Buried, but Not Forgotten
The ancient Roman town of Stabiae, once an exclusive beach resort for the wealthiest of Romans, lies three miles southeast of Pompeii on a 100 foot cliff overlooking the Bay of Naples in Italy. Though it was destroyed by volcanic ash from the AD 79 eruption of Mt. Vesuvius, much of it still lies well-preserved underground. Its history has intrigued generations of explorers and scholars, and the University of Maryland is playing a central role in bringing this spectacular site back to life.

What the Romans Grew
Ancient historian Wilhelmina Jashemski, Professor Emerita, UM Department of History, spent more than two decades unearthing the Roman ruins at Pompeii to understand and document the types of gardens they kept. A true pioneer, as the first non-Italian invited to excavate at Pompeii, and one of few women in the field fifty years ago, she is credited with creating the academic field of garden archaeology.

Maryland Day Goes International
Celebrating the international diversity of the university and its ties throughout the world was the theme of the ninth annual Maryland Day, held on April 29, 2007. “You cannot be an educated person in 2007 unless you have some understanding of another culture and their way of thinking,” President Mote said in the opening ceremony. “Our students need to be connected. They need to know how this world works.”

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MARYLAND INTERNATIONAL is the newsletter of the Office of International Programs (Saúl Sosnowski, director; Joseph Scholten, associate director) and the interconnected group of offices under its auspices, including International Education Services (Valerie Woolston, director), Study Abroad (Michael Ulrich, associate director), the Institute for Global Chinese Affairs (Michael Ma, executive director), the Confucius Institute at Maryland (Chuan Sheng Liu, director) and the Maryland English Institute (Marsha Sprague, director). We publish two issues during the spring semester, one during the summer, and two in the fall. To submit story ideas, please contact the editor, Kelly Blake, at kellyb@umd.edu or 301.405.4771.
Each year, more than two million people flock to Italy to see Pompeii, the ancient Roman city that was buried by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in A.D. 79. The ruins at nearby Herculaneum receive a smaller but still impressive 200,000-300,000 tourists annually. Far fewer people travel to Vesuvius’ third great victim, Stabiae.

Situated about three miles south of Pompeii atop an ancient lava flow overlooking the Bay of Naples, Stabiae was an exclusive seaside resort inhabited by Rome’s elite two thousand years ago. They built luxury villas there from which they could enjoy magnificent views of the surrounding bay and mountains, a temperate climate, and thermal mineral springs while they conducted business and ran the empire during the summer months. But the Roman elite’s opulent resort city met the same fate as that of its more plebeian neighbors, buried by Vesuvius’ outburst.

Only a small portion of ancient Stabiae has been excavated to date, but the international, interdisciplinary team at the Restoring Ancient Stabiae (RAS) Foundation is working to change that. “We’re trying to bring back to life what we know is there,” explains Matt Bell, UM professor of architecture and Vice President of the RAS Foundation. “These villas are spectacular; they range from 160,000 – 200,000 square feet each. This is the Roman version of Malibu.”

The University of Maryland might never have become involved in Restoring Ancient Stabiae if it weren’t for Leonardo (Leo) Varone. An alumnus of...
the School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, Varone grew up in the Italian city of Castellammare di Stabia, which lies next to the ancient city of Stabiae on the Bay of Naples. He came to Maryland in his twenties and worked with Professor Bell on his master’s thesis in architecture, for which he explored the possibilities for creating an urban connection to an archaeological park at Stabiae. As a native to the region, he knew the site’s history—which he calls “a fascinating twice-told tale of exploration and passion”—and its potential. In the eighteenth century, the enormous seaside villas were partly excavated via tunneling, along with Pompeii and Herculaneum, during the reign of King Charles of Bourbon. But Stabiae was then reburied and forgotten. In 1950, Libero d’Orsi, the principal of a local high school that Leo’s mother—and later Leo—would attend, resumed work on the site, initially with the help of an unemployed mechanic and a janitor from his high school, and two of the colossal villas were partially re-excavated. While those villas (Villa San Marco and Villa Arianna) are open for public view, Stabiae remains little known. At least six or seven villas were explored by the Bourbon excavators and still lie under the ashes, along with a still mysterious earlier town. The research opportunities in Stabiae are thus vast, and it is probably the only site in the Pompeian region where large-scale excavations will be executed in the next decade, according to Varone.

