

THE FORUM ROMANUM

News from the University of Dallas Eugene Constantin Rome Campus at Due Santi



Destination: VENICE

The Grand Tour of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries brought British and American aristocrats and artists to Italy so that they might experience in person all that they had studied in books. Rome was their primary destination, but in their long Italian stays (life moved more slowly then), these Grand Tourists explored the entire boot-shaped peninsula, taking in the newly discovered Pompeii, visiting Naples with its dramatic volcanic backdrop, walking in the footsteps of Renaissance artists in Florence, and admiring the golden mosaics of Venice.

University of Dallas students are heir to the tradition of the Grand Tour, and so each semester we venture off the Due Santi campus and head to the great cities of Northern Italy, eager to see what they have to teach us. Our trip begins with an art pilgrimage to Florence, where we admire Botticelli's *Birth of Venus* and Michelangelo's *David*. Our journey ends with a spiritual retreat in Assisi. In the Spring of 2006, we extended this trip, reintroducing Venice into our Northern Italian itinerary, and giving students the opportunity to explore both art and history in the city of canals and gondolas.

On-campus lectures given by Professors Andrew Moran and Laura Flusche provided students with an introduction to the complexities of Venetian history, art, and literature before they ever left Due Santi. And group visits to the Ducal Palace and Piazza San Marco encouraged students to ponder the questions that this city has raised for generations of visitors: How do you live on water? What historical forces transformed this mere lagoon into a city with grand imperial ambitions? By what unique system of

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WHY ROME MATTERS

Glen & Sarah Thurow

Professors on the Rome Campus
2001-2003

The Rome Program is strong on academic content. This may seem an obvious point, but it really isn't. Other foreign study programs bring young American students to Europe with the promise of cultural immersion and exciting personal travel experiences. There is nothing wrong with that, except when true learning takes a second place to mere hands-on-experience. The UD philosophy of putting studies first - even in the study-abroad context - clearly has its merits. Putting studies first in Rome can make all the difference between getting a real European education and wasting one.

By choosing to study in Rome, UD students commit themselves to a rigorous academic program that inquires into the roots of both contemporary Europe and contemporary America, an inquiry that then undergirds and informs both study and travel. By seeing both their European experiences and their previous American experiences in the light of the alternatives presented by ancient Greece and Rome, as well as by Jerusalem and Medieval Christianity, students rediscover the common heritage linking the United States and Europe. European-American differences then appear in a different light. The issue is no longer, which do I like the best? It becomes, what is the promise of Western Civilization, and is Europe or the U.S. better fulfilling that promise in our time? By looking not merely toward the different but toward the best, students find their own aspirations. It is for this reason that when they return they almost universally say that the semester is transforming, for they have come to know not merely Europe but themselves better.



Spring 2006 University of Dallas Rome students had the opportunity to explore the labyrinth of canals in Venice

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governance did this city manage to maintain its wealth and power for so many centuries? What about this remarkable city so fascinated William Shakespeare, Lord Byron, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Henry James, and so many others?

The answers are found in careful study and industrious exploration. UD students took to the task with aplomb. "This is where east meets west," exclaimed one upon walking into the Byzantine jewel box that is the Basilica of San Marco. "It's as if I've traveled across the Mediterranean and back in time," whispered another.

Buon Appetito a Tutti!

The name Teresa Gatto is a familiar one on UD's Rome campus, thanks both to her delicious Italian cuisine and her enthusiastic personality. Signora Teresa (as she's called by her adoring fans) is the Due Santi head cook and is now in her 10th year of service to the university.

Like many Italians, Teresa believes that eating should be among the most enjoyable experiences in life. Students discover that she can always be counted on to serve a full plate of pasta, even if they ask for half, and they're thrilled to find that she's willing to drop everything to teach them how to sprinkle *parmeggiano reggiano* on pasta in the proper fashion.

Though Teresa has been cooking for UD students for a decade, she admits that she is still enchanted by the bold and charming UD students who cleverly complement her cooking skills, and then quickly and strategically line up for seconds.

