

il bollettino

The newsletter of the CIMBA undergraduate campus Paderno del Grappa, Italy Volume 7 Fall 2007

Letter from the Editor

By: *Becky Case*
Arkansas Tech University



When I decided to come to Paderno del Grappa to study abroad for a semester, I never could have imagined all of the adventures in store for me over the next 3 ½ months. I stepped way out of my comfort zone at Arkansas Tech University in little ole Russellville, Arkansas and flew across the world to Italy. I have experienced many firsts on my semester adventure abroad: my first time to fly on a plane, my first time to drive a moped around an island, my first time to figure out how to work a train system, and my first time to visit a major city.

It's hard to believe that I am the same person that arrived here just a few months ago because in this short amount of time I have grown so much as a person. I have made friends from all over the country, and I have had the opportunity to learn from some amazing professors. This program really opens the eyes of its students and it gives them the opportunity to make memories that will last for a lifetime.

From the CIMBA Staff:

As we bring this Fall 2007 semester to a close, the CIMBA staff would like to thank each and every person involved in this semester. Looking back on all the great memories and accomplishments we would like to thank the Fall 2007 student body and faculty for your hard work, trust, and dedication. So as we say goodbye for now, we welcome this class into the CIMBA alumni family. Enjoy reading about this past semester. On behalf of all of us here at CIMBA, we wish everyone **Happy Holidays**.

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“Our guide, after knowing us just a few hours welcomed us to his home during feast time to share in celebration with his family.”

EGYPTIAN HOSPITALITY

By: Greer Bailey
West Virginia University



Little did we know that our little mistake would lead us to experiencing our best day of travel.

After staying in the oddly named Paris hostel (twelve dollars a night and one of the best hostels I have stayed in thus far), we woke up early to meet our guide. Our guide, decked out in a black suit and an organist button down shirt, brought us out to his car and we headed off to the pyramids.

Unexpectedly, you could see the pyramids from the city's edge because the desert literally starts at the edge of the city. Before going to the pyramids we made a quick pit stop to pick up our essentials: Michael Jackson, Mickey Mouse, and Ali Baba aka our camels. We took the camels around the pyramids, took tons of jumping pictures, and even went to the foot and touched one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

We got back around noon, waddled off our camels and got haggled into purchasing some perfumes and pieces of Egyptian art. I had two of the best shoppers at my side. Emma, the haggler, who you do not want to mess with and Evan, the thinker, who will not make a purchase without ensuring he is getting the best deal possible. Surprisingly, the best part of the day for me came at the end when our guide invited us to his home for dinner!

I loved Egypt because of the company I was with, the sites I saw, and because I was pleasantly surprised with a new culture.

Here we were, haggling, camel jumping, mango juicing, culture shock. All experiences I never thought I would have used to explain one of the best travels of my life. Traveling to Egypt inspired enough stories to fill a journal book, but one day in particular is worth sharing.

To lend some background, Egypt was not part of mine or my companions' list of places to visit while in Europe. Somehow, we

ended up looking at a map and saw a possibility for an adventure outside the norm of destinations commonly traveled.

Arriving in Egypt at two in the morning, we had to stand in a long line to get our visas, our passports stamped, and then our luggage. By the time we were ready to find a cab, all advice about not following a man away from the main airport exit was lost. As a result of sleep deprivation and a need to get to our hostel, we got roped into a guided tour of the pyramids the next day.



“Every shop will offer you, as tradition, a welcome drink when you come into their establishment, regardless if you buy anything or not.”



Egyptians get a bad reputation for lying and haggling, but we learned that it is part of the culture. We were fortunate enough to experience their hospitable nature



From Sea to Shining Sea and around the world.....Shocking

By: Michelle Bullard
University of South
Florida

At the base of Mount Grappa in Paderno Del Grappa Italy, one hundred and seven students stepped off a bus onto the Campus of Istituto Filippin enthusiastic for a semester attending CIMBA. There were individuals from all over the United States, as well as individuals from other countries. All with distinct characteristics from their region and state, all living in a foreign country for three months and all with at least one thing in common-- they were individuals stepping outside of their comfort zones. For some, it was their first time abroad and for others it was just an addition to the list of countries they have visited.

