Trip to San Sebastián

Suffolk students ventured north to the Basque Country over the weekend of April 24-26. True to legend, we were met by rolling green hills and the semi-permanent drizzle, or txiri-miri as the locals call it. Still, students forged ahead and discovered the many pintxo bars in la parte vieja, El Kursaal civic center just on the beach, and the famous Playa de la Concha. We stared at a few brave souls who dove into the waves; at Zurriola beach the sea was full of wet-suited kite-surfers. The climb up Monte Urgull was daunting for some, invigorating for others. All agreed, though, that the views at the top were great! Students visited Bilbao’s Guggenheim Museum too, taking in the Murakami and Cai Guo Qiang exhibits. Eskerrik asko and agur.


Bullfight in Brihuega

This semester SUMC students saw a different kind of bullfight. We went a bit further afield and took a memorable trip to the town of Brihuega, in Guadalajara province. As if the setting of a picturesque medieval town weren’t enough, the stage was set for a thrilling event: three of Spain’s most outstanding bullfighters were slated. Enrique Ponce, Francisco Rivera Ordóñez and his brother, Cayetano Rivera Ordóñez, dazzled the spectators with their showmanship and professionalism. All three were carried out of the ring in hero fashion. The crowd cheered, men and women alike vied for photographs of their idols, and then the men in flashy suits vanished inside gigantic vans and were gone! Rock stars a la española.

Students Angelina Koufogazas and Alyson Reitano posed inside the bullring, as the crowd started filling the arena. Students V. Genao, B. Pong, E. Szostowiecz, M. Cobblah, and A. Stackowitz read over the program before the matadors entered the ring.
**Intercambio Night**

A group of twenty SUMC and Complutense students gathered on campus on April 22nd for a language exchange or intercambio. It was a time for SUMC students to try out their prowess with Cervantes’ mother tongue and to help Spaniards with their English. The group divided into four smaller groups and carried out a variety of activities, such as “speed-dating” interviews and Pictionary. ¡Bien hecho!

---

**Anthropology Field Trip to Gredos**

On April 18th, Prof. Dr. William Kavanagh and his anthropology class traveled to the Gredos region, two hours southwest of Madrid. There they visited the relics and sculptures of Romans, Celt-Iberians, and other ancient dwellers of the Iberian peninsula. Some of the most impressive relics seen were the Toros de Guisando, which were built in the second century B.C. and which link ancient Iberian civilizations with the lore of bulls and bullfighting. Students also walked along Roman roads through the Sierra de Gredos before returning to Madrid.

---

**Astronomy Trip to Tenerife**

Imagine sitting on a ship, floating through a sea of clouds, and watching every crystal clear star in the sky guiding you toward the looming mountain in the distance. Now imagine actually having to work to get that ship to its final destination. All that manual labor is a good analogy to the actual work that the members of an Astronomy class at the Suffolk Madrid campus need to complete (except maybe just a little bit harder). The weather cooperated with us every night, peaking with a perfect combination of low humidity, low wind speeds, and cool temperatures on the final night. The first night is always the most exciting— for us, each group had a glimpse of Saturn, an image which seemed unreal, with its satellites scattered around it. Climbing the Teide volcano (still active, but currently dormant) directly after staying up 24 hours was not exactly ideal. The views at the top, however, were completely worth it. The nights that were to follow were a mixture of frustration and thrilling excitement; frustration came from having to operate the large Mons Telescope whose viewfinder did not always match the CCD camera image. Excitement was much more common, particularly when rarer celestial objects were observed. Though it took an hour and a half to find, and my group only captured it for a moment before it disappeared below the horizon, seeing Comet Lulin in a CCD picture, a comet that will soon disappear beyond the reaches of our solar system, never to return, was thrilling. Though my group was not the first to see the images of the Virgo A and the Whirlpool galaxies, I can say confidently that being able to see those images at all left me feeling like I was floating above that sea of clouds. This trip truly is unforgettable, and a once-in-a-lifetime experience that no one should pass up. While the workload can be ominous at times, there are more than enough reasons to take this class. If not for professors or the chance to learn more about the universe we live in, then for the chance to go to the observatory itself, to see the stars above you, and to guide your ship safely through the sea of clouds.

-by Sara Cass (New Hampshire, 2012)
**Intramural Soccer Game**

Students played a final game of intramural soccer on April 30th. It was rather unorthodox, with no referee and no player changes allowed. Still, the time flew by as quickly as the players flew across the field. Honorable mention goes to goalkeepers Alex Capousis and Ryan Correia, for fearlessly trying to defend their goalposts, as well as to the other players for the stamina displayed. The game went on for nearly 100 minutes! It really is fun to watch a fast-paced offensive game that produces goals. Bystanders, too, enjoyed the festive mood and the double-digit scores. In the end the teams tied 10-10.

---

**Indoor Soccer Matches**

SUMC’s indoor soccer players recently played against the CEU San Pablo indoor team. The Suffolk men gained the moral victory, though the final score favored the CEU team. Nevertheless, a rematch was quickly scheduled, and the teams met again on April 29th to match their wits and wills. Suffolk Madrid players made a great effort, though in the end, the scoreboard stood at 9-4.

---

To submit news or announcements to the Suffolk Madrid Newsletter, please stop by the main office and talk to Ms. Amy McAllister.

*Suffolk Madrid, April 2009*