

HONORS PROGRAM IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

INDIANA UNIVERSITY Bloomington

Polyglot Press

Nine Sites









Ciudad Real Krefeld









Mérida



Saumur





St. Brieuc

Valencia

Four Countries

- France
- Germany
- Mexico
- Spain

From the Office of the IUHPFL

Bloomington, Ind.—When the last issue of the Polyglot Press went live, our office was putting the finishing touches on our new promotional DVD and just conceiving the scope of our new website redesign. Ha llovido mucho desde entonces, as we say in Spanish—much has changed since then. Not only was our new DVD

launched—and well received!—but our new website will also be unveiled soon. Once completed, we encourage you to visit <u>iuhonorsprogram.org</u>.

In the midst of our office reshaping its online image and—yes—preparing for nine Programs to depart, we took on perhaps one of our biggest projects yet: the IUHPFL's 50th Anniversary Celebration. A Program only turns 50 once, so the significance of this grand event was not lost on us. We began brainstorming for the occasion in October 2011, planning more precisely in February and March of this year, and successfully carried out the event on May 18 and 19all thanks to the hard work and dedication of our office, especially our two year-long alumni volunteer interns, Allie Billows (St. Brieuc, 2007) and Rebecca Cottongim (Valencia, 2007).

It was a privilege and an honor to preside over the two-day event as I got to meet alumni from each decade. In fact, one participant from our very first Mexico group, 1962 Oaxaca, was present. I was especially glad that students

from the 2012 cohort also attended. They listened to alumni speak poignantly about the experience on which they were about to embark.

Seeing the "bookends" of the Program represented reinforced the most important message of the IUHPFL and what had become crystal clear to me after talking to former directors of the Program, alumni, and high school teachers in preparation for the event:

> While the Program may pass through five decades, change directors and dynamics, its goal and outcome have been, and always will be, the same: to provide a high quality meaningful study abroad experience for Indiana high school students.

Thanks to all of you who help us do just that. Our Program is able to keep its integrity over time because of you.

Cheers,

Stephanie

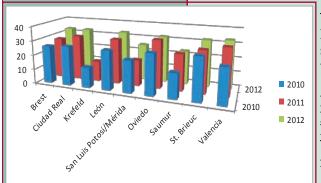
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IUHPFL <u>Iuhonorsprogram.org</u> iuhpfl@indiana.edu 812.855.7957

Numbers of IUHPFL Participants on the Rise

Despite a sluggish economy, the IUHPFL continues to be in demand as a unique study abroad Program. While 214 students traveled abroad in 2010, 241 students participated in 2011. In 2012, 261 students studied abroad with the IUHPFL, bringing the numbers at nearly all sites to maximum capacity.



When compared with other high school language programs, the IUHPFL stands out as high in quality. Length and intensity of classes, activities, host family stays and the cultural enrichment through day and overnight excursions provide one of the most well rounded programs available to high school students. All students pledge to follow the Language Commitment and Honor Code. This proven combination allows students to truly immerse and live the language of their host country. Of course, priceless and unforgettable memories are also made and, as we know from our alumni, positively shape the future of our participants.

Since 2009, Program fees have remained the same and we hope to continue this trend of stables rates for future cycles.

Alumni Testimonial

"Those were the best seven weeks of my life. Even now it seems surreal. The IUHPFL program is truly excellent. It forced me to learn at a faster rate than any other point in my life and reinforced that our lives are only as good as we make them. I met some great family and friends. I learned 10x more Spanish than I ever would have in high school or on my own. Wish I could do it all over again."

Ryan Smeltzer, León, Spain 2005

Mexico Program 2012 Stays in Mérida

For the second year in a row, IUHPFL students traveled to Mérida on the Yucatán peninsula, a region of Mexico that remains isolated and safe from drug cartel violence.

Last year, the collaboration with IFSA-Butler, an experienced international education unit established in Mérida in 2004, led to a successful experience for our students. In 2011, the United Nations awarded Méri- **Mérida, Mexico** da a banner of peace, as the city was named one of the 100 "cities of peace" in the world. Mérida has also been heralded as the safest city in Mexico and is a desirable location for U.S. retirees.

