



Polyglot Press

Five Countries

- ◆ China
- ◆ France
- ◆ Germany
- ◆ Mexico
- ◆ Spain

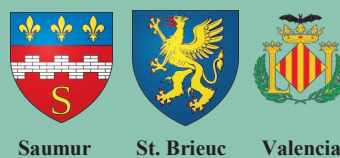
Ten Sites



Brest Ciudad Real Krefeld



León Oviedo Mérida



Saumur St. Brieuç Valencia



Hangzhou



From the Office of the IUHPFL

For each Program site every summer is unique in some way. From the celebration of the World Cup to the celebration of a particular site with an anniversary—the unbreakable bond between students and their instructors or the special bond between students and their newly adopted city, unforgettable memories are made. The summer of 2012 was no exception as the IUHPFL realized its greatest accomplishment yet: celebrating a 50-year tradition of sending Indiana high school students abroad for an experience unlike any other.

In this edition of The Polyglot Press, you will read that students at each program site commemorated the 50th anniversary in a way that fit their particular city. The Brest group, for instance, got to celebrate by means of *Les Tonnerres de Brest*, an international boat festival held in a different port of France every four years. What a happy coincidence that in 2012, the event took place in our very own town of Brest! The Saumur group began a heartwarming tradition with a visit to a nursing home in the nearby village, Fontevraud, and sang to its residents, providing a moment that students and the residents will cherish forever. And our third French site, St. Brieuç, had a summer full of reasons to celebrate. They witnessed the Tour de France in Paris. One of their students, keeping in the Celtic tradition of Brittany, performed on bagpipes for the farewell show. And, of course, St. Brieuç, inaugurated in 1962 and therefore the longest standing original Program site, celebrated its 50th anniversary alongside the IUHPFL at large. *Très cool!*

In Krefeld, our students continued to bring youthful vigor and joy to our Program. With a smaller group of students, they were able to celebrate the Program's 50th anniversary in a more intimate way, getting individualized attention inside and outside of class throughout the seven weeks they spent in *Deutschland*. Likewise in Mexico, where our smaller group of students came together in such a way that brought warmth and tears to their host families' and instructors' eyes and made our second year in the Yucatan a total success. *¡Viva Mérida!*

Our students in Spain were lucky to celebrate the Program's 50th anniversary in conjunction with a victory of the Spanish soccer team in the Europe Cup. *¡Campeones!* In Ciudad Real, students got to watch the last matches of the Cup in the town's Plaza Mayor. With what seemed like the rest of the city's population, they cheered on the team to victory and treated themselves to the famous *Helados Moran* afterwards. In León, they not only celebrated Spain's soccer team, but also the fiestas of San Juan and San Pedro, bonfires blazing a

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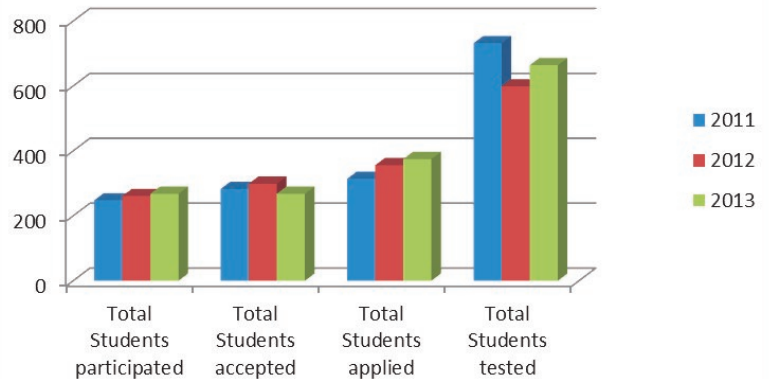
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Program Numbers Still Rising

2013 saw another increase in participation with a total of 268 students traveling to Europe and Mexico, compared to 261 in 2012 and 241 in 2011. Most Programs were filled to capacity with the exception of Mérida, Mexico. In 2013, 19 students traveled to Mexico—down from 25. The German Program nearly doubled, growing from 17 to 30 participants. With the addition of the China Program we hope to see further growth in the coming year.