In 1998, the non-profit Restoring Ancient Stabiae Foundation was initiated by Richard Etlin, UM professor of architecture, and Leo Varone, in collaboration with the Superintendency of Archaeology in Pompei, with representatives from Italy and the United States on its governing board. RAS seeks to transform the site at Stabiae into a multi-faceted archaeological park with a range of educational and entertainment opportunities. “To realize this archaeological park means that visitors will be able to really dive into the unique culture of the Roman elite,” Varone explains. “They could afford the very best architects and artists. The quality of the architecture and frescoes are among the best found in the Pompeian area and it is the only place in the ancient world that features a cluster of enormous well-preserved seaside villas which still maintain the view of the Bay they were mainly built for.” These villas, sometimes referred to as “entertainment machines,” featured porticoed gardens, panoramic terraces, fountains and pools, spas with three different kinds of baths, and large dining rooms situated for the best bay views. Many of the treasures previously unearthed, including 29 original Roman frescoes from the period of

An aerial view of the Bay of Naples shows Mt. Vesuvius and the surrounding area, currently home to an estimated four million people.

With luxury bayview villas from 160,000-200,000 square feet — Stabiae is the Roman version of Malibu.
The ancient Roman town of Stabiae is located close to the modern town of Castellammare di Stabia, approximately three miles southeast of Pompeii, on a 100 foot cliff overlooking the Bay of Naples. This seaside resort was largely destroyed by 6-15 feet of volcanic ash which fell from the AD 79 eruption of Mt. Vesuvius. Its history has intrigued generations of explorers and scholars.

A Royal Treasure Hunt
In 1744, discoveries of ruins at Stabiae led to an official request to King Charles of Bourbon (pictured) to excavate. This task was entrusted to the Spanish engineer Rocco Gioacchino de Alcubierre and the Swiss engineer Karl Weber, who brought to light some parts of Villa San Marco (1749-1754) and Villa di Arianna (1757-1762). The Royal digs took a treasure-hunting approach, and many fine frescoes were removed for royal patrons. Tunnels were dug crudely, smashing through frescoed walls as they went room by room (see photo). Excavations ceased in 1782, and once a site plan was drawn, the area was reburied and forgotten until 1950.

A Humble, Scholarly Pursuit
Libero d’Orsi, a scholar and high school principal in Castellammare, rediscovered the site in 1950 and enlisted volunteers, including the janitor and a car mechanic, to excavate. Only a small part of the area originally excavated in the 18th century was explored, but this area remains open to public view. D’Orsi stored several frescoes and recovered items in the high school basement, where many still reside, awaiting proper presentation to the public. Due to lack of funding, the excavation halted in 1962.

An Integrated Vision for the Future
The non-profit Restoring Ancient Stabiae Foundation was established in 2002 with representatives from Italy and the US. Leo Varone (pictured), a UM alumnus who grew up in Castellammare, was instrumental in getting the University of Maryland to become a founding institution, with support from Professor Richard Etlin and then Dean Steven Hurtt of the School of Architecture. RAS plans to transform Stabiae into a multi-faceted archaeological park with educational and entertainment opportunities (master plan pictured). Varone, RAS U.S. Executive Coordinator, says they will begin the first large-scale excavations of Villa San Marco and Villa Arianna this year.

For more on the Restoring Ancient Stabiae project, visit www.stabiae.org
the first centuries B.C. and A.D., have been on the first ever tour through the United States, a four-year, nine-city exhibit, *In Stabiano*, which opened at the Smithsonian in 2004 and concludes in 2008.

Once built, the archaeological park will become part of a network of sites along the Bay of Naples, all accessible via public transportation. This network will offer “a unique snapshot of all the classes and aspects of the ancient Roman society,” Varone says excitedly. “Pompeii and Herculaneum represent the bustling commercial cities, then there are rural rustic villas at Boscoreale, then you have Stabiae, the beach resort of the elite. It’s a tremendous cultural resource.” Castellammare di Stabia has experienced little of the tourism development of the other sites on the Bay of Naples, but this park, with an estimated budget of almost $200 million, will be a significant economic development opportunity for the city and region. The Campania regional government, interested in making the region of Naples and the Amalfi Coast more attractive to tourists, is matching the funds RAS raises for the park two to one.

Varone stresses the strategic location of the site, both for tourists and for students interested in disciplines including art history, archaeology, architecture, design, and ancient history. “We are in the middle of one of the most culturally dense regions of the world,” he says. “It’s only a few minutes from Pompeii, the Amalfi Coast, and Naples. From Castellammare, you can take a boat and be in the glamorous islands of Capri or Ischia in 45 minutes, or in Sicily in less than four hours.”

