

# Deaf Studies & Transatlantic Roots in France

Annette (Annie) Van Nosedale | Summer 2019 | National Technical Institute for the Deaf

“A Journey into the cradle of American Deaf Culture by studying the rich history of deaf education and deaf rights in France.”

## Introduction

During the spring semester, students learned:

- History and Culture of France
- History of Deaf Education and French Sign Language (langue des signes française, LSF)

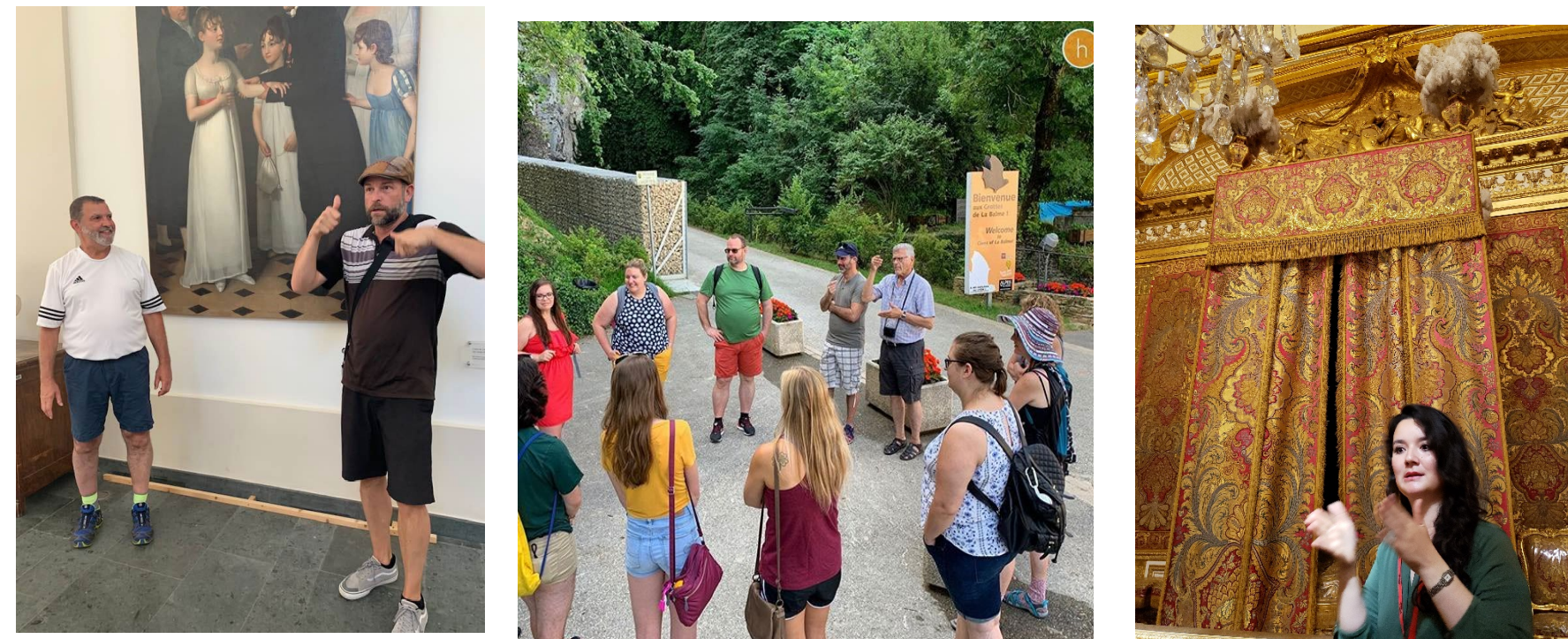
During the France Study Abroad:

- Toured several places to learn about history and culture
- Led by Hands On Travel (HOT) Deaf tour guides who used primary sign language
- Toured for ten days



RIT/NTID Study Abroad 2019 at the Eiffel Tower  
Paris, France

Back row in order: Becki Anderson, Ryan Roy, Annie Van Nosedale, Nicole O'Donnell, Becky Folkerts. Front row: Lisa Johnston, Nicole TenPas, Grace Bradford, Ruth Carroll, Kaitlin Levine, Lexa Frail, and Chris Kurz.



Left photo: (left) Henri Bimont, St. Jacques School for the Deaf tour guide, Darren Frazier (right), HOT deaf tour guide. Center photo: At Las Balme-les-Grottes local deaf guides: Yann Der Parseghian (in grey shirt and cap) and Marc Pregnard (in blue shirt and glasses). Right photo: Deaf Parisian tour guide, Emi Lavigne-Matsuoka talking about the king's bed at Chateau de Versailles.

## Benefits

- Hands on Travel run by deaf tour guides using sign language
- French local deaf tour guides set up by HOT
- Visited iconic locations in Paris
- Visited locations throughout France that were a part of Deaf education and history



Left photo: at Grotte de La Balme (the bat cave). Center photo: Laurent Clerc's home where he was born and grew up. Right photo: close up of the plaque declaring the building a historical site of Clerc's birth place.

## Deaf History Locations

- La Balme-les-Grottes near Lyon where Laurent Clerc, the first Deaf Teacher in the 19<sup>th</sup> century United States, was born
- Louhans where 19<sup>th</sup> century Deaf Rights advocate and author Ferdinand Berthier Museum is located
- Cluny Abbey where monastic sign language was created
- Paris
  - International Visual Theater/LSF Class
  - St. Jacques School for the Deaf where American Sign Language started
  - Deaf exhibition on display at the Pantheon



Left above: with Deaf Parisian tour guide, Emi Lavigne-Matsuoka (center in green dress) at Chateau de Versailles. Right above: with Henri Bimont, (far right) at St. Jacques School for the Deaf. Below: with local deaf tour guide, Nadia (far left in black dress) International Visual Theater tour guide with the LSF class.



h o t  
hands on travel

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