

# ROME GLOBAL GATEWAY



INTERNATIONAL  
Rome Global Gateway

## UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME CONVENED AFRICAN THEOLOGY CONFERENCE IN ROME



Theologians, Catholic Church leaders, graduate students and lay men and women from around Africa and North America gathered March 23-25 at the University of Notre Dame's Rome Global Gateway for African Christian Theology:

Memories and Mission for the 21st Century, a conference examining the past, present and future of African theology in the Catholic tradition.

Organized by Rev. Paulinus Odozor, C.S.Sp., associate professor of Christian ethics and the theology of world Church, and the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture, this gathering aimed at continuing the dialogue initiated by the 2001 USCCB letter "A Call to Solidarity with Africa" and which had been continued in 2003 and 2004 conferences hosted at Notre Dame and in Nigeria.

The conference was widely reported. Crux Now dedicated a section to it, as well as social media pages.

"This is the long-in-coming continuation of an important conversation," Odozor said. "Christianity is booming in the global south and we want to get into the heart of that from the Catholic perspective. We need to bring Africa's reality out, to dialogue with the movement of the Church there, and not just focus on the disasters."

The assembly of speakers and participants was diverse and included four cardinals, six archbishops or bishops, four superiors general of religious orders, numerous priests and sisters and a host of theologians and members of the laity.

The session topics included moral theology, evangelization, faith and family, dialogue with African traditional religion and Islam and the engagement of Christianity with contemporary African society and culture.

## RGG LECTURE SERIES - VITALE ZANCHETTIN

Vitale Zanchettin, Professor of History of Architecture at the Università IUAV di Venezia, manager of the Sovrintendenza dei Beni Architettonici at the Vatican Museums, was the speaker for the winter appointment of the Annual Rome Global Gateway's Lecture Series, in co-sponsorship with the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana and the University of Notre Dame's School of Architecture.



In the extraordinary and astonishing setting of the Vatican Library, with its 75,000 codices, 1.1 million printed books, which include some 8,500 incunabula, Zanchettin presented his study

"Architectural Preservation in the Vatican State", based on his personal experience restoring the Cortile Superiore del Belvedere Vaticano, in collaboration with the Sovrintendenza per i Beni Architettonici of Lazio region.

## J.J. WRIGHT AND HIS "MOMENT" AT CREATIVE MORNINGS ROME



In February the Rome Global Gateway hosted Creative Mornings Rome, an international cultural program that provides breakfast and a short creative talk on a variety of topics.

The speaker was JJ Wright, a Grammy award-winning pianist, conductor, and composer who holds a Masters of Sacred Music from the University of Notre Dame and who is currently working on his doctorate at the Rome Global Gateway. Wright is currently studying at the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music in Rome while he writes his dissertation and interns with the Sistine Chapel Choir.

For Creativeornings Rome J.J. interpreted the topic "moments" and explained and demonstrated with the piano how improvisation in jazz works. The audience was captivated and inspired and is looking forward to listening to J.J. again on June 1st, when he will be presenting his research on Giovanni Anerio's music with an exceptional concert open to the public entitled "Drama and Devotion: Reimagining Giovanni Anerio's Oratorio" at the Chiesa Nuova at 9 PM.

## PRESENTING OVI VIDEO CONFERENCE SEMINARS 2017

The Italian Studies Program, in partnership with the CNR Institute Opera del Vocabolario Italiano (OVI), is hosting a second series of seminars entitled "Maps, Texts, and Words in Early Italian" focusing on a wide range of topics related to early Italian studies, including: Dante's Commedia, the geographical representation of linguistic data, and the production and circulation of manuscripts in Tuscany in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.



Speakers will include: Marcello Barbato ("L'Orientale," Napoli), Cristiano Lorenzi Biondi (OVI), Mariafrancesca Giuliani (OVI), Paolo Squillaciotti (OVI), and Giulio Vaccaro (OVI). RGG academic director Theodore Cachey, who presented "Dante's Commedia as mappamundi" on February 23rd, commented: "Notre Dame has been collaborating with the Italian National Dictionary project for more than 20 years. The teleconference seminars (OVI) in the Rome Gateway add an exciting new dimension to our international collaboration."

## LATIN PALEOGRAPHY AND CODICOLOGY COURSE AT THE AAR

In collaboration with Notre Dame, the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana (BAV), and the American Academy in Rome, the American Academy will offer a new Winter School in Latin Paleography and Codicology 8-19 January 2018. The curator of Ancient and Medieval Manuscripts at the University of Notre Dame, Dr. David T. Gura, will teach the course and supervise manuscript research. This two-week intensive course will introduce participants to various aspects of Latin Paleography and Western Codicology, offering a balance of theoretical and practical applications.



RGG academic director Theodore Cachey commented that: "This program is the product of the University collaborations with two of our most important partner institutions in Rome, the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana and the American Academy in Rome."

