

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

il BOLLETTINO

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER FOR THE JOHN FELICE ROME CENTER

FALL / WINTER 2017



DEAR ALUMNI, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS,

Recently, a brief train ride from Balduina brought me to the tiny church of La Storta, just a few kilometers from campus. As I drank in the fall colors of the Roman countryside, it occurred to me that the JFRC is part of a promise made by God to Ignatius Loyola when Ignatius stopped at La Storta on his way to Rome. What Ignatius experienced at La Storta was a vision that led to a profound sense of consolation, namely “that God would be propitious [favorable] to him in Rome.”

Each of us—JFRC students, faculty, staff, and alumni—are heirs of God’s promise to Ignatius. In a manner of speaking, the JFRC is a sign of God’s continued faithfulness to “be favorable” to Ignatius in Rome. At the JFRC, we continue to welcome students and alumni (modern-day versions of what Ignatius called “pilgrims”) to find God concretely amidst their studies and in the joys and tears that comprise our individual and collective lives while living in the Eternal City.

What sets the JFRC apart in terms of student formation and academic mission is an Ignatian charisma that inspires everything we do. Thank you for your generous support in helping transform the lives of JFRC students. My prayer is that you be filled with gratitude, especially as you discern how God has been favorable to you.

Ad majorem Dei gloriam,



MICHAEL F. ANDREWS, PhD
DIRECTOR, JOHN FELICE ROME CENTER



Getting to know Dr. Andrews

Dr. Michael Andrews became the director of the Rome Center on August 1. Learn about him and his vision for the center.

What is your vision for the Rome Center in the next few years?

As the premier international Jesuit academic center in the heart of Europe, the JFRC is uniquely positioned to lead the strategic global initiatives of Loyola University Chicago. My vision is that the Rome Center continues to offer the kinds of transformational undergraduate and graduate international academic programs that prepare men and women to become compassionate global citizens and ethical, cross-cultural leaders. Our expansive curriculum is rooted in Ignatian pedagogy, and I am committed to exploring how we may better incorporate Rome, Italy, and Europe into every classroom experience. As we seek to transform the life of each student, my hope is that JFRC alumni continue to be blessings to their families, their communities, and the world.

What do you value about alumni involvement in the Rome Center?

Almost every day, I have the pleasure of meeting alumni who make their way to campus and share with me how their study-abroad experience transformed their lives. Alumni involvement is the lifeblood of the Rome Center. JFRC alumni are grateful for the opportunity given them to have lived and studied in Rome, and they are equally generous in wanting to help future students have the same opportunity. Their stories become our stories. Their experiences become our experiences. Their prayers and financial gifts make what we do possible. Alumni involvement at the

Rome Center is essential in reminding us that we all are part of something bigger than ourselves, that the JFRC has not only deep roots that reach into the past but also long branches that look ahead into a bright and promising future.

Why do you think the Rome Center is unique as far as study-abroad programs go?

The JFRC stands at the epicenter of Europe and Africa; the plight of migrants, immigrants, and refugees is played out daily on Italy’s shores and in our class discussions. It is here that the seeds of martyrdom took root and gave birth to Christian art and culture, and it is from Rome that the

modern European Union was envisioned in the second half of the twentieth century as an antidote to the abuses of fascism, communism, and rampant capitalism.

Our students live and breathe in what is arguably the most dynamic, challenging, transforming, frustrating, and beautiful city in the world. The JFRC campus is both beautiful and secure. Our students have the experience of living in a real Roman neighborhood and forging real friendships with real Italians. At the JFRC, we are not tourists passing through a piazza. Our staff, faculty, and Student Life Assistants provide top-quality formation in a close-knit community of student-scholars, and our professors are experts in their fields. Here, the Ignatian principle of *cura personalis* is not merely an idea we strive to attain. It is our vocation: to make every student as successful as possible. The same mission given to Ignatius when he came to Rome is given to us today.

