

BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble



Arizona-Switzerland-Belgium-France
2014

Table of Contents

List of Tour Members	3
Mid-Semester Tour Itinerary	4
Mid-Semester Tour History	8
Summer Tour Itinerary	12
Summer Tour History	20
Quotes and Thoughts	33
Tour Pictures	36

Tour Participants 2014

Women Dancers

Mikayla Ellison
Kylie Falke
Kaitlyn Gourley
Lindsey Harris
Allison Jardine
Heidi Johnson
Rebecca Kiser
Emily Kleinkopf
Katie Klotzer
Jaymie Lambson
Victoria Leavitt
Lauren Piperato
Amber Shepherd
Whitney Sorensen

Men Dancers

Jason Allen
Craig Call
Thomas Call
Jason Checketts
Zach Diamond
Will Farnbach
Brian Fernandez
Brian Francis
Christopher Gallacher
Briant Jacobs
Nathan Kuhlman
Garett Madril
Jacob Madsen
Nathan Pehrson

Musicians

Jordan Benson
Grace Dayton
Alina Geslison
Josh Haines
Talmage Haines
Scott Monsen
Lucy Tingey
Brennan Tolman

Tour Leaders

Jeanette Geslison
Ashlee Taylor
Mark Ohran
Marianne Ohran
Jonathon Wood
Colleen West
Jeff West

Artistic Director
Athletic Trainer
Technical Director
Chaperone
Tour Manager
Artistic Director
Chaperone

Midsemester Tour
Both Tours
Both Tours
Summer Tour
Summer Tour
Summer Tour
Summer Tour



Performing Arts Management

FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE
ARIZONA
FEBRUARY 28 – MARCH 8, 2014

Fri, Feb 28 Joseph City, AZ (520 mi, 8:28)

- 3:00 am Load Bus at RB
- 3:30 am Depart for Joseph City, AZ
- 8:00 am Breakfast-provided by PAM on the bus
- 12:00 pm Lunch- Subway in Flagstaff
- 1:00 pm Load in/ Set up
- 4:30 pm Dinner provided by presenter-location LDS chapel
- 7:30 pm **Performance-Joseph City High School (601 seats)**
4629 E 2nd N
Joseph City, AZ 86032
- 9:15 pm Strike
- 10:30 pm Home with hosts

Hotel: Travelodge Holbrook
Address: 2418 East Navajo Rd. Holbrook, AZ 86025
Phone: (928)524-6815

Sat, March 1 Snowflake, AZ (38 mi, :42)

- 8:00 am Meet at TBD
- Depart for Snowflake
- 9:15 am Visit Meteor Crater – Guided Tour *(be there 8:45 am)*
(note: Meteor Crater is 20 miles west of Winslow, AZ about 49 mins from Joseph City.
Meteor Crater to Snowflake 1:30)
- 12:00 pm Lunch-sack lunch provided by presenter
- 1:00 pm Load in/ Set up
- 4:00 pm Dinner provided by presenter location TBD
- 7:00 pm **Performance at Snowflake High School (789 seats)**
190 S. 2nd W.
Snowflake, AZ 85937
- 9:15 pm Strike
- 10:30 pm Home with hosts

Hotel: Hampton Inn & Suites Show Low-Pinetop
Address: 1501 East Woolford Road, Show Low, Arizona, 85901
Phone: 1-928-532-4444

Sun, March 2	Snowflake, AZ	
	Attend temple dedication with host families	
6:00 pm	Meet for rehearsal at stake center	
7:00pm	Devotional for the Snowflake stake at Snowflake Stake Center	
	<i>9th S, 2nd W Snowflake, AZ 85937</i>	
Mon, March 3	St. Johns, AZ	(44 mi, 1:01)
8:00am	Host families drop off at Highland Primary School	
9:30 am	Elementary school outreach in Snowflake – Highland Primary School	
	<i>361 West 7th South Street, Snowflake, AZ (928) 536-4156</i>	
	FREE TIME: Visit Petrified Forest enroute to St Johns	
5:00 pm	Arrive in St. Johns – Choir Room at High School	
	<i>360 S. 15th W. (Red Skin Dr.) St. Johns, AZ 85936</i>	
	Dinner provided by presenter	
6:00pm	Interactive Fireside with youth – St. Johns Highschool Choir Room	
	<i>Starts with dessert with the youth in the stake</i>	
7:30 pm	Home with host families	
Hotel:	Days Inn	
Address:	125 Commercial St., St. Johns, AZ 85936	
Phone:	(928) 337-4422	
Tues, March 4	St. Johns, AZ	
8:00 am	Meet at Stake Center <i>(or could change to have host families drop off at school)</i>	
	<i>2000 West Cleveland Street, St Johns, AZ</i>	
9:00 am	Outreach Performance for Coronado Elementary School	
	<i>50 North Water Street, St Johns (928) 337-4435</i>	
10:20 am	Outreach Performance for St. Johns Middle School	
	<i>555 West 7th South, St Johns, AZ (928) 337-2132</i>	
12:00 pm	Lunch at the middle school provided by the middle school	
4:00 pm	Dinner provided by presenter on site in choir room	
7:00 pm	Performance at St. Johns High School (1100 seats)	
	<i>360 S. 15th W. (Red Skin Dr.) St. Johns, AZ 85936</i>	
8:45 pm	Strike Show	
10:00pm	Home with hosts	
Wed, March 5	Queen Creek, AZ	(202 mi, 3:48)
8:00 am	Meet at Stake Center	
	<i>2000 West Cleveland Street, St. Johns, AZ</i>	
	Depart for Queen Creek, AZ	

12:00pm Lunch provided by presenter-sack lunch
 1:00pm Load in/ Set up
 4:30pm Dinner provided by presenter at high school cafeteria (*aka Performing Arts Center*)
7:30pm Performance at Queen Creek Performing Arts Center (800 seats)
22149 E. Ocotillo Rd.
Queen Creek, AZ 85142
 9:15 pm Strike Show
 10:30 pm Home with hosts

Hotel: Gilbert Hampton Inn & Suites

Address: 3265 S Market Street Gilbert, AZ 85297

Phone: 480.543.1500

Thurs, March 6 Tucson, AZ (107 mi, 1:55)

8:00am Meet at TBD
 8:30 am Return to venue for set up for assembly
9:30 am Outreach performance for elementary students – Queen Creek Perf. Arts Center
9:56 am Colleen Departs SLC for Tucson-DL4769
 11:00 am Group departs for Tucson, AZ
11:55 am Colleen Arrives Tucson
 12:00 pm Lunch provided by presenter- sack lunch
 1:00 pm Load in/ Set up
1:00 pm Workshop – Sunnyside High School
1725 E Bilby Rd, Tucson, AZ 85706
 4:00 pm Dinner provided by presenter location TBD
7:00 pm Performance at Santa Rita High School (1100 seats)
3951 S Pantano Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85730
 9:15 pm Strike Show
 10:30 pm Home with hosts

Hotel: Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites

Address: 1564 W. GRANT ROAD TUCSON AZ 85745

Phone: 1-520-624-3200

Fri, March 7 Phoenix, AZ (116 mi, 1:48)

8:00 am Meet at TBD
 Depart for Phoenix, AZ
 10:30 am Arrive at Mesa Community College Institute
1310 Dobson Rd, Mesa, AZ 85202
11:00 am Band performs in central courtyard with some dancers in costume
12:00 pm Forum Performance- Mesa Community College LDS Institute
 Lunch provided by institute – pizza and drinks
 Travel to Chandler Performing Arts Center (*7.7 mi/:15*)

1:00 pm Load in/ Set up
4:30 pm Dinner provided by presenter at the venue
7:30 pm Performance at Chandler Center for the Arts (1555 seats)
250 North Arizona Avenue, Chandler, AZ 85225
9:15 pm Strike Show
10:30 pm Home with hosts

Hotel: Gilbert Hampton Inn & Suites
Address: 3265 S Market Street Gilbert, AZ 85297
Phone: 480.543.1500

Sat, March 8 Cottonwood, AZ (103 mi, 1:40)

8:30 am Meet at Tamara's Stake Center
2740 South Lindsay Road, Gilbert, AZ
Depart for Cottonwood
FREE TIME: Visit Montezuma Castle
12:00 pm Lunch provided by presenter- sack lunch
1:00 pm Load in/ Set up
4:00 pm Dinner provided by presenter on site
6:00 pm House Opens
6:20 pm Costume Meet and Greet
7:00pm Performance at Mingus Union High School (900 seats)
1801 E. Fir Street
Cottonwood, AZ 86326

Hotel: Pines Motel
Address: 920 S. Camino Real, Cottonwood, AZ 86326
Phone: (928) 634-9975

Sun, March 9 Provo, UT (540 mi, 9:34)

8:40 am Meet at Mountain View Ward
1377 East Hombre Drive, Cottonwood, AZ
9:00 am Attend Sacramento Meeting- Mountain View Ward
10:30 am Depart for Provo
12:00pm Lunch provided by presenter- sack lunch
6:00 pm Dinner-provided by PAM
10:00pm Arrive in Provo

Midsemester Tour History

Feb 28, 2014

Some of us woke up dark and early for our 3:30 am bus ride to Arizona. Others didn't go to bed at all. Soon everyone was sprawled out, curled up, and splayed in every position imaginable. Most were not conducive to actual sleeping. The first five hours passed in a cold, uncomfortable, groggy haze. The next three hours were spent on quest of a bathroom. After a quick stop at a small gas station, we arrived in Joseph City, Arizona (population 1900).

