Greetings alumni, family and friends of the IUHPFL!
It’s that time of year again—June and July, during which the city of Bloomington is quiet and peaceful, even idyllic. Tranquility reigns, and the town settles in to a more relaxed pace. It’s the perfect backdrop for me to revel in nostalgia about my years teaching abroad with the IUHPFL in Ciudad Real, Spain.

Perhaps it is the stark contrast of environments that sets the stage for my nostalgia. While Bloomington is sleepy in the summer months, daily life in Ciudad Real as an IUHPFL instructor was far from it. As all Program alumni and instructors know, there is never a dull moment on-site. From the day students arrive and are whisked away by their host families to the tearful and emotional goodbyes on the night of the farewell show, weeks pass like days, and days like hours. One loses all sense of time in the hustle and bustle of everyday life with the Program and before students, instructors, onsite coordinators and the host families know it, the Program comes to an end.

Or does it?

When our students first return to the States from being abroad with the IUHPFL, they often have a sense of sadness that the Program is over, that they will never be able to duplicate their experience. It is not until months, sometimes years, down the road that they realize their return trip home is not at all the “end”—it is merely the beginning. And while they may never be able to “re-live” their experience, their seven weeks abroad with the IUHPFL will be something they “live out” for the rest of their lives.

I have seen this myself as a former study abroad student in two countries, secondly as an instructor for the Program, and now more than ever as Managing Director of the IUHPFL: studying abroad is not something you complete in seven weeks’ time and leave behind—it is a journey of self-discovery that leads to open doors and constant new beginnings.

As the third edition of the Polyglot Press debuts, I hope that all of you alumni, family and friends of the Program are charting new waters and moving forward with the spirit of adventure, courage and introspection that the IUHPFL not only demands, but nurtures.

As for our office, I assure you we will be doing just that this summer and fall. With advances to our website, a new promotional DVD, and our office going “green” over the next year, our pace matches that of our summer Programs in which there is never a dull moment. We are a work in progress, constantly moving forward, and never static.

Even in sleepy Bloomington in the summer!

Cheers,

Stephanie M. Goetz
Participation of Students From 1962 to 2010
Since 1962, nearly 50 years ago, more than 6,000 students have participated in the IUHPFL. According to your testimonials, the experience of living the culture, connecting with a host family and following the Honor Code and Language Commitment is truly life changing. It alters perceptions, widens horizons and opens new possibilities while strengthening self-image and confidence.

From its modest beginnings, the IUHPFL has grown to nine sites in four countries, now sending an average of 250 students each summer into the adventure of a lifetime.

IUHPFL is proud to foster a greater world understanding with quality and personal care—one student at a time.

Mexico Program Temporarily Relocates
In consultation with Indiana University officials earlier this year, the IUHPFL decided to relocate its 2011 Program in San Luis Potosí, Mexico to Mérida, Mexico. The move happened as a precaution because of violence in the State of San Luis Potosí.

Mérida is located in the Yucatán peninsula, a region of Mexico that remains isolated and safe from drug cartel violence. In January of this year, the United Nations awarded Mérida a banner of peace, as the city was named one of the 100 “cities of peace” in the world. Mérida has also been heralded as the safest city in Mexico and is a desirable location for U.S. retirees.

The IUHPFL is collaborating with an experienced international education unit, IFSA-Butler, which has been in Mérida since 2004. While in Mérida, the Honors Program has continued to replicate the three pillars of the IUHPFL that make the Program unique: the Honor Code and Language Commitment, the focus on academic instruction and the host family stay.

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

Parent Testimonial
“One of your 2010 students, Mark S., (Oviedo) will be attending Purdue this fall. He just tested out of 12 credit hours—the maximum allowed at Purdue. This is a HUGE testament to IU Honors Program—and North Central World Languages department. Thanks for a fantastic trip and all your hard work!!!”

Amy S., Parent, June, 2011

Instructor Blogs
Since last summer, our instructors have been providing weekly blogs about their students, excursions and their experience.

Student Blogs
For the first time, this year, designated León and Valencia students are writing blogs in the host language.

All 2011 blogs are available online at: www.indiana.edu/~iuhpfl/.

