



## Polyglot Press

### Six Countries

- ◆ Austria
- ◆ Chile
- ◆ China
- ◆ France
- ◆ Mexico
- ◆ Spain

### Program Sites



Brest



Ciudad Real



Graz



Hangzhou



León



Mérida



Oviedo



Saumur



St. Briec



Viña del Mar

### Greetings from our Managing Director

As we near the end of 2015, this is surely a time of reflection for everyone, and no less so for those of us who dedicate our time and energy to making IUHPFL the best possible study abroad program for Indiana high school students.



Loni Dishong, IUHPFL  
Managing Director

IUHPFL has experienced several changes during this past year, including within our office team. After 8 years of dedicated service to IUHPFL as Administrative Coordinator, Cindy Tirey was offered the opportunity to work with a non-profit that's near and dear to her heart and left IUHPFL in May. In August, we wished a fond farewell to Jillian De Haan, who helped IUHPFL in many ways during her time as Program Coordinator. We have missed these two talented ladies, but are excited for the next chapters of their careers and wish them much success!

One very happy change for all of us in the office is the addition of our new Program Coordinator, Amy Dowell, who joined our team in November. Amy has lived and studied abroad and has a background in program administration, as well as conflict resolution and peace studies. Her organizational skills, kindness, sense of humor, and ability to work well in a team setting are already evident and making a positive impact on the program overall.

We have also welcomed several talented part-time interns to our office team in 2015, most recently, Ana Dominguez, Priya Pierie, and William Niezgodski. All three are IUHPFL alumni who are currently studying at IU Bloomington and who are highly proficient in French, Spanish, and German, respectively, thanks in part to their IUHPFL experiences. They have done an excellent job helping with vital administrative tasks, promoting IUHPFL at public events, and taking on various projects. It's a pleasure working with them!

We are eager to announce that Alicia Swihart, our Marketing and Communications Coordinator, and her husband, Michael, are expecting their first child at the end of May! We wish to congratulate them both on this exciting new chapter in their lives and we're already wondering which language Baby Swihart will be studying 17 years from now!

During this past year, we have experienced program-related changes, as well, including the closing of our Krefeld, Germany program. After many years of service, our onsite coordinator in Krefeld, Barbara Rogge, announced her retirement and her desire to focus on her family. We will always be grateful to Barbara for her unwavering dedication to IUHPFL and its German students!

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## Introducing IUHPFL Program Coordinator, Amy Dowell

I am thrilled to be joining IUHPFL as the Program Coordinator! I have been with the program one month and the most important thing I've observed is how deeply loyal and enthusiastic alumni of IUHPFL are, which makes me proud to be a part of it.



Amy Dowell, IUHPFL  
Program Coordinator

Having grown up in Costa Rica, and studied abroad in Germany and Austria while in college, I know from personal experience that traveling, adapting to new places and cultures, and learning other languages is an essential part of an education and becoming a global citizen. Understanding that people everywhere are not that different from us is also key to building a more peaceful world. I look forward to doing my part in making global citizens of our students!

## 2015 Program Reports

### Brest, France

The group of IUHPFL students that spent summer 2015 in Brest had the experience of a lifetime, discovering the westernmost region of France and connecting with its many traditions, historical sites, culinary specialties, and most importantly, people. The welcoming Breton people are proud of their unique culture and intent on both sharing their traditions and learning about those of our students. Combined with the openness and intellectual curiosity of our students, this made for the ideal exchange! We were welcomed everywhere we went, including by the Mayor, the infamous Bruno who fed us and made us birthday cakes (complete with macaroons!) and our fabulous on-site coordinators who introduced us to the fast-paced Breton dancing. Last but not least, each host family opened up their homes and their hearts to the point that we can now say that we all have a home away from home in Brest.



Despite its rich history, laid back attitude, and the summer shopping sales, we did not limit ourselves to discovering all that Brest has to offer. We toured the rugged cliffs of Brittany, visited the magical Mont Saint Michel that rises up from the sea as if in a dream, and re-discovered our own history in a new light while touring the D-Day beaches in Normandy.



