

Dr. Charlie Schuler is no ordinary Greek Mythology/Humanities professor here at Pensacola State College. For the past 20 years, he has been taking students on field trips of a lifetime to places like Italy, Greece, France, and Switzerland.

“We go see things I’ve talked about in my classes. Each night after dinner we meet and I lecture on what we are going to see the next day,” says Schuler. He likes to give the students free time to get lost in Venice or to cruise around Florence, Rome, or Naples, etc.

Dr. Schuler has been teaching for 37 years—10 years at Escambia High and at PSC since 1990. Schuler fell into teaching because he always admired his teachers. “They were kind of my heroes,” says Schuler.

His degrees are proudly mounted to his office wall, surrounded by colorful paintings and books of Greek History. He was the first out of three generations not to go to law school. His Masters from UCLA is in Greek and Roman history and his Ph.D. in Humanities. We can also thank Dr. Schuler for developing the Classical Mythology and The Greco Roman course for PSC.

He started taking students on field trips while teaching high school. Instead of Latin students going to Disney World at their competition, he took them to see the Ringling Museum in Sarasota and the Salvador Dali Museum; then it evolved to taking students to Europe. With the exception of last summer, he has done this for 20 years. “It’s thrilling to see the look on someone’s face when they are standing 6 inches away from Michelangelo’s chiseled marks in a piece he has done,” says Schuler.

“Sophocles has a line in one of his plays; ‘Wonders are many of this world, but none is as wonderful as the human.’ In those worlds of Greece and Rome, we saw what human beings were capable of doing, we saw heroic moments, god-like behavior in human beings, and we saw tragedy. The more we know about the Greeks and Romans, the more we know about ourselves,” says Schuler.

Venice is his favorite part of the trip because they are so close to the Alps. “It is all water in Venice, you are taking a boat everywhere you go, it’s a beautiful, stunning city.” Schuler is eager to get students into the Alps because so many Floridians have never seen a mountain “much less the Alps.”

This two-week trip costs each passenger a little over four thousand dollars. Schuler says that the students save up and that their family kicks with the understanding that this is a trip of a lifetime. Schuler has detailed itineraries in his office for those interested. The next one takes off on June 20th, 2017.