. Mes sœurs, mon frère et moi-même leur avons fait livrer un déjeuner du traiteur et des fleurs (ils étaient heureux malgré les événements). Ils sont passés dans le journal ! (voir les photos du château et mes parents).

Puis est arrivé le premier déconfinement. J'étais toujours en contact avec les familles d'accueil. Je voulais organiser un grand pique-nique avec tous, mais hélas pas de rassemblement de plus de 30 personnes autorisés, donc nous avons annulé! Au mois d'août, j'ai retrouvé notre Loire et notre ville, donc navigation avec des amis (Photo de notre Loire et du capitaine de bord au dessus!). Et là encore ce méchant virus réapparaît, de nouveau confinés je continue mes promenades mais nous sommes à l'autonome et un peu plus tristes. Mais l'essentiel c'est que tous les nôtres et que

nous soyons tous et toutes en bonne santé pour mieux nous retrouver et accueillir le programme dans chaque pays et chaque ville hôte. Les familles d'accueil à Saumur vont toutes bien à ce jour et seront heureuses de vous retrouver ! Saumur, les familles d'accueil et moi-même vous attendons les bras ouverts !! Prenez tous soin de vous. À bientôt!



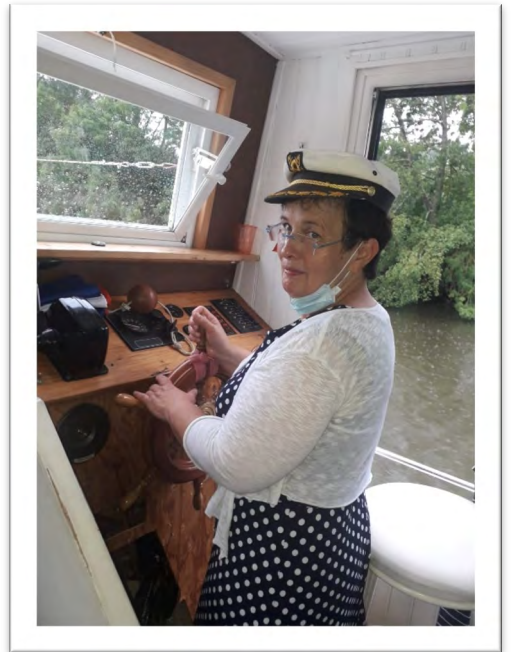
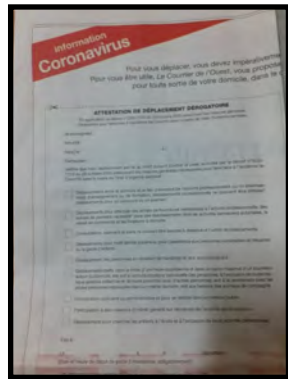
(English version on next page)

Greetings from Saumur!

## Saumur, France

Marie-Odile Bartess

Despite this nasty virus, I hope you and yours are all perfectly healthy. What a disappointment not to have hosted students for the families and myself (which would have been the 1st time for me as the onsite coordinator). In Saumur and everywhere in France must wear masks and go out with a document which must indicate both the time and the reason why we are going out (two photos here).



So, life has come to a standstill in Saumur (restaurants and shops are closed, only essential shops are open!). As for myself, I have been practicing gardening, cooking, walking (20km each week) and I have been taking care of my parents and the most vulnerable people in the neighborhood! During the first lockdown, I walked around the castle of Saumur and we celebrated my parent's 60th wedding anniversary. My sisters, brother and I had a catered lunch and flowers delivered to them (they were happy despite the events). They even appeared in the newspaper! (see photos of the castle and my parents).

Then the first lockdown ended. I had remained in contact with the host families and wanted to organize a big picnic with everyone, but unfortunately no gathering of more than 30 people was allowed, so we had to cancel it! In August, I was able to see our river Loire and our city again, so I went sailing on the river with friends (photo above of the Loire and the captain steering the boat!). And again that nasty virus reappeared, so we went into lockdown again. I continue my walks but it's now autumn and people are a little sadder. But the main thing is that we are all in



good health, so that we can better

come together and welcome the program again in each country and each host city. The host families in Saumur are all doing well to date and will be happy to see you! Saumur, the host families and I are waiting for you with arms wide open!! Take care of yourselves and each other. See you soon !