In comparison, the total number of students testing shows a slowing trend, shrinking from 732 in 2011 to 664 in 2013.

Participation Rates 2011-2013



“I enjoyed the experience as a whole, but I really enjoyed how my host family wholly accepted me as a part of their family and did everything they could to make me feel comfortable and accommodate me.” Chloe F., St. Brieuc 2012

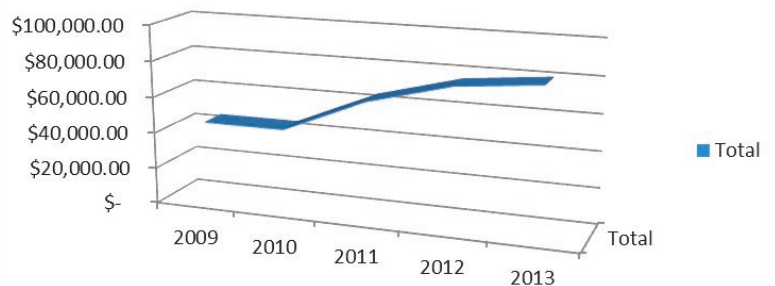
Financial Awards

Participating in the IUHPFL is a major investment and the IUHPFL strives to support as many students as possible with financial aid. On average, students who applied for financial aid and qualified based on financial need, receive between \$300 and \$1,000.

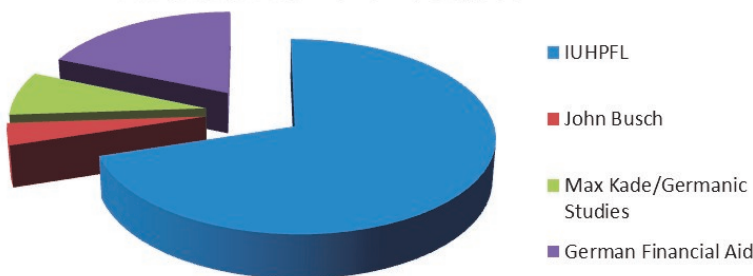
Some Programs offer additional incentives such as the Krefeld Program. In 2012, all Germany-bound students received \$500 in aid plus an additional \$300 for travel. This additional support was given because airline tickets to Germany were about \$300 higher than other European destinations.

The Germanic Studies Department at IU, Bloomington, has been collabo-

Total Financial Aid 2009-2013



Financial Aid 2013 - \$80,500



rating with the Max Kade Foundation in New York, who pledged \$5,000 in the form of five individual \$1,000 scholarships in 2012. Recipients were chosen from the pool of 17 participants and based on merit. Again, Max Kade contributed \$6,000 in 2013. Six \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to the group of 30 students. Two students from North Central High School received \$1,000 each in

Financial Awards Continued

2012 through the John Busch Scholarship fund. In 2013, four students were awarded \$750 each.

Overall, a total of 146 individual awards were given in 2012 financial support, amounting to \$76,100, a 19 percent increase from 2011 when total financial help added up to \$64,150. In 2013, the IUHPFL distributed scholarships totaling \$80,500, a six percent increase from the prior year. It is the IUHPFL's sincere wish to continue to grow support over the coming years.

China Program

Over the past years, many Indiana high schools have added Chinese language studies to their curriculums. To address this growing trend, the IUHPFL decided to launch a Program in China.

After much research, the city of Hangzhou on the west coast of China was chosen for its cultural diversity and the strong collaboration with its sister city Indianapolis. Students will be able to study in China in the summer of 2014. As with all Programs, third-year Chinese students will register for language tests in September 2013.

