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# History Alive!



The Providence College Johannine Society (History Club) Newsletter  
Vol. IV No. 2

Brian Daley, editor

Winter 2001

## Fall Semester Review

### **Waterfire 2000**

On Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2000, the Club officially kicked off the year with what has become an annual trip to Providence's Waterfire. This year, before the fires were lit, the club took a tour of the United States' smallest National Park - Roger Williams National Memorial. Park Ranger John McNiff led a lively discussion of Rhode Island's early history, making the trip both informative and colorful.

After the tour of Roger Williams Park, the club members were free to explore the sights and sounds that make up Waterfire. Many concluded the evening with a meal at one of the many fine Downtown restaurants.

-review by Keith Lewison

### **Campus tour**

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, our very own Dr. Donna T. McCaffrey shared her vast knowledge of PC's past with an estimated crowd of over one hundred (the park service hesitated in giving a detailed estimate). Dr. McCaffrey led the crowd through both lower and upper campus, sharing historical tidbits and stories throughout, that kept everyone entertained. The beautiful fall day offered a great backdrop to the tour with spectacular vistas from the roof of McVinney, ten stories up. The group later ventured below ground through the tunnels of lower campus.

The tour raised the awareness of, and appreciation for, PC's tradition - and especially for the Dominicans who gave so much to this tradition. After listening to Dr. McCaffrey in the Dominican cemetery, Ted Andrews '01 commented, "Those are the people who have dedicated themselves to everything we have and what we are now." A hearty thanks again to Dr. McCaffrey.

### **Gentlemanly Capitalism**

On November 9<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Richard Grace, Professor of History, gave a superb lecture entitled, "Gentlemanly Capitalism: The Nineteenth Century Opium Trade," to a capacity audience.

The talk centered on two British opium traders - Jardine and Matheson - subjects Dr. Grace hopes to continue writing a book about during his sabbatical. Jardine, Matheson and Company in the 1830s epitomized the concept of "gentlemanly capitalism," which involved a "don't ask, don't tell" policy of selling opium in China. Back in London, with their wealth, they rose to the ranks of high society. The whole scenario seems rather ironic that one can go from rags to riches by selling an illicit drug and, meanwhile, not only be accepted by society elites, but earn the title "gentleman" in the process. Thanks again Dr. Grace.

-review by Keith Lewison

### **Pequot Trip**

With great help from the Office of Residence Life, The History Club sponsored a trip to the Mashantucket Pequot Museum in Connecticut on November 11 - coinciding nicely with Native American History Month. The museum offered state of the art, multi-media exhibits, most notably a number with life-like Indian models, dressed in time specific garb, making the viewer feel as though they had "stepped back in time." This award-winning museum, with its impressive displays and exhibits, succeeds most effectively in educating all on the rich culture and history of the native peoples of America. The History Club gives it \*\*\*\* and highly encourages others to attend.

## Upcoming Events

### **\*Featured Lecture: 21 February**

The History Club is excited to announce the coming of Fr. Francis J. Murphy, Professor of History at Boston College, and author of *Pere Jacques: Resplendent in Victory*. Fr. Murphy will speak upon the life of Pere Jacques, a French priest who was active in the French Resistance during WWII, and sheltered Jewish children. Pere Jacques paid with his life, but not before leaving behind a legacy of courage and supreme faith. Fr. Murphy is now part of Pere Jacques's cause for sainthood. Come hear the inspiring story of this most extraordinary man in the new Campus Ministry Center in the basement of St. Dominic Chapel on February 21 at 7pm. Refreshments will be served.

### **Movie Night: 13 Feb.**

As a prelude to Fr. Murphy's talk, and in conjunction with the French Club, we will be showing the French film *Au revoir les enfants* by Louis Malle on Tuesday, February 13, at 7pm in Moore 106. The film chronicles the lives of children at a French school, of which Pere Jacques was headmaster, during the Nazi occupation. The movie has subtitles. Refreshments will be served.

### **Miscellaneous**

We have a number of other projects in the works, among them, a trip, guest and PC lecturers, and movie nights. Stay posted. For questions and further information, contact an officer.

### **A word from the President:**

This semester, we intend to duplicate the activity and success we had during the Fall. Having Fr. Murphy come speak is a great start, and I hope everyone will take advantage of this rare opportunity. Until then, don't forget the movie night.

We are always open to ideas, so if you have any, please let us know!

### **Executive Board**

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Vice President: Keith Lewison x4203

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