However, it would be criminal to forget our tour of the Kouign Amann bakery in Locronan, where we witnessed the baking process of this buttery specialty and even attempted it ourselves! The delicious Breton food was certainly a running theme throughout our stay in France, and I'm sure I'm not alone in continuing to dream of crêpes with salted caramel, fresh seafood and pains au chocolat.



None of these experiences, however, can come close to expressing what we gained from our summer in France. Though it may now seem distant, we have all been profoundly impacted by our time spent together, and I can only thank our wonderful group of students for their commitment, trust and open-minds that allowed all of us to grow linguistically, intellectually and, above all, personally. Bisous. — Amanda Vredenburgh, Student Coordinator



## Ciudad Real, Spain

Everybody in Ciudad Real had an incredible time in the land of Don Quijote, the world's famous literary character created by Miguel de Cervantes. Students participated in soccer games, basketball and volleyball competitions with local students. In addition, students in the theatre workshop decided that they wanted not only to perform the "Spanish version" of The Wizard of Oz in the farewell show but they also wanted to write their own play. They were in charge of decorations, costumes, lights, music and dialogues. The end result was an outstanding performance that host families loved.



We all felt very fortunate for the great memories that we made on our trips and excursions around Spain as well. We were astonished by the majesty of the Alhambra Palace on our trip to Cordoba and Granada. In Toledo, we learned of the importance of respect, harmony and brotherhood while visiting this town where three different cultures (Christian, Jewish and Muslim) cohabitated for centuries. In Madrid, we learned about the Spanish Golden Age- a time where some of the most important Spanish writers and artists of all time shared a common neighborhood in the Barrio de las Letras. We also admired the beauty of masterpieces like Guernica and Las Meninas in two of the most important art museums in the world, Centro de Arte Reina Sofía and Museo del Prado.



But Ciudad Real 2015 wasn't all about culture and learning. There was also time for fun and adventure. Our visit to Lagunas de Ruidera was definitely one of the best moments of the summer. Ruidera is a natural park, 60 miles away from Ciudad Real, well known around the country for the beauty of its lakes and waterfalls. We were very lucky to enjoy a nice and sunny summer day in such an incredible environment, and students were able to partake in fun and exciting activities such as kayaking, paddle-boarding and swimming in Laguna del Rey.

The 4th of July was also a night to remember. Students, host families and instructors gathered together to celebrate America's Independence Day as well a few birthdays in the group. We celebrated outside with food and dancing to the music of some of the best Spanish pop artists: Shakira, Enrique Iglesias, and Mark Anthony. What a great time we had! —Álvaro Lopez Pajares, Student Coordinator

## Graz, Austria

After driving through green, mountainous terrain from Vienna to Graz, the Graziens spent the first day of the program with their host families. The next day, we kicked off the program with an all-day tour of Graz. Under scorching heat, the Graziens explored the architecture, off-the-beaten footpaths, bakeries, and the local cuisine; Kürbissuppe and Spätzle! Finishing the day we took the steep train to visit Schlossberg, which towers over the city of Graz, providing for a breathtaking view of our interim home, before taking the steps back down to street level.



Throughout the program, the Graziens worked hard in class, embraced local culture, and undertook each adventure with full enthusiasm and energy (and usually with a song on their lips). From hiking to visiting the heavenly Zotter chocolate factory, students lived our motto "Lernen und Erleben im Gleichgewicht" which means "Learn and experience in balance" by using each opportunity to learn and continue improving their German while simultaneously taking to heart the Austrian habit of taking time to enjoy life....

*Graz continued...*



The high point of our program was undoubtedly sharing Independence Day with the host families at our potluck-picnic, where each student brought a traditional American dish to share. The students and host-siblings spent the afternoon lounging with their families and playing American football. The Graziens concluded their time in Graz by hosting a farewell evening for their host families, where they successfully performed a musical version of "Little Red Riding Hood", much to the host families' delight! The following morning we traversed the Austrian countryside back to Vienna, where we spent our last few days taking in the beauty and history of the magnificent city. —  
*Emma Kriss, Student Coordinator*



### Hangzhou, China

On June 11, 2015 the group landed in the Shanghai Pudong International Airport. Students met with their host families the following day and started their amazing learning journey.



