



**GORDON**  
COLLEGE

# Department of History

Global Engagement

Fall 2009



## David L. Franz, Pioneer for American Higher Education

David L. Franz, Ph.D., professor of history at Gordon College from 1951–1991 and professor emeritus since his retirement, passed away quietly on Thursday, November 6, at age 85, leaving a rich legacy at Gordon College. In addition to 40 years of teaching, in 1958, he founded Gordon's European Seminar. His work on this global program laid the foundation for 35 years of European Seminars—the precursor of Gordon's current array of Global Education programs.

The idea for the European Seminar came about when Franz spent several months researching in Holland and England and began to reference places he'd visited in his lectures. His students expressed interest in taking some of the same trips. So in June of 1958, Franz gathered 18 students and a few colleagues and sailed from New York to Europe on a converted World War II troop ship. They spent less than \$600 per person for an eight-week trip, traveling, studying and camping throughout Europe. They discovered the Christian roots of the West, entered the medieval world of castles and cathedrals, and traveled the roads of the Protestant Reformation.

"The spark came out of my own study experiences," Franz wrote. "When we got to Paris, I began to feel a sense of excitement for being in Europe, aware of how abstractly I had studied history before, but how alive it came by actually being there."

Franz's students experienced the same excitement. By the early 1960s enrollment for the seminar exploded and the study route grew. As the tours evolved, the seminar's reputation for integrating Christian faith with academic topics became its distinction. Students researched European and Protestant history, and eventually the program included political studies trips studying comparative governments, geography and educational systems, attracting students from Christian colleges across the country.

"There's nothing like being there, seeing it, feeling it yourself," says Nancy Mering, director of alumni relations at Gordon, who went on a European Seminar in 1967. "I learned church history from personal encounter. We prepared beforehand, but when we visited each place on the Reformation tour, or when we heard Peter Stine quoting Wordsworth at Wordsworth's home, we began to understand the common foundations of our lives as Christians." *(Continued on following page.)*

# Department of History

## Honoring David Franz

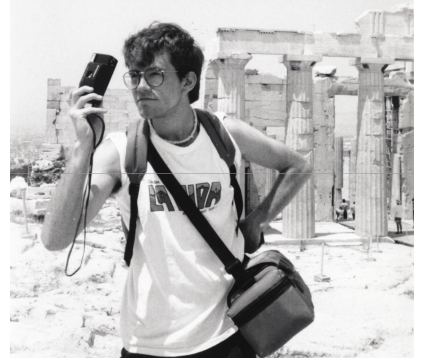
### Franz continued

Students on European Seminar saw their share of world-changing events. They watched Soviet troops line up to invade Czechoslovakia. They traveled to Israel just as the seven-day war broke out, forcing them to detour to Turkey. They visited the beaches at Normandy, mindful of relatives who'd fought there. They visited the death camps at Auschwitz, the Christian communities in Rome and the literary landscapes in Ireland. Each experience was valuable. "It becomes very contemporary when students can actually see what is happening," Franz wrote. "It's very instructive for students to see the tenseness of the world situation as well as discover their Christian and...family roots."

By the early 1970s hundreds of students and faculty from over 46 colleges had joined the seminars—so many that they began to charter planes and hire Volkswagen vans and buses for travel. Each year students and faculty discovered what happened when books, stories and history became colors and shapes and buildings only steps away, a mission still at the heart of Gordon's academic experience.

"Although David had retired when I arrived at Gordon," says Gordon Provost Mark Sargent, "his impact was deeply rooted in our campus community and academic programs. He enlarged our vision for international learning, and he did so with a creative, can-do spirit. So many students and faculty told of bus rides, campsites and homemade sandwiches as they traveled and studied on the European Seminar. And then, when I met David and saw his great smile and enthusiasm for adventure, I knew why he was such a beloved guide."

Ron Mahurin, former Gordon political studies professor, adds: "Dave Franz was a pioneer for American higher education in establishing experiential learning and international field experiences as a way of deepening students' appreciation for history, art and culture."



### New David Lincoln Franz Fellowships for International Students

In recognition of David Franz, beginning in the Fall 2009 semester, Gordon College will offer five David Lincoln Franz Fellowships per year for Gordon students coming from overseas, in the amount of \$5,000 per student. They will be awarded on the basis of the students' potential to advance Christ's Kingdom through scholarship and Christian service, as well as financial need. This scholarship was the brainchild of Gordon alumnus Dr. Howard Moon '62, who traveled with Dr. Franz in the European Seminar. We in the Gordon History Department invite you who have been enriched by Prof. Franz's life and work to contribute to the Franz Fellowship Fund. Would you prayerfully consider supporting one of our overseas students during these tough economic times? Gifts for the David Lincoln Franz Fellowship can be made by mail or online.

**Mail:** Gordon College Development Operations, 255 Grapevine Rd., Wenham, MA 01984  
Specify Franz Fellowship on the memo line of your check.

**Online:** <https://www.gordon.edu/specialgift> — Specify Franz Fellowship

#### Fulbright Scholars Program Brings Muslim Scholar to Gordon

by Kaelyn McBride '11



This semester Gordon College hosted a visiting Nigerian *imam* as part of the Fulbright Scholars Program for a special event, "Direct Access to the Muslim World." The history department took advantage of this opportunity to promote an education rich in global, cultural and historical perspectives.

