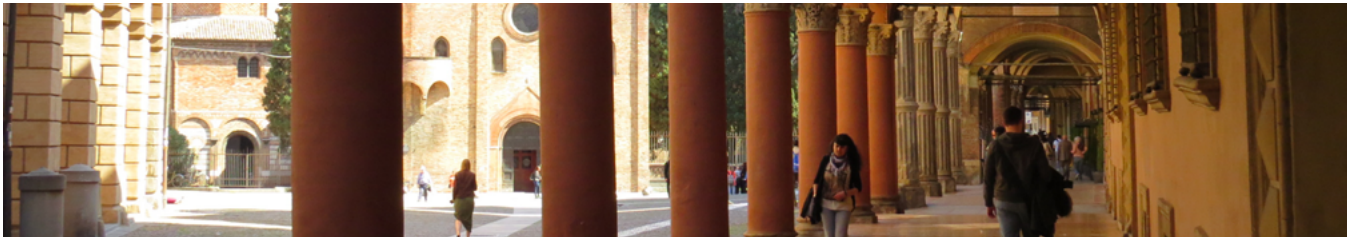


Dickinson

Ciao from Bologna!

Fall 2022



Prof. Amy Wlodarski, Director, European Studies Program, and **Prof. Bruno Grazioli**, Resident Director, Italian Studies Program in Bologna

Cari saluti da Bologna!

In July 2022, Prof. Amy Wlodarski arrived at the K. Robert Nilsson Center to head the European Studies program for the next two years. Welcome!

The fall season in Bologna has been particularly pleasant. We're all enjoying days of sunshine and warmer-than-usual afternoons. Yes, we miss seeing the color of leaves change as the days get colder and shorter, but we're in awe of how beautifully Bologna's red roofs and facades shine in the autumn light.

We are happy to be working with an engaged group of 17 students this semester. The Italian Studies and European Studies programs at the K. Robert Nilsson Center provide many learning opportunities to our students that are built into our academic courses and our recreational experiences. In September, students participating in both programs traveled together with the program directors, Profs. Bruno Grazioli and Amy Wlodarski, Administrative Director Ellen Laird and Program Associate Elena Giulia Dall'Acqua to the Veneto and Trentino Alto Adige regions. We climbed (in a cable car!) to the top of Monte Baldo and marveled at the breathtaking view of the northernmost part of Lago di Garda, a lake of glacial origins that borders three regions: Veneto, Trentino Alto Adige and Lombardia. We then visited Verona and participated in a wine tasting experience in the Valpolicella valley, a first for most students.



Bologna students in Verona, September 2022



Italian Studies students and Prof. Grazioli at wine tasting in the Valpolicella valley



Bologna students in Puglia

Recently, students, faculty and staff traveled south to the region of Puglia, requiring a train ride of over five hours from Bologna, to visit the historical center of Bari, spend a couple of nights in Trani, wander around the site of Castel Del Monte, a 13th-century citadel situated on a hill and built during the 1240s by King Frederick II, and taste olive oil at a local *frantoio*, an olive oil mill. During this trip, we also drove to the nearby region of Basilicata to visit the UNESCO World Heritage city of Matera and its impressive rock-cut settlements. In Bari and in Matera, we met up with Sadie Fowler '22 and Jake DeCarli '22, who are Bologna alumni now teaching English in Italian high schools (Sadie in Foggia, Puglia, and Jake in Matera) as awardees in the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) Program.

These group adventures expose our students to the variety of natural, architectural, historical and cultural landscapes available in Italy to help them understand the multi-layered complexity of the Italian peninsula. Of course, rich local culture is reflected in culinary practices and preferences, from Bavarian-style fare in the northern region of Trentino Alto Adige to Puglia's traditional *orecchiette alle cime di rapa*. Students and staff sharing meals during our trips is a wonderful way to get to know each other, spark conviviality and take a well-deserved pause from the busy academic schedule of the semester.

