

# ROME GLOBAL GATEWAY



INTERNATIONAL  
Rome Global Gateway



## ROME SEMINAR 2016

Hosted by Italian Studies at Notre Dame, 30 scholars and students from diverse fields across the globe gathered at the Rome Global Gateway for the Rome Seminar 2016 to reflect, discuss and train on a topic related to Italian studies. This year's seminar, Rome and the Jubilee, 1300-2015, was organized by an interdisciplinary team of distinguished Notre Dame professors led by Ingrid Rowland (Architecture and Classics), including

Heather Hyde Minor (Art, Art History & Design), Margaret Meserve (History), and Robin M. Jensen (Theology).

As Pope Francis has declared a special Jubilee of Mercy from December 8, 2015 to December 2016, the study of Jubilees past and present provided a timely focus for tracking Rome's changing fortunes as a religious and political capital, to discover how its mission as a destination for tourists and pilgrims has shaped the face of the city and the growth of its public institutions.

The Seminar concluded with a special lecture on Pope Francis given by the US Ambassador to the Holy See, His Excellency Ken Hackett, an old friend of Notre Dame and winner of the Laetare Medal 2012, on Pope Francis and the Jubilee of Mercy.

## CONTENDING MODERNITIES - PERSPECTIVES FROM MUSLIMS, CATHOLICS AND SECULARS ON DEMOCRACY

The University of Notre Dame Rome Global Gateway hosted a major international conference on "Making Democracy One's Own: Muslim, Catholic and Secular Perspectives in Dialogue on Development, Democracy and Peace in partnership with the University of Notre Dame Keough School and Contending Modernities program, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the John Cabot University Interfaith Initiative, the Sophia University Institute and the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See.

The conference brought together scholars, policy-makers, practitioners and theologians to explore the links between contemporary, religiously rooted projects of democracy, interreligious dialogue and foreign policies aimed at countering religious extremism. Keynote speakers included Scott Appleby of the University of Notre Dame, Graeme Wood of the Atlantic Monthly, Katherine Marshall of Georgetown University and the World Bank, Asef Bayat of the University of Chicago, Amer al-Hafi from Jordan's Royal Institute for Interfaith Studies and Khalid Chaouki of the Italian Parliament.

Two dynamic public roundtable sessions were held on the first two nights of the conference which drew in a large audience of foreign policy makers, scholars, students and interfaith practitioners from across the city of Rome. Following a public session on contemporary practices of Muslim-Catholic-Secular dialogue on Monday evening, Tuesday night's public session was at the Italian Senate, hosted by the chairman of the Italian Senate's Foreign Relations committee, the honorable Pier Ferdinando Casini. Shaun Casey, the US Special Representative for Religion and Global Affairs, gave a major address to open the evening's conversation in which he discussed the recent establishment of his office and the role it has played in engaging religious communities abroad and countering religious expressions of violent extremism over the last 5 years.



## THE RGG HOSTED "TWO DAYS IN PARADISE: PARADISO XI-XX," 19-20 MAY 2016, SPONSORED BY THE DEVERS PROGRAM IN DANTE STUDIES



The seminar focused on the central panel of ten cantos of Dante's *Paradiso* (XI-XX), and built on the highly successful 2014 meeting at the University of Cologne, which examined the opening ten cantos of the *cantica*. The broad aim of both meetings was to foster and encourage international scholarly collaboration between Dantists. It brought together leading Dante scholars from Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States, including from the universities of California, Berkeley, Cologne, Harvard, Munich, Reading, Rome, Warwick, and Yale.

### MEET MARIA GLENSKI FROM THE NOTRE DAME DATA SCIENCE GROUP



Graduate students from the Notre Dame Data Science Group of the College of Engineering, are spending 3 months at a time as RGG fellows collaborating with the University of Roma Tre on Network Science projects. Maria Glenski arrived at the start of June and is working under the direction of ND prof. Tim Weninger with Paolo Merialdo and Valter Crescenzi from the University of Roma Tre on a social media interaction modelling project.