I asked the question if any students experienced any extreme culture shock during the semester and the general consensus was "no." According to Eric Weitz from the University of Connecticut, "I didn't experience culture shock because I was with other American college kids, which made me feel at ease." On the contrary, there were those students who did not grow up in United States and had different viewpoints on living abroad. Ismael Melgonejo from University of Kansas, but originally from Paraguay says, "Personally, I had no cultural shock being that the culture of Western Europe is very similar to the one of South America. Although I have to

admit that to learn a new language is not easy, the same way in which buying train tickets for the first time; having that travel experience only happens in Europe."

If students said that they experienced culture shock it was when adventuring outside the gates of campus. The realization that Italians are a high context culture and more focused on quality of life was different to most students. Tess Goffena from University of Nebraska-Lincoln states, "I am more alert to my surroundings all the time. People in Europe are much friendlier than stereotypes suggest. Here people work just as hard as anyone, they just know when to take a break and relax." American students love a more slow paced life where people recognize other people. Amongst the differences in Italy are stores closing up to four hours every day for lunch (a concept far fetched for Americans) and the strength of the family bond.

It is interesting to see the societal differences from country to country and it is one of the rewarding opportunities about this study abroad program. Evan Condran from San Diego State University states, "If you think living in Italy is adventurous, go to Egypt, ride a camel to the pyramids and take a taxi through rush hour traffic going the wrong direction of a one way, and whatever you do don't drink the tap water!" Many students, like Evan, had the opportunity to experience cultures besides those in Europe, such as Turkey, Morocco and Egypt.

Some culture shock that students faced while traveling was how the culture reacted to our differences.

As Chrystal Cooke from Furman University said, "I experienced culture shock in Greece because of how differently they reacted to African American females, as well as, some of their traditions were different to get use to." CIMBA students experience these types of situations, whether it is an African American in Greece, a Mexican American in Prague or an American girl in Morocco. The differences experienced on both sides create more awareness and continues to open minds. Gerardo Juarez from Texas Tech University, "After a couple funny looks in Prague and Munich, I realized I am a unique American. I also realized how proud I am of my culture."

There were some students who experienced culture shock amongst themselves. According to Chuck Kassaseya from San Diego State, "I experienced more culture shock being around my peers. There was a lot of stuff that I didn't know about the rest of the country that I thought I knew". Chad Allen from Western Michigan University said, "I realized that people at CIMBA are very different from me: the way they act, think, dress, etc." We are not all from the same places and we all grew up in distinct cultures.

Seeing the similarities as well as the differences was best discovered while studying abroad with students from different American universities. Through this experience we are all able to open our eyes to the world around us and begin to see things in a different light. Alex Means from Furman University as well states, "It feels as though I'm a little kid again, trying to understand a new language and a new culture."

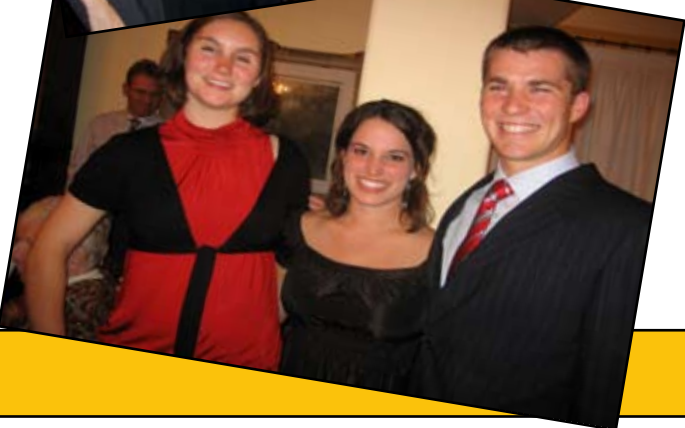
It's an Old Family Tradition

*By: Becky Case
Arkansas Tech University*

Every year, students get time off to go home and spend time with their families for the Thanksgiving holiday. This year was probably the first time that most of the students were not able to travel back home to visit their families. They missed family traditions such as waking up before dawn to go deer hunting, watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, helping cook the Thanksgiving meal or baking pies, and the guys especially missed watching American football all day long.