The 2011 Mérida group of 18 students was led by instructors Julie Madewell, Teresa Parmer and Megan Solon. Read more about Mérida on page five.

Thank You

As in previous years, we have received much help and support from our alumni and friends of the IUHPFL. We wouldn't be the same without your contributions of testimonials, personal stories, financial contributions and donated time.

Instructor Blog Ciudad Real

"They [students] will return to Indiana with a new perspective and a sense of satisfaction. They will have spent 6 1/2 weeks in Ciudad Real and they should be proud of their successes. There is no doubt that some of them will return to Spain."

Excerpt from instructor blog, Ciudad Real, Spain 2011





Getting familiar



Château de Brest—View of the City

2011 in Review

Read our instructor reports about the adventures of 241 students who left as Indiana high school students and returned as citizens of the world.

Brest

Our students didn't waste anytime to get familiar with their new home and plunged head first into activities. After settling into their host families the first weekend, they

walked the city, found classrooms and very importantly, where to eat lunch. Our treasure hunt by rain was followed by lunch and fun activities, including basketball, yoga and card games in the gym.

To celebrate the fourth of July, we sang (after much practice) the French and American anthems at the American war monument. During the official event, flowers were placed, followed by a salute from the French navy and a moment of silence. We even made it into two newspapers the next day.



4th of July Celebration— American War Memorial

Excursions were exciting and plentiful. Locronan, Pointe du Raz and Concarneau were our first stops. Next came the trip to Normandy with Saint-Malo and Mont-Saint-Michel, a gigantic abbey perched on a mountain. On day two, students visited the WWII memorial museum at Caen and Omaha beach, somber reminders of European and international history. Later during the Stage, we saw Pointe des Espagnols, Camaret-sur-mer and Quimper. And then there was Paris where we marveled at Versailles, Montmartre, Louvre and too many other places to mention.

Students made huge progress during class and their French became so good that they even discussed the French laws concerning the burqa. Much of that sophistication could be heard and seen during the farewell show: the Fête des familles, where students performed sketches about the importance of gestures in theatre and Justin Bieber stopping at a boulangerie, songs and piano solos.

Our trip was unforgettable and seemed to fly by in seconds. We are forever grateful to our wonderful host families who took care of our group, fed and supported each student through the ups and downs of six busy weeks.

Adapted from the 2011 Brest instructor blog — the IUHPFL Office

Ciudad Real

Who needs mundane maps when you can do a treasure hunt through Ciudad Real? Students received a list of 22 landmarks and returned full of new impressions and photo collections. Though they had a stringent schedule of four morning classes, followed by lunch and afternoon activities, students were eager to explore the beautiful Córdoba and Granada, our first excursions.

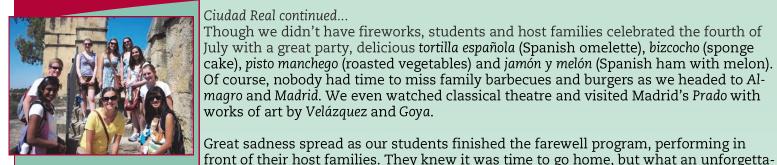


After an amazing bus ride through Castilla-LaMancha and *Fourth of July—Happiness* Andulucía, students admired the breathtaking Alcazar gardens in Córdoba and a 16th-century cathedral in Granada.

Continued on next page



Treasure Hunt in the City



On Excursion in Andulucía

Krefeld 2011

as citizens of the world.

The day-to-day schedule of our students was very demanding, but each student excelled in their personal growth and language skills. The group attended daily lessons in grammar, literature and conversation, and additionally participated in afternoon activities such as choir, theater and sports. Any free time was spent exploring the city of Krefeld — tasting Spaghetti Eis, indulging in yet another Döner, shopping in the pedestrian-area shops, and visiting the city's many public venues.