*Stabiae project, continued*

**Study Abroad in Stabiae**

The archaeological site at Stabiae provides opportunities for study abroad in many disciplines. This summer’s three credit course, *Archaeological Investigations in the Vesuvian Region*, led by Prof. Lindley Vann of the UM School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation will take students to both Pompeii and Stabiae. In the first week, students will experience the “enormous open air classroom” of Pompeii where they will be immersed in learning about the structure of Roman houses and villas. The second and third weeks will be spent applying the knowledge learned in Pompeii to the site at Stabiae. Students will help investigate the water system of Villa Arianna, including its cisterns, drainage channels, bath suites and spas, and kitchen. They will also add to the historical documentation by reading correspondence from Libero d’Orsi, the high school principal who excavated at Stabiae in the 1950’s, and placing significant information on a master plan. Dr. Vann will send students into the modern city of Castellammare di Stabia to note significant architectural structures there. Castellammare has impressive spas built in the 19th and 20th centuries as well as unique modern buildings built after World War II. Their notes will be used to consider possibilities for adaptive re-use of old structures.

Visit www.umd.edu/studyabroad for more on this and other programs.
The University of Maryland has been bringing students to the site since 2000. “It’s been a wonderful laboratory to bring students to for archaeology and architecture projects,” says Bell. Emily Firestone, an Individual Studies major whose program focuses on ancient architecture, went to Pompeii and Stabiae with a group led by Lindley Vann, UM professor of architecture, in the summer of 2006. “Seeing how the elite of Roman society lived got me much more interested in Roman architecture,” she says enthusiastically. “We measured and drew floor plans of the excavated villas and compared them to the 18th century drawings made by the Bourbons.” Firestone, now an intern with the RAS foundation, says she got more involved with the project to see firsthand how people in the archaeology field in the United States coordinate projects from abroad. Cristina Marcantonio, the RAS USA Office Coordinator, is also a UM alumna (School of Journalism).

A large number of UM students have visited Stabiae on winter and summer Study Abroad programs led by other UM faculty, including Steve Rutledge, associate professor of classics, Clopper Almon, professor of economics, and Mark Leone, professor of anthropology. The core group of faculty, which also includes Elizabeth Marlowe, assistant professor of art history/archaeology, is looking for more opportunities for collaboration with UM experts. Vann is enlisting the help of the A. James Clark School of Engineering to help better understand the hydrology of the site, and Varone mentioned their openness to working with others, perhaps from the Robert H. Smith School of Business, on economic development projections. “We want people from wide variety of disciplines in the university to participate,” urges Bell.

Students have already played a role...
in the planning process for the site. In the summer of 2006, UM students attended an international urban design seminar at Stabiae with students from three other American universities and four Italian universities. Their concept projects explored ways that the archaeological sites within the Pompeian region can be linked together, how the park at Stabiae can improve the visitor’s experience and stimulate other cultural/economic projects to revive the modern city of Castellammare and create a world-class resort. The RAS team is ensuring that more students will come to study at the site by launching the “Vesuvian International Institute for Archaeology and the Humanities” this summer, an international residential research center similar to the American Academy in Rome. RAS has purchased a modern facility in Castellammare, previously used as a seminary by the Salesians of Don Bosco, that can house up to 300 students at a time, is fully equipped with study rooms and an auditorium, is very close to the ruins at Stabiae, and easily accessible to public transportation. “There’s nothing south of Rome like this facility,” says Bell. “It’s a great academic setting for international student groups that want to explore the Bay of Naples region.”

The RAS Foundation is a unique international collaboration between public and private entities, and this approach may become a new model for managing archaeological resources in Italy. The site at Stabiae is managed by Superintendency of Archaeology of Pompei, which operates under the Ministry of Cultural Properties of the Italian government. RAS created its foundation at their invitation, because it could receive and administer both public and private funds, and maximize their effectiveness in preserving the site. Varone says that time is in fact running out to protect the site, as it is threatened by illegal building in the surrounding area. One advantage of the public/private partnership is that it can expedite the purchase of privately owned agricultural land at Stabiae, to assure unrestricted access for excavation and provide a buffer area around the site.