They attended their classes at No. 14 high school in Hangzhou and had the opportunity to carve a seal of their own Chinese name as well as learn Tai Chi. They took part in other activities such as Chinese painting, calligraphy, and learning how to play the Chinese instrument – hulusi. Students were able to visit local places like West Lake located in beautiful Hangzhou. Many Chinese tourists were excited to see a group of American students and started to chat with them. Students happily exchanged greetings with them and took a picture together.

Of most notable mention was the time with their host parents and siblings and the close relationships they created with them. Students took time to show their appreciation and gratitude to their families by writing them a letter in Chinese and by working hard on their farewell show. With handmade invitations, designed by an IUHPFL student, host families, instructors, and some No. 14 high school administrators got to enjoy seeing acts and scenes performed by each IUHPFL student; some of which included host siblings!



After the performance night and the final test, everyone packed up their luggage and took a train trip to Beijing and Shanghai for 6 days before their long return flight home. During the three day stay in Beijing, students and instructors went to the Chinese National Museum, Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City and the Great Wall. With Shanghai as their last stop, students and instructors went to the Oriental Pearl TV Tower (the height of which is over 1,500 feet), the Bund (the memory of the International Settlement era of Shanghai, 1843-1943), and the Yu Garden. It was an incredible 5 weeks learning together! —

*IUHPFL Office Staff*

### León, Spain

The city of León, situated in the northwest of Spain, boasts a rich history, a beautiful cathedral, and an enviable location along the famed Camino de Santiago making it a unforgettable stop for visitors from every corner of the world and, this summer, thirty-three students from Indiana.



León continued...

Welcomed to León by their host families and our onsite coordinator, our students quickly adapted to the local customs of evening strolls and frequent stops for ice cream and took on their new identity as the *peregrinos*, or pilgrims. Their pilgrimage throughout the weeks ahead would be as much an educational journey, or *camino*, as it was a physical one since they would be the first IUHPFL group in the history of the program to walk part of the Camino de Santiago and cross into Portugal. The novelty of being “first” was not lost on our ambitious *peregrinos*, who were more than ready to get out and experience all that our beautiful host country had to offer.



And so our *camino* together began, with high expectations and limitless opportunities for the *peregrinos* to learn something new, both inside of the classroom as well as out, from our instructor team, their host families, and also each other. While León does have plenty to offer its visitors, between the local fiestas, diverse *barrios* or neighborhoods, numerous museums and cultural events, its prime location also makes other places accessible. Our bi-weekly excursions took us through the regions of Castilla y León (with a castle in Ponferrada, a chocolate museum in Astorga and later RAFTING in Boñar!) into Asturias (the beautiful beaches of Gijón) and of course, Galicia, where the Camino de Santiago ends and we crossed into Portugal.



If all this wasn't enough to fill a summer, the affection and support IUHPFL students receive from the local host families would be. These host families are truly one of the strongest parts of the Honors Program. They make the experience unforgettable for students and instructors alike. From the moment the León host families meet the students upon arrival to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnic (and Apple Pie/Spanish tortilla contest!) to sending us off for each excursion, they make memories and foster relationships with our students that last a lifetime.

As all good things must come to an end, the *peregrinos* departed León after an outstanding farewell show and with a promise to return sooner rather than later to the place that many affectionately referred to as “their home.” It was not without a few tears that we made our way south, first stopping to see the ancient, awe-inspiring Roman ruins and the mighty Alcázar of Segovia and then beginning what would be the final kilometers of our *camino* together in the bustling metropolis of Madrid.

Neither the steamy summer temperatures nor their looming return to the U.S. could diminish the *peregrinos*' insatiable curiosity or their willingness to get out and explore. And explore they did – from the world renowned art museums to the *mercado*, the cathedral to El Corte Inglés, the Puerta del Sol to the Plaza Mayor – crisscrossing the Spanish capital on foot and by metro, trying to take it all in before their time abroad ran out.

