

# ROME GLOBAL GATEWAY



UNIVERSITY OF  
NOTRE DAME

INTERNATIONAL  
Rome Global Gateway

## RGG LECTURE SERIES - "ROBERT VENTURI'S ROME"



On October 25th, the Rome Global Gateway hosted the first of four seasonal appointments with the RGG lecture Series 2017-2018. Jeffrey Blanchard from the College of Architecture, Art and Planning of Cornell in Rome, and David Mayernik from the University of Notre Dame School of Architecture Rome Program introduced and commented the book by Stephen Harby and Frederick Fisher Robert Venturi's Rome. The book is a guidebook to the city of Rome seen through the eyes of Robert Venturi and re- interpreted by the authors, two subsequent Rome Prize fellows and architects.

### Who is Robert Venturi?

Robert Venturi wrote *Complexity and Contradiction* at the age of 37 in 1962, after his fellowship at the American Academy in Rome. When it was published in 1966 by the Museum of Modern Art, Vincent Scully, renowned professor of art and architecture at Yale University, called it "probably the most important writing on the making of architecture since Le Corbusier's *Vers une Architecture*, of 1923."

Venturi looks at architecture, landscape and art as different manifestations of common themes. "The book was fundamental to the development of our outlook on architecture when we read it as undergraduates. Many buildings illustrated in Venturi's book are located in Rome. From the Pantheon through works by his favorite artist, Michelangelo, and on to 20th century buildings by Armando Brasini and Luigi Moretti, Venturi reveals a complex and contradictory Rome."

Stephen Harby and Frederick Fisher in this book proposed to take the reader on a journey through time and ideas by visiting and discussing thirty-three Roman buildings in ten chapters that exemplify the revolutionary ideas of Venturi's book. "Interspersed with Venturi's ideas are our own, drawn from our practice and observations as architects" says Harby.

Venturi's Rome is full of water color illustrations painted especially for this book. Venturi illustrated his book with small black and white photographs and drawings. Artist Stephen Harby, an accomplished and recognized painter in watercolor, created imaginative and analytical watercolor illustrations for Venturi's Rome to replace Venturi's black and white images and showed a selection of them to the audience present at the RGG.

## SOA LECTURE SERIES - JAN GADEYNE



Dr. Jan Gadyene was a guest lecturer at School of Architecture on Oct 23th at the Rome Global Gateway.

Gadyene, an expert in Roman antiquity, has taught at several universities in his nearly 32 years in Rome, among them Temple, Cornell, and University of Miami.

His lecture, *Continuity/Discontinuity: The streets of Rome and the transformation of urban space between Antiquity and the Middle Ages*, examined the changes the city of Rome underwent on an urban level between the Roman empire and the period just after its fall.

Since 2005, Gadyene has co-directed the excavation of the Roman villa on the Piano della Civita in Artena (40 miles southeast of Rome). Gadyene's doctoral dissertation in Archaeology and Ancient Art History is entitled "Function and dysfunction of the City: Rome in the 5th century AD." He has published papers on Roman lead seals, Early Christian apse

mosaics, the formation of the street system in Early Medieval Rome and (especially) on the excavations of the Roman villa at Artena. Gadeyne co-edited, with Gregory Smith, *Perspectives on Public Space in Rome, from Antiquity to the Present Day*, published by Ashgate in 2013.

He is also one of the officers of the Rome charter of the Archaeological Institute of America.

# Student Life

## SYDNEY SCHNEIDER SEARCHING FOR HER FAMILY ROOTS IN SOUTHERN ITALY



Sulla sfondo da sinistra: Izzo Concetta, De Nigris Antonio, Sanfelice Gabriella e Izzo Michelangelo. In primo piano Izzo Rosaria, Izzo Teresa, Izzo Nicoletta, Izzo Mire e la piccola Roccia Anna. La foto risale agli anni '90 ed è stata presa nello studio Fulvio di Piedimonte Matese.



Sydney Schneider is a slender and gentle study abroad student from Laingsburg, Michigan. She is a Theology and History major at the University of Notre Dame, spending her Fall 2017 semester in Rome as part of the General Education program.

She came to Rome to immerse herself in the culture, improve her knowledge of Italian, but also to search for her family roots.