Hangzhou, China is about 7,000 years old and, with more than six million citizens, China's fourth-largest city. It is located on West Lake and the picturesque Yangtze River delta. Many Chinese tourists visit Hangzhou for its natural beauty and historical sites. During the summer, temperatures average in the 70s and 80s.



West Lake in Hangzhou, China
Courtesy of Gustavo Madico

Hangzhou Facts

- ◆ Founded in 589 AD
- ◆ 4th largest city in China
- ◆ 6.2 million citizens
- ◆ Located on China's east coast in the Yangtze River Delta
- ◆ Popular tourist destination because of its natural beauty and location on West Lake

Because Chinese is a difficult language, and to best facilitate communication and linguistic growth, students will be permitted to speak limited English. As with all other Programs, participants will live in host families, take academic courses and visit historic and cultural landmarks.

Academic instruction, lunches and some afternoon activities will take place at one of Hangzhou's schools, #14 High School, a modern and fully equipped facility ideally suited to support language study.

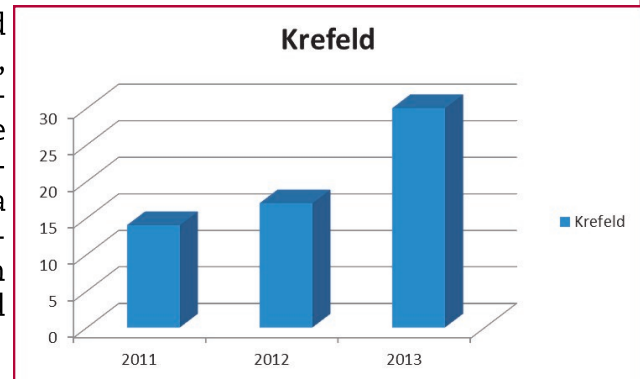
Students, guardians and teachers are encouraged to contact the IUHPFL for more information about the IUHPFL's newest Program.

Germany Program

Many factors such as budget cuts, lack of interest and exposure, limited resources and the emergence of competing languages have contributed to the fact that German participation in the IUHPFL Programs has been shrinking. In 2011 and 2012, participation was flat with 14 students.

German Program Continued

Because German and the German site of Krefeld have been a flagship Program for the IUHPFL, several steps were taken in 2012 to raise awareness for the German Program. This included the development of marketing materials, personalized e-mails and visits to German teachers and a German language promotion. Teachers were encouraged to have their students participate in the language test and received books, DVDs and Germany-related classroom materials.



As a result, participation in the 2013 German Program in Krefeld rose to 30 students, considered full capacity for Krefeld.

Mexico Program



In 2012, students traveled for a second year to Mérida, Mexico. Tucked away towards the northwest coast of the Yucatan Peninsula, Mérida has been named one of the 100 safest cities in the world. Our students visited ancient Tulum, Chichen Itza, beautiful beaches and Mérida's amazing historical town center.

As for the last three years, returning students were invited to participate in the Student Photo Contest. Mérida's 2012 winner, Alixandra C., shared this shot of students enjoying what all kids love: beaches, sand and water.

We look forward to receiving this year's photo impressions in the fall contest.

Guardian Survey

While all participating students are required to complete an exit survey, an anonymous guardian survey was introduced in 2011. Surveys help the IUHPFL better serve its many audiences and continuously improve the Program.

Guardians of the 2012 Program had this to say:

- ◆ *"Fantastic!! My son raised the money to attend and I believe he will never regret the hard work and saving he did to participate. I am thrilled for him. His Spanish is excellent! He is now taking college courses as a Junior in High School."*
- ◆ *"I wish you could read her emails she sent. I would read them over and over and cry. With each week her confidence and adventure became stronger. I kept every email and hold them dear. It was one of the best experiences for all of us."*
- ◆ *"It was FANTASTIC. Our daughter has done a lot of traveling, and this was without a doubt the best travel experience of her life. It's amazing that she is truly a Spanish speaker now. I seriously wish you would offer a program for adults!"*
- ◆ *"There was absolutely nothing our daughter could have done this summer that would have been better."*

2012 Program Reports

Brest, France

Brest was *the* place to be in the summer of 2012! In addition to everything organized through the program, we got to see *Les Tonnerres de Brest* (an international boat festival, held every four years) and the inauguration of Brest's very own tramway.