Write to Us
If you are an alum, parent, host family member or former instructor, we’d like to hear from you. E-mail us at iuhpfl@indiana.edu and tell us what you are up to, how you were involved with the IUHPFL and how it has changed your perspective and/or life. Send a photo and we may feature you in our next newsletter or on the web.

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2010 in Review
You could hear them in the streets and main plazas at all hours. They echoed through homes, cafés and terraces alike. Their sound resonated strongly in all four countries in which the IUHPFL was present in 2010. Indeed, the enduring blare and overarching theme of last summer’s Program was the infamous “vuvuzela.”

In addition to the unique linguistic and cultural immersion experience the Program provides based on its three pillars — academic instruction, Language Commitment and host family experience — the 2010 Programs were made even more special by the opportunity of IUHPFL students and their host families to participate in the Men’s FIFA World Cup excitement. What better way to get to know a culture than to take part in cheering for one of its most beloved past times.

While disappointed that their teams did not advance further, our students in France and Mexico celebrated the revered sport of soccer with their host families in front of TVs and in cafés all the same. Germany and Spain students cheered head-to-head for their respective teams in the semi-finals, watching the game on large-screen TVs in public plazas as Paul the Octopus’ prediction came to fruition: Germany fell to Spain, and Spain went on to claim the title of World Cup Champions.

Aside from the World Cup frenzy, each Program site had many highlights. Most notably, our students in San Luis Potosí and Saumur experienced truly historical seven weeks in Mexico and France, respectively.

Our San Luis Potosí (SLP) students witnessed the countdown to Mexico’s “Bicentenario de la Independencia”—200 years of Independence. In 1810, Mexico freed itself from the Spanish Crown and 100 years later in 1910, the Mexican Revolution reigned victorious over dictator Porfirio Díaz: two great reasons to celebrate 200 years of Mexican independence with desfiles (parades) and fiestas (celebrations).

Our Saumur participants formed the very first class of IUHPFL students to study in this quaint town along the Loire river. In its inaugural year Saumur was a tremendous success as our students and instructors embraced the town with enthusiasm, easily enamored with its architecture, its authenticity and its generous people, including our IUHPFL onsite coordinator and host families. It would appear that the feeling was mutual, since our students have returned to Saumur this summer to continue the IUHPFL’s newfound legacy.

In short, 2010 was a year for our Program’s memory books. Stay tuned for more stories and testimonials from the 2011 Programs in the next edition of the Polyglot Press.

Stephanie M. Goetz
2010 in Review

Brest
After our arrival, our stagiaires were welcomed by their new families, spending the weekend with great Breton-style meals and getting ready for class and language tests. Within days, we headed for our first excursion to South Finistère, Pointe du Raz and Quimper to enjoy amazing architecture and the raw beauty of the Breton landscape. The city of Brest welcomed us with open arms at the Mayor’s reception and we were even featured in the regional newspapers. More excursions followed with a boat ride in the bay and a two-day trip to Normandie, all the while our stagiaires made amazing strides speaking French and getting immersed in the culture of beautiful northern France.

Normandie with the abbey of Mont-St.-Michel, the quaint cities of St. Malo and Dinan and a swim stop at the beach were true highlights. But most unforgettable — and very emotional — was our visit to the WWII museum, followed by a stop at Omaha Beach and the American cemetery. The fourth of July was celebrated with laying wreaths at the American memorial, outstanding food — our own chef, Bruno, one of the host fathers — and dance. Our stay culminated with la fête des familles, students showing their appreciation for their generous and supportive host families by performing a custom show and hilarious sketches. And of course the trip to Paris which included the world’s most famous landmark, the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre and Montmartre. It was truly an unforgettable experience, one we will cherish for the rest of our lives.

Compiled from the 2010 Brest Blog

Ciudad Real 2010
Ciudad Real was the best place to spend summer of 2010. Nobody will forget the excitement in the air as Spain progressed in the World Cup. With most of us ending up in the fountain at the main town square (plaza mayor) when they won the championship, it was a moment never to be forgotten. The students formed friendships and developed skills that will last longer than any soccer tournament. We are so proud of the progress they made over the summer, in linguistic ability as well as personal growth and development. Although all 27 students came from different backgrounds, they quickly came together as a group and it was a pleasure to work with them. This year our instructors included two returning veterans – Nick Phillips and Tony Hessenthaler – and two new instructors – Julie Byers and Luisa Garrido Baez – who arguably enjoyed the experience as much as the students. Ciudad Real was undoubtedly hot in the summer, as usual, but we enjoyed a couple rainy afternoons and some relatively cool temperatures on our excursions.