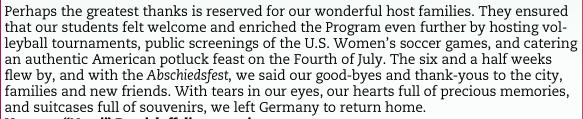
Adapted from the 2011 Ciudad Real instructor blog—the IUHPFL Office



Die Mauer—Berlin

Our group was fortunate to enjoy many travel opportunities, which granted students a broad perspective of German culture. Our first adventure carried us down the Rhine River past the famous Lorelei and medieval fortresses that dotted the landscape. Other excursions led us over the moat of Castle Linn, up the steeple of the Cologne Dom, and to the seat of Charlemagne the Great in Aachen. Yet, the greatest adventure awaited us in the nation's capital of Berlin — perhaps offering the greatest single learning opportunity. Berlin also did our students "in" — they were never going to forget their time in Germany! During this three-day trip, we explored the palatial gardens of Sanssouci, traced the remaining parts of the Berlin Wall, confronted ourselves with the harder truths of German history at the former top-secret East German Prison Camp, Hohenschönhausen, and the Holocaust Memorial. We ogled at the Blue Men Group, and lastly paid witness to the final hour of a landmark debate in the Reichstag, attended by German chancellor Angela Merkel and other political powerhouses.

ble time it had been. They can be proud of their accomplishments, both in Spanish and



Vanessa "Nessi" Domizlaff, literature instructor



Performing Artists



4th of July in Krefeld

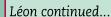
León 2011

With the addition of three new instructors to the onsite team, the Program in León Continued on next page...





Pizza Lunch Fun



took a turn in a new direction in 2011. In addition to the core elements that are the hallmark of the IUHPFL, we all found a variety of new opportunities to explore the city and destinations near and far. First, in the site's inaugural July 4th Picnic, students and families gathered in a park to share food, laughter, and some informative and entertaining presentations about the history of this holiday in the U.S.

Students found creative ways to replicate important figures and events in American history — some were even cast as horses to help bring certain battle scenes to life. A very special but fitting surprise ending to the evening happened when a family in the park joined our group and played flamenco music on their guitar while students and host families gave their own (hilarious) version of flamenco dancing...an unforgettable Spanish touch to our traditional American holiday.



Excursion to Toledo



Night Out in Léon

In 2011 we also changed the line-up for excursions. As usual, we visited the lovely cities of Segovia, Oviedo and Gijón, but replaced a trip to Salamanca with Burgos. Students enjoyed the marvels of the university, cathedral, Plaza Mayor, and other notable spots around town. Staff also offered various optional trips and activities.

One Saturday, a group visited Astorga, a town made famous by its chocolate — definitely a successful daytrip for those with a sweet tooth. Another (very hot) day, we stopped in *Ponferrada* to see a castle of the Templar Knights before going on a hike across land the Romans used to mine, called *Las Médulas*. We discovered something important about our students that day: they were not quite the rugged outdoors types. As a result, we organized other outings around León, including a night of tapas, visits to their favorite ice cream shops, a tour of the MUSAC contemporary art museum and weekly Sunday Mass. A group of students even went to see the debut of the final Harry Potter movie!

All in all, we were an active bunch and the reward was getting to know León and each other very well. Having shared six weeks, many adventures, and a memorable game of kickball together, students concluded that *nunca jamás en* [su] *vida* — never again in [their] life — would they forget their time with the Honors Program.

Erin Lavin, communication instructor



Chichen Itza

Mérida 2011

Thanks to the commitment of our students and the dedicated support of our onsite

coordinators Diana and Gina, our first summer in Mérida was a huge success! Sometimes hot, sometimes rainy, but always exciting, this site allowed students to experience a region of Mexico permeated with Mayan history and culture. Between excursions to Maya ruins, classes, and cultural lec-

tures, students found the time to shop — even buying maqueches, live beetle brooches decorated with plastic jewels — hang out at the beach, and grow close to their eager and caring host families. IUHPFL instruc-



Beach Yoga

tors Julie, Megan and Teresa organized frequent optional activities to museums, musical performances, and even the zoo. Salsa, soccer, and cinema completed each week's Continued on next page...



Hammock Fun near Tulum

Mérida continued... experiences.

Whether we were climbing pyramids at Ek-Balam, admiring the carvings at Uxmal, lounging in hammocks at the Mapache hostal, trailing sea turtles near Tulum, or dining by a cenote (water-filled sinkhole) in Valladolid, the students greeted each new experience with enthusiasm and curiosity.

