

WHEN IN FRANCE

Collin McGovern

CVEN 311

Dr. Francisco "Paco" Olivera

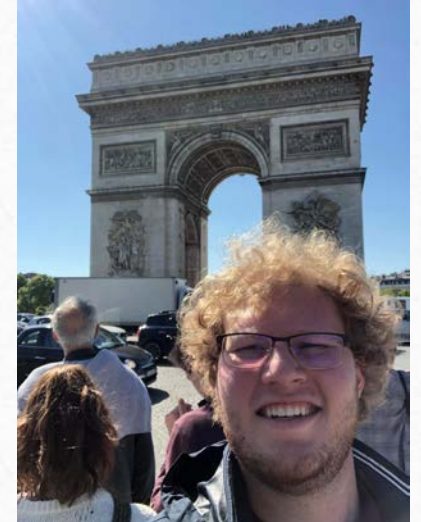
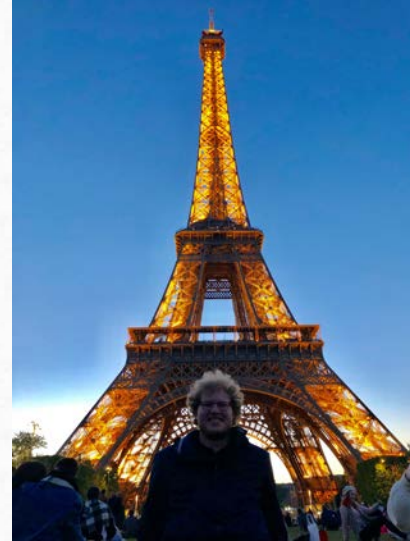
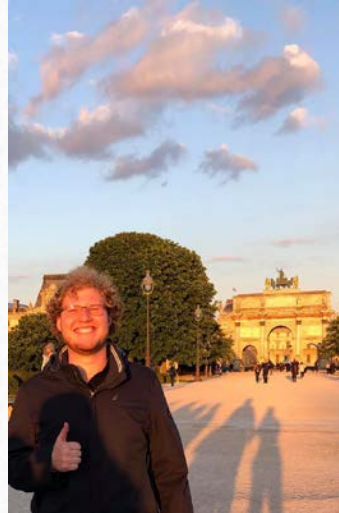
14/6/2019

PARIS

Paris was a great start to the program. It really was a head first dive into French culture (even if Parisian culture is one all in its own, i.e, that Parisian walk).

If you are looking to summit some tall buildings, look no further! Paris is the place to elevate and enjoy amazing views of the city. Excellent views can be seen from the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, the Grand Arch, or atop Monte Martel!

Paris was also a great place to find new friendships as shown=>



VERSAILLE

I don't know if I have ever seen such beautiful gardens before. From the ponds and fountains to the grand maze of hedges, the gardens of Versailles are a truly amazing sight to behold.

When you are not enjoying the gardens you can tour the Palace and see what seems like half of the earth's total amount of gold. Louis XIV went all out with the gilding and created one of the most lavish and most beautiful palaces in the world.



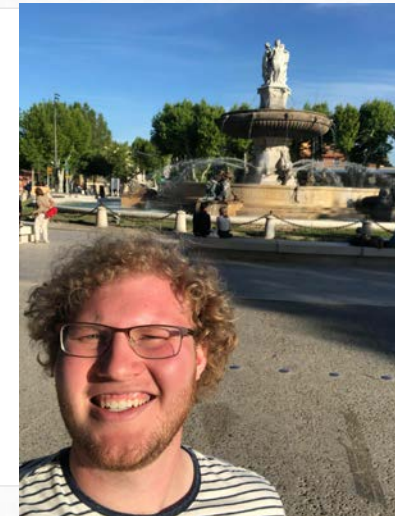
AIX EN PROVENCE

Aix, our home away from home. In Aix, we were really able to experience the culture of south France. By our second week, we seemed like we were locals walking through the Tues/Thurs/Sat market with our Pizza Capri during lunch.

We also hung out with and became friends with ENSAM students. A guy known by his friends as "Groot" explained to me some of the traditions at Arts et Metiers, letting me know that our Fish Camp is extremely friendly in comparison to their tradition of seniors walking around silently in all black for 2 months to spook the freshmen.

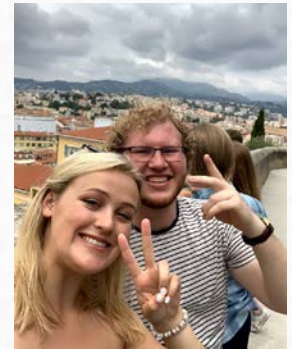
We had the pleasure of attending Arts et Metiers annual gala which was a spectacular social event organized by the students here.

We also enjoyed some amazing group meals with some great friends!



MARSEILLE

Marseille had some beautiful building and views. The old architecture conveyed the grand history of the city. Be careful of pick pockets here though!



NICE

I love Nice! From the beautiful blue water on the beach to getting lost in Old Town, Nice has a great time in store. We were able to experience the beauty of the French Riviera that brings so many people from around the world to south France. I hope I can return one day!