The venue was large, dinner was delicious (a soup buffet), and the crowd was lovely. Given the fact that many were running on two hours of actual sleep, the show was a success.

March 1, 2014

One of the main stops was to the meteor crater. It was really big and they said 20 football fields and 2 million spectators could fit inside the crater. It was surprisingly cold and windy and we huddled like penguins to keep warm.

From there it was on to snowflake! We had a really awesome audience who were clapping along and cheering right from the beginning of the show. A lot of the audience were younger people and students from a performing arts studio in the area. They were very enthusiastic about our show, and it was a great show for us!

March 2, 2014

Snowflake Arizona

Most of Sunday was spent with host families because there wasn't a show to do on Sunday. We were fortunate enough to be able to go to the Gilbert Arizona temple dedication. We only had to take a current temple recommend because it was arranged previously with the Snowflake Stake Presidency for us not to have a special recommend. There were 3 different sessions that you could've attended; so some of us were fortunate enough to sleep in while others went early and then took afternoon naps.

We did have a fireside for the youth on Sunday night in Snowflake. It was a musical fireside so we performed several musical numbers, intermingled with a few brief testimonies. The spirit was very strong as we bore our testimonies through word, scripture and song. Several eyes were wet throughout the fireside as the spirit bore our testimonies through word, scripture and song. Several eyes were wet throughout the fireside as the spirit bore witness of the love of Christ. As a group we sang "this is the Christ" "Have I done any good in the world today" and "go ye now in peace/God be with you."

To finish off the night, all of the team and their host families were invited to one home, in order to celebrate Tyler Smith's birthday. At the home we ate cinnamon rolls, and visited-enjoying each other's company.

The best thing about Sunday was the wonderful spirit the cool, refreshing weather and especially the opportunity to just relax, nap, and catch up on some much needed rest.

March 3, 2014

After waking up to delicious breakfast in quiet Snowflake, AZ, we met at Snowflake Elementary for an 8:00 show. The cute kids loved the Mo Li Hua "butterflies" and laughed at Syracovy. After that, we hit the road for St. Johns. On the way, we witnessed Jeanette help birth a panda- such a special experience! Will was blamed and peace was

restored to the bus. We listened to Fernandez laugh at Monsters vs. Aliens and finally made it to the petrified forest. It was nice to stretch. Learn some science, and air out the bus. We stopped a few more times in search of bathrooms, petroglyphs, and sunshine! Route 66 was good to us and we made it to St. Johns in time for an interactive FHE with some high school students. We did some fun rec night dances and in doing so converted some kids to the love of folk dance! Kaitlyn and Briant bore their testimonies along with a couple of youth. The Spirit was felt very strongly.

March 4, 2014

St. Johns, AZ

Tuesday we woke up with our St. Johns families and they brought us to the first school of 2 for the day. This first show was at the local elementary school. Some funny things happened. Finding out that the 'fat man' stomach and the merchants beads were missing. Briant improvised by letting Brian Fernandez use his backpack. Grant borrowed some Mardigras beads from the teachers lounge. The back pack worked like a charm, but as soon as Kaitlyn went to grab some beads from the merchant, they all were tangled and Brian and Kaitlyn acted as if the merchant was teasing her and kept all the beads from her until the last time where Kaitlyn was handed all of the beads. It was quite a riot. The kids loved the show nonetheless. It was a primary grade elementary school so it was just a k-3rd grade students. Next we went to the middle school, but it was quite interesting because it was 4th-8th graders. We were a bit concerned the older kids would be "too cool" to enjoy the show, but we were sorely mistaken...they loved it! And they loved it despite our mishaps. These including Alina playing in the wrong key for Welsh. We were all quite entertained and confused by this! We had such a blast after the show with these kids as well. We got to eat lunch with them in their cafeteria! The kids went crazy in their cafeteria! The kids went crazy for our "trading cards." Some of our boys even got the kids the beat box and because we were running out of cards, some of us even had the kids dance for their cards. We felt like celebrities as we noticed the kids chasing our bus as we drove away we were told that our impression on the kids of St. Johns was a huge one, and we felt so blessed for that amazing and humbling experience.

After the two shows at the schools, we headed over to the high school for set-up we were amazed at the size of the stage...broadway status! We felt so spoiled on that huge stage! So we set up and then had another wonderful dinner given to us in the choir room (the same room where we had the youth interactive fireside the night before). We had 3 cheeze ziti pasta and it was yummy! We sang to our providers as always and they always seem to appreciate our gratefulness.

The show went well and we loved having such a spacious stage/backstage. After the show and strike, we went back with our same host families from the night before and had a wonderful time with them. It was a great day!

March 5, 2014

We met at 8am at the St. Johns High School to continue our journey; we had a 4 hour drive ahead of us down to the valley. On our drive, Tori and Lindsey gave a great devotional about having an attitude of gratitude. We stopped at Fry's food and drug-the first grocery store we had seen all tour. Several girls purchased new tights, a few guys bought lotion (their hands were starting to crack from all the slapping combined with the dry weather), and others bought chapsick.

Before arriving at the Queen Greek performing Arts Center, we were wanting to stop by the temple. However, due to the construction on the road, we had to forgo the temple. In fact, we were even late arriving at the theater.

Fortunately, set up went really quickly and there was a plenty of time to enjoy the weather. Today was the first warm day on tour. Perhaps that is why we worked quickly- the sun helped us release endorphins. resulting in happy attitudes. Jason Checketts was seen exposing his pasty white stomach, hoping to catch a tan..haha. And

Tori was enlisted to leave the Folk Dance mark on the wall by drawing the fly-girls picture so we could all sign around it.

We had Olive Garden for dinner- delicious! The rest of the evening ran like clockwork: prep, devo, warm-up, and show. Several family members and friends were in the audience, and Emily's family came to devo as well. Emily is really short relative to her family :). What a great day!

March 6, 2014

We had an outreach at the High School again. Kaitlyn forgot her Mo Li Hua costume, and Briant forget his Nagada. The kids were kind of quiet because someone told them to have good concert etiquette. The lady in charge had students come up after to try some trick steps.

We drove down to Tuscon and met up with Colleen. Half the team went to the workshop with the Folklonco team. They were really impressive@ We taught them Nagada. The other half went to the theater and set up. Zach says "it went faster without all you guys there." They set up like a boss.

There was a traffic jam from an accident and it took an hour to get just a few miles! The workshop people got to the theater just before dinner, and everyone was in a rush. It took forever to get to dinner because of the same traffic. We ate burritos and had slushes from egees. Then we took forever to get back at 6:15. Then we had to sound check and block, so everyone was stressed.

When we got back to get ready, there were 2 high school girls hanging out in the bathroom (which was pretty dirty) eating chicken nuggets and French fries.

The show was good. Tori threw up three times backstage, but still made it on for Hopack. The audience was super enthusiastic and we had a good photographer out in the audience.

We met Craig's dad, Jacob's family, who weren't all abnormally tall. We went home with hosts and that was cool.

March 7, 2014

On this beautiful AZ day we woke up in Tuscan and headed to Mesa! Our first stop was the institute at Mesa Community college. While wandering around campus looking like a bunch of hindu missionaries we were able to inite students to our small performance...with free food of course! We met lots of different people and were excited to dance for them. We danced gypsy, Nagada, Mehk, and Foot n Fiddlin with a surprisingly large crowd! There were many different peoople there, not all members which was wonderful. We got to know Mark, found out he was cooler than he looked. We danced two merartique, labastane, and a few other dances with the people who come to watch. Afterwards we had a delicious BBQ with the students. There was a group of dancers that Mark was a part of that were very intereted in what we did. They were sweet and complimentary. We all grew to love them. Then we drove to our amazing enue with revolving rooms! Chandler Center for the Arts. It was a beautiful theatere with a floor made of ice. We were so excited to dance tehre. there was at least 800 tickets sold. Brian long with others were sick, so he didn't dance that night. He however was a trooper and popped for Volyn and Hopack too. The show as a a success and the audience loved it. Standing ovation! We had lots of family in attendance too! There were a few recent alumni dancers in the audience also. Our friends from the institute also made the effort to come to the show. It was fun to see their enthusiasm for what we do. We finished packing the stage and left with our host families. It was a wonderful uplifting day and we were so blessed to meet so many people and hopefully touch their lives for the better.

We had an authentic Mexican fiesta with enchiladas, burritos, cookies (the size of my face!), and sopapeas. Mexi-

can music and costumes were present. It was delicious, and so generous of the people. We were all blown away by the salsa and cinnamon sugar chips. We were definitely spoiled.

March 8, 2014

Today we visited the recently dedicated Gilbert, AZ temple. It would be a miracle if we got one good picture with all of our eyes open! Jeanette told us how all the stained glass windows were of Agave plants and how its the largest temple built in 17 years.

Scripture study by Grace and Josh was on charity and the good Samaritan. Victoria shared a story about a man named Robert who she befriended at an outreach program at the MCC (Mesa). She shared her testimony of Christ with him and he expressed his desire to be baptized and come unto Christ.

Next we took a trip to Montezuma Castle, which unfortunately we couldn't climb into the actual castle. While meandering around, Jeanette expressed her dismay at not having a lunch, when Katie offered to share hers with her. Jeanette responded with a very innocent, "thanks, but I just feel like I'm smooching off of all of you!"

This hilarious Geslisonism inadvertently became the word of the day, along with Fernandering, which means to be excessively charming at extremely inappropriate times.

We arrived an hour before expected at Mingus Union High School, where Tyler had to break into the electrical room. The stage there was extremely small, causing the band to "break up."