What are your hobbies or personal interests?

When I’m not writing or working on a project, I enjoy tinkering on the piano,

painting, reading (favorite authors include Tolstoy and Dostoevsky, Fitzgerald, Walker Percy, Tolkien, and John Irving), listening to music (Rachmaninov, Bach, the Beatles), and especially cooking. My family roots are here in Rome, as I grew up in a very large Italian American family in Providence, Rhode Island. My mom was the youngest of 14 children, and I am the youngest of 53 first cousins. Many of my uncles were cooks, and my mom was the organizer of our family’s annual Christmas Eve feast of the seven fishes—and, of course, Easter and special Sunday dinners. And so cooking (and eating) long, multi-course meals that last hours and include lots of feisty conversation is where I feel most at home.

Several years ago, I began studying how to “write” (or paint) traditional icons using egg tempura and ground pigments from a specialist Chaldean iconographer, so I have several long-term icon projects that I return to periodically. Mostly I enjoy taking long walks with my wife, Monica, and our golden-doodle, Bacio, and spending time with our 12-year old daughter, Elisa, watching her discover the joys of becoming herself.



Learning a new dance

BY AMANDA FRIEDLANDER (BA'18)

Dropped in the middle of a foreign country with no Ventra pass, no maps, a two-hour commute between home and work, and no understanding of the local language, Christina Amalfitano (JFRC Spring '17, BA '18) felt perfectly at home.

After being specially selected for an internship program at the John Felice Rome Center, Amalfitano found the perfect fit: a graphic design and promotions internship with the Rome International Dance Academy (RIDA), a professional program of contemporary dance that brings in guest instructors from all around Europe to train talented young artists.

While this would be an impressive internship for any student, it was a match made in heaven for Amalfitano, whose passion for dance and talent in business took

her to a national convention for Business Professionals of America—an organization that prepares high-school students with leadership, academic, and technological skills—when she was a senior in high school. She's also been classically trained in ballet, jazz, and modern dance.

"I've always loved the connection between music and the body that dance generates," Amalfitano said. "The JFRC offers few dance courses, so I was grateful that this opportunity opened up for me."

As the very first person



"I've always loved the connection between music and the body that dance generates."

—CHRISTINA AMALFITANO

to participate in RIDA's internship, Amalfitano felt like a "guinea pig" for the program. Fortunately, her background in leadership and self-sufficiency gave her the confidence to take risks and step up to the challenge.

Each day was different, and Amalfitano would occasionally have the opportunity to

photograph the young dancers as they were training or teaching classes. She was able to experience Rome with a freedom that many students aren't able to due to their highly structured class schedules. She said that having a job "forced [her] out of bed" to see the city and make connections.

"The experience pushed me to exceed my comfort zone, whereas back in Chicago I knew most of the ropes," she said. "Europe challenged me to take control in a European mentality rather than as an American."

Her experience was especially meaningful since it almost didn't happen. Amalfitano was originally nervous about the long commute, the uncertainty of a new internship, and being so far from home for an extended period.

"At first, I almost didn't go, because four months felt like too long," she said. "Now that I'm back, it feels like four months is not enough."

The connections Amalfitano formed in Rome are sure to last a lifetime. Her former supervisors told her that she'd "always have a job in Rome" if she ever came back. Describing the team as her "family away from family," she said she wouldn't mind taking them up on that offer.

Though the constant traffic, confusing signs, and ever-changing responsibilities kept her on her toes, Amalfitano is eager to return to Rome. Even though having a job in the city meant she didn't have a lot of time to herself, she grew and learned beyond what she expected from such an opportunity.

"Some people say you're not in Rome to go to work," she said. "But it's something I can say I really enjoyed during my time abroad. Others might find it threatening to 'playtime,' but I ended up not only improving myself but also discovering an Italian family along the way. The homesickness went away. Rome became my home away from home."



