ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL IN SWEDEN

Pre-Program meeting - April 13, 2012

Overseas Component

June 25-July 20, 2012

This program is coordinated by the University of Florida Study Abroad Office, in cooperation with the University of Florida Department of History.

PROGRAM DATES: The overseas component of the program will officially begin in Sweden on Monday, June 25 and will end on Friday, July 20, 2012. In addition to the overseas component, participants will also be required to attend classes that will take place in Gainesville, FL on the University of Florida campus between July 23 and August 3, 2012. The class meetings will take place every day, from Monday to Friday, in the small conference room at the University of Florida International Center (170 Hub), between 11:00 and 12:00. All class meetings will be accessible via Skype to those who cannot be present.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Florin Curta, professor of Medieval History and Archaeology in the Department of History, has taught Medieval Archaeology at the University of Florida since 2002, and has directed the field school in Ireland (2002 and 2011), Romania (2003), Italy (2006), the Czech Republic (2009), and Spain (2010).

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES: The primary goal of this program is to teach practical archaeological skills in a research environment. The field school is part of a joint program of excavations focusing on the site at Uppåkra which is located about 3 miles south of Lund, in Skåne (Scania), southern Sweden. Although the site was discovered in the 1930s in conjunction with the building of a farmstead, excavations did not begin in earnest before 1996, when the first field surveys (including metal detector surveys), which produced more than 3,500 artifacts. The estimated area of the site is enormous (over 100 acres). The archaeological excavations carried out between 2000 and 2004 to the south from the church revealed, among other things, a cult house. During the 2007 excavations the remains of a structure destroyed by fire appeared to the west from the cult house, and were dated between the fifth and the sixth century AD. During the early Middle Ages, Uppåkra was within the kingdom of Denmark. The settlement rose to prominence because of its location on the road between Trelleborg and Helsingborg. Although not mentioned as such in any sources dated to the Viking Age, Uppåkra was one of the largest and richest towns (“central places”) of early medieval Scandinavia, on
a par with Kaupang (Norway), Hedeby (Denmark), and Birka (Sweden). The town was burned in the late tenth century, after which it seems to have been abandoned in favor of Lund. Although Lund is traditionally believed to have been established by either Sven Forkbeard or King Canute in the 1020s, its origins may be thirty years earlier or so. By the mid-eleventh century, Lund has become an episcopal see, which in 1103 was elevated to the rank of archbishopric, the first in Scandinavia. The earliest and most prosperous mint of Denmark operated in Lund. The first cathedral school was founded in Lund by Knud IV, King of Denmark (1042-1086). Scania and with it, the city of Lund, became part of Sweden in 1658 through the Peace of Roskilde, but eighteen years later the Swedish army led by Charles XI defeated the Danish troops under Christian V, King of Denmark, in what remained to this day the bloodiest battle ever fought in Scandinavia. The University of Lund, which had been established ten years before the battle, grew into one of the Sweden's largest institutions of higher education. The diversity of the historical legacy and of the archaeological heritage present in the area makes Uppåkra an ideal training ground in archaeological methodology and provides ample evidence for introducing participants to the fascinating aspects of medieval archaeology. This field school is undertaken in conjunction with the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History at the University of Lund.

Through participation in this program, participants will gain the following:

a) an introduction and practical application of archaeological sampling and field methodology;

b) field experience in archaeological survey techniques;

c) field experience in archaeological excavation techniques;

d) laboratory experience in conservation techniques;

e) exposure to a broad range of artifacts (prehistoric through medieval);

f) exposure to the problems of museum organization and studies in a European country;

g) exposure to a new culture.

**HIGHLIGHTS**: Uppåkra is located slightly more than 3 miles south of Lund, one of the most important cities in Skåne, less than 25 miles from Copenhagen across the Øresund Strait, and about 46 miles to the west from Simrishamn on the shore of Hanöbukten in the Baltic Sea. The project team makes weekly excursions to these locales. Program participants and administrators expect to have an excellent rapport with the local community.

**THE SITE OF THE PROGRAM**: Scania is the southernmost of Sweden's provinces. It is located on a peninsula on the southern tip of Scandinavia separated by water from the islands of Sjælland (the main island of Denmark) and Bornholm. It is bordered by the counties of Halland, Småland, and Blekinge. Two of Sweden's most spectacular geological formations (called “horst”)—Hallandsåsen and Söderåsen—are located in Scania. The province is famous for its flatness and for the richness of its soil, the most fertile in the entire country. Despite its agricultural profile, ninety percent of the people in Scania live in urban centers, the largest of which is Malmö, followed by Helsingborg and Lund. Two of the latter's famous residents—August Strindberg and Carl Linnaeus—have described the rolling hills and the plains of Scania as geographically and culturally
distinct from the rest of Sweden. Architecturally, many of the Scanian towns may be recognized by means of the half-timbered buildings, the oldest of which survives in Ystad, on the southern coast. In Lund, the cathedral founded in the mid-eleventh century is preserved in its twelfth-century form given by stone cutters and sculptors from Germany and Italy working in the Romanesque tradition. For Gothic churches, one needs to visit St. Petri in Malmö (14th century) or the small church in Dalby (the oldest stone church in Sweden). There are 240 castles and mansions in Scania, more than in any other part of Sweden. Many of them have been remodeled in the nineteenth century in a style most typical for Scania. First mentioned in sources during the Carolingian age (9th century), Scania became part of Denmark under King Harald Bluetooth. During the Middle Ages, the Scanian fairs were some of the most important nodes in the trade networks in northern Europe, later controlled by the Hanseatic merchants. The herring sold at those fairs in very large quantities reached as far south as Rome. The Scanian Law, the oldest collection of Scandinavian law, came into being in the 13th century. As late as the 17th century, this law served to maintain a sense of autonomy in Scania. Ever since the Treaty of Roskilde (1658), Scania has been part of Sweden, with the last Danish attempt to recuperate the province failing at the battle of Helsingborg (1710). Although through the treaty, the Swedish monarch ensured autonomy in Scania (later confirmed in the so-called Malmö Recess), the introduction of the absolutist regime under Charles XI coincided with the abolition of the local autonomy and the introduction of drastic measures of Swedification. The province was fully integrated into the kingdom in 1719. For more information on Scania, see http://skane.com/en.

