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The Newsletter of the Indiana University Honors Program in Foreign Languages

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IUHPFL Expands French Programs in 2010

The Indiana University Honors Program in Foreign Languages is opening its third program site in France, located in the city of Saumur, during the summer of 2010. The Saumur addition brings the total number of IUHPFL program sites to nine. On June 13, 2010, seventeen students and three instructors will depart for Saumur and a six-and-a-half week immersion in French language and culture.

The IUHPFL French programs have become exceptionally selective in the past few years as the number of applicants has risen. For the summer of 2009, for example, 143 French students submitted applications for only 68 spots in the programs in Brest and St. Brieuç. By contrast, 204 Spanish students applied for 135 spots in the Spanish language programs. Although Spanish students consistently make up the highest number of applicants to the IUHPFL, French students have had tougher competition due to proportionately fewer spots. In order to keep pace with the high number of exceptional applicants and to keep class sizes small, the IUHPFL began its search for a third location in France last summer.



The Chateau in Saumur, built in the 12th century.

Stephanie Goetz, Managing Director of the IUHPFL, said that the increasing number of French applicants over the years have indicated a demand for a third site. “One of the most important issues for the IUHPFL Advisory Committee for the past couple of years has been how to accommodate the growing number of French applicants, and when I came into the job, I heard from many high school French teachers that they would like another site added.”

Initially, Saumur was chosen because of contacts that Sonya Stephens, a member of the IUHPFL Advisory Committee, had in the city. “When Sonya asked what we needed, I told her: a willing coordinator, a site that would have enough host families to take in our students and be accessible for regional excursions, and a city that wasn’t overwhelmingly large but was at the same time interesting enough to hold the students’ attention,” said Goetz.

Stephens, former Chair of the French and Italian Department at Indiana University and current Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, contacted Marie-Christine Pourcher in Saumur. Pourcher had taught Stephens’ son one summer when the family was staying in their French home near Saumur. “Sonya was confident in Marie-Christine’s ability to find host families and other contacts because of her role in Saumur as an educator—she felt that Marie-Christine would find the type of families we want, who are interested in a social and cultural exchange and in sharing the French way of life with the students they host.”

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Additionally, Saumur's size and central location in France lend themselves well to the IUHPFL's needs. Goetz believes the city will be ideal for the Honors Program. "The fact that it's a smaller city means a more authentic French will be spoken, with less English. Students will have a genuine French experience without a lot of tourists or English speakers. Also, we wanted to find a site outside of Bretagne, where our other French programs are located. The Loire valley, [where Saumur is], is so important to France's history and culture, and we want to have alumni who have experienced this."

For this first summer, the admissions committee purposely kept the number of students and instructors in Saumur lower than the average of 28 students and 4 instructors. Mostly, this has to do with not overwhelming the coordinator with the number of host families she must find. "We're thinking of this as a pilot program: how well does the program work in this site, and how does the city receive the students? If all goes well, our hope is to return next year with more students," said Goetz. While the program is in session, the instructors plan to hold a recruiting fair so that potential families can learn more about the IUHPFL and what it means to host a student.

Marie-Line Brunet, one of the three instructors in Saumur, taught for the Honors Program in Brest during the last three summers. For her, the prospect of starting a new program differs from teaching in a location where the Honors Program has been established for many years. "There will only be three instructors and fewer students so it will be a different dynamic than in Brest. I think Brian Murray and Michael Kunz [the other instructors] will be perfect for the program. They are both so patient and they love France, so I look forward to sharing the experience with them. It's the fourth year for me teaching with the Honors Program, and I'm glad I have that experience—I think that will be very helpful for us."

Brunet felt that while beginning a new program will be very challenging, "It's very exciting because we can pretty much tailor the program to what we want to do and discover new places. We're going to visit Loire castles. We'll keep the Normandy and Paris excursions, but will also visit La Rochelle. It's great to be able to visit new places—it's a different area than Bretagne so it's a very different culture."

Indeed, as Brunet mentioned, Saumur students will visit Paris for several days at the end of the program, a rite of passage for all IUHPFL French students. And because Normandy is a reasonable distance from Saumur, the students will have a chance to visit Omaha Beach and the American cemetery, among other activities. "Brest and St. Brieuc students have always indicated to us that this was an important experience for them," Goetz said, "and we wanted the Saumur students to experience that, too."