As a group we visited Toledo, Madrid, Córdoba, Granada, saw the toros (bullfight), and attended a play in the historic medieval city of Almagro. These excursions and our regular classes (Grammar, Conversation, Culture, and Literature) with the afternoon activities (theater and choir) provided an exceptional learning environment and opportunities for growth, fun, and friendship. We’re very grateful to our host families who looked after the students as if they were their own children. Unfortunately, the summer had to come to an end, but we’ll never forget the hot afternoons with helado, the food in the comedor, our excellent farewell show, and the great times we had as a group. Muchísimas gracias a los estudiantes, las familias, y los instructores.

Ciudad Real 2010 was one of the best experiences of our lives!

Tony Hessenthaler
2010 in Review

Krefeld

On June 7, 2010, 14 highly motivated Indiana high school students embarked on a journey to the land of Charlemagne, Goethe, and soccer fanatics. Ahead of them lay six weeks filled with daily classes in German culture, literature, grammar and conversation in the morning and activities (sports, theater, choir) in the afternoon. But besides the academic part of our stay in Krefeld on the Rhine river, students had ample opportunities to experience the German language, German culture, and daily life outside of the classroom in a typical German (host) family. Our Program excursions lead us to Aachen and Cologne, where students got to touch and breathe history. We visited the Aachen cathedral, where Charlemagne once sat on the thrown and climbed 533 steps to the top of the Cologne cathedral, the third tallest church in the world, overlooking this former Roman settlement.

But the highlight was surely our three-day trip to the capital, Berlin, where we not only walked along the “Wall” from Checkpoint Charlie to the Brandenburg Gate, but also visited the Reichstag and climbed the glass dome. We got to see the “Blue Man Group” in action and greeted the many soccer fans in their way to the “Fanmeile” — public viewing for the soccer World Cup at the Brandenburg Gate. Of course, soccer played a huge role during the entire Program – in the proper attire, we cheered for “our” team during every game, and many tears rolled after the loss against Spain in the semi-finals. In our hearts, Germany was the winner! The six weeks flew by like nothing, and with the Abschiedsfest, we said good-bye and thank you to the city, families and new friends. With tears in our eyes, our hearts full of precious memories, and suitcases full of souvenirs, we left Krefeld and Germany to return home. This summer will surely never be forgotten.

Christiane Kaden

León

León 2010 had much to offer this year’s participants. The highlight of the summer was indeed the FIFA World Cup and Spain’s impressive first world title. Our Program participants were especially excited to learn all about what it takes to become a dedicated sports fan and soccer aficionado. Our group often met at the Café Victoria on the Calle Ancha, which could be considered the most well-known and frequented coffee shop/bar in downtown León. The afternoon and evening soccer matches were especially intense, and no doubt our students were thrilled to join in the victory parades near the Plaza de Santo Domingo after Andrés Iniesta’s magnificent overtime goal in the final game.

There were many other opportunities to partake in Spanish culture and Leonese traditions besides soccer, however. The San Juan and San Pedro festivities were also remarkable, celebrated during the last week of June (between June 23 and June 29). During these days countless concerts and festivals took place, and the whole of León was occupied by terraces, street markets, and vendor stands. A particular treat was the celebration on San Juan’s night (June 23) when summer was inaugurated with beautiful fireworks and incredible bonfires.

In other news, our excursions to picturesque Segovia and historic Burgos were successful and quite memorable as usual. Somewhat surprisingly, our visit to the northern coast was interrupted by the rising tide on the Gijón coast (we were running out of precious coastline by early afternoon), so we made a quick decision to visit Ribadesella, a nearby Asturian coastal town that forms part of the majestic Picos de Europa.

Lorenzo García Amaya
2010 in Review

Oviedo

Translating such a delightful experience we had during the summer of 2010 in Spain into words is a challenging task. When our team of 28 students and four teachers arrived in Oviedo for the first time (except for me) it was chilly and pouring rain, while the rest of Spain was hot and sunny. It was nature’s welcome reception with its best “estilo Asturiano.” The students, perhaps because of the positive impact of the new setting, soon engaged in free conversation in Spanish, as if they were longtime acquaintances. Their conversation never ended until the last day abroad.

