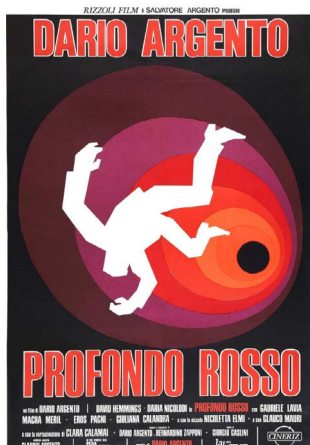


Dickinson

Fall 2024



Luca Trazzi
Director of European Studies



Movie poster for *Profondo Rosso*,
on the cinema studies syllabus

Message from the Directors

Saluti da Bologna!

We're writing to you with only a few weeks left in the semester. As it always happens, the semester has flown by so quickly. Students are coming to terms with the fact that they'll leave Bologna in less than a month.

During fall semester, the Dickinson-in-Bologna program included 31 Dickinson students and one transfer student from Smith College (Northampton, MA): 13 students are participating in the Italian Studies Program, and 18 students are participating in the European Studies Program. We are offering eight classes, including Italian language at the beginner's level, Italian language at the intermediate level, which is taught through theater techniques, art history, which is taught in both English and Italian, and courses in food studies, cinema studies, political science, business and marketing. Approximately one third of our students are also attending classes at UniBo in Italian or English.

During the summer 2024, Prof. Amy Wlodarski completed her two-year appointment at the K. Robert Nilsson Center and returned to Dickinson's Carlisle campus. We simultaneously welcomed Prof. Luca Trazzi as our new, two-year director for the European Studies Program. Prof. Trazzi is originally from the province of Mantova, holds degrees in foreign languages, linguistics and food studies, and has 13 years teaching experience as a lecturer in Dickinson's Italian Department and Food Studies Program. At Dickinson's home campus in Carlisle, Prof. Trazzi teaches elementary, intermediate and writing-in-the-discipline Italian courses and organizes numerous fan-favorite Italian events on campus. As a contributing faculty member to the Food Studies Certificate, Prof. Trazzi has chaired the program and taught Introduction to Food Studies, the certificate's gateway course. This semester, Prof. Trazzi teaches the Bioregions and Food Cultures of Italy.

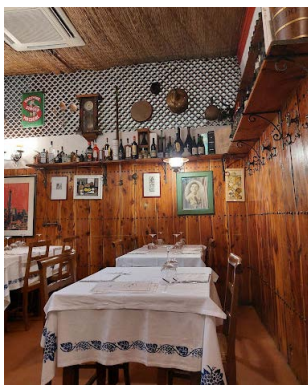


Tony Elms with students at the Nilsson Center in Bologna, spring '24

In Memoriam

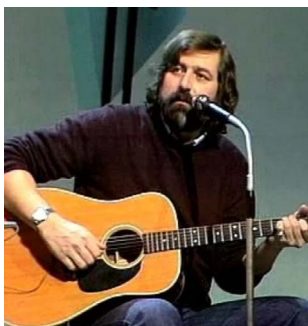
Tony Elms (Bologna 1968-69)

In a thoughtful message this summer from Raffaella, wife of Francesco Guccini, we learned about the passing of Bologna alumnus Tony Elms. She and Francesco were, of course, deeply saddened to hear the news, as were all of us at Dickinson's Nilsson Center. Tony studied on the Bologna program in 1968-69, and his connection to his fellow students and the center continued throughout his life. Tony's involvement with Dickinson and the college's Bologna programs brought him great satisfaction. Together with Mary Jenkins '70, he was a founding supporter of the Francesco Guccini Study Abroad Scholarship. We will always be immensely grateful for his generous philanthropy and his genuine enthusiasm for our work.