The show was exceptionally interesting since the band and dancers were in such close proximity. The dancers at one point decided to put on their own show backstage for the band resulting in stifled laughter. Perhaps they would have had a warmer welcome in a strip club at Vegas.

All in all the show went off without a hitch. A great note to end on. Later after the show, Emily Kleinkopf said of the audience, "I looked out into the audience and all I saw were a bunch of white heads and bouffants!" The crowd was a little on the elderly side, but we've never had a more complimentary audience.



Performing Arts Management

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

JULY 2, 2014 – JULY 31, 2014

SWITZERLAND, BELGIUM, FRANCE

Wed, July 2

Provo to Geneva

12:30 pm Meet at RB
Load Bus-*Holiday Tours*
1:00 pm Depart for SLC airport
2:00 pm Arrive and Check in at airport
Lunch-Per Diem
4:50 pm Depart for Paris – DL 89

Thu, July 3

Geneva, Switzerland

10:45 am Arrive Paris CDG
Lunch-Per Diem
12:50 pm Depart CDG to Geneva – AF 1942
2:00 pm Arrive Geneva
*Bus driver will be there with a sign. Driver is Mr. Bernhard Ott
+41 79 345 73 46. The driver speaks German and English.*
Travel to Hotel Check In (*next to airport*)
6:30 pm *Dinner as a group provided by PAM-Cave Valaisanne et Chalet Suisse
Bd George-Favon 23
1204 Geneve
Tel +41 (0)22 328 12 36
Tram line 14 to 15- switch at Stand to 15 and stop at Geneve Cirque*
*(the dinner will be salad of the season, cheese fondue, a ball of ice cream for 32 CHF
per person, payable by credit card or cash on site)*

Hotel: Holiday Inn Express Geneva Airport

Route de Pre-Bois 16

Case Postale 256

1215 Geneve

Tel: +41 (0)22 939 39 39

Bus Driver Hotel: Holiday Inn Thoiry – Geneva Airport

67 Avenue du Mont Blanc

Thoiry, France 01710

Tel: +33 (0)4 5099 1999

Fri, July 4

Geneva, Switzerland

Breakfast in hotel

9:30 am

Arrive at UN for Load in

(load in must be two hours early for security clearances at the UN)

Lunch provided by US mission to UN-buffet in or near the dressing room

12:00 pm

United Nations 4th of July Celebration begins

12:35 pm

First Performance United Nations 4th of July Celebration – Main Stage – 10 mins

12:45 pm

BYU form a line on the stage behind the Ambassadors Podium

12:55 pm

DCM opens the ceremony and draws attention to Marines

1:00 pm

Marines perform flag ceremony

1:05 pm

Lucy, Alina, Grace sing Star Spangled Banner

1:08 pm

Ambassador speaks

1:15 pm

Second Performance United Nations 4th of July Celebration – 10 mins

2:05 pm

Final Performance United Nations 4th of July Celebration – 10 mins

3:00 pm

Load out

3:30 pm

FREE TIME: Old Town Geneva, Jet D'Eau, Cathedral with the font on the back of 12 oxen

6:30 pm

Dinner at Geneva Stake Center provided by the stake

7:00 pm

Interactive Fireside, Geneva Stake

32 Avenue Louis-Casai, 1216 Cointrin/Geneva

It will be with the stake Young Men, Young Women, and Young Single Adults.

Dinner provided by Geneva Stake

9:00 pm

Load-out

Travel back to hotel

Sat, July 5

Marseille, France

(459 km/5:00)

Breakfast in hotel

7:00 am

Travel to Marseille by bus

FREE TIME: Visit Avignon enroute

Lunch-Per Diem

2:00 pm

Welcome for the leaders with festival

This is the 50th anniversary of this festival and they are inviting their favorite/top groups from the past 50 years. We are high on their list and they have been talking to us for a little over a year to make sure we could come.

3:30 pm

Sound Check for musicians at theatre

5:00 pm

Rehearsal for the musicians for Hymn of the Festival

6:00 pm

Little parade to move to the place of the opening ceremonies

Opening Ceremonies

8:00 pm

Chateau Gombert Festival – Animations

Lodging: Festival Dormitories

Sun, July 6 Marseille, France

Chateau Gombert Festival 50th Anniversary

Am **Intercultural ceremonies at the church**
(each group will perform one number)

Mon, July 7 Marseille, France

Chateau Gombert Festival 50th Anniversary

Am **Reception with the Mayor at City Hall**
(3 minute dance and gift is needed)

FREE TIME

Pm **Soiree with all the other artists of the festival**
(this will be music and dance exchanges between the groups, no public)

Tues, July 8 Marseille, France

Chateau Gombert Festival 50th Anniversary

Am Meeting with directors of the groups with the festival
(gift needed here)

pm **Animation/Performance in the area**
(each group does 10 to 15 minutes)

Wed, July 9 Marseille, France

Chateau Gombert Festival 50th Anniversary

am FREE TIME: visit Marseille including Chateau d'If made famous by the Count of Monte Cristo.

pm **Short Parade leading to the festival grounds**
pm **Performance**
(each group does 2@ 8 minutes they prefer only dances)

Thu, July 10 Schoten, Belgium (1,125/10:00)

8:00 am Depart for Marseille St. Charles train station

9:12 am Travel to Brussels, Belgium by train – TGV 9860

Lunch-Per Diem (either buy on train or grab something in train station)

2:20 pm Arrive in Brussels

Travel to Brugges(1:20)

Festival bus will take us to Brugges enroute to Schoten

FREE TIME IN BRUGGES

5:30 pm Travel to Schoten (1:30)
7:00 pm Arrive in Schoten
Meet host families

Lodging: festival host families for students
festival host families for leaders

Fri, July 11 Schoten, Belgium

Hello! Schoten Festival

Am Sound check at some point at main stage for evening performance
Lunch-provided by the festival

Pm Possible FREE TIME
Dinner provided by the festival

8:00 pm **Opening Performance** (all groups perform 15 minutes) -Hall

Sat, July 12 Schoten, Belgium

Hello! Schoten Festival

10.00 hours-17.00 hours: Hello! World.

All groups prepare 20 min. program of easy dances to dance together with other groups and public. -Park / Hall

8:00 pm **2nd Full Performance.**
15 min. for each group - 1 group has 20 min. performance. -Hall

10:30 pm Late Night get-together with DJ -Hall

Sun, July 13 Schoten, Belgium

Hello! Schoten Festival

10:00 am **Religious Service**
All groups bring a song or musical contribution of about 3 min. -Church

11.00 am Reception hosted by the Mayor of Schoten.
Each group takes a small delegation with exchange of presents. -Town Hall

2:00 pm **Parade (1 km)**

3:00 pm Hello! Kids
afternoon especially for children, with 3 workshops: 1 for dance, 1 for music and songs and 1 for children's games. All groups prepare simple children's dances, songs and music and if possible bring traditional children's games.

5.30 pm Free evening (final World Cup)

7:00 pm **Possible Devotional Fireside Antwerp Stake**

Mon, July 14

Schoten, Belgium

Hello! Schoten Festival

- 10:00 am Festival evaluation with festival directors.
Only for group's directors with exchange of presents. -Castle
- 3:00 pm 3rd Full Performance**
15 min. each group - 1 group has 20 min. performance. -Hall
- 8:00 pm 4th Full Performance**
15 min. each group - 1 group has 20 min. performance. -Hall
- 10:30 pm Late Night get-together
with orchestras of participating groups.

Tues, July 15

Schoten, Belgium

Hello! Schoten Festival

FREE DAY

Wed, July 16

Schoten, Belgium

Hello! Schoten Festival

Daytime: excursion to Antwerp.

- 8:00 pm 5th Full Performance**
15 min. each group - 1 group has 20 min. performance. -Hall
- 10:30 pm Late Night get-together
with orchestras of participating groups. -Hall

Thu, July 17

Schoten, Belgium

Hello! Schoten Festival

- Daytime: Socio-cultural activities in the region, performance in retirement home.**
Performance of 2 x 20 minutes, bring small gift.
- 8:00 pm 6th Full Performance**
15 min. each group - 1 group has 20 min. performance. -Hall
Free after performance.

Fri, July 18

Schoten, Belgium

- Daytime: Socio-cultural activities in the region, performance in retirement home.**
Performance of 2 x 20 minutes, bring small gift.
- Afternoon: Rehearsal closing ceremony (*more details on closing ceremony follow later*).

8:00 pm	7th Full Performance, closing gala performance. <i>All groups perform 20 minutes</i>	-Hall
10:30 pm	Hello! and Goodbye - Farewell party with DJ.	-Hall
<hr/>		
Sat, July 19	Martigues, France	(1,135 km/10:00)
8:30 am	Depart by bus to Brussels train station	
10:31 am	Travel to Aix-En-Provence, France by train – TGV 9826 <i>Lunch-Per Diem (either on train or purchase in station)</i>	
3:31 pm	Arrive in Aix-En-Provence Festival will meet us in Aix with a bus to travel to Martigues Meet host families	

Lodging: festival host families for students, leaders in Hotel IBIS Martigues

<hr/>		
Sun, July 20	Martigues, France	
Festival de Martigues		
Am	Attend church at Vitrolles	

<hr/>		
Mon, July 21	Martigues, France	
Festival de Martigues		
12:15 am	Bal Des Nations-Esplanade des Belges <i>(The musicians on stage, and the dancers take us for a crazy night.)</i> <i>Performance of 12 minutes</i>	
3:30 pm	Directors and choreographers meeting	
6:30 pm	Welcome of families and benefactors	
7:00 pm	Welcome of the President of the festival	
7:15 pm	Aperatifs in the dinning area	
9:00 pm	Animation – Le Cours du 4 Septembre-au Village	

<hr/>		
Tues, July 22	Martigues, France	
Festival de Martigues		
10:00 am	Performance- Salle du Gres – Stage de danse	
5:45 pm	Opening Parade – Rue Lamartine to the Village of the festival	
7:00 pm	Official festival opening by President and Mayor – Village of the festival	
9:30 pm	Opening Performance – Canal Saint Sebastien	
11:45pm	Escale du Nuit – Village of the festival	

(Come and meet the artists under the stars! Extended festivities, Stopovers Night pursued by the dancers invite you to follow in their footsteps. Joyful moments in the rhythm of world music.)