Rome Start students

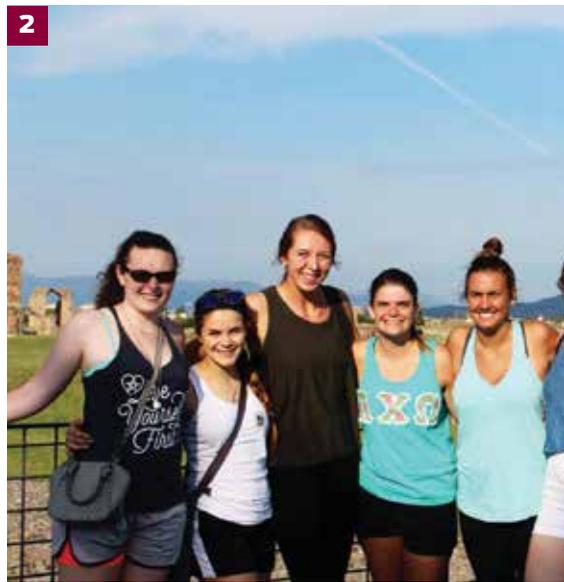
Rome Start is a unique program for students attending high school outside of the United States and select U.S. high school students with demonstrated international interest. Admission to the Rome Start program includes admission to Loyola University Chicago. Admitted students spend the first year of their Loyola experience studying at the Rome Center. After that, students complete their undergraduate degree in Chicago. Rome Start is a great way for students to gain a global perspective to their education while earning their degree.

FALL 2017 CLASS

Aidana Abdumanap, Katya Aguilar, Maya Berry, Alexi Drozdek, Julian Dutton, Greta Gamboni, Maria Garcia, Nynena Gaye, Caroline Houser, Veronika Jakubiec, Mercedes O'Neil, Mrunali Patel, Evelyn Pucchetti, Caitrin Robbins, Gianmarco Roselli, and Martina Valladares



Rome Start students enjoy a beach day trip to Lago Bracciano



Summer in Rome

1. **JFRC Summer '17:** This past summer, the JFRC welcomed 72 students (pictured above left) during the first summer session and 65 students for the second summer session. Combining both sessions together were 26 students who spent the whole summer in Rome.
2. **Summer session** students at Via Appia Antica.
3. **Gardens of Tivoli:** In early July, Summer Session II students traveled to Tivoli, where they meandered through the stately palace and gorgeous Renaissance gardens of the Villa d'Este, famous for its terraced hillside and profusion of fountains, nymphs, and music.
4. **Castello di Torre:** Summer Session II students trekked to a small castle in Pietra, about 30 minutes outside of Rome. They toured the cantina and sampled its local meats, cheeses, and wine.
5. **Cantina Le Cimate:** Students Abbey Uthe, Maryrose Ghassan, and Zoe Doane
6. **The new class:** Students from the current fall 2017 class enjoy time at the Colosseum with their beloved Student Life Assistants.

SEE MORE ROME ADVENTURES AND SHARE YOUR OWN
[JohnFeliceRomeCenter](#) [gojfrc](#)

UPDATE YOUR E-MAIL TO RECEIVE UPDATES
LUC.edu/jfrcalumni/directory



Ricci Scholars Program

INSPIRED BY THE TRAVEL AND RESEARCH of Matteo Ricci, S.J., and other Jesuits, this distinctive program, launched in 2007, offers an unparalleled study-abroad, immersion, and global scholarship opportunity for qualified Loyola University Chicago students. Selected students receive scholarships for travel and research during their junior year. Ricci Scholars spend the fall semester at the Rome Center and the spring semester at the Beijing Center for Chinese Studies. Back in Chicago, scholars complete their projects and present their work to the University community and the next group of Ricci Scholars.

PROGRAM GOALS

ENHANCE a capacity for scholarship through the student's in-depth research project.

ENCOURAGE students at U.S. Jesuit universities to become versed and involved in global issues.