Before leaving to Rome, in fact, she and her father began researching their family history. They came to discover that Sydney's great-great-great grandfather, Raffaele Izzo, migrated to America from a small town called San Potito Sannitico in Southern Italy. Raffaele sailed from Naples to New York on the SS Utopia in March 1888 and then travelled to Saginaw, Michigan to join his brother Daniele. Daniele and Raffaele operated the Izzo Brothers fruit market in the 1890s, both got married and raised two beautiful families. While their sister died as an infant, their brother Angiolo stayed in San Potito where he raised his own family, which still lives there today.

Upon arriving in Rome, Sydney decided to visit her ancestor's small town and wrote to San Potito's town secretary to find out the best way to get there from Rome. Days passed and Sydney began to think she would never get a response until, one day, finally, an email from the town historian did arrive. It was from Nicolino Lombardi, who happened to be himself one of her distant relatives, the son of Michelangelo Izzo and Gabriella Sanfelice, and was inviting her to visit the town and meet all her distant relatives in person.

In early November 2017, Sydney and her boyfriend took a train from Termini station to Caianello (CE), full of excitement and expectation. As soon as they got off the train they were embraced in a warm hug. Nicolino and his daughter Michela were waiting for them at the station and drove them to San Potito Sannitico. As they arrived Sydney thought that the place was much more beautiful than she expected; a small town of 1.922 residents, surrounded by mountains and part of the Regional Matese Park. Everyone was approaching them full of curiosity, waiting to know what brought two young Americans to that small town.

Sydney had the chance to visit Nicolino's house, meet the whole family, taste their home made olive oil, and celebrate Nicolino's wife birthday. They took her for a visit of the town, including the cemetery to see her ancestors' graves as well as the street where her great-great-great grandfather lived.

At night all Sydney's distant relatives in town decided to invite her over for dinner and meet her. As the door opened, Sydney found more than 50 people waiting for her; they had cooked every kind of traditional food, tables were laid, there was music and traditional dances.

When it seemed that every possible thing had already happened, then the unpredictable took place. Once Sydney returned to her B&B, the host asked for Sydney's linguistic help with a couple of young Americans who had just arrived. Sydney discovered that they too were in search of their family roots and lo and behold their ancestors, the Brandi family, migrated to America to join Sydney's ancestors, the Izzo family, in the small town of Saginaw, Michigan. Sydney could not believe it! It was as if their ancestors were somehow meeting again in their hometown through their great-great-great grandchildren.

Time flew by and after three intense and exciting days it was time to say goodbye. Leaving was hard; hugs, tears and promises of meeting again soon were made.

What does being a *family* mean? It means loving and accepting people as they are, giving everything to them without asking for anything in return, sharing sincere moments and understanding. No distance can break a family bond and even after centuries that bond is inevitably visible and strong. Sydney felt part of the family as soon as she came off the train, and now that she has found her roots they will remain a part of her wherever she may go.



## SOA FIELD TRIP TO VENETO



The students' parallel trips visited the cities of Bologna, Mantova, Verona, Vicenza, Venezia and Padova.

The two groups met in Vicenza for a visit to Palladio's Teatro Olimpico, Villa Valmarana ai Nani and Villa Rotonda, as well as in Venice. Profs. David Mayernik and Judy Di Maio led the graduate trip and Profs. Steven Semes, Selena Anders, and Ettore Mazzola led the undergraduates.

## A VERY THANKSGIVING DINNER AT THE VILLA



Students celebrated the first of a long series of delicious Thanksgivings at the Villa. Four turkeys, vegetables of all sorts, apple and pumpkin pies: according to tradition dinner was served and students no longer felt too far from home!

## EXPLORING AND PRAYING IN ASSISI



Ten students from Notre Dame recently embarked on a pilgrimage to Assisi led by four seminarians from the Pontifical North American College. They began with a visit to the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, which houses the Porziuncola where the St. Francis and his early followers lived and worked. They then moved on to the Basilica of St. Clare, which has a beautiful pink-and-white exterior and houses the San Damiano cross through which God spoke to St. Francis,

instructing him to rebuild his church. Students were able to pray and explore as well as visit the tomb of St. Clare. After a tour of the upper and lower basilicas, students wandered off on their own, visiting the tomb of St. Francis and admiring the frescos of Giotto. It was a wonderful day for all involved, allowing them to enter into the peace of St. Francis's spirituality in the very place where he and St. Clare began their work.

"This was certainly the highlight of what has been a semester full of moving pilgrimages and church visits in Rome" Meg Spesia, student minister says. "Together, we have explored churches from the Papal Basilicas to our local parish; we have descended to the catacombs to view the oldest known image of Mary and climbed the stairs to the rooms where St. Ignatius lived. We have gathered in the chapel of the Rome Global Gateway for prayer and reflection and built our community in the hallways of the new Villa. Needless to say, it has been a semester of growth together as we stand in awe of the beauty of Rome and many opportunities to grow closer to God!"