Trattoria Serghei

Tony was a true champion of the Bologna experience. We met Tony for the first time in fall 2023, when he was traveling in Italy and spent a few days in Bologna. Although that was the first time we met Tony in person, we had already been in contact for at least a couple of years via email and online meetings. When Tony arrived at the Nilsson Center in Bologna, we felt like old friends, and our conversations picked up from where we had left them during our electronic communications. Upon his last visit to Bologna, we enjoyed lunch at a nice little restaurant near the Dickinson center called Trattoria Serghei, a very non-Bolognese name, to be sure, and perhaps a testament to "Bologna La Rossa" and a reminder of its connections with political activism and civic engagement. Tony ordered *tortellini in brodo*, because, as he said, "What else would anyone want to eat while in Bologna?" We had scheduled a meeting with students for that afternoon, but little did we know that Tony would put on a full performance! It was refreshing and inspiring to listen to his life story and to watch him reveal the deep impression that his year in Bologna had left on him. We had always appreciated Tony's fluency and mastery of the Italian language, which could only come about after years and years of constant dedication. Such dedication rested on a profound thirst for knowledge and interest in the culture of Italy.



Francesco Guccini

Tony made gifts to the Bologna program of interesting books on Italian proverbs. We will be good stewards of these important materials, which will be of great interest to our students and helpful to faculty in our teaching and research. In addition to their academic and instructional value, these materials matter to us because they mattered to Tony.

Tony also gifted the Rome-based Francesco Guccini Fan Club his collection of Guccini's recordings and sent instructions to direct the proceeds of the sales to Dickinson in support of the Guccini Scholarship that Tony was instrumental in establishing.

We are so grateful to have known Tony and appreciate beyond words his sincere fondness for and big-hearted generosity toward Dickinson's Bologna program. He will be missed.

Alumni

The doors at the Nilsson Center are always open to welcome returning Bologna alumni. We invite all Bologna alumni to be in touch with us and stop by during their travels.

The college will continue to share news about the **Bologna Program's 60th anniversary in fall 2025**. Please contact the Office of Alumni Engagement at alumni@dickinson.edu with questions.

During the fall, we received visits from these Dickinson-in-Bologna alumni:

- Ron Waetzman '71
- Harriett Lehman '72 & Mark Lehman '71
- Ellen Wertman '72 & Doug Wertman '70
- Kyle Lee '22
- Matthew Thomas Baker '91

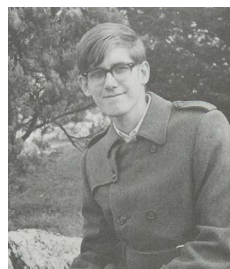
From the Archives



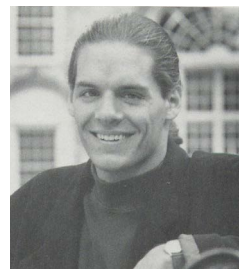
(Left to right) Ron Waetzman '71, Harriett Lehman '72, Luca Trazzi and Mark Lehman '71



Ellen Wertman '72



Doug Wertman '70



Matthew T. Baker '91



Katie Ryan '21

Memories: Katie Ryan '21

I had the great privilege to study in Bologna as a junior at Dickinson. It was an amazing experience that continues to enrich my life every day. This summer, I joined the team at an Italian aperitivo-style bar in New York City called Misipasta. When a guest asks me to describe our orange wines or our lambruscos from Emilia-Romagna, I think back to what the hills outside Bologna looked like, what the air smelled like, how it felt to walk through the fog. These memories make it easy to compare flavors of wines from that region to say, a crisp Piedmont Arneis, or jammy Sicilian Malavasia. When a guest asks about our ingredients, I recall the classes I took in Bologna about slow food, “Made-in-Italy,” and the importance of supporting sustainable practices in the culinary industry. I have even had the pleasure of breaking out my Italian to make some of our international guests feel more welcome.

While I had planned to finish the year in Bologna, my stay was cut short by the Coronavirus pandemic. However, the indescribably unique charm and culture of the city have stayed with me. I have returned to Italy on several occasions, and my favorite place remains Bologna. I hope to visit again soon.

Student Perspectives



Josh Markley '26

Josh Markley '26

Buongiorno da Bologna! I am an international business major and economics minor studying at the K. Robert Nilsson Center in Bologna this semester. Pursuing my studies in Bologna has been a great way for me to connect my academic interests with experiences in the wider world.

This semester, I've taken Reading and Performing Italian Texts, Economics of Poverty and Inequality, Bioregions of Food and Italian Food Cultures, and History of Italian Cinema. These classes have improved my understanding of global trade, cultural norms and economic systems and have challenged me to think critically about inequality and sustainability.