One of Teresa's most popular dishes is *Pennette alla Vodka*, and she's agreed to share the recipe with us for this edition of the *Forum Romanum*.



Signora Teresa Gatto serving University of Dallas students

Pennette alla Vodka

(MAKES 5-6 SERVINGS)

Ingredients:

- 6-8 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 ½ cups diced pancetta *affumicata* (or diced Canadian style ham / bacon)
- 2 espresso size cups of vodka
- 2 ¼ lbs. tomato puree (uncooked and without skins)
- 1 ¾ cups heavy cream
- 1 ¾ lbs. pennette (or another of your favorite dry pastas)
- 1 tablespoon rock salt

Fill a large pasta pot with water and put on high heat.

In a wide non-stick pan, melt butter. Add pancetta and slowly cook butter/pancetta mixture on low heat. The pancetta needs to remain soft and not get crunchy or brown. Add one espresso cup of vodka, continue cooking, and stir occasionally, allowing vodka to evaporate slowly. Add tomato puree. Stir mixture and continue to slowly, allowing. Slowly the sauce will thicken slightly. Keep uncovered and stir occasionally so that the sauce does not stick to the pan or begin to burn. Add another espresso cup of vodka and continue cooking on low heat for 10 minutes maximum.

Once pasta water boils, add 1 table spoon max. rock salt to the boiling water. Add 700g of pennette (or other pasta to your liking) to the boiling water. Stir occasionally and cook until *al dente* (timing for *al dente* is usually 1-2 minutes before the time on the package).

Add heavy cream to the tomato sauce and mix thoroughly.

Drain the cooked pasta. Add the sauce to the pasta, mix thoroughly and garnish with fresh grated *parmeggiano* cheese.

Buon appetito!

Theology on Site

by Dr. Joseph Stibora

If the Catholic tradition is right that theology is faith seeking understanding, then a firm grounding in the life of faith is indispensable for students in Western Theological Tradition, UD's second core theology course. And just as we learn how to do most things well by following the example of the experts and professionals, the saints are our best guides in the faith.

One great advantage of studying theology in Rome is that the semester regularly provides the opportunity to encounter some of Christendom's greatest saints. For over 1,900 years, Rome has gloried in the local witness of Sts. Peter and Paul, the *due santi* for whom our campus is named. In their honor, each semester opens with a Mass at the tomb of St. Peter and special attention is given to St. Paul in Athens and Corinth on the Greece trip. As an integral part of the Italian trip, students are introduced to the holy poverty of Sts. Francis and Clare in Assisi. Even St. Nicholas' generosity, the reason he became the universal symbol of gift giving, is extolled during a visit to Bari where the saint's remains are venerated.

In addition to these regular encounters with great men and women of faith, many of our Spring 2006 students went to Subiaco, the birthplace of western monasticism. There, they visited the cave where St. Benedict passed three years in retreat as a hermit before obeying the divine call that filled the world with monasteries where men and women could dedicate their lives completely to the work of God.

While it is true that not all saints are theologians, nor all theologians saints, studying theology in Rome highlights the natural unity between faith and understanding that is the crux of our theological tradition. It is easy to conclude that, inspired and surrounded by the most outstanding examples of the life of faith, our students are uniquely privileged to study the Western Theological Tradition in Rome.



The church of Saint Nicholas in Bari



UD Rome Students Take to the NCAA Italian Style!

Students in the Spring 2006 Rome semester participated in the first annual Italian University Basketball Association tournament, financed and directed by the Federal Italian Basketball Association and former professional Italian basketball coach Valerio Bianchini. The event attracted considerable national and regional press coverage, and UD Rome itself was singled out as the first American university in Rome to participate in the tournament. Led by UD alumnus Shane Lungwitz and several students, UD Rome athletes kept a posi-

itive and enthusiastic attitude throughout the tournament. "It was exhilarating for our UD students to be playing on the court alongside Italian university teams," Lungwitz noted. "The game is different here and they learned as much about those differences as they did about Italian culture while on the court. Most of our guys were soccer players, so the learning curve was pretty steep." Lungwitz himself, a UD graduate in Business ('04), now lives in Italy after being recruited to play basketball for several Italian teams. An added benefit to participation in the tournament was that of keeping our UD athletes motivated and healthy, while at the same time balancing their academic studies and experiencing another culture in a different way than they had expected.