Wed, July 23 Martigues, France

Festival de Martigues

am FREE TIME

9:30 pm Performance-Chile, Mongolia, and USA – Canal Saint Sebastien

Thu, July 24 Martigues, France

Festival de Martigues

10:00 am Performance – Salle du Gres – Stage de danse

5:00 pm Games – Village of the festival

9:00 pm Gotta Dance! – Village du Festival

11:45 pm Escale du Nuit – Village of the Festival

Fri, July 25 Martigues, France

Festival de Martigues

9:30 pm Performance – USA, China , Guam, Tatarstan – Canal Saint Sebastien

Sat, July 26 Martigues, France

Festival de Martigues

10:00 am Bal des Minot – Place Mirabeu

(This year, the Children's Festival offers a great ball which is reserved on the Place Mirabeau. The Capouliero which is open to the sound of the ball galoubet and tambourine, followed by musicians sets the island of Guam and the USA.)

10:00 am Salle du Gres – Stage de Danse

3:30 pm Siestes du Bout du Monde – Village du Festival

(Chairs, soft music, poems often declined in unknown languages. Everything to make meditation)

6:00 pm Bal Country – Place de la Liberation

Sun, July 27 Martigues, France

Festival de Martigues

10:50 am Attend church at Vitrolles Ward

FREE TIME Day with host families

7:00 pm Fireside – TBD

Mon, July 28 Martigues, France

FREE TIME

8:30 pm Closing Parade – Village of the Festival to Canal Saint Sebastien

9:30 pm Closing Ceremonies – Canal Saint Sebastien

11:45 pm Closing Dance Party – Village of the Festival

(all groups)

Tue, July 29 Paris, France (784 km/7:00)

7:45 am Depart for Marseille St. Charles Station

9:36 am Depart for Paris by train – TGV Duplex 6112

12:56 pm Arrive at Paris Gare de Lyon

Bus will pick us up and transport to check in at hotel

12:00 pm Lunch-enroute provided by PAM

4:00 pm Arrive and check in at hotel

5:30 pm Bus will return to take group to YSA event at Versailles Chapel (60 min/15.9 km)

6:30 pm Dinner at YSA evening provided by YSA Ward

7:30 pm **YSA Interactive Evening-YSA Institute Building**

5, rond-point de l'Alliance

78000 Versailles

(note: dinner before will be just our group. They will hold dessert for after so it can be our group plus the YSAs. They will have a couple of students ready to share their testimonies along with ours)

Hotel: ibis Paris Eiffel Tower Cambronne

Address: 2, rue Cambronne
75015 PARIS
FRANCE

Phone: (+33)01/40612121

Ref #: 645852

Wed, July 30 Paris, France

Breakfast in hotel

FREE DAY IN PARIS

Lunch-Per Diem

Dinner-Per Diem

Evening Boat tour on the Seine as a group

Thu, July 31 Provo, Utah

Early-risers breakfast in hotel

7:00 am Depart for CDG Airport by bus

8:00 am Arrive and Check in at airport

Per Diem for food in airport

10:45 am Depart for SLC – DL 88

1:36 pm Arrive in SLC

Travel to Provo – *Holiday Tours*

Summer Tour History

July 3, 2014

Zach Diamond

We made it to Europe, after what seemed like days of traveling. Since we all know how easy it is to sleep on a plane... we were full of energy for an exciting day in Geneva. NOT, we were all pretty wiped out but couldn't wait to begin tour with an epic day in the beautiful city of Geneva.

After we got our room assignments Jonathan treated us all to fondu. So as a big group, all dressed in the same clothing, we hopped on the tram. We got a couple of interested looks from people, but I don't blame them since we all looked the same. While waiting for another tram to come a couple of the guys had a little jam session with a street performer using buckets and pots as a drum set. He had some buckets set out with extra drum sticks so we grabbed them and started jamming along while he gave the crowd a show.

Once we finally reached the fondu place we were ready to stuff ourselves with cheese... and that's what we did. SO MUCH CHEESE!! They brought out this gigantic pot of the best melted cheese I have ever had. It was delicious and a great cultural experience, but after that meal we had all had enough cheese to last us a month. After the delicious fondu the night was ours. So Jonathon took most of us down to the pier to see the Jet D'eau on lake Geneva. It was a beautiful area and the Jet D'eau was everything we thought it would be; a big jet of water that serves no purpose other than to entertain tourists.

Well being the tourists that we were we took plenty of pictures and enjoyed the scenery. Looking out over the lake, we noticed a little swimming area to the left of the Jet D'eau where there were platforms to jump off. We asked Jonathon if the lake was fine to swim in and after he gave us the ok, a handful of adventurous men made their way over the the platforms. However we didn't have swimsuits, so our only solution was to jump in in our clothes. I think this addition made the experience that much better. So stripping down to just our khaki tour pants we climbed one of the platforms and plunged into the water, while some of the girls took pictures. The water was so clear and clean, and felt great. This happened multiple times as we all took individual jumps into the perfect water.

But our swimming adventure wasn't over yet. As more of our group joined us we walked over to the other side of the pier and swam out to a platform floating in the middle of the water. By the time we got to the platform we had attracted a small crowd on the shore, probably wondering what all these boys in rolled up khaki pants were doing swimming in lake Geneva at 9:00 at night. We got a few cheers after front flipping off the dock, which we thought was pretty funny. However, after swimming around for a while our adventure came to an end. What a way to kick off tour though!! So as a result of this adventure, the adventure squad was formed by Briant and Zach, with Nate K, Brian Francis, and Jacob as honorary members and board members. Our job? To supply the team members with fun adventures that got better and better as tour got on, so I can't wait to see what tour will hold. We had so much fun that we didn't want the night to end, but we all remembered that we had gotten no sleep for about a day and a half so we made our way back to the hotel, some of us wet, but excited for #PACeuro14 to begin!

July 5, 2014

Will Farnbach

July 5th started with Talmage losing his glasses. But not his morals. Thank heavens.

We slammed down a delicious breakfast, and piled on the bus. Then, we waited for 20 minutes as Fernandez and Josh to wake each other up. Adorable. They would never be put in the same room over again.

As we hit the road, we crossed over into French country, and had our first experience taking all of Mike's lunch-time figuring out what the food was and how to order it. A few brave people tried to order their food in French, which was met by the same look that kind aunts give to young children as they babble and point at a toy they want at the store. We were not able to go to Avignon, because everyone was going to the South of France, just like we were.

The bus ride was mostly uneventful, with much napping. We arrived at the Chateau Gombert, piled our bags into the non-air-conditioned dorms, and threw on some costumes for a parade and the opening ceremonies of the festival. This was our first experience just walking down the streets, done up like cowboys. It was awesome seeing what felt like the whole town come out to see the performers. The parade ended with the national anthems of each country. I felt a huge swell of pride singing our national anthem, especially to have the Filipino group join us.

July 6, 2014
Lindsey Harris

Today has been a whirlwind of a day. Can't believe how much we stuff into 17 hours! This morning we started out with a breakfast of this somewhat bitter hot chocolate in a bowl (with bread and cheese, of course). We got ready for a parade procession to this smaller cathedral in town. Everyone participated in this interesting kind of mass that included everyone singing their religious (or semi religious) songs, presenting a candle (will's face was priceless), and giving a short message in their language. Most of the time I had no idea what was going on. But it was an interesting idea that we could worship so differently in so many ways and still feel good together. The pastor guy gave a message about life in general (he kept saying stuff like, "La vie... est une tragedie... aceptalo" and talked about peace.

We came back and had lunch (cucumber and tomato salad, spaghetti, and nectarines) and played this weird game where a boy from a group presents a flower to a girl of another group, they do les bise, and then she has to give the flower to a boy from another group as well. It just kept going for maybe 30 mins and everyone would pound on the tables and shout the person's name. A lot of people looked really embarrassed, and then there were those who secretly loved it but tried to be modest... It was fun to watch.

Then we took the bus down to Marseille. At first, it looked kinda ghetto - there was a ton of trash just rolling around in the middle of the road and piled up in the corners. People were selling random stuff everywhere. But then we got into the nicer part of town. It was really beautiful; all of the buildings were painted in pastel colors, the most common being yellow, pink, green, and blue. I can't believe how old this place is! Marseille is supposedly pre-Christ era. The cathedral we were in for mass had been there since 1156!! We drove under the old city wall that followed the port. It was old and crumbling but definitely big. There were a lot of forts from pre revolutionary times just in between houses or up in the hills. The port was filled with a bunch of fishing, motor, and sailing boats. More than I've ever seen before in my life! The Mediterranean water was so blue and you could see the islands and Chateaux d'If just a few miles out from the coast. We wound our way up these tiny tiny streets to the top of the hill. The bus driver had mad skills! At the top, we stopped at the cathedral Notre-Dame de la Garde. It was beautiful. It was a neo-Byzantine style basilica and it had all of these gorgeous gold and rich colored tiled ceilings and walls. There were all these mini model ships hanging down from the ceiling and lots of paintings of boats and the sea on the walls. There was almost more art of the sea than of Jesus and Mary! Outside was a wall with thank you notes engraved in plaques to the patron saint and/or Mary for different blessings or miracles. One said 'thank you for saving our family from the cholera'. Crazy!!