Bologna has been the starting point for trips around Italy and Europe. This semester has offered several opportunities for both intellectual and personal growth, whether it is taking in the vibrant food markets that showcase Bologna's status as Italy's gastronomic capital, strolling beneath the city's renowned porticoes, or viewing Renaissance artwork in Florence. I've deepened my knowledge of Italy's regional diversity through visits to Venice and Milan, and my travels outside of Italy have expanded my view on the interwoven economies and cultures of Europe. My perspective on the globe has expanded as a result of this perspective on Europe, and it has inspired me to consider possible future paths for international trade and economic expansion.

The professors and staff at the Nilsson Center have played a significant role in making this experience truly amazing. Their dedication to creating valuable cultural and educational opportunities has improved the experience and made the move easier. I've flourished academically under their wing, and I've tackled new obstacles, such as negotiating Italian social norms and honing my language abilities through regular conversations with local residents. This semester has changed my life, and I'm already considering ways to return to Europe when I graduate for work, more education or to reconnect with the amazing cultures I've experienced.



Lena Rimmer '26 (left) with Italian roommate Chiara and two Dickinson students (Mia Rappucci '26 and Abby Kohan '26)

Lena Rimmer '26

I am an art history and Italian studies double major and am pursuing the Food Studies Certificate. The professors and staff at the Nilsson Center have helped me to build an independent study curriculum that will work for my major. Part of my independent study has been going to local galleries and museums to analyze works housed in those institutions and place them in the context of the greater theme of landscape paintings in Italian history. Excursions, however, are not unique to my independent study project. All of my classes have included explorations into the city and to other cities.

Course highlights this semester include traveling to Parma with my art history class to present research and touring food markets in Bologna with my food studies class. Classes have offered great opportunities to engage with many great places in Bologna that I might not have found on my own.

My favorite class this semester is Bioregions and Food Cultures of Italy, with Prof. Trazzi. He has done an incredible job bringing our topics to life through touring the city, tasting foods in class, or taking a cooking class. There is always an experiential element to round out a topic we are discussing. I think the whole class has tied together really well and has given me both specialized knowledge about Bologna and Italy and grander, conceptual knowledge in the world of food and food studies. I feel lucky to be returning to Italy for another semester in Florence but know that I will miss the home and community I have found in Bologna. I am so thankful for this semester's amazing life-changing experience with Dickinson-in-Bologna.

Semester highlights



Val d'Orcia, Tuscany



Agriturismo Sant'Anna in Camprena

Italian Studies Program

The first group trip for the Italian Studies program brought students to the Val d'Orcia in the southern part of Tuscany. This iconic area of Tuscany is known for its rolling hills, driveways lined with cypress trees, towns perched on hilltops, wineries and good food. Students stayed, as it is now a tradition, at the agriturismo of Sant'Anna in Camprena, a former convent with an annexed church dating back to the 1300s. Through several excursions, we explored the surrounding region including the walled town of Monteriggioni that is well-known for its medieval fortifications and watchtowers. In Cortona, perhaps recognizable from the 2003 film "Under the Tuscan Sun," students explored independently and reported on their findings, notably the stunning painting *Annunciation di Cortona* by Beato Angelico (1434). The Cantina Talosa in Montepulciano prepared a wine tasting program for students, and in Siena, we traversed the Piazza del Campo, famous for Il Palio, and the Cathedral of Siena.



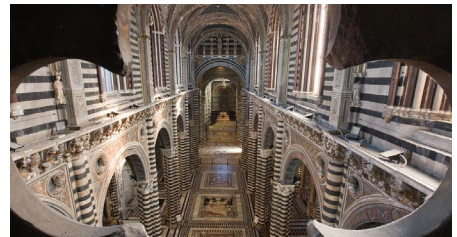
Annunciation di Cortona by Beato Angelico (1434)



Montepulciano



Piazza del Campo, Siena



Cathedral of Siena

Semester highlights



Students in Genova

European Studies Program

The European Studies program took a different route and headed west to explore Genova and Camogli in Liguria. Pesto Genovese, which differs from all other kinds of pesto because of its 7 DOP (protected designation of origin) ingredients, is made only in Liguria. Here's a link to the Pesto Genovese consortium with the official recipe: **Pesto Genovese Recipe**.

