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The Experience of a Lifetime

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Walking, trains, four-hour dinners, and French. Not typical things that most Coastal students would equate to the usual law school experience. However, for close to fifty Coastal students, one Charlotte School of Law student, and a host of French students, this was the norm during Coastal's first ABA approved summer abroad program. The five week program began May 25th and was based in Clermont-Ferrand, France. With a location set amongst volcanoes, beautiful countryside, and just hours from Paris, Milan, Rome, and Montpellier, the stage was set for quite a remarkable experience.

While the traveling, culture, and events were unforgettable, the program was still first, and foremost, a law school experience. Coastal professors Rick Karcher and Cleveland Ferguson, III taught classes on International Sports Law and Comparative Human Rights to both French and American students, and two French professors taught classes on French Business Law and European Union Law. Not only was the in-class



Photos from the Study Abroad trip to France provided by Kyle Sill

experience remarkable, but trips and visits to judicial and political sites helped solidify the legal education. Professor Karcher took students to the Hague to participate in a sports law conference. In addition, Professor Ferguson took students on an eight-hour bus ride to Strasbourg, France. There, students were granted unfettered access to the European Parliament and European Court of Human Rights. Furthermore, almost daily field trips gave students the same access to places like the Regional Council, Tribunal Administratif, Court of Appeals, and Michelin (whose headquarters is located in Clermont-Ferrand). It was not all work and no play, though. Classes ran

Monday through Thursday, leaving time for weekend trips outside of Clermont-Ferrand. Students took trips throughout Europe, visiting sites including Amsterdam, Boussac, Switzerland, London, and Germany. "You really can't experience and understand a society and people until you are amongst them doing as they do, learning the history of each area, and especially eating as they eat. I think it is safe to say that I ate my way through Europe! The funniest part was telling Europeans apart by their shoes, from the high heels of the Italian women, to the cute French flats, and the funky Brit shoes. Traveling was definitely the most fun and informative part of the experience," commented

2L Diana Hansard. In addition, an extraordinary group of French students, dubbed "The Super Brigade," made sure that the experience was more than memorable. The Super

Brigade provided home cooked meals at their flats, tours of their hometowns, local knowledge, translations, many laughs, and (of course) nights out on the town.

A second year law student at the University of Auvergne, Lucie Clouvel, summarized it best. "The main advantage of this summer program was on the human level. Learning about other people, discovering another way to think, a different culture, and a different way to study in class was very rewarding. Saying goodbye was very hard! I will never forget this first summer program." Neither will we, Lucie!



Coastal Students Attend International Sports Law Conference

GEORGE SINGELTARY
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In early June, a group of Coastal students traveled to a not-so-remote part of the Netherlands known as "The Hague" with a general objective: participate in an international sports law conference. Attending the conference were participants from all over the world including Canada, Germany, England, Italy, and America. I was one of the fortunate students who went to the conference. The entire experience was superb. Going into the trip, I

mainly expected long train rides and a relatively bland city. I was pleasantly surprised to find that the city was modern and the food and sights were very appealing. We arrived at the convention not knowing exactly what to expect. Much like any other scholarly convention, some of the speakers were more engaging than others, but overall they were very solid. Professor Karcher started off the discussion with a lecture and as the day progressed, many topics were covered.

One such topic was the 6-5 rule. The 6-5 rule is an intensely debated rule which seeks to mandate European soccer clubs to field a specific number of national players in their games. The rule is intended to cultivate the training of young, national footballers and allow European citizens to better identify with their national teams. As many of you know, European soccer fans take their soccer kind of seriously (understatement of the year). So it's no surprise that the 6-5 rule

was hotly debated at the Hague conference. Many of the Europeans gave their opinions and reasons for wanting the rule. Some of the American students spoke on the topic comparing American baseball teams like the Yankees, which fields a great number of international players, to the European clubs. As American baseball fans know, it would be highly unusual if MLB required players fielded by the Yankees to be born in New York, but for European

soccer this idea is more commonplace. This debate displayed an interesting dichotomy between Europe and the U.S. because the EU nations have their own national identities for each individual nation, whereas the United States have one central national identity and don't expect the players on international sports teams to be from the state which the team represents. In the end, the whole France trip was excellent and I hope that other Coastal students will be able to experience it in the future.