In spite of this, the people at the Istituto Filippin helped the students to celebrate Thanksgiving with all of the traditional trimmings, with an Italian twist. Brother Martin, from the Istituto, did a wonderful job getting the meal organized for the students in order to make them feel at home. The night started off with all of the students joining together in a moment of silence and singing a short prayer. Then, the group Non C'e Male, which means "It's not bad" in Italian, played America the Beautiful while everyone sang along. The group consisted of three students, Matt Davis, Ben Saylor, and Ben Bienvenu, all from Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina.

Right before they ate the scrumptious meal, numerous students began to stand up to say all that they were thankful for from this past semester and year. It was an enjoyable time of reflection for the students, they could have gone on for hours; however, it was time to dig into the massive feast that the Istituto had prepared for them. They had cooked a special meal with a huge turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, corn bread, cranberry sauce, corn, peas, and of course pumpkin pie. The evening ended with a round of applause for the kitchen staff and their superb job with the fantastic meal.



“Paca”



FRAN

Some professors work just for the paycheck or just for an “easier” career; however, there are those professors who teach to have an impact on his or her student’s lives and the actual “profession” aspect is just a side note. It is this kind of professor that will make a difference, and help to instill the desire to experience and learn in their students.

According to Fran Lloyd, “the most wonderful profession a person can have is teaching,” and these are not just words that she says, but ones that she lives by. She is an individual that influences her students to think outside the box and take a good look at the subject matter on a real basis, rather than solely on a contextual basis.

A southern bell from South Carolina, she is the youngest of four. Throughout her life she has jumped around all parts of the world and United States. Her

main residence throughout the years has been primarily in South Carolina and Texas. While living in Texas she earned the name of “Paca,” which means little bail of hay. Working with trusts and bankruptcy, her main professions have been in banking and working in a CPA Firm. Additionally, she has owned her own importing business.

Some of her favorite pass times include: traveling, gardening, reading, doing absolutely nothing, getting to know people, sailing, and cooking. One of her favorites is traveling and when asked what her favorite place to visit is she responded, “there are too many to choose from.”

What makes her a unique professor is her ability to connect with her students, assisting in opening their eyes to the world around them and broadening their horizons. She says, “Take a deep breath and something

Paca. little bail of hay.

By: Becky Case &
Michelle Bullard

wonderful is gonna happen.” Setting limitations on her students is not a component of her teaching; her focus is more on interaction, facilitating thought and forcing the realization of everyday application to the class lectures.

With that she encourages students to take risks and see opportunities that they may not have otherwise seen before; she states, “Life is the adventure.” For example, in her Global Entrepreneurship class she has her students sit in a semi-circle and asks them about examples they have found in the news concerning Global Entrepreneurship. Along with this, the concepts read in the textbook and presented in class are concretely illustrated to the students giving them a better understanding about the information.

Recently, Fran committed to spending more than one semester here at CIMBA and she does have one disheartening thought. It is to her dismay that every semester she has to see her students leave and she knows that there is a chance that she will not hear from them again; however, she does realize that they have a huge life to live ahead of them, which lightens the mood of her goodbyes.

*

IT'S ALWAYS SUNNY IN STUTTGART

By: Matt Davis
Furman University

"Keep an open mind to have the courage to do new things. Otherwise, you'll only be doing the same things you did back home."



OKTOBERFEST

"Stuttgart? What the hell's in Stuttgart?!" This was a common question I was asked during the weeks leading up to the first travel break when discussing itineraries. The truth is I don't remember exactly how I came upon Stuttgart or its yearly Cannstatter Volksfest (or "Wasen", as the Germans refer to it).

But, over the summer as I did some research on the legendary celebration of beer-guzzlin', lederhosen, and krug chantin' known far and wide as Oktoberfest, I kept seeing Stuttgart pop up on the web search. Thus, I ventured further and discovered that not only did this place have everything a college student could ask for. The lodging options came at a relatively affordable price compared to that of Munich, beyond that of sleeping at the city train station.