# Saint-Brieuc, France

Brigitte Blevin



Bonjour à tous de Saint-Brieuc!

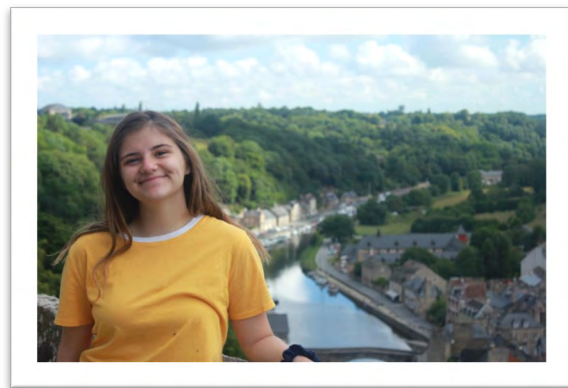
Depuis mars la vie ici est au ralenti. Saint-Brieuc c'est une jolie petite ville ayant un port sur la mer. Son marché et ses commerces attirent toujours autant de monde, mais évidemment nous portons des masques. Malgré la pandémie, la ville se prépare à fêter Noël. Il n'y aura pas beaucoup de spectacle, mais il y a beaucoup de décoration dans la ville.

Les familles d'accueil et moi, nous espérons que les stagiaires pourront venir nous voir en juin, mais nous sommes dans des temps d'incertitude. En attendant, je vous souhaite à tous un joyeux Noël! Prenez soin de vous!

Hello, everyone, from Saint-Brieuc!

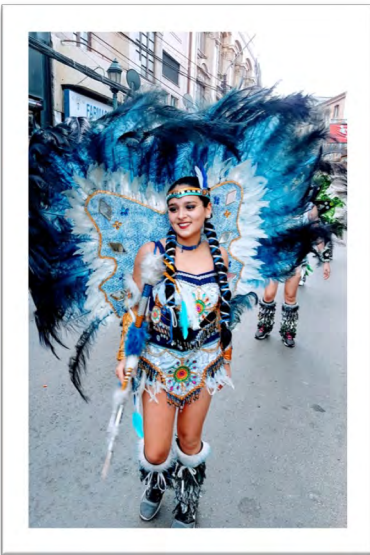
Since March, life here has slowed down. Saint-Brieuc is a pretty little town with a seaport. Its market and shops still attract many people, but obviously we wear masks. Despite the pandemic, the city is preparing to celebrate Christmas. There won't be a lot of entertainment, but there is a lot of decoration throughout the city.

The host families and I are hopeful that the students will be able to come see us in June, but we are in uncertain times. In the meantime, I wish you all a Merry Christmas! Take care of yourselves!



## Viña del Mar, Chile

Institute for Study Abroad (IFSA)



¡Todos en el Instituto de Estudios en el Extranjero y las familias anfitrionas en Viña del Mar queremos desearles a ustedes y a los suyos Felices Fiestas y un Próspero 2021!

Everyone at the Institute for Study Abroad and the host families in Viña del Mar would like to wish you and yours Happy Holidays and a Prosperous 2021!





## A Word From Our Managing Director, Loni Dishong continued

It's remarkable to look back at this time last year, when we first heard of a life-threatening pulmonary disease, a virus that was spreading throughout Hubei Province in China. We wondered at that time whether it might have implications for our 2020 Hangzhou program and we began to follow the virus's development. During one of our instructor training sessions in January, we discussed the spread of the virus and began to feel deep concern for its increasing toll on populations in Asia. By the time we reached our second training session in February, we were seeing a growing number of cases in Europe and a few in the United States, as well. The question of whether or not the programs would take place was being asked by parents, high school teachers, and our staff here and abroad, but we were still hopeful that, as researchers gained insight into the virus, it could somehow be managed and stamped out in short order. By early March, due to China's efforts to control the virus through quarantine and lockdown measures, the number of cases in that country were reportedly decreasing, which gave us all hope that perhaps the U.S. and the rest of the world would experience a similar trajectory. In contrast, however, parts of Europe and the U.S. were beginning to see a steady increase in cases and, to our dismay, loss of life. We were forced to come to terms with the scope and severity of what we then realized with dread was a pandemic.