Remembering Rome Across Two Generations

by Dan and Peggy Harkins



The Harkins Family, with Jim and Sally Fougerousse, at the baptism of John Paul Harkins at Saint Peter's Basilica in 1982

It was in the spring of 1979, during the first year of the pontificate of John Paul II, that we arrived as sophomores on UD's campus on the Via del Pescaccio. Our fellow Romers will no doubt smile as they recall life on the old campus: freezing dorm rooms and cold showers, the mounds of pasta and "moon rocks" (bread) that fortified us for the physical and mental demands of the program. But the difficulties were far outweighed by the splendors of Rome, and just as classes being "on site" enhanced our studies, our romance was enhanced by the beauty of our surroundings: moonlight on the Pantheon, azaleas on the Spanish Steps, golden light on ancient mosaics. Little did we know, as we threw our coins into the Trevi Fountain at the end of that marvelous semester, that we would soon return to Rome, and that the Eternal City would hold so much importance for our lives and the lives of our children.

We married during spring break of our senior year ('81), and were thrilled to be given the opportunity to become administrators on the Rome campus. There were many challenges in those low-tech days, with no internet, copy machines, or even electric typewriters. Because there were no ATM's, one of our jobs was to exchange the students' traveler's checks. We laugh now as we remember Dan returning from the bank on the #64 bus, nervously clutching the tattered briefcase holding thousands of dollars worth of Italian *lire*. The work was hard, but we still experienced the joy of being in Rome through the eyes of the students.

It was a great privilege to dine with the various faculty members who served during those three years. Who could forget the hilarious anecdotes of Jim Fougerousse, the brilliant ruminations of Fritz Wilhelmsen, or the enthusiasm of a young Lyle Novinski? Great things were happening in the new pontificate, as theology professors Michael Waldstein and John Crosby often related. The new Pope was just beginning his talks on the "theology of the body," and the discussions this fostered had a profound effect on us as newlyweds.

Perhaps the greatest influence was that of Fr. Tom Carroll. Because he had such an extensive knowledge of Rome, (having lived there during the 2nd Vatican Council,) he pushed for more immersion in the city itself. To try to keep up with him on one of his famous walking tours was to ingest history, theology, art, literature, and Vatican politics all at once, and to arrive breathless, both in body and spirit.

Our time in Rome convinced us that UD had the best foreign study program anywhere, for the following reasons. All the faculty members had a tremendous commitment to the liberal arts and the importance of understanding the Western tradition. Whereas other foreign study programs typically focus on a single discipline (like art or language), UD's Rome program harmonizes the many different perspectives of the core curriculum. Students often commented that core ideas finally "came together" during the Rome semester. Secondly, because such a large percentage of the student body participates, a strong bond is created between those who have together experienced something profoundly meaningful. This common ground becomes a fertile field of ideas, whose fruits can be seen in the great conversations in UD's home campus. Lastly, it is a rare privilege to have a campus in the *caput mundi* of the Western world and in the heart of Christianity. For these reasons, we strongly encouraged our own children to go to UD so that they could have the same opportunity.

Our son John Paul, who was born during the time of the spring '82 Greece trip, was baptized at St. Peter's. During his Rome semester in the spring of 2002, we stood with him in the Piazza on the 20th anniversary of his baptism, and marveled at our blessings. Our daughter Kate (made in Rome, born in the USA) and her husband Eli Danze were fall '03 Romers, and again we had the privilege of guiding them around our adopted homeland. Next spring, our daughter Lauren will be in Rome, followed soon after by our nephew Peter McDonough, whose parents Lori and Joe (UD '87 and '85) hope to return. Truly our extended family has been greatly enriched by the Rome experience. We owe a great debt of gratitude to all those who have created and supported this wonderful program in the Eternal City.