The summer culminated in an amazing farewell party of entertaining songs and theater pieces that kept the host families laughing, followed by tearful goodbyes and a frantic but successful dash to our flight home. It was an unforgettable summer of cultural immersion, language-learning achievements and new friendships. Although we have left behind the vivid red flowers of the flamboyán trees that lined every street, we will always carry Mérida, our host families and each other in our hearts.

Teresa Hancock-Parmer, culture instructor

Instructor Blog Brest

"We profs always love the Normandy excursion, not just for the cultural relevance and importance of the trip, but also for the way the stagiaires bond. Traveling together and staying the night in the hostel sets what we call the "déclic" in motion.

The "déclic" refers to the moment when everybody looks around and notices that everything's in place. Everybody understands the routine, the group dynamic, and everybody knows everybody else. It's a magic moment that makes the stage special, and I'm happy to say it's already happened." **Excerpt from instructor blog, Brest, France 2011**

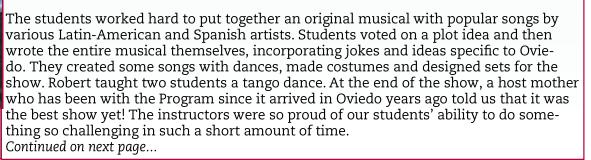
Oviedo 2011

The IUHPFL was a huge success in 2011. We had 33 students complete the Program and earn the Award of Excellence. To me, the thing that stands out most was this group's unity. The students treated one another with respect and equality throughout the entire summer. That is not always the case and is what made this group of students exceptional.



Study Time

Most weeks, we had four or five days of classes depending on that week's excursion. Students studied phonetics, literature, grammar, culture and communication. Two days a week, we met with our support groups to ensure that students were adjusting to their host families and the culture overall. After the first week, the students were pretty well-adjusted and our group became a place to ask questions or just to get a sense that other students were dealing with similar problems such as the language.





Fieldtrip Cimadevilla in Gijón



Los Picos de Europa



Château Chambord



Reception at the Mairie (Mayor)



Excursion to Dinan and St. Malo

Oviedo continued...

We had fun and learned quite a bit on our excursions to Covadonga and the Peaks of Europe, Santiago de Compostela, Gijón, Toledo and Madrid. The students maintained positive attitudes despite the toll these trips can sometimes take.

Giselle Pedrosa, grammar instructor

Saumur 2011

It may seem odd to praise the students who participated in the Saumur 2011 Program because, of course, they were selected for their excellence and integrity. However, the maturity, individuality, and perseverance of our group merit special praise. There was magic in the classroom, onstage during our farewell show and at the dance party — not to mention while playing football on the beach in Normandy, hiking through the vine-yards around Montsoreau and celebrating the fourth of July with the host families. We attended important events in Saumur, including the cavalry exhibition, the French national holiday military parade, and gatherings with the mayor.

It was indeed a dry summer in the Loire River valley, but talents and ideas sprung up like wildflower meadows among the students. They made outstanding progress in French, and participated in activities outside their usual set of interests: soccer, theatre, choral singing, hiking and dancing. Even a grueling canoe trip downriver (several miles, against the wind) could not dampen the mood. What I wouldn't give to hear just once more the beautiful harmony singing A la claire fontaine!

My colleagues' enthusiasm, our host parents' generous welcome, and Marie-Christine's formidable business savvy also made for a vibrant and exciting six and a half weeks among the white limestone walls of the École Saint-Louis, the youth residence where we lunched, and the castle on the bluff. Saumur castle was the perfect background for our group photo. We also marveled at the sound and light show with its trick riders galloping across the scene, impressive music and fireworks. We became fond of our château in Saumur, even while touring the more imposing Renaissance palaces of the Pays de la Loire: Chambord, Chenonceau and Blois.

Our farewell show featured the Saumur castle (played by a student), almost as though it had been a real human presence throughout the Program. It proved how we had become part of the wonderful Saumur landscape and vice versa. With this edifice as a symbol, the memories and friendships we made last summer are sure to last for many years to come.