We hit the ground running with our onsite orientation, during which students got acquainted with the city, the public transportation system, and most importantly the nearby patisseries. The city of Brest was kind enough to recognize us with a formal reception, its representatives, professors and students all giving heartfelt speeches.

Even the local press was there, making the *stagiaires* instant celebrities.



Then the routine quickly settled in: classes, sports, theater and choir... but we were lucky to have not two but *three* excursions this year! The *stagiaires* discovered the joys of North Brittany (pastry-related, of course), the history of Normandy (including the D-Day beaches), and the landscape and towns of South Brittany. And of course, the Disco-bus was in full force on excursions.



Additional activities abounded as well, including touring the local chateau, a night of regional dancing, the *sales* (sales), the nationwide festival of music, a boat ride in the bay, bowling, and a fashion show. The city's Fourth of July ceremony was poignant as usual. The *stagiaires* sang the French and American national anthems and, along with representatives of Brest and the French armed forces, placed flowers at the memorial. We even made it onto the

TV news that night!

Before leaving Brest, we held our annual farewell spectacle for our host families and onsite organizers. It was difficult to say goodbye, but that's the beautiful thing about *au revoir*; it literally means "till we see each other again." Finally, the program ended—way too soon—with our Paris excursion, which was jam-packed, exhausting, and most of all, unforgettably awesome. But then again, doesn't that describe the whole program? We are so grateful to the city for their warm welcome, and of course our host families, who the *stagiaires* (and profs too!) have come to love as their own. *Au revoir*, Brest!

—Michael Dow, Student Coordinator

Ciudad Real, Spain

Everybody in the Ciudad Real group had a wonderful experience in 2012... They participated in soccer games, theatre, treasure hunts, museums, city tours, bullfights, water fights, cathedrals, Frisbee competitions and fountain celebrations after Spain's victory in soccer. What else could we have asked for? And yes, students also had classes and ended up significantly improving their Spanish!



Ciudad Real Continued

Students in the theater group decided that they wanted not only to perform but write their plays as well. The students were completely in charge of decorations, costumes and dialogue. The end result was a collection of three hilarious plays performed in front of host families and friends, along with the choir group who made us laugh and dance with their own "Ciudad Real version" of Shakira's *Waka Waka*.



We were also very fortunate to travel during our program, granting students a new perspective of Spanish culture. Our first excursion took us to Toledo, also called the "city of three cultures" because Christians,

Jews and Muslims inhabited the city for centuries. We also had a two-day excursion to the south of Spain, a region called Andalucía, where we visited the mosque-cathedral in Córdoba and the magnificent Alhambra palace in Granada. Near Ciudad Real we visited the historic and artistic town of Almagro where we had the opportunity to view a live, open-air Spanish performance of Calderón de la Barca's "*La vida es un sueño*." — Luisa Garrido, Student Coordinator



Krefeld, Germany

After an exciting tour through Krefeld via car, tram and on foot, students discovered their school conveniently located near the downtown shopping area of Krefeld. While students became more and more proficient in German, learned about *Kaffee und Kuchen* (coffee and cake), *Döner* and *Spaghetti* ice cream, they got ready for several exciting excursions.

The sun smiled on us during our Rhine tour, a boat trip on the river Rhine with vistas of castle ruins, vineyards and picturesque villages. We stopped at castle *Marksburg*, the only castle along the Rhine that was never destroyed. We were also lucky to be invited for breakfast by the mayor of Krefeld. Not only were students well-dressed, they overcame their shyness and freely participated in political debate.