A Modern American Play at Due Santi



The Cast of The Crucible

Director Parker Hornsby looked worried in the days preceding his Spring 2006 production of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* in Due Santi's outdoor amphitheater. As he put it later, "The last two weeks of rehearsal were actually quite scary. An actor went missing in Pompeii one day, only to return with some crucial props later. By opening night everyone was putting in very late evenings to learn lines." In the end Hornsby and his cast beat the odds of a busy semester and a demanding play to deliver one of the most successful performances in recent memory. Written in 1952, *The Crucible* offers a dramatic reconstruction of events surrounding the Salem Witch Trials of 1692. It begins with an uncountenanced dance in the forest by some young girls and ends with accusations of witchcraft on all sides and a virtual disintegration of Salem's closely-

knit society. Miller conceived of the play as political commentary on post-WWII America, notably the so-called Red Scare. Hornsby thought that the Rome semester offered the right time and place for a revival, in part because of the play's accessible themes, and in part to break with the pattern of putting on Greek and Shakespearean productions. Christopher Treco (John Proctor) and Elizabeth Flessner (Abigail Williams) were brilliant in leading roles. Equally inspired performances came from, among others, Jonathon Rogers (John Hale), Margaret Davis (Elizabeth Proctor) and Robert Bellamy (Reverend Parris). Of his cast and assistants, Hornsby added jubilantly: "I had all the right people that night. They really came through."

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Marino School Project

Just around the corner from the Due Santi campus, UD Rome students participate in the Marino Volunteer Program (MVP) and experience the challenges of teaching English as a foreign language to Italian middle school students. MVP was originally designed in 2004 as a Sister Cities initiative with the purpose of giving UD students the opportunity to take their first steps toward understanding curriculum development, the basics of the Italian K-12 education system and the challenges of a foreign education system.

In the 2005-06 academic year over thirty-five Rome students and staff volunteered for MVP. These volunteers worked with ninety Italian speaking school children (ages 12-15) studying at two different schools - the Istituto Vivaldi and the Istituto Primo Levi. They planned lessons, taught English

grammar and engaged in lively discussions about travel, language, culture and the differences between living in the USA and in Italy. At the end of each semester the Italian students took a field trip to the UD Rome campus, toured the grounds, performed an English language skit in the campus amphitheatre, and enjoyed an American brunch for the very first time.

The continuation of the program has been greatly encouraged by the Marino community, which understands the importance of bringing its young people together with UD's native English speakers in a non-traditional classroom setting. Now a one-credit course during the Rome semester, the Marino Volunteer Program provides a unique opportunity for UD students interested in education, foreign languages, community service and communication.



Marino school children pay a visit to the UD Rome campus

Romulus, Remus & Richard Meier: The Ara Pacis Gets A New Home



The Ara Pacis in its new museum

Rome sparks the imagination, for here past and present live side by side in the most unexpected ways. Italian children kick soccer balls against Renaissance palaces. The ancient Senate House nestles up against a Baroque church. And an ancient trash dump full of pot shards is home to the city's hippest bars.

But now a contemporary addition to the Eternal City is provoking arguments. Romans and visitors alike are flocking to see and to pass judgment on a brand new museum built to protect one of Rome's most treasured ancient monuments, the *Ara Pacis*, or the Altar of Peace.

The ultra-contemporary museum is unlike anything else in Rome's city center. Made of steel, glass, and travertine, its minimalist design provides a stark contrast with the elaborately carved marble monument it houses. In fact, it's likely that the mythological and historical figures featured on the *Ara Pacis* - from Aeneas to Romulus to Augustus - are as bemused by their new home as contemporary Romans who are trying to learn how to live in the presence of an unfamiliar aesthetic.

