Introducing Avanti!

Last fall, we announced the start of Avanti!, Phase II of the 10-year Rome Center campaign to transform our program and plan for the future. We are pleased to share more information with you now about this exciting new chapter in the premier study-abroad program you once called home. Thanks to your generosity, this work is off to a great start.

And yet, our work to continue the growth of the JFRC is far from over. We are asking for your continued financial support and engagement with JFRC alumni activities and programs, because you help drive so much of what we are able to accomplish together.

We’ve come so far already. With your help, we can go the distance. Avanti! (Forward!)
In 2009, with Loyola University Chicago’s purchase of the current property on Monte Mario, the John Felice Rome Center began charting a course for its future. Our 10-year plan was comprehensive and ambitious—transform the Rome Center and ensure the future of the program for generations to come.

The first phase of our transformation, financed by the A/Ventures campaign, is a five-year endeavor that includes ambitious plans for a new building on campus, as well as growing our endowment so we can expand the depth and scope of our programming in perpetuity.

Our fundraising goal for A/Ventures is $6 million. A/Ventures will propel the JFRC to the next level and help us fully realize the dream of John Felice—to create the permanent home of the Rome Center, a place of life-changing opportunities for students and a source of great pride for alumni.

For more information about the campaign or to make a gift, visit LUC.edu/avanti.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR
Emilio Iodice
Director, John Felice Rome Center
Vice President, Loyola University Chicago

Dear JFRC Alumni,

Family, and Friends,

It changed my life. I came back a new person. Transformative.” As I meet with JFRC alumni from all decades and backgrounds, I am struck by how often I hear those words. No matter what campus or what year they attended, our alumni share a common and powerful bond—the transformative Rome Center experience.

For more than 50 years, the JFRC has been transforming the lives of our students. There are few opportunities that carry such a positive and lasting impact as the study-abroad experience. The JFRC’s heritage adds another layer to this powerful opportunity, as Jesuit education seeks to develop the whole person and address the world in which we live.

In this issue, we are pleased to share examples of the transformative work taking place at the JFRC. Our new chapter in San Francisco, enabling alumni to reconnect and get involved in JFRC priorities. And upcoming reunions in Rome in 2015 and 2016 are proof that even after decades, the Rome Center experience still brings people together.

We are also pleased to share news of Avanti (“forward” in Italian), the second phase of our transformation campaign, which will further advance the JFRC and solidify our position as a premier study abroad program. This grand endeavor will require a significant investment in resources across the JFRC. Avanti’s a resounding call to our alumni to invest in the remarkable legacy of John Felice and make the Rome Center experience possible for future generations of students.

Every day, we are committed to transforming the lives of our students. You are an important partner in this endeavor. We hope you will join us as we move forward in the next exciting phase of the JFRC’s history.

Thank you for being part of the Rome Center family.

With friendship,

Emilio Iodice
Director, John Felice Rome Center
Vice President, Loyola University Chicago

Avanti! GOAL = $6 MILLION IN PHILANTHROPIC INVESTMENT

Outright Gifts
$4 million

Planned Gifts
$2 million

NEW SPACES FOR LIVING AND LEARNING

To maintain our vision of being the premier study-abroad program in Italy, our efforts involve capital projects that address the needs of the whole student and position the JFRC for growth. A new building on the olive grove property adjacent to campus, the multipurpose building will:

• increase learning, living, and community spaces
• house an experimental kitchen for culinary classes
• utilize sustainable “green” features

Architectural rendering of the new building

AVANTI! GOAL = $6 MILLION IN PHILANTHROPIC INVESTMENT

AVANTI!

NEW SPACES FOR LIVING AND LEARNING

OUTRIGHT GIFTS

$4 million

Planned Gifts
$2 million

PUTTING A JFRC EDUCATION WITHIN REACH

We believe access to the study-abroad experience should not depend on one’s financial resources. The need for student scholarship support has never been greater. Each year, tuition and travel costs rise, so there are many deserving students unable to afford the JFRC.

By providing scholarship assistance, we can put the Rome Center experience within reach for many and attract top-notch students.

ENHANCING THE PRESENT

Programmatic funds support a wide variety of activities that broaden students’ academic perspectives and cultural horizons. Activities such as sponsored study trips, volunteer and service activities, and the internship program are all staples at the JFRC and provide real-world learning experiences that help prepare our students to be leaders in their communities and in the world.