The experiential approach to learning about Italian culture is a hallmark of our educational program at the Nilsson Center. We believe that when knowledge is cemented through meaningful and relevant experiences, the impression can last for a lifetime. For our students, Bologna becomes not simply a place to live and explore, but also an intellectual laboratory, where abstract ideas come alive and demonstrate their contemporary relevance.



Le Serre, Bologna

For European Studies Director Amy Wlodarski, Bologna's UNESCO status as a "World City of Music" was the inspiration for her newest course, "European Music and Political Belonging." Seizing upon Bologna's status as one of the most progressive musical cities of the nineteenth century, students studied

- the political importance of middle-class gathering spaces during the Enlightenment while gathering for conversations in Le Serre, Bologna's hip, urban collaboration workspace, located in Giardini Margherita
- the many competing political theaters that used music to lodge political commentary and spark public debate while on a walking tour with a local musicological expert, and
- Bologna's important relationship to operatic history during a tour of the Museo Internazionale della Musica



Museo internazionale e biblioteca della musica di Bologna

In December, students will head to Vicenza to see a performance of Verdi's magnificent *La Traviata*. There they will unveil their collaborative final research project: contextual program notes for the opera that explore nineteenth-century political themes inherent in the opera's plot, including legal attitudes towards prostitution, the geopolitical contours of Spanish exoticism, the politics of honor duels during the *Risorgimento*, the symbolic roles of women in opera, and the changing demographics of theater audiences in Bologna, specifically. These contextual program notes will be available to visitors to the Nilsson Center for years to come as a valuable resource to increase students' enjoyment of *La Traviata*, a staple of the operatic stage throughout Italy.



La Traviata at the Teatro Comunale Città di Vicenza, December 10, 2022.



Italian Studies students Tony Trandafir '24 and Marina Stylianou '24

Resident Director of the Italian Studies program Bruno Grazioli teaches “Forms of Social Activism in Italy,” a course designed to be experiential by requiring students to insert themselves into Bologna’s elaborate environment to explore, discover and reflect on the nature and goals of the social activism they study. Through this popular course, students benefit from the program’s close collaboration with two *mense*, soup kitchens, where students volunteer weekly and, concurrently, keep a reflective journal about their experiences. The organizations with which the program collaborates, Antoniano and Cucine Popolari, are structured differently, the former connected to a religious charity and the latter to a civic entity, but they are based on a shared ethical imperative to help those in need. During the last three semesters, this type of community engagement opportunity has attracted students interested in Food Studies, a growing field of study at Dickinson that contributes to the “development of engaged citizens who are well-equipped to participate thoughtfully and productively in the full range of endeavors that any liberal-arts graduate might consider—in business, academia, non-profit work, policymaking, law and medicine.” (See https://www.dickinson.edu/homepage/852/food_studies)

Other classes currently taught at the Nilsson Center also include a significant experiential component. Our international business & management course “Made in Italy, Sustainably” offers several site visits, for example, to Eataly, to examine the firm’s sustainable business model, to an organic dairy farm producing Parmigiano Reggiano and to a family-run *acetaia*, a balsamic vinegar producer, in the countryside near Modena. Prof. Elisabetta Cunsolo’s art history class “Reading Bologna and Italy from the Renaissance to the Baroque” offers trips to the many treasured art galleries of Bologna and a one-day trip to Venice, where students give presentations on site. Finally, Prof. Elena Galeotti’s intermediate Italian class “Reading and Performing Italian Texts,” which is a requirement for students majoring or minoring in Italian Studies, focuses on oral production and the relationship between words and movement, or performativity. As their final project for this class, students prepare an “itinerant performance” at the Nilsson Center, which the entire Dickinson-in-Bologna community will attend.

