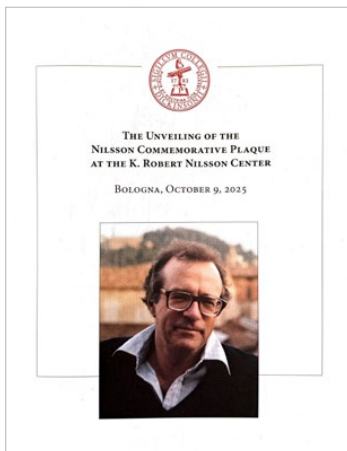


President Jones welcomed guests.



Message from the Directors

Saluti da Bologna!

“Buonasera, Dickinson! Welcome home!”

With these words, Directors Luca Trazzi and Bruno Grazioli opened the grand event that concluded the week-long 60th Anniversary Celebration of Dickinson in Bologna. What a memorable time that was! We want to thank all of you who participated in the numerous activities we organized and who contributed so much spirit and collaboration to make the anniversary an event that will resonate in our hearts for many years to come. *Grazie di cuore!*

Relive the experience here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRA9aISccWY>



Art tour during 60th Anniversary Celebration



The 60th Anniversary Week By The Numbers

Between Monday, October 6, and Friday, October 10, Dickinsonians in Bologna celebrated this way:

- 220 Bologna alumni attended
- 330 guests participated in the Final Event with President Jones
- 5 walking tours of Bologna
- 4 wine & aceto balsamico tastings
- 3 hikes & excursions (San Luca & Ravenna)
- 2 pasta-making workshops
- 1 advanced language class
- *Aperitivi?* Countless!



Bologna students participated in many 60th Anniversary Celebration events



I portici della camminata a San Luca



Class of '81 with former Bologna Director Chuck Jarvis



Aperitivo a Bologna



Liz Toth '06

Bologna Impact: A Message from Liz Toth '06, Executive Director of Alumni Engagement

Everybody says it's life-changing. Over the last 60 years, hundreds of Dickinsonians have called Bologna their temporary home. They have arrived by boat, plane and train to step outside the comfort of Carlisle to explore a new city, culture and way of life.

In October 2025, over 200 alumni and friends gathered in Bologna to celebrate Dickinson's incredible programs in Bologna and toast the people and the city who made possible so much learning and growth. Leading up to the celebration, alumni were wondering whether maps on cell phones took away the beauty of getting lost in the city, whether Google Translate removed the drive to communicate across barriers and whether the one-semester option changed the core of the program. In answering these questions, we discovered what we already knew: The outstanding programs that Dickinson creates adapt well and thrive in the face of relentless change.

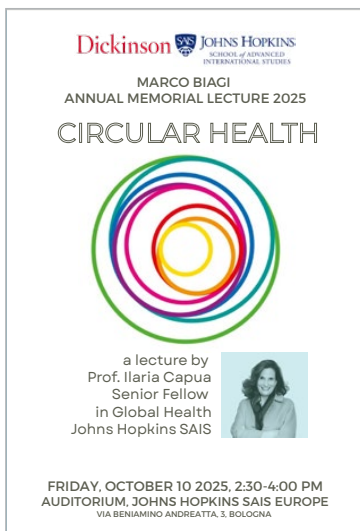
In Bologna this October, alumni across class years spent a week exchanging stories about their memorable travel adventures. People visited their favorite restaurants and explored new ones. Alumni eagerly convened to share career advice with today's students, detailing how the Bologna program impacted their paths. They discussed art, music, food, culture and the faculty members who changed their lives – the Nilssons, Guccini, Pagni.

On Friday evening, the final night of the anniversary celebration, as over 300 guests gathered just off Piazza Maggiore, President John Jones announced a \$10 million fundraising effort to expand and enhance Dickinson's nationally recognized study abroad programs. Thanks to the boundless enthusiasm and generosity of Dickinson alumni, we are already well on our way toward meeting that goal.

The Marco Biagi Lecture



Prof. Capua delivered the Marco Biagi lecture during the 60th Anniversary Celebration



Poster of Biagi Lecture

We were especially proud to host the Nilsson Center's annual Marco Biagi Lecture during the 60th Anniversary Celebration and welcomed an enthusiastic alumni audience to the enlightening presentation. This year, Prof. Ilaria Capua delivered the Marco Biagi Lecture on the topic of circular health, a new paradigm for advancing health. Circular Health has its roots in the One Health principle, a proposition that recognizes that human health is closely interconnected with that of animals, plants and the environment. It recognizes big data as a source of innovation and holds non-biomedical disciplines essential for the advancement of health as a system.