Social media user accounts are a popular source of news, opinion, and entertainment. Working with Reddit usage data collected from study participants, the goal of the project is to model and predict future interactions, like voting on and following new content, in order to understand the influence of various actors on social media interactions. Maria is enjoying her time while studying in Italy, exploring Rome and travelling to other cities and such as Florence, Pompei and Sorrento.

### SUMMER IN THE ETERNAL CITY

This summer marked the beginning of a new NDI summer program at the Rome Global Gateway. For five weeks (May 18 - June 22) 37 undergraduate students explored the city of Rome, past and present, with faculty from Notre Dame (Elizabeth and Tadeusz Mazurek) and the Gregorian University (Fr. Diego Alonso-Lasheras).

In this interdisciplinary program, students visited numerous sites, including the Roman Forum, St. Peter's Basilica and the Jewish Ghetto, while also studying ethical issues, facing Italians today, including immigration. Beyond Rome, the students traveled to Naples and Pompeii/Herculaneum where they learned about ancient life in the vibrant region of Campania. This inaugural year of the program has been a big success, bringing students from Arts and Letters, Business, Engineering and Science together to experience first-hand one of the world's greatest cities.



### PRE-COLLEGE STUDY ABROAD

The Rome Global Gateway recently hosted a group of rising high school seniors and their accompanying staff participating in the University of Notre Dame's Pre-College Study Abroad: Rome program. The immersive two week experience was coordinated by Kristina Wright, Office of Pre-College Programs, and incorporated a myriad of lectures and experiential on site learning led by Professors Giovanna Lenzi-Sandusky (Language and Culture), Dennis Doordan (Architecture), Maurizio Albahari (Anthropology), Alessandro Pierattini (Architecture) and Vatican Didactic Services Consultant Jill Alexy ('07). Students and their counselors, Maureen Brown (Architecture '16) and Conor Greaney (Arts and Letters '16), examined the history of Rome and its built environment; navigating the cobblestone streets surrounding the Colosseum, Forum, Palatine, Vatican City State and eventually making their way to 1920's public housing projects that are now being rejuvenated by community-based street art. Academic morning and afternoons were interspersed with gelato, picnic lunches, long walks in search of more gelato or a special something to take home, and more of the city's iconic sites.



The program ended with an afternoon kayaking in Lake Albano prior to dinner on the Belvedere of Frascati in the Castelli area just South of Rome. The Pre-College Study Abroad: Rome program allows students to gain exposure to the countless opportunities available to University of Notre Dame undergraduate and graduate students including studying abroad at the versatile Rome Global Gateway.

## NUMBERS ACROSS ROME

The Summer Engineering in Rome Program hosts undergraduate engineers in Rome who take two engineering classes in a six-week summer session. The program is now in its third year, and brought 50 Notre Dame engineering students to Rome this summer. The students took two courses, one from Professor Kevin Bowyer and one from Professor Tim Ovaert. Professor Bowyer taught "Ethical and Professional Issues in Engineering" and Professor Ovaert taught "Introduction to Reliability Methods for Applied Engineering Systems".



The program also included planned cultural experiences: a walking tour of the city, a day trip to Orvieto, a tour of the Coliseum and the Forum, a tour of the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel, a tour of the catacombs of Santa Priscilla, and a tour of St. Peter's Basilica and Scavi. The program recognizes that because professional engineers practice in an international environment, they must be responsible to global technological progress as well as social concerns. Students who participate in the College of Engineering's international study programs are exposed to technological achievements in other countries and the everyday life in those countries.

# Student Life

## Andrew Guinan and So Yoon Jung and their Internship at the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission in Rome.

*Andrew and Kate were the recipients of the Nanovic and Notre Dame International scholarships. Can you tell us more about your internship experience?*

JPIC is an organization of religious congregations from all across the world working together to promote justice and peace. These congregations are often working in dangerous parts of the world on issues ranging from mining disasters to migration and the environment. The job of JPIC is to connect these congregations with each other and with other resources that could be helpful in advancing their missions.