Then came Berlin! Though students spent nights in Potsdam's youth hostel near the castle *Sanssouci*, they explored museums, the Dom and even got to see the Blue Man Group. Unforgettable were the impressions of the now historic Berlin Wall, the former east-German border crossing Checkpoint Charlie and a visit to the Bundestag, Germany's government.



Another excursion took us to Cologne with its amazing one-thousand-year cathedral. Students were dwarfed standing in front of the massive towers, but decided nonetheless to climb 533 steps to the top. From here Cologne unfolded in all directions, a town of one-million with parks, shops, industry and a university similar in size to IU.

Despite daily classes, activities and excursions, students worked tirelessly to prepare an unforgettable farewell show for host families and friends of the Program. True to style this was done at Castle Linn's museum barn, a perfect setting for a great show that left us and our guests breathless and smiling. —The IUHPFL Staff

León, Spain

Nothing introduces students better to their surroundings than a city tour. And that's how we came to experience León's amazing architecture like the ancient cathedral famous for its stained glass windows. Soon, we embarked on our first excursion to Segovia, a mountain city filled with history and culture. Left to investigate, students navigated through the old streets and found not only shops and lunch spots but a 2,000-year old Roman aqueduct.



Then came the fiestas. We cheered for Spain's national soccer team during the Euro cup and enjoyed a traditional *hoguera* or bonfire, marking the beginning of celebrations of San Juan and San Pedro. Students loved exploring Spanish cuisine, the tasty tapas, *patatas* and *croquetas*. Of course, no visit to Spain is complete without watching a traditional bullfight. Though students struggled with some the aspects of man's face-off with the bull, they could appreciate the cultural importance and amazing performances in the arena.

After celebrating the fourth of July with their Spanish host families, students traveled to historic Salamanca, home to the oldest university in all of Spain. On their walking tour, they saw the *punte romana*, a Roman bridge, the *museo Casa Lis*, assorted sculptures and statues. A final excursion took us to Oviedo, another amazing town filled with statues, a cathedral and home to *carbayón*, a puff pastry filled with almonds, egg and sugar. Delicious. Students not only made amazing linguistic progress, they returned home with a lifetime of unforgettable memories. —The IUHPFL Staff



Mérida, Mexico

After two exciting plane rides, students arrived safely and were quickly whisked away by their host families. To get familiar with the city, they engaged in a scavenger hunt and found that Mérida is full of historic treasures dating back as far the 16th century. Downtown buildings are often built with ancient carved Mayan stones, i.e. the cathedral. In many places we could still see the old city walls that once kept its inhabitants safe.



The Yucatan peninsula is filled with ancient Indian ruins and we were busy visiting many of them. One of the best is Chichen-Itza where we had fun in the sun and rain. More amazing sites followed, including Uxmal and Loltun. We explored the ancient Mayan city in Tulum, then cooled off at one of the most beautiful beaches in Mexico. Students spent the night in rustic but close to the beach (yes!) accommodations and were able to snorkel and play in Akumal, a waterpark with colorful fish, turtles and stingrays the following day.

Time flew and speaking Spanish turned into easy routine, preparing us for a special highlight: *La Noche Mexicana*, an evening filled with music and dance, food and entertainment on one of Mérida's most picturesque boulevards. And of course, we celebrated fourth of July with a pizza party, and to the entertainment of all, with our national anthem translated and sung in Spanish. Students returned home with many precious memories and a new appreciation for their host families, for Mexico and its ancient culture, and their powerful new language abilities.—The IUHPFL Staff



Oviedo, Spain

Translating into words the delightful experience we had during the summer of 2012 in Spain is a challenging task. We were welcomed by the host families *al estilo Asturiano*, including many hugs and kisses and pouring rain. Students, perhaps because of the positive impact of the new setting, soon engaged freely in Spanish conversation as if they were long-standing acquaintances. They initiated a conversation which never ended until the last day abroad.