We all went down to a museum on the water and then split up in groups. My group has become pretty good friends with our two guides, Ugo and Pierric. They hung out with us for dinner. Ended up being really helpful because they could show us where to eat for a good price and helped translate for the waiter. Ugo is kind of

crazy and likes to drink a lot but Pierric is my favorite. He is kind of shy because of his English but very nice and secretly really funny. I told him to give it a couple days and then everyone will realize he speaks very good English and he won't be able to get us to shut up. :) We had this weird entree with really thinly sliced raw beef marinated in oil with Parmesan cheese and a few spinach leaves on top. It grossed me out a little but I tried it! Tori and I shared a tomato, spinach, and mozerella cheese salad and then ate a little bit of grilled chicken and French fries. They gave us these delicious green beans for a side and I couldn't get enough. I miss veggies! We drove back and had a nice little meeting with a spiritual thought. The French hosting group had a show prepared that was supposedly going to be 2 hours long... We ended up being there for 4 hours. Four... Hours... It was fun at first because it was a history of French dance. But the only instruments they played were piccolos, a drum, and an occasional tambourine. I don't think their music changed outside of a 10 note range. I felt like my eyes were twitching to the beat and tried hard not to fall asleep... At the end, I woke up all of a sudden because they had lit something and confetti flew everywhere. I guess I missed a 50th year anniversary celebratory speech but it was definitely fun when I woke up!

Almost 3 am and we'll be back up in a few hours for another crazy day!! Yeehaw!!

July 8, 2014
Katie Klotzer

After partying like the Europeans do on Monday night, we woke up Tuesday morning to our usual breakfast of hot chocolate and a baguette. We were given the morning for free time, which some of us used to go exchange money at the local ATM and walk around Chateau Gombert. That afternoon, we drove to an Old Folks Home, ate lunch, and watched Zach, Alina, Kaitlyn, Brian Francis, Craig, and Will serenade us after getting caught in a clothespin check. We then got ready for our outdoor performance for the lovely people of the Korla Retirement Center. After taking pictures with our new friends, we found out that Brian is always in the Kitchen. :)

We returned to the festival grounds and rehearsed the dances we would be performing later that night at City Hall with the Filipino group. We then were given a little bit more free time in order to recoup for our performance. We left at about 6 pm to head to City Hall and were given a warm welcome, which included dinner and drinks. That night we performed 40's Swing, The Gathering, Charleston, Southern Waltz, and Running Sets to a standing ovation from the crowd, as well as the approval of our great director, Colleen!

After our fantastic and fun-filled performance, we put away our costumes faster than we ever had before because dinner was on the line...we rushed downstairs to an authentic and quintessential French meal of ratatouille, raw meat, fresh salad, bleu cheese, apple pie, and of course a baguette. We then drove home to our dorms and decided to do our Hungarian exchange the following night, so that we could go to sleep! Overall, a busy, but very worthwhile and fun day!

July 9, 2014
Garett Madril

What a beautiful day! After a great chocolate Milk and bread breakfast, the team set out to enjoy our biggest free day here in Marseille. Dividing into small groups we all set out to enjoy the culture and atmosphere of the city. Some team members strayed from The Old Port and explored the Historic Cathedral De Marseille, others took a boat tour into the choppy waves of the Mediterranean, where they circled the Chateau D'if and found themselves soaked by the ocean breeze. No regrets. After a morning out and some great Gelato, we found our way back to the Chateau Gombert where we met up for lunch. Omelets and fried Potatoes were a welcome sight after an active morning. The rest of the day was reserved for some naps and pre packing rituals before the children's activities. After teaching the kids how to play the American classics, like the three legged race and the ring toss, we prepared to perform our first show on the main stage. We began the performance with a parade through the

streets where we waved and greeted our audience, new faces and some faces that we have grown to know well. Our performance that night, all though it was threatened to be canceled due to high winds, was a great show and an amazing experience. at the close of the night (1am) we had a chance to dance with the Hungarian group and exchange different dances that we have learned back home with them and them with us.

July 10, 2014

Alli Jardine

Today was a long traveling day. We were so sad to leave our new friends but excited to get to Belgium. At breakfast we sang god be with you til we meet again in French for Ugo, Lisa, and jean-luc and we all felt the spirit. It's amazing how much of an impact we can all have on each other in just a few short days.

We got on the speed train to Belgium and got to Brussels to meet our guides. We took a bus ride to Bruges and ran to try and make it to the Madonna church but we missed it by five minutes!! Our guides took us on a tour of the city then we had a little bit of free time. Some people got Belgian waffles and some people got frites. Everything was delicious.

We made it to Schoten and it is beautiful!! We walked to the castle and met with the heads of the festival. We found out this is the ninth time BYU has been a part of the festival and the first time was in 1964 with Mary Bee Jensen.

We all got to meet with our host families and it was being filmed for local television. We also learned that in Belgium they do three kisses.

July 12, 2014

Kaitlyn Gourley

Today was another incredible day! We had "animations" in our Gathering costumes where we taught the public some dances and learned a few ourselves. It started out with Taiwan teaching and there were hardly any people there so they basically just taught our team. It was really hard doing it in our Gathering dresses because we had to get down close to the ground and we were stepping all over our dresses. The dances were simple and somewhat – annoying. I don't think any of us will ever get the sound of them yelling, "Ohhhhhh HEY, Ohhhhhh HEY!" But the girls were all really sweet and Asher (the only boy) really likes our team. It has been fun seeing Craig communicate with them and seeing them all light up when he starts speaking to them in Mandarin. We also learned some Flamenco dancing from the Spanish team. Those of us that took Delynn's Spanish dance class were really missing and thinking of her all morning. She sure was passionate about Flamenco and I could hear her counting out loud while we danced. By the time our team taught, a lot more people had joined in the crowd. It was fun to see our host families there and pull them up to dance with us! We taught the Virginia Reel and some line dancing. We also taught a simple circle dance that we got to switch partners in. Everybody loved it because it wasn't too structured or complicated and they could hoot and holler along!

After our animations we had free time until dinner. A lot of us joined in more animations with Peru and Serbia, even though it was raining. The Serbian dancing was a little confusing because they didn't teach it very well, but those of us from our team caught on fast. The Serbian guy next to me said our team were very fast learners, and I couldn't help but smile. We are so blessed to be introduced to so many different styles of folk dancing at BYU. It really helps to make us well rounded and versatile dancers. After animations a few team members played on the bungee jumping thing that was next to the castle and loved it! The rest of us played on the playground and went into town to explore the fun shops.

We ate dinner at the cafeteria and lucky me got some gluten free salmon. I've been really blessed to be taken such good care of on this tour! Everyone else ate some sort of fish and fries. Following dinner we had our devotional back in the "Par-a-keet" and we split up in small groups to share different scriptures and thoughts. Then we got ready for our show! Our show was a lot of fun and it went really well. Afterwards a few people discovered the waffle truck next to the tent while others traded their drink cards in for chocolate bars!

July 13, 2014
Jordan Benson

I don't think I've gone to sleep before 2am on this trip yet; and would imagine not many others have either... nonstop party! J Only half of us were able to go to the LDS church this week because the festival had an event that they needed part of our group for, so half of our group went to the church with the other people from the festival. It was nice to go to sacrament meeting, and we used little headsets so the translator could translate for us without interrupting the rest of the meeting. Most of our host families came with us, and it was fun to see them in church. I don't know how the other host families enjoyed it, but ours said it seemed pretty rigid and seemed a little apprehensive about the whole thing...and religion in general. The other group (that went to the festival church) said it went well and sang a pretty song called "Go Ye Now in Peace." A friend on the team told me that somebody came to them after their song and said that "the song gave [them] chickenpox." I'm assuming they meant goosebumps, but hey, close enough, right?!

We ate lunch in the cafeteria. They had another flower going around (that you're supposed to give to somebody of the opposite gender on another team). A cute girl from Serbia gave it to me and I gave it to a random girl on the Spanish team. I think it's a pretty fun festival tradition.

It's been raining a lot lately so we decided not to take our instruments in the parade, but it was still pretty fun; even if we felt sort of naked without them. We also played Frisbee and hit a badminton birdie with the Serbian team. It definitely wasn't a normal Sunday, but it was good to expose some people to the church. Later we -along with the other teams- played games with kids from the area. Then we had an animation with a lot of the kids. The band played the Hokey Pokey, Do as I'm Doing, Oh Susanna, and The Chicken Dance.

I'm not sure what the others did since we spent the rest of the day with our host families. Our hosts had a big party and BBQ tonight for the World Cup final (Germany won). It was some of the best food I've ever had! Our host mom was really kind to buy us some non-alcoholic drinks and tell us which foods had booze in it. Everybody else was smoking and drinking, but they've been so good to us. All the guests were shocked that we don't smoke or drink and it gave us some good opportunities to talk about the church and our beliefs.