BUILD a team of future leaders who have lived and studied alongside foreign experts.

THIS YEAR'S SCHOLARS



MELISSA CHIARO
GRIFFITH, INDIANA

MAJOR
International studies

PROJECT
The so-called "Korean Wave," the recent exportation of K-pop music and Korean television dramas to Italy and China, and its reception by the publics of those nations



MARK NEUHENGEN
NILES, ILLINOIS

MAJORS
History and Religious studies

PROJECT
Relics and the ways in which the Italian Roman Catholics and Chinese Buddhists interact with these objects to illuminate the similarities and differences between and within religious traditions



JOHN SCHMISEK
WINNETKA, ILLINOIS

MAJORS
International studies and French

PROJECT
A comparative study of the underground music scenes in Rome and Beijing and how changes in the music industry have affected those communities



JESSICA XI
LAKEVILLE, MINNESOTA

MAJORS
International studies and history

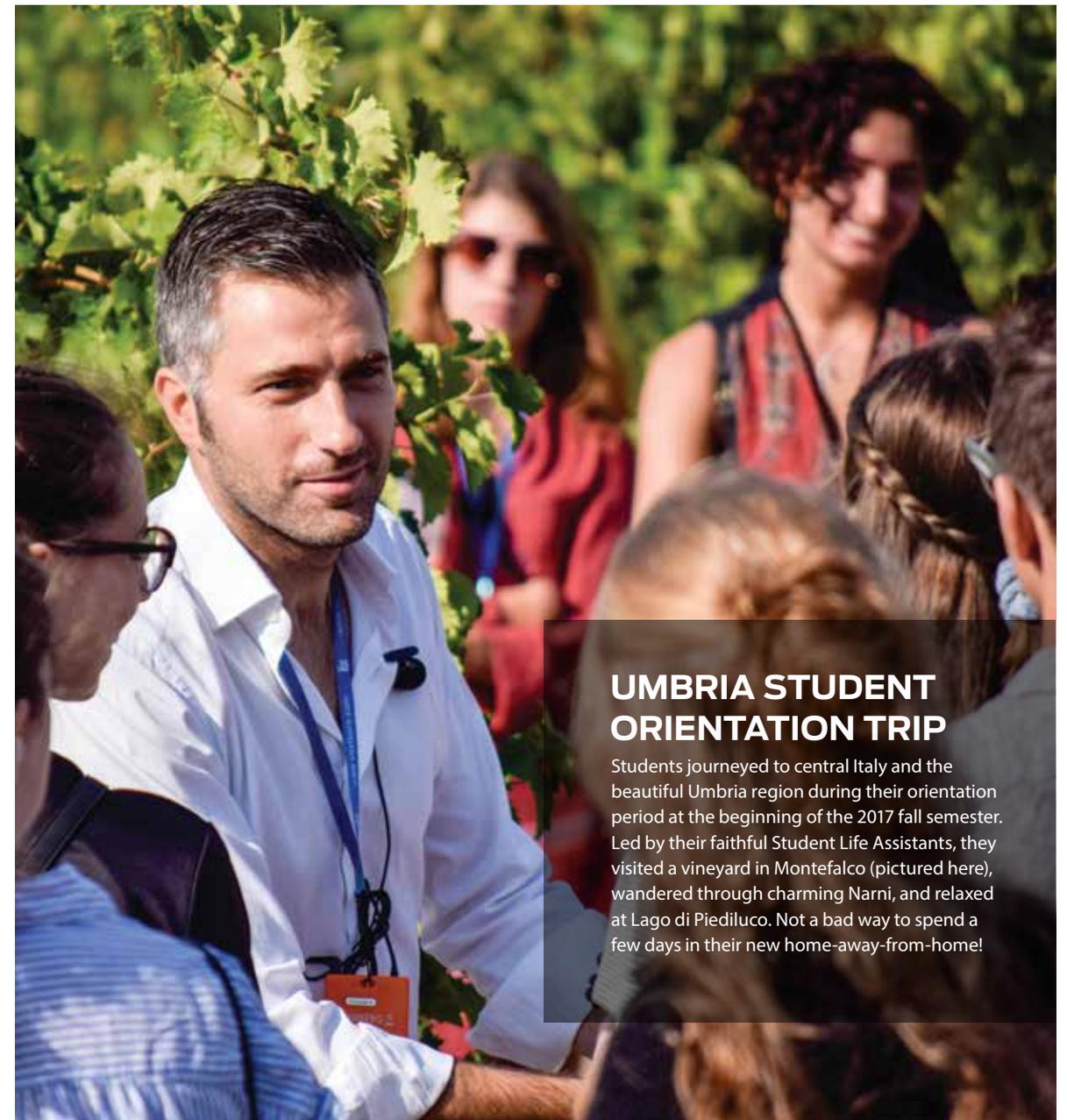
PROJECT
One dimension of globalization by examining a comparatively new group of self-initiated expatriates in Rome and Beijing