SECURING THE FUTURE

Planned gifts help ensure the long-term stability of the JFRC and provide for future generations of students. Additionally, planned gifts give our alumni the opportunity to help fulfill the mission of the Rome Center while also meeting their own financial goals or those of their loved ones.

“Our fundraising goal for Avanti is $6 million. Avanti will propel the JFRC to the next level and help us fully realize the dream of John Felice—to create the permanent home of the Rome Center, a place of life-changing opportunities for students and a source of great pride for alumni.”

“Avanti! is a resounding call to our alumni to invest in the remarkable legacy of John Felice and make the Rome Center experience possible for future generations of students.”

“It changed my life. I came back a new person. Transformative.”

“I boarded a plane for only the third time in my life and traveled five thousand miles to a place I’d only ever seen in movies and read about in books. Rome offered newness and unfamiliarity and change. I came here to really discover myself, and that is exactly what I have done.”

Emilio Iodice
Director, John Felice Rome Center
Vice President, Loyola University Chicago

Architectural rendering of the new building

“In 2009, with Loyola University Chicago’s purchase of the current property on Monte Mario, the John Felice Rome Center began charting a course for its future. Our 10-year plan was comprehensive and ambitious—transform the Rome Center and ensure the future of the program for generations to come.”

“Every day, we are committed to transforming the lives of our students. You are an important partner in this endeavor. We hope you will join us as we move forward in the next exciting phase of the JFRC’s history.”

“Thank you for being part of the Rome Center family.”

With friendship,

Emilio Iodice
Director, John Felice Rome Center
Vice President, Loyola University Chicago
I knew Rome was a beautiful city and couldn’t wait to visit Italy, but it wasn’t until I stumbled onto the John Felice Rome Center campus—heaving my bursting suitcase behind me—that I fully grasped the charm and appeal so many alumni had described to me.

The first week, we were given a scavenger hunt and expressly told to “get lost.” To literally and intentionally wander the streets of Rome and discover it for ourselves, we could bring a map, but the priority wasn’t ticking off all of the places on the list. The priority was to become immersed in the Eternal City. Pairing up with strangers from different universities to tackle the scavenger hunt prompted the most dynamic icebreaker I’ve ever experienced.

As soon as we made our way downtown aboard one of those rickety public buses, our small group found ourselves in front of the Vatican. Lit up against the inky sky, the size and gilded architecture was breathtaking. As we chatted about which famous structure we should uncover next, we wandered across the Tiber River and were soon silent with wonder. As we slowly moved down the cobblestone streets, we couldn’t keep our heads down. Our necks craned and swiveled, and our eyes bulged while we tried to take in this marvelous European city sprawled under the stars.

The semester slipped through my fingers, and three-and-a-half months passed by in a blur of countries, cultures, and people that I can’t imagine my life without. I had the good fortune of visiting Croatia, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Morocco, and Turkey, not to mention a large portion of Italy. I spent more time in downtown Rome than on campus. Constantly surrounded by noisy Italians, zooming Vespas, the smell of espresso and cigarette smoke mingling with fresh prosciutto and mozzarella panini, and jam-packed public transportation buses rattling down the crammed streets, I wandered from architectural landmarks to ancient ruins and bypassed the clicking, shouting tourists…and that was all just one day in Rome.

Wandering the streets of Rome

BY MARILYN DUNN, PHD, (JFRC ’69–’70)

Getting lost in Rome

BY KELLY FISHER (JFRC FALL ’14)

Marilyn Dunn, PhD (JFRC ’69–’70) with art history students

Marilyn Dunn, PhD (JFRC ’69–’70) with art history students

Kelly Fisher (JFRC Fall ’14)
Announcing the San Francisco Alumni Chapter!

Thank you for sharing a few “must-see” spots in Rome, making it possible for current students to create memories of their own in the same places you did. Some of your favorites are listed to the right. This past fall semester, students chose two recommendations provided by the Turano family—including Joe Turano, (JFRC ’96–’97), Giancarlo Turano Jr. (JFRC Fall ’99), and Anthony Turano (JFRC ’02–’03)—with a night out to Pizzeria Baffetto and Giolitti Gelateria (see photo below) for some of the best pizza and gelato in Rome.

This is a great way to connect alumni with current students. Students have an opportunity to visit places they may not have otherwise learned of and follow in the footsteps of former students. And alumni get to contribute to the JFRC experience and see future generations create memories in the same places they did. We are excited to continue this fun initiative and ask for your continued suggestions, and feedback.