In addition to the four excursions outside of Saumur, Pourcher has planned numerous activities in Saumur, including a trip to the local university to meet with its students, and a visit with the mayor. Students will celebrate July 4th together at a party with their host families, where they will learn to play la boule de fort, a ball game that originated in the Loire Valley. "Marie-Christine really wants the community to engage with our students, and has been so proactive in finding things for them to do," Goetz commented.

And what about those seventeen students who will be making the first trip to Saumur? "They know they represent the Honors Program and that they have to leave a positive impression on the host families and the city," Brunet said. "They're all very excited and aware of the advantage and the great opportunity they have to be the first group in Saumur."

The inaugural group of IUHPFL students to visit Saumur, posing here for the camera at their orientation in May at the Indiana Memorial Union.



2009 in Brief

BREST (by Marie-Line Brunet)

On June 9th of 2009, thirty-four *stagiaires* and four instructors (Kelly Farmer, Brian Murray, Olga Scrivner, and Marie-Line Brunet) began their journey in the land of Molière. But the *stagiaires* would soon discover that being Breton was even more important than being French. As the saying goes, when in Rome, do what the Romans do. It is then not surprising that after only a few weeks the *stagiaires* turned into real *brestoïis*. The host families shared their tricks to make the best crêpes (with salted butter!), they taught them the steps of the *danse bretonne* and the students discovered that Brest is the only place where you can have all four seasons in a day.

After the first two weeks of classes, it was high time to discover other parts of Brittany. In order to satisfy the students' appetite, we explored the medieval village of Locronan, renowned for its delicious *kouign amann*, a cake that we obviously had to try. We continued our trip at La Pointe du Raz and ended our excursion in Quimper. A trip to France would not be complete without touring another beautiful region, Normandy. The first day started in the picturesque city of Dinan, and we then visited the fortified city of Saint-Malo and finally the Mont Saint-Michel. The second day of the trip was probably the most emotional of all as we spent it at the D-Day Beaches and at the World War II Memorial at Caen.



The 2009 Brest stagiaires stop for a group photo during a tour of their city.

With the last days of the program in mind, the students expressed their gratitude by offering a spectacular show to the host families. After a very emotional farewell to the host families, we headed to the city of lights. It was without difficulty that our *stagiaires* now turned into *Parisians*. They enjoyed riding the metro and being in the city that they had seen in many magazines and movies. They walked down the Champs-Élysées, saw the paintings of Monet, Gauguin and Degas, went up the Eiffel tower, and observed the roofs of Paris from the Butte de Montmartre.

All good things must come to an end and it was soon time to say goodbye. But in order to celebrate such a successful summer, our *parisiens en herbe* were taken, by surprise, into another Parisian place: a *café-concert*.

Congratulations to the students of Brest 2009, teachers, coordinators, host families, and the Honors Program team in Bloomington for a summer filled with laughter, joy and unforgettable memories. To all *mille merci pour tout!*

Ciudad Real (by Tony Hessenthaler)

Our summer in Ciudad Real was amazing...and hot! Although this area drove Don Quijote to madness, Ciudad Real is the perfect site – pardon my biased opinion – for the IU Honors Program. We could not have asked for a better group of students. At the end of summer we were so proud of the huge growth seen in all our students, not only in speaking a foreign language but also in personal growth and development. With a larger than normal group of students this year, 35 in total, there were plenty of friends to be made within the group. This summer we had 3 new instructors and one returning veteran. Tony (conversation), Silvia (literature), and Ligia (grammar) all had a great

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The Ciudad Real students in Toledo

summer as new instructors, while Nick (culture) helped show us the ropes as it was his second summer in Ciudad Real.

As a group we visited Toledo, Madrid, Córdoba, Granada, saw the *toros* (bullfight), as well as attended a play in the historic medieval city of Almagro. Those were the major excursions, but I think most of us enjoyed being in Ciudad Real just as much as visiting these other historic and world-class cities. They say that “home is where the heart is” and our hearts are definitely with our Spanish families and friends. None of us will forget the food in the *comedor*, the sports patio, the hot afternoons, the USA-Spain *futbol* game, our farewell show... and especially Helados Moran. *Muchas gracias a todos*, CR '09 was one of the greatest experiences of our lives.



