

Fall, 2010 Road Scholar Programs

August 23-26, 2010 – A 200 Year History: Robert E. Lee’s Ties to the Blue Ridge Mountains – Revel in the 200th anniversary of Robert E. Lee’s birth with a multi-faceted look at his accomplishments and adventures. Stonewall Jackson was a unique personal and military complement to Lee: review their relationship via a trip to Lexington, VA where Jackson taught at VMI and Lee served as the President of what would eventually become Washington and Lee University. Tour Jackson’s and Lee’s burial sites and inspect the only house Jackson ever owned. Visit Appomattox Court House – the historic site of the death of one nation and the rebirth of another – where Lee’s military career ended and the symbol of the South’s “Lost Cause” saw its ascendancy. Join a Lee scholar in discussions and discover the contributions and importance of this unique American figure.

August 29-September 3, 2010 - Walt Disney : An American Icon/ Television: The Invention That Changed The World – Walt Disney – Approach from all sides the life and legacy of arguably the most influential entertainment giant of the 20th century. How did this shy Kansas farm boy form and establish the views of America which persist in the hearts of so many today? Television - The introduction of TV to the lives of people arguably had the greatest impact on society in history. Hear about the fathers of TV, pioneers like Berle, Howdy Doody, the impact of the “Ed Sullivan Show” and early

comedy shows.

September 12-27, 2010 – **Shape Note Singing/Patrick Henry/A Folk Song History** – Shape Note Singing – Through expert instruction and practice, you’ll discover origins of the “American Folk Hymn” and trace the marriage of English and Southern Appalachian music and heritage which produced the oral tradition highlighted in the film “Cold Mountain”. Patrick Henry – “Give me liberty or give me death” How did the speaker of these immortal words rise from the backwoods of Virginia to become the spokesman for the American Revolution? “Radical” is a term few wear with ease. Patrick Henry wore the title with pride. Folk Song History – Take a historical journey of our country through American Folk songs. Learn and hear the significance of music as it applies to Colonialism, seafaring, railroads, cowboys, the Civil War and the Depression. In addition, learn to play the American dulcimer.

October 4-7, 2010 – **Comedy in Film: Laughter in the Blue Ridge** – Spend a rollicking time with American film’s greatest comedians on the shores of Smith Mountain Lake in the heart of the unmatched beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Study the genius of American comedy from individual clowns such as Chaplin, Keaton and Lloyd to the comedy teams of Laurel and Hardy, the Marx Brothers and other early television comedians such as Milton Berle, Jackie Gleason and Lucille Ball. Personal and rare film clips provide the basis for examining the universal themes of comedy. Take advantage of the beautiful setting at one of a number of historical attractions such as the Blue Ridge Parkway, the National D-Day Memorial, Booker T. Washington’s Birthplace and National Monument and Thomas Jefferson’s personal retreat, Poplar Forest.

October 10-15, 2010 – **A Virginia Sampler: Exploring Blue Ridge Mountain Historical Sites** – Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains are well known for their unmatched beauty and distinctive culture. Join experienced academic experts as we explore the area's many natural wonders and attractions. Delve into the compelling stories behind figures such as Thomas Jefferson and Booker T. Washington and immerse yourself in the fascinating tales of famous Appalachian feuds. Trek, briefly, along the Appalachian Trail with a seasoned trail hiker who has hiked the entire Trail five times and explore a typical Trail shelter. The last evening you'll marvel at the colorful and definitely unique local entertainment. A field trip to the inspirational National D-Day Memorial will complete our busy Week.

October 24-29, 2010 – **Great Feuds of the Southern Appalachians/ Comedy in Film/ Trails Across America** – Great Feuds - Discover the folklore and little known facts of some of the most famous feuds of the Southern Appalachian Mountains. Inspect specific motives behind feuds such as the infamous Hatfield-McCoy feud and explore showdowns like the Matewan Massacre. Comedy in Film - Spend a fun time with America's greatest silent comedians (Chaplin, Keaton and Lloyd), teams (Laurel and Hardy, Marx Brothers and Martin and Lewis) as well as more modern favorites like Hope and Skelton. Early TV comics such as Berle, Gleason and Ball are also featured. Laughs guaranteed. Trails Across America America has a tremendous network of scenic and historic trails. Trace well known routes such as the Oregon Trail and the Pony Express Trail and lesser known ones such as the Trail of Tears and the Santa Fe Trail. Learn how and why they were created

November 1-4, 2010 – A Virginia Sampler: Exploring Blue Ridge Mountain History – Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains are well known for their unmatched beauty and distinctive charm. Join experienced academic experts at an especially beautiful time of year as we explore the area's physical and historical attractions. We'll delve into the compelling stories behind figures such as Thomas Jefferson and Booker T. Washington complemented by trips to Jefferson's personal retreat, Poplar Forest and a visit to Washington's birthplace together with a fascinating look at famous Appalachian feuds. A study of the Appalachian Trail will precede a brief trek on the Trail itself. A visit to the inspirational and moving National D-Day Memorial and an evening of colorful and unique local entertainment will complete our busy week.