The group also spent a full sunny day in Camogli, where students had the chance to swim in the Ligurian sea, eat typical focaccia and hike up to the San Rocco hill from where they enjoyed a beautiful view of Golfo Paradiso and the unique magic of daytime fireworks.



Focaccia



Golfo Paradiso



Fresh pasta workshop for Bioregions and Food Cultures of Italy (Prof. Trazzi's course)

Place-Based Learning in Bologna

Several classes offered at the Nilsson Center have experiential components that are designed for students to gain a better understanding of the city of Bologna and of nearby locations. Some professors put an extra emphasis on place-based learning, and outings are part of the curriculum. This fall semester, students have experienced various locations and completed a few hands-on activities. From presentations in museums for their art & art history and Italian cinema classes, to outings and observations in local businesses and associations for their economics, political science and INBM classes, to workshops and tastings for their food studies class, experience drives students' learning.

Dickinson's Bologna Scholarships

Support Great Student Experiences



Adam Dolata '26

Adam Dolata '26

Studying in Bologna has been an incredible experience that has pushed me to grow in so many ways. Coming from Poland to study in the United States, I thought I was pretty used to adapting to new cultures. Living in Italy has been a whole new challenge. I've loved getting to know the Italian way of life, including enjoying *tagliatelle al ragù* or seeing how important tradition and community are here. Joining a local boxing gym has been a great way to connect with people who live in Bologna. Training with local residents not only helped me to stay active but also gave me a way to connect with the community and feel like I truly belong.

The class trips have been unforgettable, too. Visiting Genoa, Venice and Florence and seeing famous art and architecture up close are experiences that have made everything I'm studying feel more real. As a Dickinson student, I've learned how to adapt to new environments and approach things from a more global perspective. Living in Bologna has added to those lessons by teaching me more about the responsibilities of independence and how to handle challenges like language barriers.

I am grateful for support of my Dickinson and Bologna experiences through the **K. Robert and Juliana P. Nilsson Scholarship**. I have another semester ahead of me in Bologna, and I'm excited to keep exploring, learning and making the most of this remarkable opportunity.



Emily Culbertson '26

Emily Culbertson '26

Ciao! My name is Emily Culbertson. I am a double major in music (voice performance) and Italian studies and studying this year in Bologna with the help of the **K. Robert and Juliana P. Nilsson Scholarship**.

I'm taking classes at Dickinson's Nilsson Center and UniBo. One of the amazing classes I'm taking at the Nilsson Center is Italian Art History, which is taught in Italian. We travel outside Bologna to see art in medieval churches and palaces. We've studied Michelangelo, Giotto, Raphael and many other Italian artists, and we recently visited Parma to give a presentation on Correggio's incredible frescoes in the Cathedral of Parma. I am also taking Italian Film History, in which we watch and analyze Italian neorealist and giallo films, including *Riso Amaro* and *Profondo Rosso*.

At UniBo, I'm taking ethnomusicology and private voice lessons with my voice teacher, Arianna Rinaldi. These courses are challenging because they are both in Italian and require me to have both good comprehension and speaking ability. I don't find it difficult to improve my Italian in Bologna, I hear Italian all the time while walking around the city! Additionally, I love to immerse myself in the culture here, whether it is going into a local coffee shop to order a pastry and a cappuccino in Italian or enjoying *aperitivo* with my friends and speaking Italian together.

Dickinson's Bologna Scholarships

Support Great Student Experiences

Our group took a study trip through Tuscany and visited wonderful towns, including Siena and Montepulciano. We learned about Tuscan culture and enjoyed traditional Tuscan food and wine. This trip helped me to improve my confidence speaking Italian, as we were in rural areas where the citizens sometimes speak only Italian. Traveling to Florence, Rome and Venice on weekend outings with friends has given us endless opportunities to explore churches and museums, rich sources of Italian culture.