KREFELD (from updates by Christiane Kaden)

The first few days of Krefeld 2009 were filled with the usual jet lag and excitement, and everybody was happy to finally be in Germany and ready for this unique experience. Due to a holiday in the area, the students almost immediately had a day off, time in which they could get to know their host families. Classes soon started in earnest, though, and the students dived into the task at hand—learning as much as they could about Germany and the German language.

One of the instructors, Peter van Leusen, is also a native of Krefeld, so he was able to give the students a unique perspective as they got to know the city. On the initial city tour, we ran into a marketing campaign for Krefeld and they took pictures of the students holding a sign on which they had written why they love Krefeld: “Ich liebe Krefeld weil...” The students enjoyed lots of activities around the city, including swimming at the public swimming pool. For many, visiting the numerous ice cream parlours became a regular pastime. Thursdays—*Donnerstag* in German—soon became *Döner-Tag*, as the group met regularly to eat the delicious German-Turkish Döner Kebab.



Krefeld students in front of the cathedral in Cologne.

This year the students visited Aachen, Berlin, and Cologne on their excursions, and enjoyed all the sights these cities have to offer. They also participated in “mini-excursions” within Krefeld. One special activity was visiting a German high school. The students accompanied a host sibling (or host cousin if they didn’t have a host sibling) for the day, and had the chance to experience the German school system first-hand by visiting several different classes. On another day, we went to the “Kresch-Theater,” which is the children’s and youth theater in Krefeld. There, the students (and teachers) could try out improvisation theater—and they did great! This was a really good sign that the students felt comfortable in German, and we absolutely had a lot of fun this afternoon!

Our time in Krefeld flew by, and by the end, the students were torn between enjoying their time in Germany and looking forward to seeing their family and friends again. But we will never forget our new friends and family from our summer in Krefeld!

LEÓN *(by Lorenzo Garcia-Amaya)*

León 2009 was yet another success in IUHPFL history. Our program participants were especially excited to immerse themselves in León culture and traditions. Students attended many cultural activities during the San Juan festival, attended a bullfight by some of the most renowned *toreros* in Spanish history, and never missed the opportunity for an afternoon stroll in downtown León to take advantage of the summer sales. The final choir performance was exceptional, as it included vocal interpretation and choreography of five songs by contemporary Spanish singers. Nicholas and I were thrilled to collaborate with our newest colleagues Magdalena Cox and Carla Bicoff, literature and conversation instructors respectively.

León is best known for its gothic Catedral de Santa María, and the 2009 IUHPFL participants were often spotted admiring its celebrated portals and 1,800 square meters of stained glass windows while enjoying afternoon ice cream or coffee at the irresistible *Heladería Albany*. This year's participants were also afforded the opportunity to experience the recent exposition of León's MUSAC contemporary art museum, famous for its autonomous and interconnected exhibition rooms and outer facades banded with colorful large glass panels. Our Friday excursions have changed from those of previous years, and this summer we visited nearby Burgos and its staunch Gothic-style cathedral, Segovia and its ancient Roman aqueduct and *Alcázar* fortress, and finally Gijón, the picturesque Cantabrian resort town where students enjoyed a day of summer fun, refreshing waves, and beach games.



¡Olé! To the left, León participants express their enthusiasm for the Spanish bullfight. Above, León instructors Maggie, Lorenzo, Carla, and Nick.

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OVIEDO *(by Francisco Hidalgo)*

We knew from the beginning that Oviedo was going to be different. From the first day we experienced its peculiarities—one student almost did not make it to the plane, another student lost his passport at Immigration Control in Madrid. So we knew it would be a different experience. But it turned out to be different in a wonderful way. Oviedo students were willing to make a difference and so they did. We learned about the astonishing history of Spain and the importance of Asturias as an origin of this country. We tried foods that we did not even know existed before coming here. We saw the impressive beauty of nature when mountains and sea share the same landscape. And we lived life as one more Spaniard in our families.



Super troupers and Broadway masters in Oviedo

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We wanted to say thanks to our host families, “our families in Spain” as we consider them now. So this year at the *despedida* we did something we’ve never done before: we worked really hard to give them a farewell present of *El Musical Mamma Mia*. Spaniards love Broadway shows and yet they do not get to see them very often. Together, the students wrote a script in Spanish, practiced the songs (also in Spanish, of course!), created a brand new choreography, and finally, performed it as if it were their only way to say “thank you”. I think the applause could be heard all the way from Indiana—at least we still hear it in our hearts.