Dr. Capua is Senior Fellow of Global Health at SAIS Europe, a member of the European Academy of Sciences and former Director of the One Health Center of Excellence at the University of Florida. She is an award-winning scientist who has worked in veterinary virology for over 30 years, directing laboratories of international stature. She also served as an elected representative in the Italian Parliament for over three years (2013-2016). Dr. Capua is a regular columnist for Italian mainstream press and the author of several books. In her career as a virologist, she dedicated most of her research to viral infections of animals that can be transmitted to

humans and pioneered genetic data sharing to improve pandemic preparedness. She has authored over 230 publications in peer reviewed journals and several scientific books on zoonotic viruses. Dr. Capua is active in science communication and has published eleven books for the general public, including books for children and teenagers, which have been translated in several languages.

Dickinson Honors Bob and Judy Nilsson



During the anniversary week, President Jones presided over the unveiling of the naming plaque at the K. Robert Nilsson Center, Dickinson's home in Bologna.

The K. Robert Nilsson Center for European Studies



In August 1965, Dickinson College Political Science Professor K. Robert Nilsson welcomed 16 Dickinson students to Bologna to launch Dickinson's first study-abroad program. On the 60th anniversary of its Bologna program, Dickinson College proudly installs this plaque at the

K. Robert Nilsson Center for European Studies, so named in June 1999, two months before Professor Nilsson's death.

With this plaque, Dickinson College honors Professor K. Robert "Bob" Nilsson and his beloved wife and Italian language instructor at Dickinson, Juliana, known to all as Judy, who together established the college's Bologna program and nurtured it through its first three decades, for their remarkable vision and courage, their thoroughgoing commitment to the deeply enriching impact of an international education and their



boundless enthusiasm for embracing cultural and linguistic exploration as an integral component of Dickinson's outstanding liberal-arts education.

Thoroughly committed to the enduring value of intellectual and personal enrichment through global *in situ* immersion and with their young children, Deborah, Michael and Cristina, alongside them, the Nilssons designed an academic experience for Dickinson students in Bologna that was masterfully creative in its social, political, artistic and cultural reach. The Nilssons' goal for the original Bologna program was to create a rigorous academic experience abroad that struck the right balance between high academic standards for students and ample time for them to explore and engage with their new community and its residents. The robust and authentic nature of that first Bologna program is evident in the course offerings, language instruction, educational excursions, experiential learning opportunities and community engagement activities that shape today's two Bologna programs, the European Studies Program and the Italian Studies Program. Additionally, Dickinson's Carlisle campus continues to welcome students and visiting scholars from Bologna, whose introduction to the college we credit to the lively and intellectually nourishing activities of the Nilsson Center.

In the 60 years since the Nilssons brought that first cohort of students to Bologna, over 1,300 students have benefited from the outstanding teaching and cultural discoveries that continue to define Dickinson's Bologna experience. During that period and with confidence inspired by the resounding success of the Bologna program, Dickinson expanded its study-abroad offerings to include programs on every continent, absent Antarctica.

The positive impact of the Bologna experience on the personal and professional lives and on the global and interpersonal perspectives of Bologna alumni is beyond measure. The college encourages all members of the growing Bologna alumni community to reflect upon and cherish the impact of their Bologna experiences.



Dickinson College is grateful to the members of the Bologna alumni community for their loyalty, generosity and advocacy in furtherance and celebration of the Nilssons' founding philosophy and implementation of the Bologna program, which set the stage for the enormous success of that and all subsequent Dickinson study-abroad programs. Ongoing alumni philanthropy provides an increasing number of scholarships for students participating in these global experiences. The Nilsson Center enthusiastically welcomes alumni for visits and meetings with students.

With full hearts and unending gratitude for the devoted teaching, inspired leadership and profound fellowship that Professor Bob Nilsson and Judy Nilsson shared with students and colleagues throughout their years on Dickinson's Carlisle campus and in Bologna, their adopted home, the Dickinson College community dedicates this commemorative plaque to them.

Dickinson

Bologna, October 2025

Student-Alumni Panels



**Mike Quatrini '04,
Brian Kamoie '93 and
Pam Byron '93 led a
career guidance session
for Bologna students.**

Dickinson students studying in Bologna this semester benefited from the presence of alumni who generously shared the wisdom they've gained through their successful professional lives. About 20 students attended two panel sessions with 5 alumni, who studied in Bologna between 1975 and 2004.

The sessions brought together accomplished alumni and engaged students for an enriching dialogue on academic growth, professional development and community impact. The alumni reflected on their personal experience abroad in Bologna and life trajectories after graduating from Dickinson and offered practical advice for attendees who are nearing the end of their time at Dickinson and preparing for life and careers following graduation.