JACOB SIERRA
HILLSIDE, ILLINOIS

MAJOR
Marketing

PROJECT
A comparative exploration of the union of art and religion that focuses on the role of public and personal statues in individual worship in Italy and China



UMBRIA STUDENT ORIENTATION TRIP

Students journeyed to central Italy and the beautiful Umbria region during their orientation period at the beginning of the 2017 fall semester. Led by their faithful Student Life Assistants, they visited a vineyard in Montefalco (pictured here), wandered through charming Narni, and relaxed at Lago di Piediluco. Not a bad way to spend a few days in their new home-away-from-home!

The Scott and Joan Sullivan Faculty Fellowship

The Rome Center awarded its 2017 Scott and Joan Sullivan Faculty Fellowship to Dr. Linda Thiel, OP, PhD, RN. The fellowship provides selected, non-tenured faculty with a four-week fellowship enabling them to pursue their individual research and scholarship interests in Italy. Fellows have the opportunity to interact with professors and research colleagues at the JFRC and serve as guest lecturers on topics associated with his or her area of study. As a benefit of Global Center

"Being at the JFRC provided a wonderful opportunity to interact with international scholars and explore the science and faith connection in the Eternal City."

—DR. LINDA THIEL, OP, PHD, RN

affiliation, the fellowship is designed to contribute to the student learning experience on-site while also broadening the fellow's own research and scholarship activities within an international context.

Dr. Thiel is an associate

professor of nursing at the University of Detroit Mercy. With a passion for the discipline of nursing, she has worked in a variety of forms from patient care to nursing administration. Her past research has covered topics

such as nurse job satisfaction, evidence-based practice in European community, breast health of U.S. women religious, and attitudes of foreign-educated RNs in the U.S. Dr. Thiel's current research interest includes the connection between faith and science, with specific attention to the history of nursing and healing as displayed by architecture, statuary, and the arts. In addition, Dr. Thiel has been recognized for her work and received a number of awards.



Felice Award winner

MR. JAMES L. CENTNER JR. (JFRC '66-'67)

JIM CENTNER ATTENDED the Rome Center as a sophomore and spent the summer of 1967 working for John Felice. The experience transformed his life. He and his wife, Karen, are passionate global citizens and have lived and traveled abroad extensively for nearly 45 years. After graduating from Marquette University, Jim served as an army counterintelligence agent. He later became a career naval officer, serving in aviation and intelligence. In addition to numerous foreign detachments and deployments, he was assigned to five requested overseas tours.

Jim's most memorable stateside tour was as an assistant professor of military history at West Point. In retirement, he continues to use his military expertise, frequently visiting the Rome Center to help conduct its World War II Program. He has been a member of the Rome Center Alumni Board for nearly 20 years, and most recently he chaired the Alumni Wall Initiative to raise money for the center's Building Fund.