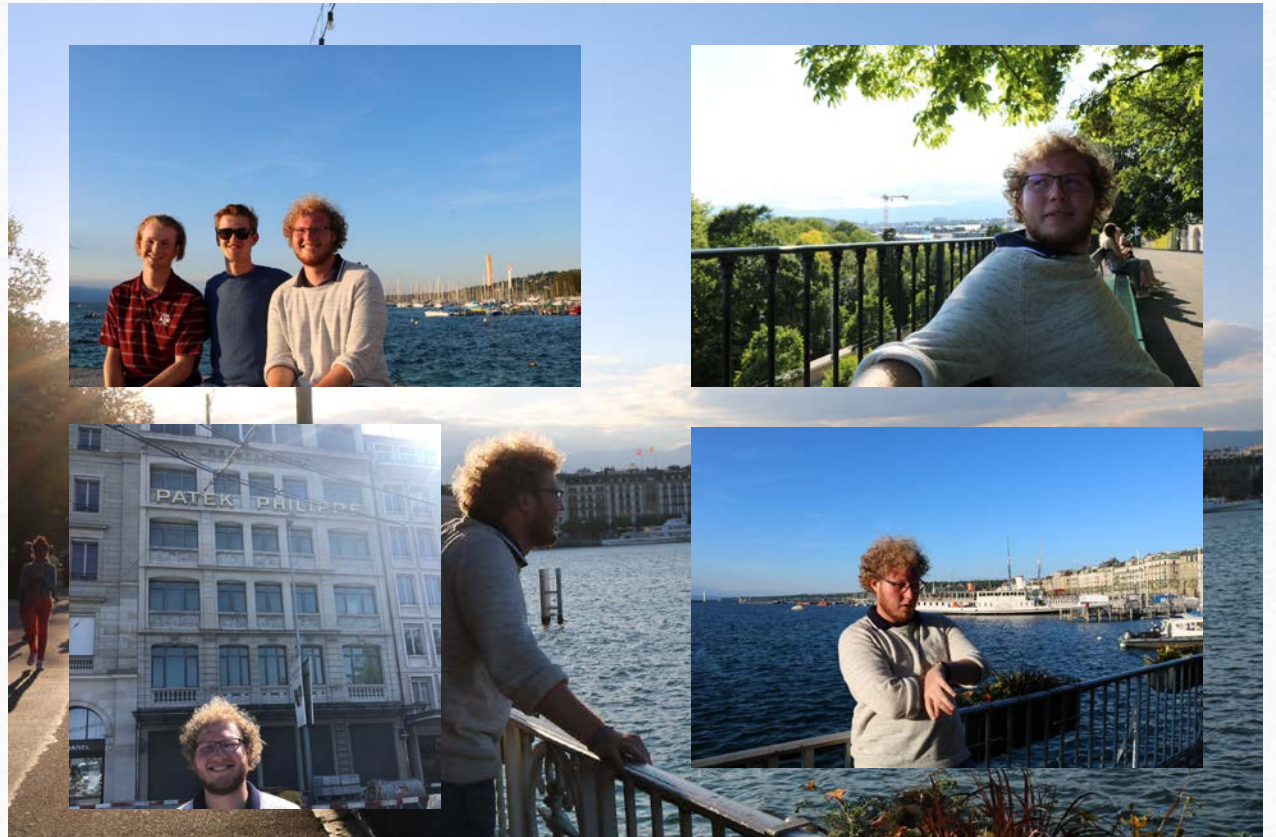
MONACO

If you go to Monaco during the beginning of the summer,...CHECK TO SEE IF IT'S GRAND PRIX WEEKEND! While the Grand Prix tried to prevent us from exploring, we still made it to Monte Carlo and a beach filled with jellyfish!



GENEVA

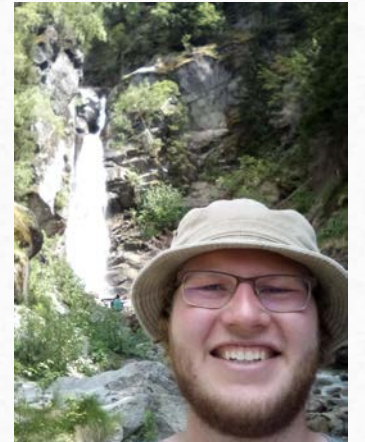
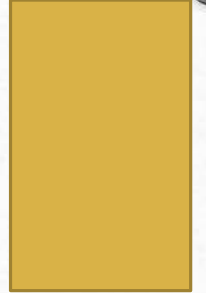
Even with most businesses closed for Ascension Day, Geneva was beautiful! From the gorgeous blue lake to the incredible Swiss watches in the store windows, Geneva is a vision of the finer things in life.



CHAMONIX

I wake up each morning hoping to be in Chamonix and am sadly mistaken. I look for the immense mountains that are ever present peaceful giants that surround the small town of hiking gear, beautiful old buildings, and secretly some of the best gelato around.

Chamonix creates such a sense of perspective. As we hiked up the sides of mountains surrounded by the beauty of the Alps, the grand spectacle of nature gave us a sense of our smallness yet overwhelmed us with the gentle peace of Alpine air and snowcapped peaks.



CALLANQUES AT CASSIS

“It’s so blue.”

– Collin McGovern 21 times in Cassis

Cassis is beautiful country. The bluest water and the jagged cliffs breathe adventure and make for great pictures.



VERDON GORGE

Verdon Gorge is the place to leisurely paddle down the river and view a lush valley that makes for the best pictures. I really enjoyed spending this time on a paddle boat with great friends. It was an experience of a lifetime.



CLOSING THOUGHTS

This program has allowed me to experience a different perspective by enabling me to immerse myself in French culture. From the busy city of Paris to the country side, Alps, and the Riviera, I have seen what it is like living in France whether it is enjoying the beautiful landscapes and mild weather or seeing friends greet each other in the streets of Aix en Provence. This experience has left a positive impact on my life that I will look upon fondly for years to come.

Thank you for everything, Paco!

Merci beaucoup, au revoir!