

# ROME GLOBAL GATEWAY



UNIVERSITY OF  
NOTRE DAME

INTERNATIONAL  
Rome Global Gateway

## THE ND VILLA OPENS THE GATES TO OPEN HOUSE ROMA



It's 9 a.m. on a Saturday morning in Rome. The streets are still awakening, as people are chatting in front of a local bar and moms are running to do some grocery shopping after taking their kids to school. Emily Patton, a Rome International Scholar, and Diana Neacsu from the School of Architecture start setting up for the Open House Roma alongside volunteers. Curious pedestrians stop by, attracted by the OHR poster outside the main entrance, and peek through the gate. At 10 a.m. the doors open to local visitors for guided tours of the Villa building, which overlooks the Celio hill with its pink walls.

Visitors start the tour by entering through the main entrance path to register. They spent time gazing around the entrance, wondering what the inside of the building looks like. Many of the visitors wanted to stop by because they lived in the building just in front of the Villa for years, or because they used to pass by that street every day, after returning home from the office. For others, the curiosity was peaked through word-of-mouth, as someone told them about an American university in Rome close to the Colosseum. Some visitors are attracted to the pictures and description on the Open House Roma website.

The Rome Global Gateway volunteers take visitors around, showing them the gardens, beautiful interiors, grand staircase, and the roof-top with the stunning view of Rome, that even romans are never tired of admiring.

Visitors are intrigued by the history of the building, the restoration conducted by the University of Notre Dame, and the activities that are hosted inside the building. The volunteers help raise awareness about the University itself; what it is, what it does, and what are its objectives. The event brought students, staff, volunteers, and visitors together to learn more about the mission of the Rome Global Gateway and its effort to create a cultural, academic, and working bond with the Italian community.

Open House Roma is an international event open to the public and free of charge. One weekend a year, historical buildings are opened, along with, contemporary architecture and sites of excellence of the city of Rome. The event is organized by Open City Roma and has been realized in partnership with Roma Capitale, Lazio Region and patronized by the Senato della Repubblica, La Sapienza University, Tor Vergata University and Roma Tre University. This year the program has involved more than 200 sites, sixty special events and eighteen tours, with the help of 500 volunteers.

### **LITERATURE, HISTORY AND HUMANITY: REFLECTING ON THE SHOAH IN ITALY THROUGH THE WORDS OF PRIMO LEVI AND THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF ROME**

*It appears that a woman named Letizia, known to the neighborhood as Goggle-eyed Letizia, sounded the first alarm. [...] The voice she emits is distracted, irritated, and detached from her words. Toward 5 A. M. she was heard shouting, "Oh God, i mammoni."*

*"Mammoni" in Roman Jewish slang means cops, guards, police. In fact, it was the Germans, who, with the heavy cadenced steps (we know people for whom that step has remained the symbol, the terrifying audio equivalent, of the German horrors) had begun to barricade streets and houses of the Ghetto. ("October 16th, 1943" Giacomo Debenedetti).*

The Rome Global Gateway, in collaboration with Italian Studies at Notre Dame and with the support of Notre Dame International,

organized a video conference event between the University of Notre Dame and the Notre Dame Villa in Rome entitled: *Literature, History, and Humanity: reflecting on the Shoah in Italy through the Words of Primo Levi and the Jewish Community of Rome*.

The event took place on April 11, on the week when Holocaust is commemorated in Israel and in the United States. April 11 commemorates also the passing of Primo Levi, the Italian Jewish writer, chemist and Holocaust survivor.

The event gathered, both in Rome and overseas, students, faculty and staff to reflect on how significant voices from the past can help us look towards the future.



Members of the steering committee who helped organizing this event were: Ted Cachey, former inaugural director of the Rome Global Gateway and professor of Italian Studies; Vittorio Montemaggi King's College lecturer on Religion of the Arts; Valentina Geri, doctoral candidate of Italian at Notre Dame; and Chiara Sbordoni, faculty at the Rome Global Gateway.