For just under seven weeks, these thirty-three *peregrinos* not only traveled abroad but truly lived, immersing themselves in the culture and embracing each step of the *camino* as they learned not only Spanish, but also about themselves. —  
Sarah Grauvogl, Student Coordinator



## Mérida, Mexico

Greeted by their host families, students arrived in the Yucatan region of Mexico brimming with excitement for their summer ahead. They started their time off with a week with orientation, beginning classes, and starting practice on the farewell show pieces, where everyone either sings, performs a skit or dances. The first weekend was full of activity as everyone took an open air bus tour of Mérida, competed in a scavenger hunt around the city and spent the day at beautiful Progreso Beach.



Many other exciting excursions awaited the students and instructors throughout the rest of the program. Along with getting well acquainted with the city of Mérida, students and instructors visited many beautiful and interesting places from Chichén Itzá, Izamal and Uxmal to Celestún, Tulum and Punta Laguna. Many trips to the surrounding beaches happened throughout the summer which helped fight the hot temperatures. Most excursion sites afforded students the opportunity to see many Mayan ruins and cities of which they learned about in culture classes during the week.



A new component of the program added this summer for students in Mérida volunteer work in the community. Three Saturdays during their time abroad, students and instructors volunteered at the Mayan pueblo of Yaxunah. During these times, they were able to work together on projects like creating more fertile soil around the community center and aiding with the construction of a storage center. One student said, "I greatly valued the volunteer work time. It made me feel productive and helpful. Less like a tourist, more like my time in the country served a greater purpose." By far the students most enjoyed interacting with people from the community and learning about the Mayan culture and language.



Many great friendships were made as students learned so much about the Yucatan culture, their host families, and each other. They grew to have a deep respect for the Mayan culture that was so prevalent in the region and will no doubt remember the people they met and the places they visited this summer in the Yucatan. —IUHPFL Office Staff



## Oviedo, Spain

Oviedo is a wonderful and charming place to be. Surrounded by unbelievable lushly green nature and 15 minutes from paradisiac beaches, Oviedo offers unique cuisine, beautiful cafes, wonderful palaces, some of the greatest museums in Spain and world-renowned modern architecture. Students enjoyed learning about authentic Asturian culture and cuisine with our lovely host families, who welcomed them with open arms (and two kisses).



This summer, besides enjoying this terrific city, the students and our great team of instructors were able to canoe on Sella River and to visit world famous places such Santiago de Compostela, Gijón, Segovia and Madrid. This year, we included for the first time, the paradisiac beach of Foz in Galicia.



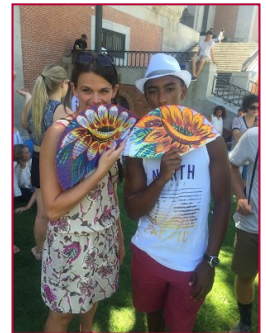
This summer we offered salsa and tango classes. Almost every Friday night students, families and instructors joined the Tango performance on the square in Oviedo. Students were

*Oviedo continued...*



also very involved with cooking. We shared Asturians recipes in class and some of students even cooked together with our school chef. The food was incredible!

The last week in Oviedo we worked on the preparation of our final theater production, *Frosturias*, an Asturianized adaptation of *Frozen* put together by students and instructors. Everyone contributed by acting, singing, working with make-up, costumes, or the stage crew. It was a success and great experience to all of us. —*Mazinha Hauskrecht, Student Coordinator*



### Saumur, France

What a wonderful summer in Saumur! The weather was wonderful, in spite of a European heat wave, and the host families welcomed their students with open arms and hearts. Students applied themselves in class and during afternoon activities with smiles and good attitudes. They were truly a pleasure to work with.



Students experienced firsthand a number of French traditions, including a favorite, “making the bridge,” meaning taking a four-day weekend when a holiday falls on a Tuesday or Thursday. Many families took advantage of this scheduling quirk to take their students out of town, or to enjoy relaxed family meals and get-togethers. We saw many students in town enjoying the fireworks for the 14th of July, France’s national holiday.



With the group, they visited the châteaux of the Loire Valley, including a new visit this year to the Clos-Lucé, where students played with interactive models of Leonardo DaVinci’s inventions and visited the manor where he lived out his final years. We experienced seaside life and warm, sandy beaches at the Sables d’Olonne, and visited the moving historical sites of Normandy, spending solemn moments at the American Cemetery and the Pointe du Hoc. And of course, students planned their itineraries for Paris, working together to decide on what would be the highlights of their trip.