July 14, 2014
Lucy Tingey

Met at school at 9:00 Close pin check with Colleen tapping and singing popcorn popping on the apricot tree Jonathan got closepinned mid speech by Colleen and did a song Grace with I'm a little teapot Alina with oops I did it again Great scripture study by Jordan: agency- Ophelia syndrome. Use your agency to make good choices. Rely on and have faith in The Lord but he expects you and wants you to use your agency to make your own decisions Welcomed by the board of directors. Got free festival t-shirts and condoms! Rehearsal for our show on Friday with the French team. Dance battle. Lunched in the cafeteria- Macedonia, green beans and duck? Free then in Martigue while the band sound checked. Most people walked 15 minutes into town or sat by the water. Our team napped by then dressing rooms while all the other teams practiced and fine-tuned their dances nearby Left for the parade at 5:45. Took a bus into town where we paraded in front of restaurants for the people to see. We were given that route to parade for 1.5 hours but we finished early. Mix up with dinner so we had to wait for Jonathan to sort it out. Split into groups of 7 for dinner. It was a lieserly dinner with free ice cream included! we

then talked to the crowd gathering and waited as tech crews prepared then stage. The performance was fun and interactive. The band played as the dancers pulled people out of the crowd. The dancers performed polka quadrill and hambone, and taught some line dances. It was a fun night.

July 15, 2014

Thomas Call

Today was our free day from the Hello!Schoten festival. We were going to go up to Amsterdam, but due to various issues (like distance), we instead stayed in Belgium and went to Ghent, the Flander's Field Memorial, and Ypres.

Our first stop at Ghent was the cathedral that is home to the famous Ghent altarpiece. We were able to see the original despite some renovations going on, and it was interesting to see all of the different figures and stories from the Bible that were depicted on it. Unfortunately, I didn't see the replica that had explanations of what everything symbolized until after we left the area with the original, but it was nice to see in retrospect what everything had symbolized. Besides the altarpiece, there were several rooms that circled the back of the cathedral, each filled with beautiful stained glass, artwork, and architecture. One of the rooms was occupied by a harp player who was phenomenal, and he would play a song every so often. I think that has been one of my favorite experiences up to this point—listening to the harp music echo in the cathedral.

After we were done there, we were given a few hours to explore the city on our own. Our guides had created maps for us that highlighted different cathedrals and castles for us, and I know that a lot of us chose to use it. However, Jacob Madsen and I decided that we just wanted to explore the city and get lost in it, and we found it very rewarding. We discovered that without even trying, you can find cathedrals and castles in Ghent, and since we weren't looking for them, they were very special surprises. We literally turned the corner out of one street and had a perfect view of the castle. We had no idea where we were, but we were happy to be there.

After Ghent, we went to the Flander's Field Memorial, and that has been the highlight of the whole tour for me. Maybe it's because my dad served in the air force and has raised me and my siblings to honor the soldiers and be patriotic, but I find military cemeteries to be very sacred places. The grounds were beautifully kept, and the monument was beautiful without being ostentatious. Going inside the memorial, I found it to be a place of reflection and remembrance, and I was grateful for the quiet that it offered to reflect on the sacrifice of so many in WWI and the other wars. But what really got me was one particular grave. The graves were all crosses except for those of Jewish faith (which had a Star of David), and most of them had names on them. However, I chose one of the Star of David graves to look at, and it said, "Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God." For whatever reason, the fact that they made a grave for an unknown soldier of a faith different than the norm was very profound and beautiful to me, and I just stood there and cried for a bit. It would have been easy to justify making crosses for all of the unknown dead, but the builders of the memorial made sure that they were doing honor to all soldiers. That honoring of differences is beautiful, and I think it can symbolize what we hope to do with our tour. Yes, we are making friends and representing America and our church, but we're also building respect between us and the cultures that we come in contact with.

In Ypres, we visited the WWI museum, which I am sad to say I could only handle for so long. I was already emotionally drained from Flander's Field, and the museum created a very gloomy atmosphere via lighting and ambient music. I liked reading the information posted next to the various pictures, videos, and artifacts, but I had to cut things short. We then separated to eat dinner, and then we met for the Final Post that they do every night at 8:00. Because it was so crowded, I couldn't see much of what was happening, but I could hear the music and feel the reverence, and it was an excellent way to end our day. After the post, we got on our bus, went back to the festival grounds, and were picked up by our host families.

July 16, 2014
Emily Kleinkopf

It was another beautiful day in Belgium and it was time to go to Antwerp! We all loaded the bus and we sure were excited. When we got off the bus, Ashlee did an epic clothes pin check. Bidu then gave a very informative and detailed tour throughout the city. She's awesome and we never had to worry about any car hitting us or traffic, because I'm pretty sure she could literally stop anything on the street by just putting her hand out in front of her. She is one fearless woman. Some highlights were definitely the building made to look like bacon, the cathedral with the gambling courtyard, and the famous Antwerp statue throwing the giant's hand he just cut off. Let's also not forget storming the tower! Most of the men charged into the castle with the mighty Kuhlmann starting them off with an epic speech. Colleen also followed them with a nice hop, skip and a failed heel click. Jon found the bar of his dreams called the Pedestal which had three different colored horse heads coming out of the front. After all of the group pictures in front of the statue, we then had free time in Antwerp to do what you wished. Some bought souvenirs, some went to tour other buildings, and some even interrupted funerals. After free time we all headed to a cafeteria and ate lunch together. After a nice lunch with the group we all met with our host families and had more free time. Some just hung out at their host families house, some went to Holland, some toured Antwerp for a while longer, some host families even met up with each other host families and had a great time. We then all reconvened at our regular meeting place where there was a reporter who took pictures and interviewed a couple of us. We then had a show at 8:00 which we did very well in and the crowd absolutely loved us!! After the show there was then of course the after party which some of the group stayed for, but a lot went home and slept. We were all pretty tired!

July 18, 2014
Amber Shepherd

Today was nice because most of the day was spent with out host families. My host family took us on a barefoot hike. This hike was intended to be hiked barefoot so there was sand, rocks, mud, water, logs, etc. It was so fun. There were also a lot of people that went to the beach that day in holland. More people went to Brussels.

We didn't have to be to the park-eit until 7. We had the great honor of performing last of the last performance. So because e had time, a lot of people made one that trip to Mama Calinkas. Seriously. It has the best ice cream in the entire world. Especially the passion fruit. For our line up that night, we performed Appalachian, fandango, buffalo gals, Suzy, and showdown. The crowd loved it. And so did we!! After we performed there was the closing ceremony were one couple from each group went on the stage to do a short performance representing our country. Lauren and Jason C. went and rocked the stage. It was awesome. They did a little of everything. After that, there were fireworks! It was so great. And since we missed fireworks on the 4th of July, it was a little taste of home. The night ended for most of us after that but some do stay for the epic closing after party. It was a good time.

July 19, 2014
Christopher Gallacher

Well, today has been a great day full of wonderful adventures and awesome discussions on the high speed train from Belgium to Southern France. All was pretty quiet and calm on the train; we were able to relax and get some sleep. That is, all was quiet and calm for most of us, except Miss Jaymie and Mister Jason Checketts. They were in the car with all the screaming babies. Word traveled up to my car that Jaymie and Checketts were struggling, but I doubted a little, so I decided to go see how much was exaggerated. My goodness!! There was no exaggeration! Their car was so loud! I looked around and counted about 12 children all under the age of about 10. My heart suddenly went out to my two dear friends and I felt their pain. After all, I could see it on their faces:) Aside from the excitement with Jaymie and Mr. Checketts, everyone enjoyed a nice, quiet ride.

Once we arrived at our destination in Southern France, we had another hour or so bus ride to Martigue where we met our host families. After that, everyone went home with their host families and hung out for the rest of the day. My comrades and I went with our host mom to her villa, complete with a big yard and swimming pool!!!! What a way to relax after eight hours of traveling. Loved it!!!!!!!

Now that we're here in Martigue with the stage on the river, I wonder what the following days and hold in store for us. Can't wait...

July 20, 2014
Jaymie Lambson

Today was Sunday, and even though we didn't get to church, as we would have liked, we always seem to find something good to do to share our light with others. We started the day by meeting at the "Center of Life" where we changed to go sing in the city. We went into town and stood around and sang some American folk songs with the band... but mostly the band because let's face it- they are the ones who know the words. It was cute because there were some cute little ladies that sang some French songs with the band. You could tell that they loved it and was special to them.

After that we went to another area with the other dance groups and played music in the square for the public. It was fun to dance with some of the little kids that were there. The activities ended with a farendaal around town where we got to meet a lot of the other dancers. After that we returned home with our host families and spent the day relaxing and getting to know them.

July 22, 2014
Heidi Johnson

After being the last group at the center of life on Monday, we were the first ones back on Tuesday. We started the day off with a workshop. There were about 50 people from the community who came and learned a section of Boot Kickin'. We were surprised to find out that they had to pay to come, but we were glad they were there.

The workshop lasted two hours. Emily taught and Garret helped demonstrate. Everyone learned the dance very quickly. We were able to teach two sections of line dancing and the pretzel, although the pretzel was a little harder for some. It was a nice morning and everyone seemed to really enjoy. Mark and Jeff even joined in the fun by adding barnyard animal noises from the sidelines.

It was Jason Checketts' 24th birthday, so we sang to him and threw him during lunch. This created a domino effect with the other teams. Throughout the day Jason was sung to by every team at the festival. He was even serenaded by the Mongolian throat singers.

After lunch we did some blocking and played games with the French group. Then we split up after that for some free time. Some people took the birthday boy out for ice cream, others went to the market for fresh fruit, and some stayed at the center of life for their afternoon siesta and games with the Italians and Mexicans.