Submit hot spots at LUC.edu/jfrcalumni/romerecommendations.

What is the JFRC Alumni Board up to?

Over the course of its half-century history, the John Felice Rome Center has birthed a community of alumni unlike that of any other program. The voice of that community is the JFRC Alumni Board of Directors.

The alumni board was created as an advisory body nearly 20 years ago to involve alumni in supporting the ongoing development of the Rome Center. Since its nascent years, its involvement and influence have far outstripped its original charter as simply an “advisory council” and the board is now involved in a variety of projects that directly affect campus, student life, and the alumni community. Below are the primary areas of focus in the board’s work.

Financial development and support. The board’s involvement in fundraising for the JFRC began with the creation of the Forza Roma fund in support of student travel while attending the Rome Center. During the ensuing campaign, the board exceeded its own contribution goals and became a major contributor to the campaign. As part of Aventi, the board has created its own fundraising vehicle, the Alumni Wall Initiative, which directly impacts the JFRC renovations and provides alumni with an opportunity to participate in its living history.

Mentor program. The JFRC is offering a new, online platform called LUConnect to facilitate individual, professional connections between young JFRC grads and experienced alumni. The goal is to offer younger JFRC alumni an opportunity to consult with and receive guidance from more established alumni in their specific career paths.

Alumni organization. Over the past year, the board has focused on growing the number of regional chapters around the country to establish a deeper alumni community. The chapters currently active include Cleveland, Washington DC, Los Angeles, St. Louis, and, most recently, San Francisco.

Service programs. As part of the activities of its regional chapters, the board sponsors participation in community service, including toy drives each holiday season and food and clothing drives to actualize its commitment to service to its alumni community.

The board includes active members from both coasts and the heartland, and from Florida to the Great Lakes. Our membership ranges from recently graduated to recently retired and everything in between. Membership requires a high degree of commitment in time, energy, and focus, with a direct correlation between the level of commitment and a heartfelt connection to the JFRC. Perhaps at some point in the future, you might consider such a commitment. Until then, it is truly our pleasure to serve.

At LUC.edu/jfrcalumni, you can find a list of board members as well as their bios. Submit your questions to jfrcannounce@LUC.edu.

Auspicium, carissimi!

A new year, a new semester, a not-so-new face but in a new role. It is an honor and a pleasure to salute you all at the new associate dean for academic affairs of the John Felice Rome Center. With gratitude, I follow in the footsteps of Dr. Susana Cavallo, who, in the almost eight years that she served the community of the JFRC, achieved and accomplished such a great deal. She is a wonderful teacher and mentor and a true and compassionate friend.

I still remember the first day I walked into the JFRC, already 10 years ago this coming August. It feels like yesterday. Walking into my new classroom filled with remarkable, young individuals all eager to learn and about to have the best times of their lives in Rome, Italy, and Europe—I immediately felt very much at home, together with those students with you! The John Felice Rome Center is our home. Having had the indescribable privilege to have known our very own John Felice throughout my first years at the Rome Center, I truly see it as my impregno to keep his soul alive in all that we do together. Together, we can build the future. The future is bright… had I been talking about calcio, I’d add that the future is orange! Forza Avancione!

There are many exciting challenges ahead—in many of them, we can continue to build upon the great foundations already laid. The academic program at the John Felice Rome Center continues to expand: new courses are being offered, new disciplines are finding their niche and a new academic relations and collaborations is sought and established in Rome but also throughout Italy and Europe.

I am looking forward to meeting you all, whether it’s for the first or the umpteenth time. For now, I would just like to say ciao volo mano presto! Tanti saluti da Roma!
We are excited to announce the opportunity to return to Rome for an All-Class Reunion, May 21–27, 2016!

Although it is almost a year away, we want to give you enough notice to plan your time off and reach out to your classmates for this chance to reconnect in the very city your friendships began.

Below is a sneak peek of what we are planning. To register, please visit LUC.edu/jfralumni.

