

# Summer school under the Tuscan moon

*The Office of Study Abroad encourages students to study in Italy, Switzerland and U.K. for the summer of 2002*

## Does a view of the Alps from your classroom sound appealing?

KRISTEN THOMPSON  
Staff Writer

The train is leaving--and you will want to be on it according to Study Abroad Program Director Betty Webb, who last week launched her office's campaign for Meredith study abroad opportunities in Western Europe for the summer of 2002.

Meredith students and faculty will be traveling to Italy, Switzerland and the United Kingdom May 16 through August 4 this summer.

For students choosing to participate in the first half of the trip which will cover Italy and Switzerland, the dates are May 16-June 29, while in the second half of the trip to England and Scotland, will cover June 29-Aug. 4. All of the dates, however, are tentatively set at this point in time.

The trip begins in a small

town in Italy called Sansepolcro where students will spend 4 weeks learning about the culture, taking classes and participating in activities such as eating dinner with local families each Friday night of the stay in the city.

Sansepolcro is located about half way between Florence and Rome. Classes in Italy will typically meet in the mornings and early afternoons, leaving most of the evenings open for study time and exploration of Sansepolcro and Tuscany.

Many of the group excursions taken in Sansepolcro will introduce students to the culture and art of nearby cities.

During the three-week stay in Italy, there will be three-day travel breaks that give students the opportunity to travel independently wherever they choose. For example, many students have traveled to Rome or Venice during the three-day breaks.

"You will learn how to travel independently and safely, so you can travel independently and safely everywhere you go throughout the trip," said

sophomore Lindsay Bass, a former study abroad participant.

The next map dot is Switzerland, where those famous Alps will be the view outside the window. Students stay as the guests of Franklin College, located a few minutes from Lake Lugano.

The final travel break is in Switzerland, where students can travel to France or Germany. In Zurich, Germany, students who signed up for the first part of the trip will board a flight and head home, while the rest of the students will stay and join incoming students who will then head to London, England.

In London, "life is easy," says Webb. "You aren't far away from things, you can go out and do things and be back for dinner."

In London, you will be in the heart of the city--Kensington Square. Here students will be overwhelmed with opportunities in theatre, dance, art, museums and historic sites.

After four weeks in London, students head to Scotland

where they will spend nights en route in York and Durham. This 1-week of traveling ends when students get to Manchester, England, and head back to the States.

The program offers three courses in Italy and Switzerland including Environment and Society; Arts, Artifacts, and Culture--the Continent; and Italian Music: Melody, Style and Drama. The three courses in England and Scotland include Arts, Artifacts, and Culture--U.K.; British Parliamentary Government and Survey of Dramatic Literature.

If a student decides to go on the entire trip, she can earn 12 hours of credit. The cost for the full program is \$7250.

Additional costs include money for independent travel and personal spending as well as airfare, which is arranged by the Office of Study Abroad at a group rate.

In 2001, the group rate was \$706 per person for airfare. Last year's students reported spending between \$2,235 and \$4,400 on travel, food, gifts,

sightseeing and entertainment. The average amount was \$3,100.

Scholarships and financial aid are available. Sophomore Holden Burke, who went on the trip last year, said that students should not let money hold them back.

"It was the best money I ever spent. It was a priceless experience," she said.

Burke was one of the last students to sign up for the trip, and reflecting on the experience, said she did not know what she was waiting for.

"It is the best of both worlds to go with a Meredith program--you are going with people you know but are allowed to be independent."

After all, during her trip, Burke was one of the students who did a parachute jump out of an airplane.

Students can pick up information and an application for the summer program at the Office of Study Abroad, located in 124 Joyner. The deadline for the trip is Jan. 18, 2002.

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## Meredith Service Awards for 2002-03

President Hartford has identified funds that will be used to provide another round of service awards in the amount of \$1,500 to recognize undergraduate students who have made outstanding contributions to the community through leadership activities and/or service. Eligible students are encouraged to apply.

### Requirements:

- 1) Be a currently enrolled freshman, sophomore or junior taking a full-time program of study;
- 2) Be in good standing, with a Meredith GPA of at least 2.25;
- 3) Have financial need, which is defined for this purpose as documented financial need that has not been fully met or as unusual financial circumstances that warrant special consideration.
- 4) Give evidence of significant contributions to the College or to the wider community, either through leadership roles or through service.
- 5) Be recommended by a Meredith faculty or staff member or by a community member familiar with her service contributions.

Application forms available in the offices of the President, Financial Assistance and Dean of Students or from Class presidents.

### Deadline:

File applications in the Office of the President by Dec. 5, 2001. Students who already have a Meredith Service Award do not need to reapply, as the awards are renewable provided the criteria for renewal is met.

Questions? Contact Sue Kearney, Dean of Enrollment Planning and Institutional Effectiveness.