ST. BRIEUC (by Rebecca Petrush)

Although we arrived in St. Brieuc to grey skies and chilly rain, we were warmly welcomed by our coordinator, host families, and residential staff, and soon the weather too shifted to match. We had unusually pleasant, sunny days this summer in northern France, which led to many beautiful afternoons of activities and excursions.

Our school days were packed with classes, sports, theatre, and chorus, and at the end of nearly every week we visited the region’s most historic and picturesque sites – the winding streets of Dinan, the walled city of St. Malo, the ancient wonder of Mont St. Michel, the medieval fortress of La Latte, and always, always, the spectacular Breton coast. On the eve of the Fourth of July, we gathered on Omaha Beach to sing our national anthem, and in the final days of our program, we wore ourselves out exploring Paris top to bottom.



St. Brieuc students under the lights of the Eiffel Tower

Students had nearly as much fun in the classroom as out. With Ben they mastered French conversational idioms, while Amandine led them on culinary and sartorial adventures. Annie offered a smorgasbord of literature, and Rebecca showed that grammar rules are not that hard and fast. And in between class days, we found time for a traditional Breton dance night, a formal reception with the mayor, a summer music festival, the national cycling championships, both French and American national holidays, and many, many unforgettable nights and days with our new friends and families.

This year marked our 48th in St. Brieuc. No wonder it feels so much like home.

VALENCIA (by Ivy Howell)

In the summer of 2009, Valencia welcomed the 36 IU Honors program students and 4 instructors at *Amistad* with open arms and an overwhelming feeling of excitement. Like many years past, this year’s group made life-long and life-changing friendships and shared in the many traditions of the Valencia program including countless hours chatting, *chocolateando*, competing in the Olympic Games on the beach and eating ice cream at *Xativa*.

Our group experienced a very eventful and memorable year with countless activities, from jumping the waves at midnight for Noche de San Juan to dancing with *sabor* to the rivalry between the *tigres* and the *cazadores* to standing in line for Harry Potter to singing with Chambao to our *discoteca en el autobús*. Some of the most unforgettable moments of the summer were the new traditions we made for our program on journeys to Tarragona to see Rome in Spain and to Salamanca to wish on a *rana*. We also enjoyed a flamenco performance where we witnessed the transformation of our own students into Spanish dancers.

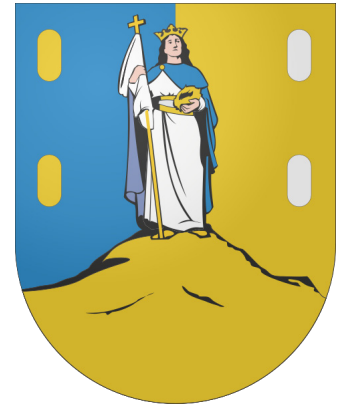
The Valencia program culminated with the *fiesta de despedida* when all the students shared their talents and enthusiasm in theatrics and song. The finale of our concert, which the students dedicated to their host families, accurately concluded the overall feeling and the theme of our Program in Valencia, that “Nada de esto fue un error.”



Valencia students know that eating ice cream is an integral part of studying Spanish

H1N1 Scare vs. IUHPFL

As you read through the collected summaries of our 2009 programs, you'll notice a very large absence from the group: San Luis Potosí. We've all become more accustomed to news of the H1N1 virus since it first appeared in spring of 2009, but at the time, many colleges and universities watched the news with concern regarding their study abroad programs in Mexico. Indiana University was no exception. At the end of April of last year, IU made the decision to suspend its programs in Mexico for the summer, including the Honors Program.



The decision to cancel the 2009 San Luis Potosí program was extremely difficult, but two major factors played into it. Primarily, of course, was the uncertainty of the risk that the H1N1 virus might pose toward students. Secondly was the need to reassign each of the San Luis Potosí students to one of the other Spanish language programs in a timely manner, including revisions to airline tickets and host family assignments, while such an arrangement was still possible.

We were fortunately able to reassign the San Luis Potosí students among the four sites in Spain. The on-site coordinators obligingly located host families for the students, and the students attended orientation in May to learn more about their new host country before heading off to Spain in June with their fellow classmates.

For the summer of 2010, IUHPFL students will once again have the chance to explore all that San Luis Potosí has to offer, including its language, its culture, and its hospitality. We wish *all* our students, in Mexico, Spain, Germany, and France, a successful, safe, and healthy summer!