"Personally, I think this is a great example of collaboration between the American Academy, the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, and the University of Notre Dame" says Gura, "it is particularly a great way for researchers and students from both Notre Dame and abroad to experience the holdings of one of the best libraries in the world. The combination of classroom seminars at

the AAR and RGG are augmented by practical sessions in the BAV, where participants will work with medieval manuscripts and apply the skills they are developing in the course."

In fact, participants will develop mastery of abbreviation systems, the ability to identify, classify, localize, and date western book hands (ca. 1100-1500), and an understanding of the historical development and influence of Latin scripts. Western codicological principles and an introduction to analytical manuscript description will enable participants to interpret the manuscript as a complete object by utilizing physical properties such as collation, ruling patterns, decoration in parallel with the script.

A special feature of the course will be research visits in the BAV, which will enable participants to apply the skills and techniques learned in seminars with medieval manuscripts in situ. Discussion sections will offer a chance for students to share their experiences in a group setting and discuss various problems and difficulties.

## NATURE'S ROLE IN 21ST CENTURY

The question of how we should understand "nature" is especially pressing in our time, and has applications to a diverse range of philosophical issues ranging from the explanation of human action, on the one hand, to the analysis of fundamental scientific concepts, such as "causation" and "laws," on the other.



In investigating this theme, however, different philosophical subdisciplines have often operated in isolation from each other. The goal of the conference "Metaphysical Dimensions of Nature," was to stimulate conversation and create opportunity for shared inquiry, by bringing together top scholars from a variety of philosophical subdisciplines to discuss together

fundamental problems in the philosophy of nature. In particular, the conference had a special interest in bringing the rich and sophisticated resources developed in contemporary metaphysics and philosophy of nature, into dialogue with the philosophical tradition of Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas.

Aristotelian-Thomistic ways of thinking are increasingly making a comeback in contemporary philosophical circles: e.g., particularly, there has been increasing interest in its theory of "hylomorphism" as a way of analyzing material beings that offers an intriguing approach--new to the contemporary discourse--to key problems in today's philosophy of science and metaphysics. Thus one of the hopes for the conference was to provide the opportunity to explore, from a variety of perspectives, what a Thomistically-informed philosophy of nature might look like in our own age.

The two-day conference, which attracted 150 attendees, was co-hosted by the Pontifical University of Santa Croce and the RGG. The event was attended by scholars from around the world, including the USA, Italy, England, Argentina, Spain, Portugal, Germany, and Belgium.

# Student Life

## GEORGE SAUMAREZ SMITH WORKSHOP

George Saumarez Smith of ADAM Architecture gave a two-day measure-drawing workshop in the beginning of February. Smith lectured first on measure-drawing techniques and his own work, followed by a day spent with the students at Villa Giulia applying and practicing measure-drawing techniques presented by Smith.

At the left, George makes an initial demonstration for students at Villa Giulia before inviting the students to try out the techniques on their own.

## CAMPANIA FIELD TRIP

Third year 'arkies' toured Naples, Paestum, Pompei, and Herculaneum in the middle of February with studio faculty, Profs. Krusche, Mazzola, and Brendan and Megan Hart, with special lectures by Maddalena Scimemi and Fr. J.P. Kimes.



Prof. Scimemi lectured while touring Naples and the National Archeological Museum of Naples. Fr. Kimes gave a lecture at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta (Santa Restituta) in Naples, which is home to the oldest baptistery in the west.

## UN AGENCIES IN ROME, WORLD POLITICS AND A CAREER IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT: CHARGE' D'AFFAIRS AND ND ALUMNUS TOM DUFFY AT THE RGG

Rome is the headquarters of the three principal UN organizations dedicated to food and agriculture, promoting sustainable development and fighting world hunger: the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Tom Duffy is the Charge' d'Affairs pending the arrival of the new Ambassador to the US Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome. He is also a ND alumnus, holding a BA in Government.

Many stories from his days at ND came up in the course of the thought provoking and inspiring conversation between Mr. Duffy and a dozen undergraduate students at the RGG from all programs. His presentation touched upon many areas, including the work that his office does in supporting UN efforts in the areas of food assistance and sustainable agricultural development, to international relations in today's world, drawing

on his background as a professor in the U.S. National War College in Washington DC.

He also encouraged students to look into a career in the State Department: yet another opportunity for ND graduates!

## INTERNING IN ROME, A MIND-OPENING EXPERIENCE

English Major Andrea Vale and Business student Felix Mayorga Alvarez decided to replace one of their courses with an internship which are carrying out for credit during their study abroad year in Rome.



Andrea is currently working at the Inter Press Service, a global news agency based in Rome and focusing exclusively on development in the Global South.

Felix, on the other hand, is doing an internship at the Roman Guy, a tour company based in Rome, that offers walking, driving, biking and food tours in Rome, the Vatican, Florence and Rome. His job is to write blogs for the company's Rome Tour Info website as well as helping to manage the website and creating an English-Italian booklet for the English speakers traveling to Italy.