Reflecting on summer 2015, I think in particular of all the moments students spent together before and after class, chatting and laughing in the sun, and of their tearful goodbyes at the end of the summer. These connections are often lifelong, and it is a privilege to see them being made. —*Amy Conrad, Student Coordinator*



### St. Briec, France

Summer 2015 in Saint-Briec was all about taking advantage of the time we had to learn the most that we could about both French and Breton culture.

As any stagiaire could confirm, delicious desserts play an important role in the Breton culture. To delve further into this aspect of Brittany, our culture instructor organized one of the most anticipated (and delicious) afternoon activities: *l'exposition des desserts*, which saw each stagiaire, with the help of their host family, take part in the baking of a dessert of French or Breton origin, which was then shared with the group.



*St. Brieuc continued...*

In addition to desserts, stagiaires were also introduced to another important aspect of Breton culture: *les danses bretonnes*. Given the Celtic roots of the Breton people, traditional dancing has remained one of the most salient ways of expressing one's heritage. Traditionally accompanied by music composed on various horns, drums, and even bagpipes, typical Breton dances involve the entire group moving in unison in a circular formation, though partner dancers also exist.



Dancing and eating aside, the stagiaires also gained cultural insight not only through both their daily classes (Culture, Grammar, Linguistics, and Literature) and afternoon activities (Choir and Theatre), but also our three excursions. While two of our excursions served to introduce the stagiaires to other important cultural sites in Brittany (Cap Fréhel, l'Abbaye de Beauport, Saint-Malo, Dinan, and Dinard), the third, our trip to Normandy, allowed the students to experience not only the Bayeux Tapestry and Mont Saint-Michel, but also the American Cemetery, the Caen Memorial, and Omaha Beach in order to remind us all of the connection between France and the United States.

In typical IUHPFL fashion, we went out with a bang, bidding a fond farewell to host families through the *fête des familles* – our farewell show -, in which the stagiaires impressed all with their acting, singing, and overall creativity. I would like to personally thank both our French and American families, my amazing team, and, of course, our wonderful stagiaires for a fantastic summer. Merci ! —*Jamie Root, Student Coordinator*

**Viña del Mar, Chile**

From day one students were immersed in the colorful, rich and friendly culture of Viña del Mar as their host families anxiously awaited their arrival. Students were exposed not only to the culture & Spanish language, but also the social side of the city as they took part in service learning projects in the community throughout their time there. Students spent the majority of their time outside of their comfort zones. After daily classes in Grammar, Linguistics, Literature, and Culture,

they spent their time either exploring the city, participating in volunteer opportunities, or working on their farewell show which consisted of acting, dancing, and singing. By the end of the program, each student had tried many new things.

During their summer abroad, the group volunteered with 3 different local organizations; The Mapuche Indigenous Group, Action Cousteau, and APARID, a non-profit organization that works with children with Down syndrome. With the Mapuche Indigenous group the students helped plan their New Year celebration which occurred on June 21st. After preparing everything for the celebration, the group was invited to participate in We Tripantu that Sunday, which is the Mapuche New Year. Everyone had the chance to

try and enjoy the *sopaipillas* (fried bread) that kept them full for a few days.



Acción Cousteau is an organization dedicated to protecting local marine life and promoting awareness of local environmental issues. The group was lucky enough to learn about the effects of trash on a beach, as well as help plant trees and bird watch on a second occasion.





*Viña del Mar continued...*

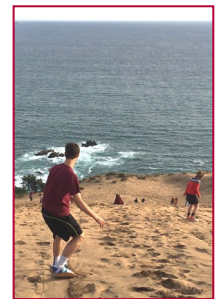


Besides taking an active role in the community, the group took many opportunities in having fun. On one occasion the group got to work with students from a local arts high school in Quilpué, and learned about local arts and activities such as making musical instruments, practicing aerial skills, or uni-cycling. Over the summer, Chile won the Copa America, and the entire city took part in the celebrations that followed! Soccer is a huge part of Chilean culture, so winning this championship didn't mean winning just any other match, it meant celebrating big time.