Delighting and informing our students were

- **Pam Byron '93**, Assistant Deputy Director with the FBI, spoke about government and security
- **Nancy Hooff '75**, Principal with Somerset Development Co., discussed real estate and sustainability
- **Brian Kamoie '93**, Managing Director at Deloitte, spoke about business and consulting
- **David Lee '91**, Global Head of Talent Acquisition, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance, shared his experiences in HR and business
- **Mike Quatrini '04**, Attorney at Quatrini Law Group, briefed students about careers in law

Together with the students, we thank Pam, Brian, Mike, Nancy and David for their instructive and enlightening presentations and exchanges with students. We hope to expand this style of Bologna-based community building in the future.

Alumni Memories



Jamie Pitucci '83 in Bologna 1981-82



Jamie Pitucci (center) in her hometown Torino with Ellen Laird and Bruno Grazioli

Jamie Pitucci '83

I attended the 60th Anniversary Celebration of Dickinson's program in Bologna. It gave me an opportunity to reflect on my own Bologna experience back in 1981-82. Prof. Bob Nilsson and his lovely wife, Judy Nilsson were the directors in residence that year. Prof. Nilsson not only educated us but challenged us; at times he was relentless. Bob pushed us and motivated us in ways that few professors do. Professoressa Judy was there to teach us the language, share her love of Italian culture and offer emotional support whenever we needed it. They made an amazing team, and they both conveyed their passion for Bologna and all of Italy.

We were also fortunate to have a select group of Italian professors who taught us and pushed us to expand our thinking beyond the U.S. mentality. It was not until many years later that I appreciated that our Italian faculty were hugely accomplished figures in Italian academic and political circles. And in the mix was, a delightful singer-songwriter, Francesco Guccini, who took our little group of Americans under his wing to share his Bologna and every osteria in the city! In retrospect, I understand now how very privileged we were to have had such remarkable individuals as our faculty.

My participation in the Bologna program was life enriching and had a tremendous impact on my future. Little did I know back then that I would end up living in Italy full-time, not in Bologna but a bit farther north in Torino. For the past 30 years, I have lived in Torino, and obviously my time living and studying at the Nilsson Center aided in my transition to life in Italy.

I enjoyed the chance to be back in Bologna after so many years with so many Bologna alumni participating in the celebration. Bob and Judy Nilsson were only parts of the picture missing, and I felt their absence deeply. They would have been so thrilled by the huge turnout among their former students. They would have been so proud of the program that they founded back in 1965 and its impact on so many Dickinsonians over the past 60 years.

Complimenti to the Bologna staff and the alumni engagement team in Carlisle for organizing and executing an unforgettable tribute to Dickinson's Bologna programs.

Scholarship Letters



Avery Southard '27 and Rowan Curry '27

With gratitude for scholarship support

Avery Southard '27

The Nilsson Scholarship supports my study abroad experience in Bologna. Studying in Bologna has enhanced my education in ways that would not have been possible in the campus classrooms in Carlisle. Immersing myself in a new culture has pushed me outside my comfort zone and made me more adaptable to challenges. It has strengthened my independence and made me feel more confident in any learning environment.

Dickinson's liberal arts approach, our community's core values, and building academic and life skills, including creative expression, critical thinking and adaptability, are very much a part of the Bologna experience. For example, I never planned to take a theater class, but it is part of my fall semester

at the Nilsson Center. I've never participated in performing arts, and, at first, the class was an unusual and uncomfortable experience. I've had to adapt to the teaching style and to expressing myself creatively in Italian, which was difficult. Through my work in this class, I've fostered resilience and grown more open-minded.

Studying abroad has strengthened my global perspective. Experiencing Italian and other cultures has been eye-opening. Back home, I tended to view issues through an American lens. Hearing people from other cultures discuss politics and social issues and noticing the ways they communicate have highlighted differences in our styles and perspectives. Learning firsthand about daily life in different cultures, instead of in a classroom, has impacted the way I interpret the world. I feel sure that the openness I'm developing will continue to impact my outlook after this experience is over.

Rowan Curry '27

The Nilsson Scholarship makes my year in Bologna possible. I never thought a study abroad experience could be in the picture for me, but after hearing of some of the financial aid opportunities that are available at Dickinson, I took the leap of faith and decided to apply. The experience so far has been life-changing, and I can only anticipate that the next six months will continue to bring me so many new opportunities.

As a low-income student, covering expenses in another country is pretty scary at times. I usually work on campus, which isn't as easy to do in Bologna. Receiving extra funding through the Nilsson Scholarship helps to ease the financial burden on me and my family and allows me to participate in new experiences.