We were supposed to be ready for a parade by 5:00. Jonathan showed up with the keys to the costumes at 4:50. Needless to say, we were not ready at 5:00. But we were ready in time for the parade. It was probably the best parade we've had in Europe. It took us by cafes, through plazas, and over rivers to the very short and sweet opening ceremonies for the festival. On the bus home we rode with the French group, so the band played Champs Elyses (sorry if I spelled that wrong) and we all sang along.

In the evening we danced in the first big show of the festival. Each team had 7 minutes to dance. We were first in the line up and we danced Texas Fandango, Buffalo Gals, and Polka Quadrille. We literally started the show off with a splash (sorry, I couldn't help it) when we threw Jason Checketts into the canal during Fandango.

We were able to stay and watch the other teams. We all drooled a little during the Georgian dances, and we were wowed by the beautiful Mexican dresses. Overall we were impressed with the other teams. They are all fantastic dancers.

Even after the long day of dancing, we weren't done. They took us back to the center of life to change clothes and then it was straight to the village of the festival for an animation. It lasted about an hour and we taught our usual line up of circle mixers, line dances, and swing. At 2:00 in the morning we were finally finished and we gladly went home to our beds.

July 23, 2014
Talmage Haines

In the morning we all left the festival and made a quick visit to Aix-en Provence! It was exciting to walk down the narrow streets and go into all the little shops of a city that we had learned about in culture class.

Highlights included:

-The beautiful cathedral. It featured one of the earliest baptismal fonts. The stain glass windows were also great. The sunlight dappled their colors off the wall to the stone floor and if you walked beneath them it painted your skin.

-The delicious ice cream that Jonathan Wood bought for the people to whom he owed (usually those who answered his trivia questions) or for those people for whom he liked (our two awesome guides Clara and Margerie). A favorite flavor that our guides encouraged was the flavor cookies (Or "coo-keys" as the French pronounced it).

-The group that left the buses together and quickly assigned roles to each member in order to maximize their short time in the "city of fountains." Roles included Navigator: Brennan Toleman (who didn't have the map), Holder-of-water: Heidi Johnson, Ice-cream looker-outer: Lucy Tingy, Translator: Talmage Haines (who didn't speak French), Captain and Role-giver: Brian Fernandez...

After the wonderful visit we hurried back for our performance that night on the beautiful stage over the water. The performance went wonderful!

The band then had to go do a show at the Village. They were last of the night and didn't start their show until 1 am... despite being slightly delirious from fatigue and sleep deprivation, a great show was had.

All returned home tired but satisfied. Another great day of tour had come to a close. Great entertaining had been done and unique and long-lasting memories had been made with their friends- new and old.

July 24, 2014
Lauren Piperato

Today we taught our second workshop... But there was no breeze so it was extra hot. We taught clogging first. The steps were pretty simple, but the people caught on pretty well. We also taught a section from the gathering. It was very fun. Then we headed back to the center of life to meet the bus to go to Aix-en-Provence. We waited around for a few minutes for the bus and our picnic lunches, but the festival time so they didn't have enough time to get them ready so they had us eat there instead. They feed us a roast and some gnocchi and it was super filling and pretty good. We had about 2 hours in Aix once we got there. It's a very cute little town. Alli said it reminded her of Italy. Lots of us went to the cathedral and saw a very old baptismal font. It's also very likely that

Cezanne went to church there at soon point.

We had to leave in order to get back to the festival and teach children's games at the village. Jonathon bought us ice cream on the way home and we barely made it in time. The kids played duck duck goose, red light green light, down by the banks, and some other games. A bunch of people taught Sebastian how to play zip bong, a game where you can't show your teeth, too. Went back to the center to eat dinner, then back to the village for animations. We taught a few mixer and line dances. Most of us headed over to the canal to watch the show (Georgia was so awesome), and then went back to the village to teach MORE animations afterwards! It was a packed and busy day. Everyone was exhausted and Brennan was practically asleep while he played his cajon on stage, but the band sounded great and we all had fun anyway.

July 26, 2014

Victoria Leavitt

We all had to meet at the center of life at around 9:30. When everyone arrived, we had some announcements and determined who would go to teach some dances to children and those who would teach dances to the people from before. Jacob and Emily taught some clogging including steps that required group dancing. You could tell they loved learning how to clog. We then taught some polka steps from our dance, the gathering. It was beautiful to see both young and old learning to American folk dance!

After our two hours were up, it was time for lunch at the village. We had fish mashed potatoes with grilled vegetables, along with French baguettes and cheese of course. Oh and Orangina and Coke. I think some of us are hooked and are gonna have to quit Coke Zero when we go home.

Next on our to do list, (well, the band's list)... The siesta! They went to the village and played some chill songs to make it a relaxing day for the French public. They even played songs that Grace wrote and a song that Jonathan wrote. We all decided that they need to make a CD with all original songs. Get famous. Make millions.

While the band was performing at the village, the rest of us had free time. Some taught clogging to dancers from other groups, some went and listened to the band, and others took actual naps!

We were all instructed to meet at the village at 5:15 so we could meet a country dance club! We had an exchange where the club taught some line dances and performed. Then our group did the same thing! It was so fun to see the French's country group in their boots and cowboy hats.

After the exchange, we headed back to the center of life for some spaghetti!

The best part of the day was when we went to..... THE BEACH! We got to swim in the Mediterranean yet again, but this time with our new French friends from the festival! We swam in the cold water (which was probably really great for our swollen ankles), played some American football, and played some games on the beach.

It was pretty late at night by the time we were wiped out from the beach. Some went to the village for some more animations, but most went home with their host families. What an amazing day!

July 27, 2014

Nathan Pehrson

Today marks the first time on tour that the whole group was able to come to church, to everyone's delight. We met at the center of life in order to catch the bus to the ward house in Aix en Provence. A few of the host parents decided to come as well, but they had to drive up separately. After a 45 min drive, we were greeted by the very friendly ward members there. Among the fact that they had to add chairs to accommodate the 45 or more of us and turning on the A/C and even providing a translator for the talks, they also expertly befriended our host families. They sat next to them and explained the meeting and let them feel welcome.

The talks were on bravery and courage to do what is right. The smooth translation and sincere testimonies impressed all of us, as we felt both the spirit of 'home' and of God in Sacrament meeting.

Many in our group were very excited to pick up French copies of the Book of Mormon to give to friends and host

families. Many notes were written on inside covers and the gifts were accepted with gratitude. The missionary spirit was certainly alive in our group this weekend.

After church, several host families were invited to take us to a friend's ranch for the afternoon. Each family brought dishes to share, including a large container of snails of the sea... The brave among us ate one, and unan- imously decided that once is quite enough. Unfortunately, I had come to the party hungry, tried the snail first, and lost my appetite for the other, less slimy, dishes.

As was promised by Jonathan, games of patonk started in the lazy afternoon, and the pool was well used. I very much enjoyed patonk, so in some reunion down the rode, ask if I haven't bought myself a set yet.

Others went to the beach and still others just stayed at home with their host families for games, naps, and con- versations.

For Briant and I, our host family bought delicious pizza-truck-in-a-parking-lot pizza for dinner. We also enjoyed listening to marriage advice from our host dad, which included always forgiving each other, and maintaining a date night each week. Seriously, the best moments on tour come while with host families.

With perfect weather, great company from the ward, host families, and each other, this turned out to be a won- derful Sabbath Day in the South of France.

P.S. Lucy threw a frog that she saved from the pool down Lauren's swimming suit. Lots of yells and laughing for that one.

July 28, 2014
Alina Geslison

We had a free morning with our host families. Most people slept in and relaxed at home with their host fami- lies. Zach, Jacob, Ali, and Tori were all asked to be a part of the big opening dance with a few dancers from each country. We all showed up at the Center of Life at noon for lunch. After lunch we all had free time for a couple hours until all the dancers had to meet for a big rehearsal for the closing number. The band had free until we met to get ready for the evening show. Once everyone was ready around seven o'clock all the groups were bused over to the stage on the canal. Every group got to perform about two numbers in this last show. It was very busy and exciting back stage as we all conversed and watched each group perform. The opener and closer was a cheorog- raphy of a mix of all the dance styles represented at the festival. It was a wonderful evening. The Mongolian and USA bands were bused at intermission over to The Village to do our animations. The Mongolians were able to perform but a storm had blown in and the USA band only got to play one song before the wind and rain made it impossible to continue. The rest of the evening was canceled, including the big after party for all the groups. Many of us were taken home a little early because of angry host families that had been told the wrong time to pick us up. But we said our good byes to many of our friends that evening. It was a shame the storm kept us from the last after party but we has a great last show that night!