This fall, we enjoyed reconnecting with Bologna alumni. In September, the Nilsson Center welcomed several former students “back home” to this great city, which understandably maintains a hold on so many who studied here. Returning Dickinsonians regaled students and staff with incredible memories of the program as they knew it and were eager to hear how the program continues to offer a vibrant intercultural education to today’s Dickinson students. Thank you to all our former students for taking the time to stop by the Nilsson Center during their vacations to Italy: Bob Kahn, Beverly (Rich) Kahn, Robert Eskin, Jan Kern and Ann Miller (1967-68); Julianna Barr (fall 2015); Lawrence Livoti (1969-70); as well as Larry Schwartz and Alberto Goetzl (1972-73), who met with some of our students to talk about their successful careers in the foreign service and in forestry and natural resources economics & policy.

We welcome all comers, so should you find yourself in Bologna, please be in touch. We would love to welcome you back to the Nilsson Center!

Best wishes from Bologna and thank you for your continuing interest in and support for Dickinson’s programs in Italy.



Bob Kahn, Beverly (Rich) Kahn, Robert Eskin, Jan Kern and Ann Miller (1967-68)



Prof. Amy Wlodarski, Lawrence Livoti, Administrative Director Ellen Laird and Prof. Bruno Grazioli



Larry Schwartz (1972-73), Katie Nemergut '23, Claire Cwalina '23, Lauren Orefice '24 and Alberto Goetzl (1972-73)

Laman Huseynova '24 and Chris Althouse '24

Fall 2022

Ciao da Bologna! We are Laman Huseynova '24 and Chris Althouse '24, studying in Bologna and both receiving support through the K. Robert and Juliana P. Nilsson Scholarship.



Laman Huseynova '24 (left) and Chris Althouse '24 (right)

Living in Bologna is very different from living in the United States, especially in comparison to Carlisle, but even to our hometowns of Philadelphia and New York City. It's a whole new city that we had to get used to, learn how to find our way around and locate "the spots" that we like to go to best for a coffee or lunch. In just two months, I feel that Bologna became my second home, and I absolutely love experiencing my junior year of college here.

Chris and I now have our favorite spots, including a sandwich shop. Yes, the owner knows us by sight now and greets us every time we pass by. I am an Italian studies major, and appreciate that Dickinson and Dickinson donors make it possible for me to learn about Italian language and culture directly from the people of Bologna and the other places in Italy we visit. I am so grateful to be able to say, "I learned Italian outside the classroom . . . in Italy itself!" It is a great experience that not everyone can have, and I am grateful for the role that scholarship supporters play in increasing access to Dickinson's global education opportunities.

Laman



Laman Huseynova '24 (left) and Chris Althouse '24 (right)

Maybe the only way to grow and learn is to place yourself into new and even daunting situations. In Bologna, I am discovering that I'll embrace the new and deal with the daunting to gain the enormous benefits of growth and learning.

I looked forward to studying overseas since I began my college search and heard about Dickinson's international programs. I am an Italian Studies major and knew that I wanted to include the Bologna program in my Dickinson experience. Receiving support through the Nilsson Scholarship has helped me to participate fully in the rewarding academic and cultural opportunities that students here are constantly discovering. I am grateful for the generosity of donors who support all the Bologna scholarships and feel connected to them through our shared experience of having studied with Dickinson in Bologna.

Learning to live in a new country is such a scary experience which, at first, often left me feeling insecure. With time I fell in love with Italy and felt confidence replace uncertainty. Every day here is new and exciting, and I can see that I am learning so much, including important things about myself. While taking

strolls around Giardini Margherita after class to collect my thoughts or joining the Bolognese friends I've met at their favorite local spots, I know that I am exploring with purpose and maturing. I know that I am living important lessons that I will carry with me throughout my life.

Chris



Chris Russo '24

Chris Russo '24

Fall 2022

Ciao da Bologna!

My international business & management (INB&M) major has allowed me to take advantage of Dickinson's liberal-arts curriculum, including classes in history, photography and the study of world languages and culture. I've looked forward to spending a semester at the K. Robert Nilsson Center in Bologna as part of my academic program, and here I am for fall semester 2022.

I grew-up in an Italian-American family, and my home always reflected our roots in Italy. I think that these influences have helped me to approach Bologna and the other places we've visited this semester with openness and a sense of familiarity.