Hence, on October 2nd my travel group and I found ourselves on a morning train from Prague heading to Stuttgart, Germany. As we approached our destination, mobs of soccer hooligans donned in VFB Stuttgart apparel boarded the train at each local stop with bottles of their own favored brew in hand. When we reached the station, the red and white sea surged out from the train as if the doors were like floodgates released. I knew immediately that we were in the right place!

After locating our hotel and settling into our penthouse overlooking the city (I'm serious! The hotel overbooked and put us up in a penthouse!), we turned in and awoke early the next morning for, of course, the Wasen! The festival grounds were located beside the Mercedes-Benz museum and factory, which took around ten minutes to reach on the metro line. Stepping off the metro, we immediately encountered the towering entry gate that proclaimed the greeting, "Herzlich Willkommen".

As we strolled into the festival I found myself staring up in awe at the seemingly endless row of festival attractions with colorful tent roofs, which exemplified exactly how the Cannstatter Volksfest appeared in my mind. It didn't take long for us to locate an appealing tent and find room for us to sit down at one of the many rows of long tables.

Before we could even take a good look around our surroundings, a maid came by with menus and I placed an order for some schnitzel and kraut, which trumped any ballpark dog I have ever had back in the U.S. Also, we made friends with some Germans next to us and learned a few traditional German songs that we basically mumbled along to as we rhythmically swayed our krugs. Interestingly, the live band played a good amount of Beatles covers, which brought together festival-goers of all nationalities. We had a group of Pakistanis next to us that joined us in song so our tent basically became a United Nations conference.

Our time spent there was truly a unique experience and for anyone seeking to immerse themselves in German culture while avoiding throngs of tourists, I recommend stopping by Stuttgart...where beer is transported by elaborated horse-drawn wagons, the people are friendly and welcoming, and the weather is always sunny! *





Olive Picking

By: Melissa Luiso
University of Kansas

As a student studying abroad in Italy I look forward to any opportunity I have to absorb a little more of the local Italian culture. The CIMBA students were given the chance to go out to a local farm for one morning to learn more about olive oil, and how olives are harvested. The owner of Café Centrale in Asolo invited us to his home to help him harvest his crop of olives. We loaded the bus bright and early to head over to the outskirts of Asolo where his house was located.

Above his house on the hillside were several olive trees, covered in ripe black olives. The hillside where his olive trees grew, provided us with a beautiful landscape view of the Asolo countryside.



The first task was to lay out a net below the olive trees to catch all the olives we stripped off. Then we were each given the necessary tool to strip the olives off the tree. The tool looked like a crab claw, and would clamp down around the branch of the olive tree,

and when dragged down the tool would strip off all the olives on to the net we had laid out. As we ran each of our tools down the branches of the olive trees one of the girls with me compared our motions to brushing hair. With each stoke down the olive branch, several small black olives fell onto the net. At noon we gathered all of the olives that had fallen into the nets and poured them into large crates. These crates were then loaded onto a truck and carted off to his farmhouse where they would later be transformed into olive oil for us.

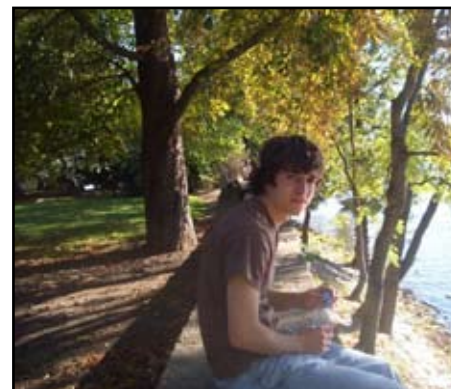


Americans, Italians, and....*Shakespeare?*

By: Ben Saylor
Furman University

I had no idea what to expect when I began my first class with the Italians, helping them learn Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest." I heard there was an activity we could participate in that would pay a little cash, so I decided to do it despite my lack of hope that it would turn into something enjoyable. I could not have been more wrong. By showing up every Thursday morning, I was able to meet several wonderful Italian students who are full of zest for life. I was able to see their confidence boost from mildly reading their lines

and skipping the complicated words to fully acting out their parts and enjoying it at the same time. They in turn reminded me of the love I had for acting and drama that I used to do in high school. I was always disappointed when the class bell would ring and I would have to wait another week to do it again. Helping the Italians with the play has inspired me to continue my zest for drama and look for opportunities to act when I return to Furman in January. However, even for those who do not like to act, an important lesson can be learned.