PROGRAM ACADEMIC CREDIT: For satisfactory participation in the program, participants will receive 6 semester hours of undergraduate or graduate credit in EUH-4186: Medieval Archaeology Field Practicum. The course taken while participating in this program cannot be audited.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:
♦ A brief essay outlining your background in history and/or archaeology, your interest in this program, as well as how the program will assist you academically and in the future
♦ Must be at least 18 years old
♦ Two letters of recommendation from professors (preferably University of Florida professors) with whom you took courses in the two past years or so

HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS: General good health is required for this rigorous program, which includes a fair amount of walking over frequently irregular surfaces. The summer weather will not be as hot as it is in Florida, but endurance is a plus.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS AND MEALS: From June 25 through July 20, participants will reside in the CheckInn Bed & Breakfast with two students per each room furnished with all necessary amenities, sharing bath and toilet facilities. The B&B is located in downtown Lund, at 6, Hantverksgratan (Phone: 0723-290 800; http://www.checkinn.se/en). Meals are provided throughout the period of residency, with breakfast before work and evening meals including (but not restricted to) traditional Swedish cuisine (try the smörgåsbord!). Packed lunches are served on the
site. Beverages (alcohol or soft drinks) are not included in the program cost. Participants are required to treat our hosts with respect.

**LAND TRANSPORTATION:** In order to get to Lund, you need take the train from the airport in Copenhagen (Kastrup). The journey takes about 35 minutes and costs 135 SEK. You will need to buy your ticket from the Skånetrafiken ticket machines in the arrivals hall at the Copenhagen airport, near the escalators going down from to the train platforms. For more details on schedules and prices, see [http://www.skanetrafiken.se/templates/StartPage.aspx?id=16125&epslanguage=EN](http://www.skanetrafiken.se/templates/StartPage.aspx?id=16125&epslanguage=EN). From Lund, the group will travel to and from the site by public transportation.

**AIR TRANSPORTATION:** Individuals will be responsible for making their own air travel arrangements between the US and Lund, and for purchasing their tickets from a travel agent or airline of their choice. (Travel insurance is recommended). Participants should keep in mind that in order to arrive in Lund on June 24, they need to depart on June 23.

**PROGRAM COST:** The cost of the four-week program in Sweden pays for the following cost related services:

- Three meals (breakfast, packed lunch, and dinner) for every day, five days per week
- Program-related land transportation in Sweden (weekly excursions)
- University of Florida tuition for six hours of undergraduate or graduate credit

**ADDITIONAL COSTS TO PARTICIPANTS:** Cost of acquiring an American passport; roundtrip airfare; meals during week-end excursions; purchases and travel of a personal nature.

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT I.D. CARD:** Participants have the option of purchasing an International Student Identity Card through the International Center Study Abroad office. Students may be able to obtain a reduction on airfare, culture site admission fees, and bus and train fares for free time pursuits. The International Student I.D. card also includes a limited health and accident insurance policy which is only valid outside the U.S. *Students should however have a more comprehensive insurance plan to supplement the ID insurance.*

**REQUIRED PERSONAL EFFECTS:**

- Heavy-duty shoes, preferably waterproof boots, rain gear, including wind- and waterproof jacket and hat
- Gloves for sensitive skin
- Sun-block cream, summer clothing, second pair of shoes for use off-site
- Day pack and water bottle
- A notebook and pencils
- A Marshalltown archaeology pointing trowel (blade Size: 4-1/2" x 2-1/4")
- Optional equipment includes a camera and binoculars.

**WORK SCHEDULE:**
- Work will be five days a week, between 8:00 am and 4 pm. with half an hour for lunch.
- Participants will aid primarily in the excavation of early medieval structures in Uppåkra
- Participants will move dirt and timber, screen for artifacts, and make detailed maps
- Participants will also be responsible for cleaning and cataloging artifacts
- All tasks will be rotated among the participants, so everyone gets a chance to learn
- On a rotation basis, all participants will have the opportunity to work in conservation laboratories
- Saturdays and Sundays are usually spent on field trips to various sites in Denmark and Sweden