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USF abroad: Summer courses, tours to visit Europe, Israel

USF's Weekend College will sponsor a study-abroad program during the spring and summer semesters. These study tours are designed to enable participants to take courses (credit or non-credit) and to hear lectures at the universities in Jordan, Israel, Italy and France. The courses which precede the tour will focus on the upper quartile of the arts, history and the humanities.

The first of these is an archaeological excavation at the ancient city of Sopphron, led by James Strange, dean of the Weekend College and a noted professor of religion. The excavation, covering the period of July 20 to August 18, will be headquartered in Nazareth and will offer two courses, Field Methods in Archaeology and Palestine in Late Antiquity.

The second Israeli group, led by Allan Blitch (anthropology), will be housed in Jerusalem, making day trips throughout the country. Places to be visited include Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, Tiberias, Hafia, Tel Aviv, and Caesarea as well as a full-day visit to a kibbutz. Courses which will accompany this study tour are Culture of Israeli and Individual Research.

This two-week tour leaves Tampoa on August 1 and returns on August 15.

The second British tour will be led by Denis Calandra (theater) and will include attendance at six plays in London at Stratford and Edinburgh. The group members will visit such sites as Stonehenge, Guernsey, and the old cities of Plymouth and York, as well as other places of historic interest. The itinerary extends from June 29 through July 14. The course which precedes this tour will focus on the plays to be seen.

The six-week residential study program in Florence, Italy, will be under the direction of Steven Rubin (English). In addition to a full program of art history, students will visit the Uffizi, the Palazzo Vecchio, the Medici chapels, the Accademia, and the Field Museum.

In August, Jerry Van Durmen will depart on a tour which will visit Rome, Pisa and Siena. Museum and site visits will be an integral part of the program. Group members will be able to spend up to 12-14 hours per week under graduate credit or 6 hours of graduate credit in such courses as an introduction to Spoken Italian, Renaissance Arts and Letters, and Italian culture and Civilization. The dates of this study tour are May 2 to June 15.

For further information about any of the above study tours, please contact Jerry Van Durmen at 974-3218.

Regents Study Commission reports recommendations for university excellence

Fifteen major recommendations designed to raise Florida's public universities into the upper quartile of the nation were presented in January to the Florida Board of Regents by a study group comprised of leaders from the business community and the State University System.

The package includes several new approaches to the goal of lifting the universities into top ranks at a time when the state is moving toward the No. 3 spot in population, predicted to occur by the year 2000.

Major thrusts of the proposals by the Regents Study Commission on Funding for Excellence call for increased private funding support, a relaxation of administrative controls and more effective management of resources.

The report was presented by Commission Chairman Raleigh Greene of St. Petersburg at the Board of Regents meeting in January. The Board, meeting as a Committee of the Whole, unanimously endorsed the Commission's recommendations.

In recieiving the recommendations, Regents Chairman Robin Gibson noted that Florida is "inescapably pro pelled" to become a national leader in population, and must develop the "intellectual capacity" to take advantage of economic opportunities presented by this challenge as well as to solve monumental growth problems.

Gibson observed that the report, titled "A Path to Excellence in Public Higher Education in Florida," is "well grounded in fundamentals of good business, good management, good education and common sense," and offers a new and positive approach to building excellence in the universities.

The Regents created the Commission last summer, instructing it to review progress of the nine public universities in meeting the upper quartile goal set by the State Board of Education in January 1981, and to make recommendations for achieving excellence.

In a summary of its findings, the Commission reported that state universities in Florida have made considerable progress toward the upper quartile goal and that the universities in Florida already rank in the upper quartile in a number of areas. However, the Commission stated that the universities still had a long way to go in achieving overall excellence.

While crediting the Legislature with valuable support in expanding educational opportunities throughout the state and with providing funds for a start toward building quality, the Commission noted that with the many competing demands of state government the upper quartile goal could not be achieved with state tax dollars alone.

The Commission commented that while the universities' share of general revenue tax dollars has been running in a range of 10.5 percent to 13.4 percent since 1971 and was unlikely to change appreciably. Accordingly, the Commission noted that "a hefty dose of outside funding was needed.

The report added a note of caution, however, that it is essential that the Legislature "not diminish its support for the universities if increased private support is forthcoming. The margin of excellence for enhancing the quality of public higher education in the state can only be found in the dual support of the Legislature and the private sector," the report stated.

The Commission noted that a key to attracting increased private funding from individuals, corporations, founda tions and other organizations is the development of a comprehensive marketing program in the Board of Regents Office and in the universities, which would seek to position the Florida system as "the premiere state university system in the Sunbelt, competitive with the nation's best."

One of the major keys to quality, the report noted, is top-rate faculty. Accordingly, faculty salaries have been the number one priority of the System the past several years. Budget analysts estimate it would cost between $26 and $30 million to bring System faculty salaries to the level of the 12th state in the nation.

The Eminent Scholars Program initiated by the Legislature in 1979 was cited by the report as a model for public-private incentives. To date, 73 endowed chairs have been funded by the institutions and the private sector.

In order to enhance administrative effectiveness of the universities, the Commission recommended that the Legislature release some of the restrictions and regulations imposed upon the institutions by granting the Board of Regents and the universities local agency status. Such status would allow the institutions to administer their affairs without many of the regulations imposed by other state agencies which are costly and time consuming. Under such arrangement, the institutions would still be subject to audit and to general state laws.

"Granting local agency status to the University System would result in greater productivity because of the significant reduction in duplicative activities among various state agencies, more timely and effective support services at each of the universities and greater effectiveness in its funded academic activities," the report stated.

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**USF-St. Petersburg explores China**

A visit by the cultural consul of the Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China in Houston and a buffet of Chinese food, accompanied by a fashion show of historical costumes, film, and a two-week festival on China presented by USF-St. Petersburg.

**Chung Kuo: The Middle Kingdom**
The exhibition is produced by USF St. Petersburg Lecture Series Committee and the Activities Office, with assistance from the department of geography, the Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China in Houston, and the Sino-American Association of Chinese Americans. For further information and a full listing of events, call (813) 693-9550.

**Exhibits present works of USF students, alumni**

An exhibition of sculpture by three alumni of the University of Florida is on display through March 1 in USF's Teubner Building.

**USF Online Auction**

The exhibit begins through March 5. Most programs are free and open to the public—a number of them are listed in the Calendar Update of this issue of Intercom.

**Film: "The Opium War," Lecture: "China's Face of Modern States"**

A. Mooney, George Dudding and Eric Holt studied together at USF in the 1950s. They will present their fine arts degrees from USF and Dudding received his doctorate at the University of California at Berkeley.

**In the Fine Arts Gallery (SCV), the 10th annual juried USF-St. Petersburg Art Exhibition opens February 22. Students will compete for the $1,000 USF Art Prize for the best fine arts degree from USF and Dudding received his Ph.D. at the University of California at Berkeley.

**Policy Statement**

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**Deadline**

The next issue of Intercom will be published March 8. Please submit copy by February 21. The deadline for the next issue is February 21. Submit copy by March 14 (noon).

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