

**The Observer**

**The Department of History's E-Newsletter**

**for Undergraduate History Majors, Minors & Friends**

# **Purdue University**

**Volume 1, issue 2 (November 2001)**

**Edited by Professor Melinda S. Zook**

**Director of Undergraduate Studies**

"The historical sense involves a perception, not only of the pastness of the past,  
but of its presence." **T.S. Eliot**

Hello and welcome once again to the Observer, the Department of History's e-newsletter for undergraduate majors and minors. The Observer's task in life is to keep you abreast of the Department of History's many events and programs that are designed to enhance your education and benefit your life here at Purdue and beyond.

With that in mind, this month's issue wishes to highlight two Study Abroad Programs offered this summer in which you may receive credit towards your History major or minor. But more importantly than credit hours, study abroad allows you the opportunity to travel; to get up close and personal with your topic of study; to understand something of the world beyond American borders; and to see and appreciate your own country from a distance. It will, in short, change your life.

## **I. Study Abroad**

### **A) History 492M: Heart of the Mediterranean World: Southern Italy, Sicily, Malta (May 16-June 2, 2002)**

Professors Gordon Young and Marta VanLandingham have designed this course to immerse participants in the history, geography, art, and culture of the region at the crossroads of the Mediterranean world.

The strategic location of the southern Italian peninsula and its neighboring islands at the center of the Middle Sea has made them the hub of empires, the target of ambitious conquerors and pirates, and the meeting place of numerous vibrant civilizations. Learn how this region and its people have adapted to the pressures placed by the world at large on their small piece of geography in ancient, medieval and modern times.

The Course Highlights include: The Roman Forum and Coliseum; Vatican City; Naples, Pompeii; The Herculaneum; Isle of Capri; Malta; Magnificent Greek Temples; Palace of the Knight's of St. John.

For more information please contact either Professor Young ([gyoung@sla.purdue.edu](mailto:gyoung@sla.purdue.edu)) or Professor VanLandingham ([mvanl@purdue.edu](mailto:mvanl@purdue.edu)).

**B) History 450: In the English Landscape: Corsham, England (May 13 to June 8, 2002)** (also available for credit through Horticulture and Landscape Architecture)

This intensive four-week study abroad program is designed to familiarize students with the ways that human culture and natural environments intersect to create landscapes. This course is expressly interdisciplinary and intended to be equally accessible to students in agricultural sciences, humanities, and the design disciplines. Consequently, individual objectives will vary considerably from student to student.

The course Highlights include: Biddolph Grange, Blenheim Palace, Chatworth, Great Dixter, Stowe, Hampton Court, Sutton Place, Stonehenge, Iron Bridge, Canterbury Cathedral, Oxford, and London.

For details, costs, and syllabus see Professor John Larson ([larsonjl@prudue.edu](mailto:larsonjl@prudue.edu)).

## **II. A Study Abroad Scholarship**

The Observer is proud to announce the first **History Study Abroad Scholarship**. This \$500.00 scholarship will be awarded to an undergraduate student planning to register for a study abroad program in the summer of 2002. The Director of Undergraduate Studies, Professor Melinda Zook, is now inviting undergraduates interested in competing for this scholarship to send her the following information: a resume (complete with contact information); a short personal statement as to why and where one wishes to study abroad; and a writing sample (preferably from a paper written in a History course). The winner will be announced at the Department of History's Annual Awards Banquet on Thursday, April 11, 2002.

## **III. The James Madison Foundation Fellowship**

The **James Madison Foundation Junior Fellowship** is offered to seniors preparing to become secondary school teachers of history, government, and social studies. Fellows may receive up to \$24,000 in financial support. For further information, please contact Professor Michael Morrison ([mmorrison@sla.purdue.edu](mailto:mmorrison@sla.purdue.edu)) at the Department of History.

## **IV. The Sears Lecture Series Continues!**

This fall the Department of History is sponsoring the **Sears Lecture Series on US-Iran Relations: At the Dawn of a New Century** under the direction of **Professor Janet Afary**. What follows is the lecture and film schedule:

- Monday, November 5 at 7:30, Fowler Hall, Ms. Elaine Sciolino, "Persian Mirrors: The Elusive Face of Iran."

- Tuesday, November 6 at 3:00, Stewart Center, 310, "Iranians and the Internet: History, Modern Literature, and the Arts"

- Monday, November 12 at 7:30, Fowler Hall, Ms. Mehrangiz Kar, "Women's Rights, Human Rights" and Professor Vaentine Moghadam, "Islamic Feminism and Its Discontents."

**The Films** (Saturdays, 7:00pm in Stanley Coulter, room 239)

Nov. 3 - **The Sealed Soil**

Nov. 10 - **The Peddler**

Nov. 17 - **The Cyclist**

Nov. 24 - **The Legend of a Sigh**

Dec. 1 - Nargess

Dec. 8 - **Sara**

#### **V. The Observer's Top Five**

This column asks members of our faculty to list the best history books or novels written, or films directed, about a particular topic. For this issue, we asked Professor Marta VanLandingham to name the five best films about the Medieval Era and Professor Susan Curtis to name the five best novels written in nineteenth-century America (and indicative of the American experience). Here's what they said:

#### **Medieval Europe** (VanLandingham/films)

1. The Lion in Winter
2. The Return of Martin Guerre
3. Monty Python & the Holy Grail
4. The Name of the Rose
5. Becket

#### **Nineteenth-Century American** (Curtis/novels)

1. Mark Twain, Huckleberry Finn
2. Kate Chopin, The Awakening
3. William Dee Howell, The Rise of Silas Lapham
4. Louisa May Alcott, A Modern Mephistopheles
5. Hamlin Garland, Main-Traveled Roads

#### **V. The Historian's Calendar for November & December**

November 5 - 1688, Beginning of the Glorious Revolution in England, Scotland & America

November 7 - 1917, Bolshevik Revolution in Russia

November 11 - 1918, Germany signs an armistice, ending World War I

November 19 - 1863, President Lincoln delivers the Gettysburg Address

November 21-23 - 2001, Thanksgiving Break (No classes Hurray!)

December 1 - 1955, Rosa Parks refuses to relinquish her 'whites only' seat on an Alabama bus

December 3-7 - 2001, Dead Week

December 7 - 2001, Last Day of Classes - 1941, Japanese Attack Pearl Harbor; America enters World War II

December 15 - 1791, The new United States of America adopts the Bill of Rights as the preamble to its Constitution

January 7 - 2002, First Day of Classes: Spring Semester 2002