## Faculty News

### PROF. INGRID ROWLAND PRESENTS HER NEW BOOK "THE COLLECTOR OF LIVES"



*"Readers curious about the making of Renaissance art, its cast of characters and political intrigue, will find much to relish in these pages. This is a lively, highly readable point of entry into an important and fascinating text."* — Cammy Brothers, Wall Street Journal

*"An engaging, intricate and mesmerizing gem of a book for those who enjoy reading about the lives of artists and placing the Renaissance within a greater context."* — New York Journal of Books

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On November 16, 2017 Ingrid Rowland, Professor of History at the University of Notre Dame, presented her new book: *The Collector of Lives. Giorgio Vasari and the Invention of Art* with an introduction by Livio Pestilli from Trinity College and Tod Marder from Rutgers University.

Giorgio Vasari was a man of many talents—a sculptor, painter, architect, writer, and scholar—but he is best known for *Lives of the Artists*, the classic account that singlehandedly invented the genre of artistic biography and established the canon of Italian Renaissance art. Before Vasari’s extraordinary book, art was considered a technical skill rather than an intellectual pursuit, and artists were mere decorators and craftsmen. It was through Vasari’s visionary writings that artists like Raphael, Leonardo, and Michelangelo came to be regarded as great masters of life as well as art, their creative genius celebrated as a divine gift. Their enduring reputations testify to Vasari’s profound yet unspoken influence on western culture.

An advisor to kings and pontiffs—and a confidant to Titian, Donatello, and more—Vasari enjoyed an exhilarating career amid the thrilling culture of Renaissance Italy. In *The Collector of Lives*, Ingrid Rowland and Noah Charney offer a lively and inviting introduction to this pivotal figure in art history, and immerse readers in the world of the Medici of Florence and the popes of Rome. A narrative of intrigue, scandal, and colorful artistic rivalry, this vivid biography shows the great works of western art taking shape under Vasari’s keen eye—and reveals how one Renaissance scholar completely redefined how we look at art.

# Rome News at ND

## NARVAEZ NAMED WINNER OF EXPANDED REASON AWARD FOR RESEARCH



Darcia Narvaez, professor of psychology in the Notre Dame’s College of Arts and Letters and a fellow in the Institute for Educational Initiatives, has been named one of two winners of the first Expanded Reason Award for research.

The award was given by University Francisco de Vitoria and the Joseph Ratzinger/Benedict XVI Vatican Foundation to recognize innovation in

scientific research and academic programs based on Benedict XVI’s proposal to broaden the horizons of reason. The university and foundation sought academic works that question and explicitly incorporate reflections on the anthropology, epistemology, ethics and meaning that exist within the specific science. Two awards were given for research, and two were given for academic programs.

Narvaez’s book, *Neurobiology and the Development of Human Morality: Evolution, Culture and Wisdom*, was chosen from among more than 360 total entries from 170 universities and 30 countries. Narvaez will receive the prize, including a substantial monetary award, at the Pontifical Academy of Sciences in Vatican City on September 27.

## FACULTY AND STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN VATICAN MEETING ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT



Five University of Notre Dame faculty members and 12 current students and recent graduates participated in a Vatican conference titled “Perspectives for a world free from nuclear weapons and for integral disarmament,” which was convened by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development in Rome Nov. 10-11.

The gathering was led by Cardinal Peter K.A. Turkson, prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, and aimed to affirm and develop the position of the Holy See on the grave threat of nuclear proliferation and the urgent need for disarmament.

Working to advance the mission of the Church in service of development, peace and disarmament, attendees addressed such topics as the July 2017 United Nations treaty banning nuclear weapons, nuclear weapons and the environment and the role of Church and civil society in promoting disarmament. The speakers and panelists included Nobel Prize winners, senior diplomats and leaders from the United Nations and NATO, as well as academic experts and religious leaders.

“It is a privilege for Notre Dame to collaborate with the Holy See on this timely event and for so many of our faculty and students to be invited to participate,” said Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., president of the University of Notre Dame. “We urgently need interdisciplinary, intercultural and interfaith cooperation to address this grave threat to human life and dignity.”

Read more: <https://news.nd.edu/news/faculty-and-students-to-participate-in-vatican-meeting-on-nuclear-disarmament/>