IUHPFL Alumni Named Herbert Scholars

Indiana University President Michael McRobbie honored the 2009 freshman class of the Adam W. Herbert Presidential Scholars at a reception and dinner at Indiana University Memorial Union's Alumni Hall on Jan. 29, 2010. The Presidential Scholars program, now in its fifth year, was named in honor of IU President Emeritus Adam W. Herbert, who initiated the program in 2005. Funded by a \$10 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., the program has the goal of placing more of Indiana's top academic achieving high school students on the IU campuses, with hopes that after graduation, these students will continue to live in Indiana. Each scholar received a renewable scholarship for four years, plus a new laptop computer.

Herbert Presidential Scholars are selected based on class rank, grade-point average, SAT I and ACT scores, and strength of high school curriculum. Also considered are each student's record of activities and leadership positions, record of community service, personal statement, and recommendation from a high school teacher, guidance counselor or community member. In addition, the student must be an Indiana resident and preference is given to National Merit Scholarship qualifiers.

This past fall, 71 Herbert Presidential Scholars attended seven Indiana University campuses. The following five IUHPFL alumni from the summer of 2008 count themselves among this esteemed group of students. They are: **Carolyn Chang** (Ciudad Real); **Katherine Horn** (León); **Samuel Ibarra** (Brest); **Natasha Kidwell** (San Luis Potosí); and **Caroline Luu** (Valencia)

All five are attending the IU-Bloomington campus. The IUHPFL would like to congratulate these alumni on their achievements, and wishes them the best in their undergraduate career at Indiana University!

Alumni Connections

Since the program began in 1962, nearly 6,100 Indiana high school students have spent a summer immersing themselves in the language and culture of Mexico, France, Germany, or Spain. Honors Program alumni are everywhere, and we want to keep in touch with you! Plans are afoot for an Honors Program Alumni Association in the near future, so keep an eye out for information in future editions of the Polyglot Press. We would also like to include information on our alumni right here in the newsletter. Send an email to iuhpfl@indiana.edu with "Alumni Update" in the subject. You can tell everyone about momentous occasions (graduation, marriage, etc.) or just let us know where you are and what you are up to these days. Please include your name (and maiden name if applicable), program city, and year of participation, and we will include your update in this section of the Polyglot Press.

If you are interested in contributing an article to a future edition, please contact us at iuhpfl@indiana.edu.

Alumni Updates

Douglas Guy (Krefeld 1967) continued his studies at Indiana University, including at year abroad at Universität Hamburg, graduating in 1972. He later graduated from Middlebury College Deutsche Schule, Middlebury, VT in 1979. He is now working as Program Director for Foreign Languages at Beverly Public Schools, Beverly, MA; high school teacher of German (and sometimes Russian) at Beverly High School; and adjunct professor of German at Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill, MA. He is the co-author of *VORSPRUNG: A Communicative Introduction to German Language and Culture*, 2nd Edition, with Thomas A. Lovik and Monika Chavez, and works occasionally as a freelance developmental editor, ghostwriter, translator, and interpreter.



Krefeld alumni from the summer of 2008 met up recently for a cookout.

Michelle Ort (St. Briec 2004, Assistant 2007) graduated in the spring of 2009 from the College of Wooster with a BA in Linguistics and Language Learning and received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant grant to Ukhta, Russia for the 2009-2010 school year.

Elena Falloon (Valencia 2006) is now a sophomore at Dartmouth College as a double major in Spanish and Government, with a focus on regional politics in Spain and democratic theory. In college, she has continued to study abroad. In the fall of 2008 she studied at La Universidad Complutense de Madrid, and this past fall spent an exchange term at Keble College of Oxford University to study political philosophy. She writes, "I still think of Valencia fondly, and I've kept in contact with many of my fellow Valencianos. IU Honors was an amazing program that has obviously influenced my current academic inquiries, and I'm glad to see it is still flourishing!"

Indiana University Honors Program in Foreign Languages Online

- Check out our website at <http://www.indiana.edu/~iuhpfl>
- Our fan page on Facebook at www.facebook.com/iuhpfl is a great way to keep in contact with the latest happenings and connect with fellow alumni.
- You can also be added to our annual newsletter mailing list by sending a request to iuhpfl@indiana.edu.