Nonetheless, the RAS architects envision that the surrounding area will be integrated with the master plan at leisurely play: At Leisurely Play

The Restoring Ancient Stabiae (RAS) Foundation touring exhibits offer unique opportunities for cross-cultural exchange in the field of archaeology. In this spirit, RAS, in collaboration with the Superintendency of Archaeology of Pompei and the Region of Campania, is organizing Otium Ludens. The exhibit, whose title means “at leisurely play,” will feature 250 artifacts, which are among the most beautiful recovered from the lavish seaside villas of Stabiae and date back to the 1st centuries B.C. and A.D. Its tour will extend to the most important museums in the world, beginning with the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia, where the exhibition will be on display starting September 21, 2007. This new exhibition will establish contacts within the cultural and academic environment of each country where it will travel, involving it in RAS’s mission to realize the Archaeological Park at Ancient Stabiae. This event is particularly important for Russia, as it has never before hosted an exhibition devoted to the sites that were buried by Mt. Vesuvius’ A.D. 79 eruption. The exhibition will then travel to China, Brazil and Australia. For further information, contact: Architect Angela Vinci, Manager of exhibition - RAS Foundation, angelavinci@mac.com or visit www.stabiae.org.

Pictured at left – Flora fresco from Villa Arianna depicts a lovely maiden gathering flowers, first half of first century A.D.
We want people from a variety of disciplines in the university to participate. There are many questions about how Stabiae relates to the city, the region, and the network of archaeological sites in the area.

plan for the park. “It will be actively engaged with the real city,” Bell says. “In addition to the visitor center, café, bookstore, and on-site museum, you will have a cultural hub where the visitor can hear concerts, take classes, or just be able to walk through it on a daily basis like you would go for a walk in Rock Creek Park.” They are quick to point out that this project offers a rare opportunity for the University of Maryland, as one of the founding institutions, to be not only a scientific/academic collaborator, but an active partner with the Italian government in managing the entire site, including its museum, bookstores, and facilities.

The RAS foundation is actively fundraising for the conservation of the endangered frescoes on site and for the master plan, which will be implemented over a ten-year period. They have received generous donations from individuals through their Adopt-a-Fresco program, which has restored nine frescoes that will travel to St. Petersburg, Russia as part of a 250-piece exhibition (Otium Ludens) at the Hermitage Museum this fall (see side bar, p. 9). Several more frescoes still await adoption (for information on how to adopt and help with the restoration of an original fresco from Stabiae, visit the RAS Foundation’s website: www.stabiae.org). A UM alumnus, Dr. Erik Young, has given generously to the Stabiae project to insure that undergraduate students can participate in scientific and academic seminars, and to help support interdisciplinary collaboration at the site. RAS and the Superintendency are preparing to begin new excavations this summer, using advanced geophysical and remote sensing archaeological technologies to pinpoint the priority areas. These exploratory excavations will lead to the first large-scale excavation of Villa San Marco and Villa Arianna. Although the volcanic pumice rock and ash that covers Stabiae is relatively easy to remove—“You can even do it with your hand,” Varone says—the foundation has been cautious not to begin new excavations before having the necessary funds for preservation, which carries a greater price tag. “The minute you expose a fresco to the exterior it starts to deteriorate,” Varone laments.

Fortunately, Stabiae’s relative anonymity means that much of the site has remained well-preserved underground. Its unique site on the cliffs above Castellammare also means that it can be eventually excavated to its full extent, making it a rare archaeological gem. Its artistic and historical importance to the Roman Empire and its future integration with the other archaeological sites and modern world surrounding it make this site a rare opportunity for University of Maryland students and faculty. “It’s not like just going out to an archaeological site somewhere,” Bell says. “There are all kinds of questions about how it relates to the city, the region, the network of archaeological resources in the area. What is the future life of this place going to be like? To have a hand in that is so exciting.”

What is the future of this place going to be like? To have a hand in that is so exciting.
RESTORING ANCIENT STABIAE FOUNDATION

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FOR MORE ABOUT RESTORING ANCIENT STABIAE (RAS) PROJECT, VISIT WWW.STABIAE.ORG.