Erin Myers, literature instructor

St. Brieuc 2011

The 2011 Program in St. Brieuc was certainly a year of celebration and of change. Perhaps most importantly, the *Mairie* of St Brieuc made special mention of the Program since it was heading into its 50th year. At the ceremony, our onsite coordinator, Liliane Pilvesse, spoke of the history of the Program itself while the Deputy Mayor of St Brieuc, Brigitte Blévin, spoke of its importance to the city. We also had the distinct pleasure of being invited to the beautiful town of *Pléneuf-Val-André* for their celebration of "American Week."



Presentation for the mayor of St. Brieuc

At the Tour de France

St. Brieuc continued...

After a reception with the Mayor and leading business owners of the area, the students and host families enjoyed a picnic in the Mayor's garden. The seaside shops were decorated in Americana style, the restaurants served traditional American meals, and there was a demonstration of American football on the beach. The girls in our group were invited to be cheerleaders of the local team, the St Brieuc Licomes (Unicorns).

This year began with an entirely new instructor team who introduced a new excursion in form of a picnic in Dinard. Another seaside town, Alfred Hitchcock spent many summers here — depicted by Hitchcock's statue and his inspiration for "The Birds." The fête des familles also saw change to the existing choir and theater projects with the addition of a variety show. This allowed students to showcase their talents such as the baton twirling routine by Lauren Seitz — much to the enjoyment of the host families.

Finally, Liliane passed on her job as onsite coordinator to Brigitte Blévin, ending a decade-long term in this position. Everyone celebrated by showing great appreciation for all the work she had done and also welcomed Brigitte into the Program. St. Brieuc 2011 was not only an important summer for the Program, but also an unforgettable experience for our students!

Ryan Hendrickson, phonetics instructor

Alumni Testimonial

"The experience was one in a million, and if I had the chance I would do it again!" Amber Elzer, Mérida 2011

Valencia

On June 8, 2011, Valencia graciously and excitedly welcomed the 32 IU Honors program students and four instructors at Amistad. Like previous summers, this year's group made life-long friendships while sharing in a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

We endured a very eventful and memorable six weeks with countless activities, from climbing all over Gulliver to waiting in line to see the final installment of Harry Potter to dancing with street performers in Valencia and Madrid. We also experienced many traditions of the Valencia program, including eating ice cream at the Gelataio, competing in the Olympic Games on the beach, creating living art and surpri-

ning flamenco at a tablao a few blocks from the school.

Visiting Barcelona

Our most unforgettable moments of this year's Program, however, were the new traditions we created: the long hours in the bus to Barcelona to explore and see Gaudi's masterpieces, the beautiful climbs and views of Cuenca, and the hilarious process of lear-

The Valencia Program culminated with the hugely successful fiesta de despedida, marking our departure from the city of fire with sad farewells to the host families, and our final festivities in Madrid, celebrating new friendships and the unforgettable impact the Program made on students and teachers alike.

Ivy Howell, culture instructor

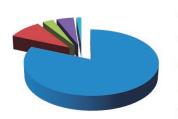
sing an Amigo Secreto.



Dancing Flamenco



Financial Awards 2011



- IUHPFL Student Aid All Programs
- IUHPFL Student Aid Germany
- John Busch Scholarship
- IU Germanic Studies
- IUHPFL Individual Student Scholarship

As in previous years, more than 50 percent of students who applied for aid in 2011 received support, ranging from \$600 to \$1,200. More than **\$74,000** in financial awards were distributed to students.

All German students received a \$500 reduction in fee award to offset Program costs. IU German Studies provided a \$3,500 scholarship to one German student and the John Busch scholarships helped three students from North Central High School to go to France.

We hope that more and more alumni will be able to provide financial support — even a few dollars — that can be applied toward future scholarships to help additional students benefit from the IUHPFL expe-

rience.

"My thanks again for having organized such a wonderful celebration of the Honors Program's 50th anniversary. It was so great to be in the atmosphere of the Program again, to see some former students, and to attend such interesting meetings. Kudos to you!!"

Doug Fenner

"Awesome weekend! Thanks for all you and your staff did to make it happen. I'll send you some more thoughts next week. Keep up the good work!" Patricia O'Connor



Old and New Alumni Meet

50th Anniversary Celebration Weekend

In May, alums from 1962-2011 plus a few 2012 participants gathered at the IUPUI Campus Center in Indianapolis, to celebrate 50 years of IUHPFL.

