

Eye on Campus

Spice up Your Summer with a Trip to Greece!

By Emily Cleveland - Lion's Eye Staff Writer - efc5051@psu.edu

Have any plans this May? Have you found that the quicker the end of the year approaches, the barer and desolate those naked slots on your calendar are looking. If you're ready for an exciting new adventure to spice up your summer, look no farther than Penn State Brandywine's Global Programs!

A trip to Greece could be the perfect remedy for your summer blues and, without a doubt, would be the experience of a lifetime! On Saturday, May 7th 2011, students from several Penn State campuses will climb aboard British Airways and return home Monday the 16th as enlightened, cultured adults with better understandings of the world around them.

The first two days of the trip consist of travel and dividing up into two groups. The true excitement begins on day three in Athens. After a tour of the city and the visit of the Acropolis and the Parthenon, students will spend their time exploring places such as the ancient Agora, the Theatre of Dionysus, Karamaikos, Temple of Olympian Zeus, and the Hadrian Library. On the fourth day, travelers will be guided in the direction of



Ruins in Greece. (photo courtesy of www.livius.org)

the Archeological Museum and the Acropolis Museum, where they will be set free to journey through at their leisure. On day five, Wednesday the 11th, students will embark on a two night classical tour of Greece. After three days of experiencing Greece's most breathtaking historical sites such as the Canal of Corinth, Epidaurus,

Mycenae, and the Palace of King Agamemnon, the students will be able to rest in the comfort of a hotel near the beach in Tolo.

May 12th, the groups leave Tolo and head to Olympia, where the students will discover where the Olympic Games originated. They will visit the Temples of Zeus and Hera, the Stadium, the Bouleuterium, the Prytaneion, the Treasuries, the Gymnasium and the Leonidalon. That evening, the groups will continue to Delphi where they will learn a little more about "the center of the world", as ancient Delphi natives called it. It is here that the groups will spend the night and return to Athens the next evening. The remainder of the trip is spent back in Athens with two "leisure" days during which students can visit the Cycladic Museum and opt to take an island cruise in the Aegean Sea.

On Monday, May 16, Group A leaves Athens at 8:15 AM and arrives in Philadelphia at 3:30 PM after changing planes in London. Group B takes a nonstop flight back to Philadelphia departing at 11:45 AM and landing at 4:00 PM.

Now whip out your calendars, Brandywine, and mark the date! Registration deadline is April 7th, 2011! You're sure to find a class that strikes your interest with course offerings including Classical Mythology and Art (CAMS 45/ CAMS 45U), Intercultural Community-Building (HDFS 287W), Arts in Athens and Naples (InArt 1/ ArtH 100), and Ancient Greek Olympics (Kines 96).

Prices range from \$1963.00 to \$2600.00, depending on which optional excursions you choose to include, but note that the combined price for the flight, hotel, and breakfast can easily stay under \$2000.00.

Registration can be completed with the simple click of a button! Just visit the site, www.celestialvoyagers.com and click "Reservations". After signing up, be sure to mail a copy of your passport with the deposit to Celestial Voyagers, 27-28 Thomson Avenue, SW11 Long Island City, NY 11101. For more information, contact Gail Wray at gbw1@psu.edu.

The Lion's Eye Takes on a New Look!

By Ryann O'Donnell - Lion's Eye Staff Writer - roo5042@psu.edu

It's no secret that the Lion's Eye historically hasn't been the most popular read on campus. Starting this semester the Lion's Eye is reinventing its self to become more appealing to the students, faculty, and our surrounding community. The Lion's Eye staff is working extremely hard finding new ways to encourage Penn State Brandywine to become a better, more active campus. While most people leave during common hour to enjoy lunch with friends, the news staff gets to work discusses what they can do not only to increase readership, but also involve the campus community with near daily activities around school.

The Lion's Eye first goal is to encourage students, faculty and staff to actually pick up the newspaper. The team is going to be running newsstands on days the paper arrives to sell snacks and distribute the paper. Team members have been working closely with Brandywine faculty so that the idea could become a reality.

Penn State Brandywine's Student Affairs Office, located on the second floor of the Commons Building, works very hard to involve students in various events on and around campus. Despite their efforts, most of our campus does not know what is happening on any given day because they delete their e-mails, or just ignore professors when they announce such activities. Don't deny it, everyone does it! In upcoming issues, however, those announcements and activities will be shown in the Lion's Eye.

