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Stephen Brunet, Associate Professor of Classics travels to Pompeii

Stephen Brunet

University of New Hampshire - Main Campus, stephen.brunet@unh.edu

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Center for International Education

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STEPHEN BRUNET, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CLASSICS

Professor Stephen Brunet, Department of Classics, traveled to Pompeii in January 2006 to prepare a field trip for the UNH and UConn students participating in the UNH in Italy program in Ascoli Piceno.



Professor Brunet in the Forum at Pompeii.

Pompeii and the other sites buried by the eruption of Vesuvius, the Roman and Greek art treasures collected by various popes and the Dukes of Naples, and the amazingly well preserved Greek temples at Paestum—have been central to our understanding of Greek and Roman culture and the development of archaeology as an academic discipline. The discoveries made in this region of Italy have also played a major role in the history of European thought, as witnessed by the effect that visits to Pompeii, Herculaneum, and Paestum had on Goethe, Mark Twain, and the many others who made Naples part of the grand tour.

The purpose of the trip was to introduce our students to Pompeii and the many other educational resources that exist in the Naples area, but until this trip the resident director and I were not certain which museums and archaeological sites our students would appreciate most. My trip was also designed to support a course that the Classics program hopes will satisfy students' long standing desire for a class that combines archaeological and literary evidence to understand the nature of Roman life and society. Pompeii is perfectly suited for such a purpose since it provides a very concrete picture of Roman life as it existed in the period for which we have our best written documentation. ***For the full report, visit http://www.unh.edu/cie/faculty/faculty_travelrpts_index.html.***

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