July 29, 2014
Jason Allen

We met at 6:30 AM at the Center of Life in order to head to Paris. Everyone was pretty tired because of the late night. Many members of the French dance team came to see us off, which was very nice of them. We sang "Go Ye Now in Peace" and "God Be with You 'Til We Meet Again" to our host families. A lot of them started crying before we even began singing! Many people in our group cried, too. The host families were all so wonderful! They all waved vigorously to us as the bus pulled out. We got a nice surprise as we got on the bus: our guides

were coming with us to Paris! The bus took us to the train station in Marseilles. Several people from Chateau Gombert came to see us off. Jean-Luc was wearing a sign on his shirt that said "I heart BYU!" What an awesome guy! Many of the boys kept themselves entertained during the waiting by singing songs from "Sons of Provo" to Rebecca. Since it was the end of the line, we had more time to load our luggage onto the train. We were on a double-decker train which was really fun. The festival provided us with lunches which included sandwiches, chips, fruit, and a container full of beets. No one really ate the beets. Most people passed out quickly on the train. When we got to Paris, we unloaded quickly. We also helped a group of young students unload their stuff. In the confusion, a bag belonging to some unknown person was unloaded. It probably belonged to the crying woman on her cell-phone that we passed! A leader of the young kids took it back. We loaded up our bus and headed to the hotel. On the way there, we all got really excited as we passed many cool sights. The hotel itself was nice, with really small rooms. We didn't realize that you had to swipe your card in the elevator in order to make it work. We were confused that it went to every floor except for the one we needed. Luckily Jonathon came to the rescue and explained that vital information to us. Some people slept upon arrival, but many followed Jonathon to the Eiffel Tower where he was going to purchase tickets for the next night's boat ride. The Eiffel Tower was pretty close to our hotel, about a 15 to 20 min walk. It was fun to see it in person. Lots of photos were taken of course. We met up at the hotel at 5 PM to head to Versailles for the YSA activity. It was fun to see one of our churches again. The leaders that fed us dinner were incredibly nice. Dinner consisted of salad, pizza, and some peach or apple cake for dessert. Around 7 PM the members showed up. We danced Running Sets and then one square did Polka Quadrille. We then got everyone up and did a lot of dancing with them. They all seemed to have a fantastic time. After the dancing, two young single adults from the ward shared their testimonies. Mikayla and Brennan shared their testimonies as well. After the closing prayer, everyone ate treats and talked with the members. It was a blast talking with everyone! We then loaded up the bus and headed back to the hotel for some much needed rest. It was a good day.

July, 30, 2014
Mikayla Ellison

Today is our one and only day in PARIS! And is sadly our last full day of tour. Luckily, it seemed like everyone enjoyed it to the fullest.

We were let loose the entire day! All by ourselves. All on our own. No Jonathon to tell us every turn to take. No guides or translators (besides Mike and Kylie). It was fun to have the freedom to navigate the metros and find our way around the city on our own! We barely saw a fraction of the city since we had such a short amount of time to explore. Because we all did our own thing today, I will just list the common stops that most everyone made at one point or another on our day in Paris:

Eiffel Tower
Musée du Louvre
Notre Dame Cathedral
Love Lock Bridge
Sainte-Chapelle
Arc de Triomphe
Sacré-Cœur Basilica of Montmartre
Champs-Élysées

We ended the day by meeting together as a team one last time to enjoy an evening boat ride down the river. Thanks to Kuhlmann running with Jaymie on his shoulders for a few solid miles, we all made it onto the boat with only seconds to spare! It was lovely to be able to spend our last night on tour doing something together as a team. After the boat ride, some people bought crepes, others rented bikes to ride around the city, others sat under the Eiffel tower to watch it sparkle, and most went home to pack and get a good night's rest before our long

July 31, 2014
Jason Checketts

The last day of tour! This day started off a little crazy because we all had to meet at the bus at 7:00am so that we could get to the airport in time for our 10:30am flight. Traffic slowed us down a bit, and we didn't get to the airport as soon as we wanted, which caused some unfortunate stress for everyone, especially Jonathon, he looked like he might die. We got to the airport and were stuck in the back of the GIANT line to check all of our bags and costume boxes. Luckily it didn't take too long for the airline to open up a separate line for us so that we could get to our flight in time. Checking all of our luggage was the most stressful part of the day because there was only one man there to help us check in all of our luggage... poor guy!

Miraculously we all made it through security in time, and we all got to the gate right in time for boarding. Jonathon was nice enough to schedule us a one way flight directly from Paris to Salt Lake City. It was about a 10 hour flight, and because of the time difference we arrived in Salt Lake at 1:00pm, which is about 9:00pm Paris time, so we all had to endure some jet lag as we were headed back to Provo.

As we were coming home there were several comments about things that people would miss the most about Europe, and also what they were most excited for in the United States. For example, most people were excited to have drinking fountains, free water, and free public restrooms! Most people were going to miss the chocolate, the crepes & waffles, the friends we all made, and each other (since this was our last day to all be together at the same time)

Tour was amazing, full of wonderful missionary opportunities, laughs, experiences, and memories that we will always cherish and remember. We all came back better people because of the experiences we shared and the testimonies we gained. We are all better especially because of the spirit that accompanied us on our trip, changed us for the better!

“Go ye now in peace!”

Quotes and Thoughts:

Jeanette – “You two are full of it!” (referring to Christopher & Jaymie while learning Appalachian Patchwork)

Ken – “Are these your matching tour blouses? All them boys are in Red.”

Grace asked, “Anyone want a turn with the Mattress?” Josh heard, “Anyone want a turn with the mistress?”

February 28, 2014

Brian Francis got left @ the venue...poor Brian.

Brian F., Jacob, Jordan B. and Grant got to feed a goat @ the host family's house

Will spread a rumor that Thomas never got on the bus...

Jeanette talking about Brian getting left by the host family, “Help me, Help me!”

A group of us went for a walk before dinner and we had funny races where we 3-legged raced, speed and walking raced (w/ hips included). Jacob won most of the time...

It was so rad! The boys were so weet to “shield” us! We have the greatest boys!”

“Everybody...SHUFFLE!”

Jason Allen – “You can go straight you know...that's why you don't let women lead.”

February 29, 2014

The Meteor Crater pamphlet claims the Meteor travelled at “hyper-velocity speeds”...what does that even mean?!

Meteor Orator

Things from the kids @ Coronado Elementary During MoLittna

“I want that dress”

“They're ALL so pretty”

“They look like butterflies”

“No, they look like swans”

Jaymie- The reason I'm healthy today is because I licked my hands yesterday”

Brain Fern- “...So it's like a gender confused rock.” (referring to petrified rocks)

Jeanette – “I gotta give birth to it.” (referring to her panda in the cahon) “I'm going to need someone help me birth my panda.”

March 7, 2014

After Jaosn C. told Whitney to give Will a wedgie, Whitney: “No, you stick your hand in that stinky thing”

A little girl at the Queen Creek show. Before the show started, when the lights went down and the music started – “Say a way Mama say of a mama yay...” a little girl cried out, “I'm scared”

At the Elementary show @ Coronado all of the little girls at the front were reaching out to touch us as we burst to present in Hopak.

Grace- “I had to run off stage because I broke my G-string! But I'll just use a used one.” Lindsey- “Umm...sorry. I think I heard you wrong. What?”

Brian Fernandez- “I like my women like I like my lemon cake, light and fluffy.”

Brian Fernandez- “The good news is your cat is dewormed the bad news is it's dead.”

A lady at our show in Queen Creek said she was inspired by our show because she used to folk dance and is so grateful that we are keeping the tradition alive.

Jaymie- “Will, your hair is so big do you even need to use a pillow?”

Jason Checketts after Jaymie and Amber walked into the boys bathroom- “Ladies, if you want a show just ask, it’s free!” (Said in Jersey Accent)

“Stay where your supposed to stay, and don’t you dare fall out! Honestly. I want to see a good braid!”

Jaymie and Katie singing in the girls dressing room

Tressie (Age 5) to Jordan L and her brother: “You can’t work together, that’s cheating!”

Tressie to Brian F.- “Okay, we’re going to be a team?”

Tressie to Jordan L.- “We’re cheating!”

March 8, 2014

7 yr. old twin, Logan, “who stole the giant pancake!?” “It was Nate” “How dare you, Nate!”

I haven’t seen this much energy and excitement since the H-bomb” –old man

Emily’s siblings referring to Thomas- “He had to have dyed his chest hair! There’s no way it could be that black!”

While at Montezuma’s Castle

Emily- “I can’t see anything!”

Jason Allen- “Just look into my eyes and you’ll see everything you need.”

Summer Tour Memories:

From Mikayla:

1. In What ways do you think you grew from going on tour?

It’s always humbling to have your eyes opened to how many different types of peoples and cultures there are in the world. There truly is so much diversity and variety in every country. I learned that just because something is different, doesn’t mean it’s weird, bad, or wrong. Just different. (For the most part) I also realized that there are still so many people in the world that need the gospel in their lives and know very little about Mormons. However, I also learned how much God loves all of his children, no matter the culture or country they grew up in. I came home from tour with a broadened understanding of cultures, a clearer perspective on life, a desire to do missionary work, many new international friends, and a gratefulness for America, BYU, and our team.

2. France? Switzerland? Or Belgium? Why?

BELGIUM! I fell in love with Begium on day 1. Reasons why Belgium was my favorite: The weather. The green trees everywhere. Um, hello, Brugge. The beautiful architecture. The kind, giving people. The bomb.com host families. The fact that most people spoke English. The professional, organized festival that actually gave us schedules. The smoutebollen. BELGIAN WAFFLES. Nuff said.

One of the best tour memories was being able to sing “Go Ye Now in Peace” at the church in Schoten. The Spirit was amazing there and we could all feel angels while we were singing. I know I’ll never forget that moment.

From Amber:

I met with a dancer from Tartarstan in Martigues everyday to teach her some basic clogging steps. We didn’t speak each other’s language, but dance has a gift of moving past language barriers. She could not stop thanking me for taking the time to teach her. She then looked at her hand and proceeded to take off a ring that she was wearing and handed it to me. She taught me that people are more important than things and on the last day of the festival I gave her my clogging shoes.

It was amazing meeting so many important people at the Switzerland fourth of July celebration. They invited us back again for another performance! The stage was pretty slippery and there were a few of us who slipped but overall it was great!

From Lauren:

I saw Rebecca hit the pole when she was running back stage and I literally thought she was dead. She laid there for what seemed like forever. It was one of the scariest things ever. We are all glad she’s okay.