Many unforgettable moments, such as the ninja game, ice cream at the San Francisco Park, a phenomenal canoeing trip down the Rio Sella, the daily ascent up the long stairway to the school and the astonishing landscape are all alive in our hearts. We even had the amazing opportunity to watch Spain win the World Cup in soccer with an inside perspective. This experience provided students with a sense of belonging to the place, moment and culture. We also learned that few things are more delightful than celebrating life as a group while singing the himno (hymn) of Asturias as we strolled the streets of Santiago de Compostela.

The Program ended with students offering an amazing American gift to their local families: the musical Grease! It was an astounding success in its Spanish version, making all of us laugh and cry with happiness. Alas, none of it would have such a long-lasting impact on our memories without Robert’s photos. Everything has been visually documented to remind us of the wonderful and productive time we had together, learning the culture and language of one of the most fascinating countries in the world. The IU Honors Program excels not only because of its quality and commitment to developing advanced language skills and cultural knowledge in a real sociocultural environment, but because it strengthens human values while building lifelong friendships among instructors, students and their host families.

Giselle Pedrosa

San Luis Potosí (SLP)

SLP welcomed us with balmy weather and everyone got settled in with their eagerly waiting host families. Classes began quickly, helping everyone adapt to their new, Spanish-only, lives. We enjoyed outstanding Mexican food, even chili ice-cream, while cheering the Mexican soccer team in the World Cup. Our trip to Guanajuato, an old colonial town, was filled with visits to the museum of mummies and Don Quixote, spelunking a mine and taking a sightseeing bus tour. Spanish was growing more natural by the day as we celebrated the Fourth of July weekend with rhythms of Juanes and Diego Torres, smashing piñatas and a delicious dinner.

When not in class or with their host families, students enthusiastically engaged in all types of sports, including soccer, basketball, swimming and tennis. We even had professional salsa lessons and cooking classes. The excursion to the capital, Mexico City, kept us breathless the entire time as we visited temples, sacred churches, and enjoyed a boat ride and Mariachi music. Our students’ positive attitudes, maturity and continuously improving Spanish were amazing and reflected in excellent reviews.

As a final celebration and to honor their host families, students put on a full show of dances, theatre productions and songs. What an unforgettable adventure it was.

Compiled from the 2010 San Luis Potosí Blog
2010 in Review

Saumur

Oyez, oyez,

Gathered to conquer the land of kings and queens, seventeen students, best known as stagiaires, along with three instructors, Michael Kunz (grammar), Brian Murray (conversation) and Marie-Line Brunet (culture/literature) discovered the beauties of a region praised for its mild climate and the “purity” of its language. The stagiaires made it a point of honor to transform all the events, they participated in, into a learning experience. Their eagerness to improve, curiosity, and joie de vivre shone through the streets of Saumur. As a result, they were invited to prestigious receptions where they had the privilege to meet the U.S. Consulate of Rennes and Representatives of the Saumur City Hall.

Before leaving Saumur, the stagiaires showed their appreciation by putting together a spectacular show, entirely written by them, recounting their experience in France.

During the excursions, students showed the same interest and respect for the sites they visited. The first excursion took us to the Loire Valley. With more than three hundred castles, built between the 10th and the 15th century, the valley offers breathtaking landscapes. Students visited three jewels of the French patrimony: Blois, Chenonceau and Amboise. The second excursion gave students the opportunity to discover the picturesque town of Saint-Malo, Brittany, the magnificent Mont Saint-Michel, and World War II sites such as Omaha Beach, the American cemetery of Colleville, and La pointe du Hoc. The last days of our stay in France, we wandered around the winding streets of Chartres, the dazzling Hall of Mirrors of the Château de Versailles, and the glowing capital of France, Paris.