Dr. Is-haq Lakin Akintola, a Muslim scholar and associate professor of Islamic Studies at Lagos State University in Nigeria, is also the head of a Muslim Human Rights NGO and a practicing Muslim religious leader. He stayed on campus for three weeks, lecturing in many classes and offering special, additional lectures about Islamic faith and culture on campus and throughout the North Shore area.

A soft spoken, sincere, and confident man with a heavy Nigerian accent, he was a hit with the students. He easily kept them interested with his humorous anecdotes as well as his serious challenges to understand differences. His motto was simply: "Dialogue. Not violence."



Dr. Akintola delivered a number of lectures on the history of Islamic culture and religious experience. He was very approachable, which encouraged eagerness to learn. Although uncompromising in his belief in Islam, he took his mission to foster peaceful and understanding relationships between Muslims and Christians very seriously—a mission he sees as essential for progress in the modern world.

His visit opened the eyes and broadened the horizons of many, bringing a more historically grounded understanding of the Christian-Muslim relationship and our responsibility to engage the world as a community committed to faith.

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#### Check out the History Department's May Term offerings!

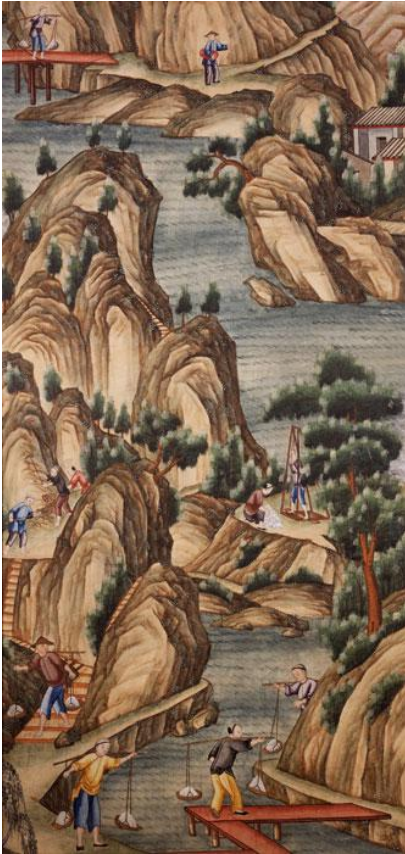
If you'd like to complete your core history requirement in a small group seminar, rather than the normal 50+ person section, consider taking **Historical Perspectives on Culture, Belief and Civilization** (HIS121) this May with Professor Drummond. Earn the same credit as during the regular semester, but in a format that allows for much more discussion and interaction with your peers and professor.

Our other exciting opportunity is **The Strategic Cockpit: South-West Asia**, a special topics course (HIS 371) taught by Dr. Howard Moon '62, which will focus on the historical background and political dynamics of Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan and India, currently the most controversial region to which the United States is committed. The course will cover topics such as the recent economic success of India, which is set off by the poverty, tribalism, and extremism of its neighbors to the west. It will also touch on why Iran is particularly interesting as a potential threat, exploring its historic contributions to Jewish and Christian theology.



### An Internship in Asian Export Art

by Nicole Lucey '10



Asian Export Art encompasses a variety of art made in China for export to the West, beginning in the 16th century and continuing through the present. It was an area of art history that I never even knew existed—never mind considered for in-depth study—until this semester when I applied for an internship at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem and was informed that I would be working for the curator of the Asian Export Art department. I went into my first day excited to learn about the inner workings of a museum, and to delve into an area of history that I knew so little about.

Working here has truly opened my eyes to a rich and vital part of New England history and to the complexity of a museum curator's job. I have learned more than I ever expected. As Asian Export Art Intern I have begun preliminary work for a future exhibit: compiling a bibliography, reading about artists and locating pieces of art. I have also assisted on a major photo shoot of Chinese Export Oil Paintings, which was both challenging and fascinating. Through weekly meetings with my fellow interns I have also learned about many of the different departments in the museum including, Creative Services, Collections Management, New Media and Event Planning.

My internship at the Peabody Essex Museum has complemented my history education at Gordon College wonderfully. Working in the Asian Export department has exposed me to the many varying and interesting career paths that a degree in history can lead you to. I am excited and energized to finish my studies and find out where my education will bring me!

### Pioneer Village: A Student Perspective

by Thomas Hunter '11

For those history students interested in getting outside the classroom and getting your hands dirty (literally), I'd highly recommend you get involved with Gordon's hottest new piece of real estate: Pioneer Village. All right, technically it is still owned by the city of Salem, but Gordon is calling the shots. The Village is a recreation of Salem as it appeared in 1630; there are several single-room houses, a replica of Governor John Endicott's mansion, and a working blacksmith's forge. After a long hiatus, Pioneer Village re-opened for the public last summer, and I volunteered there twice a week to help make the place presentable. I knew I was in for adventure when, on my first day, Professor Goss handed me an axe and told me to go cut down some saplings. That was illustrative of our work at the Village: if something fell down, we tried to fix it using authentic 17th century tools and techniques. I gained an appreciation of all the hard work the earliest settlers needed just to survive, and I understand 17th century life much better than if I'd just read about it. To any of my fellow history majors who want to live their studies this summer, we'd love to see you at Pioneer Village!