No matter what the language or how hard something may seem, we can all be inspired to do new things like the Italians have through learning these plays.

In the days leading up to the company tours, I admit I was a bit skeptical. Being a journalism major in a program primarily designed for business students, I figured that I wouldn't get much out of it. I was pleasantly surprised when the day of the tour finally came, as this was not the case. My group, comprised

of people having group discussions, I could see the ideas formulating that would eventually turn into the company's products. This stressed the importance of leadership and teamwork, traits that we have been learning about and improving upon all semester at CIMBA. Also, as journalism students, we were able to see what it is like

Through these two ventures, Benetton is able to promote the ideology that the company was founded on, diversity and equality. Although Fabrica does work for a broad range of clients, they seemed to specialize in social issues, promoting positive change throughout the world. Colors, a magazine distributed worldwide

Exploring Italian Companies in the Veneto Region

By: Sean Rosner
University of Kansas

of about 10 students along with Professor Bass, toured the Benetton Group. The company is well known for starting the chain of clothing stores called The United Colors of Benetton. However, it was the company's other endeavors that most interested me. Benetton also has a graphic design firm called Fabrica, and produces a magazine titled Colors.

and produced in three different languages, is described by the people in the Benetton group as "a magazine about the rest of the world." It aims to inform the public about important issues in the world around them.

On the tour we were able to observe the creative process that goes into making all the products. As we walked around several tables

to work for a successful magazine. We ended the day with a presentation on the last two issues of the magazine, given by the people who designed and created them, and were able to ask questions about working in the magazine industry. This rounded out an extremely beneficial day, and one of my favorite experiences of the semester.

THE GLORIOUS PROSECCO TRAIL

By: Kyle Lewis
University of Oregon

Who does not love a good vino? Certainly the Phi Beta Delta team does and on October 26, we were able to share in Dr. Al Ringleb and Cristina Turchet's passion for vino. They accompanied our group to the Dal Bello Winery in Fonte Alto for a tour of the facilities and the all-important tasting of their much respected wine and cheeses selected specifically by Al. The evening kicked off with our group being given these oh-so-fashionable "mini-Kangaroo-pocket-aprons" which we sported in style while sipping Dal Bello's premier Spumante Brut Prosecco. Its crisp clean flavor was unbelievably refreshing and set a great tone for the rest of the tour.

The representative from the Dal Bello Winery walked

us through the process of making Prosecco, from the gathering and crushing of the grapes to the filling and bottling of the Prosecco.

The process is very detailed and each step requires precise timing and constant



supervision so nothing is wasted. The sheer volume of Prosecco produced and stacked floor to ceiling would make a "wino's" knees weak. Following the tour, we returned to the Prosecco and cheese table to indulge ourselves in Dal Bello's other wines, including their Prosecco Frizzante, Rocca d'Asolo, and their very delectable Prosecco Rossa. It was a magnificent evening spent in great company among our Phi Beta Delta peers and that of Al and Cristina. We would like to thank them for their hospitality and who can forget the many great stories Al shared with us about CIMBA and his passion for education.

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"Travelling abroad has been the experience of a lifetime. I have been able to make close friends, see amazing things, and learn more about myself than would have ever been possible in the U.S."

-Anne Weingartner

"Three months may seem like a long time, but it flies by. So, make the best of friends, eat the best of foods, drink the best of drinks, have the bests of travels, and make the best of memories. And miss a train, get lost, and get back at least once."

-Ayla Nett

"Being away from home is tough, challenging, expensive, and everything else, but if you give yourself a chance to step out and live differently, you may just enjoy yourself and you'll definitely experience change for the better."

-Justin McCourry