My classes in at the Nilsson Center fit very well with the themes of the INB&M academic program, and I am really able to connect to the global studies components of my major.

Right now, I am taking a course on Sustainable Italian Industries at the Center and also

a course on the Global Supply Chain at UniBo, where I'm able to learn with and from students from all over the world. Both experiences have helped me to think about pathways that might not have occurred to me without this valuable overseas exposure. For example, I am interested in researching further opportunities to study and work in Italy following graduation from Dickinson.

I am grateful to the resourceful and talented faculty and staff at the Nilsson Center, whose patience with students and enthusiasm for the program help us all to relax and embrace new experiences. They are always welcoming and helpful in answering questions and finding solutions to problems. I know that the faculty and staff in Bologna are the main reason this semester has been amazing.

I am grateful, too, to the generous donors who help students participate in Dickinson's Bologna programs. I was very pleased and proud to learn that the Francesco Guccini Scholarship is part of my Dickinson financial aid package this semester, and appreciate that Dickinson alumni want today's and tomorrow's Dickinson students to experience Bologna, too.

Sincerely,

Chris

Nilsson Center Student Photo Competition

Submissions, Spring 2022



Mary Ritter '23, "The Two Towers of Bologna"



Jessica Bajorinas '23, "Giardini Margherita, Bologna"



Danyal Khalil '23, "Reflection of Bologna's Two Towers"



Marina Stylianou '24

Marina Stylianou '24

Fall 2022

Buongiorno da Bologna!

I am honored to have been selected for the Marco Biagi Scholarship this semester. I study sociology and Italian at Dickinson, and I knew I wanted to study in Bologna when I took my first Italian class. Like many students, I rely on scholarships to attend Dickinson, and I am profoundly grateful to the generous donors who support Dickinson and its students. Without your generosity, I would not be able to pursue a degree at Dickinson or participate in the wonderful opportunities I've discovered here, including the Bologna program.

When I'm on campus, I work for the Clarke Forum for Contemporary Issues, I'm a member of the Anwar dance troupe, and I attend and participate in a few clubs and events put on by the Center for Spirituality and Social Justice. In my now two-and-a-half years at Dickinson, I've gained an even greater understanding of the value of attending a liberal arts college, and have attended amazing classes, lectures and events presented by the faculty and offices at Dickinson.

Studying in Bologna has been an absolute dream come true, and I'm thankful every day for this experience. The program's faculty and staff provide exceptional educational and cultural opportunities in our class work and through our well-planned excursions in town and around the country. The experience of living in a different culture and speaking the language is so valuable, and I feel that I have grown so much as a person over this semester. Many of you know from your own experiences in Bologna with Dickinson how valuable it is to deeper learning to view Renaissance art while studying art history and to attending Italian opera. Many days, I can hardly believe that this is really my life.

I am already planning to return to Italy after I graduate from Dickinson. I believe continuing my studies in Italy and participating in European life aligns with my commitment to being a global citizen. I am grateful to have been selected for this scholarship, and I hope I may continue to reflect the values it represents in everything I do.

With my gratitude,

Marina



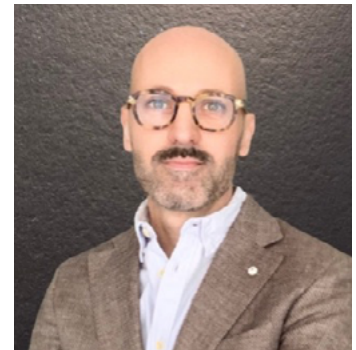
Ellen Laird



Elena Giulia Dall'Acqua



Prof. Amy Wlodarski



Bruno Grazioli

Together with the entire Dickinson team in Bologna, Ellen Laird, our Administrative Director, Elena Giulia Dall'Acqua, our Program Associate, and Prof. Amy Wlodarski, the European Studies Program Director, I want to express our appreciation for your continuing interest and involvement with our programs, your generous philanthropy and the tremendous support you offer our students. We are delighted and proud to be part of the college's Bologna community.

Bruno