



Dr. Phillip Lucas

## A Walk on the Camino de Santiago to the end of the world



I attended a CIEE Seminar in Spain this spring entitled “Modern Debates along an Ancient Way,” which explored the Camino de Santiago, an ancient pilgrimage route that leads from multiple points in Europe across the Pyrenees and through the northern part of Spain.

Our journey started in the pilgrimage town of Santo Domingo de la Calzada, named after a saint who spent his life providing pilgrim services to weary travelers. We toured the historic town church and were all taken with the holy chickens that are housed behind a glass barrier in one part of the church. That night we entered Burgos and were able to tour the magnificent old city district, and the monumental Cathedral itself. The next morning, we toured a nearby archaeological site that is uncovering evidence of humanoid habitation dating back 200,000 years. Our guide Raquel let us try our hand at prehistoric spear throwing and archery.

Our next stop was the elegant city of Leon, where we toured the great city Cathedral and a convent museum that housed a claimant to the Holy Grail of medieval legend among other treasures. We next stopped at Oebreiro, a beautiful mountain hamlet where pilgrims stay the night and eat at local restaurants. It reminded me of a hobbit village, with small thatched houses and restaurants. Then, just outside the monastic town of Samos, four of us got out of the van and walked the next five kilometers along the Camino for the first time. This unplanned trek proved to be one of the trip highlights, as we wound our way through stunning rural landscapes, visited small village churches, and had a breathtaking view of Samos’s medieval monastery from high above the town as we entered.

The next three days we hiked about 100 kilometers and finally reached our destination, the Cathedral of Santiago, which houses the reliquary of St. James the Greater, one of Christ’s twelve apostles. We spent two days there attending the pilgrim’s mass, watching the swinging of the great censer, and touring other historical sites near the cathedral. We also took a half-day side trip to Finistere, a fishing village on the Atlantic coast that represents the true end of the Camino for many pilgrims. This last section of Galicia reminded me of Ireland, with its mist-covered mountains, jagged shoreline, and greenery.

I will use what I learned on the trip to augment my discussions of pilgrimage in courses like Sacred Traditions of the World, Spiritualities East and West, and Religions of India. Throughout the course of the trip, I shot high-definition film footage and conducted interviews that will become a 20-minute documentary on the Camino.

Finally, I am planning a travel course for our students to Spain. During our time in Spain, we will travel to many of the sites I visited during the seminar, walk a portion of the Camino, and add a few more days in Madrid so that we can visit the Prado and other cultural gems of that amazing city.

As you can see from my narrative and plans, my seminar experience has provided a rich treasure of knowledge and experience that will internationalize my classes and creative work.

# Italy and Greece-Study Abroad

From January 2, 2017, to January 15, 2017, Dr. Queen-Sutherland and Dr. Reddish will lead a travel course to Italy and Greece. The focus of the trip will be on the history, geography, and archaeology of the Greco-Roman and biblical worlds, with particular focus on religious and archaeological sites. In Italy, the group will visit the ruins of Herculaneum and Pompeii, along with the Archaeological Museum in Naples, before heading to Rome to visit the Colosseum, the Arch of Constantine, the Arch of Titus, the Roman Forum, the Palatine, the Capitoline Museum, the Baths of Caracalla, and Vatican City with a tour of St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Museums, and the Sistine Chapel. The group will also visit the Catacombs, the Appian Way, and the Church of St. Paul Outside the walls, the Church of St. Peter in Chains, the Spanish Steps, the Trevi Fountain, and the Pantheon.



In Greece, the group will travel to Thessaloniki, the capital of the province of Macedonia and the second largest city of modern Greece. In Thessaloniki, the group will visit Thessaloniki's archaeological museum, the ancient city walls, the Roman forum, the Church of St. Demetrios, the Arch of Galerius, and the Church of St. George. They will also visit Amphipolis (where the apostle Paul passed through on his second missionary journey), and the ruins of the archaeological museum. Traveling over to Philippi, the travelers will visit the archaeological site and stop by the purported site of the baptism of Lydia. The group will then head to Vergina, where they will travel to the possible burial site of Philip II of Macedon (father of Alexander the Great), visit royal tombs, the museum, the palace and theater ruins, and travel to Meteora to visit the monasteries. They will then depart to Delphi, visiting the famous Delphic Oracles, the Temple of Apollo, the theater, the stadium, and the archaeological museum.