May 22
- Brief presentation on the future of the JFRC in the new Mensa
- Campus tour, including all renovated spaces
- Cocktail reception

May 23
- Choice of three classes, held at the JFRC
- Lunch and guided tour of Borghese Galleria

May 24
- Choice of three classes, held at the JFRC
- Guided tour of Castel Gandolfo
- Guided tour and wine tasting in Frascati

May 25
- Optional excursion: Ancient Port of Ostia or Hadrian’s Villa at Tivoli
- Reunion dinner

May 26
- Mass at Church Sant’Ignazio
- Optional excursion: guided tour of St. Peter’s Basilica, Vatican Museum, and the Sistine Chapel
- Closing dinner
Recent alumni gatherings

September 5–7, 2014
40TH REUNION: CLASS OF ’73–’74

The class of 1973–’74 celebrated their 40th reunion in Chicago, including 90 classmates. They gathered for a weekend of dinner parties, a special LUMA tour, and a private closing Mass. It was a special time for reconnecting and, as one classmate said, “So much laughter, so much fun, and so wonderful to re-connect with our younger selves from Rome.”

October 23, 2014
CLEVELAND ALUMNI APERITIVO

Alumni in Cleveland gathered for an evening at the Velvet Tango Room, experiencing an authentic speakeasy. Special thanks to our new San Francisco Alumni Chapter! Guests also were privy to a surprise announcement of options available:

**LEVELS OF SUPPORT**

- **$500** RECENT ALUM (0–10 YEARS)
  - 4” x 8” tile with 23 characters per line and up to three lines of text

- **$1,000**
  - 4” x 8” tile with 23 characters per line and up to three lines of text

- **$2,500**
  - 8” x 8” tile with 23 characters per line and up to six lines of text

- **$5,000**
  - 12” x 12” tile with 23 characters per line and up to six lines of text

**Name a tile on the new Alumni Wall**

On behalf of the JFRC Alumni Board, I want to extend my gratitude to all the generous alumni who have supported our Alumni Wall Initiative thus far. We are pleased that so many people are honoring their Rome Center experience by purchasing a tile. Special thanks go to the classes of ’65–’66, ’66–’67, ’67–’68, and ’73–’74 for such a strong showing of support early in our initiative. I hope that more of you will join us in this extraordinary opportunity. Together, we can ensure the future of the program that shaped all of our lives.

Throughout this issue are just a few of the messages our alumni have chosen to inscribe on their tiles. They tell the story of the transformative power of the JFRC.

Thank you for your support.

James L. Centner Jr. (JFRC ’66–’67)
Chair, Società di Donatori Ignatian Chari

HOW TO MAKE A GIFT

1. Decide on gift amount and tile size
2. Choose a method to make your gift:
   - ONLINE
     - LUC.edu/tilesforrome
     - One-time gift via credit card
     - Automatic recurring gift via credit or debit card (1–18 monthly installments)
   - CHECK
     - Instructions for remitting a check are at LUC.edu/tilesforrome
   - PHONE
     - Set up a pledge by calling 800.424.1513 and receive monthly or quarterly reminders until it is fulfilled
3. Submit your tile inscription online when you make an online gift, or call 800.424.1513.
4. Determine whether you want a souvenir tile sent to you. You will receive a picture of your tile once it is installed.
Visit LUC.edu/jfrcalumni for a complete list of upcoming events.

NYC ALUMNI APERITIVO
July 23, 2015 • 6–8 pm • Ai Fiori
REGISTER: LUC.edu/jfrcalumni/nyc
We look forward to seeing you this summer in NYC alongside our special JFRC guest, Dr. Susana Cavallo! At this annual opportunity to meet fellow alumni and friends in the NYC/Tri-state area, we will reconnect, toast one another, and share news of the JFRC.

CHICAGO GOLD ALUMNI APERITIVO
August 21, 2015 • 6–8 pm • Pinstripes River North
REGISTER: LUC.edu/jfrcalumni/gold
Dedicated to those who attended the JFRC between 2005 and 2015, join us for a night of wine, hors d’oeuvres, and bocce! Each year, we look forward to this annual opportunity for our Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) to meet and catch up.

40TH REUNION: CLASS OF 1974–75
September 11–13, 2015 • Chicago, IL
The class of 1974–75 will celebrate their 40th reunion with a three-day event in lovely downtown Chicago. Visit LUC.edu/jfrcalumni for details.

45TH REUNION: CLASS OF 1969–70
September 25–27, 2015 • Chicago, IL
The class of 1969–70 will commemorate their 45th reunion with three days of festivities in the Windy City. Visit LUC.edu/jfrcalumni for details.

RETURN TO ROMA! JFRC ALL-CLASS REUNION
May 21–27, 2016 • Rome Center
We hope you will join us next year as we gather alumni from all classes to see the new and exciting developments on campus and reminisce about one of the great experiences of your college days. Come one, come all! Learn more and register at LUC.edu/jfrcalumni.