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, we cancelled our Hangzhou, China program (our Osaka, Japan program had not been scheduled for 2020), while waiting and conversing with other study abroad providers in order to determine if summer programs in Europe and Latin America might still be feasible. But, as we remember all too well, the situation began to deteriorate more rapidly. On March 13<sup>th</sup>, with heavy hearts, we reached out to program applicants, their parents, high school teachers, instructors, our onsite coordinators, and other partners around the world, announcing the cancellation of all our summer programming for the first time in our 59-year history. Just twelve days later, we all found ourselves working from home, and safety measures, such as social distancing and wearing masks, had suddenly become common practice.

When times of crisis put us to the test, we learn a great deal about the strength and character of ourselves and others, and it's so important to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts that sustain and inspire us. Upon cancellation of the programs, our administrative coordinator at the time, Becky Boustani, had already accepted another job that would allow her to pursue her interest in policy research. We had scheduled interviews with candidates for the position, when we learned that IU was (understandably) mandating a hiring freeze for the foreseeable future. Interviews were cancelled, and Becky offered to stay on part-time in order to help process payment refunds and settle invoices and other financial matters, all while learning her new job and finishing her master's degree. We are profoundly grateful for the outstanding work she did for the program in general and especially appreciative of the remarkable dedication she demonstrated during that challenging time.

Once we were all working remotely and learning how to fulfill our responsibilities without in-person support and less access to office equipment, other superstars around me began to stand out even more than usual. Our program coordinator, Amy Dowell, continues to be an invaluable member of our team, and I cannot overstate the appreciation we have for her kindness, humor, professionalism, reliability, and problem-solving skills. Due to the hiring freeze, Amy and I currently comprise the entire IUHPFL office team; her efforts and accomplishments are monumental and absolutely vital to the future of this program. Beyond our small but mighty team, we have seen immense support from everyone in our branch of Indiana University, the Office of the Vice President of International Affairs (OVPIA), namely from our Vice President herself, Hannah Buxbaum, as well as Denise Gardiner, Director of Finance and Administration; Maarten Bout, Director of Development, International Advancement; Laura Kremer, Financial Manager for IUHPFL and the Office of Overseas Study; and, most influential and steadfast of all, Kathleen Sideli, Associate Vice President for Overseas Study at Indiana University, whose leadership and guidance have been essential to defining and shaping this program as it is today. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of these individuals who continue to encourage and fortify this program and our life-changing work. *(Continued on page 18)*

## A Word From Our Managing Director, Loni Dishong continued

In part, our leadership's initial encouragement involved helping us to envision what summer 2020 would entail for IUHPFL without the hustle and bustle of our programs. We all spent some time "thinking outside the box", observing the creative responses of other study abroad providers to the pandemic, and asking ourselves and our collaborators what our role should be during such an unprecedented time. We considered trying to offer online language instruction, but after surveying educators here at IU and in high schools around the state, it soon became clear that such a model wouldn't be a good fit for us, since immersion in the host culture is the heart and soul of IUHPFL. Furthermore, high school students were experiencing intense computer fatigue, after spending the second half of the spring semester trying to complete their classes online from home. Instead, we decided to take advantage of the time to focus on program development, to reconnect with many of our past participants, to update our databases, and to find ways of helping our alums to connect with each other and the program. We created an IUHPFL Alumni group on LinkedIn and launched the [Alumni Video Project](#), which invites our alums of all ages to share their IUHPFL experiences through brief personalized videos.

Keeping in touch with our past participants is one of the best aspects of our work. Regularly throughout the year, we receive phone calls or written correspondence via email or regular mail, often including photos and always telling us about their time abroad, their host families, and how the program has influenced their studies and career choices. Each point of contact brightens our day and reminds us of the global network of relationships we and our predecessors have helped to create. Our alums are also generous contributors to our scholarship programs, which typically provide awards between \$250 and \$1,500 to students with financial need. In 2020 alone, nearly 40 alums have raised over \$18,000 to date, so that future participants can have this transformative immersion experience, as they once did.