The Lion's Eye has also developed a new style, and we need your suggestions! The team has decided that messages will be projected more effectively if a story preview was offered on the cover of the paper. This way, readers have a "table of contents" showing what is in the paper, eliminating the need to search every page. Predecessors to the current format of the Lion's Eye showed only cover story and did not lead readers to topics being discussed inside the rest of the paper. This should help people find what they want to know much easier.

The latest and greatest addition to the Lion's Eye are the advertisements by corporate sponsors that are scheduled to appear in ever new issue. There will be tons of different coupons and discounts from the campus' favorite stores. This helps fund your news while helping us "broke college kids" pay for a good meal or even obtain clothing discounts. Have a favorite store or restaurant you don't see in the Lion's Eye? Then let us know!

If there are any suggestions or ideas, complaints or problems please email The Lion's Eye at lionsey@psu.edu.

Brandywine Alumni Brings Hope to Afghan Civilians

By Emily Cleveland

Lion's Eye Staff Writer - efc5051@psu.edu

Imagine having all your rights and freedoms ripped out from under your feet. The education you're entitled to becomes a forbidden luxury and learning to read could put you in prison. Leaving your house without a male escort or with your ankles showing could result in your death. This horrifying climate is no foreign idea to women in Afghanistan. About a decade ago, when Afghanistan was taken over by dictatorial Taliban, Afghan natives had the lives they were accustomed to living torn to pieces. Many Afghan women who had been well-educated doctors and lawyers were forced back into their homes and hidden behind covered windows, forced to wear the burqa. The country they once knew and felt comfortable in now remains in a disoriented, chaotic, and anxiety-ridden state.

Fortunately, there is a glimmer of hope. It comes in the form of selfless volunteer workers like Aldo Magazzeni. Aldo is a Brandywine alumni who completed his education at Main campus, but that was just the beginning of his journey. Last Tuesday, February 1st, Aldo took time out of his busy schedule and agreed to return as a guest to the Brandywine campus. Dr. Cole and Dr. Fielding's English 419 and Women's Studies 425 classes awaited his arrival, anxious to hear about his experiences in developing countries, mainly Afghanistan. Unfortunately, Mother Nature had other plans and a harsh ice storm kept Aldo trapped in Montgomery County. Not even she could confine

Aldo was born in a poor, remote area in Italy. He was educated in the states, but always felt a strong connection to his roots and developed a passion for helping those who were not as fortunate as he. Aldo worked in Haiti, Mexico, and South America before being drawn to Afghanistan where he witnessed the desperation, instability, and hopelessness of a powerless, confused community. His journey in Afghanistan began in 2004 and he has since returned more than six to ten times. While there, Aldo started a small, grass-roots organization called Traveling Mercies with its initial intent being to help the sick, elderly, and uneducated. He quickly learned, however, the most crucial thing the Afghans needed was fresh, clean water. Aldo formed trusting relationships with the civilians and within time was able to help fifteen to twenty communities install fresh water systems.

It was in Afghanistan that Aldo met a remarkable young woman named Suraya Pakzad. "Notice the people along the road", says Aldo. "They will guide you in the direction you should be going". Aldo's words could not be better exemplified than by Suraya, an Afghani woman affected by the oppressive rule of the Taliban. It was under these harsh conditions that she formed an underground, highly illegal movement called the Voice of Women Organization (VWO). The goal of the organization is to educate Afghani women and better the lives of the community as a whole. Aldo and Suraya have been working together since 2004 building shelters, running education programs, and giving counseling to those in need. Aldo's organization receives neither government funding, nor does it have any corporate sponsors. All donations come from individuals who feel compassion for these villages and want to get involved. "That's what makes it so special", says Aldo. "These women see that people millions of miles away want to offer their support. The money they receive not only helps them financially; it shows them that they are not alone".

The path hasn't been an easy one. Suraya has received countless death threats and every day spent in Afghanistan, the chance of danger looms. During a few minutes of Q and A at the end of his speech, Aldo was asked, "What keeps you going?" He responded, "Children for the first time are waking up with clean water. Women in prisons are waking up in the morning to improved conditions. You remember that you aren't doing this for yourself; you're doing it for others. That's what keeps you going - along with determination, perseverance, and promise in hope for the future". His advice to the students: "Remember that change takes a lot of time. Be courageous in the face of difficulty and fear; sacrifice is required in activism. Do it peacefully and don't give up".

On Monday, Valentine's Day, Dr. Fielding's and Dr. Cole's classes will be selling bookmarks and cards various places around campus to raise money for Traveling Mercies. All profits will go directly to the organization. More information about Traveling Mercies and Aldo Magazzeni can be obtained by visiting their Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/TravelingMercies>