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History Alive!

The Providence College Johannine Society Newsletter
Vol. IV No. 1

Fall 2000

Involvement Fair Edition

Club Activity Highlights from the 1999-2000 Academic Year:

State House Tour: A Review by Keith Lewison

On Saturday, November 6th the Johannine Society took a tour of the Rhode Island State House; it was under the direction of a certain Mr. Ham, a generous volunteer docent. Along the tour – which Mr. Ham supplemented with original rhyming poetry – we all learned new facts about both the State House and Rhode Island's history and government.

In addition to the opportunity to view the building in all its glory we had the benefit of Mr. Ham retelling much of Rhode Island history to us. This was most interesting for it was supplemented with many of his colorful insights into Rhode Island and Rhode Islanders. For instance, I learned at least two new interesting facts about Rhode Island, first, that Rhode Island is the only state in the Union which does not have a balance of power, instead the legislative branch runs the entire show possessing the power both to overrule the Governor and appoint judges. The other fact is that Rhode Island has more different types of licence plates than any other state. Finally, special thanks to Mr. Ham for sharing his time.

JFK Library Trip: A Review by Keith Lewison

On Saturday, April 8th the History Club took a trip to the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston. The trip provided club members and many non-members the opportunity to gain insight into the life of JFK America's 35th President, as well as the Kennedy family. The Library and Museum included many wonderful exhibits ranging from JFK's boyhood to his days in the Presidential Office. Also, included in the museum is a variety items from Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and JFK's brothers Robert and Edward.

Luckily we enjoyed a beautiful Spring day in which to enjoy the view of the harbor and the historic atmosphere of Quincy Market, where we arrived in time for a late lunch and shopping.

Braveheart Night: A Review by Keith Lewison

On the night of Tuesday, April 18th the History Club brought in Medieval military historian, Dr. Mark Vaughn, to discuss the 1995 *Best Picture* award winning film's historical and military accuracy. The event became the most well attended of the year overflowing the room in Feinstein. Dr. Vaughn went on to show clips from the film and discuss the history behind them. What we learned is that overall the film appears very historically accurate. But in fact, the entire time line has been edited and rearranged to enable a better Hollywood plot. Despite the fact that the film was not always accurate – it did portray Medieval life and warfare well – Dr. Vaughn says that it can serve as motivation to people to learn more about a historical event or period. And after all *Braveheart* is a great film.

Up Coming Club Events:

1. The History Club's first general club meeting of the new year will be held on Tuesday, September 19th at 8 P.M. in Slavin room 217.
2. Saturday, September 23rd 2000 – the History Club is going on its annual Water Fire trip to downtown Providence. Before Water Fire the Club will be taking a guided tour through Roger Williams Federal Park, at 6 P.M., and learning about Rhode Island State history. Then afterward we will precede to Water Fire. After that there will be plenty of time for dining in any of the great downtown restaurants.

Events on the Horizon for the Fall Semester:

1. An insightful Providence College campus tour with Dr. McCaffrey will take place in mid-October.
2. The club will be taking a trip to Connecticut's Pequot Native American Museum.
3. Dr. Richard Grace will be giving a discussion on a topic to be announced.

Executive Board for 2000-2001 Year:

1. President: Brian Daley 751-6644
2. Vice-President: Keith Lewison x4203
3. Treasurer: Brendan Lefebvre x4206
4. Secretary: Jason Andreotes x3792

Finally, I would just like to welcome back all members and invite all those interested in history to join. Feel free to call any of the officers with ideas, questions, or comments – after all it is your club. I am looking forward to another great year and hope the History Club can continue to bring the PC community engaging events and trips.

Thanks.

Keith Lewison
of Company.