The first edition of the Honors Program in Saumur was crowned with success thanks to the city of Saumur, the members of the Saint-Louis Institution, Host Families, my devoted and passionate colleagues Brian and Michael, and a very special gem, the onsite coordinator, Marie-Line Brunet. The tremendous success in the Program’s inaugural year in Saumur was also in no small part due to its stagiaires. Students of Saumur 2010, you set the bar high and were noteworthy representatives of your country abroad. By truly and fully embracing the spirit of the Honors Program you laid the foundation stone of a very special castle, the IUHPFL castle. And my only wish is that the Honors Program in Saumur knows the same longevity as its sister programs in France, Germany, Mexico and Spain. Long live the Honors Program!

Marie-Line Brunet

St. Brieuc

Seven weeks does not seem a long time compared to the time students spend learning about different subjects in high school. Nonetheless, this is the time that some people need to change their lives forever. At the end of the stage, I asked some of the students about what they had learned during their experience abroad, besides an increased competence in the French language and culture.

Some of them said they considered reinventing themselves by changing their hairstyles or try a more extroverted behavior, saying, “I will take things easy now” or “I will not rush as I used to do before.” These general comments about life made me realize that deeper and not easily perceptible changes were occurring inside them as well.

Continued on next page...
2010 in Review

St. Brieuc cont’d

Why? A rather slow pace in a small seaside town, eye-opening visits to Saint-Malo, Paris, Dinan, Omaha Beach and Mont Saint Michel, three to four hour meals with their host families, World Cup and leisure-related afternoon activities (baby-foot and friendly soccer matches) in which they did not have to be “the best.”

The weather in Saint-Brieuc was extremely nice to us this year: it was very sunny and even the locals were not used to it. Could it be that the stagiaires had brought a little bit of sunshine to this region known by a rainy and cloudy weather even in the months of June and July?

When Spring or Summer comes, some families paint their houses, redo their kitchens, buy a new car or even acquire a brand-new electronic device. In the same way, students saw their lives from a new perspective, learned how to cook French recipes or shared the ones they knew or acquired a new English-French dictionary to help them develop new skills that will be definitely valuable at a professional and personal level. The result is a priceless enriching experience that they will remember for the rest of their lives.

Miguel Martinez

Valencia

On June 13th, 2010, the city of Valencia once again opened its arms and welcomed the 24 IU Honors Program students and four instructors to Amistad with overwhelming excitement and energy. Within days, our students enthusiastically transformed themselves into valencianos, while forming lifelong friendships and sharing in the many traditions of the Valencia program, including CSI Valencia, ice cream outings at Xàtiva, Amigos secretos and impromptu discotecas.

Our group experienced a truly unforgettable and remarkable summer bustling with countless activities both in and out of the classroom. In class, our valencianos practiced Español en acción with Israel, learned fun idiomatic expressions with Matt, created living works of art and original flamenco performances with Ivy, and contemplated poetry and short stories with Víctor. They also experimented with theater and choir and transformed themselves into a group of comediantes, sent a package by perros, schemed to trick a naïve husband and his witty wife, and remembered a specific Thursday on the metro. The program culminated with the fiesta de despedida, where our valencianos showcased their talents, enthusiasm and efforts with thoughtful, fun and laugh-inducing performances.

While the valencianos enjoyed dancing with sabor, explored the Ciudad de las artes y ciencias, wandered through castles and Roman ruins, watched a family perform flamenco, developed a fondness for sandía, and experienced Las meninas and Guernica first-hand, the highlight of this year’s Program was witnessing and sharing in Spain’s historic World Cup victory. We learned the players’ names, proudly wore colors of la roja, danced to Waka waka, cheered as Iker blocked goal after goal and celebrated becoming campeones. With the World Cup, this year’s group of valencianos also became españoles and proudly sang “Yo soy español, español, español”.

Ivy Howell
Financial Awards 2010

In 2010, more than $45,000 in reduction-in-fee awards were given to IUHPFL students. In addition to all German students receiving $500 from the IUHFPL toward their trip to Krefeld, Indiana University Bloomington’s Department of Germanic Studies awarded five German students with another $500-$750. Alumni also offered financial support, showing their appreciation by funding IUHPFL students. Some of these awards are dedicated to a particular school and language, such as the John Busch gift which provided five payments between $500 and $1,000 to French students at North Central High School. While not all students applied for financial aid, 58 percent of students who did received awards based on need, ranging from $600 to $1,200.