During excursions the group had the opportunity to learn more about Chile's rich history. While visiting Santiago, they learned all about the coup d'etat and subsequent dictatorship in Chile that lasted until 1990. Although the topic was rather heavy, the museum was a wonderful learning experience and helped students to better understand recent Chilean political history.



From painting murals in the community, to dune surfing in Concón, each one of our students left their mark in the remarkable city of Viña del Mar. Their passion towards the program was visible as the students performed skits, songs, and dances for their host families at the farewell show. Each family had a touching moment as the students presented their host families with a rose, a letter, and copy of the program magazine (collection of drawings, stories, articles, and etc. all done by the students during the summer). Without a doubt this experience is one that goes beyond just a language learning experience, it's one that will follow and shape each student's life.



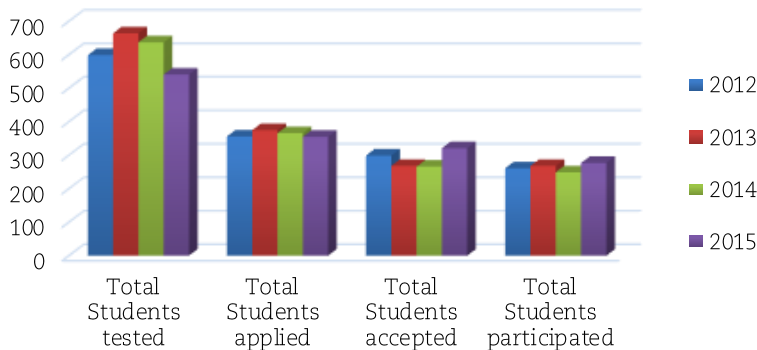
—IUHPFL Office Staff

**Program Numbers Over the Last Four Years**

IUHPFL sent the largest cohort in 2015 with a total of 277 students traveling to Asia, Europe, Mexico and South America, compared to 249 in 2014, 268 in 2013, and 261 in 2012. As was anticipated IUHPFL was thrilled to send more students in 2015 as Graz, Austria, and Viña del Mar, Chile gained momentum. With the opening of our new German-speaking site in Graz, the German program saw more students participate, growing from 17 to 21 participants. All

other programs were filled to capacity with the exception of Hangzhou, China which hosted the second group of program participants in 2015. Twelve students traveled to China —up by three from the prior year.

**Participation Rates 2012-2015**



In comparison, the total number of students testing continues to show a slowing trend, shrinking from 664 in 2013 and 637 in 2014 to 541 in 2015. Despite this, total students applying, being accepted, and participating remains steady.

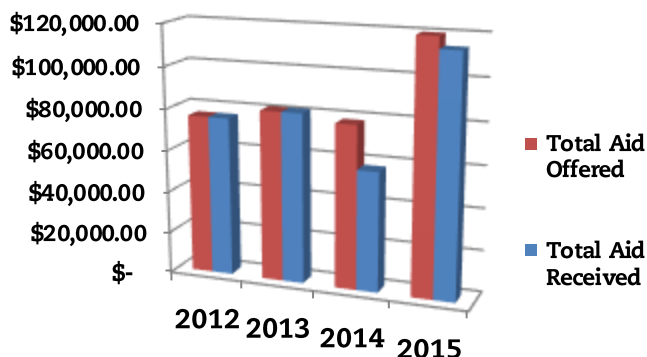
**Financial Awards**

Participating in IUHPFL is a major investment, and IUHPFL strives to support as many students as possible with financial aid. Students who applied in 2015 for financial aid and qualified based on financial need, received between \$600 and \$1,500 each.

Financial Awards continued...

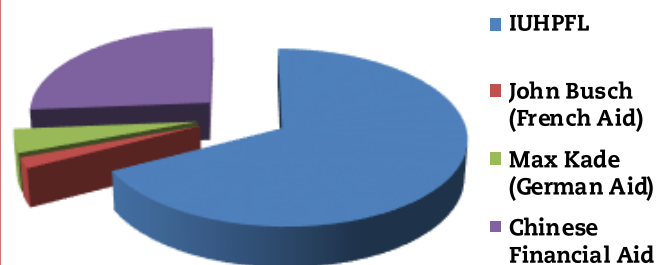
Overall, a total of 93 individual awards were given in 2015 financial support, amounting to \$114,050, a fifty percent increase from 2014 when total financial help distributed added up to \$57,300. Though \$78,050 of financial aid was offered in 2014 only seventy three percent was accepted and thus distributed. In 2014, Awarded financial aid to students who withdrew was not reallocated to other participants due to the opening of two new program sites in Hangzhou, China and Vina del Mar, Chile. The same held true for 2015. The IUHPFL offered \$119,650 and distributed a total of \$114,050. Due to the opening of a new site in Graz, Austria, any financial aid that was awarded to students who withdrew was not reallocated.