ACADEMICS

What classes did you take five, 10, or maybe even 50 years ago? Below is a list of all courses being offered at the Rome Center this fall (as of July 1).

BIOLOGY

- Cell Biology

CLASSICAL STUDIES: CLASSICAL CIVILIZATION

- Art of Ancient Greece
- World of Classical Greece
- World of Classical Rome

COMMUNICATION

- Themes in Film and Digital Media: Filmmaking in Rome

ENGLISH

- College Composition: ESL 2
- Human Values in Literature
- The Writing of Fiction: Writing Rome

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

- Ecology of the Mediterranean Sea

FINE ARTS

- Art in Rome
- Art of Ancient Greece
- Baroque Art
- Drawing I
- Modern Art
- Sculpture II

GREEK

- Introduction to Greek Poetry

HISTORY

- 20th Century Europe 1900–1945
- The Evolution of Western Ideas and Institutions to the 17th Century
- Topics: Emperors, Bishops and Barbarians

HONORS

- Encountering Contemporary Europe

INFORMATION SYSTEMS & SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

- Business Statistics

ITALIAN

- Italian I
- Italian II
- Italian III
- Italian IV
- Italian Composition and Conversation I
- Italian Tutorial
- Stylistics

LATIN

- The Age of Caesar

LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION

- European Masterpieces
- Italian Culture: Food & Wine of Italy
- Italian Film History
- The European Novel

MANAGEMENT

- International Business Ethics
- Managing People and Organizations

MUSIC

- Applied Music: Piano
- Applied Music: Voice
- Class Voice for Beginners
- Introduction to Opera–Rome

PHILOSOPHY

- Aesthetics: Aesthetic Experience in Rome
- Ethics
- Philosophy and Persons

POLITICAL SCIENCE

- International Relations in an Age of Globalization
- The European Union

ROME STUDIES

- Human Rights: The View from Rome
- International Internship
- Italy Culture & Context

SOCIOLOGY

- Italy Today

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

- Operations Management

THEATRE

- Beginning Acting
- Class Voice for Beginners

THEOLOGY

- Christianity through Time
- Church in the World
- Introduction to Religious Studies
- Roman Catholicism

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE WRITING SEMINAR

- Writing Responsibly

UNIVERSITY CORE LITERARY FOUNDATION

- Interpreting Literature

UNIVERSITY CORE SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATION

- The Scientific Basis of Environmental Issues

UNIVERSITY STUDIES

- First Year Seminar
- Ricci Seminar Rome



UPDATE

Avanti! campaign

EVERY DAY, ROME CENTER STUDENTS benefit from your support, whether learning in renovated and new spaces, accessing new resources, traveling on weekends, or receiving critical scholarships that provide them with access to life-changing, transformative education.

In order to continue offering this opportunity for so many students, we invite you to participate in *Avanti!*, a campaign to solidify the permanent home of the Rome Center on Monte Mario, to add the necessary facilities and continue providing the experiences that make this home-away-from-home a place where our students develop into global citizens.

Our fundraising goal this year is \$1.25M in order to break ground on the expanded wing on campus. Please join us in supporting the JFRC and giving back to a program that has touched all of our lives over the past 55 years. Thank you for all you do to stay connected with your friends and family here in the Eternal City.

MAKE A GIFT

LUC.edu/Avanti • 800.424.1513

Questions? smcshane@LUC.edu

Make checks payable to **Loyola University Chicago** with **JFRC Avanti** in the memo line and mail to:

LUC Gift Processing
Attn: JFRC Campus Fund
Department 4336
Carol Stream, IL 60122-4336

GIFTS GO TOWARD

Erecting a new building on campus

Supporting student scholarships

Providing real-world experiences for students

Growing our endowment through planned gifts



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“For us to go to Italy
and to penetrate into Italy
is like a most fascinating
act of self-discovery.”

—D.H. LAWRENCE