As many of you know, Unity is one of our 8 Core Values. We define it as an ability or willingness to "foster team spirit and trust". This word, Unity, holds special meaning after a year when team spirit and trust have seemed scarce, at least in our public arenas, but my hope, as you read this issue, is that you will see, as I do, how connected and unified we truly are. Wherever we live in the world, we are all experiencing this pandemic to some degree. We all see how it has affected our countries, our communities, and our families. We all wonder when it will once again be safe to extend a friendly handshake or hug. And we all hope to find ways of uplifting and encouraging each other, of doing a better job of caring for Mother Earth, and of improving quality of life for people everywhere. This program is an excellent example of team spirit and trust, because without these, without this Unity, we could not accomplish our valuable work, which requires collaboration and cooperation with hundreds of people – onsite coordinators, families, vendors, and other partners – around the world. And, of course, our love for IUHPFL unites us all!

**IUHPFL 8 CORE VALUES**

- **Appreciation** – Acknowledging the qualities and kind acts of others
- **Diligence** – Focusing with enthusiasm on goals to improve and grow
- **Discovery** – Being open to new ways of looking at the world and oneself
- **Empathy** – Choosing words and actions that express compassion and create connection
- **Encouragement** – Helping others to reach their goals and see their unique talents
- **Honor** – Acting with integrity in following all aspects of the IUHPFL Honor Code
- **Respect** – Treating others with dignity at all times
- **Unity** – Fostering team spirit and trust

Next summer is not far off, and we find ourselves unsure once again whether programming will happen or not. In spite of the promise of a vaccine, several obstacles will have to be overcome in order for our students to travel internationally. Yet, impressively, hopeful students and their teachers and parents continue to submit application materials. We thank each of you, whatever your connection to IUHPFL might be, and we wish you peace, good health, and happiness, as we welcome 2021 together!



Loni M. Dishong  
Managing Director  
ldishong@iu.edu

# IUHPFL by the Numbers

## Who participates in our programs? Five years of stats!

The table below reflects demographic data from IUHPFL participants from the last five years, including their class, gender\*, target language, and where the student goes to school in Indiana. We would like to include other demographics such as whether the student is a heritage speaker or race and ethnicity, but we only started tracking this information more intentionally in 2018.

As you will note, the total number of students who have participated in the past 5 years is 1227. The number that have participated overall has declined over the last 5 years by about 18%. We are unsure which trends this reflects, but one thing we know is that participation by students with a passport from another country (attending an Indiana boarding school for example) have decreased because of the political climate. Another trend to note is a decrease in French applicants – this is likely due to a decrease in the number of students studying French in Indiana, but we are unsure if that decrease is due to other languages being offered or a decrease in French programs overall. Quite a few French teachers have retired from Indiana high schools in the past five years, but we are also happy to see that many schools are rejuvenating and rebuilding their French programs.

\*As listed on their passport

Category/Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Sum
<b>Total Students</b>	272	261	236	235	223	<b>1227</b>
<b>Sophomores</b>	27	41	37	48	30	<b>183</b>
<b>Juniors</b>	231	203	184	170	177	<b>965</b>
<b>Seniors</b>	14	17	15	17	16	<b>79</b>
<b>Male</b>	78	66	71	62	68	<b>345</b>
<b>Female</b>	198	194	165	173	155	<b>885</b>
<b>Chinese</b>	12	7	13	11	n/a	<b>43</b>
<b>French</b>	94	83	76	74	58	<b>385</b>
<b>German</b>	21	14	12	17	24	<b>88</b>
<b>Japanese</b>	n/a	n/a	11	12	12	<b>35</b>
<b>Spanish</b>	145	157	124	121	129	<b>676</b>
<b>NW Indiana (219)</b>	30	25	20	24	17	<b>116</b>
<b>NE Indiana (260)</b>	26	27	23	31	26	<b>133</b>
<b>Indianapolis (317)</b>	128	120	108	86	92	<b>534</b>
<b>South Bend (574)</b>	27	17	30	19	12	<b>105</b>
<b>Central Indiana (765)</b>	14	19	15	9	13	<b>70</b>
<b>Southern Indiana (812)</b>	28	31	34	44	53	<b>190</b>
<b>Other area code</b>	19	22	6	22	10	<b>79</b>

Check out these [Student Testimonials](#) and the new [Alumni Video Project](#) on our website!

## Thank you from IUHPFL!

On behalf of the IUHPFL Office Team, we thank our teachers, parents, students, and alumni who help make our program such a success! Thank you!

Always #LiveYourLanguage!