Andrea says about her internship: "I've done a lot of different work at IPS so far, everything from writing the itinerary for a workshop in Bangladesh to educate schoolgirls and their teachers on menstruation, to drafting concept notes for a conference on worldwide knowledge sharing. Right now, I'm working on articles discussing the importance of both happiness and water for creating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as a speech to be presented at World Press Freedom Day in May in Indonesia."

*What are you learning and which are the cultural differences you encounter doing your internship in Italy?*

Andrea: "I'm learning a lot about globalization and international development, and I think that it's particularly significant that I'm being educated on those topics in a country other than the United States. It has provided me with a unique lens that challenges the viewpoints I'm used to seeing through. I've also found that, at least for my experience, doing an internship in Italy comes with a lot less structure and explanation than past experiences I've had in the United States, and has thus required a challenging amount of initiative, creativity and ingenuity."

Felix: "I work with employees from all over the world. Everybody speaks English in the office, but I have met a couple of employees with whom I can continue practicing Spanish, my

first language. Also, I work side-by-side with two Romans and I have the chance to continue learning and practicing my Italian, the main reason I am studying in Rome, through conversation with them. I am constantly doing research for my blogs and have learned a lot about the different sites and attractions in Rome. Through this, I have also been able to apply what I have learned in my classes, especially my All Roads Lead to Rome class."

*Would you encourage other students to undertake internships?*

Andrea: "I would definitely recommend doing an internship to any student studying abroad in Rome. It has given me a personal identity abroad that makes me feel like I am truly living, and not just temporarily staying, here. And walking along the Circus Maximus to get to and from work every day is a plus as well!"

Felix: "I would strongly urge every student to seek experience through an internship. It is a great way to meet and communicate with people who were born and raised in Rome, but also from other countries. More specific to my internship, it is a great way to learn about the different sites and attractions all around Rome and to practice and improve writing skills through writing blogs."

## Faculty News

### PROF. INGRID ROWLAND APPOINTED IN TWO COLLEGES

Prof. Ingrid Rowland, beginning January 2017, has been appointed in the Department of History of the College of Arts and Letters in addition to her appointment in the School of Architecture at the University of Notre Dame. Prof. Rowland will spend one semester every four semesters in South Bend, where she will be teaching advanced courses in history, art history and classical studies. In Rome she will teach for both the School of Architecture and for the College of Arts and Letters. This semester in Rome Prof. Rowland has been leading the course All Roads Lead to Rome for all study abroad students.

She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a frequent contributor to the New York Review of Books, and the author of several books.

Lately she participated in the documentary *Athasius Kircher*,

*l'uomo che sapeva tutto* on Rai Storia, presenting Athanasius Kircher, astronomer, writer, mathematician, egyptologist, geologist, optician together with Massimo Bucciantini, Professor of History of Science at the University of Siena; Giuliano Mori, fellow at the Institute of Advanced Study of Princeton; Paul Oberholzer, Professor of Medieval History at Pontifical Gregorian University, Irene Pedretti, historical archivist at the Pontifical Gregorian University and Clara Rech, manager of the Liceo E.Q. Visconti.



# Rome News at ND

## GABRIEL SAID REYNOLDS TAPPED BY VATICAN FOR CATHOLIC-MUSLIM DIALOGUE ON RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM

Gabriel Said Reynolds, professor of Islamic studies and theology at the University of Notre Dame, is one of 15 Catholic delegates invited by the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue (PCID) to participate in a bilateral conversation with 15 Muslim counterparts at Al-Azhar al-Sharif Center for Dialogue (ASCD) Feb. 22-23 in Cairo, Egypt.



The PCID, a ministry of the Holy See, is headed by Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran. Widely regarded as the premier academic institution in Sunni Islamic tradition, Al-Azhar University is led by Grand Imam Ahmed el-Tayeb. In May 2016, el-Tayeb met with Pope Francis at the Vatican — the first papal engagement with Al-Azhar since 2011 — which laid the groundwork for this month's joint discussion in Cairo.

The stated theme of the gathering is the role the two institutions have in “countering the phenomena of fanaticism, extremism and violence” in the name of religion — with examination of underlying causes and proposed paths forward.

Reynolds, whose research centers on the Quran and Muslim-Christian relations, believes the greatest opportunities for progress come from emphasizing what Christians and Muslims have in common — the shared stories, history and values.

“Past struggles in Muslim-Christian dialogue have come from a tendency toward polemicism and a focus on refuting the other side, as though they are opponents,” he said. “Listening is so essential to the fruitful expansion of dialogue.”

Reynolds is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship and is spending the 2016-17 academic year as a research fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Nantes, France. He is working on two projects: one that examines all the textual connections and overlap between the Quran and the Bible and one that investigates the notions of divine mercy and divine judgment in the Quran. Reynolds argues in the latter that Quranic passages should be understood less as how-to guides and more as homilies meant to inspire gratitude and fear in the reader.

A Columbia University graduate with a Ph.D. from Yale University, Reynolds is the author of three books and editor or co-editor of three others. Reynolds joined the Notre Dame faculty in 2003, and his 2009 international conference on the Quran was featured in the New York Times by Nicholas Kristof.