This semester, I've taken two classes at the University of Bologna, celebrated my 21st birthday and gained friendships that I might not have discovered otherwise. The sense of independence I feel in Bologna is so different from what I've experienced before. It's a huge accomplishment for me just to be here, and all the things I'm learning make it even more powerful.



Dalton Surico '27 and Keir Tremoglie '27

Keir Tremoglie '27

One of my criteria during my college search was a good study abroad program. That, among other things, led me to Dickinson, where I eventually decided to study abroad in Bologna through the Italian studies program.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to study abroad with the support of the Marco Biagi Scholarship. The experience has changed me in so many ways. There are small ways, like becoming a greater fan of the beach after visiting some gorgeous ones in Italy and Greece. I have started drinking coffee regularly after being introduced to Italian coffee culture and owning a moka pot. But I have also experienced very personal, important changes. For example, I've realized that my interests in anthropology have shaped the way

I want to experience the world; I've learned that I want to take more time to immerse myself in a place, rather than seeing its highlights. In the middle of the semester, I realized that I want to understand what it means to be an Italian resident of Bologna. I have worked on talking to Italians here and experiencing Bologna things, like a Bologna football match or the Cinema Modernismo.

My plans and desires for the future have evolved, as well. For example, I'd like to travel more, participate in overseas volunteer and humanitarian work and perhaps live in another country before starting graduate school. I'm researching Fulbright opportunities for recent college graduates.

Dickinson in Bologna has influenced me in more ways than I can describe in these paragraphs, and I am so grateful for the chance to study abroad. I know that I will remember and cherish this experience for my entire life and that it will shape my path forward, down whichever road I choose. I feel as though my time in Bologna is doing exactly what the undergraduate study abroad experience is meant to do: I am the same person I was when I landed here in August, but I've grown in many meaningful ways.

Dalton Surico '27

I am a junior political science and philosophy major, and I am tremendously thankful to be matched with the Francesco Guccini Scholarship. I've dreamed of traveling the world since my grandma told me stories of her travels when she was young. She always had the biggest smile on her face when sharing these stories with me. Her stories inspired me to follow that path.

Before this year, I never had the opportunity to travel. My family is low-income, so we've never had the funds or time to travel outside the United States. Dickinson, with its strong study abroad programs, was a perfect match. My dream country to study in was Italy. I have relatives in Italy and have always been fascinated by its rich history. I am insanely grateful for the opportunity to study in Bologna and to live here and learn about Italian culture from people living their lives.

Studying in Bologna has been a transformative experience for which I will be forever grateful. It has taught me life lessons, including the importance of embracing my community and spotting beauty in the world. I should not live to work but rather work to live. This experience has broadened my cultural awareness and taught me to seek others' perspectives. There's more than one way to live, think, celebrate and communicate. I have also improved my adaptability while living here. I have had to learn to operate in countries with different languages, norms and ways of life. I've learned to be flexible and think on my feet.

Studying in Bologna has been the greatest gift of my life. I will always value the lessons I've learned here and will look back on this experience with fondness. Bologna has become my second home. Thank you to everyone who has played a role in allowing me this opportunity!

Glad You Stopped By!

Since June 2025, we've welcomed these alumni visitors at the Nilsson Center:

- **Lauren Brown '02** (B 2000-01)
- **Laura Celedon '19** (B fall 2017)
- **Jeff Litts '89** (B 1987-88)
- **Jessie Sandusky '26** (B '24)
- **Mark Baxter '88** (B 1986-87)
- **Matt Melchiorre '11** (B 2009-10)
- **Damian Garrubbo '22** (B 2009-10)



Matt Melchiorre '11



Jeff Litts '89

From the Archives



Jeff Litts '89



Laura Celedon '19



Matt Melchiorre '11



Lauren Brown '02



Eva Zuckerkandel '76

We stand Corrected

Our apologies go to Eva Zuckerkandel '76, whose visit to the Nilsson Center was noted in the spring 2025 *Bologna Newsletter*, for posting the wrong *Microcosm* photo in the newsletter. We are pleased to present here her actual yearbook photo.



Thomson Falk '26

Unfortunately, we went to press with the spring 2025 Bologna Newsletter without including the scholarship letter from Thomson Falk '26, who was matched with the Biagi Scholarship that semester.

Grazie e ciao!

Dickinson's Bologna Team members thank you for following the great news of our Bologna programs. We wish you a healthy and happy holiday season. See you again in the spring.



Dickinson's Bologna Team (left to right) Luca Trazzi, Ellen Laird, Elena Giulia Dall'Acqua, Bruno Grazioli