Students in Rome from the Rome International Scholars, the General Education and the School of Architecture program, read passages from the works of Giacomina Limentani, writer and former student at the Jewish school hosted in the ND Villa building during racial laws, and Giacomo Debenedetti.

This group of readings concerned the history of the Jewish community of Rome, and in particular the events surrounding October 16, 1943, when more than a thousand members of the community, including elderly persons and children, were deported to Nazi concentration camps.

Undergraduate and graduate students on Campus presented readings from works by Primo Levi, one of the most important authors of the 20th century and best known for his book, *If This Is A Man*, an account of his time in Auschwitz. The readings reflected the importance of Notre Dame as a center for the study of Primo Levi's life and work. The Primo Levi Collection in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections of the Hesburgh Libraries is one of the most important collections of Primo Levi's writings outside of Italy. As pointed out during its inauguration by Father Hesburgh, who also was in Rome when the racial laws were in force, the Primo Levi Collection is a significant contribution to Notre Dame's

continued commitment to education as vital force for civil rights, human rights, and social justice.

The Rome Global Gateway has a special bond with the Jewish Community in Rome, one of the oldest communities outside Israel. The Villa where students currently reside, between 1938 and 1940 hosted a Jewish School where, among other students, writer Giacomina Limentani attended. During her last public speech in late November 2017, before she unfortunately passed away, Ms. Limentani recalled the tremendous violence she experienced, her love for dancing and the terrors and joys as a young woman living in Rome in the 1930s and 1940s. People like *Giacometta* are needed in everyone's lives to understand the past, how it reflects on our present and might guide our future.

As Italian Jewish journalist, Tullia Zevi, one of the few women journalists to report the Nuremberg Trials who played a major role in Interfaith dialog, and was active in Italian Centre-left politics, used to say: "what we have to do is here, the rest is just *hypothetical*", underlining the importance of the presence of *now*. The readings that were read and commented by the students all witness, somehow, the importance of "hic et nunc" latin for *here* and *now*, and may guide and instruct us all for a more responsible and educational way of life.

## CATHOLIC EDUCATION AROUND THE GLOBE



In mid-March, the Rome Global Gateway hosted the "Global Catholic Education and Integral Human Development Conference". This conference addressed a growing international need and expanding research interest in the under-explored arena of international Catholic education and integral human development. Scholars from the University of Notre Dame's Kellogg Institute for International Studies and the Institute for Educational Initiatives (IEI) explored the realities of Catholic education globally with scholars from around the globe, including Chile, Uganda, India, Bangladesh, the UK, Belgium, and the United States.

This conference sought to bridge normative theories of human flourishing with rigorous empirical methods in order to generate interdisciplinary lines of research related to the demands and outcomes of faith-based education internationally.

Such an undertaking is much-needed given the prevalence of Catholic schools globally. The Catholic Church is the third largest provider of education globally—providing education for over 55 million students in primary and secondary schools—behind the governments of India and China. Despite this, the field has remained devoid of empirical scholarship or attention.

This conference shed light on this phenomenon and focused on three broad topics. First, participants took a broad survey of the current global landscape of Catholic education, in both developed and developing contexts. Second, they looked broadly at the different policy environments that influence—both positively and negatively—the presence of thriving Catholic schools. Lastly, the group dove more deeply into the challenges facing specific geographic regions, including the Americas, Europe, East Africa, and Southeast Asia. In particular, the scholars from Notre Dame focused on areas where the Congregation of Holy Cross serves.

This conference was only the beginning for the group, who have additional conferences planned in Kenya/Uganda, Chile, and London in the coming year to continue this work.

# Student Life

## GAELIC FOOTBALL IN ITALY? WHY NOT!



Gaelic Football is a sport originally from Ireland with unique rules: at first sight a sort of mix between football, rugby and basketball, it is played with hands and feet and a round ball on an outdoor court with the goal of scoring a goal or a point between the high stakes.

After the growth of Gaelic Football all around Europe, it may not come as a huge surprise to learn that the Gaelic Athletic Association's reach extends to Italy and specifically Rome. The official Lazio GAA team, for the first time in 15 years, was part of an audience with the Pope on May 7, 2018.