As always we welcome any and all financial support friends of the IUHPFL may be able to provide as it directly benefits future students.

Why IUHPFL is Different

U.S. students and their parents are fortunate to be able to choose from a myriad of study abroad programs, but only Indiana students may participate in the IUHPFL. If you compare the IUHPFL with other foreign language programs, you will soon find none provide language immersion quite like the IUHPFL. The combination of its three pillars — academic instruction, Language Commitment and host family experience — are unique. Pair this with a longer-than-average stay of nearly seven weeks, highly qualified instructors and a variety of cultural activities and inclusive excursions and you arrive at an excellent foreign language program.

And last, while students and their parents have to make a significant financial investment, it is by comparison much less expensive than competing programs. How is this the case? Because Indiana University is committed to making IUHPFL as affordable as possible for students and, for that reason, manages its resources efficiently while offering aid to those who need financial assistance to take advantage of this unique opportunity. It is IUHPFL’s goal to continue to improve the quality of the IUHPFL year after year and give as much funding to its students as possible.

Mérida, Mexico

Mérida, which means Modern Maya, is located on the Yucatán Peninsula, about 22 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. As the capital and largest city of the Mexican state Yucatán, it is home to more than 950,000 citizens.

Mérida offers impressive colonial architecture, often built with ancient Mayan stones, and has one of the largest historical town centers in the Americas. Until the mid-19th century, it was a walled city and to this day, visitors can find some of the original gates. As a cultural hub, home to the oldest cathedral in North America, it offers museums, galleries, restaurants, movie theaters and shopping. Music and dance, like in other parts of Mexico, play a large part in daily life.

The area’s weather is considered tropical, hot and wet, with average temperatures of 91 degrees F. The region’s food is heavily influenced by Mayan and Caribbean culture.
Program Updates/Looking Ahead

New Video
The IUHFPL has developed an exciting new introductory video, featuring alumni, instructors and parents. This video will be sent to participating high schools and placed on the IUHFPL website. Please visit and hear what participants have to say about the Program. If you know of a student interested in the IUHFPL Program, tell them your story and have them watch the video.

IUHFPL is Going Green
To save trees, energy and many hours of sorting and mailing, the IUHFPL is going paperless. Mostly, that is. With the exception of a few hard copy forms necessary for legal reasons, registration and application materials will be accessible and submitted online. Students will be able to fill out forms, download directly to the IUHFPL server and request appraisals and transcripts via e-mail.

50th Anniversary 2012
In 2012, the IUHFPL will celebrate its 50th anniversary. While we are beginning to plan for this commemorative event, we welcome your input. As former participants, you know the Program well and we’d like to hear your suggestions. Would you consider visiting for an IUHFPL alumni weekend in Bloomington? Would you like to hear from instructors? Are you still in touch with any of your classmates? Your host family? Send us an e-mail and let us know your thoughts.

Alumni Updates

Sam Siner (St. Brieuc, 2004) graduated in spring 2010 from the University of Illinois at Urbana, Champaign, with a BS in Psychology and will be attending Indiana University, Bloomington in the fall to pursue a Master's in Higher Education & Student Affairs.

Karen BruBaker Frye (Krefeld, 1966) from Portage High School, teaching German at Atascocita High School in Texas, graduated from Purdue in 1977 with a teaching degree in English and German. She will return to Krefeld in spring of 2011.

The Alumni Project
As you can imagine, much has happened since 1962, when the IUHFPL took its first steps toward international immersion. Students have grown up, pursued careers, started families and made a difference. The Alumni Project is dedicated to all former participants.

Before the electronics age, it was much more difficult to maintain contacts. Still, at the IUHFPL office, we kept paper copies of student records since the beginning. While we have many names and old addresses, you can imagine that many of them have changed. We therefore plan to create an alumni database in order to put former classmates in touch with each other, their host families and instructors. It is also our goal to collect current e-mails and addresses of alumni, and create a Facebook alumni community. If you know of and are in touch with other alums that may have moved away or changed their names, we’d like to hear from you and them.

Contact Us
We can be reached by e-mail at IUHFPL@indiana.edu or phone at 812.855.7957. For updates and the latest on the IUHFPL Program, please visit http://www.indiana.edu/~iuhfpl/index.php.

Facebook.com/iuhfpl