### Total Financial Aid 2012-2015



Some programs offer additional incentives such as the Graz program. The Germanic Studies Department at IU, Bloomington, has been collaborating with the Max Kade Foundation in New York, who pledged \$5,000 in 2015 in the form of individual \$1,000 scholarships. Recipients were chosen from the pool of participants and based on merit. Three French students from North Central High School received \$750 each in 2015 through the John & Barbara Busch Scholarship fund for a reduction in program fees. For the second program year in Hangzhou, Chinese language students received a \$2,500 scholarship to help offset program costs and encourage participation in the program.

### Financial Aid 2015 - \$114,050



### Guardians of 2015 Programs had this to say:

#### 2015:

- ♦ *“My daughter stayed with a wonderful, and active, family! I couldn't have been more pleased with her placement. There were five kids that went to Graz from her high school. They all traveled to Germany on an exchange program the year before, so they knew each other very well. However, she made so many new friends with this trip to Graz. They continue to talk to each other on a daily basis, and would like to plan a reunion very soon!”* —Mim T., Graz, Austria
- ♦ *“I was completely comfortable with this program from the very beginning. Not once was I worried about my son's safety. I knew he would have a great experience and he did!”* —Craig Davenport, Hangzhou, China
- ♦ *“My daughter Aspen had an incredible overall experience. She has been challenged and has grown in numerous ways from the beginning of the application process until the end. Although, it will never really end; just today, she gave a presentation to her Spanish class about her experience and was excited to talk about it when she got home. Her host family, the language/educational aspect of the program, the new friendships, and the daily adventures of figuring it out in a foreign country are impossible to measure. But, they are very apparent and it's one of those parental moments when you see that the world is a wonderful place that is filled with unique, intelligent, and kind people that are their to help your child reach his or her goals and aspirations.”* —Adam Vanderwielen, León, Spain

### Alumni Support

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

We are also pleased to announce for the second year the IUHPFL [Director's Matching Gifts Challenge](#), which allows every dollar donated to our General Scholarship Fund to be matched one-to-one between now and February 29th, 2016! Providing scholarship opportunities to our participants is a longtime priority of IUHPFL and will remain so.

### 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. Below is a short testimonial from an alumna of 1992.

"My time in San Luis Potosí was a window into a vibrant, welcoming new culture; it was the kind of experience that stayed with me long after I returned to Indiana. When I began writing a novel, my mind turned again to the colorful streets of Guanajuato, a city we visited, and I went back to do research more than a decade later. The trouble my characters find in [Trip Through Your Wires](#) is purely fictional, born of an imagination lucky enough to experience cultural difference, Spanish language immersion, and new friendships in a life-changing study abroad program." —[Sarah Layden](#), 1992 San Luis Potosí, Mexico

### Help Us Find Other IUHPFL Alumni — Class Ambassador

With the help of volunteers and interns the IUHPFL continues to make progress toward an all encompassing IUHPFL Alumni Database. Our goal is to find one 'class ambassador' from each program and year to assist us in reconnecting alumni with the IUHPFL. If you are interested in becoming a Class Ambassador, we'll provide you with a list of alumni, their high schools, mailing addresses and phone numbers from the time of the program. Simply contact us at [iuhpfl@iu.edu](mailto:iuhpfl@iu.edu).