Many unforgettable moments such as the *ninja* game, the ice cream at the San Francisco park, the phenomenal canoeing in the Río Sella, the daily challenge of ascending the long stairway to get to the school and the astonishing landscape are all alive in our hearts. This experience provided students with a sense of belonging to that place, moment and culture.

The program ended with students offering an amazing American gift to their local families as well as instructors. For the final show they did impressions on the before and after of the program, impressions about Spain, language, host families and instructors! It was an astounding success, making all of us laugh and cry with happiness.



I'm sure we will always remember the wonderful and productive time we had together, learning the culture and language of one of the most fascinating countries in the world. The IUHPFL excels not only because of its quality and commitment to developing advanced language skills and cultural knowledge in a real sociocultural context, but also because it strengthens human values while building endless friendships among its instructors, students and host families. —Giselle Martins, Student Coordinator

Saumur, France

The IUHPFL in Saumur has now reached cruising altitude. After only three years, the Program is already well established in the Loire Valley. Host families as well as the citizens of the *Saumurois* await the arrival of the so-called *stagiaires* as it marks the beginning of the summer festivities!



Instructors of the IUHPFL in France often say that students create an indestructible bond during the Normandy excursion—around mid-program. The entire team was amazed to witness that this bond was already established during the Bloomington orientation. There, they made a pact: 23 students would embark on this adventure and they would return to the United States in July with all their fellow students. And they did!

Saumur continued

Together, *stagiaires* devoted their days to learning about French culture, literature, grammar, linguistics and phonetics, not to mention participate in afternoon activities. In order to have a taste of France, they explored the wonders of the Loire Valley, the sites of the Second World War in Normandy, the insular life of the Île de Ré, and in a final highlight said their farewell to France in the City of Lights.



Eager to share their culture, the host families took the *stagiaires* under their wings. They shared unforgettable moments during the *Fête de la musique*, *la Fête des Géants* and fourth of July festivities, events that were often accompanied by delicious meals and music.

Grateful for all the generosity that was showed towards them, students did not forget to give back. They work effortlessly to present an incredible farewell show to host families, our on-site coordinator extraordinaire Marie-Christine, to the members of Saint-Louis and the HJT, as well as officials from Saumur and Turquant. They also shared a musical moment in a nursing home in Fontevraud. Words cannot express what this afternoon meant to all of us. Residents, *stagiaires* and instructors cried tears of joy. It was without a doubt one of the most beautiful moments I have been lucky to share with IUHPFL students.

Thanks to the IUHPFL, *stagiaires* grew both linguistically and personally. Students returned home with suitcases full of souvenirs and memories to cherish and to share for many years to come. Not to forget friendships that will continue to grow as students embark on new life adventures. —Marie-Line Brunet, Student Coordinator

**St. Brieuc, France**

Summer 2012 in St. Brieuc, France, really taught students how to make the best of a rainy day! While the weather was nothing to write home about, the program itself was as dynamic as ever.

In spite of the downpour on the beaches of the American Cemetery in Normandy, and losing some umbrellas, the weather did not stop us. We were able to learn about the D-Day landings in Normandy and, jumping back in time another 1,000 years, we saw the Tapisserie de Bayeux. It tells the story of William the Conqueror, the Duke of Normandy, and how he became the King of England.

Our *fête des familles* at the end of the program in St. Brieuc was truly a celebration of Brittany and its Celtic traditions. The choir sang the *Kanit*, more commonly known as *Amazing Grace*, in the regional language, Breton, with surprise accompaniment by one of our *stagiaires*, Chandler Waugh, on the bagpipes.