Antonella Piccinin, Assistant Rector at the ND Villa, found the team and sponsored it to the study abroad students in Rome. Sang Woo Kim, also known as “Ryan”, a student from the Rome International Scholars program, trained for the first time with the team on February 2018 and he fell in love

with the sport as well as with the people.

“It was great to get out there to run around and play a team sport, and the people were so incredibly kind and welcoming. I started going back every Wednesday evening which is when the team practices, out on the rugby fields at Centro Sportivo Tre Fontane close to the EUR Magliana metro stop.”

The team was set up just four years ago by Chris Taggart, a Rome-based Irishman originally from Castledearg in Tyrone. When he left to teach in Hong Kong, Sergio Corsini consequently took over, with Kevin McLaughlin appointed secretary. McLaughlin says that while there are “five or six” Irish people involved, the team are comprised of “expats from America, England and Scotland, but are mostly Italian”.

On April 21st, the first official European Gaelic football tournament in history was held in Rome, coinciding with the Natale di Roma (Christmas of Rome), and Ryan was lucky enough to play in the tournament with the team. The event saw the participation of 10 male and 8 female teams to win the first round of the four scheduled for the Central and Eastern European area, which include Italy, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Switzerland and Austria.

At the Tre Fontane EUR sport facility, which has become a sort of small Croke Park, the iconic stadium of Gaelic sports in Ireland, a strange but warm crowd of Irish people, Italian fans, Lazio fans and curious who supported the various teams gathered and enjoyed the show in a singular Roman-Irish mix of ciriole, beers, Gaelic traditions and local customs.

Besides the result, the event was a success and the party continued after the game with the traditional third half.

## SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE END OF YEAR EXHIBITION



The Rome Studies Program held its second annual End of Year Exhibition to celebrate the close of the academic year in Rome.

## ENDING DAY IN ROME AND NEW CIRCOLO LA NAVICELLA LOGO



As a conclusion of the academic year, students participated to the "Ending Day" that included a Pilgrimage to Little Lourdes, a final mass at the Tomb of St. Catherine, some tasty gelato, a soccer tournament and finally a potluck dinner with the unveiling of the Circolo la Navicella winning logo, designed by Jacob Gillespie from the School of Architecture.

*Jake, how did you get your inspiration for designing the logo for il Circolo la Navicella?*

"We worked to establish a precedent this year for the Circolo Navicella, particularly in terms of determining our identity as a group" Jake said. "I tried to reflect that in the logo by designing it as a coin, with symbols and text intertwined. The text at perimeter comes from Dante, reflecting both the prevalence of the Navicella statue (from the nearby Basilica di Santa Maria in Domnica) in historic Italian culture as well as the academic nature of the group. The text surrounds a laurel wreath of similar symbolic value, inside which are overlaid silhouettes of the Navicella itself as well as an anchor. The anchor alludes to both Notre Dame and the Basilica di San Clemente, our other neighborhood church."

Chiara Sbordonni, Professor of Italian at the Rome Global Gateway and faculty leader for the Circolo la Navicella comments: "this logo expresses the wish that students in Rome feel part of a community rooted in the city and yet connected to the whole Notre Dame community, and conduct their own intellectual and experiential journey through the city and the richness of academic, cultural and simply human experiences and communities that Rome uniquely offers, with open eyes and an open mind."

In attendance were students, faculty, staff, family members, and friends of the Program. The Exhibition expanded this year to include student work from all classes held this past semester: undergraduate and graduate design studio projects, building and construction techniques, sketchbooks from architectural history, watercolors, charcoal and pastels, and models. Academic Director Prof. Krupali Krusche thanked students and faculty for their hard work during the year and encouraged students to take this year in Rome with them and apply the lessons they've learned in their future work.

## STUDENTS PRESENT THEIR CBL ACTIVITIES TO THE RGG COMMUNITY



"Community-based organization" is an umbrella term that includes non-profits, schools, religious and non-religious institutions united by a common place, experience or concern. The Rome Global Gateway, together with the ND's Center for Social Concerns, every year seeks to connect students to communities in Rome according to their interests and availability during their time in the eternal city.