### Additional IUHPFL Statistics

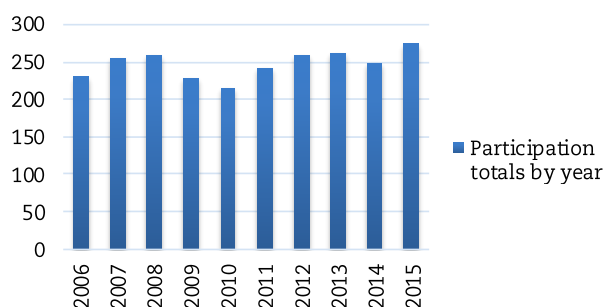
#### Program Participation Rates 2006-2015

Though IUHPFL saw a slight decrease in participation in 2014 with the addition of two sites, one in Chile, the other in China, student participation in 2015 hit an all time high with 277 participants. Fluctuations occur when programs are changed,

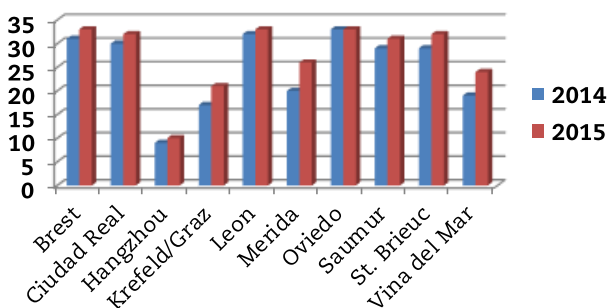
added or moved. In some cases, lower participation rates may be due to economic reasons, changes in high school language programs, i.e. the reduction of German-language programs in favor of Chinese language programs.

IUHPFL has seen 7,528 students study abroad since the beginning of the program in 1962.

IUHPFL Program Participants



Participants by Site and Year



*Continued from cover page...*

### **Greetings from our Managing Director**

In collaboration with IU Overseas Study and Germanic Studies, we quickly set our sights on Graz, Austria, and began to work with onsite coordinators Volker Horn and Florian Fuerntrath, along with our talented Graz instructors, to develop what became an enormously successful program this past summer for 21 Indiana students of German! We couldn't be more pleased with our coordinators and host families in Graz who are making that program so outstanding!

When our Vina del Mar, Chile program began in 2014, one unique feature of that site was its community engagement activities, which have been organized by onsite coordinator, Mark Sinclair, and have included the Mapuche indigenous community in that region. In Summer 2015, we worked with our onsite coordinator in Merida, Mexico, Diana Arizaga, to implement opportunities for those students to engage with the local Mayan community, and everyone enjoyed these encounters. This next summer, we will see community engagement and volunteerism opportunities in Graz, Austria; Oviedo and Leon, Spain, and possibly other sites, with a goal of all sites participating in community engagement activities by 2017.

Another success for IUHPFL this past summer was the degree to which our instructors worked to build positive dynamics within their instructor teams and between their students. Teambuilding has become an integral part of IUHPFL over the years, and we are happy to say that these efforts are helping to develop even stronger friendships among our staff, students and host families abroad.

As we know, people are what make IUHPFL successful year after year, decade after decade. I am truly honored to know and work with wonderful people here in Indiana and around the world, all of whom are dedicated to providing life-changing experiences and creating life-long friendships for our students. A heartfelt THANK YOU to our instructors, onsite coordinators, host families, and office team! We also wish to express our gratitude to those alums who continue to support IUHPFL through their generous donations every year, providing additional scholarship funds for our students. Together, we are changing lives!

### **Looking ahead**

In light of the November 2015 attacks in Paris and more recent acts of violence in the U.S. and other countries, we wait cautiously and patiently to determine the full planning of our European programs. At this point, we are moving ahead as usual and will continue to follow travel safety recommendations provided by the US Department of State as we approach departure.

Although yet to be approved by the Indiana University Overseas Study Advisory Council, we are developing a proposal for a new program site in Japan for Summer 2017. Japanese continues to be taught in more than 25 Indiana high schools, and Japanese companies are among the largest employers in the state of Indiana.

On behalf of the IUHPFL Office Team, I want to thank all of our Polyglot Press readers for continuing to support and promote the important work we do. We all understand, many through first-hand experience, how study abroad changes lives, and we should never underestimate how much our efforts are changing the world around us by helping to create friendships that span the globe and last a lifetime.

We wish very Happy Holidays to you and yours and a Prosperous 2016!