St. Brieuc continued

While Normandy allowed us to experience many important historical events firsthand, Paris allowed us to finally see the sun! We had the rare opportunity to see the Tour de France arriving in Paris. Even though it only lasted for about 20 seconds as the swarm of bikes flew by, each second became a lifelong memory for us. In addition to the Tour de France, the group enjoyed two excellent views of Paris:



one from the top of the Tour Montparnasse during the day, the other from the top of the Arc de Triomphe at night. The final highlight was a river cruise of Paris on a *bateau mouche* after dark, immersing us fully in the splendor of the city of lights and love. —Ryan Hendrickson, Student Coordinator

Valencia, Spain

If the Valencia 2012 program could be summarized in just one sentence, that sentence would be “*Vamos a la playa* (We’re going to the beach).” This year’s group went to the beach—a lot. We went to the beach during our recreation time, on weekends, after class, and, of course, to celebrate the Fourth of July. Shopping was also a pretty big deal in Valencia this year, especially for the month of July, when stores in Valencia have fantastic *rebajas*. Many students ended up having to buy extra suitcases to get all their new stuff home!

Excursions this year included Cuenca, where we saw the famous *Casas Colgadas*, Xátiva, where we explored an incredible old castle, and, of course Barcelona, where we went on a city tour including *Parc Güell*, the *Sagrada Família*, and *Las Ramblas*. In Valencia itself, we also saw the *Torres de Serranos*, the cathedral, and the central market place. Of course, a trip to Valencia wouldn’t be complete without eating plenty of ice cream, *churros con chocolate*, and *paella*, and this year’s group definitely did the best they could to consume all of these tasty dishes as often as possible.



The summer culminated in our goodbye show for the host families, which changed a bit from previous years. Students performed two theater pieces, one of which was written by the students themselves, and created a fake news program about Valencia. Additionally, several students performed for their host parents by playing musical instruments, singing, and dancing.

There was not a dry eye in the house when the students ended the show by playing a video they had created about their experiences in Valencia. After this summer, we all carry a bit of Valencia in our hearts.

—Melissa Whatley, Student Coordinator

Looking Ahead

China 2014

Whenever a new Program is introduced, much work has gone into it long before. This is particularly true when it involves a new country. After years of planning, preparation and leg work, Stephanie Goetz, IUHPFL managing director, traveled to Hangzhou, China last November. On the agenda were meetings with potential high schools and onsite coordinators, local officials and gathering general information and impressions of Hangzhou's suitability as a potential Program site for the IUHPFL.



Following were months of negotiations and more detailed planning of the many aspects of an IUHPFL Program. We're proud to report that Hangzhou has officially been added as the tenth Program of the IUHPFL.

Locally, there is much more to do, beginning from collaborating with Chinese high school teachers, raising awareness, developing appropriate language tests and facilities to integrate this slightly different Program into the other nine.

Alumni

As IUHPFL students graduate and enter careers, they may be able to provide a small contribution to future generations of IUHPFL participants. As many alums tell us time and time again, spending seven weeks abroad is unforgettable and life-changing.

"The German language skills acquired that summer helped me run an international company until we sold our interests in 1998. I am grateful for everything your program gave me." Dana Batzka (Welsh), Krefeld 1975

We therefore hope that more alumni will visit the IUHPFL website to pledge their support. All donations are managed by the IU Foundation and are guaranteed to reach students. The 1966 cohort of St. Briec is currently in the process of setting up their own scholarship fund for St. Briec, France-bound IUHPFL students.

Alumni interested in pledging are encouraged to contact the IUHPFL for more information.

Alumni Voices—Testimonials and Images Wanted

If you wish to provide a testimonial about your experience, no matter how long ago, we'd love to hear from you. If you would like to share photos, send them to us. In the coming months, we plan to enlarge our alumni pages to make room for many more unforgettable memories.

