GIOVANNI BELZONI:
A GIANT OF early egyptology

DR. DONALD RYAN
A Lecture by the American Research Center in Egypt – Northwest Chapter
Co-sponsored by the UW Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization

Thursday, 11 April 2013
Gowen Hall 201, UW Campus
FREE and Open to the Public

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Giovanni Battista Belzoni (1778-1823) is clearly one of the most colorful and controversial characters in the history of archaeology. As an Italian carnival performer with a background in engineering, Belzoni traveled to Egypt in 1815 and during the next four years, explored such sites and monuments as the Valley of the Kings, Abu Simbel and the pyramid of Khafre. Although upon his return to Europe he was celebrated as a great explorer and antiquarian, he is often viewed today as representing the worst of the early 19th century exploiters of Egypt’s antiquities. This lecture will present the life and times of Belzoni and consider whether or not he is deserving of such modern harsh criticism.

DR. DONALD P. RYAN is an archaeologist and Faculty Fellow in the Division of Humanities at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. He is the director of the PLU Valley of the Kings Project and the author of nine books and numerous scientific and popular articles on archaeological subjects. Ryan has conducted original research on the life of Belzoni and has re-excavated a tomb discovered by him in the Valley of the Kings (KV 21).

For more information about the American Research Center in Egypt and this event contact at nw.arce@gmail.com or www.arce-nw.com