After a reception, alumni joined for dinner and a silent auction on Friday night. One of the most amazing groups were the 1966 St. Brieuc participants who not only appeared in large numbers, but also provided professional

musical entertainment. Saturday was filled with workshops, networking sessions and above all sharing memories and making new ones. We are hopeful that more and more alums will try to find each other, to connect and pick up old friendships.

Contact iuhpfl@indiana.edu if you wish to help the IUHPFL office find its alumni.

Website

The IUHPFL website has been in need for an overhaul for some time. Last year, after successfully completing a new Program video, the IUHPFL staff tackled this much larger project. Over several months, the IUHPFL website received a new face and organization. The largest job, however, was content development. A few revisions remain before the website is launched.



The new site will be more user-friendly and visually appealing to all our audiences. Another important feature of the new site will be the online documentation process. Language test registration, application forms, appraisals, acceptance documents with the exception of a few legal (hard copy) forms will be available online, eliminating the need for paper and allowing students and guardians easy access and a more streamlined process.

Always on the Lookout for Alumni

In preparation for the $50^{\rm th}$ anniversary, the 1966 St. Brieuc group managed to locate every single class member within a month — despite changed names and new Continued on next page

Always on the Lookout for Alumni continued...

addresses. Wouldn't it be great if we could locate the more than 6,000 alumni of the IUHPFL? If you know former alums who have lost contact with the IUHPFL, please let them know about us.

If you have a bit of extra time and would like to track down lost classmates, let us know. We can share with you who we already have and who is still missing. Maybe you'd like to arrange an alumni meeting, create a new group of FB or renew professional bonds via LinkedIn.

If we have learned one thing during the 50th anniversary celebration, it is that people love to see each other and reminisce about old times. It's a great feeling to have belonged to an Honors Program, have experienced a new country and grown with this experience. So, go ahead, e-mail or call us. Say hello and tell us one of your memories. Whether a testimonial or a longer piece, we love to hear it all!

What's Cool about Krefeld?

"The Döner place around the corner from the Rathaus!" Elyse Holguin Kurfiss

"And the bakery next to it!" Emily Penninga

"Krefeld has a little bit rural, a little bit urban, and is located 30 minutes from the Netherlands, a little over an hour to Belgium." Chris Howard

"The improv class at the Kresch Theater, Stadtwald, and the Eiscafe on Rheinstrasse!" Louise Hibner

"Krefeld is in a great location for day trips to Köln und Aacken (mmm Aackner Printen...) And don't forget about Burg Linn. Oh, and Spaghetti Eis at the Eiscafe. That's what got me interested in creating Trompe-l'æil with food! Wonderful theater. Ah, what great memories."

German Program

As more world languages are introduced to Indiana high schools, the German language programs are dwindling, despite the fact that Germany is a powerhouse of technology and science, ranking consistently in the top three for the most exports globally. So many German cities are full of history, fountains, buildings from the middle-ages and amazing shops. Castles dot the landscape, pools invite for a swim. Did we mention the food? Our German students always return filled to the brim with impressions... about new friendships with their host families, about Berlin, Cologne and Aachen, about the Rhine, about Burg



Spaghetti Ice

Linn... the tasty Doener and spaghetti ice cream. Personal growth happens in so many ways: culturally, emotionally and linguistically.

Despite shrinking German departments at Indiana high schools, our numbers have begun to grow again. In 2010 and 2011, 14 students traveled to Germany. In 2012, this number rose to 17. If you have a connection with Germany as a teacher, an alumnus or through ancestry, we ask you to invest your interest and influence and help us retain and grow our German Program — one that has been with us for 50 years.

Alumni Testimonial

"During the summer of 2005 I undertook the experience of a lifetime; one that almost makes you wonder if your best days are behind you. I made close friendships that I still value today, and the challenge to speak only a foreign language for seven weeks was one I thought nearly impossible, but the fruits of my labor are still being reaped to this day."

Graham Erwin, St. Brieuc 2005

Upcoming Projects

In addition to administering the IUHPFL Program, many new projects are planned for the 2012-2013 cycle, including placing all remaining Program materials online, organizing student and guardian surveys, increasing scholarships and further exploring sites in Asia and Latin America.