Become Part of the IUHPFL History—Alumni Database

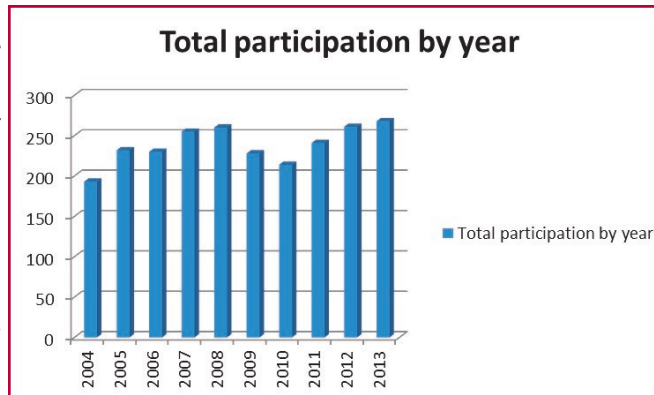
With the help of volunteers and interns the IUHPFL continues to make progress toward an all-encompassing IUHPFL Alumni Database. We ask alumni not only to share their updated contact information but also to be proactive communicating with their peers and encouraging them to share their information as well. Wouldn't it be wonderful, if we could create one powerful database, spanning more than 50 years of IUHPFL history?

The easiest way to share your address is to visit the Alumni Connect page on our website and enter your information. Your personal data will only be used within the IUHPFL.

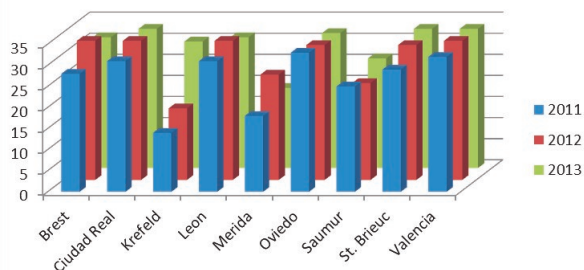
Additional IUHPFL Statistics

Program Participation Rates 2004-2013

Student participation in 2013 is at an all time high with 268 participants. With the addition of China for the 2013-2014 school year, the IUHPFL hopes to grow once again. Fluctuations occur when Programs are changed, added or moved. In some cases, lower participation rates may be due to economic reasons, changes in high school language Programs, i.e. the reduction of German-language programs in favor of Chinese language programs. Since the beginning of the Program in 1962, 6,844 students have studied abroad with the IUHPFL.



Participation Rates by Program 2011-2013



Over the past three years most Programs experienced either a rise or similar participation numbers.

Saumur, newly added in 2010, shows lower numbers as does Mexico and Krefeld. Germany is seeing strong growth again. This may be due to targeted marketing initiatives including personal visits to high schools.

Overall, Program numbers have been rising consistently for the past four years. For 2014, more growth is expected with the addition of the tenth site.

From the Office of the IUHPFL Continued

mile-high. In Oviedo, students rang in the 50th, *al estilo asturiano*—with lots of rain, but also lots of love and hugs. In Valencia, the city of paella, oranges and the beach, students experienced life on the coast. A life with a much more relaxed attitude where no one is ever in a hurry and everyone takes things one sunny hour at a time.

It seems as if the universe aligned for the IUHPFL to have a particularly memorable anniversary year. Not only were the nine Programs abroad a complete and total success, it was also the year that the IUHPFL's long-anticipated entry to China became a reality. Since assuming directorship of the IUHPFL in January of 2009, our office has continually received e-mails and calls asking "When will you go to China?" With Chinese now being offered in nearly 30 Indiana high schools, the time was right to expand into the Eastern world. It was simultaneously with gumption and trepidation, curiosity and fear of the unknown that I set off to China in November 2012. The site in China we had been vetting on this side of the pond is Hangzhou, one of Marco Polo's favorites. And let me tell you, IUHPFL followers, our students are in for a fantastic experience in the summer of 2014. I cannot wait to share with you this new phase of IUHPFL's history. Stay tuned!

As I write this, our last group for the summer of 2013 is in the air, returning to the U.S. How time flies when 270+ students are abroad learning, exploring, living their language and, of course, having fun.

Cheers,

Stephanie