

Explorations: Minimester 2008

Beginning in 1998, St. Margaret's Minimester program entitled *Explorations* has provided a wonderful opportunity for students to learn outside of core subject areas. The structure of Minimester has allowed students to learn in extended periods of time with more hands-on experience. Faculty have been able to teach different classes of interest to them, and we have been able to bring in outside teachers and experts as well. This has also been a time for the school to offer trips abroad and domestically relating to both service and travel. This year each student will choose one of the following courses. Seniors are required to do an Independent Study Project which generally take the form of serving an internship with an organization, institution or business in which the student has a special interest. Seniors may complete an ISP based on a particular class during Minimester.

IT'S A MYSTERY TO ME

"...from things that go bump in the night, good Lord deliver us."

If you love mysteries, this is the class for you! Both on campus and off, we will explore the strange, the puzzling, the mysterious, the unsolved, and even the ghostly. Activities away from campus include an evening at a mystery dinner theater, a ghost tour of Fredericksburg, a criminal investigation, and working with a mystery writer. The days we are here we will read mysteries and radio dramas, play games such as "Clue," solve puzzles, as well as crimes, and watch movies that will keep you on the edge of your seat in suspense.

You should take out Jamestown, The Spy Museum and the FBI; substitute produce a radio drama, ghost tour of Fredericksburg, criminal investigation, and working with a mystery writer.

Faculty: *Rixey, Edwards, Spears, Velletri, Foulk*

CULTURAL EXPLORATIONS

In this course we will explore various cultures, focusing on Asia, Africa, South America, and North America. We will explore these through film, music, maps, food, crafts, dance, and museums. Some of our activities will include a trip to Richmond as well as a trip to Washington D.C. to visit Chinatown, an Ethiopian restaurant, the Natural History Museum, and the Washington Zoo, among many other active treats.

Faculty: *Bohon, Brooks, Stephenson, Ruebush, Sheridan*

IMAGE

This class will focus on the aspects of images from cultural icons to other aspects of photography, black and white as well as digital imaging.. Another significant component is looking at and improving the images of our own bodies.

Faculty: *Lloyd, Konstantinovs, Hicks, Song*

NEXT STEPS: THE COLLEGE PROCESS

This is an experiential class in which students will

- **Develop** SAT Test Taking Strategies by taking a SAT Prep class. This will be a daily class with required nightly homework.
- **Assess** individual interests and abilities as a base for finding appropriate colleges.
- **Debunk** College Application Myths.
- **Discuss** Issues related to College campus life and the application process.
- **Create** a Resume and College Application Essay.
- **Experience** life on Campus by visiting a variety of colleges: large, small, single sex, co-ed, urban, rural and highly selective.

Cost: \$700 which will cover an external SAT prep class, materials, class texts, and a four day college tour. The class is limited to 12 students. Juniors will be given preference.

Faculty: *Gross, Armor, Howard, LaLiberty, Farmer*

HAMMER AND NAIL: COMMUNITY SERVICE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

No one has ever become poor by giving. —Anne Frank

St. Margaret's is committed to educating girls "for fulfilling lives of work, study, and service." In support of our school mission, we will travel to Charleston, SC, and work with the United Methodist Relief Center on house repairs. The work group will consist of 14 students and 2 adults.

Cost: \$325 to cover lodging, meals, transportation, and a donation to the Methodist Relief Center.

Faculty: *Dusablon, Maggini*

CALIFORNIA ROAD RULES

Through travel I first became aware of the outside world; it was through travel that I found my own introspective way into becoming a part of it.—Eudora Welty

This class will take part in the Disney Youth Education Series (Y.E.S.) by developing character through life lessons while working and visiting DisneyWorld theme parks such as Magic Kingdom, Epcot, MGM Studios, Typhoon Lagoon, and Animal Kingdom. Other skills such as inward reflection, outward expression, and investigation

Cost: Approximately \$1700

Faculty: *Martin, M LaLiberty*

THE BAHAMAS SAILING EXPERIENCE

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.—Mark Twain.

Six students will live and sleep nine days aboard a 47' sailboat while cruising the Bahamas. They will learn sailing, reef ecology, navigation, astronomy, and meteorology. Days will be spent studying tropical marine life while swimming and snorkeling in cool, crystal waters. The captain for this adventure is Jeff Armor, husband of faculty member, Liz Armor. They have crossed the Atlantic twice and have logged over 10,000 nautical miles.

Cost: approximately \$1800. Spaces for this trip have already been filled.

Faculty: *Armors*

SPAIN AND MOROCCO

Through travel I first became aware of the outside world; it was through travel that I found my own introspective way into becoming a part of it.—Eudora Welty

Faculty: *McDowell, Fritz*