Prof. Arianna Rinaldi

My experience in Bologna has helped me both personally and in my studies. I have gained more confidence in speaking Italian, and I have improved my writing, which contributes to my Italian major. My favorite class is voice with Prof. Rinaldi, because we are working on beautiful arias such as “*La Regata Veneziana*” by Rossini and “*Erbarne dich*” from Bach’s St. Matthew’s Passion. These arias are challenging in their own ways, and Prof. Rinaldi has helped me to overcome their technical difficulties and to grow as an artist. I will be performing my Junior Recital in the spring, and I do not think I would have nearly enough confidence nor technical ability to sing these arias without my experience in Bologna.



Clara Blackwell '26

Clara Blackwell '26

My experience in Bologna has been incredible. I have made many new friends, traveled all around Italy, and immersed myself in a new culture, all while continuing my Dickinson education. I have taken a graduate-level class titled Principles of European Law at the UniBo, allowing me to expand my network to include students from all around the world and to explore topics in the legal field as I consider law school. Classes at Dickinson’s Nilsson Center have been fantastic, broadening the scope of my studies to include global perspectives and new topics in political science and economics, such as migration, inequality and poverty. My experiences in Bologna have reinforced the foundations I have built at Dickinson, including the importance of a global and well-rounded education. I am excited to bring these broadened perspectives with me when I return to campus in January.

One of the many reasons I chose to study in Bologna was to challenge myself to live in another country, navigating a new language and culture. A wonderful aspect of the educational experience has been a wide range of incredible cultural immersion opportunities. I have learned how to make authentic Italian dishes and experienced the wide array of foods Italy offers. I have become conversational in Italian through my language class and speaking it every day. I have traveled to Florence, Venice, Milan, the Dolomites, Verona and several other cities, all just a train ride away from Bologna. I love Italy’s history and culture, and I will continue to become more proficient in Italian.

The Dickinson in Bologna program was the best choice I could have made. Everyone in the program has become really close, and I have made new friendships that I can’t wait to cultivate further in Carlisle. Thank you so much to the program staff for making the transition to life in Italy as seamless as possible. I am truly honored to have been matched with the **Marco Biagi Scholarship**, which helps me to participate in the Bologna program. I know that my time in Bologna will be among the best parts of my undergraduate experience, and I will encourage other Dickinsonians to pursue the college’s incredible study abroad programs.

Dickinson's Bologna Scholarships

Support Great Student Experiences



Sofia Rojo '26

Sofia Rojo '26

I am grateful to the generous donors who support Dickinson's **Francesco Guccini Study Abroad Scholarship**. Scholarship support from Dickinson alumni and parents means the world to me and my family.

Coming from a military family, I learned to adapt and adjust to new environments and experiences. Keeping a positive mindset through change has not always been easy, but my family has always supported me. In particular, my older siblings, Amara '19 and Diego, have pushed me out of my comfort zone. Amara studied in Málaga for a year, and Diego studied in St. Petersburg, Russia, for a semester. They've both spoken about how the experience helped them to grow, both personally and academically. Their decisions to study abroad led them to graduate with double majors, including the language they studied. I expect to do the same through my political science and

Italian majors, and I know that I am approaching my studies and plans for the future with a newfound confidence in myself and my abilities.

I chose to attend Dickinson because of its study-abroad opportunities, and I always intended to study abroad in Italy. I am in my third year of learning this language, and before coming to Bologna, I needed more confidence in my language skills. After being here for three months, I feel secure communicating in several situations, from ordering at a restaurant to small talk in the grocery store. I've also enjoyed taking classes at UniBo and am grateful to Dickinson for providing access to the abundant resources of this large and outstanding university.



Ellen Laird
Administrative Director



Elena Giulia Dall'Acqua
Program Associate



Luca Trazzi
Director of European Studies



Bruno Grazioli
Director of Italian Studies

We had a great semester! In January 2025, we will welcome an even larger group of Dickinsonians, including, of course, the several students who signed-on for the full-year Bologna experience. We are planning quite a special trip for next semester: Students will explore the history and culture of Umbria, central Italy, and will stay for two days in a castle outside Orvieto. We'll send details in our spring 2025 newsletter.

Grazie e ciao a tutti!

The Bologna Team