A major theme throughout our time working with JPIC has been Pope Francis' encyclical, Laudato Si. Pope Francis' message in this encyclical is to encourage all people to become caretakers for our common home. This extends far beyond simply environmental issues to include human rights and peace issues. Over the course of the summer, we have had meetings on a wide-range topics from geo-ethics to refugees and migrants. An especially noteworthy conference occurred about nonviolence in conflict areas, specifically in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We heard many first-hand accounts of what people are doing to try to prevent violence and had a panel discussion that included the British Ambassador to the Holy See.



This internship provided us the opportunity to get a deeper understanding about how the Catholic Church is coming together all across the world to promote environmental and human rights. We have learned an incredible amount about a wide variety of topics and we are excited to see where this work will lead in the future.

## SUMMER INTERNING IN ROME



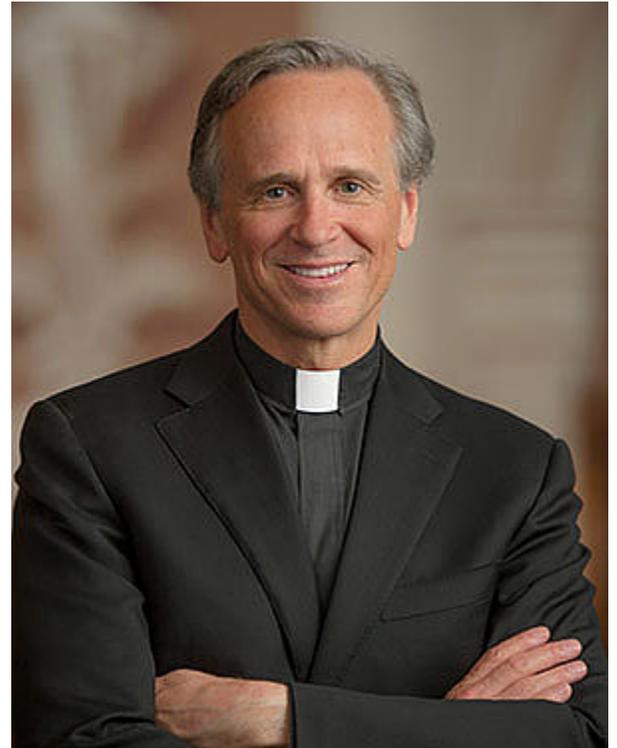
For the first time this year ND students had the chance to apply for a Summer Internship through the Rome Global Gateway. The internships have been an occasion to apply their academic and personal knowledge, to interface with a different culture and to enter in an international work setting. Among the others, Joe Strasz, Mary Burke and Priscilla Quaye carried out their internship at the American Academy in Rome. "The experience I had at the Academy was pleasant - says Priscilla - I met some great people and had the opportunity to work with a lot of very rare and, sometimes, old and fragile books. These books ranged from Boccaccio and Dante to Vitruvius and Alberti, all of which I found interest in. It was pretty cool to have access to ancient texts of great interest and work directly with them."

Margaret Swineheart, spent her internship at the US Embassy to Italy: "I have gained insight into US foreign policy and diplomacy, enabling me to explore a possible career path while learning how to live in another country" she commented.

During their stay in Rome, Rachel Ganson and Emily Campbell worked at the Centro Astalli Refugee Services. This gave them a direct contact with the phenomenon of migration. "My experience at Centro Astalli has been enlightening, showing me not only the struggles that migrants and their families experience daily when trying to access healthcare, but also the incredible support network that Jesuits and other religious provide so that the needs of migrants are met in all capacities with an emphasis on human dignity" reports Emily.

# ND Alumni

## Virtual UND Celebration: Europe Notre Dame Clubs



On Monday, June 13th, Notre Dame Alumni and friends around the ND international gateways had the unique opportunity to hear university updates and pose questions to President Rev. John I. Jenkins who joined the conversation live from Notre Dame, Indiana.

Among other topics President Jenkins discussed the importance of Notre Dame's International Gateways as a means of positioning the University as a leader among major research universities in the world, while providing high quality study abroad opportunities for students, and promoting the study of foreign languages and cultures.