On April 24, as a conclusion of the academic year, the RGG hosted a Community Based Learning conference where students presented to their peers the activities carried out during the semester, the history of the organization, an interview with the administrators, volunteers or people who benefit from their services, as well as their personal reflections.

They shared with the community their experiences at the after school program with the Sisters of Charity, at the Community of St. Egidio, the Shelter for the Sick and Elderly, at Centro Astalli and at Italy Reads, to mention only some.

Their involvement with local organizations and their interaction with people in need as well as Italian volunteers, gives our students the opportunity to strengthen their ties with the local community and to leave their mark when abroad.

## SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE VISIT TO BAGNAIA - CAPRAROLA



The last trip of the 2018-19 academic year was a day trip to the hill towns of Caprarola and Bagnaia near Viterbo. In Caprarola both third year and graduate arkies visited the Villa Farnese originally designed by Sangallo il Giovane with construction beginning in 1530. Giacomo Barozzi da Vignola modified the original design when he took on the completion of the Villa in 1559. It was finished after da Vignola's death in 1573 and the Villa remains among the best examples of mannerist renaissance architecture and design. Villa Lante in Bagnaia, whose design is also attributed to da Vignola, is also a mannerist garden, with two casini that flank it. The Villa was owned by two different cardinals in the span of 30 years who began and completed, respectively, construction of the design.

The arkies visit these villas each year in conjunction with their villa and garden studio design projects.

# Rome News at ND

## RECORD NUMBER OF NOTRE DAME STUDENTS AWARDED GILMAN SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDY ABROAD

Four University of Notre Dame students have been selected as Gilman Scholars for the summer 2018 academic cycle, tying a University record for the most Gilman Scholars in a single academic cycle.

Among the selected students:

- Freshman Olivia Jazbutis, of Vernon Hills, Illinois, will study in Rome through Notre Dame International. Jazbutis is a declared neuroscience and behavior major in the College of Science.
- Sophomore Maria Gomez, of El Paso, Texas, will study in Jerusalem through Notre Dame International. Gomez is a science and business major, with a supplemental major in French, in the College of Science.

- Sophomore Bendu Konneh, of Hurst, Texas, will study in Costa Rica. Konneh is a neuroscience and behavior major in the College of Science.

- Freshman Julius Boateng, of New York City, will study in London through Notre Dame International. Boateng is a declared computer science major in the College of Engineering.

They join Edwina King, a junior accountancy and Spanish major from Minneapolis, Minnesota, who was selected as a Gilman Scholar during the early summer application cycle. King will study in Spain through Notre Dame International.

The Flatley Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement (CUSE) helped guide the students through the application process. The center promotes the intellectual development of Notre Dame undergraduates through scholarly engagement, research, creative endeavors and the pursuit of fellowships.

“The Gilman Scholarship, like the Freeman-ASIA award, the Boren Scholarship, the Critical Language Scholarship and the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, make it possible for outstanding students to pursue meaningful international study and research, whether through an excellent Notre Dame International program or a thoughtful independent project,” said Jeff Thibert, the Paul and Maureen Stefanick Director of CUSE.

“We congratulate our summer 2018 Gilman recipients,” Thibert said, “and we look forward to working with more students on their applications for these exciting international funding opportunities in the months and years ahead.”

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the Gilman Scholarship helps American undergraduate students of limited financial means study or intern abroad with up to \$5,000 in financial assistance for program costs plus additional funding for the study of a critical language overseas.

The scholarship is named for the late Benjamin A. Gilman, a congressman who served as chair of the House Foreign Relations Committee and who, when honored with the Secretary of State's Distinguished Service Medal in 2002, commented, “Living and learning in a vastly different environment of another nation not only exposes our students to alternative views, but adds an enriching social and cultural experience.”

In addition to Jazbutis, Gomez, Konneh and Boateng, sophomore Kylie VanArsdale, a political science and classics major in the College of Arts and Letters, has been selected as an alternate for the summer 2018 academic cycle. Regardless, the Mesa, Arizona, native plans to study in Poland through Notre Dame International.