

Perspectives on the Monuments of Mount Oread: A Stop Day Walking Tour of Kansas University

Conducted by Professor Emeritus Ted Johnson
Sponsored by the Department of Humanities and Western Civilization

Friday, May 4, 2012

The traditional marathon Stop Day walking tour of the campus consisting of informal, peripatetic, Socratic dialogues growing out of various sites will take place on Friday, May 4, 2012, from 9 a.m. to about 6 p.m. (bring friends and come and go as you please). The walking tour begins in front of the Natural History Museum, 14th Street and Jayhawk Boulevard, at 9 a.m.

In the event of inclement weather, we will gather in the portico of Lippincott Hall at 9 a.m., visit the Wilcox Classical Museum, and have lunch in the Kansas Union at noon, and then meet in the foyer of the Helen Foresman Spencer Museum of Art at 1 p.m. Should the inclement weather clear, we will resume the walking tour at the appropriate time and place. Our dialogues, open to all who join us as we move about the campus during the day, will turn around the following:

Program

9 a.m. “Whoso findeth wisdom findeth life.” Location: Natural History Museum, 14th and Jayhawk Boulevard

An inquiry into the interrelations of the Romanesque Revival architecture and iconography of Spooner Hall and the Museum of Natural History.

10 a.m. The Seven Liberal Arts and the Classical Tradition. Location: Lippincott Hall

The interrelations of the Daniel Chester French statue group, the Ionic portico of Lippincott Hall, law, and the seven liberal arts.

11 a.m. “Make our garden grow” (final chorus of Leonard Bernstein’s *Candide*).
Location: Twente Hall and then to the Prairie Acre

An inquiry into the implications of the quotation from Plato’s *Republic* just inside the door—“Our youth will dwell in a land of health and fair sights and sounds”—and the campus as garden with the Prairie Acre and sculptures representing a *Prairie Formation*, *The Pioneer*, *St. George and the Dragon*, and *Mercury*.

12 noon. Memory, the Muses, and the Liberal Arts and Sciences. Location: Watson Library and then across the campus to Burge Union

An inquiry into the implications of the College Gothic northern façade of the University Library; the Romanesque Revival eastern façade of Stauffer-Flint; late Brutalism and the Humanities Building; the glass pyramid of the Science Library; the Military Science building and the 1943 wall, Murphy Hall and the arts, and then on to the Burge Union.

1 p.m. Lunch and conversation. Location: The Crimson Café, Burge Union. (If you plan to join us here, please do wait for us; we may be a bit late coming off the hill).

2 p.m. “Civilization is measured by the extent to which people obey unenforceable laws.” Location: The Law School.

Tai Chi Figure I by Ju Ming, *The Spirit of Laws* by Stephen Johnson, the I-beam sculpture at the Engineering building, the foundry in the Fine Arts building, and the student-designed memorial at the School of Architecture.

3. p.m. “Of cycles and civilizations: the Chi Omega Fountain and the University of Kansas Korea and Vietnam War Memorials.” Location: Chi Omega Fountain. Location: The Chi Omega Fountain and Memorial Drive.

An inquiry into the implications of the iconography of the fountain and the story of Persephone, Demeter, and Hades, beginning with pomegranates and then turning around the cycles of life, death, wheat, seasons, courage, honor, sacrifice, and wisdom.

4 p.m. The World War II Memorial Carillon and Campanile and the northern slopes of Mount Oread. Location: The Memorial Campanile.

After reflections on the memorials on the northern slopes of Mount Oread, a descent through the shadows and raking light of Marvin Grove and then a gradual return up to the plane of Mount Oread.

5 p.m. Tentative Syntheses and Perspectives. Location: Arthur D. Weaver Court, adjacent to Spooner Hall

Having come full circle, a summing up of the day’s dialogues in a garden where, formerly, under the dappled shade of graceful trees arching over the merry splashing of a fountain, floated a quartet of large rocks.

For further information, please contact the Department of Humanities and Western Civilization at hwc@ku.edu or Professor Johnson at jtj@ku.edu

