Deaf Studies & Transatlantic Roots in France
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“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

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 Pregourd (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

**Deaf History Locations**

- La Balme-les-Grottes near Lyon where Laurent Clerc, the first Deaf Teacher in the 19th century United States, was born
- Louhans where 19th 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