Designed by American architect, Richard Meier, the new museum houses the *Ara Pacis*, a monument created between 13 and 9 BC to celebrate Rome's first emperor, Augustus. Probably carved by Greek sculptors, the monument stood on Rome's *Campus Martius*, or Field of Mars, as testimony to the achievements of Augustus, who claimed to have revived the Roman Republican government, to have returned Rome to its old-fashioned values and principles, to have brought peace to the Roman Empire, and to have inspired the rise of a Golden Age marked by harmony and prosperity.

After the fall of the Roman Empire, however, this masterpiece of sculpture was lost. Accumulations of silt and sediment from the flooding of the Tiber River covered the monument, and over time, buildings were constructed atop it. Though fragments of the *Ara Pacis* surfaced during the Renaissance, their identity was not firmly established until the late nineteenth century. But problems with excavation prohibited a full recovery. Archaeologists were reluctant to dig the monument for fear that the buildings on top the interred *Ara Pacis* would collapse in the process.

The problem was solved in the 1930s, when archaeologists working together with refrigeration experts from the Peroni beer factory, devised an innovative way to freeze the ground water around the buried monument, dig out its pieces, and shore up the buildings above. Shortly thereafter, the ancient altar was reconstructed along the banks of the Tiber River, next to the Mausoleum of Augustus.

Having worked so hard to recover this most precious of monuments, it would seem that Rome would rejoice at the opening of a new museum meant to better protect the ancient altar from the city's polluted air and acid rain. But that's not been entirely the case.

Many Romans are miffed that the first modern building project in the city's historic center was given to an American architect rather than an Italian one. Others revile the building's minimalist lines and its sleek contemporary feel, calling it a visual disruption in a city full of Baroque churches, overgrown ruins, and highly-textured cobblestone streets.

Meier himself, sees things another way. At the building's inauguration in April 2006, he told the crowd, "I think the *Ara Pacis* symbolizes something about life in Rome moving on into the 21st century. That's the most important thing for me about the building. I think it's extremely important that Rome should not become a museum. It should have not only a rich history, but contemporary life as well."



Relief Panel showing the goddess Tellus on the Ara Pacis

Europe, the Sleeping Beauty



Professor Gustavo Piga

A consultant for the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) and the author of dozens of publications about public economics, Professor Gustavo Piga is also an old UD family friend. His grandparents developed the property on which the UD Rome campus now stands.

He himself returned to Due Santi during the

Spring 2006 semester to talk to students about his memories here and his outlook on the economic and political challenges facing today's world. The Forum caught up with Professor Piga afterwards.

You spent quite a lot of time at Due Santi as a youth. What are some of your earliest memories?

My father lived here as a child during World War II, which had a great impact on this part of Italy. One night a British airplane dropped several bombs nearby, one of which landed 50 yards from the house, the other in front of the underground grotto where my family used to take shelter. My father and my Uncle Guglielmo, who were then young boys, always protested before entering the shelter because they preferred to watch the bombing. I was luckier not to experience the war, though sometimes I think I led a less exciting life than the two of them. We (my sister, my cousins and I) came out to Due Santi almost every weekend. One of our most thrilling memories was watching my grandfather sharpen the enormous knife he used to slice up great slabs of meat for his Australian-born wife and large family.

Your grandfather was a high-ranking government official and industrialist. Did he play any role in US-Italian relations?

A staunch supporter of the values of the American people, he acted as one of the key Italian negotiators in the Marshall Plan. His expertise was oil supplies. As you know, the Marshall Plan facilitated a smooth transition to democracy for our country and the rest of Europe.

After growing up in Italy, you left for the U.S. and

earned a Ph.D in Economics at Columbia University in New York. What effects did this decision have on your personal and professional development?

I grew up in a family that believed in the value of hard work, international experience and entrepreneurship - all things that I could cultivate more readily in the US than in Europe. Never did I think a career in teaching would be for me, but after enjoying the incredibly challenging environment of Columbia's International Economics program, the choice was appropriate. Having a Ph.D. has enormously boosted my career, in part because of the degree itself, but especially because the Ph.D. gave me a "mental structure" for a method in research that has always helped me since. Most of all, however, Columbia is the place where I met my wife, Patricia who gave me three wonderful children.