Dr. Jashemski was not trained as an archaeologist. She came to the University of Maryland in 1946 as an ancient historian, and her scholarship in this area, focusing on Roman constitutional government, garnered great respect after the publication of her first book in 1950. She was looking for a new research topic when her husband, Stanley Jashemski, suggested, “You love gardens, and the Romans loved gardens, why don’t you research Roman
gardens?” Wilhelmina replied gleefully, “That sounds like too much fun to be a serious subject for research.” As every academician knows, finding a research subject that is worthy of exploration yet remains unexplored is a cause for great celebration, and after checking the literature on her own, and then with her dissertation advisor, Dr. Jashemski came to the conclusion that indeed no one had ever seriously studied Roman gardens before.

Dr. Jashemski and her husband Stanley, a physicist, first went to the Pompeii region in 1955. She had begun her exploration in Egypt where she knew there had been a tradition of gardens, to see if they had influenced the Roman gardens. She then scheduled one day each at the ancient sites of Pompeii and Herculaneum. “I thought then that I would simply read the excavation reports that had been published and then go and see the places that were obviously gardens and that I could write a book from that,” she says with a chuckle. It didn’t take long for her to realize that she would need to unearth the evidence herself, because very little had been written about gardens. “I knew they had peristyles [a colonnade that surrounds a courtyard] with soil in them and I thought they surely were planted and that the big open spaces were planted.”

In 1961, the Superintendency of Archaeology of Pompeii invited her to excavate a garden. “Up until then, there had never been a non-Italian excavate at Pompeii,” Jashemski says proudly. There were also very few women in the fields of ancient history and archaeology in general. Although Jashemski recalls that many of her UM colleagues at the time found her research subject “something sort of silly,” she also remembers what Frank Brown, who was the director of the American Academy in Rome and a preeminent archaeologist at that time, said about her credentials. “You’ve got the best possible preparation. You’ve got all those years of Latin and Greek and ancient history. You understand the people and what their lives were like, so you’ll be able to interpret what you’ll find. So many archaeologists dig and don’t even realize what their looking at.”

Wilhelmina and Stanley traveled to Pompeii every summer for more than 20 years. They established a large interdisciplinary network of scholars who contributed expertise, and developed close relationships with their team of Italian workers, many of whom were farmers with a vast knowledge of local growing traditions. “The only requirement made when they asked me to excavate at Pompeii was that I hire Italians,” Wilhelmina explains. “It was right after the war, you see, and there was no work. The only work they had all year was the work we gave them, and they thought we overpaid them!”

Once they pulled out weeds, wildflowers, and other debris and got down to the A.D. 79 level, there were breaks in the lapilli (the volcanic debris left by Mt. Vesuvius) where trees had once protruded. They made plaster casts of these spaces, as was done for the spaces left from bodies that had been trapped by the volcanic eruption. They unearthed statues and mosaic fountains, garden furniture and trompe l’oeil paintings that made gardens appear larger by creating the illusion that they extended into the countryside. “The Romans loved the aesthetic value of gardens,” Jashemski says. “Even in the most inelegant, one-room houses, half of the space would be devoted to a garden.”

Dr. Jashemski credits her husband Stanley with also suggesting many useful approaches to collecting tangible evidence of gardens, including the soil analysis that revealed pollen from plants, such as olive and fig trees. “I couldn’t have done it without him,” she says, recounting all the things he contributed, including photographic documentation, payroll, and surveying and mapping the garden sites. Jashemski estimates that more than 50 experts in various scientific fields contributed to her study, which culminated in the publication of her landmark book *The Gardens of Pompeii, Herculaneum and the Villas Destroyed by Vesuvius* in 1979. She published a second volume in 1993, as well as *The Natural History of Pompeii* in 2002, among others.
GETTING STUDENTS TO “GO INTERNATIONAL”

All across campus, people are talking about the benefits of international experience. The six faculty in this year’s Center for Teaching Excellence - Lilly Teaching Fellows program (who have been investigating international study and its role across disciplines) organized the event Going International on April 26, 2007, to promote undergraduate participation in international learning. Special guest Bruce LaBrack, professor, University of the Pacific’s School of International Studies, discussed communication across cultures and how insensitivity to different styles can impede understanding. He stressed that the more linear, direct style of communication that predominates in America is only employed by 2/7th of the world. He referred to the “What’s Up with Culture?” website that he created as a resource for students going abroad (www.uop.edu/sis/culture/). “Maximize your experience,” he said. “And don’t annoy the locals!”