Traveling to Athens, where they will remain for the rest of the trip, the group will visit the Parthenon, the Greek Agora and museum, the Temple of Hephaestus (the best preserved ancient temple in Greece), and the Roman Forum. They will drive to Eleusis to visit the ruins and the museum, travel to Corinth to stop at the Corinth canal, travel to Mycenae, and visit the ancient healing center of Asclepius in Epidaurus. In addition to the extraordinary experience of traveling and visiting these ancient sites, the students will also earn academic credit for the course. Non-students are also welcome to join the group.

Please go to our website for an [informative letter and brochure](#).

## Alumni News

**Abigail Bush '16** is currently working on her Master of Religion at Florida State University.—**Zachary Evans '16** is working in the Young Adult Volunteer Program and will be serving in a homeless shelter in Denver, CO.—**Michael Sarracino '16** is a youth intern at the First United Methodist Church of Hendersonville, North Carolina.—**Jennifer Brann '15** is employed at ABT Associates, Inc. in Atlanta, Georgia, as a Research Assistant.—**Elizabeth Fuller '15** is a Library Specialist at Daytona State College.—**Robert Pruette '15** is a math teacher at Sebastian River High School.—**Nicole Davis '14** is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at Virginia Union University, Richmond, VA.—**Kiara John '14** received her Masters in Clinical Psychology from the University of Indianapolis on July 15, 2016.—**Christopher Dell '13** is attending the School of Theology at Sewanee in the Postulant for Holy Orders in the Episcopal Church.—**Michelle Wildridge '13** graduated with a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, May 2016.—**Amanda Iannotti '12** is currently working for The Transition House, Inc. in St. Cloud, FL.—**Chase Long '12** was promoted to Captain in the United States Marine Corp, Summer 2016.—**Angela DeLuca '11** married Anthony Dispenza IV on July 9, 2016 in Jacksonville, FL.—**Stacey Mann '11** is working at Straker Translations, Denver, CO as a project Manager.—**Claire (Stubblefield) Helton '11** and her husband, Zach, welcome their new son, James Warren Helton, born December 10, 2015.—**Janie (Stewart) Osborne '10** is a Sales Manager at The Parking Spot.**David R. Glerum '09** received a Ph.D. in industrial and organizational psychology from the University of Central Florida in May. He also received the International Personnel Assessment Council James C. Johnson Student Paper Award for *The Trainer Matters: Cross-Classified Models of Trainee Reactions*.—**Ryan Lynch '09** received his Ph.D. from Oxford University and is Assistant Professor of the History of Islamic World at Columbus State University, Columbus, GA.—**Robert Oliver '06** is a 12th grade Economics teacher at Oak Ridge High School, Orlando, Florida.—**Kyle Kaminski '07** is an instructor at The Center for Intensive English Studies at Florida State University.—**Mary Beth (Christian) McSwain '07** and her husband, Billy, welcomed their new son, Luke Thomas McSwain, born February 18, 2015.—**Grace (Mikell) Ramsey '07** is a visiting assistant professor of art in the Art Program of the Creative Arts Department at Stetson University.—**Tina Mixon '08** has been promoted to senior business consultant at ConnectWise Inc.—**Jonathan Bailey '03** and his wife, Stacy, welcomed their new daughter, Meredith Brigid Bailey, born Friday, September 9, 2016.—**Amy Bucciarelli '03** had a chapter published in the Oxford University Textbook on Creative Arts, Health, and Wellbeing titled: *The arts therapies: approaches, goals, and integration in arts and health*.—**Kristyn (Sommers) Moore '03** and her husband, James, welcomed their new daughter, Lilly Sophia Moore, born January 1, 2016.**Amy Rigdon '03** was married to Gabriel Robertson on February 14, 2016.—**Sarah (Reed) Jay '00** is Acting Regional Minister for the Chicago Baptist Association and lecturer in Advanced Preaching at the University of Chicago Divinity School.—**Robin Cooper '95** and her partner, Colin Beck, welcome their son, Beckett Galen Cooper, born November 23, 2014.