Tor Vergata, your home institution, is one of Italy's newer universities. What are its prospects?

Research stands at a low point in Italian universities, and demand for a reform of the system is growing louder. The need to put money into quality programs becomes stronger every day. Because Tor Vergata is a relatively young and dynamic institution, it is in an excellent position to meet future challenges. Its department of Economics, where I work, has been ranked as one of Italy's best in recent years. Many people with US and UK degrees teach here, and our Ph.D. program attracts people from all over the world. This is because our programs and research output are strong.

Your lecture at UD voiced concern over the weakening ties between Europe and the US. Can you explain why this issue seems so troubling to an economist?

There are three great blocs on which the world economy depends: The US, Europe and Asia. The US is the rich "Grasshopper", demanding more than it produces. This demand leads to large deficits and a strong flow of foreign capital into the US to finance them. China, today's symbol in Asia, is the industrious "Ant" - producing more than it demands, exporting its surpluses to industrialized countries and thereby collecting huge foreign exchange reserves. These reserves are then invested in the host country's financial markets, which for the US means treasury bonds. Chinese profits sustain excessive US deficits today, and in return US markets must remain open to Chinese exports. That's the arrangement. There is one important factor missing here, however, and that is the "Sleeping Beauty" of the world - the Europe that

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doesn't grow economically. For the moment, the US seems to be able to live without its Beauty, both economically and militarily. Regrettably, this scenario will not change in the short term. I say "regrettably" because it is a mistake to view today's US-China ties as an adequate replacement for the US-European alliance of earlier decades. China does not have the democratic traditions of Europe. It is a country held together by a communist regime that may eventually try to capitalize on its present economic advantage. Rather than wait for that day to come, the US and EU should take joint steps to awaken economic growth in Europe and thus create a new set of conditions for reducing US foreign debt and financing US activities and restore their weakened political ties.

Two brief concluding questions. Where is your favourite place to visit in the States? And where do you vacation in Italy?

Patricia's parents are from Boston, so every summer we head there with our kids. We love it and, besides, it gives them a chance to strengthen their American roots. But I think Tricia and I are forever remembering New York: there we have really seen and experienced the American melting pot - a social experimentation that has succeeded in this place like no other. In Italy, it's the Dolomites and Sardinia that I cannot live without. That is because my parents took me there, summers and winters, and we are all attached forever to our best childhood memories, I guess.

These Hills, This History



Fall 2006 Students Share a Moment of Delight on the Castelli Romani Trip

Imagine a vast volcanic crater rising above the sea, a series of scattered settlements perched along its precipitous rim. Add 3000 years of human habitation by local Latins and Romans,

and you have one of the most historic and culturally rich regions in all of Italy. Called the *Castelli Romani*, this was the destination of the Fall 2006 semester's first extensive fieldtrip.

The *Castelli* region is famous for its Medieval towns, its Baroque villas and churches, its refreshing white wines and its hearty cuisine. The fieldtrip set out to explore the culture and history of this region to its fullest, culminating with a visit to a vineyard for a bottom-up demonstration of how the local wine industry works.

Stops in the hill towns of Nemi, Grottaferrata and Ariccia took UD students on a journey back in time. Once a Roman town, Nemi is today known for its stunning natural surroundings and a range of special local delicacies, which include pearl-size strawberries, horse jerky and wild-boar sausage.

Grottaferrata is home to an eleventh-century Abbey which served as a bastion of papal power and center of learning for much of the Middle Ages. Ariccia was also a Medieval town, although it reached its zenith only in the

later seventeenth century, under the patronage of Pope Alexander VII and his talented architect Gian Lorenzo Bernini. Bernini's Palazzo Chigi, Church of the Assumption and enveloping Piazza constitute one of the most masterful compositions of Italian Baroque architecture.

An evening of local wine and food at Frascati's historic Casale Marchese - a vineyard, educational center and rustic restaurant - brought UD's Castelli Day to an uplifting close.



Lake Nemi in the nineteenth century