An undergraduate student panel, moderated by LaBrack, shared their study abroad experiences. LaBrack remarked that only 1% of American students study abroad and that more than half of that group goes to Europe. In contrast, this non-traditional group included students who studied in Australia (Rachel von Glahn), the Dominican Republic, China, and Vietnam (Christopher Brown), Egypt (Anson Knau-

Jashemski is recognized today for her role in creating a new academic discipline referred to as garden archaeology, which was previously not part of the repertoire of ancient historians. She was honored with the Gold Medal for Distinguished Archaeological Achievement by the Archaeological Institute of America in 1996. “I am writing my memoirs now,” Jashemski says. “The archaeologists told me I should do it when they gave me the gold medal because my work was unique, that I really created a new field.”

Jashemski continues to publish on the subject of Roman gardens; The Gardens of the Roman Empire, which Jashemski edited and contributed two chapters for, will be published by Cambridge University Press later this year. As she approaches 97, she still recalls vivid details of breakthroughs at Pompeii, or of the enduring friendships she made with Italian colleagues and UM graduate students whom she mentored. She has made arrangements in her will to leave her Silver Spring home (and its lovely garden) to the UM School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation. The “Stanley and Wilhelmina Jashemski Study Center” will be used to house the school’s distinguished visiting professor, and continue to serve as a gathering place for the scholarly community Jashemski has so carefully cultivated during her 61-year relationship with the university.

The event was sponsored by Center for Teaching Excellence, Office of Undergraduate Studies, International Education Services, Office of Student Affairs, and University Libraries.
BRIDGING CULTURES: 
Confucius Institute Highlights History of Christianity in China; Hosts Competition for “Foreign” Students of Chinese

The Confucius Institute at the University of Maryland co-hosted “A Bridge between Cultures: Commemorating the 200th Anniversary of Robert Morrison’s Arrival in China” with the Centre for the Study of Christianity in China in Oxford, England (CSCiC) and the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. This two-day academic conference, held at the Library of Congress in March, honored teacher and translator Robert Morrison, whose arrival as a missionary to China two centuries ago sparked the study of Chinese culture at western universities. More than 20 of the most renowned scholars of 19th century Christianity in China from England, the U.S., Hong Kong, China, Japan, and Taiwan presented on such topics as Christianity in China, Love and Faith, Textuality and Confucianism, and Missionary Influence on Culture and Religion in China Today.

The Confucius Institute also held the 6th annual Chinese Bridge Language Competition in March, with the theme “China Anticipating the 2008 Olympics.” The event for “foreign” students of Chinese to showcase their knowledge of the culture and language included a narrative in Chinese, cultural dance, and martial arts performances. CIM also hosted the 9th annual Wang Fangyu Chinese Calligraphy event in April, which featured Dr. Bertrand Mao who demonstrated “The Dance of the Brush,” and a forum on Issues in Higher Education. The forum explored 21st century developments in higher education throughout China and the world and featured talks by Dr. Dan Fallon, Chair of the Education Division of Carnegie Corporation of New York, and former UM Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost; and Dr. Da Hsuan Feng, VP for Research and Graduate Education, and Professor of Physics at the University of Texas at Dallas.

MEI Hosts Taiwanese Students for American Culture Immersion

The Maryland English Institute (MEI) will host a group of 20 students from Taiwan July 18 – August 8 for a three-week program, Tunghai in Washington. This program, customized for upper level undergraduate and first year graduate students of Tunghai University of Taiwan, blends practice in communicating in American English with opportunities to examine American culture and exploit the rich cultural resources of the nation’s capital. It is a highly interactive, student-centered program that requires students to carry out a field project based upon their experiences as observers of, and participants in, American culture.

In addition to daily study of American English, students will also explore American culture three days a week through a special course taught by the Department of American Studies. This course, Three Weeks in the Lives of Americans, considers American culture through history, politics, religion, economics, cultural diversity, and Latin American culture in the USA. As part of the process of exploring American culture themes, students gather for panel presentations and take part in educational excursions to relevant sites, such as the museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the monuments and memorials of the National Mall, and various ethnic neighborhoods in Washington, D.C. Following the program, students will travel to various parts of the United States before returning home.

TOP Jianxin Cui, CIM Chinese teacher from Nankai University; Chuan-sheng Liu, CIM Director; Ying-shih Yu, Professor of History, Princeton; Prof. Wu, Catholic University of Hong Kong; Hwa-wei Lee, Chief, Asian Division, Library of Congress

BOTTOM Ms. Ganna Khmelenko, of Brigham Young University, won second place in the Chinese Bridge Competition with a Ribbon Dance.
Irish Ambassador Noel Fahey Discusses Peace, Prosperity, and Trans-Atlantic Ties

His Excellency Noel Fahey, Irish Ambassador to the United States, reflected on the ongoing challenges the Irish and British governments face in maintaining peace, integrating Northern Ireland, and the United States’ role in the peace process during his April 19, 2007 visit to the University of Maryland.

Since the breakout of the violent conflict in Northern Ireland in 1968, the cycle of violence has claimed some 3,600 lives due to political killings in a population of only 1.7 million. The economy and political unity have also suffered. Today, the most striking problems that Northern Ireland faces are employment, industrial development, and political unity between the rival Northern Ireland Assembly and the Irish Government, acknowledged Amb. Fahey.

The Ambassador nevertheless believes that the management and resolution of the conflict in Northern Ireland has succeeded due to multilateral partnerships. The Belfast Agreement in 1998 was endorsed by most political parties to stop violence, establish partnership, and mutual respect. “I’m a believer that the peace process has to be inclusive and that all parties have to participate in round-table talks,” Fahey stated.

With over 35 million Americans of Irish decent, the U.S. government has played an important role in the peace process of Northern Ireland. “American support for structuring and developing a new political force to stop violence and criminal activities has been long-term,” noted the Ambassador. The US made an initial contribution of 85 million dollars to the International Fund for Ireland, which has helped facilitate the creation of thousands of jobs in disadvantaged areas of Northern Ireland.

In spite of the remaining problems and a fragile future, Ireland has been reported to have the second highest GDP per capita income of any country in the EU and fourth highest in the world. The Ambassador draws parallels between successful economic development and the growing support for political unity in Ireland.

Greek Ambassador Announces Grant for UM Hellenic Studies

The Hellenic Republic’s ambassador to the US, His Excellency Alexandros Mallias, visited UM on April 19, 2007 to speak on the “Greek-U.S. Strategic Partnership in Southeastern Europe.” Ambassador Mallias compared Greece’s emergence in Southeastern Europe to the recent success enjoyed by Ireland in the northwest, both resulting from a steady decline in barriers to economic, cultural, and political cooperation that has marked the growth of the European Union. In particular, he noted that his country’s population has grown by ten percent in the last decade and has successfully absorbed a large influx of refugees from the Balkan conflicts without xenophobic backlash. In looking to the future of Southeastern Europe, Amb. Mallias stressed the importance of new thinking, and the use of “soft power,” suggesting that Bulgaria’s slow, methodical transformation offers a model for how countries can transition from closed political, economic, and social systems to free and open ones.

Ambassador Mallias also used the occasion to deliver a Memorandum of Understanding to James Harris, UM Dean of Arts and Humanities, that was recently signed by the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and UM’s College of Arts and Humanities, to establish a Hellenic Studies program at UM. Through this agreement, the Greek government will provide a $250,000 endowment for that purpose. Accompanying the ambassador were his wife, Mrs. Francoise Anne Mallias; Mr. Karolos Gadis, Deputy Chief of Mission; Mrs. Connie Mourtoupalla, Cultural Affairs; Captain Vasileios Kyriazis, Naval Attache; Lieutenant Colonel Sotirios Kasselouris, Asst. Defense & Military Attache; and Lieutenant Colonel Ioannis Pouloupolus, Asst. Air Attache. In addition to Dean Harris, UM representatives included Mary Pittas-Herschbach, Department of Classics; Mrs. Mary Baras (whose husband John Baras, professor, electrical and computer engineering, has been instrumental, along with Prof. Pittas-Herschbach, in arranging for the new Hellenic Studies endowment); and Prof. Hugh Lee (Classics Chair).
Maryland Goes International With Style

It was a day filled with international delights. Flags from around the world, student performances, crowd-pleasing cooking demonstrations and 400 events across the University of Maryland campus. Maryland Day 2007 drew an estimated 77,000 visitors this year – a new record for the nine year-old annual event. The open house is becoming a must-attend day for Terp fans across the Washington, D.C. region. This was the first Maryland Day to feature a full day of events focused around the theme of the Global Village. The opening ceremony at Hornbake Plaza featured not only welcoming comments from Dr. Mote and Global Village Chair Johnetta Davis (Associate Dean, Graduate Recruitment, Retention & Diversity), but also a procession of 200 flags from around the world. Faculty, staff, and students volunteered to be part of the procession – one of the most colorful events ever held on Maryland Day.